

Light and Life

Kept Promises

Does man know better than God? We often seem to think so. When Abram received promises from God that were dependent upon his descendants, he asked God, “What will you give me, seeing I go childless?” (Gn. 15:3). God assured Abram that his heir wouldn’t be anyone outside his household, but “one who will come from your own body” (Gn. 15:4). Abram “believed in the Lord, and He accounted it to him for righteousness”. Yet Abram’s wife, Sarai, remained barren (Gn. 15:6). Sarai encouraged her husband to lay with her servant in hopes of producing a son by whom to fulfill God’s promise - but this was not God’s plan!

God intended to use Sarai’s barren womb to show His own authority and ability to deliver on His promises. He waited until she was well advanced in age to provide her with a son. When Sarai (now called Sarah) heard that she would become pregnant well past her childbearing years, she laughed within herself. “After I have grown old, shall I have pleasure, my lord being old also?” (Gn. 18:12). It seemed a ridiculous thing for a woman of her age to become a new mother! Hear God’s reply: “Is anything too hard for the Lord?” (Gn. 18:14).

Having faith in God’s promise, but not knowing His plan, Abraham and Sarah tried to devise a plan of their own. With worldly wisdom it would be Abraham’s oldest son, Ishmael, who would become the son of promise. However, this was Abraham’s plan - not God’s! In waiting to fulfill His promise through the previously barren womb of Sarah, God showcased His power, wisdom, and faithfulness. Abraham was “fully convinced that what [God] had promised He was also able to perform” (Ro 4:21). God kept His promise – but in His way and in His time!

- Sam Bunyard

Just My Thoughts

You Reap What You Sow

You reap what you sow! This is a Biblical phrase that is often repeated by even secular sources to demonstrate the principle of consequences. If one does good, they will receive good things in return. If one does evil, they will receive bad things in return.

This principle is one that is repeated throughout scripture – that men reap what they sow. Paul expands on this Biblical idea in 2 Corinthians 9.6, stating, “Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.”

Though this passage is about giving, I believe it fair to apply this to all things. The one who gives little in his work will receive little reward. The one who gives little to their family will receive little in return. The one who gives little to God will receive little in return.

When we don’t give ‘our all’ in life – when we don’t give as much as we can to all that we do – we face natural consequences. Just as a farmer cannot reap more than he sows, we will not reap more than what we sow.

The lesson here is simple: that we must give our all in all that we do. Especially in our lives as Christians, we must give our best effort in everything we do so that the harvest will be plentiful – physically, emotionally, and most of all, spiritually.

- 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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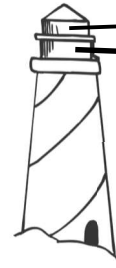
When it's your time
to depart this life,
which exit will you take?

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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Be Careful, You Animal

According to one personality test, people can be classified into four personality types (or some combination of these): the lion (take charge), the otter (people-oriented, energetic), the golden retriever (warm, supportive), and the beaver (precise, detail-oriented). In one recent marriage class, we attempted to find Biblical examples of each.

We found plenty of lions, like David or Diotrefes. Otters were more challenging, but Saul of Tarsus was a tireless worker – both before and after his conversion. Barnabas was a good example of a golden retriever, including the flaw of saying ‘yes’ too easily (remember Ga 2:11-13). And

both Nehemiah and the Pharisees were prime examples of those who cared about the details.

Two lessons stood out in our discussion. First, the kingdom needs all types of people. Regardless of our ‘personality type’, all have a place in God’s vineyard (1 Co 12:12-27).

But secondly, while none of these attributes are inherently good or evil, any of them can become sinful if we let them (look at our list again). We cannot use our ‘personality’ as an excuse for bad behavior. Rather, use what we have to God’s glory – and grow even more in those areas where we can (Mt 25:29).

- 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

DATES: Mark Roberts mtg (Mar 12-15), Stevens/Shepard singing (Apr 21), Bret Hogland VBS (Jul 16-20), David Banning youth lectures (Aug 4-6).

SENTENCE SERMON – When you get tired of talking to your friend about God, then remember to talk to God about your friend.