

THE BEACON OF TRUTH

April 21, 2019

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

The School of Hard Knocks

Rod Bartanen

The psalmist prayed, “Thou hast dealt well with thy servant, O Lord, according unto thy word” (Psalm 119:65).

At first, taking the verse alone, we might think he was thankful that God had blessed him with an easy life—but not so. In verse 71 he wrote, “It is good for me that I have been afflicted, that I may learn thy statutes.”

It seems the psalmist had apparently gone through what has been called “the school of hard knocks.” While we seek to avoid the pains in life, we need to learn that if our heart seeks the Lord, we can learn from our painful experiences. When troubles come, we have the choice of facing them with bitterness or with assurance that “we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose” (Romans 8:28). In the “school of hard knocks,” we must learn to seek comfort in God’s word, submitting our lives to Him and His will.

Are there afflictions and difficulties in your life that sometimes seem insurmountable? If so, have you learned to turn them over to the Lord? By faith, find comfort and strength in God’s word: (Cont. pg. 2)

By the Numbers:

Week of 4/14/19

Contribution – \$2777

Attendance:

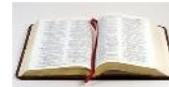
Sunday Bible Classes – 30

Sunday Worship – 44*

Wednesday Night – 32

*Total for the day

Bible Trivia Question



Last Week’s Answer: Our Faith (1 Cor. 15:14).

Q: According to 1 Cor. 15:17, what is the case if Christ did not rise from the dead?

Answer to be given next week!

SERMON SPOTLIGHT:

AM — In Gethsemane

1. Which person in Gethsemane best describes you?
2. How often do you remember Jesus’ sacrifice — Individually? Collectively?

PM — His Forever I Will Be

1. Do you serve Him or do you serve self?
2. On your current path, will you be forever His? Or will you be forever Satan’s?

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 Retana - Panama
Brad Harrub - Focus Press

BEACON CHURCH OF CHRIST
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 — Marcia Green — Jerry Tippen — Wendy Traweek — Tim Green — Harold Myers — Joy Skipper — John & Ruth Coston — Stetson Ortega — Lindy Brown — Kaitlyn Wilson — Kathy Lawrence — Debbie Grice — Virginia Wainwright — Jessica Hancock — Melba Tippen Creech — Dewey Young — Nathan & Victoria Bird as they await the arrival of Baby Mila — Please pray for several who recently had storm damage to their homes

OTHER THINGS & UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- We are currently in need of more items to restock our pantry. If you would like to help, please see Chase for needed items. Place your items in the barrel in the foyer.
- Youth & Young Adults — Be on the lookout for our next event! Don't miss out on these opportunities for fellowship and fun!
- Monthly Fellowship Meal — 4th Sunday of the month unless otherwise noted.

(Continued from page 1)

“Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he might exalt you in due time: casting all your cares upon him: for he careth for you” (1 Peter 5:6-7). Do you seek strength in prayer and God's word? Have you let the Lord be your Teacher in the “school of hard knocks?”

Note: I was one of those crazy people that actually really enjoyed school — FOR THE MOST PART (key words being “for the most part!”) Although I thoroughly enjoyed school, there were some days I had rather just be doing something else (especially test days)! You see, sometimes school is “just plain hard.”

The same could be said about life, especially the Christian life. Although we should thoroughly enjoy the Christian life, sometimes things are going to happen in the school of hard knocks that tempt us to give up. But we can't give up! We have to keep going! We need to realize what a shame it would be to get this far only to give up near the end. So let the difficulties of life make you STRONGER, not weaker. Let them INCREASE your faith, not decrease it. “Count it all JOY, my brethren, when ye fall into manifold temptations; knowing that the proving (trying, KJV) of your faith worketh PATIENCE. And let patience have its perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, lacking in nothing” (James 1:2-4, ASV, emphasis mine, TCG). — TCG

Be Instant ***Chase Green***

Instant coffee. Instant oatmeal. Instant rice. Instant mashed potatoes. Convenient? Yes. But the best quality? No! Instant isn't always a good thing, but it is a good thing when it comes to our Christianity! “Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine” (2 Tim. 4:2, emphasis mine throughout, TCG).

Contextually, Paul wrote this to the young preacher Timothy. Practically, we all can learn from it. What does it mean to be instant? What does it mean to be instant both IN season as well as OUT of season? What do these other terms, “reprove,” “rebuke,” and “exhort” have to do with being instant?

Let's begin with definitions of “reprove,” “rebuke,” and “exhort.” Concisely, these words represent the various outcomes of preaching. Reproof has to do with convincing /convicting of the truth, rebuke carries the connotation of charges or censure, and exhortation deals with a calling near for comfort. In simpler terms, reproof is converting people, rebuke is condemning sin, and exhortation is encouraging the discouraged.

People who have never obeyed the Gospel need reproof. People who are living in sin need rebuke. People who are discouraged need exhortation. Thus, this threefold plan for preaching is given. Question: Can a Christian who doesn't get paid to preach still use this formula to reach people for Christ? Of course the answer is yes!

Any Christian can gather around a kitchen table and use the Word of God to convict people of the Truth (reproof). Any Christian can use the Word to rebuke one caught up in the schemes of sin. Any Christian can use the Word to encourage another who has fallen prey to the Devil's devices of discouragement. The question is, WILL we?

That brings us to the idea of being instant. Looking at the Greek word (*ephitemi*), we see the idea of being present or on stand-by. One might say that being instant means being ready “at the drop of a hat,” or “at a moment's notice.” As a pulpit preacher, I need to be ready to preach a sermon “at the drop of a hat” if called upon. As a Christian, we all need to be ready to talk about the Bible with people (and, ideally, even quote from it) “at the drop of a hat.” “But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear” (1 Pet. 3:15).

Transitioning to the idea of “in season, out of season,” we can gather that this prepositional phrase modifies the fact that we are to “be instant.” “In season, out of season” refers to being able to preach “at a moment's notice” when it's convenient and when it's NOT convenient. Thayer says of this concept “seasonably, opportunely, when the opportunity occurs.” And that is exactly right! As a pulpit preacher, I need to be ready and willing to go preach when it is convenient, and when it's not. As a Christian, we need to be ready and willing to discuss the Bible with people when it is convenient and when it is not.

Therefore, if my next door neighbor asks me to study the Bible with him during the same time as my favorite TV show or the ballgame or whatever the case may be, what takes priority? Of course the Bible should take priority. Let us ensure, then, that we always truly prioritize It so that we can show ourselves approved unto God (2 Tim. 2:15), and convert the sinner from the error of his way (Jms. 5:20). With love, Chase

THIS WEEK'S MEMORY VERSE

“Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness.”

2 Pet. 3:11

BE SURE TO TUNE INTO OUR RADIO STATION!
FM 102.5 KCXB-LP - The Beacon of Truth
Available 24/7 on FM radio and at Beaconcofc.com