

Light and Life

Boastful Works Faithful Works

Paul wrote to the Philippians, “work out your own salvation with fear and trembling” (Ph. 2:12). Yet, he also penned that salvation is “not of works, lest anyone should boast” (Ep. 2:8-9).

Many say that works can have nothing to do with salvation. Can this be true? After all, “faith without works is dead” (Js. 2:20)! A saving faith is not merely passive belief. “We are not of those who draw back to perdition, but of those who believe **to the saving of the soul**” (He. 10:39). “Without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who **diligently seek Him**” (He. 11:6). Biblical faith is an active belief that involves an obedient response. Some people say this is works-based salvation!

However, there is a difference between boastful works and faithful works! The attempt to be justified by works is to try to earn a place in heaven by merit of how good I am. But baptism, for example, calls for an attitude totally opposite to this. Baptism is the recognition that because of my unrighteousness, I am required to die to self (Rm. 6). It requires faith, not in my ability to jump in a pond, but in God’s ability to forgive me – “buried with Him in baptism ...raised with Him through faith in the **working of God**” (Cl. 2:12). This act is one of submission, allowing oneself to be buried in water, representative of the death of one’s will in exchange for the will of One greater!

Truly, faith without works is dead, but we must be careful **not to put our faith in our own works**. Rather, we trust in the “working of God” when we make the decision to obey Him.

- Sam Bunyard



Just My Thoughts

Praise Him, Praise Him

“I will exalt you, my God the King; I will praise your name forever and ever” (Ps 145:1).

It’s easy to forget to praise God sometimes. We get so wrapped up in our lives, the hustle and bustle of work, kids, and everything else, that some things just seem to slip our minds. Praise can be one of those things. When we find time to kneel in prayer, often we remember to ask for forgiveness, to acknowledge our sins, and repent. We also often remember to ask for things that we want – a new job, a promotion, a new house, along with many other desires we may have. However, we often get so wrapped up in praying about ourselves that we forget to praise God.

God has parted the seas with His hands, spoken the world into existence, cast out demons, brought the dead back to life, and above all else, sent His Son to die for the sins of the world. Great and mighty is He. We get so used to conversations with God that it can be easy to forget just who He is and what He has done for His people. Let’s use this opportunity to remember to praise God in our prayers, and in our conversations with the people around us!

After you finish reading this, say a quick prayer – one totally dedicated to praising God. And after you do that, dedicate yourself to making this praise a habit, forever and ever.

- 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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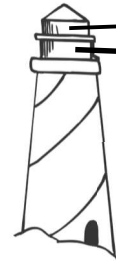
**Failure is not final –
until Judgment Day.**

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
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DOWNTOWN GOSPEL BEACON

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Fight Strong

We know the ‘fight stories’ of the Old Testament. Even young ones have studied the successes of Joshua over Jericho, Gideon over Midian, David over Goliath, and others.

And Christians are certainly aware of the ‘fight passages’ of the New Testament. “We are not waging war according to the flesh... We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God” (2 Co 10:3-5). “We do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places” (Ep 6:12). As Paul

encouraged Timothy, “Fight the good fight of faith” (1 Ti 6:12).

But Satan is a formidable adversary. He knows how to fight. We, on the other hand, are often feckless, ignorant, weak, and half-hearted.

That’s no way to fight this battle.

We are human, of course, with built in weaknesses; but God in His grace has given us the tools to rise above our frailties and fight successfully. Remember Joshua? Gideon? David? Why those stories, except to teach us that **strong** faith and courage can secure victory over God’s enemies? So the lesson is simple: don’t just fight – but **fight strong!** - *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

DATES: Mark Roberts mtg (Mar 12-15), Stevens/Shepard singing (Apr 21), Bret Hogland VBS (Jul 16-20), David Banning youth lectures (Aug 4-6).

SENTENCE SERMON – The promise of the Old Covenant was prosperity while the promise of the New Covenant is adversity – be okay with that.