

Light and Life

All Your Heart

Moses summed up the essence of the old law when he said, “What does the Lord your God require of you, but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all His ways and to love Him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to keep the commandments of the Lord and His statutes which I command you today for your good?” (Dt. 10:12).

When Jesus was asked by a scribe which was the foremost commandment of all, He echoed the same sentiment. “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength. This is the first commandment” (Mk. 12:30).

There is a reason why this is the foremost command — all other commands are included in it! If we truly love the Lord with all our being, we will want to do and be what is pleasing to Him. This is why Jesus instructed, “If you love me, keep my commandments” (Jn 14:15).

A heart that allows any amount of evil cannot fulfill the foremost command, because “all” of the heart, mind, soul, and strength is not devoted to loving God. Likewise, a heart that allows for apathy or indifference cannot fulfill the command. Such an empty heart will eventually be inhabited by an even greater evil (Mt. 12:43-45)!

If we knowingly allow even the smallest sin to stay in our lives, then — even if we love God a lot — we do not love Him with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength. Satan just needs a little piece of us to keep us from following the greatest command! Even rat poison is 99% good food for rats!

– *Sam Bunyard*



Just My Thoughts

The Trouble with Anger

“My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry” (Ja 1:19).

Anger can be a complicated thing. Humans tend to get angry about a lot of things, both big and small. Some of these things warrant our anger, while others definitely do not. This passage in James deals with that concept.

It is natural to be angry when one has been deeply and profoundly wronged. When one witnesses the people of the world sinning against God, attempting to mock Him, it is also natural to be angry. Anger in and of itself isn't wrong — even God was angry at times with His people.

But anger over trifling matters, and what we do with that anger can definitely be sinful. And that is exactly what this passage in James 1.19 is dealing with. There are plenty of little things in our lives that can make us angry: someone cutting us off in traffic, someone getting our order wrong at our favorite restaurant, someone making a comment or Facebook post that we don't like. James is admonishing his readers in this passage to refrain from being quick to anger.

And the call that James made for them stands for us as well — to let the little things roll off our backs, to not be quick to anger, and to allow ourselves to let things go in a world that has enough anger and rage as is. Let us be considerate of others, graceful and patient with them, and slow to anger this week — and every week.

– *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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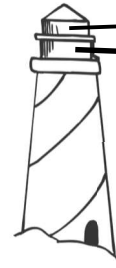
**Even Darwin is a
believer now.**

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

CONGRATULATIONS! – We rejoice at the recent decision of Cameron

Griggs to be baptized into Christ! Remember to encourage her in her walk!

SINGING – Tonight is our monthly singing. Song leaders: come prepared to lead a song. Everyone else: come prepared to sing out!

Ever hear of a ‘low-information voter’? It’s the voter who chooses candidates based on likeability (or some other emotional criteria) rather than on righteous principles. Their numbers, sadly, are growing which, of course, does not bode well for the future of our country.

But in the religious world, we have had the ‘low-information Christian’ around for a long time. They make decisions of eternal import based on personal preference. They like the style of ‘this’ preacher better than ‘that’ one, regardless of the message. They may not even know what he is saying, but “he says it well”. They prefer ‘this’ type of worship over ‘that’ type of worship – regardless of

which one has scriptural authority. They may even prefer entertainment over serious Bible study. The objective standard of the Word of God, and the principles of righteousness articulated in it, have no bearing on their religious practice. Jesus called it lawlessness; and it will cost many their soul (Mt 7:23).

A sad characteristic of the ‘low-information voter’ (and Christian) is that they do not view themselves that way. In their own eyes, they are the smartest people in the room. And if sincerity was the standard, they would be in. But sincerity is **not** the standard – God’s Word is (Jn 12:48). So, we had best do our homework!
- *WKing*