

THE BEACON OF TRUTH

June 2, 2019

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

Our Dependency on God

David Stafford

There are some people that view themselves as independent. Commonly, the soon-to-be high-school graduate thinks he is independent. The adult who has his own job, home, and means of transportation commonly views himself as independent. The one who thinks for himself commonly views himself as independent. There is nothing wrong with being independent to an extent. It is good to provide for ourselves. It is good to think for ourselves. It is good to be independent and not rely on others all the time, but what about independence from a spiritual perspective? Should we as Christians view ourselves as independent from God? Certainly not! We must realize that we depend on God for the following reasons: We depend on God for His grace, His mercy, and His love.

We depend on God for His grace. Grace is best defined as unmerited favor. Grace is getting what we do not deserve. We depend on God’s favor to us, “for by grace are ye saved through faith...” (Eph. 2:8). Grace is a gift from God (Eph. 2:9). Grace is not something we give to ourselves, but it is something God has given to us. However, we must access that gift that He has given us, which is in Christ (2 Tim. 2:1). We must accept the gift through our obedient faith to Him (Eph. 2:8-9). We are justified by His grace (Tit. 3:7). Therefore, we cannot be saved without God’s grace!

We depend on God for His mercy. Mercy is best defined as withholding punishment that is due. Mercy is not getting what we deserve. We as Christians do not deserve salvation but deserve the punishment of death. When we, who were at the age of accountability, were outside the body of Christ, we were sinners, who fell short of the glory of God (Rom. 3:23). God, however, is rich in mercy (Eph. 2:4). We are saved by God’s mercy (Tit. 3:5), and it is “according to His **abundant** mercy that He has begotten us again unto a lively (living, D.S.) hope (cntd. pg. 2)

By the Numbers:

Week of 5/26/19

Contribution – \$1634

Attendance:

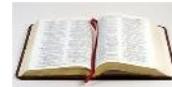
Sunday Bible Classes – 18

Sunday Worship* – 30

Wednesday Night – 32

*Total for the day

Bible Trivia Question



Last Week’s Answer: Ephesus (1 Cor. 16:8).

Q: What did Paul say there was standing in contrast to the great door of opportunity that he had at Ephesus?

Answer to be given next week!

SERMON SPOTLIGHT:

AM — Saved by Grace

1. What is the proper interpretation of Eph. 2:8?
2. Is grace more important than truth, or vice versa?

PM — The Parable of the Sower

1. Should it be any surprise to us that there are different responses to evangelism?

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

Beaconofcfc.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

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

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 — — Lindy Brown — Kaitlyn Wilson — Kathy Lawrence — Debbie Grice — Virginia Wainwright — Jessica Hancock — Melba Tippen Creech — Dewey Young — Andrew Brown (away at internship in College Station, TX) — Stetson Ortega is doing much better, but please continue to keep him in your prayers

OTHER THINGS & UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- 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 Each Month unless otherwise noted

(Continued from page 1)

by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead” (1 Pet. 1:3, emphasis his). We cannot be saved without God’s abundant mercy!

We depend on God for His love. God’s love for mankind is a sacrificial love, which was demonstrated through Jesus Christ. “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved” (John 3:16-17). God demonstrated His love toward us that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us (Rom. 5:8). Love is the motivation for His grace and mercy. We cannot be saved without God’s love!

It is good for us to be independent under most circumstances, but when we are speaking about God, we must recognize that we need Him. Let us reflect on the words of a popular hymn that we sing:

I need Thee, oh, I need Thee;
Every hour I need Thee;
Oh, bless me now, my Savior!
I come to Thee.

Without God, we would not have any hope beyond this life. Let us remember our dependence on God through His grace, mercy, and love as we live the Christian life.

James 1:5-8
Chase Green

Verse 5: “If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.” If any man lacks wisdom, he only has himself to blame. The Bible is clear that TRUE, spiritual wisdom only comes from above (See James 3:17; entire book of Proverbs; etc.), and one must seek out and RECEIVE such wisdom if he expects to gain it (Prov. 1:3).

Not only must we receive wisdom’s instruction through study, but also through prayer. God is ready and willing to give it, but only if we are ready and willing to receive it! We make ourselves ready by studying, meditating on, and applying God’s Word in our lives. Then, and only then, can we pray to the Father for wisdom. This is not a miraculous endowment of such, but rather a pleading for the reaping of the results for which the man of God has already done the work. And I wholeheartedly believe that God will give much wisdom to those who are truly trying to obtain it — Don’t you? (See the following verses.)

The term “liberally” may turn a few heads, given the connotation usually ascribed to liberalness today, but it need not do so. The term, used Biblically, simply refers to the idea of the bountifulness of God’s giving. He is willing to give much, and doesn’t hold back on His giving. God never runs out of wisdom, and neither do we have to, if we would just study, meditate, and apply the Word, and then pray!

Verses 6-7: “But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord.” I get the impression that God doesn’t take too kindly to people who pray to Him with doubt in their hearts. Right? Such wishy-washy “faith” is the opposite of Biblical faith. Biblical faith is a **belief /trust** (man’s part) in God to follow through with His promises (His part); accordingly, Biblical faith also includes **obedience** in prospect of the rewards involved with such (also man’s part).

If man does not have such faith in God, then he better not expect to reap any benefits from God, including said wisdom. When one thinks about it, **MAN’S** faithfulness is dependent on (among other things) correctly understanding **GOD’S** faithfulness! (Take a look at Lam. 3:23).

Verse 8: “A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.” This part of the passage concludes with the idea that such a man is spiritually unstable, so much so that the text says “in ALL his ways,” emphasis mine.

Of this unstable man, Robert Taylor, Jr. says the following: “The double-minded person seeks to pay homage to two masters. Jesus denied this can be done. (Matt. 6:24.) The double-minded man is somewhat of a spiritual ‘Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde.’ He possesses religious schizophrenia — a person with split personalities or with two natures which are totally different. He is somewhat like the ancient Roman deity of Janus who was represented with two opposite faces. This has led to the coining of the adjective ‘Janus-faced.’ A person cannot face God with loyalty and face the world with allegiance simultaneously. A person cannot pray acceptably and be minus faith at the same time” (19). I could not have said it better myself if I tried!

With love, Chase

Works Cited:

Taylor, Jr. Robert Taylor. *Studies in James and Jude*. Ripley, TN: Taylor Publications, 1987. Print.

THIS WEEK’S MEMORY VERSE

“Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man.”
James 1:13

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