

## Light and Life

## The Job 31 Man

Everyone knows about the Proverbs 31 woman – the description of the type of woman a mother advises her son to marry. In Job 31 we can find a profile of Job which can act in a similar way as a male equivalent – perhaps a profile of the type of man a father can wish for his daughter?

While the Proverbs 31 woman is characterized by her industry, the Job 31 man is defined by his restraint. When he has opportunity to exploit and conquer, he does not.

The chapter begins with Job defending his sexual purity. “I have made a covenant with my eyes; why then should I look upon a young woman?” (Job 31:1) He could have allowed his heart to be enticed, but he did not (Job 30:9). While Job had been a man of great influence, power, and wealth before his calamity, he did not use his position for sexual gratification.

Nor did he abuse his position over subordinates or the poor. “If I have despised the cause of my male or female servant when they complained against me, what then shall I do when God rises up?” (Job 31:13). Rather than exploit his workers, he treated them fairly. He had the opportunity to “eat the morsel for himself” (Job 31:17), but rather saved it for the fatherless and the widow. He had the opportunity to abuse the legal system to his favor (Job 31:21) and did not take it.

Job could have covered up his transgressions so that people would never know; but he wore his mistakes in humility (Job 31:33). He could have rejoiced in the ill fortune of his enemies (Job 31:29). He could have heeded greed and idolatry (Job 31:24, 26-27). But he allowed himself to do none of these things.

Job showed power, but also discipline. We need more Job 31 men!

*- Sam Bunyard*

## Another Perspective

## Thoughts on Baptism

Many a religious conversation has died because someone introduced the subject of baptism. Most religious leaders today see baptism as a voluntary action – one not necessary to salvation. To even question the doctrine that a man is saved by faith alone is offensive to them.

When baptism is brought up, the immediate reaction is to cite all the passages in the New Testament where faith is mentioned as the necessary element in salvation – while giving no credence at all to numbers of passages connecting baptism with salvation. Are these passages against one another? Any person seeking all the truth should consider **all** the Bible has to say on that subject.

Baptism relates to the forgiveness of sins. “Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, by the washing of water by the word” (Titus 3:5). In Mark 16:15-16, Jesus told his apostles, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized shall be saved.” Saul of Tarsus was told by the preacher, “Arise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord” (Acts 22:16). To deny that baptism is involved with salvation is to deny the obvious.

These passages have not negated faith – none of them have diminished from the importance of it in any way. It would be as foolish to say that a man is saved by baptism alone as to say that a man is saved by faith alone. But just because the Hebrew writer says, “without faith it is impossible to please Him” (11:6), does not mean that baptism is not necessary for salvation.

If we want to know about salvation, we should get back to the Bible and let it say all it has to say about salvation. It is how God has instructed us regarding salvation; and it is foolish to add or diminish from it in any way.

*- Dee Bowman (edited for space)*

## 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

P.O. Box 447  
201 W. Chestnut Street  
Rogers, AR 72757  
479-636-3575  
www.downtowncoc.net



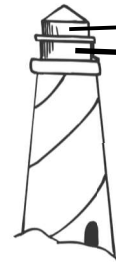
Whatever you do, in word  
or deed, do all in the name  
of the Lord Jesus - Col 3:17

## 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

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY THE DOWNTOWN CHURCH OF CHRIST  
ROGERS, ARKANSAS

May 14, 2023

## Noble and Good Hearts

*“The ones that fell on the good ground are those who, having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep it and bear fruit with patience.” – Lu 8:15 (NKJ)*

How can we know if our hearts are what they ought to be – that they are “noble and good”? In explaining the parable of the soils, Jesus provided the answer.

A noble and good heart **hears the Word of God**. It is receptive to that message which is from God. It humbles itself before the Creator of the heavens and the earth because it realizes its need for His guidance.

A noble and good heart **keeps the Word of God**. Instead of minimizing submission to God’s will by promoting a ‘faith only’ gospel, it accepts the importance of duty. It is willing to sacrifice its own desires to do what God says. It does not seek to justify disobedience by ridiculing the importance of good works.

And a noble and good heart **will bring forth fruit**. It knows there is much to accomplish in the kingdom and that the laborers are few. It is willing to devote itself to the furtherance of Christ’s cause. So, what kind of heart do **you** have?

- *WKing*

## FAMILY NEWS

### PRAYER LIST –

*Preachers we support:* Japan, Philippines, Vietnam, Canada, Mexico, Peru, & U.S.

*Sick:* G&K Fletcher, T Tolbert, J&M Swim, J Marshall, S Shell, L&T Deen

*Shut-ins:* Betty Jo Young, Billie Pennington, Shirley Cole, Mary Lou Lewis

*Military:* Kyler Sullins, Sean Potter

**DATES TO REMEMBER** – Wednesdays, Jun 7 – Aug 2 (except VBS week)

young people’s class on “How to Remain Faithful”. VBS, Jul 16-20 with Bret Hogland. Youth Lectures, Aug 4-5 with David Banning.

**SENTENCE SERMON** – Service is love in overalls.