

Light and Life

Abraham Believed God

“And Abraham believed in the Lord, and He accounted it to him for righteousness” (Gn. 15:6).

This simple statement is one of the most important declarations of the Old Testament. Misunderstanding it could have dangerous consequences to your soul. Abraham was the father of the Jewish nation – and he is also the spiritual father of Christians by our shared faith (Gal. 3). It was through the promises God made to Abraham that Christ came into the world so that “all families of the earth will be blessed” (Gn. 12:3). Through faith Abraham maintained a relationship with God; and by faith like his we also can be found righteous.

Abraham’s faith in God was not a singular event in his life – it describes the **pattern** of his life. Abraham believed God when he left his homeland bound for an unknown place and it was accounted to him for righteousness (He. 11:8, Gal. 3:6-8, Gn. 12). Abraham “did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief” when the time came for Isaac to be born in his old age (Rm. 4:20). He and Sarah did their part, and they believed that God would fulfill His promises through the birth of their son. They believed God and it was accounted to them for righteousness (Rm. 4:3, 19-22, Gn. 17). When it came time for that son of promise to be offered up as a burnt sacrifice on Mount Moriah, Abraham was willing to offer his son on the altar – but he remained convinced that God would fulfill his promise anyway. He believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness (Jas. 2:21-23, Gn. 22).

New Testament writers understood (by the Holy Spirit) that Abraham’s faith as described in Genesis was not a snapshot moment in his life, but a character trait demonstrated time and again through his trust and obedience to God.

May we have such faith!

- Sam Bunyard

Another Perspective

An Angry God?

“I used to think that wrath was unworthy of God. Isn’t God love? Shouldn’t divine love be beyond wrath? God is love, and God loves every person and every creature. That’s exactly why God is wrathful against some of them.

"My last resistance to the idea of God’s wrath was a casualty of the war in former Yugoslavia, the region from which I come. According to some estimates, 200,000 people were killed and over 3,000,000 were displaced. My villages and cities were destroyed, my people shelled day in and day out, some of them brutalized beyond imagination, and I could not imagine God not being angry.

"Or think of Rwanda in the last decade of the past century, where 800,000 people were hacked to death in one hundred days! How did God react to the carnage? By doting on the perpetrators in a grandparently fashion? By refusing to condemn the bloodbath but instead affirming the perpetrators’ basic goodness? Wasn’t God fiercely angry with them?

"Though I used to complain about the indecency of the idea of God’s wrath, I came to think that I would have to rebel against a God who wasn’t wrathful at the sight of the world’s evil. God isn’t wrathful in spite of being love. God is wrathful because God is love."

- Miroslav Volf

Free of Charge: Giving and Forgiving in a Culture Stripped of Grace
pp. 138-139

h/t Steve Wolfgang

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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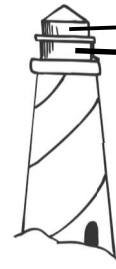
**Living for today is poor
preparation for eternity.**

ELDERS:

Otis Hardin
Perry Johnson
Ken Parker
Alan Revier
GW Walsh

DEACONS:

TJ Burleson
Scott Hale
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Chris Johnson
Brock McKeel
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DOWNTOWN GOSPEL BEACON

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ROGERS, ARKANSAS**

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FAMILY NEWS

PRAYER LIST –

Preachers we support: Japan, Philippines, Vietnam, Canada, Mexico, Peru, & U.S.
Sick: Fletchers, Swims, JMarshall, TDeen, RStarr, MiBader, ADosier, ACorder
Shut-ins: Betty Jo Young, Billie Pennington, Shirley Cole, Susan Wiese, V Carter
Military: Kyler Sullins, Sean Potter

OUR SYMPATHY – Our sympathy and prayers are extended to the families of Mary Lou Lewis and Bob Walsh, both of whom recently passed away.

WELCOME – We welcome Michelle Weston into our family at Downtown! Remember to make our new members feel at home!

Works

The Bible certainly condemns some types of ‘works’ – works of darkness (Ep 5:11) or works of lawlessness (Mt 7:23), for example.

Another type of ‘works’ which the New Testament condemns would be ‘boastful’ works. These are the works Paul condemns in Romans 4:2 and in Ephesians 2:8-9.

Many religious people are quick to quote these passages to ‘prove’ that works are not necessary in the life of a Christian (an idea that stems from the doctrine of Calvinism). ‘A child of God should do good works,’ they say, ‘but works are not necessary for our salvation.’ But they are wrong.

The word ‘boast’ in these passages defines the **kind** of works Paul condemned. It describes the **mindset** of many religious people through the ages who think they can **earn** a good standing before God by their own efforts. Paul says it cannot be done.

Instead the gospel advocates for – even demands – a changed life (call it ‘works’ if you will). From ‘doing the will of the Father’ (Mt 7:21) to ‘working out our own salvation’ (Ph 2:12) to ‘being justified by works’ (Ja 2:14-26), virtually every page of the gospel cries out for a life of **humble obedience** – a grateful response to His grace and forgiveness.

- **WKing**