ON THE HOME FRONT

Gary Colley

The good work at Getwell is unending for faithful brethren who are members of the Lord's church. We seek to evangelize as many as we have the opportunities to teach. One of our outreach works is our radio program, "Truth In Love." This is the longest, continuously-running radio program in Memphis and one that has enjoyed many listeners through the 60+ years. We hope that each member will use this as a teaching tool by encouraging others to listen each Sunday morning, 8:00-8:30 A.M., over WHBQ 56AM or 87.7FM. If you have not been tuning in each Sunday morning, we hope you will begin next Sunday to make this a part of your Lord's Day. Have you invited one or more to listen to the program? It would be good for you to discuss the topics presented with those you encourage to listen.

If you are listening to the radio broadcast, it will likely mean that your children are listening, also! This is one way for you to influence them to obey the Gospel and to pattern their lives after our Lord. We have our children for such a short time, and we are responsible to help them grow in body, mind, morality, and in the spirit of Truth. One wrote recently, under the title "Child Custody," "If God gave you custody of your children on condition that you would bring them up in the Lord and bring them to worship and Bible classes, would you be able to retain the custody of your own children? "Bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord" (Eph. 6:4). HE DID EXACTLY THAT.
Where in the Bible Will I Find . . . That a Man Can Fool God?

Gary Colley

Though many pride themselves on being able to talk themselves out of every scrape and difficulty in life, they cannot do so with God! Some have become “so good at lying” that they are prone to think that as they have fooled man they can also fool God. But the Bible teaches that a man cannot do this and that God will have the last word. We must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ to give an account, even of “the secret things” or things we thought no one else knew (Rom. 2:16). Also, Paul assures us plainly, “Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting” (Gal. 6:7-8). Trying to keep secrets from God is a foolish mistake! The Psalmist writes, “The Lord looketh from heaven; he beholdeth all the sons of men. From the place of his habitation he looketh upon all the inhabitants of the earth” (Psa. 33:13-14). Though we may have fooled some into thinking we are Christian people, if we have not obeyed the Gospel in faith, repentance, confession, and baptism, God knows. Some seem to think that if they have been baptized into Christ that is all that matters; no more work is demanded. Be sure to read Phil. 2:12-16. If we have not lived “faithful unto death” (Rev. 2:10), even though we may have kept these facts hidden from our friends, we cannot keep them from being known by God. The Bible says, “Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but ALL THINGS (emp. Mine, GC) are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do” (Heb. 4:13). There has never been a thought or action that we have ever had that is unknown to Him. This will make our judgment “just” on the Day for which all other days have been made, the Judgment Day (II Cor. 5:10). No one should consider themselves smart enough to “thumb their nose at God” or to think that they can “pull the wool over” God’s eyes. He knows us well, and we will have to answer for any and all sins in our life. Now, God does love us and wants to forgive us (Jn. 3:16)! But our cooperation is necessary, or we will receive “the grace of God in vain” (II Cor. 6:1). We must accept the “gift” by embracing the Gospel and meeting the conditions of forgiveness (Mk. 16:15-16; Acts 2:38). When He forgives, He forgets, and holds our sins against us no more (Heb. 8:12). One cannot fool God, but he can obey the Gospel and have God erase his sins from His book of remembrance. So our sins are canceled by the blood of Christ when we obey the Gospel and walk in the light (Jn. 1:7).
Lovers of God are very disturbed when listening to the evening news or reading the headlines. Evil seemingly is all around and growing worse by the day. One man who stands as an example for remaining true to God in troubled times is Noah.

Pay Attention to God’s Warnings

Some seem to view God as a vindictive being looking for ways to make people suffer. A careful study of scripture leads to a far different conclusion. God has always given ample warning of His intent. People of faith, like Noah, pay close attention to those warnings. The writer of the epistle to the Hebrews described Noah as a man of faith (Hebrews 11:7).

His actions are remarkable because in more than a thousand years of the earth’s existence, there had been no flood of this magnitude. There is not even a Biblical record of any rain falling. God watered the earth with a mist that came up from the ground, showing Noah’s actions define faith. “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen” (Hebrews 11:1).

God used the flood to destroy the earth because of the ungodly actions of mankind (2 Peter 2:5). They had marriage problems, arising from marriages based solely on beauty, heart problems, and were very violent (Genesis 6:2, 5, 11). Today’s headlines confirm that we struggle with those same sins today. We, too, have been warned by God (Matthew 24:36-39). People scorned God’s will in Noah’s day, and they still do today (2 Peter 3:3-4).

Move with Awesome Respect for the Creator

Noah did everything God commanded him to do (Genesis 6:22). His actions resulted in salvation for his entire family (Genesis 7:1). His faithful example is described by the inspired penman. “By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house” (Hebrews 11:7a).

God has warned us that the world is coming to an end. Our goal should be to tell our families so they can be saved (2 Peter 3:9-12; Titus 2:11-15). Those who live always watchful for the Lord’s coming have a promise of a crown of righteousness which will be given to them by the Lord (Matthew 25:13; 2 Timothy 4:8).

Show the World the Right Way to Live

The description of Noah’s faithful building of an ark in Hebrews is immediately followed with, “by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith” (Hebrews 11:7b). This faithful man showed it was possible to live in the right way. People of the world could not excuse their actions by saying it was impossible to please the Almighty. Noah showed the world that the way to please God was simply to do as he commanded.

Noah preached right living even while he was building the ark (2 Peter 2:5). Peter told his readers that the disobedient of Noah’s day heard a preacher inspired by the Spirit. Their disobedience led to their destruction in water, ultimately landing their spirits in the prison of torments. The very water that destroyed them floated the ark, saving Noah and his family. That water served as the line of demarcation (1 Peter 3:18-20).

Water still marks the dividing line between faithful obedience and unrighteousness. “There is also an antitype which now saves us—baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ” (1 Peter 3:21). Baptism is an appeal to God to save us on the basis of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Those who submit to baptism are not acting on their own behalf to remove dirt from the body. They are submitting to God and begging Him to cleanse them through the gift of His Son’s blood.

We Must Exhibit Noah’s Faith Today

Our world is rocked by violence and wicked acts, just like it was in the days of Noah. That great man of faith lived his life paying careful attention to God’s warnings. The awe in which he held the Creator caused him to build an ark, not even knowing how he would get it to water. His righteous life demonstrated the way to please God and condemned those who refused to obey. May we exhibit Noah’s faith today.