

Light and Life

The Highest Moment

A famous author wrote, “What is said of a man is nothing. The point is who says it. A man’s very highest moment is, I have no doubt at all, when he kneels in the dust, beats his breast, and tells all the sins of his life.”

This willingness to confess sin is essential to the character that is necessary to maintain a healthy relationship with God. “If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (I Jn. 1:8-9).

We may understand and utilize a relationship with God in which we can be honest about our sin. However, it can be more difficult to be honest with each other. We often quote James 5:16 to say that the “fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much”, but how often do we apply that saying to the confession of sin between Christians?

Interestingly, that is exactly how James applied it! “Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much” (Js. 5:16).

Simon the Sorcerer understood this concept well as he begged Peter’s prayers on his behalf when convicted of sin (Ac. 8:24). When is the last time you confessed sin to another Christian, or prayed for the forgiveness of a penitent believer?

We must develop and maintain relationships in which we are comfortable asking for prayers in this way, and in which others can be comfortable asking prayers of us!

- Sam Bunyard

Just My Thoughts

Remember the Little Guy

Joseph provided his father and his brothers and all his father’s household with food, according to their little ones (Ge 47:12).

This passage, taken from Genesis 47 just after Jacob and all his family came to settle in Goshen, may seem to be a rather insignificant verse in the grand scheme of things. Joseph was providing food for his family? What’s so notable about that that you would write an article about it? Notice in this passage how Joseph allotted food to his brothers and his father’s household, according to their little ones.

In the Ancient Near East, people often viewed their children as secondary, or less important citizens. To us in the modern world, children are the most valuable and important things on earth, but in antiquity this would not have been so. The idea would often have been, ‘You can always have more kids – take care of the contributing adults.’ And as such, it is striking that Joseph takes special care of the little ones in this passage. In a world that cared little for the children around them, Joseph made sure that they were cared for, had special provisions laid out for them.

In the world today, we care far more about our children, but there are still other ‘little ones’ that can fall to the wayside. Orphans, the homeless, widows, and many other groups of ‘little ones’ can often be cast off to the side. Let’s endeavor this week to emulate Joseph (who was emulating the Father) and take care of the ‘little ones’ in the world around us.

- 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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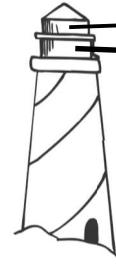
**Character: Who we are
when no one is watching.**

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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The Scourge of Legalism

Sometimes Christians are accused of being legalists simply because we teach the importance of obedience. The whole ‘grace only, faith only’ movement has so skewed the vital importance of submitting to God’s will that, in the minds of some, any attempt to ‘be righteous’ nullifies our right-standing with God. It is a sad rejection of what Jesus taught (Mt 7:21, Jn 14:15,21-24, 15:10 etc).

But with that said, there has often been a tendency among God’s people to impress God with our goodness and, in the doing, to even impress ourselves with our own goodness. This is legalism. As one preacher described it, “Legalism

minimizes forgiveness in favor of strict observance of law. It is trust in law rather than personal relationship with God. It is trust in my ability to be righteous without trusting God’s capacity to forgive me when I’m not. It complicates the standard that God simplified in Christ – and even adds to it.”

The legalistic mind is more focused on checking boxes than checking the heart (Mt 23:27-28). It obsesses over minutia while excusing flagrant sin (v23). And saddest of all, it denies opportunity for the God of grace to give it. It can be a challenging concept to grasp – as any Pharisee can tell you. - **WKing**

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

CONGRATULATIONS! – We rejoice with Charlie Hill in the decision he recently made to become a Christian! Let’s encourage all our young people!

SENTENCE SERMON – It is better to trust the One who wrote The Book than to trust some guy who wrote a book.