

Light and Life

A Lion in The Streets

“The soul of a lazy man desires and has nothing; but the soul of the diligent shall be made rich” (Pr. 13:4). “How long will you slumber, O sluggard? When will you rise from your sleep? So shall your poverty come on you like a prowler, and your need like an armed man” (Pr. 6:9-11). These proverbs illustrate that the path of lazy people takes them nowhere.

What happens when we are not properly motivated to fulfill our duties to God? Laziness is like any other sin – it is often the case that other sins keep it company. When people are not motivated to do the things they ought to do, they often come up with excuses to try and justify themselves. Irrational fears become a crutch.

“The lazy man says, “There is a lion outside! I shall be slain in the streets”” (Pr. 22:13)! This proverb is important enough that Solomon expounded on it later. “The lazy man says, “There is a lion in the road! A fierce lion is in the streets!” As a door turns on its hinges, so does the lazy man on his bed. The lazy man buries his hand in the bowl; it wearies him to bring it back to his mouth. The lazy man is wiser in his own eyes than seven men who can answer sensibly” (Pr. 26:13-16).

The lion in the streets is meant to be hyperbolic language. The lazy man is coming up with crazy hypotheticals that he uses as an excuse to stay home and hide from his responsibilities. What are the odds there is a lion waiting to eat you on your way to visit the sick, attend a study, or gather with the saints?

Ironically, for early Christians the likelihood of being fed to lions on their way to worship dramatically increased. Did this stop them from assembling? No! May we never use the petty physical concerns of this life as excuses to forsake our spiritual duty!

- Sam Bunyard

Another Perspective

Two Articles Worth Your Time

If we cannot know truth, then we cannot know anything, for any knowledge claim is a truth claim. For the Christian, truth is as fundamental as it gets. It speaks to the heart of what is real, and without a sense of reality, we are indeed lost. Truth is everything, tied to God Himself.

While culture would have us think that we are “post-truth” (Oxford's 2016 word of the year), such a view not only obscures reality, but makes it impossible to know basic matters like good and bad. One who argues against knowing truth would have no moral ability to say what is right or wrong, and conversations about such would be a waste. Without truth, there is no standard for anything, and with no standard, there is no ability to make moral decisions.

This is why the wisdom of God teaches, “Buy the truth and do not sell it” (Prov 23:23). So, when someone says, “There is no truth,” just ask, “Is that true?” Truth, indeed, makes us free.

- Doy Moyer

Doing hard things is... hard. Changing a lifestyle – hard. Loving an unlovable person – hard. Doing more than what's expected – hard. Sharing the gospel – hard. Sometimes just getting out of bed and going through the day is hard.

But God calls us higher. He has endowed us with ability and potential and helps us to live up to doing our very best – if we really want to. Today you could stay home because it's easy. Or, you could get up, get dressed, and worship, even if you don't feel like it. But once you do the hard thing, you'll feel better. It'll make you better. And God will be honored. So, let's do the hard things!

- 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

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



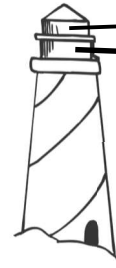
Do not argue with
people on the Internet.

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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Why We Sing Acapella

We sing acapella at the Downtown church (i.e. without accompaniment of instruments) – and some people wonder why. It’s a fair question.

It’s not because we have “always done it that way”. That would be an appeal to tradition, and Jesus warns against that (Mk 7:9). And it’s not because we just prefer the sound of acapella music over instrumental music. While it is true (at least in my opinion) that no music is more beautiful than acapella music (when it is done right), that is not why we ‘do music’ the way we do. That would be an appeal to personal preference, and Jesus warns against that, too (Mt 7:21-23).

No, the simple reason we simply sing is because that is what the King told us to do (Eph 5:19, Col 3:16). It’s not complicated.

In the Old Testament, God commanded David to appoint Levites who would lead the tabernacle worship with instruments of music (2 Chr 29:25). Along with the burnt offerings and other accoutrements of worship, they used instruments.

But He commands us to sing.

And so, we do.

It’s not about us – our traditions or our preferences. It’s about Him. As it should be.

- 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

SINGING – Tonight is our monthly singing. Song leaders: come prepared to lead! Everyone else: come prepared to sing!

SENTENCE SERMON – We are to love our neighbors and to love our enemies – and sometimes they are the same people.