

Light and Life

Ebenezer

This time of year it always seems natural to be thinking about Ebenezer (no, not Scrooge!). Remember the story? Samuel became a judge of Israel when the nation was corrupt and idolatrous. Because of this, they were slaughtered in battle with the Philistines.

During the first battle, the Philistines killed four thousand Israelites. The Israelites decided maybe if they marched the Ark of the Covenant into battle with them, that the Ark could save them from their enemies (1 Sa 4:3)! The presence of the Ark certainly boosted the morale of the army – “all Israel shouted so loudly that the earth shook” (4:5)! Yet the Philistines were courageous, and after the second battle thirty thousand Israelites lay dead and the Ark of the Covenant was captured (4:10-11).

The Philistines soon returned the Ark, however, along with some extra gold, because God afflicted every city where the Ark was taken with tumors. When the Ark was returned, the Israelites didn't really know what to do with it.

Samuel taught them that if they repented and sought God's help, He would deliver the Philistines onto their hands. At the next battle, they asked Samuel not to “cease from crying out to the Lord for us” (7:8). God confused the enemy with loud thunder and the Philistines were overwhelmed. Samuel then raised a stone as a memorial, and he called it Ebenezer, which means “stone of help”.

As we look back at the battles of our year, may we call to mind the words of the old hymn: “Here I raise my Ebenezer, hither by Thy help I've come.” For, “thus far the Lord has helped us” (7:17).

- Sam Bunyard

Just My Thoughts

The Love of a Good Woman

It's been said that the love of a good woman is hard to come by. While I would certainly say that this stands true, I would say that the converse is also true. The love of a wicked woman is easy to come by.

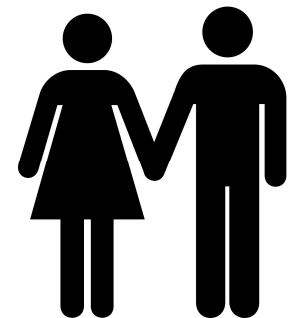
In 1 Kings 21 we read the story of Naboth's vineyard. Naboth was a man in Israel who had a very desirable plot of land for his vineyard. Ahab, the king of Israel, selfishly desired this plot of land for himself. He asked Naboth to sell him his land, a request which Naboth refused. In turn, Ahab pouted and whined until his wife, Jezebel, set a wicked plan in motion to steal the vineyard away from Naboth. Through Jezebel's dastardly plot, Naboth was murdered. His land was defaulted to King Ahab, all thanks to his wife Jezebel. What a love story, right?

This story serves as a warning for both men and women. Men, watch out! Wicked women populate this world in far greater abundance than good women do. Though they may not murder your enemies for you, these wicked women will lead you to eternal destruction.

Likewise, there are more wicked men on this earth than good men. So women, you be careful as well. Ahab was no saint and his conduct certainly only made Jezebel (an already wicked character) worse.

So, let's all be careful. A spouse can either be a spiritual boon or a detriment. Run from the Ahabs and the Jezebels of this world! You'll be glad you did!

- Hayden Cathey



ASSEMBLY TIMES

Sunday

Bible Class 9:30
Morning Assembly 10:30
Evening Assembly 5:00

Wednesday

Evening Bible Class 6:30

RADIO PROGRAM

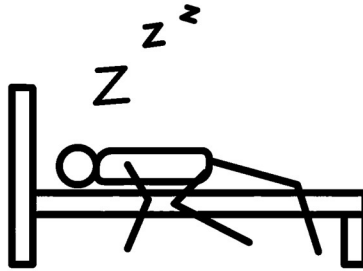
The Bible Speaks



Sunday 9:00-9:30a.m.
KURM 790AM

Downtown Church of Christ

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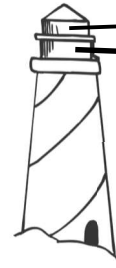
If we rest now,
we rust now.

ELDERS:

Otis Hardin
Perry Johnson
Ken Parker
Alan Revier
GW Walsh

DEACONS:

TJ Burleson
Scott Hale
Joel Heiligenthal
Jason Hill
Chris Johnson
Brock McKeel
Randy Potter
Tim Roberts
Randy Shell



DOWNTOWN GOSPEL BEACON

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The Lord's Timing – And Ours

Sometimes it seems the Lord's time schedule and ours are not in sync. When we are young and need the money, we are broke. But, when we get older and have a little money, we have little desire for this world's 'stuff'. When we have no clue about raising kids, we must raise them anyway. And when we finally figure it out, they are gone.

Without doubt, this is by God's design; and we do not question His wisdom. After all, if every young person had the money to buy anything they wanted, no one would

live to be middle-aged. If gaining our desires was as simple as pushing a button, no one would need God.

And so, we struggle **in faith**. A young father wonders where he will get the money for the next meal, so he prays. Two parents are desperate for help in raising their kids, so they pray. What seems like bad timing may be nothing more than God's efforts to draw us closer to Himself – to make us aware of our utter dependence on Him. The question is, **are we paying attention?**

- WKing

FAMILY NEWS

PRAYER LIST –

Preachers we support: Japan, Philippines, Vietnam, Canada, Mexico, Peru, & U.S.

Sick: G&K Fletcher, Tony Tolbert, Diane Willis, J&M Swim, Jean Marshall

Shut-ins: Betty Jo Young, Billie Pennington, Shirley Cole, Mary Lou Lewis

Military: Kyler Sullins, Sean Potter

Q & A – Many have submitted questions in recent months. Tonight, Hayden & Warren will address some of these questions. Thanks for the submissions!

SENTENCE SERMON: If we are not contented with what we have, we will not be contented with what we would like to have.