

Light and Life

A Burning Bush

The Bible is full of meaningful examples of people who were zealous for God. Hebrews chapter eleven, known as the ‘Hall of Faith’, contains many of these examples to show what faith is – “the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen” (vs 1), what faith looks like in the active obedience of the people listed, and that “without faith it is impossible to please God, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him” (vs 6).

The Bible characters listed cover a wide range of backgrounds, trials, and acts of obedience to God. Noah endured a near extinction level event but survived through his faith. Abraham surrendered his homeland in search of a greater one. Moses gave up power and fortune to be brought to the level of an enslaved people to be counted among the people of God.

Even Rahab is included in the ‘Hall of Faith’! Even after being shown to be approved by God here in this chapter, it is difficult not to think of those two words after her name – ‘the Harlot’. Rahab’s past gives a much different twist to the narrative than the other Hall of Faith-ers listed, and there are important lessons to be learned from the spectrum of characters presented to us as examples.

When it comes to being lights to the world as we are called to be, it doesn’t matter who we have been in the past. In fact, it is often the people who come from the darkest places who end up shining the brightest.

Just remember, Moses didn’t heed what type of bush was burning before him, only that it was on fire for God.

- Sam Bunyard

Just My Thoughts

So Much More

“All the ways of the LORD are loving and faithful for those who keep the demands of His covenant” (Ps 25:10).

We may get the idea that under the Old Law God had no relationship with His people — that the Old Covenant was nothing more than just a legal agreement. And while the Old Law certainly was that, it was so much more than that. The Old Law was a set of boundaries that were defined and agreed upon by two parties about to enter a relationship.

And while that may sound very technical, it is something we do in all our relationships. We set up boundaries. Whether they are spoken, or whether they are so obvious they need not be mentioned, we all must set up boundaries and expectations for the other person to have a successful relationship. We set up boundaries regarding faithfulness with our romantic partner, we set up boundaries for acceptable speech and conduct with everyone we have a relationship with, and the list goes on.

The Old Law worked on this same premise, that God wasn’t just entering into a legal agreement with a nation. He was entering into a relationship with His beloved, setting boundaries for that relationship in His covenant with them.

Christ set up a New Covenant with us, with its own set of expectations and boundaries. And we as Christians have agreed to these things. We have entered this relationship knowing full well what is expected of us as the Lord’s beloved. So let us endeavor to remember this week just how important this relationship is to God and how important it should be to us. And let us strive to maintain the boundaries of a healthy relationship with Him – boundaries that He Himself has established.

- 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

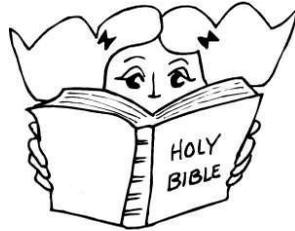
The Bible Speaks



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

Downtown Church of Christ

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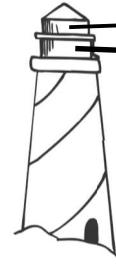
God's commandments are
not multiple choice.

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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FAMILY NEWS

PRAYER LIST –

Preachers we support: Japan, Philippines, Vietnam, Canada, Mexico, Peru, & U.S.

Sick: G&K Fletcher, Tony Tolbert, Diane Willis, J&M Swim, Jean Marshall

Shut-ins: Betty Jo Young, Billie Pennington, Shirley Cole, Mary Lou Lewis

Military: Kyler Sullins, Sean Potter

SINGING – Our monthly singing is scheduled for our assembly this evening!

Let's all come prepared to pour out our hearts in worship to God in song!

SENTENCE SERMON – God never allows His children to be in the furnace without being there with them.

Washing Our Hands

Don't worry young folks, this is not a reminder to your parents to be sure your hands are washed before dinner. And it's not even about the Pharisees who washed their hands to remove some ceremonial defilement accidentally picked up in the marketplace (Mark 7:2-4).

Let's look rather at what Pilate did at the trial of Jesus when, after pronouncing Him innocent no less than three times, he finally 'washed his hands of the whole thing'. He announced to the world that he was not responsible for Jesus' death – but he was (Mt 27:24).

And you and I can do just as he did.

Where is our voice when powerful political forces push for legalizing abortion up to (and including) the delivery date (cp Molech worship – or Lu 1:41, 2:16 *Greek brephos*)? Do we just 'wash our hands of the whole thing', and proclaim our own innocence? Where is our voice when deviance from the Biblical standard of sexuality (one man, one woman, for life, Mt 19:5-6) becomes the norm? Do we just 'wash our hands of the whole thing' and proclaim our own innocence?

Pilate shared the blame, though he washed his hands & denied guilt – something to think about.

- WKing