

Light and Life

Hearing Moses & the Prophets

In the story of the rich man and Lazarus, Abraham told the rich man, “If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead” (Lk. 16:31). It seems that this message is aimed at the Pharisees who were blind to the purpose of the law of Moses and would remain that way even after Jesus’ resurrection!

This statement raises a valid point for us as well. Some do not see the importance of studying the Old Testament. If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, why should they care about the Messiah whom they foreshadowed?

Paul wrote, “Whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope” (Rm. 15:4). Even if we only looked at this verse, we can begin to understand the significance of the Old Testament. However, if we put this verse in the context of the entire letter to the Romans, we see its true meaning!

Paul presents the gospel on the foundation of the Old Testament. His arguments do not come from random prooftexts to make unrelated points. Rather, Paul rests his case on the *entire story of the nation of Israel*. He references the Psalms (ch3) and the promises to Abraham through Isaac (ch4). He invokes the language of slavery and freedom that calls to mind the story of Exodus (ch6). He discusses the law that was then delivered to Moses at Sinai (ch7). And one of the central themes in Romans is explained in chapters 9-11 as he retells the history of Israel. The fulfillment of God’s faithfulness to Israel is found in the Messiah whom He provided through them (11:26-27)!

“Who has known the mind of the Lord” (11:34)? And who could really understand the gospel without the Old Testament? Christians must know the story!

- Sam Bunyard

Another Perspective

Jehovah Witnesses vs. the Bible

Read the following quote which the Jehovah Witnesses publish and endorse: *“Is the firstborn Son equal to God, as some believe? That is not what the Bible teaches. The Son was created. Obviously, then, he had a beginning, whereas Jehovah God has no beginning or end”* (jw.org).

Did you read that? This, friend, is damnable heresy and we must know how to deal with it! Avoid this teaching! Pray for and love those caught in this terrible error!

Yes, Jehovah Witnesses teach that Jesus was not equal with God. But the Bible says otherwise:

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God... And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us” – Jn 1:1,14

“This was why the Jews were seeking all the more to kill him, because not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God.” – Jn 5:18

“Jesus said to them, ‘...before Abraham was, I Am’” – Jn 8:58

“Thomas answered him, ‘My Lord and my God!’ Jesus said to him, ‘Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.’” – Jn 20:28-29

“Who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped.” – Ph 2:6

Whom will you believe – the Jehovah Witnesses or the Bible? Do not be deceived!

- Kyle Ellison (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

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



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wealth is deciding
you have enough.

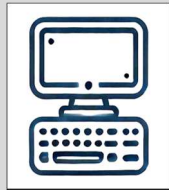
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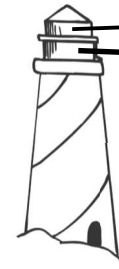
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DOWNTOWN GOSPEL BEACON

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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, KHeiligenthal, AHopper

Military: Kyler Sullins, Sean Potter

IMPORTANT DATES: Mar 9-12 TommyP mtg; Apr 18 Stevens-Shepard singing; Jul 13-17 ColtonM VBS; Aug 1-3 ChuckD Youth Weekend

SENTENCE SERMON – We should learn more from our mistakes than simply how to blame others.

Jesus, ‘The Firstfruits’

“If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied. But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.”

– 1 Co 15:19-20

The resurrection of Jesus from the dead, Paul asserts, is the foundation of our own hope of one day being raised from the dead ourselves. That hope – and there is only one, Ep 4:4 – is called “an anchor of the soul” (He 6:19). We need such an anchor in the tumultuous storms of life.

But many in our society would rob us of that hope. This would include the secularists among us who have

swallowed the lie that we are simply highly-evolved organisms, with no more inherent worth than a slug. They scoff at the idea of an afterlife.

But we must also include the ‘health and wealth’ religions – those false teachers who redirect our attention from eternity to the here-and-now.

And more recently are those false teachers who, like Hymenaeus, say that the resurrection has already taken place (2 Ti 2:17-18) – only in their version, in 70 A.D.

But Paul was plain: Jesus was **first** to be raised with an incorruptible body **and we shall soon follow!**

- WKing