

THE BEACON OF TRUTH

September 22, 2019

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

Desiring God In Times of Distress

Avery Hackney

Throughout the course of our lives there will be highs and lows. This is seen in the workplace, in our homes, and in our personal relationships. While the roller-coaster of life takes its toll on our bodies and emotions, it does not have to alter our relationship with God. The question must be asked, “Do we desire God even when we are in distress, or do we only serve God when everything is going our way?” When our hearts are heavy and when we feel half empty, what are we to do? Let us study the Word of God to answer these questions.

One of the best examples of someone who sought God in times of trouble is Jeremiah. If you think back to the life of Jeremiah it is evident he was in distress many times. Jeremiah only had a few friends because most people rejected the message he was sent to preach. One of his only friends was Baruch and in chapter 45 he even had to rebuke him! Even amidst this distress and low points of life, he remained faithful to God. Every time a Christian reads Psalm 130:1, they need to think of Jeremiah: “Out of the depths have I cried unto thee, O LORD.” Many times the prophet was thrown into cold damp dungeons for speaking the truth of God and remaining faithful to God (Jeremiah 37). There are three main reasons why Jeremiah was able to remain faithful to God:

1. Jeremiah knew God would be there when others left. We mentioned earlier Jeremiah did not have a lot of friends; in fact, most of the people around Jeremiah hated him because of the message he was spreading. While men may despise and hate you, God will always be there to hold up your hands and strengthen you. Seeing this through the life of Jeremiah reminds me of Psalm 27:10, which says “When my father and my mother forsake me, then the LORD will take me up.” Even if your own father and mother reject you, God will always be there for you; no doubt Jeremiah took comfort in this knowledge. (continued on page 2)

By the Numbers:

Week of 9/15/19

Contribution – \$2538

Attendance:

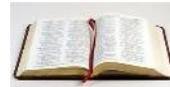
Sunday Bible Classes – 34

Sunday Worship – 59*

Wednesday Night – 40

*Total for the day

Bible Trivia Question



Last Week's Answer: The longsuffering of Christ, & a pattern to those who would believe on Him to everlasting life after Paul (1 Tim. 1:16).

Q: What was Paul's charge to Timothy?

Answer to be given next week!

SERMON SPOTLIGHT:

AM — Lessons from Romans Chapter 12

1. Notice to what the “therefore” is tied in verse 1.
2. How many of the attributes listed in Romans 12 characterize your life? What can you improve upon?

PM — The Parable of the Pharisee & Publican

1. What can we learn from the attitudes of these two men?
2. Tie the theme of this parable into the theme of the parable of the unprofitable servants (Luke 17:10).

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

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 PRAYERS

Margie Tippen, Regina Simmons, Marcia Green, Kevin Green (seeing a cardiologist to address his current health problems), Jerry Tippen, Harold Myers, Joy Skipper, Ruth Coston, Lindy Brown, Kaitlyn Wilson, Kathy Lawrence, Melba Tippen Creech, Mike Jones, Kenneth Hendrix, Tim Green, Mildred Allhands, Anthony Ortega, Debbie Grice, Virginia Wainwright, Stetson Ortega, Bettie Young, Dewey Young, Wendy Traweek, Bill Schooley, Tim Green

OTHER THINGS & UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- Youth & Young Adults: Be on the lookout for monthly events.
- Monthly Fellowship Meal: Today in between services.

(Continued from page 1)

2. Jeremiah also knew God had a plan for him. In fact, God told him that very thing (Jeremiah 29:11, NKJV)! “For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.” I wonder how many nights in the dungeon it would take us to forget the statement we just read? I am not saying we will never have troubles in our life, but everything will work out for the best in the end if we stay faithful to God! That is evident in the life of Job. He lost it all but gained twice as much as he had in the end (Job 42:10).

3. Finally, Jeremiah understood that man simply cannot do it on his own. Men are intelligent, strong and also naive. All too often mankind bites off more than he can chew and ends up in a bad situation. It is times like these the words of Jeremiah 10:23 need to be remembered: “O LORD, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps.” Jeremiah’s very message was one of warning. He was warning the people of the coming destruction. One after another the people rejected his message because they either thought he was lying or that they were strong enough and smart enough to make it through whatever life had to offer. Jeremiah, on the other hand, understood men can’t see what tomorrow holds, but God can. This point is illustrated perfectly in two statements the Lord made from Jeremiah 17: “Thus saith the LORD; Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the LORD (Vs. 5),” and “Blessed is the man that trusteth in the LORD, and whose hope the LORD is (Vs. 7)”.

Having considered these things, we can see God is there for us, He has a plan for us, and He is able to hold us up when we cannot hold ourselves. The question still lingers, what direction do you run in times of trouble? Towards God or away from Him? As the Psalmist said in Psalm 61:2, “From the end of the earth will I cry unto thee, when my heart is overwhelmed: lead me to the rock that is higher than I.” When your heart is overwhelmed, take it to the Lord, because He can fix it.

James 5:1-6

Chase Green

Verse 1: “Go to now, ye rich men, weep and howl for your miseries that shall come upon you.” James now addresses the impending doom of the physically rich but spiritually poor. It is not inherently sinful to be rich (see 1 Tim. 6:17-19), but it is sinful to be a lover of money (1 Tim. 6:10). Those who sinfully will themselves to riches (by doing sinful things in order to gain money) fall into temptation and a snare, foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition (1 Tim. 6:9).

The destruction of the sinfully rich sometimes comes in this lifetime (being sent to prison for fraud, for example), but it will SURELY come in the next, if it goes unrepented. Oh, if only the rich man from Luke chapter 16 would have just known what miseries awaited him in hell, he would have surely repented! No amount of earthly riches is worth an eternity of misery in hell!

Verses 2-3: “Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are motheaten. Your gold and silver is cankered; and the rust of them shall be a witness against you, and shall eat your flesh as it were fire. Ye have heaped treasure together for the last days.” How foolish! Heaping together corruptible riches such as these, only to have them devoured by moths and rusted into disuse (garments and gold & silver, respectively), is a foolish endeavor. Imagine encountering God on the Day of Judgment, and the only thing to show for the time He gave you is your moth-eaten garments and rusted gold and silver as witnesses against you! These “treasures” will be completely worthless on the Day of Judgment! Instead, live your life so that you can lay up treasures for yourself in heaven (Mat. 6:20).

Verse 4: “Behold, the hire of the labourers who have reaped down your fields, which is of you kept back by fraud, crieth: and the cries of them which have reaped are entered into the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth (or “hosts,” TCG).” James now lists some of the sins of such physically rich but spiritually poor men. One such sin is taking advantage of the poor laborers (from whom the rich profited) by defrauding them of their wages. See Lev. 19:13 and Jer. 22:13-14 for inspired commentary on this evil practice. God promises swift justice “against those that oppress the hireling in his wages” (Mal. 3:5).

Verse 5: “Ye have lived in pleasure on the earth, and been wanton (entirely given to pleasure, TCG); ye have nourished your hearts, as in a day of slaughter.” The sinfully rich (again, remember that riches do not automatically equate to sin) have devoted their lives to sinful pleasure. The latter part of this verse, in the ASV, is as follows: “Ye have nourished your hearts in a day of slaughter.” The idea is that the sinful rich are completely devoted to “nourishing” their fleshly pursuits, blind to their impending slaughter (punishment in hell).

Verse 6: “Ye have condemned and killed the just; and he doth not resist you.” The sins continue. How many people have been falsely accused, falsely imprisoned, and even falsely put to death because of sins involving the love of money? Was not even Jesus our Lord condemned to death, at least in part, due to the love of money? Think Judas Iscariot and thirty pieces of silver (Mat. 26:15)! And yet, the Lord did not resist this evil. “He was oppressed, yet when he was afflicted he opened not his mouth” (Isa. 53:7). Yes, the deceitfulness of riches was one of the sins that sent Jesus to the cross! With love, Chase

THIS WEEK'S MEMORY VERSE

“And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.”

Luke 12:15

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