



Today's Sermons
 Morning: "When I See the Blood"
 Evening: Proper Meditation

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FOR THE RECORD

Sunday Bible Study	27
Sunday AM Worship	31
Sunday PM Worship	n/s
Wed. Bible Study	36
Offering	\$1105

Are You Coming to the Supper?



THE INVITATION IS SIMPLE

"COME"
 Luke 14:17



THE INVITATION IS SOLID

"ALL THINGS ARE READY"
 Luke 14:17




THE INVITATION IS SERIOUS

"NOW"
 Luke 14:17




ARE YOU READY TO ACCEPT THE INVITATION OF CHRIST

Barnes' Bible Charts



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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!**

His Yoke Is Easy. His Burden Is Light.
 B. J. Clarke

It is ironic to consider that Jesus required more than the legalistic Pharisees and yet his way was easier. How could this be? The Pharisees required the performance of certain things without giving consideration to whether these external actions were motivated by hearts given over to God. They were more concerned with external actions than they were with the inner attitude of the heart.

Jesus required more than external actions. He required that these external actions be motivated by changed hearts. Paradoxically, this requires more, but is easier. It is not an oppressive and burdensome thing. "For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments and his commandments are not burdensome" (I Jn. 5:3). Why are his commandments not burdensome? Because we obey them in love. A song from a few years ago entitled "He Ain't Heavy; He's My Brother", comes near to expressing the thought. I've got to carry my fallen brother, but it doesn't seem like such a burden because of the relationship we have. If I were given the choice of carrying around a 10 pound sack of potatoes or my 30 pound son through an amusement park for 6 hours, I would surely choose my son. Although he is heavier and demands more care and attention, he seems lighter because of my love and affection for him.

Continued Inside

When we serve Christ out of a sense of legalistic duty, we torment our consciences. But when we serve him out of a "faith that worketh by love" (Gal.5:6), we enjoy the service. The problem of the Pharisees was that they trusted in themselves and not in God. This is precisely what led Christ to give the Parable of the Pharisee and the Publican (Lk.18:9-14). Our righteousness must look beyond the self-righteousness of the Pharisees if we are going to enter the Kingdom of heaven (Mt. 5:20).

God requires service out of faith and heartfelt motivation and not out of meritorious works alone (Deut. 30:12-14; Mt. 22:37; Lk. 11:39-52). The Jews had perverted faith and served the law out of works only. Not only will "faith only" not save; neither will works only. Micah 6:6-8 demonstrates that God requires more than external works of obedience. Works only brings death (Gal. 3:12). To live by faith, obedient faith, brings rest and life. Truly, his yoke is easy and his burden is light because we love him so (Mt. 11:28-30).

Because of the uncertainty of our economy, people who have money to invest are extremely careful about where they put their money. Solomon, however, said that there is something that gives a better return than money. "Happy is the man who finds wisdom, and the man who gets understanding, for the gain from it is better than gain from silver and its profit better than gold. Proverb 3:13-14

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"Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you"
(Matthew 5:10-12).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Sept 30 – Song Service - NOTE: There will be NO bulletin next week
- Oct 5-6 – “Emerging Church” Seminar w/ Kevin Rutherford
- Oct 7 – Men’s Business Meeting & Ladies’ Bible Class
- Oct 14 – Preach-N-Eat & 1:30 Worship
- Please give support money for Chinese orphans to Minnie Kennell

The Gift Of Salvation

E.R. Hall, Jr.

Salvation, the forgiveness of sins, is truly a gift that God has given. Salvation offered through Jesus Christ is a result of the grace of God. The word "grace" means undeserved favor. God bestowed undeserved favor upon mankind when He provided the means of the forgiveness of our sins. "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8). The giving of His Son to die for our sins was the grace of God and Romans 5 verses 15, 16, and 18 state that this grace was a "free gift".

Many sincere religious people have concluded from all this that since salvation is a free gift, there is nothing we must or should do in order to receive salvation from our sins. They go even farther to say that if we must do something in order to receive forgiveness of our sins, then it is no longer a gift. Thus, many denominational churches teach that mankind is not required to do anything to be saved or that we are saved the moment we believe. Is this the teaching of God's word or the doctrines of men?

Again, let it be understood that salvation is a gift. This has already been shown from the Scriptures. Let us note, however, that the Scriptures also point to other "gifts" that God has freely given. Jesus taught His disciples to pray in Matthew 6:9-13. In verse 11 of the prayer we read: "Give us this day our daily bread". Yes, we need to remember in our prayers to ask God to "give us" the food we eat. Therefore, the food we eat is a gift from God. Applying the same logic to food that some apply to salvation, there is nothing required of us in order to have food. We should wait on the Lord to miraculously stock of shelves and refrigerators. If we do anything to obtain food, it will no longer make it a gift from God. No, there is something we must do to receive this gift of daily bread: We must work! "For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat." Does our working for the food we eat, take anything away from our food being a gift of God? Certainly not! God requires work on our part to receive the gift He gives.

Likewise, God requires the hearing of His word (John 6:44,45) for faith comes by hearing the word of God (Romans 10:17). God also requires repentance for He is "not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." (2 Peter 3:9). Whether Jesus will confess us before His Father is dependent on whether we confess Him with the mouth (Matthew 10:32; Romans 10:10). God has only promised to save those that are in Christ (Ephesians 1:7) and to get into Christ we must be baptized (Galatians 3:27). After doing these things, salvation is still a free gift from God.

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"Let brotherly love continue" (Hebrews 13:1).