

Light and Life

“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of my Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’ And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness’ (Mt. 7:21-23).

In this description of judgment day, Jesus taught that merely calling Him “Lord” and doing good work while invoking His name is not good enough to get into heaven. Jesus even described these people as “practicing lawlessness”. The point is well taken that while those found displeasing in the passage are doing good works, those works may not constitute a fulfillment of the will of God. However, the standard that is present in these verses is that we be known by Jesus. What does this mean?

Even if the works accomplished by these lawless people are according to the will of God, it is possible to ‘follow the rules’ without having a relationship with Jesus that recognizes His authority. Paul wrote to the Romans that “he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the Spirit, not in the letter...” (Rom. 2:29).

Deeper than just following the rules, our relationship with God must become our identity! “For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God... you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out ‘Abba, Father’” (Rom. 8:14-15).

To be truly pleasing to God, our religion cannot just be about what we do (following the rules) – it must be who we are!

- *Sam Bunyard*

Law or Relationship?

Just My Thoughts

I am a big fan of rock climbing. I don’t go extremely often, but I have always enjoyed it a great deal every time I’ve gone. I find that I enjoy the difficulty and challenge that come with scaling these giant walls. Climbing these walls is not easy, it takes grip strength, concentration, planning, and a little bit of grit. So, every time I reach the top of a wall, I feel a great sense of accomplishment, knowing that I have overcome the challenge and scaled the heights that were laid before me.

The prophet Habakkuk wrote about scaling the heights at the end of the book that bears his name. In his final prayer to God, Habakkuk made note of his ventures into the heights, of his ability to overcome the challenges that were laid in his path:

“The Sovereign Lord is my strength; He makes my feet like the feet of a deer; He enables me to tread on the heights” (Hab 3:19).

There are many obstacles that we will come up against in our lives. Whether it be difficult people, tough problems, temptations, or any number of other trials, we are each going to have our own mountains to climb. When rock climbers are challenged by a difficult path, they must equip themselves to overcome it. They must train harder, exercise longer, and think longer about their plan. And even still, the rock climber may fail.

However, the Christian has a leg up on our mountains. We have a God who will, as Habakkuk says, enable us to tread on the heights. We have a powerful and mighty God who we can rely on to give us the strength, wisdom, and fortitude needed to scale any trial or temptation in our path. Let us lean on Him and rely on His ability to do so today – and every day.

- *Hayden Cathey*

God of the Mountains

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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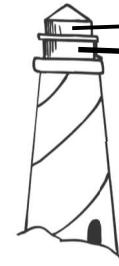
Directions for building
a church – some
assembly required.

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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Running Wild

“Without revelation people run wild, but one who follows divine instruction will be happy.” - Pr 29:18, CSB

Solomon understood this simple principle. After all, he was endowed by God with a heaping helping of wisdom (1 Ki 3:11-12). Today, even those who profess to be followers of God may forget what the **source** of societal order is – and what the awful **ramifications** are to a society that forgets it.

In contrast to a society where most people at least gave lip service to the Bible as being the literal Word of God, we now live in a society where only 24% of Americans do (Gallop poll, 2017); and that explains a lot.

If you wonder why many people simply shrug at the increase in crime stats, or marvel at the increasing acceptance of homosexual practice and transgender behavior, or the toleration of books in elementary school libraries with cartoonish pictures depicting naked men engaging in sexual acts, or the toleration (and enabling) of drug trafficking and drug use, and the homelessness that often accompanies it, or the sex trafficking of young migrants – you need look no further than Solomon: *without revelation people run wild*.

May God grant us all the wisdom to appreciate His instruction. - *WKing*

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

FOOD & DRINKS – Please do not bring food & drinks into the building during our assembly times (exceptions for small children & health issues).

SENTENCE SERMON – The one who loses money, loses much; the one who loses a friend, loses more; but the one who loses faith, loses everything.