

Light and Life

Their Reward

When we observe the world, it is easy to identify people who make a big show of their religion. Many people of the world would like to be seen as religious outwardly but are not willing to make the commitment to be Christlike inwardly. Of course, such are playing the hypocrite – trying to appear one way while behaving in another. Yet somehow these people often tend to get the recognition they desire.

Jesus described this concept in His sermon on the mount. “When you do a charitable deed, do not sound a trumpet before you as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory from men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward” (Mt. 6:2). “When you pray, you shall not be like the hypocrites. For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward” (Mt. 6:5). “When you fast, do not be like the hypocrites, with a sad countenance. For they disfigure their faces that they may appear to men to be fasting. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward” (Mt. 6:16).

What are your goals in your personal religion? Are they just to feel good about yourself, to enhance your social status, or to appear holy and righteous to other people? If these are your goals, Jesus said “you have your reward”! If outward religion is your thing, these goals can be easily attained!

However, if you are interested in the real purpose of charity, prayer and fasting – the pursuit of a relationship with God – you must leave behind these concerns of the world. Do good in secret, pray alone in your room, and fast with joy, and “He who sees in secret will reward you” (Mt 6:4, 6, 18)!

- Sam Bunyard

Just My Thoughts

The Good Ole Days

“Don’t long for the ‘good old days’, for this is not wise” (Ec 7:10 NLT).

So often in the modern day I witness people longing for the good old days. For people my age it usually sounds something like, “Man I wish I could be a kid again, no responsibilities, just naps and snacks.” For those who are more advanced in their years, it sounds something like, “Back in my day, things were better than they are now!” I’m sure there are about a hundred variations on this phrase, but in essence they all boil down to a longing for, as the author of Ecclesiastes says, the good old days.

It’s human nature to look back at our past fondly and to yearn for it, that’s why it’s so common! But the author of Ecclesiastes urges us to push past this human desire. Looking back at the past does us no good. What can longing for the good old days do to help us today? Nothing! The author of Ecclesiastes knew this, and encouraged the readers to stop wasting their time focusing on days gone by, and to instead focus their time and energy on the day at hand.

Our time on this earth is short, and time itself is more precious than gold, so why waste any of it longing for a past you cannot return to? Why waste any of it wishing for something you will never have? This is not wise, as the author of Ecclesiastes wrote. Instead, we should focus our minds and bodies on doing the work until Jesus comes – on being productive servants today and every day until the Master returns to call us home.

- 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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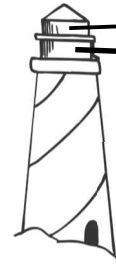
**Do not fear tomorrow
for God is already there.**

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 – Congratulations to Ayden Toland who was recently baptized into Christ! Remember to encourage our young people!

SENTENCE SERMON: True, it takes more than biology to make a man a man – but biology is part of it (Ge 1:27).

Why Not Fry Them?

“Do all things without complaining and disputing” (Ph 2:14), which is simple enough – until we decide to make an exception for ourselves.

For example, “do all things without complaining and disputing” – unless mom and dad are driving home from the morning worship. Then it’s okay to malign the brothers and sisters in Christ over matters of opinion – with the kids in the back seat. Years later they wonder why the kids fell away from the Lord – or never came to Him at all.

“Do all things without complaining,” unless we are on social media. Then it’s okay to blast members of

the church in front of the whole world over disagreements in matters of judgment. When an apostate comments, “Yeah, that’s why I left the church,” we are oblivious to the fact that our complaining has contributed to their apostasy.

Christians – including preachers and elders – do not always get it right. But other solutions are available to address true concerns – like limiting grievances to a ‘need-to-know’ audience (Mt 18:15-17) or taking them to someone with the authority to fix it (1 Co 1:11). But frying the elders or preacher or other good-hearted brethren is not a solution. - *WKing*