

Today's Sermons

Morning: The People of God
Evening: Death of A Nation

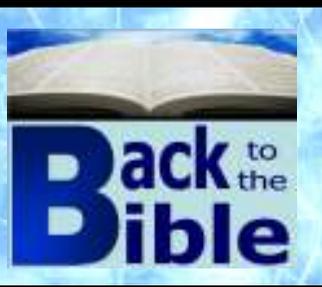
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FOR THE RECORD

Sunday Bible Study	28
Sunday AM Worship	41
Sunday PM Worship	24
Wed. Bible Study	21
Offering	\$1810



**WHICH STEP DO YOU NEED TO TAKE?
WILL YOU OBEY?**



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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 WSKK
93.5 FM

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

AFFECTIONS

James E. Rogers

Preachers who hold their finger to the wind before deciding what to preach lest they upset members of the congregation need to read 3 John 9, John 12:42-43, 2 Tim. 4:2.

Paul admonished, "If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection (mind, ASV) on things above, not on things on the earth" (Col. 3:1,2). Jesus says, "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal" (Matt. 6:19-20). It is certainly true that "where your treasure is, there will your heart be also" (Matt. 6:21).

Everyone has his affections set on something. The affections of the Christian are fixed on things that are different from those of the world. This seems strange to those in the world and they "think it strange that ye run not with them into the same excess of riot" (1 Peter 4:4). Worldly affections will bring about the loss of one's soul.

Affections have been placed on many things in times past. In Noah's day, the love of the world was rampant (Gen. 6-10; Matt. 24:38,39). In Abraham's day, homosexuality was the "norm" for many (Gen. 19). In our day, affections are placed on babies, dogs, clothes, character and any number of other things. A daily perusal of the newspaper will reveal the things on which people have placed their affections.

Continued Inside

The Bible sets some boundaries for our affections. If we will respect the teaching of the Bible and thus enjoy life here and hereafter, we will be sensitive to those boundaries as we make our decisions on a daily basis. Let us observe these Bible boundaries.

DO NOT SET YOUR AFFECTIONS ON:

1. Self Too Highly. Paul wrote to those in Rome, “to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think” (Rom. 12:3). Paul stated that in the last days “men shall be lovers of self...haughty...” (2 Tim. 3:2). Jesus said, “If any man would come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me” (Matt. 16:24). It is very easy for us to put our affection on ourselves in an unjust way and thus miss the rewards of the Christ.

2. Sinful Pleasures. The younger son had his affections on the sinful pleasures of the world when he left home (Luke 15:11-32). It took a pig-pen experience and some real soul-searching for him to realize he had missed the real treasures back home. Too many people underestimate the power of pleasure. Jesus taught that when seed was sown, “that which fell among thorns are they, which, when they have heard, go forth, and are choked with cares and riches and pleasures of [this] life, and bring no fruit to perfection” (Luke 8:14). The Galatians were warned not to go back to the works of the flesh (Gal. 5:19-21). Paul stressed where sinful pleasures will lead in Romans 1:18-32. We all need the good sense exhibited by Moses who chose “...rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season” (Heb. 11:25).

3. The World. If one gets everything the world has to offer, all he will have is “the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the pride of life” (1 John 2:16). Paul underscores the worldly affections in 2 Timothy 3:1-8. I am sure that some of the saddest words ever written by Paul were these: “for Demas forsook me, having loved this present world” (2 Tim. 4:10). The world will rob us of those things that really are good and important under the guise of giving us something better. May we be wise enough to see through the glitter and strong enough to refuse that which cannot help, but only hurt. Let us know better and do better than the Devil desires for us.

4. Money. “But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and [into] many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows” (1 Tim. 6:9-10). We could all put names on this. I have seen people destroy themselves and their families, for money. I have seen people forsake the worship assemblies and thus grow weak spiritually, for money. I have seen people leave the Lord, for money. It was for money that Judas sold the Lord! May we think seriously about the problems caused by the love of money and learn to use money instead of letting it use us.

5. The Love Of Preeminence Or The Praise Of Men. “Diotrephes, who loveth to have the preeminence” (3 John 9). Here was a “leader” in the church who ruined himself because of

his love for preeminence. I have seen this in action. There are those who must have their names called often or else they become upset. They want the recognition. This spirit has destroyed congregations. Let it get into an eldership and the work of the church is gone. Everything and everyone will have to cater to the individual who thinks like this. Jesus warned of the “scribes, who desire to walk in long robes, and love salutations in the marketplaces and chief seats in the synagogues, and chief places at feasts; who devour widows’ houses, and for a pretence make long prayers: these shall receive greater condemnation” (Luke 20:46,47).

Not only will the love of preeminence cause one to be lost, but the love of the praise of men will do likewise. There were some, even among the chief rulers who believed on Jesus, “...but because of the Pharisees they did not confess [him], lest they should be put out of the synagogue: For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God” (John 12:42-43). Preachers who hold their finger to the wind before deciding what to preach lest they upset some members of the congregation need to re-read these passages. If the Bible teaches anything, it teaches that one must “be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and doctrine” (2 Tim. 4:2). Let us love men, but not the praise of men. Remember that Jesus said those who do their righteousness “before men, to be seen of them” are paid in full when men speak well of them (Matt. 6:1,2,5,16).

(Continued Next Week)

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“Then the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations. Then said I, Ah, Lord GOD! behold, I cannot speak: for I am a child. But the LORD said unto me, Say not, I am a child: for thou shalt go to all that I shall send thee, and whatsoever I command thee thou shalt speak. Be not afraid of their faces: for I am with thee to deliver thee, saith the LORD. Then the LORD put forth his hand, and touched my mouth. And the LORD said unto me, Behold, I have put my words in thy mouth. See, I have this day set thee over the nations and over the kingdoms, to root out, and to pull down, and to destroy, and to throw down, to build, and to plant” (Jere. 1:4-10).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Dec 4 – Men’s Business Meeting & Ladies’ Bible Class
- Dec 11 – Preach & Eat; 1:30 pm worship
- Please give support money for Chinese orphans to Minnie Kennell