

Light and Life

Preaching To Felix

After Paul was arrested in Jerusalem, he eventually found himself at the mercy of Roman Governor Felix in Caesarea. Felix was a corrupt politician, and even having seen that Paul was innocent of the charges against him, he decided to keep Paul prisoner. Finally, “after some days, when Felix came with his wife Drusilla, who was Jewish, he sent for Paul and heard him concerning the faith in Christ” (Ac. 24:24).

According to the Jewish historian Josephus, Drusilla was the daughter of Herod Agrippa I, the monarch who had executed James and intended to kill Peter as well. This is also the Herod who accepted worship as if he were a god, whom God struck down and caused to be eaten by worms for his blasphemy. Drusilla was only six at the time of her father’s death, but by the age of sixteen she was married off to a king of a small country in Syria. That marriage was short-lived as Felix convinced her to divorce her husband to be his wife instead. She became Felix’s third wife and the couple approached Paul to hear the gospel while living in adultery.

Felix had control over Paul’s life or death. It would have been tempting to water down the message and give him something he would enjoy hearing. Yet, Paul “reasoned about righteousness, self-control, and the judgment to come” (Ac 24:25). Paul let them know that they needed to stop sinning and start doing what is right – and if they didn’t, they would go to hell!

Though Felix did not obey the gospel, Paul’s message left him trembling for fear. Paul demonstrated much love towards the couple in that his message could have resulted in his death, and it was not pleasant to say – but it was what they desperately needed to hear! We must have the boldness – and the love – of Paul!

- Sam Bunyard

Another Perspective

God’s End of the Stick

Recently a lady asked what she should tell a friend who had proposed the old "died-on-way-to-baptistry" question. I answered, "Don't tell her the subject is lost." She looked a bit surprised, but I was not finished. "And don't tell her the subject is saved." Now she was even more puzzled, so I added, "We have no right to whittle on God's end of the stick!"

Truth is, God promised remission of sins at the point of genuine submission to Christ in baptism (Mk 16: 16, Ac 2:38, 22:16, Ro 6:4-f). We have no part in setting up the rules, nor in making final judgments. That is God's end of the stick. All we can do is teach what God's word says, and trust the Holy Spirit, through that instrument, to generate in the hearer an obedient faith. It is rank presumption to suppose we can make exceptions or do a better job of judging than can God. We are completely ‘out of our league’ in such matters.

If we say the subject is lost, we play into the hands of a prejudiced querist who wanted such a reply as justification for rejecting "those Campbellites who play God." If we say the subject is saved, the same prejudiced person may think this is justification for "faith only" or the like. Far better we take the discussion back into the scriptures, and make it clear that this is all we, or anyone, can know about God's business.

The same attitude must be taken toward questions about sinning, and dying before one can recognize, repent, and ask forgiveness for sins. Our end of the stick calls for a present active walking in the light, involving a present active confessing of our sins (1 Jn 1:7-9). Contingent upon this, God promises the blood of Christ "cleanseth (present active) us from all sin." This is what God's word says, and I teach it. But God must judge the validity of one's baptism, and God must judge the validity of one's life. And I must not try to whittle on His end of the stick.

- Robert Turner (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

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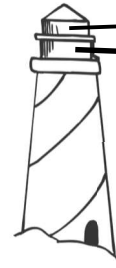
**As a seed dies to bring
forth new life, so we
die in baptism to
begin our new life.**

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: Fletchers, Swims, J Marshall, S Shell, T Deen, R Starr, S Montgomery

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

Military: Kyler Sullins, Sean Potter

CONGRATULATIONS! – We rejoice with Nate McKown (and his family), who was recently baptized into Christ! We thank God for such good hearts!

SENTENCE SERMON – People in the Bible did not become Christians by prayer, but by dying with Christ in baptism for the forgiveness of their sins.

No Need to Teach?

“None of them shall teach his neighbor, and none his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord;’ for all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them.” - He 8:11

The author of the book of Hebrews quoted from the prophet Jeremiah and made what some consider to be an odd statement – that a time will come when no one would need to teach his neighbor or his brother! **What!?** What exactly were these two inspired writers referring to?

The previous verses (6-10) make it clear that the reference is to the time of a second covenant – a “better” covenant than the one given at Mt. Sinai. This new covenant, of course, is the New Testament – in force

since its ratification in the first century (Mt 26:28).

But, unlike citizenship in the earthly Israel, which was established at birth and taught later, citizenship in the spiritual Israel is acquired **by our own choice**. It comes **as a result of being taught** – and it leads to a **new birth** (Jn 3:3-6, 6:45), and citizenship in a **spiritual kingdom** (Jn 3:5).

Of course, Christians continue to teach one another; but the very fact that they **are** Christians is proof positive that they have **already been taught** to “*know the Lord*”. It’s just one of the (major) distinctions between the two covenants.

- *WKing*