

Light and Life

The Weight Of the Ark

After the Battle of Ai, the Israelites gathered around the altar that Joshua had made, watched him record a copy of the law of Moses, and listened to him read it aloud. Not long before, they had witnessed the splitting of the Jordan River to allow them to cross into Canaan on dry ground (Jos. 3-4). They had marched with the ark around the walls of Jericho according to God's commands and had seen the walls fall down flat (Jos. 6). They had suffered the consequences of not obeying God at the First Battle of Ai (Jos. 7), and had seen that repentance leads to victory in the second (Jos. 8).

In all their experiences in the conquest of Canaan, Israel saw that victory came when they followed God's word and when they were led by His presence (represented by the Ark of the Covenant). Now, after having experienced both victory and defeat, perhaps this lesson had never been clearer to them.

So, in reverence and awe they watched Joshua write a copy of the law of Moses on the altar he had made. "Then all of Israel, with their elders and officers and judges, stood on either side of the Ark before the priests, the Levites, who bore the ark of the covenant of the Lord, the stranger as well as he who was born among them... and he read all the words of the law, the blessings and the cursings, according to all that is written in the Book of the Law. There was not a word of all that Moses had commanded which Joshua did not read before all the assembly of Israel, with the women, the little ones, and the strangers who were living among them" (Jos. 8:33-35).

Joshua read the first five books of the Bible all the way through! While he did, ALL of Israel listened – even down to the little children – and the Levites bore the weight of the ark!

How important is reading God's word to you?

- Sam Bunyard

Another Perspective

Teach Us To Pray

"Guide, guard, direct us – bring us back at the next appointed time..."

Has this become what prayer is? Do we say those words with deep-reflective meaning or are they mere repetitious rote-words with no meaning at all?

- "Lord, guide us..." Guide us by the words of Your Spirit. May we have ears to hear and hearts to share. May we lean into Your word as we walk this heavy trail of tears. Please, Father, shine Your light upon our way, direct our steps, and guide us in the paths of righteousness.

- "Lord, guard us..." Guard us from the evil one. Guard us from falling away and from falling prey to this decaying culture. Guard us from the petty and from a faith that is more words than deeds.

- "Lord, direct us..." It's not in man to direct his steps. In fact, each time we try, we fail and fall. Lord, help us to our feet and show us where to go. Place people needing You in our path and direct us to them. We are available. I am available.

- "Bring us back at the next appointed time..." Help us stop taking each other for granted. Help us stop nit-picking faults. Help us greet one another as if it's the last time. Help us be the church that does more than assemble. Assemble us to worship You and encourage one another, but then scatter us to show Jesus to our world.

Maybe it's time we ask what they asked, "Lord, teach US to pray..."

- Wilson Adams



ASSEMBLY TIMES

Sunday

Morning Bible Class 9:30
Morning Assembly 10:30
Evening Assembly 5:00

Wednesday

Evening Bible Class 6:30

Pray “for kings and
all who are in high
positions, that we
may lead a peaceful
and quiet life”

1Ti 2:1-2

Downtown Church of Christ

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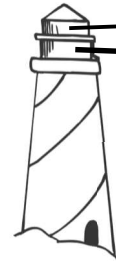
You are a work in
progress – so don't
forget to progress.

ELDERS:

Otis Hardin
Perry Johnson
Ken Parker
Alan Revier
GW Walsh

DEACONS:

TJ Burleson
Scott Hale
Jason Hill
Chris Johnson
Brock McKeel
Randy Potter
Tim Roberts
Randy Shell



DOWNTOWN GOSPEL BEACON

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The End of the Matter

Solomon – a man with the superior wisdom only God could give, and a man who had the wherewithal to do whatever he pleased.

And he did.

But after pouring all his wisdom and money and effort into the pursuits of this world, he arrived at his grand conclusion, recorded near the close of his magnum opus, the book of Ecclesiastes: *The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is the whole duty of man.* (12:13).

It's a lesson we all need desperately to learn today.

You want more money? You think that should be the driving goal of your life? Solomon had more than you can even imagine – and called it all vanity and striving after wind (2:11).

You think the pursuit of pleasure is to be the grand focus of your life? Solomon's been there and done that. His conclusion? It was “vanity”. He asked, “What good is it?” (2:1-2).

You can't pursue anything “under the sun” that Solomon hasn't already tried. Maybe we should listen to the voice of wisdom – a wisdom guided by God and Solomon's personal experience. It will save you grief now – and in eternity.

- *WKing*

FAMILY NEWS

PRAYER LIST –

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

Sick: KFletcher, Swims, JMarshall, RStarr, MiBader, KHeilighenthal, JTerrell

Shut-ins: Billie Pennington, Shirley Cole, Susan Wiese, Virgil Carter, AHopper

Military: Kyler Sullins, Sean Potter

WELCOME! – We welcome Kimberly Lewis to the family here, together with her daughter, Emelia! Let's make them feel at home at Downtown!

SENTENCE SERMON – We should be opposed to abortion for one simple reason: because killing little boys and girls is wrong.