

Light and Life

Daily Bread

“Give us this day our daily bread” prayed Jesus in the model prayer (Mt. 6:11). Is the lesson behind this part of the prayer simply that we should pray before meals? Or does it go deeper than that?

The reference to daily bread calls to mind the manna that God provided Israel as they traveled through the wilderness. As Moses led them out of the slavery from which God had freed them, the Israelites complained of hunger. At least as slaves they had good food (Ex. 16:3)! In response, God told Moses, “I will rain bread from heaven for you. And the people shall go out and gather a certain quota every day, that I may test them, whether they will walk in my law or not” (Ex. 16:4). Each man of Israel was to gather food according to their needs, so as to have no leftovers (Ex. 16:16-19). Those who gathered too much – perhaps trying to store up excess in defiance of God’s instructions – found that by the next day, the bread stank and bred worms (Ex. 16:20-22). Thus, Israel had to depend on God each day for another day’s worth of bread.

The lesson? “Man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the Lord” (Dt. 8:3). Has anything really changed? Only by our perception – and the same thing happened to Israel!

God carefully instructed Israel to remember the lesson of daily bread. But once they had the God-given ability to provide food for themselves, they forgot that they were still totally dependent on God (Dt. 8:10-20)!

Living in a culture that already encourages us towards independence and individualism, we are in constant danger of following in the footsteps of rebellious and ungrateful Israel! Let us always remember that “every good gift and every perfect gift is from above” (Jas. 1:17)! And may we never forget the lesson of daily bread!

- Sam Bunyard

Another Perspective

Ps 3 – A Shield About Me

(Last week’s pg 3 article was incorrectly attributed to Jefferson David Tant. The author was Lucas Griggs. My apologies. What follows is a continuation of his articles on the Psalms. -wk)

In 2 Samuel 15–17 we read about Absalom’s revolt against David. He began the endeavor by standing by the gate of the city and listening to the people’s disputes as they sought judgment. Absalom proclaimed that if he were judge he would provide justice to them! Absalom had stolen the hearts of the people of Israel. He strengthened his conspiracy by instructing the people of Israel to proclaim him as king in Hebron. Ahithophel, David’s esteemed counselor, joined forces with Absalom. His conspiracy was growing strong. Absalom entered Jerusalem and continued to strengthen his revolt. Ahithophel requested 12,000 men to pursue David that very night and overtake him while David was weary and discouraged. David fled Jerusalem in mourning. “David went up the ascent of the Mount of Olives, weeping as he went, barefoot and with this head covered” (15:30). His rule as king looked to be over. David’s enemies were rising up against him, taunting him, cursing him, and proclaiming that he could not be saved, not even by God.

It is with these events in mind that David wrote Psalm 3. David knew that God was his shield, his protection, and his salvation. David would put his trust in God and turn to God for help. “But you, O Lord, are a shield about me, my glory, and the lifter of my head.” The song by Thomas and Williams, “A Shield About Me” is taken from Psalm 3:3. The chorus simply repeats “Hallelujah”! Praise the Lord, praise Yahweh! Salvation belongs to the Lord!

“These things were written for our instruction.” When your life is in turmoil, and it looks like evil will win, follow David’s example. Trust in God. Turn to Him and call on Him! He is truly the Shield about us. If we live for Him, He will deliver us into His eternal Kingdom. Hallelujah! Praise the Lord!

- Lucas Griggs

ASSEMBLY TIMES

Sunday

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

Wednesday

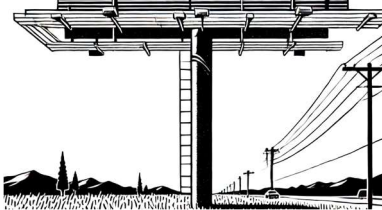
Evening Bible Class 6:30

DOWNTOWN CHURCH OF CHRIST

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He who believes and is
baptized shall be saved.
Mark 16:16
SAVED BAPTIZED



Who changed it?

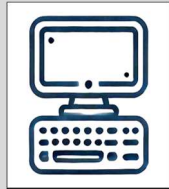
ELDERS:

Otis Hardin
Perry Johnson
Ken Parker
Alan Revier
GW Walsh

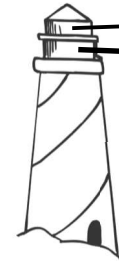
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DOWNTOWN GOSPEL BEACON

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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: KFletcher, Swims, JMarshall, RStarr, MiBader, JTerrell, ACorder

Shut-ins: BPennington, SCole, SWiese, VCarter, KHeilighenthal, AHopper

Military: Kyler Sullins, Sean Potter

WEDNESDAY CLASSES – Come January & February, Wednesday classes (HS & auditorium) will be focused on the family. Make plans to be here!

SENTENCE SERMON – Even hypocrites admire righteousness – it's why they try to imitate it.

From the Outside In

Christianity is sometimes described as a religion that changes people from the inside out. And it certainly does that.

“Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewal of your mind” (Ro 12:2). “From within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person” (Mk 7:21-23).

Jesus clearly focuses on the heart – if you would change the outside, begin by changing the inside.

But is there ever a time to change the **inside** by focusing on the **outside**?

We read of several reluctant skeptics who obeyed God despite their skepticism. Moses pushed back against God repeatedly when he was first charged to go to Pharaoh (Ex 3-4). Gideon doubted his credentials to lead Israel against Midian (Judg 6-7). Naaman was told to dip seven times in the Jordan to be cleansed of his leprosy. He balked, but then he went – and was cleansed (2 Ki 5).

One may initially doubt God's word. Obey Him anyway – then “stand firm and see the salvation of the Lord” (Ex 14:13)!
- *WKing*