

Light and Life

God, The Giver

“Yours, O Lord, is the greatness, the power and the glory, the victory and the majesty; for all that is in heaven and in earth is Yours; Yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and You are exalted as head over all. Both riches and honor come from You, and You reign over all. In Your hand is power and might; in Your hand it is to make great and to give strength to all” (I Chr. 29:11-12).

David wasn't perfect by any means, but by this time in his life he had been humbled before God. He understood that he might be the physical king, but this was only because an Eternal King allowed it to be so. David may have ruled Israel, but God **created** Israel – and everything else! David was wealthy and had won many victories, but all these things came from God. Without God, David was nothing. Even the little shepherd boy he had been in his youth could not have been – without God (I Sam. 16-17).

God is not “worshiped with men's hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things” (Ac. 17:25). Everything we have and are capable of comes from Him. He doesn't need anything from us, but He **wants** us to love Him! The thought of a relationship with The Giver of All Things should humble us, considering that all we can bring to the relationship is only what He has given us!

“Who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to offer so willingly as this? For all things come from You, and of Your own we have given you. For we are aliens and pilgrims before You, as were all our fathers; our days on earth are as a shadow, and without hope” (I Chr. 29:14-15). What inexpressible depths of gratitude are owed to our God!

“Therefore, our God, we thank You and praise Your glorious name” (I Chr. 29:13).

- Sam Bunyard

Another Perspective

Our Response to God's Grace

Works won't save us, but failure to engage in them can condemn us. Likewise, being moral won't save us, but being immoral will condemn us (1 Co 6:9-10).

This is a consistent message throughout Scripture. Salvation is “by grace through faith,” and faith means that we will trust God and seek to do what He says. Even so, it is “not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast” (Ep 2:8-9). Yet, let no one think that obedience is unimportant, for disobedience and disbelief are held as parallels (He 3:18-19). Failure to obey is a lack of faith, and without faith there is no pleasing God (11:6).

Grace, then, while beyond our full understanding, is not a “do what you want” license to sin (Ro 6:1-4; Jude 4), and it informs what it means “to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age” (Ti 2:11-14). Grace makes us zealous for good works even while we know that those works are not earning our salvation. Works are expressions of our faith as we seek to please God.

In other words, “by grace through faith” is meaningful when faith is present, and faith is present when we trust God enough to submit ourselves to His will. The danger in any work we do, however, is that we get puffed up and boast as if we deserve some kind of honor for it rather than to recognize our humble state. As the Lord taught, “when you have done all that you were commanded, say, ‘We are unworthy servants; we have only done what was our duty’” (Lu 17:10).

God's grace should spark within us the desire to seek Him, obey Him, and thank Him for what He has done through Jesus Christ. Be reconciled to God (2 Co 5:20)!

- Doy Moyer (edited for space)

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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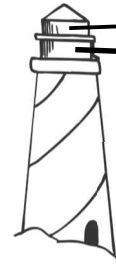
**Be grateful for the
wound that pushes
you closer to God.**

ELDERS:

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Perry Johnson
Ken Parker
Alan Revier
GW Walsh

DEACONS:

TJ Burleson
Scott Hale
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Brock McKeel
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DOWNTOWN GOSPEL BEACON

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Sinful – and Proud of It

“For the look on their faces bears witness against them; they proclaim their sin like Sodom; they do not hide it” - Isa 3:9.

My father-in-law, a faithful gospel preacher from whom I learned a great deal, commented on the state of the world at the time (1970’s): “Sin has always been around – it’s just more out in the open now”. He was right – and he would turn over in his grave to see the depths of depravity in our modern society.

Societies evolve over time – and the public acceptance of sin evolves as well. Paul wrote, “It is shameful even to speak of the things that they

do in secret” (Ep 5:12). From sexual sins to gambling to cursing and much more, sin was once swept under the rug – concealed from the public eye. But today, it is paraded before us on the street, in the stores, on the big screen and on social media. “They proclaim their sin like Sodom; they do not hide it.”

Judah paid a heavy price for flaunting her sins (read Lamentations) – as will any society that forgets their Creator. But God encourages His people: “Tell the righteous that it shall be well with them, for they shall eat the fruit of their deeds” (Is 3:10). We’d best pay attention.

- *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)

Q & A – Tonight we are scheduled to have our end-of-the-month question and answer lesson. Thanks again to all who have contributed questions!