

THE BEACON OF TRUTH

June 9, 2019

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

Beware of “Cotton Candy”

Dan Jenkins

I remember the very first time I ever saw cotton candy. When I was very young the highlight of every year was the county fair in Huntsville, Alabama. Today, when there is Disney World, Universal Studios and “Six Flags Over Everywhere,” it is hard for anyone to imagine just how special those “scary” rides were at the fair and how much I loved cotton candy!

I do not remember how old I was, but I vividly remember that stand which sold this new, amazingly sweet treat. I did not know that cotton candy had been introduced to the world at the 1904 World Fair in St. Louis and was called Fairy Floss. (No, I was not at that fair—not that old). At that fair, more than 68,000 boxes were sold for the equivalent of six dollars in today’s money. I do know how much I loved it.

My impressions of it? (1) It was so fascinating and attractive. (2) Everyone was talking about how good it was. (3) At first taste, it was so sweet, but then it disappeared in my mouth. (I did not know it was mostly air mixed with two tablespoons of sugar). (4) It promised so much and gave such instant gratification that I wanted more and more.

Now think of the many parallels between my impression of cotton candy and the nature of sin. Sometimes great lessons come from the simplest sources.

SIN AND COTTON CANDY ARE SO FASCINATING AND ATTRACTIVE. Think about the fruit in the first garden. Think of David’s view of Bathsheba from his rooftop. We so often sin when our hearts lust for what we see (Jas. 1:14). However, there is far more to sin when we look at the larger picture.

SIN AND COTTON CANDY ARE ENJOYED BY SO MANY. That expensive cost of the floss in St. Louis did not keep individuals from buying it. So many thought that, if others found it so “rewarding,” they just had to try it, regardless of the cost. There are many on that broad way toward destruction (Matt. 7:13-14). There is that Divine instruction about following the multitude (Ex. 23:2). (continued on page 2)

By the Numbers:

Week of 6/2/19

Contribution – \$2383

Attendance:

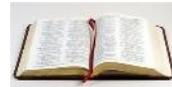
Sunday Bible Classes – 23

Sunday Worship* – 54

Wednesday Night – 31

*Total for the day

Bible Trivia Question



Last Week’s Answer: Many adversaries (1 Cor. 16:9).

Q: Which preacher did Paul inform the Corinthians not to despise?

Answer to be given next week!

SERMON SPOTLIGHT:

AM — The True Grace of God

1. In what text is the phrase “the true grace of God” found?
2. If there is such a thing as the true grace of God, what does that imply?

PM — The Parable of the Tares

1. Could it be that there are enemies of the faith trying to sow tares in our lives?

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 Retana - Panama
Brad Harrub - Focus Press

BEACON CHURCH OF CHRIST
2326 JONESBORO ROAD
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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 — 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

OTHER THINGS & UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- Youth & Young Adults — There will be a youth devotional and game night Friday night at the annex at 6:30pm. Please let Chase know if you plan on attending.
- Monthly Fellowship Meal — 4th Sunday Each Month unless otherwise noted

(Continued from page 1)

SIN AND COTTON CANDY BOTH PROMISE SO MUCH AND DELIVER SO LITTLE. There is almost no nutritional value to cotton candy — it is nothing but air. Sin properly understood is in reality nothing but “fluff” that brings eternal destruction. When sin is finished it brings death and bondage (Jas. 1:15; 2 Pet. 2:20).

SIN AND COTTON CANDY BOTH CREATE A LONGING TO HAVE MORE AND MORE. Every sin can become an addiction which brings us into bondage and is so addictive. Sin seems to satisfy but only for such a short time. The real choices are instant gratification or eternal reward. Isn't it strange how often great spiritual or eternal truths come from such simple sources!

James 1:9-11
Chase Green

Verses 9-10a: “Let the brother of low degree rejoice in that he is exalted. But the rich, in that he is made low...” Notice there are two opposite extremes in regard to one’s status in life — the one acquainted with poverty, and the one acquainted with riches. For most Americans, the majority of our lives are spent somewhere in between these two extremes. But throughout most of human history, this has not been the case: One was/is either rich, or he was/is poor!

But ... riches do not matter at the end of life! All the wealth that a man can amass will only be split between his relatives when he dies. Likewise, all the pains accumulated by a life of poverty will soon be absorbed by the grave. Death is an “equal opportunity employer!” (See Heb. 9:27; Rom. 5:12; Rom. 6:23; Ecc. 3:20).

With the realization of such, the poor man can rejoice knowing that he will be exalted to a position of great spiritual riches when he gains his heavenly reward. One can easily see the desirableness of such, but the next thought is more difficult — “but the rich, in that he is made low.” How many rich people (in this life) could honestly say that they look forward to the day when they will be brought low in the next; that is, they will be brought down to an equal playing field in that they will receive the same reward as those who were poor?! Perhaps this is one of the reasons that it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to go to heaven (Matt. 19:24)?

Regardless, the Bible is plain that there is no respect of persons with God (Acts 10:34), and that we are all one in Christ, with no “bonus points” awarded for earthly riches or prestige (See Gal. 3:28; Col. 3:11). And why is this so? See the following.

Verses 10b-11: “...Because as the flower of the grass he shall pass away. For the sun is no sooner risen with a burning heat, but it withereth the grass, and the flower thereof falleth, and the grace of the fashion of it perisheth: so also shall the rich man fade away in his ways.” In short, our lives are transient (also described as a vapor, James 4:14); thus, the sooner we learn that, the better!

How many people through the years have lived half, three-fourths, or even ALL of their lives seeking fulfillment in all the wrong things? Solomon did so through much of his life. And the book of Ecclesiastes, I believe, is his letter of regret, wishing he could have all of that time back! How many people today, when they reach the end of their lives, will, like Solomon, finally admit that such pursuits are nothing but “**VANITY OF VANITIES** (or “emptiness of emptiness,” TCG) saith the Preacher, vanity of vanities; **ALL** is vanity” (Ecc. 1:2, emphasis mine, TCG)?

Not only does Solomon begin his inspired “memoir” with that thought, but he ends it that way as well: “Vanity of vanities, saith the preacher; all is vanity” (Ecc. 12:8). But lucky for us, Solomon also concludes with how to avoid such emptiness at the end of our lives: “Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil” (Ecc. 12:13-14). The sooner in life one finds this out, the better!

With love, Chase

THIS WEEK'S MEMORY VERSE

“But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.”
James 1:14

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