

Light and Life

My Father's Business

When Jesus was a young boy, His parents took Him to Jerusalem as they did every year for the Feast of the Passover. He was twelve years of age, and Luke tells us that by this time He had “grown and become strong in spirit, filled with wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him” (2:40).

I must admit, it is difficult for me to think of Christ as a young boy of twelve years. I can't even begin to imagine what it was like to raise Him as a physical Son - to know that He was also the Son of God, through whom all that was made was made (Jn 1:3).

Luke chapter two describes one of the parental difficulties that this unique situation presented. As the rest of His family began the journey home, Jesus stayed behind in the temple to speak and listen to the teachers there. His parents looked for Him anxiously, having assumed that He would be among their company. Finally finding Him in the Temple, they were amazed.

“Son, why have you done this to us?” Mary asked. “Look, Your father and I have sought You anxiously.”

“Why did you seek Me?” came the reply. “Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business?”

To twelve-year-old Jesus, full of wisdom and strong in spirit, it seemed an obvious thing that He would be occupied with His Father's work. It was necessary for Him to be busy about it!

Today, Christ's earthly ministry is over, but He left His teachings for His work to continue. Now it's our turn to get busy. We all need to be about our Father's business!

- *Sam Bunyard*

Just My Thoughts

Where Are You Watering?

The grass is greener where you water it.

The concept behind this phrase is simple – whatever you ‘water’ will grow. The water could represent our effort, energy, time, and focus. The grass is whatever we put our effort, and so forth, into.

In this life we are given limited amounts of time and energy and other finite resources. How do we use those resources? How do we spend that time? How do we use that energy?

Contrast a sluggard and Usain Bolt (world class Jamaican sprinter). Let's say both have the goal of running the 100-meter dash at the next Olympic Games.

To prepare, Usain Bolt practices every day of the week, every week of the year. He eats right, he sleeps right, and he works right. This is ‘watering’ put into practice. When Usain puts his time, energy, and focus into becoming a better athlete, we see green grass. We see an athlete at the top of his game and in peak physical shape because of the ‘watering’ he has done.

The sluggard, on the other hand, sleeps until noon every day, eats junk food, and doesn't work out a single day of the year. He will never race at the Olympic level. Why? Because he did not water where he needed to water.

What we water will grow. Will we water our faith in God – praying, praising, and studying our Bibles? Or will we water our interests in the world, letting our faith dry up, brown, and die?

The choice is yours; but remember, the grass is greener where you water it.

- *Hayden Cathey*

ASSEMBLY TIMES

Sunday

Bible Class 9:30
Morning Assembly 10:30
Evening Assembly 5:00

Wednesday

Evening Bible Class 6:30

RADIO PROGRAM

The Bible Speaks



Sunday 9:00-9:30a.m.
KURM 790AM

Downtown Church of Christ

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Rogers, AR 72757
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VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

with
Bubba Garner

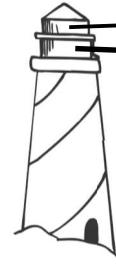
July 24-28
(Starts in 2 weeks!)

ELDERS:

Otis Hardin
Perry Johnson
Ken Parker
Alan Revier
GW Walsh

DEACONS:

TJ Burleson
Scott Hale
Joel Heiligenthal
Jason Hill
Chris Johnson
Brock McKeel
Randy Potter
Tim Roberts
Randy Shell



DOWNTOWN GOSPEL BEACON

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ROGERS, ARKANSAS**

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FAMILY NEWS

PRAYER LIST –

Preachers we support: Japan, Philippines, Vietnam, Canada, Mexico, Peru, & U.S.
Sick: Gary Fletcher, Tony Tolbert, Rai Starr, Diane Willis, Js Swim, Tricia Deen
Shut-ins: Betty Jo Young, Billie Pennington, Shirley Cole, Mary Lou Lewis
Military: Kyler Sullins, Sean Potter

DATES TO REMEMBER – Our Vacation Bible School with Bubba Garner will be July 24-28. Our Youth Lectures with Phillip Shumake will be Aug 5-6.

SENTENCE SERMON – “If all you can be for God is an example of suffering and patience, be that.” - Matt Bassford (terminal ALS patient)

Radical Rebellion

So, we are told by some Christians who are ‘deconstructing’ that we are too tied to our traditions, and that we should break loose from our tired religion and practice what some call ‘radical Christianity’.

And, depending on how we define those terms, I would tend to agree.

Zerubbabel, Ezra, and Nehemiah had to deconstruct a thousand years of tradition to restore the ancient religion of Israel. And after the Pharisees made a mess of things, Jesus had to deconstruct the deconstructed religion. It is notable that He never condemned their strict observance of the Law, but their hypocrisy in the doing of it (Mt

23:23) and their elevation of human tradition above God’s Law (15:3). And His work and message were certainly radical by any standard.

Today, faithful preachers continue to rebuke hypocrisy among God’s people and the tendency of some to elevate ‘the way we’ve always done it’ to the status of scripture. They preach the doing of it, not just the talking about it. And they fearlessly draw the lines where God has drawn them – which today is much more radical than ‘coming out’ and declaring one’s freedom from the law of Christ. Remember, grace covers a multitude of sins, *but not unrepented rebellion* (He 6:4-6).

- *WKing*