

Proverbs 6:16-19 These six things doth the Lord hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: a proud look, a lying tongue, and **hands that shed innocent blood**; A heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, a false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.

Some quotes worth pondering . . .

“Many persons have a wrong idea of what constitutes true happiness. It is not attained through self-gratification but through fidelity to a worthy purpose.”

“One thing I know: the only ones among you who will be really happy are those who will have sought and found how to serve.”



February 6, 2011

HE WILL PERFECT US
Jim Stauffer

Paul told Timothy that Scripture would make a man perfect, thoroughly furnished unto every good work.

I am reminded often of our Lord when He prayed the will of the Father be done.

It is so easy to read passages that reveal the intense battle of the flesh with the spirit and come away encouraged by the faithfulness of others.

It is not nearly as interesting or exciting when we experience circumstances where our faith is challenged. Sometimes we become so self absorbed we may not even recognize it as a test of faith or an opportunity to serve the Master.

There are challenges in our lives that we must meet if we are to be faithful. Of that we are certain. But what and where are they and what purpose beyond the immediate test do they serve?

Do you remember the prayer of Nehemiah in chapter 1 of that book? In it he confessed the sins of his family and nation and reminded God of His promise to gather His scattered people and return them to the chosen land. When God then answered his prayer through the graciousness of the King, Nehemiah and certain ones were authorized to return to Jerusalem and rebuild the walls of the city.

It is no doubt a blessing of God that the King provided nearly everything they needed for their task. The nations around them were ordered to give them passage without harm. Everything seemed perfect for the task to be accomplished. After all, God in heaven sanctioned their effort. Why would it be anything other than a blessed and smooth operation from start to finish?

Lenexa church of Christ
7845 Cottonwood
Lenexa KS 6216
913-631-6519

Send a Copy to a Friend

Evangelist:
 Jim Stauffer

MEETING TIMES
 Sunday - Bible Classes: 9:30AM
 Worship Services 10:20AM & 6:00PM
 Wednesday - Bible Classes 7:00PM

Lenexa church of Christ

Yet God chose to allow their neighbors to harass them throughout the process of rebuilding the walls.

First, they laughed at them. Then they tried to interfere with the work. Through it all, Nehemiah did not allow the people to cease their work and quit the task. Some had to stand guard while others worked. They had to be vigilant in their watch and diligent in their work. It was not easy. It was difficult. And when they finished they had not only the satisfaction of a job well done, but also the strengthened faith of a servant of God who had suffered to remain loyal. They were stronger than when they started.

Psalm 119:98 says, "Thy commandments make me wiser than mine enemies; For they are ever with me." We can only be strong if His commandments are ever with us. Otherwise when we are challenged we could very well fail at a time when we were not embracing the commands of God. We cannot predict the time of our testing.

Eph. 2:10 reminds us, "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God afore prepared that we should walk in them." Our new birth is this creation for good works. He has prepared us for the tasks we will face.

When Paul wrote the Corinthians about giving bountifully to the needs of their Jewish brethren, he reminded them God was able to bless them to such an extent they could do His will always. In other words they were not to fear the future or concern themselves with their future well being. Rather, they should give and trust in God to bless them again and again.

"Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong."

Children's Behavior In Worship

One of the greatest responsibilities parents face is that of teaching their children proper behavior in worship. Children's interest in spiritual matters depends so greatly on their parent's success.

Teaching children that they are to be quiet is important, but good behavior in worship reaches far beyond this. Children must be taught reverence and respect for God. They must learn to stay awake, to sing, to listen, to participate. Their interest should grow as their capacity for learning grows. We offer the following suggestions.

Sit near the front. There are fewer distractions up front. If adults are distracted in the back (and they are bound to be), children may totally forget where they are. You might teach them to be quiet back there, but you will hardly be able to teach them to listen and participate. Make a rule very early in your children's lives that they never, never sit behind you.

Don't let your children routinely go to the restroom. The time for using the

restrooms is before they leave home or just before the worship begins. Then they probably will not need to go during the worship period. Exceptions should be few and far between for normal children. The restroom parades that occur in most worship periods are unnecessary and distracting. Never let your children go to the water fountain. They can wait.

Don't let them play. Toddlers will need something for their entertainment, but when children reach four, five, or six years old, they are old enough to sit quietly without entertainment. You will be surprised at how soon they will learn the words of songs and what they might glean from a sermon.

If possible, see that they get proper rest the night before. Lack of sleep increases irritability and restlessness.

Set a good example before them. Children whose parents demonstrate little fervor, interest, and reverence in worship will likely demonstrate little of these qualities themselves.

Pray for God's help. The task is not easy, but great joy awaits those who are successful.

- by Bill Hall

What Needs Changing?

When you look into the mirror and your face appears dirty, it is your face, not the mirror that needs attention. The Bible is the mirror of the soul. It reveals our imperfections and shows us how to make corrections. However, some try to rework the Bible instead of reshaping their lives. Don't make that mistake. When you look into the "perfect law of liberty", continue in it. Don't be a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work (James 1:25). Don't try to change the word; let the word change your life.

- by Lloyd Atherton

Trends . . .

The Alan Guttmacher Institute reports that there have been nearly 50 million abortions performed in the United States since 1973, the year the Supreme Court issued the Roe v. Wade decision ushering in legal abortion nationwide . . . According to Guttmacher, 35 percent of all U.S. women will have had an abortion by age 45. The report also shows that 93 percent of all abortions occur for "social reasons" such as a mother's decision that the child is unwanted or "inconvenient."

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