

THE BEACON OF TRUTH

August 25, 2019

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

A Father Raises His Children ... But a Nation Rebels (Isaiah 1)

Aaron Cozort

(Scripture taken from NKJV)

A father raises his children. He invests in their upbringing. He encourages their education. He provides structure, a home, food on the table and hope for the future. He watches over them while they sleep and teaches them when they are awake. He wants them to grow up and be strong. He wants them to have a great future free from strife and anguish, sorrow and misery. He gives them stability. He encourages them to work and to improve themselves—to flourish under his protection and guidance.

Then one day, a child declares, “I’m not your child. Look what I have done for myself, how great I am, how strong I am and how prosperous I am. I do not have to obey you, and I will not recognize you as my father.” How many times this type of situation has played out in families throughout time, but few more are tragic than in God’s family. Isaiah wrote, “Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth! For the LORD has spoken: I have nourished and brought up children, And they have rebelled against Me; The ox knows its owner And the donkey its master’s crib; But Israel does not know, My people do not consider” (Isaiah 1:2-3).

Some parents will not admit the truth about their children’s condition. They will hide from reality. They will say things like, “They’re good kids; they just got in with the wrong crowd.” God is more honest than that. God said of His children, “Alas, sinful nation, A people laden with iniquity, A brood of evildoers, Children who are corrupters! They have forsaken the LORD, They have provoked to anger the Holy One of Israel, They have turned away backward” (Isaiah 1:4).

The people of Israel, the nation of God, the descendants of Abraham, had become a brood of corrupters. The root meaning of this word is “to decay.” Their influence was rust to metal and disease to a body.

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By the Numbers:

Week of 8/18/19

Contribution – \$2258

Attendance:

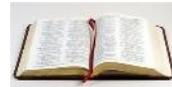
Sunday Bible Classes – N/A

Sunday Worship – 49*

Wednesday Night – 30

**Total for the day*

Bible Trivia Question



Last Week’s Answer: They are contrary to sound doctrine (1 Tim. 1:10).

Q: What was committed to Paul’s trust?

Answer to be given next week!

SERMON SPOTLIGHT:

AM — Born for Adversity

- Whom, besides the Lord, should we lean upon for help during hard times?
- How can we lean upon each other if we don’t tell each other we are struggling?

PM — The Parables of the Unmerciful Servant & the Two Debtors

- What does this teach about forgiveness?

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

Preacher

Chase Green
318-608-7418

Elders

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

Missions Supported

Ronnie Goolam - India
Marlon Retana - Panama
Brad Harrub - Focus Press

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WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED

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

Margie Tippen, Regina Simmons, Marcia Green, Kevin Green, Jerry Tippen, Wendy Traweek, Harold Myers, Joy Skipper, Ruth Coston, Lindy Brown, Kaitlyn Wilson, Kathy Lawrence, Melba Tippen Creech, Dewey Young, Stetson Ortega, Mike Jones, Kenneth Hendrix, Tim Green, Mildred Allhands, Anthony Ortega, Debbie Grice, Virginia Wainwright, Bettie Young (had a scare this week and will need to have a stress test soon)

OTHER THINGS & UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- Youth & Young Adults: Next get-together planned for Friday, Sept 6th. See Chase for more details.
- Monthly Fellowship Meal: Today in between services.

(continued from page 1)

Israel had become an influence for moral and spiritual decay in their world. They were supposed to be the light of the world. They were supposed to be the salt of the earth. However, they had become “good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men” (Matthew 5:13, KJV).

What kind of child of God are you today? How do you live, and what is your relationship to the Father in Heaven? What would He say about your life and your relationship with Him? God called Israel to reason with Him and to cleanse themselves, but He also sent them a warning, “If you are willing and obedient, You shall eat the good of the land; but if you refuse and rebel, You shall be devoured by the sword; For the mouth of the LORD has spoken” (Isaiah 1:19-20).

James 4:1-6 *Chase Green*

Verse 1: “From whence come wars and fightings among you? come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members?” This is a continuation of the closing thoughts of chapter three. The sensual desires that fed the selfish false “wisdom” discussed there are the motivations for such sins as wars (the sinful kind; the opposite of a “just war”) and fightings. Carnal, selfish desires, only rationalized by corrupted human “wisdom,” lead to all of man’s problems.

Verse 2: “Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not.” All of man’s lusts can never be satisfied. A man who is not content with the wife of his youth will continually lust after other men’s wives, but will never find fulfillment in them. Those who lust after and steal and kill for material gain will always desire more. Rather than asking God for things needed for life after having kept the kingdom of God the priority (Mat. 6:25-34), those who selfishly lust after the things belonging to others will continue to lack contentment because their hearts are in the wrong place.

Verse 3: “Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.” Such people are asking for the wrong things. By way of example, I highly doubt that God ever answers a prayer for a Ferrari or a Lamborghini. These luxurious toys are not inherently sinful, but they certainly could never be classified as “needs.” A person may have a true need for reliable transportation and, therefore, may pray to God for such, but we must be careful to distinguish between true needs and materialistic, carnal desires.

Verse 4: “Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.” Whether James is referring to literal adulterers and adulteresses, or spiritual adulterers and adulteresses (those who are placing other things before God in priority; essentially, idolaters), the point is that man cannot be a friend of the world (WORLDLY) and be the friend of God. Those who, in their own faulty “wisdom,” believe that they can dedicate their lives both to God and fleshly pursuits are sadly mistaken.

Verse 5: “Do ye think that the scripture saith in vain, The spirit that dwelleth in us lusteth to envy?” See also Gal. 5:16-17. James appears to, rather than quote one particular passage, refer to the overall Scriptural teaching that human beings have a selfish tendency toward envy. Observe two or three young children playing together and you will likely see this play out quickly, as the children tussle over their favorite toys. Selflessness is something that must be learned, and wise parents will teach it diligently to their children. Otherwise, this tendency toward selfishness will grow and grow until the children become self-absorbed, entitled, and spoiled to the core.

Verse 6: “But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.” God’s grace is available to all who will accept it by obeying His will. But in order to do that, both in initially obeying the Gospel and in CONTINUING faithfully, one must be willing to humble himself. How many people have not become Christians simply because they were not willing to humble themselves? Far too many, I’m sure! This sad truth will continue till the end of time. With love, Chase

THIS WEEK’S MEMORY VERSE

“Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed.
The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.”
James 5:16

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