

THE BEACON OF TRUTH

January 6, 2019

“Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.” John 17:17

Perfect Love Casts out Fear

Chase Green

In the book of 1 John, John makes a compelling argument for the perfection of our Christian love. In it, we are taught both to love one another and to love God. While the fear of God is certainly extremely important (Ecc. 12:13; 1 Pet. 2:17; etc.), fear cannot be the *only* motivation for serving God. Love for Him must be equally motivating.

Liken this to a young child. As an infant, he quickly learns that his parents are the two people in this world that are there for his every need. When he is hungry, they are there for him. When he needs a new diaper, they are there to take care of this need. When he gets hurt, he can find solace in his mother or father. The love that this child begins to have for his parents is beyond words. Even though the child cannot verbally express it, the parents can see the child's love for them in the child's eyes.

As the child grows older, the loving father and mother introduce a new concept to the child's life — fear. You see, the child tries to insert a key into an electric outlet. The mother calmly and lovingly gives a gentle swat to the child's hand — not enough to physically hurt that much, but just enough to get his attention — and calmly but firmly says, “No.” The child, perhaps confused, tries to insert the key a few more times, each time met with a gentle swat and a firm, “No.” After three or four times, the child's eyes well up with tears and he begins to cry. But he has learned a valuable lesson — inserting things into the electric outlet has consequences! The child has successfully been taught to fear his parents. Subsequent lessons on fearing his parents continue for approximately ten to twelve more years.

But now the child is a teenager. He has been taught to fear his parents, but, sadly, the parents did not instill a proper *love* for them. As the threats of spankings continually wane as the child grows in stature (the spankings continue, but their effectiveness are waning, given the teenager's ability to withstand more and more pain), the parents are at a loss as to why the young teenager is becoming more and more obstinate. Again, the problem is that they had motivated him *ONLY* with fear, and forgot to teach him about love. This child learns to be a master manipulator, conniving his way out of trouble often, only to think that he has gotten away with it (but his Father above sees! Cf. Prov. 5:21). The child is headed down a path of heartbreak if he doesn't come to repentance.

You see, in this scenario, the young boy learned to fear consequences, but (cntd. pg. 2)

By the Numbers:

Week of 12/30/18

Contribution – \$2249

Attendance:

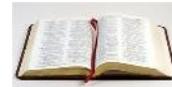
Sunday Bible Classes – 28

Sunday Worship – 48*

Wednesday Night – 29

***Total for the day**

Bible Trivia Question



Last Week's Answer: So that by all means he might save some (1 Cor. 9:22).

Q: Why did Paul keep his body under subjection?

Answer to be given next week!

Sermon Spotlight:

AM - We are Well Able to Overcome It

- 1) What kept most of the spies from wanting to take Canaan?
- 2) What holds the Kingdom back from growth today?

PM - Power, Love, & a Sound Mind

- 1) How does fear interfere with the development of these godly traits?
- 2) Of what are we not to be ashamed?

Schedule Of Services

Sunday
Bible Study 9:45 A.M.
Worship 10:30 A.M. & 2:00 P.M.
Wednesday Bible study 7:00 P.M.

Website

Beaconcofc.com (under construction)

Preacher

Chase Green
318-608-7418

Elders

Bill Schooley 318-396-7296
Tim Green 318-547-4026

Missions Supported

Ronnie Gootam - India
Marlon Relana - Panama
Brad Harrub - Focus Press

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2326 JONESBORO ROAD
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WEST MONROE, LA 71294

WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED

1. Hear the Gospel (Jn. 20:30-31; Rom. 10:17).
2. Believe (Rom. 1:16; Acts 18:8; Heb. 11:6).
3. Repent (Lk. 13:3; 24:47; Acts 3:19; 17:30).
4. Confess Christ (Matt. 10:32, 33).
5. Be baptized (immersed) (Matt. 28:18-20; Mk. 16:16; Acts 2:38; 22:16).
6. Continue faithful unto death (Rev. 2:10).

Mailing Address

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

NEWS AND NOTES
TO OUR GUESTS—A WARM WELCOME

Thank you for coming today and please come back soon and often. If you have questions about the church of Christ, what is taught here, or the way we do anything please feel free to ask. Please fill out the Guest Register on the table in the foyer so we may have a record of your visit.

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYER

Margie Tippen — Regina Simmons — Wanda Hendrix — Marcia Green — Jerry Tippen — Ruby Weaver — Wendy Traweek — Tim Green — Harold Myers — Joy Skipper — John & Ruth Coston — Stetson Ortega — Lacey & Ryan Smith, as the birth of their baby (Parker Ryan) is drawing near — Lindy Brown — Kaitlyn Wilson — Kathy Lawrence — Dewey & Bettie Young (traveling to Dallas this weekend) — Delton Spillers

OTHER THINGS & UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- Please note that Chase has posted a new memory verse list for the year 2019.
- The Adult Bible class will be continuing to study the books of the Bible, beginning today.
- Monthly Fellowship Meal — Every fourth Sunday of the month unless otherwise noted.
- Youth & Young Adults — Be on the lookout for monthly get-togethers (If you would like to help with or host a get-together, please let Chase know)

(Continued from page 1)

he never learned proper *LOVE* for his parents. Thus, he became all about avoiding consequences and could care less about pleasing his parents (and, ultimately, his Father in heaven). The answer to this problem is **NOT** to remove the discipline. Quite the contrary! The parents understood the importance of discipline, but they also needed to teach their child to please them because he loved them. To do this, they should have talked to him frequently about spiritual topics (Deu. 6:6-9), rewarded him for good behavior (rather than *only* punishing bad behavior — Deu. 28), spoken of the child as a blessing from God (Psalm 127:3), and been the personification of love as we see in 1 Corinthians chapter 13. Thus, both godly fear AND love would have been developed in the child.

The same can be said about the children of God. We absolutely need to be motivated by a healthy fear of God! A person who fears going to Hell is going to have second thoughts about transgressing God's commandments! A person who hears a "hellfire and brimstone" sermon will hopefully be motivated to obey the Gospel. But as the child of God grows, he needs to develop such an admiration of God, that he genuinely loves Him so much that he could not bear the thought of hurting God by sinning against Him.

This is the idea that John presents in 1 John 4:18: "There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love." The verse immediately prior talks about having **BOLDNESS** in the day of judgment. The idea is that the Christian actually looks FORWARD to the day of judgment because he knows he's living faithfully and he loves God so much that he can't wait to see Him! He no longer fears the judgment day! Why? Because he is living his life in such a way that he knows will lead to eternal life (1 John 5:13). He is no longer motivated *ONLY* by fear.

He is like a young child who loves his parents so much that he rarely disobeys them, and when he does, his guilt is so heavy that he immediately seeks to repair the damage done. We as Christians must develop our love for God so much that we feel that we cannot bear to let Him down! Yes, we must be motivated by a fear of consequences of wrongdoing, but we must be equally motivated by the prospect of being rewarded for pleasing our Father in Heaven. Thus, rather than being like the master manipulator child who thinks he can get away with sin, we become like a child who loves his parents so much that he can't bear the thought of letting them down. Thus, the parents find that a child like this is rarely in need of punishment, for he learns to punish himself through his own guilt! He quickly makes amends with his parents, and continues to love them and honor them.

Let us be like this child. Let us be the children of God who love God so much that we cannot bear the thought of displeasing Him. And when we do make a mistake, let us be quick to acknowledge it, repent, and ask Him to forgive us for our trespasses. Let us love God with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength (Mark 12:30).

With love, Chase

The Importance of Midweek Bible Study
Ray Crawford

The question was asked me recently, "Are we to believe that Wednesday evening attendance is necessary?" I believe brother Garland M. Robinson makes a good response to this question by asking, "If you are a Christian, where else would you want to be?" This is a most revealing question. It reveals the shallow and hollow depth of devotion one has to the Christ who died for him. This question speaks volumes concerning those who desire to be somewhere else during the Wednesday night services.

It is a simple fact that a person will make time for and be engaged in whatever activity pleases him. The bottom line basically is that people only do what they want to do. If you want to be a faithful Christian, live a godly life, and go to heaven when you die, then you will make every effort to achieve that end. One's attitude and heart is not right who must be begged, prodded and coaxed to attend services of the Lord's church at any time! Shame on those who do not put forth the effort to be with those of "like mind" in the faith every opportunity afforded.

2 Timothy 2:15 says, "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." To meet at any time with the saints to study the most precious Book that tells of everlasting life and what to do to obtain it is the desire of everyone who truly wants to go to heaven. One day we will stand before Jesus to be judged. We study the scriptures to be approved of Him so that we might be found living in accordance with His will when He comes to call all things to an end (Acts 17:30,31).

2 Peter 3:18 tells us, "But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." This command is to grow in the knowledge of God. How then could anyone refuse to grasp the opportunity to do what we have been commanded?

Wednesday night is an excellent time to meet and study. This time is to supplement our personal home study. But if the truth is known, few study at home and therefore have no interest in midweek study, either.

Seriously, what else on earth is more important than God, truth, and righteousness? Read Matthew 6:33 and know that when we put anything ahead of God, the Bible, and church and think we are fine, we are in for a rude awakening on judgment day.

THIS WEEK'S MEMORY VERSE

"And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven."

Matt. 18:3

BE SURE TO TUNE INTO OUR RADIO STATION!
FM 102.5 KCXB-LP - The Beacon of Truth
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