

Light and Life

Watching For Jesus

A recent study reported on the popularity of various sermon texts. By far, the most popular sermon category for last year was the end times. Sermons on Judgement Day have reportedly increased by around six times since the year 2020. It's hardly surprising that the most popular sermon topics were closely tied to the COVID-19 virus and political elections. Many religious thinkers believe that disease and political unrest are signs that herald the pending destruction of earth. Do these concerns have their root in Biblical teaching?

Jesus said of the end: "of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father knows" (Mt. 24:36). Jesus told His disciples that there would be no signs about the end of time. "Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming... the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect" (Mt. 24:42, 44).

Peter wrote that "the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night" (I Pe. 3:10). A thief does not announce his coming, nor does he come in the daylight when he can be seen. Paul wrote that sudden destruction will come when those who are of the darkness say "Peace and safety!" (I Th. 5:3). By contrast, as those who are in darkness sleep, those who are of the light are soberly watching for His coming: "looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God" (I Th. 5:6; II Pe. 3:12).

Are you looking for His return in hope, or in fear? If you fear that Day, we have some work to do! How sweet is the peace the faithful Christian feels as the Lord declares, "I am coming quickly." Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus" (Re. 22:20).

- Sam Bunyard



Just My Thoughts

Eat Your Broccoli!

Just about everyone on earth had a time in their life in which they couldn't stand vegetables. I remember when I was a kid, my mother would desperately try to get me to eat my broccoli, and I refused! I couldn't stand the taste of it – or any other vegetable for that matter. All I wanted to eat was chicken nuggets and macaroni. I wanted the food I was comfortable with, the food with the taste I had grown accustomed to. I didn't want to try leafy greens or fruits. I didn't want to eat my broccoli.

In First Corinthians 3.2, Paul had something to write about Christians who don't want to eat their spiritual broccoli: "I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for it."

Paul wrote about beginning to feed the Christians in Corinth with the milk of Scripture, giving them easily digestible and understandable portions of the text to build them up. Paul gave the Corinthians their chicken nuggets, their macaroni, so to speak – bits of God's word that would not be hard to swallow. But as we can infer from this passage, in saying that they were not yet ready for solid food, Paul implied that he expected those Christians, and us by extension, to be ready for solid food eventually.

God feeds the young Christian milk when we are first starting, but eventually He expects us to challenge ourselves. He expects His people to search the Scriptures, to challenge what they know, to dig deeper into His holy word.

So, in your walk with Christ, make sure you're not still living on milk, on easy to digest passages and ideas, on concepts that are comfortable and simple. Grow up, and eat your broccoli.

- 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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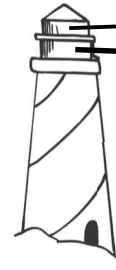
Living for eternity
is the only living
that makes sense.

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

SINGING – Tonight is our first-of-the-month singing. Song leaders: come prepared to lead! Everyone else: come prepared to sing!

GOSPEL MEETING – Our gospel meeting with Mark Roberts begins next Sunday morning! If you will be here, you will be edified!

GOSPEL MEETING

with

Mark Roberts

March 12-15, 2023

(Next Sunday!)

THEME: HOPE

Sunday: Regular Times

Mon-Tue-Wed 6:30pm

Come and be encouraged!