



Today's Sermons

Morning: Worship – Lord's Supper
 Evening: Lessons from Two Liars

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FOR THE RECORD

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Sunday AM Worship	51
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Offering	\$1504



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Times of Services:

Sunday

Bible Study:... 10:00am
 AM Worship:...11:00am
 PM Worship:...6:00pm

Wednesday

Bible Study:.....7:00pm

Radio Program

Sunday:.....7:30am
 "Back to the Bible"
 AM 580 WSKS
 93.5 FM

**We Extend A
 Warm &
 Cordial
 Welcome
 To All Our
 Visitors!**

EVALUATING POLITICAL LEADERS

Wayne Jackson

Jeroboam II was the 13th ruler of the northern kingdom of Israel. He reigned for some forty-one years (793-753 B.C.) – during those days when both Jonah and Amos were doing their prophetic work. His reign was one of the most prosperous in the 250-year history of northern Israel. He successfully conducted wars against Syria, and he re-captured territory that Israel had not possessed since the days of David.

During this era, Israel was very stable economically. Trade routes developed and wealth poured into the nation. The upper classes especially prospered, with certain families growing very wealthy in the acquisition of both land and money.

In view of his remarkable success as a political leader, one would think that Jeroboam's considerable abilities would have been heralded enthusiastically in the Old Testament record. But such was not the case. As able as the ruler was in regal affairs, the Bible largely ignores his administration. The writer of 2nd Kings records Jeroboam's entire regime – forty-one long years – in just *seven* verses (2 Kings 14:23-29). And this is his brief epitaph – "he did that which was evil in the sight of Jehovah."

Continued Inside

Faith >> Act of Faith >> Blessing

Hebrews 11

↓

Abelby faith

Noah....by faith

Abraham....by faith

Moses....by faith

Israelites....by faith

Israelites....by faith

Rahab....by faith

↓

Sacrificed

Built ark

Obeded

Refused, chose

Crossed

Marched at Jericho

Received the spies

↓

RIGHTEOUS

HEIR OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

CITY

REWARD

SAVED

WALLS FELL

PERISHED NOT

Nothing happened by "faith only!"

ALL "BLESSINGS" WERE GIVEN AFTER AN ACT OF FAITH

This account, as well as numerous others of similar import, clearly reveal the fact that the Lord does not evaluate political administrations in the same way that men do. Of a politician who has built roads, increased revenues, expanded boundaries, and created better living conditions, most would say – “He was a great leader!” However, it is not riches that make a great nation, it is righteousness (Proverbs 14:34). It is not fortune, but faith. It is not smooth highways, but spiritual homes!

It is interesting to reflect upon how Americans generally evaluate national leaders today. It is superficial in the extreme. We want to know this. Can he lower taxes? Not, can he reduce moral corruption? Will he generate jobs? – rather than whether he will attempt to initiate a regeneration of the nation’s ethical policies. Can we expect a higher standard of economic living? – irrespective a lower, sleazier level of laws that accommodate debauched lives.

What each citizen needs to be asking about potential leaders are inquiries of this substance. Does he acknowledge God as the sovereign over the nation? Does he seek to help the innocent and down-trodden find a fair level of justice? Does he value the sacredness of human life; of humanity as being in the “image” of the Creator? (Genesis 9:6). Does he act on principle, or is his approach the way of political pragmatism? Will he labor for the stability of the human family (the *divine* arrangement), or will he cater to special interest groups who craft their own values from the perversity of their self-indulgent lifestyles?

Any individual who is swayed more by economic stability than moral stability, has revealed a library of information relative to the content of his own character. Such folks are oblivious to the truth that prosperity is the result of *goodness*, not evil.

“The LORD *is* my light and my salvation; Whom shall I fear?

The LORD *is* the strength of my life; Of whom shall I be afraid?

²When the wicked came against me To eat up my flesh,

My enemies and foes, They stumbled and fell.

³Though an army may encamp against me, My heart shall not fear;

Though war may rise against me, In this I *will be* confident”

(Psalm 27:1-3).

WHAT IS FAITH?

David B. Smith

No small number of false religious concepts can be traced to some basic misunderstanding or disregard for the true nature of “faith.” Many believe that faith is “blind” or that faith should be perceived as a “leap in the dark.” Of course, this is formulated upon another basic misunderstanding -- that the Bible cannot be understood alike by all men. As a result, people are regularly guilty of defining faith as simply that which they believe (regardless of whether that item is Biblically true or false). But, faith is not “blind” and no step made on the basis of faith is a “leap in the dark.”

The Sacred Text is clear that Biblical faith is derived on the basis of the word of God (Rom. 10:17). And, coupled with other passages (e.g., John 8:32; 1 Thess. 5:21), evidence, discernment and knowledge are all fundamental components of faith. No man can have faith without first having evidence of what is true, but, man must also exercise his own mental faculties and make the correct discernment from the available evidence and then act accordingly. Hence, one cannot have Biblical faith in something that the Bible does not teach or authorize.

And, still, faith is manifested by the appropriate response to the Word of God (James 2:14-26). “Work” or “obedience” is essentially connected to faith, since James writes of demons to show that some do possess inadequate belief, but that such is not real faith (James 2:19). Obviously, faith alone cannot save (James 2:24). After all, who could profess faith in what God has said without performing what God has required? So, faith is more than “belief.” It is based upon the word of God, involves discernment and the acceptance of the evidence, is the firm conviction of what is true, and manifests itself in the appropriate response to what the Bible says is true.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Aug 30 – Deadline for Teachers’ to Submit Supply Order
- Sept 6 – Men’s Business Meeting & Ladies’ Class
- Sept 20 – Preach & Eat
- Sept 20-25 – Tent Meeting w/ Jim Dearman @ Greenfields
- Please give support money for Chinese orphans to Minnie Kennell
- Wireless Internet Password: 94615548