

Light and Life

Snort!

“As a white woman in today’s culture”, began the female ‘pastor’ sitting at the table next to mine in the coffee shop, “who I really need to be submitting to is my fellow LGBT allies who are of color.” She went on, “I’ve never read a passage about my responsibilities to God. The Bible is about His responsibility to me. That’s why we should focus on husbands loving their wives, and not so much on wives submitting to their husbands.” In a recent Facebook post, two people who claimed to be disciples passionately defended their scriptural right to shameless nakedness, commenting that modesty has nothing to do with showing skin and citing ‘scholarly’ articles as evidence.

It can be tempting to let righteous indignation get the better of us and engage in heated debate with those who are so careless regarding God’s authority. Jesus sent disciples to prepare His path to Jerusalem, saying, “Whatever city you enter, and they do not receive you, go out into its streets and say, ‘The very dust of your city which clings to us we wipe off against you. Nevertheless, know this, that the kingdom of God has come near you’ ” (Lk. 10:10-11).

Jesus also taught, “Do not give what is holy to the dogs; nor cast your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you in pieces” (Mt. 7:6). We may not recognize a hog until we hear them snort. With some people, like those mentioned above, that doesn’t take very long!

But just because someone is snorting like a hog today, doesn’t mean they won’t be more reasonable tomorrow! We must never behave in such a way that closes a door permanently, rather than acting as salt and light in the world (Mt. 5:13-16).

We all love to call the hogs in Arkansas – but it's best to leave this kind of hog alone!

- Sam Bunyard

Another Perspective

Psalm 6 – Sin is Serious

In our culture, sin is easily downplayed. When we transgress God’s will, we might say something like, “Bummer, I messed up, but God is good”. Then we pray, “God forgive me,” and go on with our day. The emotions David expressed in Psalm 6 stand in stark contrast to “I messed up.” Although David’s sin is not revealed, his deep distress is evident throughout the Psalm.

In Psalm 51, David wrote, “The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart.” Psalm 6 illustrates what that looks like. David’s sin caused him to languish. He took sin much more seriously than simply saying, “I messed up. Oh well, I’m only human.” David understood that he (as we all) deserved God’s rebuke. But David, with great humility, pled for God’s grace and mercy. David appealed to God’s steadfast love and begged for His deliverance. Because of his sin, David realized his need for God’s help, and with tears flowing, he turned to Him for help and pled to a loving and forgiving God for mercy!

Because we have Jesus, our great High Priest, we can approach our God in our time of need and seek His help, grace, and mercy (He 4:14-16). The same God Who heard David’s weeping and pleas, and accepted his prayer, will also hear our weeping, will see our broken spirit and contrite heart, and will accept our prayer of confession (1 Jn 1:9). We serve a forgiving God! But just because our God will forgive, does not give us an excuse to minimize sin. Sin is serious! Jesus shed His blood because of our sin! That alone should cause us to flood our bed with tears.

In pleading for mercy, David stated, “In Sheol who will give You praise?” That is, “If You save me, I will praise Your name for showing Your love.” May God help us to give Him praise every day because He forgives and shows abundant mercy “to such a worm as I”!

- Lucas Griggs (edited for space)

ASSEMBLY TIMES

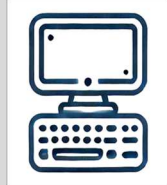
Sunday

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

Wednesday

Evening Bible Class 6:30

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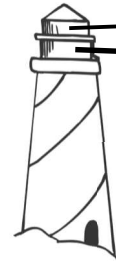
A primary rule of preaching:
never do anything stupid.
2 Ti 2:22-26

ELDERS:

Otis Hardin
Perry Johnson
Ken Parker
Alan Revier
GW Walsh

DEACONS:

TJ Burleson
Scott Hale
Jason Hill
Chris Johnson
Brock McKeel
Randy Potter
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Randy Shell



DOWNTOWN GOSPEL BEACON

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A Servant Mindset

Several themes run through the teachings of Jesus – themes like ‘the kingdom’, for example. But another common refrain is the importance of a ‘servant mindset’ (Mt 20-26-28, 23:11, Lu 22:26-27, Jn 13:1-17). The theme is also often repeated by New Testament writers (1 Pe 4:8-11, etc). And it is, I believe, one of the most challenging responsibilities we have as the children of God.

A servant mindset makes all the difference in a local congregation. It is that mindset which cools the flames of prideful self-interest and protects the precious unity of a local church (Ga 5:13-15).

A servant mindset makes all the difference in a marriage. In contrast to the disparaging stereotype of a Christian wife who is a doormat to her domineering husband, the Bible description of marriage is that of two people working together in mutual love and respect (Ge 2:18-25, Ep 5:22-23, etc.).

Even in the secular world, a servant mindset will set one apart from the crowd, whether we are in an entry level position or one of great authority (De 17:18-20, Jer 22:2-3).

So let’s never be too proud to “serve one another”!

- *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

IMPORTANT DATES: Apr 18 Stevens-Shepard singing; Jul 13-17 Colton McDaniel VBS; Aug 1-3 Chuck Durham Youth Weekend

SENTENCE SERMON: Arguing politics will alienate about half of those you are trying to reach with the gospel – is it worth it? (1 Co 9:19-23)