

Light and Life

Remember the Lord

“The children of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord. They forgot the Lord their God” (Jdg. 3:7). Thus began the first cycle of sin during the period of Israel’s judges.

The generation of Israelites who conquered Canaan may have demonstrated the peak of Israel’s morality. “The people served the Lord all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders who outlived Joshua” (2:7). But “when all that generation died and joined their ancestors, another generation arose after them who did not know the Lord nor the work which He had done for Israel. Then the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord” (2:10-11).

What went wrong? They forgot the Lord. And what makes this so amazing is the emphasis that was placed on remembering things in the time of Joshua. A memorial had been placed at Gilgal to commemorate God parting the Jordan to let them enter the land (Josh. 4). The place was named Gilgal to memorialize the rolling away of the reproach of Egypt (Josh. 5:9). The graves of the king of Ai, the five kings of the Amorites, and Achan, all stood as memorials of what would happen to those who oppose God (Josh. 7:26; 8:29; 10:27). Joshua built an altar and inscribed the law of Moses on it to memorialize Israel’s renewed covenant with God (Josh. 8:30-35). The Transjordan tribes of Gad, Reuben, and half of Manasseh built a replica of the altar of the Lord to memorialize Israel’s unity (Josh. 22). Finally, Joshua established a large stone as a memorial of the covenant that was made at his farewell address (Josh. 24). Both of Joshua’s final addresses were essentially history lessons (Josh. 23-24)!

All of this, and Israel still forgot the Lord. The lesson? Memorials like the Lord’s Supper and the Bible itself mean nothing if we don’t use them properly. We must remind ourselves and teach our children why these things are important (Josh. 4:21-24)! We must remember the Lord!

- Sam Bunyard

Another Perspective

A Confession

I have a confession. Sometimes I am discouraged – and you may be the source of my discouragement. Generally, I think of myself as a pretty happy guy, so I hope my discouragement comes as a little shock to you.

Social media, for me, is a place to see friends and lift each other up. But for some of you it appears to be a place to rant, often passive aggressively about our national leaders. I’m curious what you think you’re accomplishing? It’s like yelling at the TV when your sports team makes a mistake. They can’t hear you and wouldn’t care if they did.

Here is what I think you are accomplishing:

1. Looking like you have answers about world events because you have about .01% insight into what is actually happening behind the scenes. Stop that! (Ro 12:3,16)
2. Stirring up negative feelings in people that you actually care about. Stop that! (Ro 12:10)
3. Distracting yourself and others from things that are eternally important. STOP THAT! (Ro 12:2)

Do your posts, comments, and ‘likes’ reflect Paul’s command, “If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men”? (Ro 12:18)

If you’ve read this far, please know that those of you who use social media for godly and goodly (and even goofy) purposes encourage me immensely. Don’t stop doing that.

Important note: don’t feel sorry for me for being discouraged. I hope to use that to do better myself – on social media and in person.

- Joe Works

ASSEMBLY TIMES

Sunday

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

Wednesday

Evening Bible Class 6:30

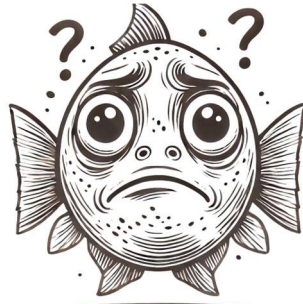
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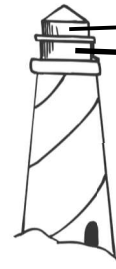
Atheism: a fish in an
ocean looking everywhere
for evidence of water.

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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Choose Your Hard

You may have seen the pithy blurb: “Obesity is hard. Being fit is hard. Choose your hard. Being in debt is hard. Being financially disciplined is hard. Choose your hard.” And on and on it goes, discussing various life lessons in the same way.

But we can make the same observations from a Biblical perspective as well. For example...

Following Christ is hard. Following the world is hard. Choose your hard.

The Bible does not sugarcoat the cost of discipleship. It can cost you your family (Mt 10:34-36). It can cost you everything you own (Lu

14:33, He 10:32-35). It can even cost you your life (Lu 14:26). Following Christ can be very hard.

But the world exacts its own ‘hard’. While sin promises, and sometimes delivers, short-term pleasure, the long-term effects can be hard beyond imagination. Self-indulgence and guilt will extract a fearful price.

Moses chose his hard (He 11:24-25), Judas chose his (Mt 27:3-5), and we are called to choose ours (Jos 24:15, Ro 6:16, Ga 6:7-8, etc.). And as with Moses and Judas, our choice comes with its own consequences – for now and for eternity.

- *WKing*

FAMILY NEWS

PRAYER LIST –

Preachers we support: Japan, Philippines, Vietnam, Canada, Mexico, Peru, & U.S.

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

Shut-ins: SCole, SWiese, VCarter, KHeilighenthal

Military: Kyler Sullins, Sean Potter

Q&A: Tonight will be our 4th-Sunday-evening question and answer session.

Thanks again to all who contribute questions to make this possible!

CONGRATULATIONS! We rejoice with the angels in heaven at the baptism of Cecil Hickman! Encourage him in his new life’s walk!