

Light and Life

Rules and Relationships

Many people today believe that an expectation to follow any sort of ‘rules’ must lead to a works-based system of salvation. Believing that there are conditions to be met is equal to trying to ‘earn your salvation’! Faith is then no longer about a relationship with God – according to these people.

Such logic is flawed! Conditions exist within all relationships! Marriage is between two people and is contingent on both participating in the relationship by upholding the vows in the covenant they have made with one another. If love is not being shown by one spouse or the other, the relationship will suffer. If a husband is just ‘going through the motions’ to please his wife without sincerity or emotion behind the actions, the relationship will suffer.

The same is true with a relationship with God. Paul wrote, “He is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh; but he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart...” (Rm. 2:28-29). It was required by law for Jews to be circumcised to enter the covenant with God. However, if that circumcision did not teach them the spiritual lesson of holiness, then that circumcision “became uncircumcision”, becoming vain (Rm. 2:25).

The same is true for Christians. “In Him you were circumcised with the circumcision made without hands... buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God” (Col. 2:11-12).

As in the Old Testament, conditions must be met to be in a relationship with God. Our faith should not be in our righteous action, but in “the working of God” when we obey the conditions He has set.

- *Sam Bunyard*

Just My Thoughts

What If I Say the Wrong Thing?

This question is one that we pose, mostly to ourselves, often. Typically, this thought comes to mind whenever friends or family lose a loved one. What do you say in a situation like that? It can also come to mind when suffering and sadness are present around us in general. What do we say to ease the ache or heal the pain?

Colossians 4:5-6 speaks to this idea. It reads, “Be wise in the way you act towards outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone” (NIV).

Though this verse in context is referring to conversations with people of the world, it can apply to any situation. This verse, exhorting the believer to season their speech with grace, with salt, is exhorting the believer to speak as one Man in particular did.

Christ is the ultimate example of grace, of compassion, of always knowing what to say in any given situation. And the root of that wisdom Christ had – that ability to know exactly what to say and how to say it – came from one thing and one thing alone: love. Perfect and genuine love.

We are never going to know exactly what to say or how to say it to other people. Only Christ was able to do that. But if we speak with love – real genuine love – we’ll be on the right track to speaking with grace. We’ll be making the most of every opportunity and showing the love of Christ through the words we speak to those 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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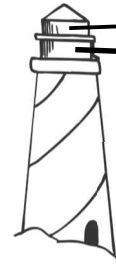
**Everything is done
before the eyes of God.**

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DOWNTOWN GOSPEL BEACON

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Serving with All Humility

“You know... in what manner I always lived among you, serving the Lord with all humility” (Ac 20:18-19). Thus Paul opened his farewell talk with the elders of Ephesus.

Though open for discussion, most folks would certainly rank Paul as the most influential Christian who ever lived. But what was it about Paul that made him so great?

We could cite his courage – his willingness to stand up to the most severe opposition ever faced by any follower of Christ (Ac 14:19-22).

We could look at his faith. After all, as an apostle he had witnessed the

resurrected Christ (Ac 9:3-6). From that point on, he never wavered in his commitment to Him.

We could speak of the unfaltering zeal which he possessed as a young Jewish man – a zeal which carried with him through the remainder of his life (Ac 7:58, 2 Ti 4:6-7).

We could continue to note his love for God, his love for others (both Jews and Gentiles), and more. But one notable factor that contributed to his greatness as much as any was his humility – his servant mindset. And as a humble servant, he serves as an example for us all!

- 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

Q&A – Tonight is our end-of-the-month question and answer session. Thanks to all who have contributed questions to this effort!

SENTENCE SERMON: Those who are faithful in the hard times can be trusted in the good times (recap of Lu 16:10-12).