

Light and Life

Trusting God's Word

“My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are My ways your ways’, says the Lord. ‘For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts’” (Isa. 55:8-9).

Those with a Christian upbringing have often heard the same thing that Solomon advised his son, “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths” (Pr. 3:5-6).

Unfortunately, ‘trusting God’ is a phrase the religious world has repeated so often that for many it has lost its meaning. Coupled with a Calvinistic understanding that we are incapable of any choice to affect our destiny, this phrase has been used to describe sitting around twiddling thumbs waiting for God to act on our behalf. Is it really such a difficult concept that if you “acknowledge Him in all your ways”, then “He shall direct your path” with His word?

“He has shown you, O man, what is good” (Mic. 6:8)! Trusting God doesn’t mean that we sit around and wait for miraculous intervention, but that we get busy obeying God’s word! Naaman thought he knew what was good for him when he refused to bathe in the muddy Jordan, but he would have done something great instead (II Ki. 5:13). When he submitted to the simple truth of God’s word, his leprosy was healed (II Ki. 5:14)!

We trust God when we believe what He says: “So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me void. But it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it” (Is. 55:11).

If we demonstrate true trust in God, then we can honestly say, “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path” (Ps. 119:105)!

- Sam Bunyard

Another Perspective

Psalm 4 – In Peace, I Can Sleep

David was king over God’s chosen people. It is difficult to imagine the level of stress that would accompany this role. However, David wrote that, “in peace,” he was able to sleep! Life produces circumstances that can stress us out, cause us to worry, and bring about many sleepless nights.

David’s life is a great example of seeking God’s kingdom first! Through God, he had all he needed, even as his enemies were pursuing him. Our enemy, Satan, is continually out to get us and is often behind the chaos of this life. He tempts us to move our focus away from what actually matters. He wants us to stress out and worry. He enjoys our sleepless nights, pondering the cares and concerns of this world.

But David was able to lay his head down at night and have a peaceful sleep. How? He put his trust in God and knew that God would be his protection. He knew he could confidently turn to God and cry for help, and that God hears! He knew what God could provide, he trusted God’s promises, and he relied on these while allowing God to control the timetable. True joy, lasting contentment, real peace: they all come from knowing God and having confidence in His promises! David knew this and lived accordingly.

Life is hard and our enemy Satan has much to do with this reality! But we are God’s children, we are part of God’s family, and God hears His children when we cry out to Him! Think on the instances when God has provided relief during a past distress. Recall the gracious acts of God that He gave throughout. Allow these to strengthen and uphold you for the next battle.

May God help us to know and trust Him! Then, in peace, we can lie down and sleep, knowing God will deliver us to dwell in safety with Him throughout eternity!

- Lucas Griggs (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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give the rest to God.

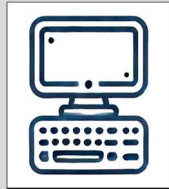
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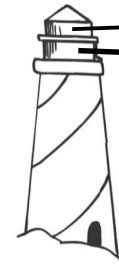
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DOWNTOWN GOSPEL BEACON

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I Liked the Bible Until...

A lot of folks like the Bible – until someone points out some uncomfortable truth. Then you can forget their previous adoration – the bloom is off the rose.

“I liked the Bible until I read that baptism saves” (1 Pe 3:21).

“I liked the Bible until I read that I must work out my own salvation” (Ph 2:12).

“I liked the Bible until I read that many are lost and few are saved” (Mt 7:13-14).

“I liked the Bible until I read that there is only one church” (Mt 16:18, Ep 4:4, 1:22-23).

“I liked the Bible until I read that worship music is to be acapella, not instrumental” (Ep 5:19, Col 3:16).

“I liked the Bible until I read that the only reason for divorcing my spouse is if he or she is unfaithful” (Mt 19:9).

Truth is, a lot of folks like the Bible until it conflicts with their preferences or preconceived notions. Oh, they may continue to ‘like the Bible’, but what they mean is they like the parts of the Bible they agree with. The rest they will ignore – and probably harbor a grudge against the one who loved them enough to point them to the truth. - *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, KHeilighenthal, AHopper

Military: Kyler Sullins, Sean Potter

WELCOME! – Welcome to Karissa Lay, who recently made the decision to join our Downtown family! Let’s make her feel welcome!

OUR SYMPATHY – Our sympathy is extended to Amy Deen and the rest of her family at the passing of her father, Earl Sickinger.