

Good News

From Getwell

Volume LXIII

March 13, 2022

Number 11

ON THE HOME FRONT

The Fifty Fifth annual Memphis School of Preaching Lectureship begins March 27 through March 31. The general theme is "Timeless Truth." It would be well worth your time and effort to make plans to attend some of these lectures. There is a schedule posted on the announcement bulletin board.

In connection with this lectureship special thanks goes out to Helen Sharp, who does an excellent job keeping us posted of the annual lectureship. She and her husband are two special people who are former members at Getwell. Their kids grew up at Getwell. Miss Helen could always be counted on to help out in any church effort and Mr. Les coached many a baseball player, including me, through the years with Getwell connections. Mr. Les' mother was the much-loved Pearl Sharp who attended here for years. Les and Helen currently attend the Forest Hill congregation.

Let us help several of our members who are homebound in our prayers and thoughts. Remember Connie Ferrell, Martha Hagstrom, Tom Pinner and Scott Shepherd.

How are you doing with your daily Bible reading. As a service to the congregation, the monthly calendar includes a daily Bible reading chart to aid you in your daily devotional with God's Word. Remember to study to show yourself approved unto God and man thus it develops spiritual muscles. Remember Jesus was tempted by Satan. He rebuffed the devil with scripture.

Until next week.

Ron Wallace

Published by
Getwell Church of Christ

1511 Getwell Road
Memphis, Tennessee 38111-7299

Phone: (901) 743-0464

Fax: (901) 743-2197

E-Mail: mail@getwellchurchofchrist.org

Website: www.getwellchurchofchrist.org

ELDERS

Dewey Murray
Daniel P. Phillips
Ron Wallace

MINISTERS

Bradley Smith, Minister
Ron Wallace, Assoc. Minister
Daniel P. Phillips

Publishers of
THE SPIRITUAL SWORD

Alan E. Highers, Editor

Home of
The Spiritual Sword Lectureship

Radio Program
The Truth in Love
WHBQ-AM 560 / FM 98.5
Sundays, 8:00 a.m.

SCHEDULE OF WEEKLY ACTIVITY

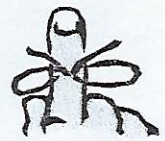
SUNDAY

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

WEDNESDAY

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

RON'S REMINDERS



Sin's Fish Story

This one is true. True, but sad.

The prodigal boy's itinerary listed "far country" and maybe under that, "beaches, bars, and brothels." He probably never read the fine print that had "pig farm" (Luke 15:11-32). His summer trip took him farther than he intended to go. Once you board sin's boat, it can be awfully hard to disembark.

Ask Jonah.

God told Jonah to go east to preach in Nineveh, the capital of the Assyrian Empire (Jonah 1:1-2). Jonah went west to hide in Tarshish, a city in southwestern Spain (1:3). When he got on that boat, he had no idea how far sin was going to take him. God sent a storm and nearly sank the ship. The mariners discovered that Jonah was running from God and threw him overboard.

Stop and think. What was that like? Jonah described it, "You cast me into the deep, into the heart of the seas, and the floods surrounded me" (2:3). Drowning is a horrible way to die; to nearly drown is one of the most frightening experiences one can have. Why is Jonah in the water? Sin is taking him farther than he wanted to go.

Instead of drowning, though, the Lord sent a great fish to swallow Jonah (1:17). Imagine what it felt like to be eaten by a fish! Why are you in the fish, Jonah? Sin.

For seventy-two hours, Jonah was in a fish's digestive system! What did it feel like? What did it smell like? "The waters surrounded me, even to the soul; the deep closed around me; weeds were wrapped around my head" (2:5).

Finally, God decided class was over and had the fish vomit (God's word, 2:10) Jonah out onto land. What did it feel like to be human vomit? What made Jonah the only person ever to find out? Sin. What did Jonah learn? Sin will take you farther than you want to go.

What does Jonah teach us about taking a trip into sin? *First, it is easy to book passage.* Jonah did not have to wait for a ship going to Tarshish—the devil had it ready for him (1:3). Satan keeps "boats at the dock" for anybody wanting to sail to "Tarshish" (cf. 2 Corinthians 2:11; 1 Peter 5:8). Sin always lies "at the door" (Genesis 4:7). It is a wide gate that opens onto the broad road (Matthew 7:13). If you remain true to God, it will not be because you lacked opportunities to sin; it will be because you had the backbone to say "no" to sin and had faith to say "yes" to God— frequently.

What "boats" does Satan keep ready?

- Teens heading to "Tarshish" find that being underage is no real hindrance to buying

beer or cigarettes – an older friend will get these items for them, or an unscrupulous businessman will sell them “under the table” (Proverbs 1:19).

- If they want to tell dirty jokes, there are plenty of people who will laugh (cf. Romans 1:32).
- If they want to go places and do things their parents forbid, they find friends who will lie to their parents for them (cf. Ephesians 6:4; 2 Timothy 3:2).
- If they want to do drugs, it is not hard to find someone who can get whatever they want (for a price). It is so easy to find drugs that about twenty-five teens start using every hour of every day of every year.
- If teens want to start a sexual relationship, most do not have to look far to find a willing partner (Proverbs 9:13–17).

Second, sin is progressive. It is a slide down a slippery slope that goes down, down, down. We are told to “live it up” – that is a lie. The road into the “far country” is always downhill. Jonah went “down” to Joppa, “down” into the ship (Jonah 1:3), “down” into the sea, “down” into the fish’s mouth, and “down” to the sea bottom. Think of sin’s downward progression:

- Walking with the ungodly leads to standing with sinners; standing with sinners leads to sitting with the scornful (Psalm 1:1; Matthew 26:58, 69–75).
- Anger leads to violence; wrath leads to hatred; hatred leads to murder (Genesis 4:6, 8; Proverbs 27:3; Daniel 2:12; 1 John 3:12).
- Jealousy and envy lead to cruelty, slander, and vengeance (Proverbs 6:34; 27:4; Song of Solomon 8:6; Judges 19:29–30).
- Disobedience to parents leads to lying to parents (Romans 1:30; Ephesians 4:15; cf. Genesis 26:7; Colossians 3:9).
- One lie leads to more lies (cf. John 8:44).
- Covetousness leads to stealing and violence (Joshua 7:21; 1 Kings 21:1, 15; Micah 2:1–2; Mark 7:22; Ephesians 4:28; 2 Peter 2:3).
- R-rated movies lead to X-rated movies; soft-core porn leads to hard-core (Matthew 5:28; 1 Peter 2:11); pornography leads to rape and child molestation.
- Immodest dress and behavior lead to lust, which leads to fornication (Matthew 5:28); dancing and petting lead to sexual sins (cf. Galatians 5:19–21).
- Unnatural thoughts lead to homosexuality (Romans 1:26–27; cf. Genesis 19:5; Leviticus 18:22; Judges 19:22; 1 Corinthians 6:9; 1 Timothy 1:10; Jude 1:7, 10); homosexuality may lead to pedophilia (child rape/molestation).
- Smoking cigarettes often leads to smoking marijuana (1 Corinthians 6:19–20); smoking marijuana leads to harder drugs (Romans 6:13).

Third, a sinful life is a turbulent life. Jonah found himself in a storm. It usually does not take long for teens who forsake Christ to find turmoil (Proverbs 4:19; 15:10; Jeremiah 2:19; Romans 6:21).

The Bible’s fish story is true—just as true now as it was twenty-seven centuries ago.