

Good News

From Getwell

Published by
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The Spiritual Sword Lectureship

Radio Program

The Truth in Love

WHBQ-AM 560 / FM 98.5

Sundays, 8:00 a.m.

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

It was so good to have a few visitors with us this Sunday! We had one visitor who is from Branson, MO, but is in town for work, and we also had a young family from Arkansas who was passing through to see family. They also brought a family member who lives near Bartlett. It is so encouraging to meet our brothers and sisters who we have never met.

Please continue to be mindful of our pantry. We seem to have slowed down a bit from what had been brought in. Remember that our most needed items are:

- Canned Meat
- Canned Vegetables
- Canned Fruit
- Canned Soup
- Peanut Butter
- Other Non-perishable Food Items

Also, please continue to be mindful of our Bible study materials that are out in our foyers. We have some Bible study material that I have compiled, as well as some cards (think business cards) with information about videos from World Video Bible School. Jon Warnes, who visited during the lectureship, gave those to us to use.

Bradley Smith

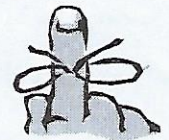
From The Desk Of Bradley Smith

Why Do We Struggle with Bible Study?

We all recognize the need to study the Word of God (2 Tim. 2:15). We believe the all-sufficiency of Scripture (2 Pet. 1:3). We love God's Word (Psa. 119:97). Why then does it sometimes seem so difficult to study the Bible. There are many reasons that contribute to this.

- 1. Lack of a plan.** Too many people do not have a Bible study plan. Do you have a certain topic which you would like to study? A particular book? There is much more to Bible study than simply opening to a page and reading from there. Here is a funny anecdote along these lines. A woman decided that she was going to open her Bible and place her finger on a verse and do exactly what it said. She turned to Matthew 27:5 and read that Judas hanged himself. Fortunately, she did not do likewise.
- 2. Lack of priorities.** We do not dare miss our favorite team's football game. If we cannot be present when it starts, you can guarantee that we DVR it and make time to watch it later. Why does Bible study get placed on the backburner?
- 3. Lack of preparation.** Many people find Bible study too difficult. They have allowed denominational teaching to influence their beliefs of ideas about certain passages. Rather than eisegeting (putting our ideas into the Bible) we should exegete (get all of our information and ideas from the Bible only).

RON'S REMINDERS



A False Sense Of Religion

The book of Jeremiah underscores the behaviors of the false priests and prophets of his age. Sadly, the alleged representatives of God were teaching falsehoods about God's displeasure with their conduct. To compound the severity of the situation, the people wanted to be religious without any expectation of the truth from their religious leaders. Jeremiah 5:30-31 says, "An astonishing and horrible thing has been committed in the land: The prophets prophesy falsely, And the priests rule by their own power; And My people love to have it so. But what will you do in the end?"

This problem exists in our contemporary world. People want a sense of religion without any real sense of becoming a disciple of Christ. Judah had a false sense of religion without the unfeigned practice of obedience. Instead of demanding the truth from the prophets and the authority of God in the priesthood, the people want to hear lies and practice falsehoods. Isaiah 30:9-11 says, "That this is a rebellious people, lying children, children who will not hear the law of the Lord; who say to the seers, 'Do not see,' and to the prophets, 'Do not prophesy to us right things; us smooth things, prophesy deceits. Get out of the way, turn aside from the path, cause the Holy One of Israel to cease from before us.'" The hallmarks of their false sense of religion are legion in nature, and they are comparable to what we see in the religious environment around us today.

Contemporary religious people want a sense of religion without responsibility. That is, they want none of the obligations that come being a follower of Christ. They want their religion when it is convenient. Christianity is a religion that requires one to take up his cross and follow Jesus. Luke 9:23-24 says, "Then He said to them all, 'If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it.'" Oftentimes, religious devotion is treated as an inconvenient afterthought that must fit into our tight schedule.

Contemporary religious people want a sense of religion without repentance. Modern religion carries with it no expectation of change. Master expected those converting to Him to change their former immoral behaviors (Luke 13:3, 5). Unlike what many have said, it is possible for one to change from formally sinful lifestyles. The church at Corinth repented from every imaginable sin and were washed (baptized). First Corinthians 6:9-11 says, "Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were

justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God." These passages tell the Bible student that real change is possible if one wants it badly enough.

Contemporary religious people want a sense of religion without rules. Some have treated the Word of God like an a la carte menu. They want to pick and choose what they will obey while discarding various portions that do not suit their view of God or lifestyle choices. Since preachers are expected to proclaim the entire counsel of God (Acts 20:26), it is implied that all Christians are expected to obey the entire counsel of His Word. God is very much unlike humanity in moral considerations.

People want to exclude segments of the Bible that they do not agree with. In our contemporary religious world women are occupying the pulpits in mixed public assemblies. They have no authority to do this (1 Timothy 2:8ff). Sadly, some among churches of Christ want to deny the Bible's teaching on marriage, divorce, and remarriage (Matthew 19:9). Many more speak to principles could be added, but it is easy for one to exclude passages that one does not like.

Contemporary religious people want a sense of religion without a ruler -Christ. Sadly, most people will deny this fact. If Christ is not the supreme ruler of your life in every regard, He is not the ruler in any facet of your life. He is the head of the church (Colossians 1: 18) and its supreme with authority. Colossians 3: 17 says, "And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him." Denying Him is tantamount to turning away even the possibility of eternal life.

Contemporary religious people want a sense of religion without true redemption or reconciliation. Our religious friends teach a false plan of salvation that is based on faith alone. Romans 5:9-11 says, "Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. And not only that, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation." One must be baptized to have sins washed away (Acts 22:16), to be saved (1 Peter 3:21), and to be placed into Christ (Galatians 3:26ff). To teach otherwise is to contradict God's Word.

Just like people in Jeremiah's age, folks in our age are experiencing a false sense of religion when they exclude portions of God's Word and exclude Christ as the King of their lives and the head of the church. Having a false sense of religion is equal to having no religion at all.