

Good News

From Getwell

Published by
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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

A spiritual feast was had at Freed Hardeman University with the 86th annual Freed Hardeman Lectureship. The theme was "The Compassion of Christ in Luke." As usual the lectureship was well planned with faithful gospel preachers and teachers presenting their lessons.

One session that I attended was "Jesus, A Man on a Mission" Luke 19:10. This lesson brought home to his listeners what our mission is and the mission of the church.

David R. Shannon, president of the school; Doug Burleson, lectureship director; and the lectureship committee are to be commended for this work. Much good will come from this lectureship for years to come.

We were blessed again this past Lord's day with three outstanding lessons presented by Michael Wyatt. Brother Wyatt's lesson plan is to give a summary of each book of the bible. When I was filling in and brother Wyatt arrived we were at the book of Deuteronomy and that is where brother Wyatt picked up. Next week we will be studying Joshua.

Brother Wyatt's morning sermon was entitled "Sometimes, There Aren't Enough Rocks." This quote was taken from the movie "Forest Gump." I believe the point of the lesson was throwing verbal rocks at another and Satan throwing rocks at the church.

The evening lesson was extremely uplifting. A lesson entitled "Life Is Worth Living," a lesson which everyone in the community could of heard. It is a sad fact that people everyday choose to take their own lives because they don't think life is worth living anymore. This would be an excellent lesson to give a friend for a family member who is feeling low and needs some encouragement and the need for our Lord. If you want a recording of the lesson, contact the church office.

I am reminded years ago hearing an old time gospel preacher preaching at Getwell admonishing folks to come to church saying, "if you're sick come to Getwell." Well if you are spiritually sick and adrift in sin, come worship with us at Getwell and hear powerful lessons from God's word, that if followed can make you spiritually whole again. See you Sunday!

Ron Wallace

RON'S REMINDERS



This Is Going to Sting a Little

Nurses always say it . . . and they always underestimate. The needle looks a lot longer and feels a lot bigger on the receiving end.

Why did they ever invent needles? After all, these are modern times. Men have walked on the moon. We can be on the other side of the world overnight. Yet they still have not figured out a way to take the sting out of medical practice. Needles are necessary.

Life has internal stings as well—broken hearts, crushed ambitions, crashed dreams. These usually smart for much longer than the kind nurses inflict. Do you ever wonder, “Why me, Lord? I’m a Christian. I walk the straight and narrow way. I try to avoid trouble and sin. But now I have been stung. Why me?” There are things we may not fully understand until we get to heaven, but we do get some insights into this question from God’s Word. Do the stings of life have a positive purpose?

LIFE’S STINGS CAN CAUSE US TO SOBER UP

Our world runs from troubles like superman from kryptonite. The third biggest business in the world is entertainment (behind the U.S. Government and the Catholic church). America’s philosophy is “eat, drink, and be merry,” for tomorrow we die (Ecclesiastes 8:15; Luke 12:19–20). “Get away from it all. Escape!” Those who do not try to escape, try to hide. Millions try to escape life’s stings by drowning them in a bottle only to get a different kind of sting (cf. Proverbs 23:31–32).

The world wants to laugh. It hates to mourn. Jesus said, “Woe to you who laugh now, for you

shall mourn and weep” (Luke 6:25) and “Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted” (Matthew 5:4). Jesus wept. He was “a Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief” (Isaiah 53:2–5, 7). We have no record that Jesus ever laughed out loud (once He “rejoiced in the Spirit,” Luke 10:21). He was angry (John 2:13–17; Mark 3:5), hungry (Luke 4:2), and thirsty (John 4:7; 19:28), but never laughing. We do, though, have a record of His tears (John 11:35; Luke 19:41–44; Hebrews 5:5–7).

It is altogether too easy for us to imbibe the world’s spirit if everything always goes our way. Our roots tend to run horizon tally as long as there is plenty of water. But we need the stability of a vertical root system. That is why God sends dry spells. He wants serious-minded people in His family. Aged men are to be “sober, reverent, temperate” (Titus 2:2). Aged women are to be “reverent,” teaching “good things” to younger women (2:3). “Likewise, exhort the young men to be sober-minded” (2:6). The word sober (sophronizo) means “circumspect; sensible; mature.” Sorrows help us develop sober mindedness.

I walked a mile with Pleasure, she chattered
all the way,

But left me none the wiser for all she had
to say.

I walked a mile with Sorrow, and ne’er a
word said she,

But, oh, the things I learned from her
when Sorrow walked with me.

-Robert Browning Hamilton

LIFE’S STINGS CAN CAUSE US TO LOOK UP

“Sorrow is better than laughter, for by a sad countenance, the heart is made better. The heart of

the wise is in the house of mourning, but the heart of fools is in the house of mirth" (Ecclesiastes 7:3-4). The word translated "is made better" (yatab) means "make well, sound, beautiful, happy, successful, or right" (Strong, 3190, 49). Sorrow can turn us to God. The person who is incapable of genuine tears is also incapable of real joy.

"The soul would have no rainbow had the eye no tears." —John Vance Cheney

"All sunshine makes a desert." —Arab proverb

"Into each life some rain must fall."

—Longfellow

The prodigal did not look back toward home until his money ran out (Luke 15). It was only after he knew the pangs of hunger and the stench of the pigpen that he decided that there was more to life than riotous living. Abe Lincoln is credited with saying, "I have often been driven to my knees by the sincere conviction that there was nowhere else to go." So it is with many people. Bee stings make us look for the medicine cabinet. Life's stings make us look for the Great Physician.

LIFE'S STINGS CAN CAUSE US TO CHANGE UP

Many have not considered the need to change and get right with God until stung with painful circumstances. The Philippian jailer went to work one night totally unaware that in a few hours, circumstances would bring him to consider suicide (Acts 16). But an earthquake came, and he supposed that the prisoners had escaped. He knew that the Romans would require his life for theirs and thought he would save them the trouble. But out of the darkness Paul's voice came: "We are all here." Thus, he had a change of heart and was receptive to the gospel. Just minutes before, he was disinterested. Now he asked what he needs to do and quickly obeyed it (16:31-34). What happened? He was stung with the unfavorable circumstances of life, and it made him change up.

We may not fully understand the reason for the stings of life as they happen. But as the old song says,

Farther along we'll know more about it,
Farther along we'll understand why;
Cheer up, my brother, live in the sunshine,
We'll understand it all by and by.

"For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory" (2 Corinthians 4:17).

Not until each loom is silent and the shuttles cease to fly,
Will God unroll the pattern and explain the reason why

The dark threads are as needful in the Weaver's skillful hand

As the threads of gold and silver for the pattern which He planned.

My life is but the weaving between God and me.

I only choose the colors He weaveth steadily.

Sometimes He weaveth sorrow and I in foolish pride.

Forget He sees the upper and I the under side.

Remember, "The crown of all crowns was made of thorns" (cf. James 1:2-4).

Interestingly, the New Testament speaks of stings (kentron, Greek, used five times). By examining these, we find how to remove many of life's stings. It is twice translated "prick" (Acts 9:5; 26:14 kjv). As one is pricked with a needle to be cured of many illnesses, one's conscience must be pricked with the gospel so he can be cured of the soul's diseases. Three times it is translated "sting" (1 Corinthians 15:55-56; Revelation 9:10). Paul explains that Christians avoid the sting of death, "'O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?' The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Corinthians 15:55-57).

Yes, this world is going to sting a little, but there will be no needles in heaven.