

## Light and Life

## Careful Consideration

We live in a fast-paced world where many ‘big decisions’ are made in haste. We run where we should walk. “Walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise” (Eph. 5:15). To walk circumspectly means to walk diligently – exactly and carefully – to watch where we step. This involves careful consideration and taking time to consider what our next step should be.

We are to walk as wise and not as fools. “Do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is” (vs 17). To maintain a healthy relationship with God and walk in wisdom, we must walk according to His will as revealed to us in Scripture (II Jn 9).

Nehemiah provides a wonderful example of taking deliberate time in his decision making and his consulting of the Lord. When Nehemiah learned of the state of the walls of Jerusalem he spent many days in mourning, fasting, and prayer (1:4). When King Artaxerxes questioned Nehemiah regarding this sad countenance, Nehemiah sent up a prayer mid-conversation (2:4) before his response. In the rebuilding of the wall, Nehemiah surveyed the work to be done, and planned it carefully (2:11-20). Therefore, the work was done in an organized way (ch 3) and was accomplished quickly despite resistance (6:15).

Amidst all the difficulties Nehemiah had to deal with, his own brethren fought among themselves regarding unfair financial practice. Obviously, the situation needed correction and Nehemiah was “very angry when he heard the outcry of the oppressed (5:6). Yet, it was only after “serious thought that he rebuked the nobles and rulers” (6:6).

Before we make big decisions in life, let’s be wise! Slow down, talk to God, and consult His word.

- *Sam Bunyard*

## Just My Thoughts

## Timelines

Timelines. Everybody’s got one, and frankly everybody needs one. Whether it be at work, school, in life, or anything else, everyone has a timeline. And this is natural. In fact, timelines are a necessity for human beings, almost a requirement so that we can keep ourselves on schedule and keep our heads on straight. If a college student has no timeline, they’ll never take the classes they need when they need, and they’ll never graduate. If a business has no timeline, they’ll never finish their projects in a timeline manner, and soon enough there will be no more business.

Timelines drive a large portion of our lives and keep us functioning in a world that is constricted by a finite amount of time. In the Christian’s life, though we have many timelines to be mindful of, there is one that we should be mindful of above all else. That is God’s timeline. We often forget that we are working on God’s schedule and desire to do life all on our own. We want to make our own timetable – our own schedule for what’s gonna happen in our lives.

“I’m gonna graduate in 4 years.” “I’m gonna get married next year.” “We’re gonna wait 5 years to have kids.”

These, and many other things we might catch ourselves saying, all imply that we are working on our own timeline, not God’s. This shouldn’t be so. We should instead say, as scripture instructs, “I’m going to graduate in 4 years, Lord willing.” “I’m going to get married next year, Lord willing.” “We’re gonna wait 5 years to have kids, Lord willing.”

This is a small phrase, but it’s one that takes the power over our timelines away from us, and places it solely in the hands of the One who truly owns it, God Almighty.

- *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

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**The end of your rope  
is just another place  
you will find God.**

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# 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

**THANKS** – Our thanks to everyone who worked to make our VBS & Youth Lectures a success this year! Lessons are posted on our website & FB page.

**SENTENCE SERMON** – To better understand the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm, it helps to get acquainted with the Shepherd.

## The Righteous Inconsistency

Have you ever known someone whose life seemed totally inconsistent? Perhaps they put on their best clothes and attended church on Sunday and sang their heart out, but they got drunk on the weekend and cursed like a sailor (no offense to our brothers in the Navy).

Or perhaps you have known those whose teaching was inconsistent with their life. Like the Pharisees of old, they have a ‘do as I say, and not as I do’ mentality (Mt 23:1-4). It may be a member in the pew, or an elder or a deacon or a preacher. But we are left to wonder if they **really** believe what they teach.

We call these types of inconsistency ‘hypocrisy’. Such behavior is condemned by God’s Word – and even by people of the world. Who really wants to be a hypocrite?

However, there is a time for inconsistency. When we are convicted by God’s Word of sin, then we are under obligation to change our manner of life – to be inconsistent with our former self. And God never condemns this kind of inconsistency. In fact, it is exactly the kind He is looking for. The Bible simply calls it ‘repentance’; and it is the righteous inconsistency!

- *WKing*