

Light and Life

Fishin' Lures

“As Jesus walked by the Sea of Galilee, He saw Simon and Andrew his brother casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. Then Jesus said to them, ‘Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men’” (Mk. 1:16-17).

Like He did with Simon and Andrew, Jesus calls each of His disciples today to be fishers of men – to ‘catch souls’ for Christ! Of course, as any proper fisherman should, we must examine what kind of bait to put on the hook.

Many churches today work very hard to make their services attractive to the world. Their fishing lures are slick and shiny: free coffee and donuts, daycare services for members’ children, beautiful concert-style worship, or an exciting party-style service. What people don’t realize is that when it comes to fishing for men, you keep them with the same lures you caught them with! If we were to win someone over with free food and social programs, we would have successfully converted them to our social organization – but their soul would not belong to Christ.

We need not work too hard to ‘make the gospel attractive’. The gospel is the most beautiful and miraculous message that there could ever be all on its own! We need only to present it as the good news that it is – salvation for God’s people and the privilege of a relationship with our Creator and Savior.

Paul powerfully stated: “I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation...” (Rom. 1:16). Truly, as a father does for his young son, our Father has already baited our hook for us. We need only to cast it out and let the gospel do its work!

- *Sam Bunyard*



Just My Thoughts

I Gave

“I gave, I gave My life for thee, what hast thou given for Me?”

These words, from the hymn I Gave My Life for Thee, serve as a somber reminder of the sacrifice that Christ Jesus made for us on the cross. This song reminds us that Christ paid the ultimate price in giving up His life for us.

This popular hymn also confronts the Christian with an important question: what have we given for Christ? He has given all He had to give for us, and freely so, but what have we given for Him?

We can certainly never repay the debt that we owe to Christ, yet we as Christians still have a responsibility to give back all that we have to Him, just as He has done for us (Lu 14:33). We have a responsibility, a calling, to give ourselves as a living sacrifice to the cause of Christ (Ro 12:1). Giving ourselves as a living sacrifice requires giving of all that we are and all that we have. That may be our time, it may be our effort, it may be blood, sweat, and tears, and it may even be our physical life. We can give of ourselves by devoting ourselves to the study and spread of the Gospel. We can give of ourselves by helping support those who are in need. We can give of ourselves by sacrificing our wants and needs for the betterment of the Kingdom.

Christ gave all for us, for you, for me. What have we given to Him? Hopefully, when our race is run, we can say that we have given our all to Him.

- *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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**Faith is a journey,
not a destination.**

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DOWNTOWN GOSPEL BEACON

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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

Q&A – Tonight is our monthly question and answer lesson. Thanks to all who have contributed questions to this effort! Keep ‘em coming!

SENTENCE SERMON – Jesus wept at the grave of Lazarus because knowing the end of the story doesn’t mean you can’t cry at the sad parts.

Blaming God for the Harvest

Sometimes bad things happen to good people. But sometimes bad things happen to **bad** people. In fact, bad things often happen to bad people **because** they are bad people. It is one of those fundamental realities of life that escapes many folks.

People who are irresponsible and lazy, for example, just cannot understand why they are never able to get, or hold, a decent job. People who live for the weekend – and the sinful debauchery that often accompanies it – are puzzled by the sorrow and hurt that comes

later. People who live for today never understand why their ‘tomorrows’ are not as happy as they had hoped. They simply refuse to acknowledge a cause-and-effect relationship.

These same people may even point an angry, accusing finger at God. Unwilling to accept responsibility for their own actions, they find a convenient scapegoat in the Almighty – “I thought He was a God of love”. But here’s another fundamental reality: when you sow wild oats, God is not to blame for the harvest (Ga 6:7).
- *WKing*