

Good News

From Getwell

Published by
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The Getwell congregation sends monthly support to the following:

Tennessee Children's Home, Spring Hill, TN
West Tennessee Children's Home, Pinson, TN
Potter Children's Home, Bowling Green, KY
Children's Homes, Paragould, AR

SCHEDULE OF WEEKLY ACTIVITY

SUNDAY

Bible Study.....9:30 a.m.
Worship.....10:20 a.m.
Worship.....5:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study.....7:00 p.m.

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ON THE HOME FRONT

Please continue to be mindful of our food pantry. This is a great tool that can be used to help those who are in need. Our stock is thinning out a little bit, so please continue to bring in items. In case you are looking for ideas, here are some of the most needed items:

- Canned Vegetables
- Canned Fruits
- Canned Meats
- Canned Soup
- Peanut Butter
- Other nonperishable food items

We are thankful for everyone and the great turnout that we usually have when we make a concentrated effort to improve our pantry. Jesus said that we will always have those around us who are in need (Mark 14:7). We are also familiar with passages such as Matthew 25:31-46 that tell us how important it is to help those who are struggling. The average American spend \$20 per week on coffee. Would it be too much to ask to cut that in half, and use ten of those dollars to help someone in need? Many grocery stores run promotions offering different items at 10 items for \$10. That would be a great way to serve the Lord by helping those who are less fortunate.

Bradley Smith

From The Desk Of Bradley Smith

Get Over Yourself

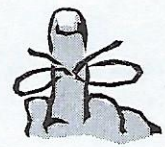
“Get over yourself.” This is a phrase that is often used when an individual is too “stuck-up” or arrogant. Some people do have the tendency to focus only on themselves instead of the needs of others. Many in the religious world are the same way. They hold their own ideas or opinions over what God’s Word has to say. If we are not careful, we can do the same thing ourselves. Sometimes as Christians, we need to be told, “Get over yourself.”

Some think that they are too good to help those who are struggling. As was referenced on the front page, Matthew 25:31-46 would say otherwise. We were in the greatest state of need in which an individual could ever be: lost. The love of God motivated Him to send His Son to this earth, live a perfect life, and give up His life for all of mankind (John 3:16). Without that sacrifice, we would have no hope. When I see someone in need, is my reaction to turn my nose up and act like I do not see them, or to have compassion and help them? What do you think Jesus’s reaction would be? Shouldn’t we want to be like Jesus?

Sometimes we think we have it hard in this country. Yes, we can face persecution. We are promised that we will (2 Tim. 3:12). What happened in the first century? They were beaten, thrown in prison, and killed (Acts 7-8). What is the worst that happens to us? “Someone called me a Bible-thumper at work today. My life is so terrible.”

When we say things like this, we sound a lot like those complaining Israelites in the book of Numbers. God cared for them. God was with them in everything they did. God provided for them. Yet, they chose to complain about the few things that were difficult for them. Surely, no one in the church is like this today! God cares for us (1 Pet. 5:7). God is with us in what we do (Phi. 4:13). God provides for us (Mat. 6:33). Yet, we choose to complain when we face hardship rather than rejoice that we are suffering (if you will allow me that term) for the cause of Christ (Mat. 5:10-12, Acts 5:40-42). If a member of the church from the first century met a member of the church from today, I have a feeling that the first-century Christian would tell the Christian from today, “Get over yourself,” and possibly deservedly so. Yes, this life may be tough at times, but we are promised that if we endure, we will be rewarded far more than we could ever deserve (Rev. 2:10).

RON'S REMINDERS



As For Me and My House

"But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord"

You've probably heard that verse, Joshua 24:15, quoted hundreds and hundreds of times. And there is a good reason why: this verse serves as a pledge for devoted Christians, a line drawn in the sand to show how their lives should be. We echo these words and do our best to stay true to the message within. And yet, have you ever really thought about who was truly saying these words in the book of Joshua? Have we forgotten the circumstances leading up to this inspiring passage?

To discover the context of this passage, we need to back up, all the way to Exodus 1. The Israelites were slaves in Egypt for decades. God, through Moses, freed them and led them to safety, using miracles like plagues and parting of waters. The Israelites rejoiced, according to Exodus 15, because they knew God was on their side. They were finally free, and would never turn away from their God who saved them.

But we know that's not the whole story. We know that one chapter later in Exodus 16, they began to complain. And then after God provides for them, they are content. Until they begin to complain again. And again. And all through-out the rest of Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy. Even Moses falls to unbelief and is punished for it.

With that in mind, focus on Joshua's message. Verse 15: "As for me and my house, **we will serve the Lord** (emp. added)." Joshua's parting words to God's chosen people were a plea for the people to stay true to God. In verses 19-20, he warned them that God would not tolerate the worship of pagan gods, and the Israelite people pledged that they, along with Joshua and his household, would stay close to God.

And the reason this is so important is that we have a zoomed-out picture of God's people and their loyalty to God. We know how their story ends. From Exodus 1 to Joshua 24, we see them go from trusting God no matter what to melting gold bars into an idol to worship at the base of Mount Sinai. From offering praise to His name to blaspheming it. So while we look at Joshua 24:15 as a verse of inspiration, realize that this wasn't an encouragement from Joshua; it was a

warning. Stay true to God, because I know you've gone astray before. He even warns them in verses 19 and 20 of Joshua 24 that God will not accept worship of other "deities". Joshua knew their hearts, and knew what they needed to hear. The Israelites had seen firsthand the amazing power of God. And yet still, Joshua found himself needing to say, "Stay true to God! Serve God!"

So my message for this article is this: **Don't let this be said of you.** Don't let you or your household only serve the Lord when He's serving you. It's easy to thank God for what He does for you. And yet if that's all we're focused on, we are going to be just like those Israelites. God will bless us, we will be thankful for a while, and then fall back into discontent. We're not focused on serving the Lord, like we claim to be, but rather on how the Lord can serve us.

The book of Job shows us what this looks like. Job is a man blessed by God, and for this he gives thanks. And then Satan rips everything from Job, practically all at once: his children, his flocks, his health. All of it-gone. If this had happened to the children of Israel, they would've turned away from God in a second, blaming God and Moses for their problems and asking for new deities to save them. And yet we see in Job 1:20 that Job, despite all that had happened to him, "fell to the ground and worshipped." God had, seemingly, done **nothing** for him. And still he gave thanks. And that's what serving God rather than God serving you should look like.

Joshua's statement in Joshua 24:15 was a challenge. He had seen the Israelites stray from their God, **despite all He had done for them**, so he said to them: "Choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve." You can continue fulfilling your own desires, thanking God only when He helps you. But not me. Me and my family are going to be servants to God no matter the circumstances. And that's what we should echo today. We serve God not because of what He can do for us, but rather because of how much He's already done. God owes us sinners nothing. And yet He's already given His Son. So take that into account the next time you consider what it truly means to serve the Lord.

Reese Harrub, Think Magazine, November 2020