

Light and Life

Pursuing Peace, Carrying a Spear

Before re-crossing the Jordan after the conquest, the eastern tribes built an enormous altar on the west side of the river (Josh. 22:10). God had prescribed where worship should occur, and departing from that pattern was rebellion against Him (Josh. 22:19, 23, 29). If the altar was intended for the worship of God, it could be a dangerous step toward paganism (Dt. 12-13)!

When the western tribes heard of it, a group led by Phineas went to investigate. If there was transgression occurring it would be cause for war, but careful inquiry was required first (Dt. 12:12-15). The hope was always for peace!

Some commentators condemn Phineas for taking up arms when he suspected rebellion against God. But this was exactly what he was called to do! What seems like a small offense to us today had cost the lives of many Israelites earlier (Josh. 22:17-20). For the sins of a few, the whole nation suffered.

Israel had committed sexual sin with Moab (Num. 25:1-5). In the midst of this, an Israelite man had the audacity to “present to His brethren a Midianite woman in the sight of Moses and in the sight of all the congregation of the children of Israel, who were weeping at the door of the tabernacle” (Num. 25:6). While the rest wept, Phineas took his spear, followed them into their tent, and ran it through both of them to satisfy God’s justice (Num. 25:7-8).

So, imagine the fear of the eastern tribes as they saw Phineas coming, spear in hand. Thankfully, things were not as they appeared, and no sin had occurred. But if there had been sin, even the eastern tribes agreed that punishment would be necessary (Josh. 22:22-23)! When we observe the consequences of allowing sin in the camp, intolerance becomes a virtue – and conflict a duty.

May we never be content to tolerate sin in our midst (I Cor. 5:6-8)!

- Sam Bunyard

Another Perspective

Finding a Good Man

A man of substance does not base his choice on passing attractions. He seeks depth, character, and someone who aligns with his values and vision. If you’ve been struggling to get the attention of a genuinely good man, it might be time to change your strategy.

What doesn't work: 1) Tight-fitting clothes and revealing clothes. Yes, these may catch the eye of many, but a good man seeks more than what is on the surface. He seeks a deeper connection than mere appearances. 2) Social media drama. Posting exaggerated rants or super select selfies may draw likes, but it won't inspire genuine respect. 3) Materialism over meaning. Flaunting love for luxury or designer labels doesn't impress someone grounded in values.

What works: 1) Character over cleavage. A good man pays attention to how you treat others, your humility and your kindness. A compassionate heart leaves a lasting impression 2) Brains over beauty. Intelligence is not about degrees or vocabulary; it's about curiosity, wisdom, and the ability to hold meaningful conversations. Stimulate his mind and you'll gain his admiration. 3) Values over vanity. A man of substance admires a woman with clear values and purpose. Show him your love for growth, your commitment to your faith, and your dedication to something greater than yourself. 4) Consistency over chaos. Stability without drama is a magnet for good men. They're looking for someone who can handle life's challenges with grace, not someone who invites unnecessary turbulence. 5) Confidence over Conformity. Be unapologetically you. A good man respects a woman who knows her worth.

So, if you're striving for a meaningful connection, focus less on fleeting external traits and more on cultivating the qualities that define your inner self. Let your actions, intellect, and values speak louder than your clothes or social media.

- Diarioangel Sargow Martins (edited for space)

ASSEMBLY TIMES

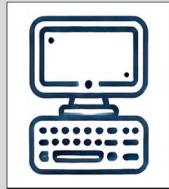
Sunday

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

Wednesday

Evening Bible Class 6:30

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DOWNTOWN CHURCH OF CHRIST

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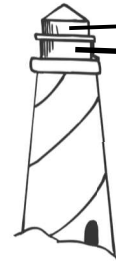
Repentance is not so much
about crying as it is changing.

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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Finding the Balance

“These you ought to have done, without neglecting the others” (Mt 23:23). So Jesus scolded the scribes and Pharisees for their hypocrisy. While emphasizing the tithing of the smallest herbs, they neglected the “weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness”. Their religious effort was out of balance.

And it can happen to any of us.

One brother is insistent on keeping the pattern of congregational work, worship, and organization found in the New Testament, but gives little thought to his personal obligations to his brothers and sisters in Christ. His lax approach to assembling with the saints betrays his lack of balance.

A gospel preacher delivers a steady stream of sermons upbraiding the denominations, the pagans, and the weak and worldly in the church, but rarely preaches on the grace, the goodness, and forgiveness offered by God and found in a relationship with Jesus. He comes across as harsh and uncaring. He is out of balance.

A sister is devoted to being a keeper of the home but avoids opportunities to engage with her sisters in Christ during the week. She may well be out of balance.

Finding balance in religion can be a challenge – but it is a challenge we should meet!

- WKing

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

OUR SYMPATHY – Our sympathy is extended to the family of Lucy Hale, who recently passed away. Lucy was a sister to Carolyn Dill.

GOSPEL MEETING – Our spring meeting with Tommy Peeler is set for March 9-12. This will include morning classes on Mon & Tue at 10 as well.