



Chalmette Church of Christ

February 21, 2010

“Resolutions of Faithfulness #2 Faithful in Bible Study” By: Barry Grider

Last week I mentioned that the beginning of a new year often seems to be a good time for people to make resolutions, determining what changes need to be made to positively affect the future. I am sure that all of us would like to improve our spiritual lives. Perhaps that means we need to become more zealous and determined regarding the Lord's work or maybe we need to let go of some bad habits and replace them with good habits. I pray that these resolutions of faithfulness will be helpful to each one of us.

If we are to grow spiritually we must study and follow the Bible. Peter wrote, “As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby” (1 Pet. 2:2). However, Bible study does not come easy to many. It takes time and effort to study God's word, yet it is time well spent. Paul wrote, “All scripture is given by the inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works” (2 Tim. 3:16,17). Don't you want to engage in something that is profitable? Bible study will profit you now and in the age to come.

By following the Bible we know we are right with God. Again, hear Paul, who said, “Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth (2 Tim. 2:15). By adhering to God's commands we can overcome

sin. In two closely connected passages, the psalmist records, “Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word... Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee” (Psm. 119:9,11). Through the holy Scriptures we can be saved. James admonished, “Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls” (James 1:21).

This past Sunday we sang the old hymn, *Hold to God's Unchanging Hand*. We hold to God's unchanging hand by holding to His unchanging word. Jesus said, “Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away” (Mat. 24:35). Surely from all these passages we realize why we should resolve in our hearts to study the Bible more. It is not just the book of the year, but the book of the ages. How can you become a better Bible student? First, read the Bible daily. Get a daily Bible reading chart that will help you. Second, study with friends, sit in Bible classes, pay close attention during each sermon and engage in regular devotional periods with your family. Third, apply the lessons you learn. Remember studying the Bible is like a great adventure. Everything you explore and find in the Bible is God's truth for you. Resolve in your heart to love and live the Bible. May you say with the psalmist, “O how I love thy law! it is my meditation all the day” (Psm. 119:97).

Humans are emotional creatures. We love and hate. We hope and hurt. We dread and rejoice. We cry when we are sad, as well as when we are happy. We shout when we are angry, and we shout when we are thrilled. I have one son who not only smiles when he is happy, he even smiles (seemingly uncontrollably) when he is in trouble (which I have yet to understand). The roller coaster of emotions that occasionally overcomes us can wear us out one day and energize us the next. Like any human, Christians are emotional people. We are emotional because we are human, but we also are stirred with emotions because we are servants of Jesus Christ.

Christians are called to be spiritual people (Galatians 6:1). We are "partakers of...spiritual things" (Romans 15:27). We are to "walk by faith, not by sight" (2 Corinthians 5:7). We must "worship the Father in spirit" (John 4:23-24). We are building a "spiritual house...to offer up spiritual sacrifices" (1 Peter 2:5). Such spirituality leads us to feel an array of emotions: revenge for the Creator, compassion for the lost, hatred of evil, anticipation of the Lord's return, etc. Sadly, however, many who call themselves followers of Christ think of Christianity simply as a "feel-good religion." The mindset among many is, "Feelings first, knowledge later" (if ever). Like the prophets of Baal, they cry out with great emotion and leap around in hysteria (1 Kings 18:20-40). Like the Pharisees, they pray and do charitable deeds to be seen of men (Matthew 6:1-8). Like Cain, they make unacceptable offerings, rather than sacrifices "by faith" (Genesis 4:4-5; Hebrews 11:4; cf. Romans 10:17). The cornerstone of Christianity for such people is emotion rather than Christ (Ephesians 2:20), feelings rather than facts. They think they can be "spiritual" without knowing the Spirit-revealed Truth (John 16:13).

If scripture teaches anything, it teaches that a faithful Christian's feelings follow the digestion of bib-

lical facts. Unlike Israel who had a "zeal for God, but not according to knowledge" (Romans 10:2), our enthusiasm for the Lord is to be rooted in the knowledge of God's Word. Prior to becoming Christians, our hearts can be properly "pricked" only **after** we have heard the Gospel (Acts 2:14-37). We can be saved **after** we have "come to the knowledge of the Truth" (1 Timothy 2:4) and "receive with meekness the implanted word" (James 1:21). We can be cleansed and comforted **after** "taking heed" according to God's Word (Psalm 119:9,50-52). We can go on our way rejoicing **after** receiving the Word (Acts 8:26-39). We can praise God "with uprightness of heart" **after** learning God's righteous judgments (Psalm 119:7). We can worship in spirit **after** learning the truth (John 4:24; 17:17). We can be spiritual **after** taking hold of "the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God" (Ephesians 6:17) and learning "the fruit of the Spirit" (Galatians 5:16-6:1).

Are we to worship God fervently? Certainly. Are we to be "zealous for good works" (Titus 2:14)? Definitely. Should the soulsaving message of Jesus Christ stir our souls intensely? Indeed. But, Christianity has never been rooted in raw human emotions. Spirituality is not equivalent to excitement. Faith is not a mere feeling. Christianity is grounded in God's Word. Our salvation, spirituality, worship, work, and overall faithfulness to God are dependent on knowing God's will. Remember. "[F]aith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Romans 10:17).

By: Eric Lyons

Stephen Snyder came forward this past Sunday asking for prayers. Please keep him in your daily prayers.

Tonight is our third Sunday Singing and Fellowship Meal. Make plans to come and fellowship with other Christians.

Kid's Korner

See if you can answer the following questions:

Answers from last week:

1. Luke 2. John the Baptist 3. Twelve 4. Joseph 5. James

New Testament Novice

1. To the Lord they cried loudly by the world they had been spurned, ten men He graciously healed, only one with "thanks" returned.
2. The choice was given by Pilate one prisoner could be set free; Jesus, they said crucify freedom they gave to me.
3. These too, were crucified on top of Calvary's hill; one went to Paradise one died a sinner still.
4. His cross was so heavy, too much for one to bear; I was compelled to carry this burden, Him to spare.
5. As the crowd followed Jesus they became hungry indeed; with what two items did He five thousand men feed.

Tune in next week to see if you got all the answers correct!



The food pantry at the Church Building is running very low. Please remember to bring non-perishable items if possible!



Cleaning Schedule

Month of February—Claudia Smith

Upcoming Events

February 21- Singing and Fellowship Meal

February 28- Ladies Class

March 21- Singing and Fellowship Meal

February Birthdays

24 Edmond Gautreaux

26 Crystal Russell



Prayer List



**Mary Jo Lance
Joe Riley
Alice Riley
Sherry Towle
Betty Grisham
Burnell Rogers
Margo
Lisa Lance
Patricia Rodney
Donny Vick
Judy Hennessee
Jessica Lance
Mark Lance**

***All of our brethren scattered
across the United States**

**Chalmette Church of Christ
200 De La Ronde
Chalmette, LA 70043
504-279-9438**

**Services of The Church
Sunday**

Bible Classes 9:00 am
AM Worship 10:00 am
PM Worship 6:00 pm

Wednesday

Bible Classes 7:00 pm

Elders

Mark Lance 504-250-8492

J. V. Russell 504-277-0251

Charles Whitley 504-277-4717

Evangelist

Mark Lance 504- 250-8492

gospelpr@cox.net

Deacons

Scott Russell 504-232-4120

Wayne Schulz 504-392-3999

Butch Snyder 504-682-0051

Mike Swanner 504-271-2465

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