



Today's Sermons

Morning: The Glorious Lord

Evening: Q & A

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FOR THE RECORD

Sunday Bible Study	34
Sunday AM Worship	44
Sunday PM Worship	21
Wed. Bible Study	28
Offering	\$1733



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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!**

What You Do With What You Have Been Given
 Tim Canup

It is obvious to any Bible student that God has given to us, lost sinners, the greatest gift ever known: salvation from sin and eternal life! It is also obvious to any honest Bible student that the recipients of that gift can give it up. The entire book of Hebrews was written to encourage Jewish Christians who had received salvation not to give it up again. The writer did so by providing the proof that Jesus is better; far better! He is better than the prophets, better than the angels who gave the Old Law (Acts 7:38, 53; Gal 3:19), better than Moses, the Law Giver and even a better High Priest than the Aaronic High Priest.

Jesus' priesthood was one after the order of Melchizedek, according to prophecy, and not after that of Aaron. The writer of the book of Hebrews introduces the idea of the High Priesthood of Jesus in chapter 2 (verse 17) and again refers to it in chapter 4 (verses 14-16). In chapter 5 the writer wants to further develop this point but feels he cannot because the recipients of this letter have "become dull of hearing" (5:11), and he rebukes them for not maturing spiritually as they should (verses 12-14). For the proper understanding of this passage, it is best for the Bible student to ignore the chapter division (chapter 6) and not allow it to interrupt the thought.

Continued Inside

WHERE GOD PUT WATER

(1)	Noah Gen. 6-7-8	8 Saved by Water	1 Peter 3:21
(2)	Israelites Ex. 14:26ff	Lord Saved Israel That Day	Ex. 14:30
(3)	Israelites Joshua 3	Saved From Wilderness into the Promised Land (Canaan)	
(4)	Naaman the Leper 2 Kings 5	Flesh Cleansed Like a Child's	
(5)	Blind Man John 9	He Washed and Came Seeing	
(6)	Nicodemus John 3:1-7	Enter Kingdom of God	
(7)	Believers Mark 16:15-16	BAPTIZED	Saved
(8)	Believers Repent Acts 2:38	BAPTIZED	Forgiveness of Sins; Gift of H.S.

Downloaded by Star Bible, Ft. Worth, Texas Ex. 4:13

Having rebuked them, he then encourages them to move on to the maturity they need. The New King James Version best communicates the writers words when it says, “leaving the discussion of the elementary *principles* of Christ, let us go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation of...” (6:1). He is not encouraging them to leave the principles, but the discussion of them. He compares this to laying a foundation, once a foundation is laid, you do not need to lay another (or a third or fourth, etc). They had laid their spiritual foundations and it was time to move on to building their spiritual houses. “And this will we do, if God permit” (verse 3).

In verses 4-6, the writer of Hebrews makes a statement that has been troubling to many Bible students. Perhaps much of the difficulty comes from failing to view these words in their proper context. The writer said, “For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, ⁵ And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, ⁶ If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame.” The proper interpretation of these words is from the standpoint of their willingness to turn from sin; to repent. As long as they had the mind set of moving away from Christ, there is no salvation.

The writer then illustrates this with the example of gardening: “For the earth which drinks in the rain that often comes upon it, and bears herbs useful for those by whom it is cultivated, receives blessing from God; ⁸ but if it bears thorns and briars, *it is* rejected and near to being cursed, whose end *is* to be burned” (verses 7-8). What do these words mean? What is the purpose of this illustration? The context shows that the illustration is connected to the writer’s statement in verses 4-6 of the impossibility of renewing one who refuses God’s way! Notice the passage begins with the word, “for.” That word indicates the writer is going to further explain something just said. God provides what is necessary for mankind to live. God gives the rain. In every garden grows both vegetation that is healthful to man as well as that which is not, such as weed, briars and thorns. What determines what grows in one’s garden? Of course it is the gardener.

God has given to mankind that which he need to make his spiritually whole and healthy. If a person finds weeds, briars and thorns in the garden of his/her life, it is because we have allowed them to grow there! The same rain that brings forth vegetables also brings forth weeds. The same truth that brings about salvation can also bring about bitter resentment from those who are not willing to be honest with it. In I Corinthians 2, speaking of the revealed, soul-saving Gospel, Paul said, “But the natural {unspiritual-McCord} man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he

know them, because they are spiritually discerned” (verse 14). Paul also said, “Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. ⁸ For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting. ⁹ And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not” (Galatians 6:7-9). Now the question comes to each one of us, “What are we going to do with the gift God has given to us?” Remember, Jesus said, “Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them” (Matthew 7:20).

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“Praise ye the LORD. Praise ye the LORD from the heavens: praise him in the heights. Praise ye him, all his angels: praise ye him, all his hosts. Praise ye him, sun and moon: praise him, all ye stars of light. Praise him, ye heavens of heavens, and ye waters that be above the heavens. Let them praise the name of the LORD: for he commanded, and they were created. He hath also stablished them for ever and ever: he hath made a decree which shall not pass. Praise the LORD from the earth, ye dragons, and all deeps: Fire, and hail; snow, and vapours; stormy wind fulfilling his word: Mountains, and all hills; fruitful trees, and all cedars: Beasts, and all cattle; creeping things, and flying fowl: Kings of the earth, and all people; princes, and all judges of the earth: Both young men, and maidens; old men, and children: Let them praise the name of the LORD: for his name alone is excellent; his glory is above the earth and heaven. He also exalteth the horn of his people, the praise of all his saints; even of the children of Israel, a people near unto him. Praise ye the LORD” (Psalm 148).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Feb 5 – Men’s Business Meeting & Ladies’ Class
- Feb 12 – Preach-n-Eat & 1:30 Worship
- Feb 26 – Song Service
- May 21-25 – Our Gospel Meeting with John Daniels
- Please give support money for Chinese orphans to Minnie Kennell