

Light and Life

I, Barabbas

Caiaphas and the other Jewish leaders marched Jesus to the Praetorium early one morning to be judged by Pilate. Pilate told the Jews, “You take Him and judge Him according to your law” (Jn 18:31). He didn’t want to touch what he saw as Jewish infighting that the Sanhedrin wished to end with the death of an innocent Man. After a short interrogation, Pilate confirmed that there was no legal reason for Jesus to die. He went out to the angry mob and told them, “I find no fault in Him at all” (Jn 18:38).

Seeking a way to avoid bloodshed, Pilate remembered a custom he could leverage. “You have a custom that I should release someone to you at the Passover. Do you therefore want me to release to you the King of the Jews?” (Jn. 18:39). Surely this was the perfect solution! Who better to fulfill this custom and be released without harm than a Man who had been judged innocent?

“Then they all cried again, saying, ‘Not this Man, but Barabbas!’” (Jn 18:40). The Scriptures describe Barabbas as a robber, a murderer, a rebel, and a notorious prisoner. What level of hate the Jewish people must have had for them to ask that this man be released to them rather than the Innocent Lamb of God!

And yet, this is a perfect picture of the gospel. The wage of Barabbas' crimes was death; but instead of him being on that cross, it was Jesus! Is this not a physical representation of my relationship to Jesus? The wage of my sin is death, and yet Christ became the propitiation for my sins (1 Jn 2:2). What a realization to read the story of my Lord’s crucifixion and see that in many ways I am Barabbas!

- *Sam Bunyard*

Just My Thoughts

“I Just Can’t Do It Anymore”

Being a Christian is no simple task. Daily, we are fighting a spiritual battle against Satan and sin. All around Christians in the modern day are fortresses of evil, bastions of wickedness. Sexual immorality, drunkenness, drug abuse, divorce, deceit, and a number of other evils are advertised all around us on a daily basis. In movies, tv shows, books, billboards, radio shows, newspapers, and social media there is a loud and ever-present majority of people in the world who want you to be just like them.

Frankly, fighting against that, pushing back against that constantly, can be exhausting. Every day is a fight and there are times when we can feel as though we haven’t the energy or the will to fight back anymore. To feel like this, to feel disheartened and discouraged, can cause us to feel guilty or weak.

But take heart! Paul, an apostle chosen by God, had times where he felt this way, too. He asked God to remove his thorn in the flesh. He begged Him to remove it several times. Paul thought he couldn’t bear it anymore. And even Christ Himself asked for the burden of His sacrifice to be lifted. He did not want to do it.

Yet, what do we see with both of these men? We see that God was with them, granting them strength. And He will be with us as well if we continue to stand with Him.

“But they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint” (Isa 40:31).

- *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

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**If you are lost, the Bible
has the directions.**

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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 – Tonight we are scheduled to have our monthly singing. Let's all plan to be here to join our voices in praise to our God!

SENTENCE SERMON: If we meet and you forget me, you have lost little; but if you meet Jesus and forget Him, you have lost everything.

Can Eternal Life Be Lost?

You may have heard the question, “How can a Christian lose eternal life, since it is eternal?” It’s a good question – and deserves a response.

On the one hand, numerous passages warn us of the possibility of apostasy. From Jesus’ parable of the sower (Mt 13:20-22) to the letters of Paul (1 Co 9:27, Ga 5:4), to the writings of Peter (2 Pe 2:20-22), to the entire book of Hebrews – God’s children are admonished about the real possibility of falling away. Such passages cannot simply be ignored.

But what about passages like Jn 6:54 (and others) which describe eternal life as a present possession?

First, eternal life is not just eternal **existence**. Even the lost will exist eternally (Mt 25:46). Rather, Jesus defined eternal life as a **relationship**: “This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent” (Jn 17:3). And yes, relationships **can** be broken – we can just walk away.

Which is also what Jesus taught in John 10:27-28. The “sheep” of this passage are those who “hear” Him and “follow” Him; continual action verbs which define the relationship. No outside forces can sever that bond; but sadly we can, if we choose to stop following Him.

- *WKing*