

Light and Life

Learning from History

“This is the history of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the Lord God made the earth and the heavens” (Gen. 2:4). The book of Genesis claims its account of the creation of the universe is a matter of history. In fact, some translations refer to the account as the “generations” of heaven and earth! This would put the creation record at equal historical value to the genealogies in the Bible – a difficult point to contend with for those who want to interpret this passage allegorically!

But reading Genesis as history has greater implications than whether creation happened in six literal days. The Law of Moses appealed to the historical nature of the creation record as authoritative in the giving of the Ten Commandments (Ex. 20:11)! But even more consequential to our faith is the consistency with which the Bible recalls its own historical nature in general.

As Joshua neared death, he called all Israel together to give a farewell address. The occasion being what it was, Joshua would certainly communicate what he considered to be the most important lessons for the people to hear. And what did he give them? A history lesson (Josh. 23:1-16)! Just for good measure, God had Joshua deliver a second history lesson after that (24:1-15)!

When Peter preached the first gospel sermon, in many ways it was a history lesson (Ac. 2:14-38)! Stephen was stoned for giving a history lesson that painted the Jews in a negative light (Ac. 7:1-53). Paul preached a history lesson as his foundation in teaching the gospel in Antioch in Pisidia (Ac. 13:17-41).

The Bible isn't just a book of stories! When we read it, we are reading inspired history of God's interaction with His creation. Only God could write a book with real history as His pages and real people as His ink! He expects us to learn from these narratives. So, let's learn from history!

- Sam Bunyard

Another Perspective

Thoughts on Giving

“God loves a cheerful giver” (2 Co 9:7) – not a generous, faithful, or effective giver, but a “cheerful” giver.

You may not feel like you have a lot to give. But your willingness to serve with joy will bring more glory to God and more encouragement to your brethren than many others who are more proficient or capable.

On the other hand, you may have a lot to offer. But if your service is not cheerfully given in love, even your giving can become a source of discouragement. If done with grumbling, your service will do more harm than good.

It doesn't matter if you are a ‘one talent’ or ‘five talent’ worker. What matters is the heart with which you use your gifts. With a willing and eager heart, your talents will only grow with time!

- Grady Huggins



As we see the needs around us, it is natural for us to want to provide help for all we can. But we may not be able to provide all the help that we want to. And this can be discouraging, even if our hearts are in the right place.

Remember what Paul wrote: “If the readiness is present, it is acceptable according to what a person has, not according to what he does not have” (2 Co 8:12). The same principle applies to us in various situations today. God judges us based on our ability. We do not need to worry about what we **cannot** do; instead, we need to focus on what we **can** do.

So, let's do what we can in lawful service to God and in helping others; but let's recognize our own limitations. Focus on using our abilities to make the most of our opportunities.

- Andy Sochor (edited for space)

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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201 W. Chestnut Street
Rogers, AR 72757
479-636-3575



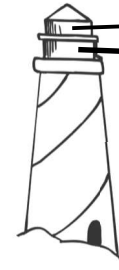
To defend Christianity
one must first practice it.

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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Doing Good – Lawfully

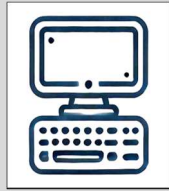
“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven. On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, didn’t we prophesy in your name, drive out demons in your name, and do many miracles in your name?’ Then I will announce to them, ‘I never knew you. Depart from me, you law-breakers!’ ” (Mt 7:21-23, CSB)

Of the many words Jesus spoke in His 3+ years of public ministry, few are more sobering than these. He described the bewilderment of many on the day of judgment who thought they were in good-standing with the Lord – but whom the Lord viewed very differently.

And what was it that these people had done that provoked His reply? Clearly, they had been active ‘doing things’ for Jesus; but they had been ‘doing things’ unlawfully!

All who profess Christ today should heed the warning. Whether we are simply doing outward service with no heart involvement (5:20-48), or for wrong motives (6:1-18), or with a ‘this-world’ focus (6:19-34), or hypocritically (7:1-6), or with little faith or love (7:7-14), or by twisting the simple gospel message (7:15-20) – an unlawful approach to serving God is no service at all. And it leads to destruction (7:24-27)! - *WKing*

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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, KHeiligenthal, AHopper

Military: Kyler Sullins, Sean Potter

WELCOME – We welcome Seann Bounous (friend of Athena Dudgeon) to our Downtown family! Seann was just recently baptized into Christ!

SENTENCE SERMON – A genuine Christian is one of the best arguments for the genuineness of Christianity.