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Website

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.

Preacher

Chase Green

318-608-7418

Elders

Bill Schooley 318-396-7296

Tim Green 318-547-4026

Missions Supported

Ronnie Goodam - India

Marlon Retana - Panama

Brad Harrub - Focus Press

BEACON CHURCH OF CHRIST

2326 JONESBORO ROAD

MAIL: P.O. BOX 3057

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

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By the Numbers:

Week of 5/12/19

Contribution – \$2571

Attendance:


Sunday Bible Classes – 35

Sunday Worship * – 60

Wednesday Night – 38

*Total for the day

Bible Trivia Question



Last Week's Answer: Sin (1 Cor. 15:56) .

Q: Which other congregations had the same order from Paul (to give on the first day of the week)?

Answer to be given next week!

SERMON SPOTLIGHT:

AM — Modest: To Be or Not to Be?

1. Is modesty only about avoiding sexually revealing clothing?

2. What are some examples of immodesty of a non-sexual nature?

PM — Common Misconceptions about the church of Christ

1. Can you think of other misconceptions?

THE BEACON OF TRUTH

May 19, 2019

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

Blaming God

Guy N. Woods

A brokenhearted man, overwhelmed by grief, weeps uncontrollably over the casket containing the remains of his beloved wife. Well-meaning, but pitifully misguided friends gather about him, and in an effort to soften the blow which brought the world crashing down upon his shoulders, inform him that his immeasurable loss should be attributed to the will of God. A mother grieves beside the pale and lifeless body of her only child and the preacher seeks to comfort her by saying that the child’s tragic death was the result of the will of God, to which she should now resign herself. Disaster strikes with the suddenness of the lightning’s flash, fortunes are swept away as with a flood, poverty stalks menacingly among innocent and helpless children, and the whole of it is attributed to the providence of God.

How Satan must grin with sardonic glee when such accusations are leveled against the Judge of all the earth. How pleased he must be to hear the character of the great Jehovah slandered, his motives impeached, and His will prostituted by those who affect to be His friends! With what great satisfaction must he contemplate the ever-increasing number of unbelievers which such reasoning produces. How comfortable it is for the casual observer of such instances to blame God for what he cannot, or will not, explain in any other way.

The disposition to let God bear the blame is a common one and it finds expression in many ways. Wars, famine, pestilence, and death are regularly laid at His feet. When the heavens withhold the rain and the earth becomes dust, when crops fail and cattle die, men read in the disasters the will of God. Even the law of the land takes cognizance of the disposition of men to blame God by identifying such tragedies as “acts of God.” Casualty insurance policies expressly state or imply exceptions of responsibility when an “act of God” is involved. Among the contingencies often thus classified are tornadoes, storms at sea, earthquakes, and (cntd pg 2)

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 — Congrats to Nathan & Victoria Bird and family as they welcomed Mila Isabel Bird on May 5th! — Tim & Tricia Green & Family (Out of Town this week)

OTHER THINGS & UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- Please help us restock our food pantry. We are currently in need of the following items: Canned meats, canned fruit, pasta, canned chili, etc.
- 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 — Was last week and will not be 4th Sunday this month due to many traveling—Will resume 4th Sundays starting in June, unless otherwise noted

(Continued from page 1)

The like. Many contracts provide that in the event of an “act of God” the contract is unenforceable. An instance of man's proneness to let God take the blame is illustrated in a mine disaster some years ago, in the resolution of which it was officially declared that God was to blame! An editorial in an Eastern newspaper offered these comments:

“Once again God must take the rap. In the aftermath of the _____ mine disaster a jury has solemnly assembled, meditated, contemplated, and brought in its unanimous verdict. God has been convicted. According to the jury the murder of one hundred nineteen coal miners must go down in history as ‘an act of God’.”

A columnist in the same paper observed that no one government, coal operators, mine workers, or union officials seemed prepared to look for any other culprit. He said, “It was so easy to blame God. After all, he could not talk back. More reverent men might have hesitated to reach this verdict. They might have considered the guilt of the congressmen who stubbornly refused to enact a mine safety law. They might have weighed the responsibility of the coal operators who often resist safety mine legislation. They might even have studied the role of UMW officials who have always seemed more concerned with union politics than with human safety. But all that would have involved many complicated problems. It was so much easier to blame God.”

So much easier to blame God! Let all of us ponder these words more seriously when next we are disposed to excuse our own neglect, and to ignore immediate causes by blandly suggesting that the responsibility of all such matters must be assigned to God.

Note: No, don't blame God; rather, blame SIN (See 1 Cor. 15:56; Gen. 2:17; 3:16-19; Rom. 6:23; Eze. 18:4; Etc.). — **TCG**

Introduction to James *Chase Green*

Note: Lord willing, I plan on writing articles on the book of James for the considerable future. Each week, we will take a few verses at a time and exegete the passage.

The book of James is sometimes called “the Proverbs of the New Testament,” the reason being that it is composed of many short, to the point verses that, like Proverbs, deal with spiritual wisdom. When I was at the Memphis School of Preaching, we had to memorize the entire book! While I won't ask you to do the same, it is true that there are many pearls of wisdom and truth to be found in this wonderful, short inspired book.

Author: There are three, or perhaps four, men who wore the name “James” in the New Testament (Taylor, Jr. 1-4). These include ¹James, the son of Zebedee (together with John one of the “sons of Thunder,” and also a member of the “inner circle” of James, John, and Peter), ²James the son of Alphaeus, ³James the Lord's brother, and (possibly) a fourth ⁴James mentioned in Luke 6:16 (Ibid). Many apt scholars agree that the most likely candidate for authorship of this epistle is James, the Lord's brother (Hampton 1-2). Reasons given are as follows: Both the James mentioned in Luke 6:16 and James the son of Alphaeus are very obscure men of which very little Biblical information is given. The fact that the author reveals himself only as “James” seems to indicate that this James was extremely well known in the first century brotherhood (Ibid). James the son of Zebedee might be a good candidate, were it not that he was martyred during the life of Herod Agrippa I (Acts 12:1-2), and considering that Herod died in A.D. 44, it is unlikely that this James wrote the epistle (Ibid). That leaves James the Lord's brother as the most likely candidate for authoring the epistle (Ibid).

Immediate Audience: This is revealed in chapter 1, verse 1: “James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad, greeting.” Who are these “twelve tribes which are scattered abroad?” The phrase “twelve tribes” is reminiscent of Judaism, but in all likelihood refers to SPIRITUAL Israel (the church), rather than physical Israel, although it is possible that the audience is largely composed of Jewish Christians (Woods 16). Regardless, it must be the case that Christians, rather than religious Jews, are under consideration, for James repeatedly uses the term “brethren,” and James makes no argument for the Deity of Christ (which he would have needed to do, except it was already agreed upon) (Hampton 3 and Woods 16). The phrase “scattered abroad” is likely a reference to the violent persecution of Jewish Christians mentioned in Acts 8:1-4 (Hampton 3).

Remote Audience: “Remote audience” refers to those living prior to the time this book was written, but can still glean much from its teachings. For instance, we may not have been around to know who James was confronting that were showing preference to certain individuals in the worship services (2:1ff), but does not the same attitude often prevail today? It does! Thus, we find the same need to read and apply the book of James today!

Purpose: According to Brother Woods, “the purpose of it was evidently intended to instruct them (Christians, TCG) in the Christian faith and to insulate them from all worldly temptation” (17). These Christians “were in frequent contact with rich and arrogant countrymen” who mistreated them greatly, and “it was not always easy to exhibit patience and forbearance in such trying situations and a large measure of Christian endurance and love was necessary in order properly to live the Christian life” (Ibid). Thus, we can learn a lot from this book in how we too should deal with the struggles of the blessed, but sometimes difficult, Christian life.

Works Cited:

Hampton, Gary C. *Practical Christianity as Seen Through the Eyes of the Lord's Brother, James*. Valdosta, GA: Colson Printing Company, 1994. Print.
Taylor, Jr. *Robert R. Studies in James and Jude*. Ripley, TN: Taylor Publications, 1987. Print.
Woods, Guy N. *A Commentary on the Epistle of James*. Nashville, Tenn: Gospel Advocate Co, 1991. Print.

THIS WEEK'S MEMORY VERSE

“For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.” 1 Tim. 6:10

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