

Rom. 14:19 So then let us follow after things which make for peace, and things whereby we may edify one another.



John 8:32 And ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free.

**September
13
2015**

REMEMBERING SERVES ALSO TO WARN

Jim Stauffer

On Friday, September 11, 2015 nearly every city and all people in our country devoted some time to remembering the horror of 9/11/2001. Every year on this day we remind ourselves of that terrible day by remembering not only the events but those who perished at the hands of evil men.

Our memories of that day and days like it are so keen, most can tell you without hesitation where they were and what they were doing when they heard the news. That is true of such notorious days. The day President Kennedy was killed. Martin Luther King Jr.'s assassination as well as that of Robert Kennedy.

Yet in spite of such memory we can soon after return to every day life and forget the value of such memory. The value being, it allows us to be prepared for such terror in the future.

Jesus says mankind will fail to use its recall of the flood with Noah to prepare it for His coming in judgment. **Matt. 24:36** *But of that day and hour knoweth no one, not even the angels of heaven, neither the Son, but the Father only. 37 And as were the days of Noah, so shall be the coming of the Son of man. 38 For as in those days which were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark, 39 and they knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall be the coming of the Son of man.*

We have been promised Jesus will come in judgment. **(Acts 17:31)** Yet we seem able to put it out of our minds and go about living our lives and enjoying the world and what it has to offer instead of preparing ourselves for that day.

What is it about mankind that causes him to procrastinate about very important things? It would be more understandable if it were something relatively unimportant. But this is the most important thing we face in life; our eternal destiny.

Consider the five foolish virgins of **Matthew 25**. That carrying extra oil was an appropriate precaution is made apparent by the action of the wise virgins. Being prepared for the appearing of our Lord does not seem to be a radical idea.

Do some people believe there will be a time for preparation made available to all men. This is not what

Peter told those to whom he wrote in **2 Pet. 3:10**, *But the day of the Lord will come as a thief; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall be dissolved with fervent heat, and the earth and the works that are therein shall be burned up.* Just prior to this verse, Peter also reminded them of Noah and the flood to jog their memory concerning the surety of God's judgment.

Our memory of such events as 9/11 can be used for even greater purposes than overcoming terrorism. It can be used help us remember the promise of the Lord to come in judgment.

One thing Scripture makes clear is the word of God will not be heeded by the masses. The majority of those Jesus spoke to were going to go the way of the world rather than follow his teaching. **Matt. 7:13** *Enter ye in by the narrow gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many are they that enter in thereby. 14 For narrow is the gate, and straitened the way, that leadeth unto life, and few are they that find it.*

So, as we use our memory of 9/11 to bring focus to the need to combat terrorism and remember the fallen, let us also be reminded of something even greater, the coming of the Lord.

GOSPEL MEETING

September 13-16

**Sunday 9:30 AM - "The Rock of our Refuge:
Navigating Faith in Adversity"**

**Sunday 10:20 AM - The Hidden Wounds of the
Faithful**

**Sunday 5:00 PM - The Journey of Faith in the
Life of Abraham**

**Monday 7:00 PM - Radical Repentance:
Overcoming the Suffering of Our Own Sin**

**Tuesday 7:00 PM - Why Does God Allow
Suffering?**

**Wednesday 7:00 PM - The Resurrection
Morning: The Victory Over Sin and Death**

Longsuffering

Someone noted that “longsuffering” is the ability to “suffer long” with people and circumstances; to put up for long periods of time with disagreeable relationships and situations. It is relatively synonymous with our use of the word “patience.”

It is the word that describes God’s patience with a world of sinners. God, he has told us, hates sin and he is prepared by his very righteous nature to punish it. But though he hates sin, God loves sinners and in His longsuffering is putting off the day of judgment to provide transgressors time to turn from their iniquity.

The apostle Peter tells us: *“The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some count slackness; but is longsuffering to you-ward, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance”* (2 Pet 3:9).

As disciples seek to imitate the love of God Paul teaches them that love *“suffers long, and is kind.”* In the apostle’s descriptive portrayal of God’s greatest commandment, he also notes that love *“is not provoked,”* or as another version says, *“is not irritable or resentful”* (1 Cor 13:5, ESV). All brethren appreciate the longsuffering and patience of God, but, as the brethren at Corinth, are often short of it when relating to one another (see 1 Cor 3:1-3).

We sometimes struggle with it when relating to newborn babes in Christ. We too often expect them in the early weeks and months of their lives in Christ to have all the character of a mature saint. But in longsuffering we must patiently work with them to nurse them, to spoon-feed them, and to speak daily words of encouragement over a considerable span of time. As long as we see in them signs of belief, indications of effort, openness to reproof, and elements of spiritual life—there is always hope that with longsuffering and nurturing these babes will mature unto the measure of the stature of Christ. That is the goal of every local church in its work of edification (see Eph 4:11-13).

I recall when I was first selected and appointed to the eldership, I was easily discouraged by the response of some to my visits and words of encouragement. And it was important to keep reminding myself that these things take time and that there were other avenues I needed to explore in trying to reach these brethren. I remembered the words of Peter and Paul and counseled myself to be “patient” and to be “gentle” in seeking to reach the hearts of weak brethren and implant within them the seeds of faith and hope and love that bear the fruit of faithfulness and devotion to God.

What is so easy to forget is that many folks have spent years messing up their thinking, perverting God’s design for their lives, and digging themselves into a deep pit of self-centered and worldly behavior. Let us not think that a few home studies, baptism into Christ, and a couple of exhortations are going to set everything right in a newborn’s life in Christ. It is easy when sinners obey the gospel to forget about the demands and difficulties of repentance.

Repentance demands an entirely different way of thinking, calls for a completely new lifestyle, and requires a commitment and devotion to One I must permit to control me totally. Bringing forth fruit worthy of repentance is no small task and if God sees the need to be *“longsuffering”* with sinners, who am I to take this quality of life lightly.

And so it is with all of us brethren. We must keep trying to teach our erring brethren. We need to call on them, send them cards of encouragement, and pray for God’s help in reaching them. Elders cannot accomplish the work of restoration alone. We have recently received the help of many members and have seen signs of encouragement in some of our weak members. Longsuffering is good, but is not just sitting and waiting for brethren to repent. It calls for patient effort to bring them to repentance.

by L.A. Stauffer, preachertrainingclasses.com

Buy the Truth and Sell It Not

One of the most important attitudes one can have in striving to go to heaven is that of intense zeal for the truth of God. Too often, people settle on something far less than the truth. Remember, a counterfeit, though it may look relatively genuine, is nevertheless worthless. Likewise, we cannot enjoy the benefits of truth just by getting pretty close. We must take our position firmly and foursquare on the truth. *“Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free”* (John 8:32).

There are many among us who, like Pilate, would ask, *“What is truth?”* (John 18:38). Many do not believe in absolute truth. The Bible, however, is absolute, unchanging truth. *“Forever, O Lord, thy word is settled in heaven”* (Psalms 119:89). The belief that there is absolute truth is fundamental to one who desires to *“buy the truth and sell it not”* (Proverbs 23:23).

One Can Be Wrong

It is a fact that anyone can mistakenly be wrong. Paul, when speaking of his past manner of life, before his conversion, said, *“I have lived before God in all good conscience until this day”* (Acts 23:1). Yet he was before a *“persecutor, and a blasphemer, and injurious”* (1 Timothy 1:13). How could he have lived in all good conscience when he had been so wrong? The answer is simple. He thought he was right. *“There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death”* (Proverbs 16:25). The fact that we can be wrong means that it does not behoove us to close our minds to further investigation. Jeremiah said, *“Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest unto your souls”* (Jer. 6:16).

Faith vs. Opinion

Naturally, study brings us to certain conclusions. All of us live by certain principles. But upon what do our conclusions rest? All too often they rest upon mere opinion. Realize that if something is a matter of faith, then God must have said something about it. We cannot know the words of eternal life by opinions. One man’s opinion is just as good as another man’s; but no man’s

opinion is worthy to be compared to God's.

You would not want to risk crossing the ice over a river merely because somebody thinks you can. Neither should we risk trying to go to heaven by the opinions of men. The difference between an opinion and conviction is that an opinion is usually a spur-of-the-moment conclusion someone comes up with based upon skimpy premises, if any. A conviction is a conclusion based upon evidence which has been thoroughly studied and meditated upon. God has given us a wonderful book. It furnishes man with doctrine, reproof, correction, instruction in righteousness, that he may be complete, furnished completely unto every good work (**2 Timothy 3:16-17**).

The Bible is our evidence. It is the truth. When believed, it becomes subjective faith. The Bible did not come from men, so there need be no question about its reliability. It was given unto men though, and designed so they could understand it when they read it (**Eph. 3:3-5**). This is not to say that all the Bible is simple to understand. There are difficult portions of it that demand much study. The matters of conversion to God and everyday living are simple and easy to understand. What many find difficult about such matters is the application of that which may be so simple to understand.

Feelings — A Poor Standard

Do not base your conviction upon some peculiar feeling you might have. Feelings are a poor standard of truth. We have already mentioned Paul. We might mention Jacob also who believed with all his heart that his son Joseph was dead, but that did not make it true. Remember, God has given us revelation, facts. Our convictions must rest upon these facts or else we will find ourselves upon shifting sand.

Conscience — Not a Reliable Guide

Neither is conscience a reliable guide in determining whether your convictions are sound or not. The conscience is very pliable to begin with. Our conscience is usually formed at a tender age. At that time it may be trained to approve good or evil. When we reach maturity our conscience alters and becomes almost unchangeable. From then on it tells us only whether we have done as we learned to do or not.

Changing the conscience then is a slow, difficult project. If your conscience were trained correctly, well and good. If it were trained incorrectly, then it will approve even when you do things that are really wrong, because it was taught that which was wrong. "Let your conscience be your guide" is therefore poor advice.

This brings us back again to the fact that we must ultimately make our stand upon the word of God. Everything is to be judged by it.

by Bob Waldron

HOW WELL WOULD YOU BE?

In **3 John 2** John says, *Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.* If someone wished this for you and the wish came true how healthy would you be? Jesus said to the church at Sardis, *I know thy works, that*

thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead (**Rev. 3:1**). I am sure they would not want someone to wish for them that their physical health would match their spiritual condition. What about you?

If your physical health matched your spiritual health how well would you be? I know of some who are feeble and unable to move about that would be like those spoken of by John. They love God and strive to please and glorify Him in all they say and do. They would indeed be thrilled to "*prosper and be in health*" even as their soul prospers. However, there are others who would die though they are now in good physical health.

Which would it be for you?

by James Hahn, From Colledgevue Bible Beacon

DISOBEDIENCE

Ways of Disobeying

Rebellion:

Refusing to obey God. In an important sense all disobedience is refusing to do what God says, but there is a kind of disobedience that openly rebels at God's authority and makes no pretense to doing His will. To this class belong the infidels and the irreligious of all classes, as well as some who profess certain forms of religion. In fact, more or less, rebellion is in all classes. God said concerning his own people, *But this people hath a revolting and rebellious heart; they are revolting and gone* (**Jer. 5:23**). Concerning His own people God said again, *For it is a rebellious people, lying children, children that will not hear the law of Jehovah; that say to the seers, See not; and to the prophets, Prophecy not unto us right things, speak unto us smooth things, prophecy deceits* (**Isa. 30:9,10**). Such people rule God out of their lives.

Example:

Rebelliousness of heart was the cause of Israel's being carried into captivity. This spirit often manifested itself as they journeyed through the wilderness. One example in particular is quite striking. They had reached the lower borders of Canaan. Twelve spies were sent to view out the land. The report of ten of the spies was not very encouraging to the people, and the people rebelled at going on, and spoke against God (**see Num. 13&14**).

In **Deut. 1:20-46**, Moses rehearsed these matters before the people. Because they refused to go Moses said, *Yet ye would not go up, but rebelled against the commandment of Jehovah your God.* Moses attempted to allay their fears by reminding them of how Jehovah had always cared for them, *Yet*, said he, *in this thing ye did not believe Jehovah your God.* They were then reminded that they would have to wander in the wilderness till all but the younger people, excepting Caleb and Joshua, would perish. They were so grieved at this they decided over Jehovah's protest to make the attempt. Concerning this Moses said to them, *Ye rebelled against the commandment of Jehovah, and were presumptuous.* This then represents the sin of *Doing What God Prohibits*, which we will discuss in the next article.

Taken from Sound Doctrine, Vol. 1 C.R. Nichol and R.L. Whiteside, pages 132,133.

Eph. 2:19 So then ye are no more strangers and sojourners, but ye are fellow-citizens with the saints, and of the household of God, 20 being built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the chief corner stone; 21 in whom each several building, fitly framed together, groweth into a holy temple in the Lord;

1Pet. 2:9 But ye are an elect race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, that ye may show forth the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

Psa. 1:1 Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the wicked, Nor standeth in the way of sinners, Nor sitteth in the seat of scoffers: 2 But his delight is in the law of Jehovah; And on his law doth he meditate day and night. 3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the streams of water, That bringeth forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also doth not wither; And whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. 4 The wicked are not so, But are like the chaff which the wind driveth away. 5 Therefore the wicked shall not stand in the judgment, Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. 6 For Jehovah knoweth the way of the righteous; But the way of the wicked shall perish.

HOURS OF WORSHIP

Sunday A.M. 9:30 Bible Study

Sunday A.M. 10:20 Assembled Worship

Sunday P.M. 5:00 Assembled Worship

Wednesday P.M. 7:00 Bible Study and Worship

Visitors welcome

We conduct in home Bible Studies

We offer Correspondence Courses

Evangelist and Editor Jim Stauffer

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GOSPEL MEETING - BRUCE
REEVES

WEDNESDAY: GOSPEL MEETING -
BRUCE REEVES

SUNDAY AM SERMON: GOSPEL
MEETING - BRUCE REEVES



What Must I Do To Be Saved?

Hear the gospel - Romans 10:17

Believe in Jesus Christ - Hebrews 11:6

Repent of sins - Acts 17:30

Confess Christ as Lord - Romans 10:9,10

Be Baptized for remission of sins - Acts 2:38

Be Faithful unto death - Revelation 2:10