

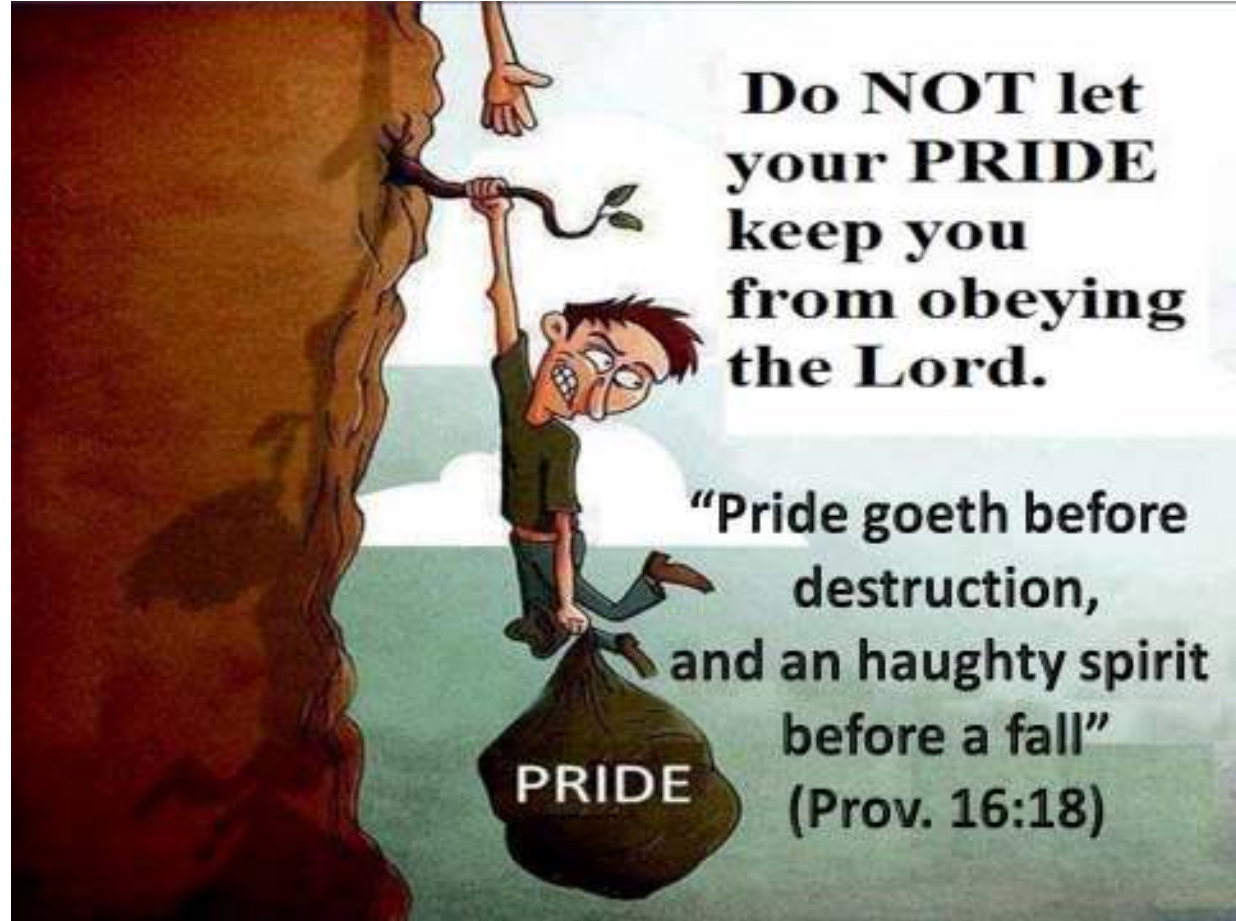
Today's Sermons

Morning: The Truth About Salvation

Evening: Service

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FOR THE RECORD	
Sunday Bible Study	38
Sunday AM Worship	51
Sunday PM Worship	n/a
Wed. Bible Study	25
Offering	\$1596



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Times of Services:
Sunday
Bible Study:... 10:00am
AM Worship...11:00am
PM Worship:...6:00pm
2nd Sunday:.....1:30pm

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!**

A DESIRE FOR HEAVEN

Wayne Coats (1926-2013)

It is the truth that no normal person can live in heaven without having a strong desire to enter therein. It is said of the ancient Hebrews that, "Now they desire a better country..." (Heb. 11:16). The country in which we live is indeed a sorry place from several viewpoints. The law of Jehovah is spurned, rejected, denied and often laughed at. The morals of the country are scarcely above that of rats and rabbits. Political chicanery and dishonesty runs rampant. Faithful children of God often despair and long for better days. It matters not how wicked this old world gets, the Christian must continue to live and walk by faith (2 Cor. 5:7).

We can have many desires but none can equal the desire for a better country. We can follow the example of these ancient Hebrews who desired a better country. Those faithful people were busy seeking a better country (Heb. 11:14). Almighty God does not force His abode on careless people.

Hebrews chapter 11 presents a portrait of those who offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice. Consider the great effort which the people expended. It was by faith that "the elders obtained a good report" (Heb. 11:2). God rewards those who, "diligently seek him" (v.6). Abraham desired the city which had foundations whose builder and maker is God (v.10). The walls of Jericho fell down after they were compassed about seven days (v.30).

Continued Inside

God hath prepared for His people a city which should be desired above all else. The city of God is a heavenly place. It is the “habitation of God.” “The LORD looketh from heaven; he beholdeth all the sons of men. From the place of his habitation he looketh upon all the inhabitants of the earth” (Psa. 33:13-14). God has provided some better thing for us (Heb. 11:40). Why will people refuse to live and walk by faith, rejecting the better things of God?

The provision of God holds in store a better resurrection (Heb. 11:35). Such will be a better place. There will be no pain nor sickness in that better place. Can we not think what it will be, and thus desire to live in heaven?

The peerless apostle not only wanted to be saved, but he wanted others to reap the reward. He declared, “...my heart’s desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved. For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant of God’s righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God” (Rom. 10:1-2). The apostle wrote, “For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven. If so be that being clothed we shall not be found naked. For we that are in this tabernacle do groan, being burdened: not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life” (2 Cor. 5:2-4). We sincerely trust that each reader will earnestly desire to inherit life eternal with the Savior. Think of the alternative.

The apostle worked and prayed that others might be saved. He declared, “And we desire that every one of you do shew the same diligence to the full assurance of hope unto the end: That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises” (Heb. 6:11-12).

“And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them” (Revelation 14:13).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- March 27-30 – Gospel Meeting @ State St. in Bristol, TN – Michael Jordan
- April 3-7 – Gospel Meeting @ Mountain City – Jeff Johnson
- April 3 – Men’s Business Meeting & Ladies’ Class
- April 10-14 – Spring Gospel Meeting with Tracy Dugger
- Please give support money for Chinese orphans to Minnie Kennell
- Wireless Internet Password: 94615548

ELDERS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR SOUND DOCTRINE

by Ralph Hart

Have you noticed in reading articles and books written by our brethren lately, the preacher is always indicted for teaching false doctrine? Why are these men still able to spread unscriptural teachings?

Well, it appears to me that maybe some articles and books should be written indicting elders who let error be taught without doing anything about it. A preacher will continue to preach error as long as elders keep their mouths shut and let it go on.

I know that preachers should know better, but elders should know better than to let it happen! If elders would stand up and stop the mouths of the gainsayers, our preachers’ problems would not be as great as they are today. There would be no pulpit available for them in the Lord’s church.

The Bible says this in regard to elders: "Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine to exhort and convince the gainsayers. For there are many unruly and vain talkers and deceivers, especially they of the circumcision; whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole houses, teaching things which they ought not, for filthy lucre's sake" (Titus 1:9-11).

Are the elders not the ones who are to see that the flock is fed the Word of God? What if you have a preacher who is giving the flock poison? The elders are to put a stop to it as quickly as possible! Do not wait a month or two later. By then it may be too late and a congregation may be torn apart at the roots.

The elders are the leaders of the congregation, and the congregation will go in the direction it is led. If elders allow error, the congregation will go into error. If they stop error in its tracks, the congregation will stay with the truth. Elders need to lead according to God’s Word rather than being led.

Elders, you are chosen as shepherds of the flock, and you will be held accountable for allowing error just as a preacher will be accountable for teaching it!

“THE LIKE FIGURE WHEREUNTO EVEN BAPTISM DOTHT ALSO NOW SAVE US (NOT THE PUTTING AWAY OF THE FILTH OF THE FLESH, BUT THE ANSWER OF A GOOD CONSCIENCE TOWARD GOD,) BY THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST.”
(1 PETER 3:21)