

Light and Life

Preaching, Not Poetry

“They speak to one another, everyone saying to his brother, ‘Please come and hear what the word is that comes from the Lord.’ So, they come to you as people do, they sit before you as My people, and they hear your words, but they do not do them; for with their mouth they show much love, but their hearts pursue their own gain. Indeed, you are to them as a very lovely song of one who has a pleasant voice and can play well on an instrument; for they hear your words, but they do not do them” (Eze. 33:30-32).

Preacher and audience have defined roles if the relationship is to be spiritually beneficial. The preacher must effectively communicate the will of God. He must motivate his hearers to apply changes in their lives to bring them closer to God. This is done by imparting knowledge of God in a way that can be understood and followed. The audience must react to this knowledge by applying it in their personal lives and obeying the will of God. This relationship is utterly destroyed when preaching becomes entertainment.

A preacher can let popularity go to his head. He can shift his ‘style’ to be more dramatic and emotional to get a big reaction from a crowd. He may replace “explanation and demonstration” (Ac. 17:3), “reasoning about righteousness” (Ac. 24:25), and “words of truth and reason” (Ac. 26:25) with flowery language and “empty chatter” (II Tim. 2:16).

Audiences may come to value this kind of ‘performance’. People with “itching ears” (II Tim. 4:3) can value the speaker over the substance of the message – and that’s a problem! The words of the preacher should be more than “a very lovely song” – they should “convince, rebuke and exhort” (II Tim. 4:2)! This isn’t about entertainment; it’s about getting people to heaven!

We need preaching, not poetry!

- Sam Bunyard

Another Perspective

Next to Nothing

"From neck to knees to next to nothing." - From a fashion campaign in the 1960's for the one-piece bikini, topless bathing suit and 'topless dress'.

"Mini-clothes are symbols of those women who want to seduce a man."
– Mary Quant, designer of the mini-skirt.

When asked what the purpose of the design was, Quant said, "Sex."

"Were they ashamed when they committed abomination? No, they were not at all ashamed; they did not know how to blush." – Jeremiah 6:15

As we see glimpses of warmer weather that will eventually come to stay, people will habitually take more and more clothes off to uncover their shame (Is. 47:3). Many don't even have the sense to hide their shame (Gen. 3:7-8) but flaunt their bodies not only on the beaches, but in Walmart and every other public place. They go to Facebook and any other social platform to show off their body. This unfortunately includes many Christians, both men and women.

May we be clothed in Christ (Gal. 3:26-29). As Christians, we are going to stand out. We are going to be different. We must be set apart and holy (1 Pet. 2:9). May we not let the world set the standards, but God (Gen. 3:21).

- Gabel Duke

The LORD God called to the man and said, “Where are you?” And he said, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself.” He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?”... And the LORD God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them. – Ge 3:9-11, 21

ASSEMBLY TIMES

Sunday

Morning 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.
Thursday 11:30a.m.–noon
KURM 790AM

Downtown Church of Christ

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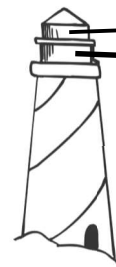
**“Faith by itself, if it
does not have works,
is dead.” - Ja 2:17**

ELDERS:

Otis Hardin
Perry Johnson
Ken Parker
Alan Revier
GW Walsh

DEACONS:

TJ Burleson
Scott Hale
Jason Hill
Chris Johnson
Brock McKeel
Randy Potter
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DOWNTOWN GOSPEL BEACON

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“With No One’s Regret”

The Chronicles account of the kings of Judah relates the brief, rebellious reign of King Jehoram (2 Chr 21). He married the daughter of wicked Ahab and murdered all his brothers who, according to prophet Elijah, were better men than Jehoram. In summary, he “did what was evil in the sight of the LORD” (vs 6).

Not surprisingly, by God’s hand, his reign was characterized by revolts of his tributary states: Edom, Libnah, and others. Philistines sacked his wealth, and carried most of his family into slavery. In the final two years of his life, he suffered from an incurable bowel disease, finally dying “in great agony” (vs 19).

Yet, one of the saddest comments on the life of Jehoram is found in the last verse of the chapter (v 20): “He departed with no one’s regret”. His own citizens “made no [funeral] fire in his honor, like the fires made for his fathers” (vs 19). He died – and no one cared.

We could contrast his legacy with that of Abel who, “though he died, he still speaks” (He 11:4). He, and countless others after him, left legacies to be honored and emulated. Which brings us to you.

Your life impacts others for eternity – for heaven or for hell. Think about that – seriously.

- *WKing*

FAMILY NEWS

PRAYER LIST –

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

Sick: Fletchers, Swims, Jean Marshall, Rai Starr, Michael Bader

Shut-ins: Billie Pennington, Shirley Cole, Susan Wiese, Virgil Carter, Ann Dosier

Military: Kyler Sullins, Sean Potter

2024 EVENTS – Apr 14-16 (meeting, David Fiddament); Apr 19 (singing, Stevens & Shepard); Jul 21-25 (VBS, PJ Anderson); Aug 2-4 (Ben Hall)

SENTENCE SERMON – Live right because you live in God's grace, not in order to earn your right to it.