

Scripture is the wisdom of God by which I can order my daily life.

Father, may we clearly know Your will and achieve the height and depth of spiritual wisdom and understanding. May our lives be a credit to You, Lord; and what's more, may we continue to delight You by doing every good work and growing in the true knowledge that comes from being close to You. Strengthen us with Your infinite power, according to Your glorious might, so that we will have everything we need to hold on and endure hardship patiently and joyfully. Thank You, Father, as You have made us eligible to receive our portion of the inheritance given to all those set apart by the light. You have rescued us from dark powers and brought us safely into the kingdom of Your Son, whom You love and in whom we are redeemed and forgiven of our sins through His blood.

[Colossians 1:9-14 The Voice]

The Bible is unlike any other book because the very words were breathed (inspired) by God. *God has breathed life into all of Scripture. It is useful for teaching us what is true. It is useful for correcting our mistakes. It is useful for making our lives whole again. It is useful for training us to do what is right. By using Scripture, the servant of God can be completely prepared to do every good thing.*^{2Tim.3:16} The words in the Bible still contain God's breath (His life) and they are our spiritual food: *Life is spiritual. Your physical existence doesn't contribute to that life. The words that I have spoken to you are spiritual. They are life.*^{Jn.6:63} Jesus answered, *'It is written: Man doesn't live only on bread. He also lives on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'*^{1Matt.4:4} And so it is important for us to study the Bible. *Keep reminding God's people of these things. Warn them before God against quarrelling about words; it is of no value, and only ruins those who listen. Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.*^{2Tim.2:14-15} However, we should be careful to only take out of the Bible what is there and not add anything to the Bible: *Do not add to what I command you and do not subtract from it, but keep the commands of the LORD your God that I give you.*^{Dent.4:2} *I am warning everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book. If you add anything to them, God will add to you the plagues told about in this book. If you take any words away from this book of prophecy, God will take away from you your share in the tree of life. He will also take away your place in the Holy City. This book tells about these things.*^{Rev.22:18-19}

Exegesis and Eisegesis. Exegesis is the process of getting "out" ('ex') of the text what is truly there in the first place. The opposite of **exegesis** is **eisegesis** which is the process of putting "into" ('eis') the text something that wasn't intended by the author and is almost a "*blank cheque*" for you to make the Bible say whatever you want! To do **exegesis**, the correct principles of Bible interpretation (hermeneutics) need to be understood:

The first principle is context: Always read the entire passage/chapter/book before preaching from a single verse.

The second principle is consistency: Never interpret a text so that your interpretation contradicts the overall message of Scripture.

Don't be afraid of using other reference studies besides the Bible—even Paul did that: *When you come, bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas, and my scrolls, especially the parchments.*^{2Tim.4:13} But be careful not to get side-tracked from the main purpose of the Bible—**which is to explain God's plan of salvation to mankind through Jesus Christ, His Son and our Saviour!**



The heart of God opens itself to us in God's Word.

I do not treasure God's promise in my understanding but in my heart. It is not to be analysed by my intellect, but to be pondered in my heart. Therefore, it is never sufficient simply to have read God's Word. It must penetrate deep within us, dwell in us, like the Holy of Holies in the Sanctuary, so that we do not sin in thought, word, or deed. *Dietrich Bonhoeffer*



Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2024

Scripture can be more than the rule of faith—it can also be the source of meaning which inspires all our willing, planning, acting and serving in the world. Scripture’s history, personalities, stories, prophets, precepts, wisdom and challenges can all become a source of inspiration when we apply them to our life’s circumstances. In order for this to occur, we need to make time to reflect on our life’s circumstances as well as Scripture, and then bring the two into careful dialogue.

We must prayerfully and carefully read the Scriptures—not just for information but to let God’s Word mold our conscious and subconscious thoughts so that we begin to think like God.

It is easy to turn time with Scripture into a game of “*Twenty Questions*”: how to have a happy relationship, learn financial faithfulness, or whatever. A sharp line can be drawn between utilitarian approaches that treat the Bible as a how-to manual or a database for addressing my questions, and the formation of Scripture-shaped minds that understand God and God’s creation through Scripture-shaped lenses. **The latter requires patient, deliberate reading—reading, as it were, for no good reason but for the sake of having our dispositions and reflexes shaped by Scripture.**

Lk.9:44

Let these words sink into your ears NRSV

Let these words sink into your ears: ESV

Mark these words diligently: Geneva

Take these words to heart, NET

Listen carefully to what I am about to tell you: NIV

Listen to me and remember what I say. NLTse

Treasure and ponder each of these next words: TM

God is Spirit and He reveals Himself to spirit and He can reveal Himself to our spirit through the Word. For instance, we hear someone read the Word of God. The thing that is read is weighed and measured by our intellect but in some way which is inexplicable to reason, it affects our spirit. It answers a need. Listening to the Word God changes our spirit. E.W.Kenyon

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2024

Contents

18/12/2024	5
11/12/2024	9
04/12/2024	10
27/11/2024	15
20/11/2024	21
13/11/2024	26
05/11/2024	31
30/10/2024	35
23/10/2024	39
09/10/2024	43
2/10/2024	48
24/09/2024	52
18/09/2024	56
11/09/2024	59
04/09/2024	62
28/08/2024	65
21/08/2024	69
14/08/2024	75
07/08/2024	81
31/07/2024	85
24/07/2024	89
17/07/2024	93
03/07/2024	98
25/06/2024	102
19/06/2024	106
12/06/2024	110
05/06/2024	114
29/05/2024	119
22/05/2024	123
15/05/2024	127
08/05/2024	131
01/05/2024	134
24/04/2024	139
17/04/2024	143
10/04/2024	147
03/04/2024	152
27/03/2024	158
20/03/2024	162
13/03/2024	167
06/03/2024	172
28/02/2024	176
21/02/2024	181
14/02/2024	186
07/02/2024	190
31/01/2024	194
24/01/2024	198

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2024

17/01/2024203

10/01/2024208

03/01/2024212

18/12/2024

Psalm 119:161-168

Video: Mike Petzer 2023 – 19.30

Questions

Why is the name of Jesus important?

Are all the OT laws still relevant for us today?

And if the OT laws are not relevant, how do we choose which laws are relevant?

Does it matter what name we call God?

How do we know which Bible stories are factual history and which are allegories?

Does it matter if we distort the Bible stories (such as Jesus' Nativity)?

Comments

Why is the name of Jesus important?

Jesus and the Father are One and so we honour the Name of Jesus as we honour the Name of God the Father

My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand. I and the Father are one. Jn.10:29-30

I will bow down toward your holy temple and will praise your name for your love and your faithfulness, for you have exalted above all things your name and your word. When I called, you answered me; you made me bold and stout-hearted. Ps.138:2-3

You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name. Ex.20:7

I will make known my holy name among my people Israel. I will no longer let my holy name be profaned, and the nations will know that I the LORD am the Holy One in Israel. It is coming! It will surely take place, declares the Sovereign LORD. This is the day I have spoken of. Ezek.39:7-8

Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved." Acts.4:12

God has exalted Jesus and His Name to the highest place

Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Phil.2:9-11

The name of Jesus is superlative

The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs. Heb.1:3-4

We are saved through the Name of Jesus

I am writing to you, dear children, because your sins have been forgiven on account of his name. 1Jn.2:12

But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God. 1Cor.6:11

And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us. 1Jn.3:23

Are all the OT laws still relevant for us today?

God's Word is timeless—it is eternal and established forever.

Your word, LORD, is eternal; it stands firm in the heavens. Your faithfulness continues through all generations; you established the earth, and it endures. Your laws endure to this day, for all things serve you. Ps.119:89-91

God does not change His mind

He who is the Glory of Israel does not lie or change his mind; for he is not a human being, that he should change his mind." 1Sam.15:29

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2024

God is not human, that he should lie, not a human being, that he should change his mind. Does he speak and then not act? Does he promise and not fulfill? Nu.23:19

However, God does do things differently in response to belief or unbelief

"I have seen these people," the LORD said to Moses, "and they are a stiff-necked people. Now leave me alone so that my anger may burn against them and that I may destroy them. Then I will make you into a great nation." But Moses sought the favour of the LORD his God. "LORD," he said, "why should your anger burn against your people, whom you brought out of Egypt with great power and a mighty hand? Why should the Egyptians say, 'It was with evil intent that he brought them out, to kill them in the mountains and to wipe them off the face of the earth'? Turn from your fierce anger; relent and do not bring disaster on your people. Ex.32:9-12

Then the word of the LORD came to me. He said, "Can I not do with you, Israel, as this potter does?" declares the LORD. "Like clay in the hand of the potter, so are you in my hand, Israel. If at any time I announce that a nation or kingdom is to be uprooted, torn down and destroyed, and if that nation I warned repents of its evil, then I will relent and not inflict on it the disaster I had planned. And if at another time I announce that a nation or kingdom is to be built up and planted, and if it does evil in my sight and does not obey me, then I will reconsider the good I had intended to do for it. Jer.18:5-10

God gave the Law to bring us to Christ but now Christ has come we are not under the Law

Before this faith came, we were held prisoners by the law, locked up until faith should be revealed. So the law was put in charge to lead us to Christ that we might be justified by faith. Now that faith has come, we are no longer under the supervision of the law. Gal.3:23-25

However, Jesus did not abolish the Law but fulfilled it.

Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished. Therefore anyone who sets aside one of the least of these commands and teaches others accordingly will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven. ^{Matt.5:17-20}

This means that He introduced something better, something superior and something that worked! However, the moral laws are still relevant—don't steal, bear false witness, murder, commit adultery, etc.—they are timeless. However, the religious laws of ceremonial cleanliness, of Old Covenant worship and even the laws of diet and hygiene are obsolete under the New Covenant.

The Old Covenant and the Ten Commandments are not synonymous. The Ten Commandments were articulated at the forming of the Old Covenant, as the rules and terms of agreement between the covenant parties (God and Israel). Yet, along with these Moral Laws, other groups of Laws were included: Food Laws, Civil Laws, and Ceremonial Laws. We find the purpose of these Laws explained in the New Covenant. The purpose of the Moral Law was to reveal sin as sin:

Well then, am I suggesting that the law of God is sinful? Of course not! In fact, it was the law that showed me my sin. I would never have known that coveting is wrong if the law had not said, "You must not covet." But sin used this command to arouse all kinds of covetous desires within me! If there were no law, sin would not have that power. At one time I lived without understanding the law. But when I learned the command not to covet, for instance, the power of sin came to life, and I died. So I discovered that the law's commands, which were supposed to bring life, brought spiritual death instead. Sin took advantage of those commands and deceived me; it used the commands to kill me. But still, the law itself is holy, and its commands are holy and right and good. But how can that be? Did the law, which is good, cause my death? Of course not! Sin used what was good to bring about my condemnation to death. So we can see how terrible sin really is. It uses God's good commands for its own evil purposes. Romans 7:7-13

Paul makes the case in the Book of Romans, that the Law served the purpose of revealing sin, not saving people from their sin. Nine of the Ten Commandments are explicitly restated within the New Covenant. The only command of the Ten not prescribed for the New Covenant is the fourth—the observance of the Sabbath (which Hebrews chapter 4 explains is a shadow / illustration / allegory

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2024

of spiritual rest, and so the weekly rest is not a mandatory commandment). **Therefore, the Moral Law does have a place within the New Covenant.**

And if the OT laws are not relevant, how do we choose which laws are relevant?

We need to understand the New Covenant and interpret the Bible in the light of the New Covenant not the Old Covenant. The purpose of Scripture is to teach us about God's plan of salvation through Jesus Christ. The Old Covenant required people to perform certain rituals as preparation to approaching God. The New Covenant is based on Jesus' finished work which remises/removes/expunges our sin

The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" Jn.1:29

He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms."

Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. He told them, "This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. Lk.24:44-47

For if there had been nothing wrong with that first covenant, no place would have been sought for another. But God found fault with the people and said: "The days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and with the people of Judah. It will not be like the covenant I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they did not remain faithful to my covenant, and I turned away from them, declares the Lord. This is the covenant I will establish with the people of Israel after that time, declares the Lord. I will put my laws in their minds and write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. No longer will they teach their neighbour, or say to one another, 'Know the Lord,' because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest. For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more." By calling this covenant "new," he has made the first one obsolete; and what is obsolete and outdated will soon disappear. Heb.8:7-13

That means we can come boldly to God—even though He is still the same holy, immortal, invisible God.

Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. Heb.4:16

In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence. Eph.3:12

Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen. 1Tim.1:17

Does it matter what name we call God?

Yes and No!

God does not have a favourite language or culture and neither is He limited by them. His holiness and honour is not sullied by translating the original inspired text of Scripture into another language. Muslims believe that the Quran is the incarnate word of Allah and therefore it is blasphemy to translate it (although some liberal Muslims now allow it). Jesus is the Incarnate Word of God and God's presence and power is in Him and the communication of Him, not the exact text. The Jews refused to say God's Name in case they mis-pronounced it and dishonoured God!

While many titles are attributed to God in the Scripture (e.g., "Lord," "God," "God-All-Powerful," "Commander of heavenly armies"), there is only one name by which God is to be most clearly known; the name is revealed to Moses at Mt. Sinai—"I Am" or **YHWH** often referred to as Tetragrammaton (meaning "four letters"). It is used about 6000 times in the Old Testament to refer to the One, True God of Israel. Ancient Hebrew did not have written vowels but it is brought over into English as *Yahweh*. Some translations today call God "*Yahweh*" or "*Jehovah*" (which uses the latinized consonants of **YHWH** to make **JHVH** and adds the vowels of *Adonai*, one of the Hebrew titles for God, often translated "Lord." Today most Bible translations render the divine name as **LORD** (note:

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2024

the word is in all caps). The capitalization of each letter signals the reader that the word refers to God's name and is not just a title of reverence and honour.

The name YHWH is God's covenant name and was revealed to Moses at Mt. Sinai

Moses said to God, "Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' Then what shall I tell them?" God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I AM [YHWH] has sent me to you.' " God also said to Moses, "Say to the Israelites, 'The LORD [Adonai], the God [Elohim] of your fathers—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob—has sent me to you.' "This is my name forever, the name you shall call me from generation to generation. Exodus 3:13-15).

How do we know which Bible stories are factual history and which are allegories?

Some of the Bible stories, including factual history events, are also allegories but all of the Bible is for our edification, exhortation and encouragement.

*And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts; knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God * spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit. 2Pet.1:19-21*

the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work. 2Tim.3:15-17

But the one who prophesies speaks to people for their strengthening, encouraging and comfort... but the one who prophesies edifies the church. 1Cor.14:3-4

Now these things occurred as examples to keep us from setting our hearts on evil things as they did. Do not be idolaters, as some of them were; as it is written: "The people sat down to eat and drink and got up to indulge in pagan revelry." We should not commit sexual immorality, as some of them did—and in one day twenty-three thousand of them died. We should not test the Lord, as some of them did—and were killed by snakes. And do not grumble, as some of them did—and were killed by the destroying angel. These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the fulfilment of the ages has come. 1Cor.10:6-11

For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by the slave woman and the other by the free woman. His son by the slave woman was born according to the flesh, but his son by the free woman was born as the result of a divine promise.

These things are being taken figuratively [as an allegory]: The women represent two covenants. One covenant is from Mount Sinai and bears children who are to be slaves: This is Hagar. Now Hagar stands for Mount Sinai in Arabia and corresponds to the present city of Jerusalem, because she is in slavery with her children. But the Jerusalem that is above is free, and she is our mother. Gal.4:22-26

Does it matter if we distort the Bible stories (such as Jesus' Nativity)?

Yes! If we make stories up about Bible events (especially the crucial events around Jesus' conception, birth, life, death, resurrection and ascension), Jesus is no longer the truth but an idea that we can take or leave, accept or reject. This is a matter of life and death for us if Jesus told the truth about how we are saved. Many of the Christmas carols are sentimental songs that have little to do with our salvation. Some of the carols and culture have a bit of legend, myth, sentiment and truth (which can then distort or even negate the truth). However, we should be able to differentiate between the fact and fiction and what is Christian and what is secular. Although Father Christmas has his origins in Christianity, there is little or no Christianity left in him now—and most of the sentiment around him is anti-Christian (at least, anti-faith) such as make a wish; if you believe hard enough you'll get it; keeping a list of good; flying through the air with reindeers; coming down the chimney etc.! But we all have God-created imaginations and we don't have to be factually literal about everything—even John Bunyan had a vivid imagination when he wrote his allegory stories of Pilgrim!

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2024

11/12/2024

Questions

What is the difference between the Son of God (Jesus) and sons of God (Christians)? *(Some people did accept him. They believed in his name. He gave them the right to become children of God.^{Jn.1:12})*

Why can we say that we are holy when we are not sinless? *(But now He has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in His sight, without blemish and free from accusation.^{Col.1:22})*

What power does God's Word have? *(no word of God is void of power^{Lk.1.37})*

How is Christ in a Believer? *(Christ in you, the hope of glory.^{Col.1:27})*

04/12/2024

Psalm 119:153-160

Questions

What makes prayer effective?

Are planned prayers more effective than quick prayers?

What was John the Baptist's ministry?

Why did John say he wasn't Elijah but Jesus did say he was Elijah?

Why was John the Baptist the greatest of the OT prophets?

What makes us greater than John the Baptist?

Comments

What makes prayer effective?

Being righteous

Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise. Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective. Elijah was a human being, even as we are. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years. Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops. Jas.5:13-18

Elijah did not live in total victory over his senses—he was suicidal after he prayed! However he did believe God; he was a prophet—a seer, who saw into the spiritual world—but he was Old Covenant. We have much, much more under the New Covenant. We have better Covenant, better premises, better promises, better hope,

Are planned prayers more effective than quick prayers?

No! Prayers from righteous people are effective—righteousness is imputed and imparted

But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith. Phil.3:7-9

What then shall we say that Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh, discovered in this matter? If, in fact, Abraham was justified by works, he had something to boast about—but not before God. What does Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness." Now to the one who works, wages are not credited as a gift but as an obligation. However, to the one who does not work but trusts God who justifies the ungodly, their faith is credited as righteousness. David says the same thing when he speaks of the blessedness of the one to whom God credits righteousness apart from works: "Blessed are those whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. Blessed is the one whose sin the Lord will never count against them." Rom.4:1-8

It was not through the law that Abraham and his offspring received the promise that he would be heir of the world, but through the righteousness that comes by faith. For if those who depend on the law are heirs, faith means nothing and the promise is worthless, because the law brings wrath. And where there is no law there is no transgression. Therefore, the promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed to all Abraham's offspring—not only to those who are of the law but also to those who have the faith of Abraham. He is the father of us all. Rom.4:13-16

"He himself bore our sins" in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; "by his wounds you have been healed." For "you were like sheep going astray," but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls. 1Pet.2:24-25

Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2024

of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. Eph.6:14-18

*We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. God made him who had no sin to be sin *for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.* 2Cor.5:20-21

Prayers of the unrighteous are not effective

If anyone turns a deaf ear to my instruction, even their prayers are detestable. ^{Pron.28:9}

The LORD detests the sacrifice of the wicked, but the prayer of the upright pleases him. ^{Pron.15:8}

The world is full of so-called prayer warriors who are prayer-ignorant. They're full of formulas and programs and advice, peddling techniques for getting what you want from God. Don't fall for that nonsense. This is your Father you are dealing with, and he knows better than you what you need. With a God like this loving you, you can pray very simply. Like this: Our Father in heaven, Reveal who you are... ^{Matt.6:7-9}

The man answered, 'Now that is remarkable! You don't know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners. He listens to the godly man who does his will. Nobody has ever heard of opening the eyes of a man born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.' Jn.9:30-33

It is not how many people pray or how long they pray but whether they are Believers

The world is full of so-called prayer warriors who are prayer-ignorant. They're full of formulas and programs and advice, peddling techniques for getting what you want from God. Don't fall for that nonsense. This is your Father you are dealing with, and he knows better than you what you need. With a God like this loving you, you can pray very simply. Like this: Our Father in heaven, Reveal who you are... ^{Matt.6:7-9}

What was John the Baptist's ministry?

To prepare the way for the Messiah

during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet: A voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him. Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill made low. The crooked roads shall become straight, the rough ways smooth. And all people will see God's salvation.' " John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. The axe is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire." ...John answered them all, "I baptize you with water. But one who is more powerful than I will come, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire." And with many other words John exhorted the people and proclaimed the good news to them Lk.3:1-9;16-18

Meanwhile a Jew named Apollos, a native of Alexandria, came to Ephesus. He was a learned man, with a thorough knowledge of the Scriptures. He had been instructed in the way of the Lord, and he spoke with great fervour and taught about Jesus accurately, though he knew only the baptism of John. He began to speak boldly in the synagogue. When Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they invited him to their home and explained to him the way of God more adequately.

When Apollos wanted to go to Achaia, the brothers and sisters encouraged him and wrote to the disciples there to welcome him. When he arrived, he was a great help to those who by grace had believed. For he vigorously refuted his Jewish opponents in public debate, proving from the Scriptures that Jesus was the Messiah.

While Apollos was at Corinth, Paul took the road through the interior and arrived at Ephesus. There he found some disciples and asked them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" They answered, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." So Paul asked, "Then what baptism did you receive?" "John's baptism," they replied. Paul said, "John's baptism was a baptism of repentance. He told the people to believe in the one coming after him, that is, in Jesus." On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul placed his

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2024

hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied. There were about twelve men in all. Acts.18:24-19:7

Why did John say he wasn't Elijah but Jesus did say he was Elijah?

Some people thought Elijah would come back to life and so John insisted that he was John the son of Zechariah and Elizabeth not Elijah the Tishbite.

The Jews of Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask John who he was. John gave witness to them. He did not try to hide the truth. He spoke to them openly. He said, "I am not the Christ." They asked him, "Then who are you? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet we've been expecting?" they asked. "No," he answered. They asked one last time, "Who are you? Give us an answer to take back to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" John replied, using the words of Isaiah the prophet. John said, "I'm the messenger who is calling out in the desert, 'Make the way for the Lord straight.'" Some Pharisees who had been sent asked him, "If you are not the Christ, why are you baptizing people? Why are you doing that if you aren't Elijah or the Prophet we've been expecting?" "I baptize people with water," John replied. "But One is standing among you whom you do not know. He is the One who comes after me. I am not good enough to untie his sandals."^{John.1:19-27}

However, although John was not the literal prophet Elijah from the OT (who had been dead for 100's of years), he was the Elijah that Malachi prophesied about (many prophesies contain symbolic descriptions and so should not necessarily be interpreted literally—especially the Book of Revelations):

As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus instructed them, "Don't tell anyone what you have seen, until the Son of Man has been raised from the dead." The disciples asked him, "Why then do the teachers of the law say that Elijah must come first?" Jesus replied, "To be sure, Elijah comes and will restore all things. But I tell you, Elijah has already come, and they did not recognize him, but have done to him everything they wished. In the same way the Son of Man is going to suffer at their hands." Then the disciples understood that he was talking to them about John the Baptist.^{Matt.17:9-13}

From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven has been subjected to violence, and violent people have been raiding it. For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John. And if you are willing to accept it, he is the Elijah who was to come. Whoever has ears, let them hear.

[Since the days of John the Baptist, the kingdom of heaven has been advancing with force. And forceful people are taking hold of it. All the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John came—For a long time now people have tried to force themselves into God's kingdom. But if you read the books of the Prophets and God's Law closely, you will see them culminate in John, teaming up with him in preparing the way for the Messiah of the kingdom.]^{Matt.11:12-15}

Why was John the Baptist the greatest of the OT prophets?

John was the last and so there were no more OT prophets to come but also he was the one who prepared the way for the Messiah who would usher in the New Covenant

Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to call him John. He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord.^{Lk.1:14-15}

*His father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied: "Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has come to his people and redeemed them. He has raised up a horn * of salvation for us in the house of his servant David (as he said through his holy prophets of long ago), salvation from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us—to show mercy to our ancestors and to remember his holy covenant, the oath he swore to our father Abraham: to rescue us from the hand of our enemies, and to enable us to serve him without fear in holiness and righteousness before him all our days. And you, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High; for you will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for him, to give his people the knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of their sins, because of the tender mercy of our God, by which the rising sun will come to us from heaven to shine on those living in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the path of peace." And the child grew and became strong in spirit and he lived in the wilderness until he appeared publicly to Israel. Lk.1:67-80*

What makes us greater than John the Baptist?

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2024

Truly I tell you, among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet whoever is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.^{Matt.11:11}

The Old Covenant saints never received the fulfilment of God's promises until Jesus came and we could join them.

All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance, admitting that they were foreigners and strangers on earth. People who say such things show that they are looking for a country of their own. If they had been thinking of the country they had left, they would have had opportunity to return. Instead, they were longing for a better country—a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them. ... These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised, since God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect. Heb.11:13-16;39

Now the Kingdom of God has come, we have a better covenant:

Because of this oath, Jesus has become the guarantor of a better covenant.^{Heb.7:22}

In the New Covenant, our sins are forgiven, eradicated, remitted, removed

Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. He told them, "This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance and remission [forgiveness] of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things."^{Lk.24:45-48}

Our conscience is cleaned:

As I urged you when I went into Macedonia, stay there in Ephesus so that you may command certain people not to teach false doctrines any longer or to devote themselves to myths and endless genealogies. Such things promote controversial speculations rather than advancing God's work—which is by faith. The goal of this command is love, which comes from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith. Some have departed from these and have turned to meaningless talk. They want to be teachers of the law, but they do not know what they are talking about or what they so confidently affirm. 1Tim.1:3-7

The Holy Spirit was showing by this that the way into the Most Holy Place had not yet been disclosed as long as the first tabernacle was still functioning. This is an illustration for the present time, indicating that the gifts and sacrifices being offered were not able to clear the conscience of the worshiper. They are only a matter of food and drink and various ceremonial washings—external regulations applying until the time of the new order. But when Christ came as high priest of the good things that are now already here, he went through the greater and more perfect tabernacle that is not made with human hands, that is to say, is not a part of this creation. He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves; but he entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood, thus obtaining eternal redemption. The blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkled on those who are ceremonially unclean sanctify them so that they are outwardly clean. How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God! For this reason Christ is the mediator of a new covenant, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance—now that he has died as a ransom to set them free from the sins committed under the first covenant. Heb.9:8-15

In the New Covenant, Jesus never leaves us:

And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.^{Matt.28:20} And the Holy Spirit never leaves us either: *It's in Christ that you, once you heard the truth and believed it (this Message of your salvation), found yourselves home free—signed, sealed, and delivered by the Holy Spirit. This signet from God is the first instalment on what's coming, a reminder that we'll get everything God has planned for us, a praising and glorious life.*^{Eph.1:13-14}

In the New Covenant we have better promises:

But in fact the ministry Jesus has received is as superior to theirs as the covenant of which he is mediator is superior to the old one, since the new covenant is established on better promises.^{Heb.8:6}

In the New Covenant we have a better hope:

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2024

For it is declared: "You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek." The former regulation is set aside because it was weak and useless (for the law made nothing perfect), and a better hope is introduced, by which we draw near to God.^{Heb.7:17-19}

John preached a baptism of repentance:

And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.^{Mk.1:4}

We have a baptism of the Holy Spirit:

The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! This is the one I meant when I said, 'A man who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.' I myself did not know him, but the reason I came baptizing with water was that he might be revealed to Israel."

Then John gave this testimony: "I saw the Spirit come down from heaven as a dove and remain on him. I would not have known him, except that the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, 'The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and remain is he who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.' I have seen and I testify that this is the Son of God."^{Jn.1:29-34}

The Baptism of the Holy Spirit is the power of God in the Person of the Holy Spirit, who gives us the ability to be Jesus' witness and also to counsel us, to explain Jesus to us and to lead us into God's truth.

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.^{Acts.1:8}

When the Counsellor comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father, he will testify about me.^{Jn.15:26}

I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth.^{Jn.16:12-13}

Jesus said that the Holy Spirit would gush out of Believers—which is one of the ways that true Believers can be identified:

On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them."

By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.^{Jn.7:37-39}

27/11/2024

Video: Mike Petzer 55

Psalm 119:145-152

Questions

Why do we have difficulties?

What value does fasting have?

How do we feast from the abundance of God's house?

What can we learn from the way Esther saved Israel?

Do our words affect the way we live?

Comments

Why do we have difficulties?

Sin

Jesus told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and went away. When the wheat sprouted and formed heads, then the weeds also appeared. "The owner's servants came to him and said, 'Sir, didn't you sow good seed in your field? Where then did the weeds come from?' " "An enemy did this," he replied. "The servants asked him, 'Do you want us to go and pull them up?' " "No," he answered, 'because while you are pulling the weeds, you may uproot the wheat with them. Let both grow together until the harvest. At that time I will tell the harvesters: First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned; then gather the wheat and bring it into my barn.' " Matt.13:24-30

Flesh (natural heart)

Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world. The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever. 1Jn.2:15-17
As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath. But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. Eph.2:1-5

Character building (develop/strengthen our faith)

*Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, * whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. Such a person is double-minded and unstable in all they do. Jas.1:2-8*

In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed. 1Pet.1:6-7

His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires. For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love. For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But whoever does not have them is nearsighted and blind, forgetting that they have been cleansed from their past sins. 2Pet.1:3-9

What value does fasting have?

Obedience (if God tells you to fast, then you should)

Jesus replied, "My time has not yet come." His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." Jn.2:4-5
Then the word of the LORD Almighty came to me: "Ask all the people of the land and the priests, 'When you fasted and mourned in the fifth and seventh months for the past seventy years, was it really for me that you fasted? And when you were eating and drinking, were you not just feasting for yourselves? Are these not the words the LORD proclaimed through the earlier prophets when Jerusalem and its surrounding towns were at rest and prosperous, and the Negev and the western foothills were settled?'"

And the word of the LORD came again to Zechariah: "This is what the LORD Almighty says: 'Administer true justice; show mercy and compassion to one another. Do not oppress the widow or the fatherless, the alien or the poor. In your hearts do not think evil of each other.'

"But they refused to pay attention; stubbornly they turned their backs and stopped up their ears. They made their hearts as hard as flint and would not listen to the law or to the words that the LORD Almighty had sent by his Spirit through the earlier prophets. So the LORD Almighty was very angry.

Zech.7:4-12

OT fast was sometimes to get God's attention and persuade Him to hear their prayer

David noticed that his servants were whispering among themselves and he realized the child was dead. "Is the child dead?" he asked. "Yes," they replied, "he is dead." Then David got up from the ground. After he had washed, put on lotions and changed his clothes, he went into the house of the LORD and worshiped. Then he went to his own house, and at his request they served him food, and he ate. His servants asked him, "Why are you acting this way? While the child was alive, you fasted and wept, but now that the child is dead, you get up and eat!" He answered, "While the child was still alive, I fasted and wept. I thought, 'Who knows? The LORD may be gracious to me and let the child live.' But now that he is dead, why should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I will go to him, but he will not return to me." 2Sam.12:19-23

There, by the Abava Canal, I proclaimed a fast, so that we might humble ourselves before our God and ask him for a safe journey for us and our children, with all our possessions. I was ashamed to ask the king for soldiers and horsemen to protect us from enemies on the road, because we had told the king, "The gracious hand of our God is on everyone who looks to him, but his great anger is against all who forsake him." So we fasted and petitioned our God about this, and he answered our prayer. Ezra 8:21-23

In the NT only faith gets God's attention

You who are trying to be justified by law have been alienated from Christ; you have fallen away from grace. But by faith we eagerly await through the Spirit the righteousness for which we hope. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love. Gal.5:4-5

In the OT fasting was part of repentance from rebellion and unbelief.

The priests are in mourning, those who minister before the LORD. The fields are ruined, the ground is dried up; the grain is destroyed, the new wine is dried up, the olive oil fails. Despair, you farmers, wail, you vine growers; grieve for the wheat and the barley, because the harvest of the field is destroyed. The vine is dried up and the fig tree is withered; the pomegranate, the palm and the apple tree—all the trees of the field—are dried up. Surely the people's joy is withered away. Put on sackcloth, you priests, and mourn; wail, you who minister before the altar. Come, spend the night in sackcloth, you who minister before my God; for the grain offerings and drink offerings are withheld from the house of your God. Declare a holy fast; call a sacred assembly. Summon the elders and all who live in the land to the house of the LORD your God, and cry out to the LORD. Alas for that day! For the day of the LORD is near; it will come like destruction from the Almighty. Has not the food been cut off before our very eyes—joy and gladness from the house of our God? The seeds are shrivelled beneath the clods. The storehouses are in ruins, the granaries have been broken down, for the grain has dried up. How the cattle moan! The herds mill about because they have no pasture; even the flocks of sheep are suffering. To you, LORD, I call, for fire has devoured the pastures in the wilderness and flames have burned up all the trees of the field. Even the wild animals pant for you; the streams of water have dried up and fire has devoured the pastures in the wilderness. Joel.1:9-20

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2024

The LORD thunders at the head of his army; his forces are beyond number, and mighty is the army that obeys his command. The day of the LORD is great; it is dreadful. Who can endure it? "Even now," declares the LORD, "return to me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning." Rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love, and he relents from sending calamity. Who knows? He may turn and relent and leave behind a blessing— grain offerings and drink offerings for the LORD your God. Blow the trumpet in Zion, declare a holy fast, call a sacred assembly. Gather the people, consecrate the assembly; bring together the elders, gather the children, those nursing at the breast. Let the bridegroom leave his room and the bride her chamber. Let the priests, who minister before the LORD, weep between the portico and the altar. Let them say, "Spare your people, LORD. Do not make your inheritance an object of scorn, a byword among the nations. Why should they say among the peoples, 'Where is their God?' " Joel.2:11-17 and as they had established for themselves and their descendants in regard to their times of fasting and lamentation. Esther's decree confirmed these regulations about Purim, and it was written down in the records. Esth.9:27

In the NT our sins have been paid for and after conversion, we have direct access to God without any ceremony ritual.

However we still need to focus on God—with or without food. Believers are not (at least should not) be living in out-right rebellion. Our weaknesses are covered by God's grace. If a Christian is living in out-right rebellion, going without food will not put it right—they need to repent (and repent quickly!)

If we sin, we have Jesus to make things right for us

My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defence—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world. 1Jn.2:1-2

Fasting in public is of no value

"When you fast, do not look sombre as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show others they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that it will not be obvious to others that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen; and your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. Matt.6:16-18

Food—either eating or not eating—does not make us more spiritual.

"I have the right to do anything," you say—but not everything is beneficial. "I have the right to do anything"—but I will not be mastered by anything. You say, "Food for the stomach and the stomach for food, and God will destroy them both." The body, however, is not meant for sexual immorality but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. By his power God raised the Lord from the dead, and he will raise us also. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ himself? Shall I then take the members of Christ and unite them with a prostitute? Never! Do you not know that he who unites himself with a prostitute is one with her in body? For it is said, "The two will become one flesh." But whoever is united with the Lord is one with him in spirit. 1Cor.6:12-18

We can't get nearer to God through the physical because God is Spirit

"Woman," Jesus replied, "believe me, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth." Jn.4:21-24

We should eat "bread" daily

your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Matt.6:10-11

We should not fast if Jesus is with us

Jesus answered, "How can the guests of the bridegroom fast while he is with them? They cannot, so long as they have him with them. But the time will come when the bridegroom will be taken from them, and on that day they will fast.

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2024

"No one sews a patch of unshrunk cloth on an old garment. Otherwise, the new piece will pull away from the old, making the tear worse. And no one pours new wine into old wineskins. Otherwise, the wine will burst the skins, and both the wine and the wineskins will be ruined. No, they pour new wine into new wineskins." Mk.2:19-27

How do we feast from the abundance of God's house?

How priceless is your unfailing love, O God! People take refuge in the shadow of your wings. They feast on the abundance of your house; you give them drink from your river of delights. For with you is the fountain of life; in your light we see light. Ps.36:7-8

When Jesus heard this, he was amazed and said to those following him, "Truly I tell you, I have not found anyone in Israel with such great faith. I say to you that many will come from the east and the west, and will take their places at the feast with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. But the subjects of the kingdom will be thrown outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." Matt.8:10-12

When one of those at the table with him heard this, he said to Jesus, "Blessed is the one who will eat at the feast in the kingdom of God." Lk.14:15

Then Jesus went through the towns and villages, teaching as he made his way to Jerusalem. Someone asked him, "Lord, are only a few people going to be saved?" He said to them, "Make every effort to enter through the narrow door, because many, I tell you, will try to enter and will not be able to. Once the owner of the house gets up and closes the door, you will stand outside knocking and pleading, 'Sir, open the door for us.' "But he will answer, 'I don't know you or where you come from.' "Then you will say, 'We ate and drank with you, and you taught in our streets.' "But he will reply, 'I don't know you or where you come from. Away from me, all you evildoers!" "There will be weeping there, and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, but you yourselves thrown out. People will come from east and west and north and south, and will take their places at the feast in the kingdom of God. Indeed there are those who are last who will be first, and first who will be last." Lk.13:22-30

On this mountain the LORD Almighty will prepare a feast of rich food for all peoples, a banquet of aged wine—the best of meats and the finest of wines. On this mountain he will destroy the shroud that enfolds all peoples, the sheet that covers all nations; he will swallow up death forever. The Sovereign LORD will wipe away the tears from all faces; he will remove his people's disgrace from all the earth. The LORD has spoken. Is.26:5-8

Bread = Word of God

Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.' Matt.4:4

Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. But as I told you, you have seen me and still you do not believe... No one has seen the Father except the one who is from God; only he has seen the Father. Very truly I tell you, the one who believes has eternal life. I am the bread of life. Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, yet they died. But here is the bread that comes down from heaven, which anyone may eat and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats this bread will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world." Then the Jews began to argue sharply among themselves, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" Jesus said to them, "Very truly I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day. For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in them. Just as the living Father sent me and I live because of the Father, so the one who feeds on me will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven. Your ancestors ate manna and died, but whoever feeds on this bread will live forever." Jn.6:35-58

Wine and oil = Holy Spirit

Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Eph.5:18-20

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2024

“Then you will know that I, the LORD your God, dwell in Zion, my holy hill. Jerusalem will be holy; never again will foreigners invade her. ‘In that day the mountains will drip new wine, and the hills will flow with milk; all the ravines of Judah will run with water. A fountain will flow out of the LORD’s house and will water the valley of acacias. Joel.3:17-18

What can we learn from the way Esther saved Israel?

God is Sovereign—He can do what He chooses, but he is also good and so there is no injustice with Him

For I proclaim the name of the LORD: Ascribe greatness to our God. He is the Rock, His work is perfect; For all His ways are justice, A God of truth and without injustice; Righteous and upright is He. Deut.33:2-3

As for God, his way is perfect: The LORD’s word is flawless; he shields all who take refuge in him. For who is God besides the LORD? And who is the Rock except our God? Ps.18:30-31

God is good

Do not remember the sins of my youth and my rebellious ways; according to your love remember me, for you, LORD, are good. Good and upright is the LORD; therefore he instructs sinners in his ways. Ps.25:7-8

You are good, and what you do is good; teach me your decrees. Ps.119:68

God has a plan for us

Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve my life; you stretch out your hand against the anger of my foes, with your right hand you save me. he LORD will fulfil [his purpose] for me; your love, O LORD, endures forever—do not abandon the works of your hands. Ps.138:7-8

I cry out to God Most High, to God, who fulfils [his purpose] for me. He sends from heaven and saves me, rebuking those who both pursue me; Selah God sends his love and his faithfulness. Ps.57:2-3

The LORD foils the plans of the nations; he thwarts the purposes of the peoples. But the plans of the LORD stand firm forever, the purposes of his heart through all generations. Ps.33:10-11

Then Job replied to the LORD: “I know that you can do all things; no plan of yours can be thwarted. Job.42:1

For the LORD Almighty has purposed, and who can thwart him? His hand is stretched out, and who can turn it back? Is.14:27

For God has put it into their hearts to accomplish his purpose by agreeing to give the beast their power to rule, until God’s words are fulfilled. Rev.17:17

Many are the plans in a man’s heart, but it is the LORD’s purpose that prevails. What a man desires is unfailing love ; better to be poor than a liar. The fear of the LORD leads to life: Then one rests content, untouched by trouble. Prov.19:21-23

In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, in order that we, who were the first to hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory. Eph.1:11-12

God answers prayer in His time—which is always the right time

I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life. This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him. 1Jn.5:13-15

Do our words affect the way we live?

Yes

“Make a tree good and its fruit will be good, or make a tree bad and its fruit will be bad, for a tree is recognized by its fruit. You brood of vipers, how can you who are evil say anything good? For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of. A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in him, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in him. But I tell you that everyone will have to give account on the day of judgment for every empty

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2024

word they have spoken. For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned.” Matt.12:33-37

Then Jesus cried out, “Whoever believes in me does not believe in me only, but in the one who sent me. The one who looks at me is seeing the one who sent me. I have come into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness. “If anyone hears my words but does not keep them, I do not judge that person. For I did not come to judge the world, but to save the world. There is a judge for the one who rejects me and does not accept my words; the very words I have spoken will condemn them at the last day. For I did not speak on my own, but the Father who sent me commanded me to say all that I have spoken. I know that his command leads to eternal life. So whatever I say is just what the Father has told me to say.” Jn.12:44-50

Surely in vain I have kept my heart pure and have washed my hands in innocence. All day long I have been afflicted, and every morning brings new punishments. If I had spoken out like that, I would have betrayed your children. Ps.73:13-15

From the fruit of his mouth a man's stomach is filled; with the harvest from his lips he is satisfied. The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit. Prov.18:20-21

20/11/2024

Video: Mike Petzer 49.04

Psalm 119:137-144

Questions

What does “**Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy**” mean?

What does prosperity mean for a Christian?

Can a Christian, serve God and be rich?

What is the main difference between the Old Covenant and the New Covenant?

How can we deal with the guilt of our sins?

Comments

What does “Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy” mean?

The Old Covenant command to “remember the Sabbath by keeping it holy” is part of the 10 Commandments, which are all negative—what you cannot do: **you shall not...**

And God spoke all these words: “I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.

1. **“You shall have no other gods before me.**
2. **“You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments.**
3. **“You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name.**
4. **“Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. Six days you shall labour and do all your work, but the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God. On it **you shall not** do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your male or female servant, nor your animals, nor any foreigner residing in your towns. For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.**
5. **“Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you.**
6. **“You shall not murder.**
7. **“You shall not commit adultery.**
8. **“You shall not steal.**
9. **“You shall not give false testimony against your neighbour.**
10. **“You shall not covet your neighbour's house. You shall not covet your neighbour's wife, or his male or female servant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbour.”**

When the people saw the thunder and lightning and heard the trumpet and saw the mountain in smoke, they trembled with fear. They stayed at a distance and said to Moses, “Speak to us yourself and we will listen. But do not have God speak to us or we will die.” Moses said to the people, “Do not be afraid. God has come to test you, so that the fear of God will be with you to keep you from sinning.” The people remained at a distance, while Moses approached the thick darkness where God was. Ex.20:1-21

The Old Covenant law can be summarised in 2 rules

Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together. One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: “Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?”

Jesus replied: “ ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.” Matt.22:34-40

The New Covenant is grace—which means we start from a different position. In the Old Covenant, the Law was the basis of peoples’ relationship with God, the starting point—do this and live. In the

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2024

New Covenant, Jesus is the basis of peoples' relationship with God, the starting point—believe and you will live. As with all the OT, the 10 commandments were a schoolmaster to bring us to Christ—but in the New Covenant, the Holy Spirit is our schoolmaster to bring us to Christ

Is the law, therefore, opposed to the promises of God? Absolutely not! For if a law had been given that could impart life, then righteousness would certainly have come by the law. But Scripture has locked up everything under the control of sin, so that what was promised, being given through faith in Jesus Christ, might be given to those who believe. Before the coming of this faith, we were held in custody under the law, locked up until the faith that was to come would be revealed. So the law was our guardian until Christ came that we might be justified by faith. Now that this faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian. [Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor.] So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. Gal.3:21-26

When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father—the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father—he will testify about me. And you also must testify, for you have been with me from the beginning. Jn.14:26-27

OT is about commands but the NT is about possession

OT love others as you love yourself. NT love others as Jesus loves us

Law of Moses sees a debt to be paid; Law of Christ sees the finished work of Jesus

Law of Moses suppresses the old life; Law of Christ expresses the new life

In Christianity, the Sabbath that we are to remember by keeping it holy is a cessation from working to earn God's acceptance

There remains, then, a Sabbath-rest for the people of God; for anyone who enters God's rest also rests from their works, just as God did from his. Let us, therefore, make every effort to enter that rest, so that no one will perish by following their example of disobedience. Heb.4:9-11

Our salvation is a gift from God and there is nothing that we can add to what God has done for us—we can only accept God's gift with thankfulness and live in the benefits of it! Although we might treat some days as special, there are no days “un-special” for the Christian because God is living with us every moment of every day.

One person considers one day more sacred than another; another considers every day alike. Each of them should be fully convinced in their own mind. Whoever regards one day as special does so to the Lord... For none of us lives for ourselves alone, and none of us dies for ourselves alone. If we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. For this very reason, Christ died and returned to life so that he might be the Lord of both the dead and the living. Rom.14:5-9

Therefore do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival, a New Moon celebration or a Sabbath day. These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ. Col.2:16-17

What does prosperity mean for a Christian?

The word translated “prosper” in the Bible, literally means “to have a good journey”.

Beloved, I pray that all may go well with you and that you may be in good health, as it goes well with your soul.

[My dear friend, I pray that you are ·doing well [prospering] in ·every way (all respects) and that your health is good, just as your soul is doing fine (it is well with your soul; your soul is prospering)]. 3Jn.2

We are not guaranteed an easy life but we are guaranteed an eternal life. True prosperity is to have a good spiritual journey through life culminating with a glorious entrance into eternity.

For what is more impractical than working hard all your life and getting paid with nothing more than an expensively framed death certificate? C.f. Rom.6:21

Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions. Lk.12:15

Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2024

store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life? So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own. ^{Matt.6:25-34}

Can a Christian serve God and be rich?

Yes but not at the expense of godliness.

"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. "The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are healthy, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eyes are unhealthy, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness! "No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money. ^{Matt.6:19-24}

When he heard this, he became very sad, because he was very wealthy. Jesus looked at him and said, "How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God! Indeed, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God." Those who heard this asked, "Who then can be saved?" Jesus replied, "What is impossible with man is possible with God." ^{Lk.18:23-27}

Believers in humble circumstances ought to take pride in their high position. But the rich should take pride in their humiliation—since they will pass away like a wild flower. For the sun rises with scorching heat and withers the plant; its blossom falls and its beauty is destroyed. In the same way, the rich will fade away even while they go about their business. ^{Jas.1:8-11}

Listen, my dear brothers and sisters: Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him? But you have dishonoured the poor. Is it not the rich who are exploiting you? Are they not the ones who are dragging you into court? Are they not the ones who are blaspheming the noble name of him to whom you belong? ^{Jas.2:5-7}

"To the angel of the church in Laodicea write: These are the words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the ruler of God's creation. I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth. You say, 'I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.' But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked. I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see. Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest and repent. Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me. ^{Rev.3:14-20}

But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs. But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness... Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life. ^{1Tim.6:6-19}

What is the main difference between the Old Covenant and the New Covenant?

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2024

Old Covenant	New Covenant
Conflict, struggle and unrest	Reconciliation, rest and peace: <i>Col.1:19-20; Eph.2:14-18</i>
Bondage and slavery	Freedom: <i>2Cor.3:17; Gal.4:21-5:1</i>
Law weak and useless	Better and permanent: <i>Heb.7:18-22</i>
Law of sin and death	Law of Spirit and Life: <i>Rom.8:2; 2Cor.3:6</i>
10 Commandments summarized as 2	1 Commandment—Royal law of love: <i>Jn.13:34-35; Gal.5:14; 1Cor.13:13</i>
Was an illustration, a type, a shadow	Is the substance and reality: <i>Col.2:14-17; Heb.10:1</i>
Was inferior and faulty	The New Covenant is permanent <i>Heb.8:6-7</i>
Was temporary until the New had come	The New Covenant has replaced the Old Covenant (which is now obsolete): <i>Heb.8:13; 10:9.</i>
Made people conscious of sin	Conscience is cleansed: <i>1Tim.1:5/19; Acts 23:1; Heb.9:14; 10:22; 13:18</i>
God's law written on stone	God's law written in our hearts: <i>Heb.8:10; 10:16; 1Jn.5:10</i>
People's Responsibility. <i>If you fully obey... Deut.28</i>	God's Responsibility: <i>Heb.8:8-10; Eph.3:10</i>
People failed to be righteous <i>Ps.14:1-3; 53:1-3</i>	Jesus is our Righteousness: <i>1Cor.1:30; 2Cor.5:21; Rom.3:21-22</i>
People provided animals for sacrifices	God provides His Son as the Sacrifice: <i>Jn.1:29; 1Cor.5:7; 1Jn.2:2</i>
People strived for victory	God gives the victory: <i>1Cor.15:57; 2Cor.2:14</i>
People separated from God by Veil	Nothing separating man from God: <i>Rom.8:39; Eph.2:7</i>
Priest was a man who was a descendant of Aaron	Priest is Jesus: <i>Heb.6:20; 8:1; 10:19-22</i>
Priest's ministry was limited by death	Jesus' ministry is unlimited by His Resurrection: <i>Heb.7:26f</i>
Confessed sin to approach God	Confess Jesus to approach God: <i>Rom.10:8-10; Heb.4:16; 10:19-22</i>
Sacrifices were continually repeated	Christ died once for all: <i>1Pet.3:18; Heb.7:27; 9:26; 10:12</i>
Sin temporarily covered over (<i>atoned</i>)	Sin forgiven and taken away permanently: <i>Jn.1:29; Lk.24:45-49; Rom.11:27; 1Jn.3:5</i>
God dwelt in a place	God dwells in people: <i>Eph.2:22; 1Jn.4:12</i>
Worship was at Jerusalem	Worship is in spirit at the New Jerusalem: <i>Heb.12:22-24; Jn.4:23; Phil.3:3; Gal.4:24-26</i>
People were servants	We are sons and friends (albeit still servants): <i>2Cor.6:18; Rom.1:1; Jn.15:12-15; Gal.3:26; 4:6-7</i>

How can we deal with the guilt of our sins?

Faith—trust in Jesus' completed work

This is how we know that we belong to the truth and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence: If our hearts condemn us, we know that God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God and receive from him anything we ask, because we keep his commands

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2024

and do what pleases him. And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us. The one who keeps God's commands lives in him, and he in them. And this is how we know that he lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us. 1Jn.3:19-24

How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God! For this reason Christ is the mediator of a new covenant, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance—now that he has died as a ransom to set them free from the sins committed under the first covenant. Heb.9:14-15

Water baptism as a Believer

In [the ark] only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water, and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also—not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a clear conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at God's right hand—with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him. 1Pet.3:19-20

13/11/2024

Video: Mike Petzer 35-42 -49.04

Psalm 119:129-136

Questions

- Can Christians serve the Prince of Peace and still take up arms to fight people?
- Why is it important to remember the people who defended our national freedom?
- Why do we need to refresh our memories about our Christian faith?
- What are the main beliefs that we need to constantly remind ourselves of?
- What can we do to remember the important tenets of our faith?

Comments

Can Christians serve the Prince of Peace and still take up arms to fight people?

Many of the early Pentecostal leaders were pacifists and during WWI were Conscientious Objectors, and either took up non-combat roles such as medical, farming, etc, or went to prison. This meant that for a long time there were few, if any Pentecostals in the Military and no Pentecostal Military Chaplains.

AoG used to have in their Constitution that it was incompatible to serve the Prince of Peace and also take up arms. Elim had: *We render loyalty to His Majesty's Government as far as conscience and morality permit.*

AoG is a fellowship of independent Churches and was made up predominantly of congregations that were started as a result of Stephen Jeffreys' preaching. Elim is a denomination with a central government and was made up predominantly of congregations that were started as a result of George Jeffreys' preaching. The 2 brothers were quite different in style and George held extreme views especially regarding British Israelism—he held that the 10 tribes of Israel did not return from Exile but travelled across Europe and became the Anglo Saxons; our British monarch is the legal and legitimate descendant of king David and the British throne is David's throne (and thus God's Old Covenant promises to Israel are still in effect today for Anglo Saxon's!!). You would imagine with such views that he had never read his Bible!!! George resigned from Elim in 1940 over his views and he started the Bible-Pattern Church Fellowship

Plymouth Elim Church (PCC) celebrated 100 years of Pentecostal witness on November 10th. Maldwyn Jones writes: As a former pastor here, it was a real joy to be present. I led the congregation from Notte Street to its present building 41 years ago. It was filled to overflowing this morning. It was 100 years ago to today that Stephen Jeffreys commenced his campaign in Stonehouse Town Hall. Our GS reminded us that two young ladies tried to find their way to the hall. They stopped a policeman and asked the way. One young lady was blind, the other deaf. On their way home, they met the policeman again, the blind lady could see and the young lady could hear.

Jesus is the Prince of Peace

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this. Is.9:6-7

Jesus gives peace

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. Jn.14:27

But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed. Is.53:5

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, Rom.5:1

But this also means choosing to follow Him—which automatically brings division

"Whoever acknowledges me before others, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven. But whoever disowns me before others, I will disown before my Father in heaven. "Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I have come to turn" "a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law—a man's enemies will be the members of his own household."Matt.10:32-36

Jesus told His disciples to buy a sword

Then Jesus asked them, "When I sent you without purse, bag or sandals, did you lack anything?" "Nothing," they answered. He said to them, "But now if you have a purse, take it, and also a bag; and if you don't have a sword, sell your cloak and buy one. It is written: 'And he was numbered with the transgressors'; and I tell you that this must be fulfilled in me. Yes, what is written about me is reaching its fulfilment." The disciples said, "See, Lord, here are two swords." "That's enough!" he replied.Lk.22:35-38

But then Jesus told them not to use the sword

*Going at once to Jesus, Judas said, "Greetings, Rabbi!" and kissed him. Jesus replied, "Do what you came for, friend."*Then the men stepped forward, seized Jesus and arrested him. With that, one of Jesus' companions reached for his sword, drew it out and struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his ear. "Put your sword back in its place," Jesus said to him, "for all who draw the sword will die by the sword. Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and he will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels? But how then would the Scriptures be fulfilled that say it must happen in this way?"Matt.26:49-54*

Spiritual battles are not fought with physical weapons

For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ. And we will be ready to punish every act of disobedience, once your obedience is complete.2Cor.10:3-6

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armour of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people. Eph.6:10-18

But Physical battles are fought with physical weapons

Jesus said, "My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now my kingdom is from another place."Jn.18:36

God has clearly said that rulers have an obligation to use force to protect their citizens

Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. Consequently, whoever rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and you will be commended. For the one in authority is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for rulers do not bear the sword for no reason. They are God's servants, agents of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer. Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also as a matter of conscience. This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, who give their full time to governing. Give to everyone what you owe them: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honour, then honor.Rom.13:1-7

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2024

Why is it important to remember the people who defended our national freedom?

Freedom and liberty is costly. We dishonour the memory of those who paid the ultimate price for our benefit if we forget them. It is good citizenship and common decency—even though war is violent, horrific and messy—and often has atrocities and sad collateral damage.

Why do we need to refresh our memories about our Christian faith?

So we live in the benefits of God's provision

So I will always remind you of these things, even though you know them and are firmly established in the truth you now have. I think it is right to refresh your memory as long as I live in the tent of this body, because I know that I will soon put it aside, as our Lord Jesus Christ has made clear to me. And I will make every effort to see that after my departure you will always be able to remember these things. 2Pet.1:12-15

For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love. For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But if anyone does not have them, he is nearsighted and blind, and has forgotten that he has been cleansed from his past sins. 2Pet.1:5-9

Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it—he will be blessed in what he does. Jas.1:22-25

What are the main beliefs that we need to constantly remind ourselves of?

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. AMEN

Paul gives advice on practical issues as well as teaching doctrine

Nevertheless, each person should live as a believer in whatever situation the Lord has assigned to them, just as God has called them. This is the rule I lay down in all the churches... Now about virgins: I have no command from the Lord, but I give a judgment as one who by the Lord's mercy is trustworthy. Because of the present crisis, I think that it is good for a man to remain as he is. 1Cor.7:17-26

I praise you for remembering me in everything and for holding to the teachings, just as I passed them on to you. Now I want you to realize that the head of every man is Christ, and the head of the woman is man, and the head of Christ is God. Every man who prays or prophesies with his head covered dishonours his head. And every woman who prays or prophesies with her head uncovered dishonours her head—it is just as though her head were shaved. If a woman does not cover her head, she should have her hair cut off; and if it is a disgrace for a woman to have her hair cut or shaved off, she should cover her head. A man ought not to cover his head, since he is the image and glory of God; but the woman is the glory of man. For man did not come from woman, but woman from man; neither was man created for woman, but woman for man. For this reason, and because of the angels, the woman ought to have a sign of authority on her head. In the Lord, however, woman is not independent of man, nor is man independent of woman. For as woman came from man, so also man is born of woman. But everything comes from God. Judge for yourselves:

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2024

*Is it proper for a woman to pray to God with her head uncovered? Does not the very nature of things teach you that if a man has long hair, it is a disgrace to him, but that if a woman has long hair, it is her glory? For long hair is given to her as a covering. **If anyone wants to be contentious about this, we have no other practice—nor do the churches of God.*** 1 Cor. 11:2-16

9 See Gen 1:26-27; 5:1; 9:6. Woman is the glory of man probably uses “glory” in the sense of “one who shows the excellence of.” Paul argues that a woman, by the excellence of her being, also shows how excellent man is, since she was taken out of man at the beginning (1 Cor 11:8) and also was created as a helper for man at the beginning (v. 9; see also Gen 2:20-24). Paul does not deny that the woman was also made in God's image, something that Gen 1:27 explicitly affirms, nor does he deny that the woman reflects God's glory. Paul probably continues to think primarily of husband and wife here since the first man and woman were also the first married couple (Gen 2:24; Eph 5:31). Paul's appeal to the order of creation (cf. also 1 Cor 11:3, 11-12) shows that his words are not merely directed to the cultural situation of his day. The principle of male headship in marriage continues through all generations, though some cultural expressions of that principle (e.g., that women should wear head coverings) may vary. 11:10 wife ought to have a symbol of authority on her head. More literally, a “wife ought to have authority [Gk. exousia] over her head,” where the word “authority” refers to a head covering, which was a symbol of authority. This probably means, in the context of the Corinthian church, that the wife should wear a covering over her head as a sign that she is under her husband's authority. Others, however, suggest that a head covering is a sign of the woman's authority to prophesy in church, or to participate generally in the church assembly. because of the angels. This probably refers to the invisible heavenly beings (6:3; Heb 1:7) who are present with the Corinthians when they worship (cf. Ps 138:1) and whose presence makes propriety in worship that much more important. The NT elsewhere uses the fact that angels are watching as one motive for obeying God's commands (see 1 Tim 5:21; Heb 13:2; 1 Pet 1:12). 11:11-12 nevertheless. Paul does not want what he has just said to be misinterpreted as a diminution of the importance of women. Women and men are both God's creation and are mutually interdependent at a basic level. 11:14 Here the word nature probably means “your natural sense of what is appropriate for men and women”: it would be a disgrace for a man to look like a woman because of his hair style. Although the norms of appropriate hair style (and dress) may vary from culture to culture, Paul's point is that men should look like men in that culture, and women should look like women in that culture, rather than seeking to deny or disparage the God-given differences between the sexes. 11:16 See 1:2; 4:17; 7:17; 14:33, 36 for Paul's appeal to the practice of other churches. no such practice. That is, “no such practice” as that of those who disagree with Paul (therefore some translations render this “no other practice,” giving about the same sense). Paul's objective is to bring the Corinthians into conformity with generally accepted Christian behavior.

What can we do to remember the important tenets of our faith?

Read, sing, pray, ponder and write out Scripture

Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.” Josh. 1:7-9

When he takes the throne of his kingdom, he is to write for himself on a scroll a copy of this law, taken from that of the priests, who are Levites. It is to be with him, and he is to read it all the days of his life so that he may learn to revere the LORD his God and follow carefully all the words of this law and these decrees and not consider himself better than his brothers and turn from the law to the right or to the left. Then he and his descendants will reign a long time over his kingdom in Israel. Deut. 1:8-20

05/11/2024

Video: Mike Petzer 35-42

Psalm 119:121-128

Questions

Why does it matter what we believe?

How can we be sure of what we believe?

Is it intolerant to disagree with other points of views?

Is faith incompatible with reason?

Are science and religion incompatible?

Comments

Why does it matter what we believe?

Yes! Our eternal destiny depends on what we believe. Christianity is a heart religion and what we believe makes us a Believer or an unbeliever!

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son. Jn.3:16-18

What we believe is the basis of our “faith” and without faith we cannot please God

By faith Enoch was taken from this life, so that he did not experience death: “He could not be found, because God had taken him away.” For before he was taken, he was commended as one who pleased God. And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him. Heb.11:5-6

The early Creeds were formulated to make it easy to know what was essential

When the Apostles' Creed was drawn up, the chief enemy was Gnosticism, which denied that Jesus was truly Man; and the emphases of the Apostles' Creed reflect a concern with repudiating this error. When the Nicene Creed was drawn up, the chief enemy was Arianism, which denied that Jesus was fully God. Arius was a presbyter (elder) in Alexandria in Egypt, in the early 300's. He taught that the Father, in the beginning, created (or begot) the Son, and that the Son, in conjunction with the Father, then proceeded to create the world. The result of this was to make the Son a created being, and hence not God in any meaningful sense. It was also suspiciously like the theories of those Gnostics and pagans who held that God was too perfect to create something like a material world, and so introduced one or more intermediate beings between God and the world.

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. AMEN

Even though we believe enough to be saved, we still need to mature.

By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as a wise builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should build with care. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. If anyone builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, their work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each person's work. If what has been built survives, the builder will receive a reward. If it is burned up, the builder will suffer loss but yet will be saved—even though only as one escaping through the flames. 1Cor.3;10-15

Maturity is standing firm on our faith regardless of circumstances

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2024

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armour of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armour of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people. Eph.6:10-18

We should strive to become as near to God's ideal as we possibly can.

*Therefore let us move beyond the elementary teachings about Christ and be taken forward to maturity Heb.6:1
So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. Eph.4:11-13*

The seed that fell among thorns stands for those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by life's worries, riches and pleasures, and they do not mature. But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop. Lk.8:14-15

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified. Rom.8:28-30

How can we be sure of what we believe?

We need credible proof

We believe that the Scriptures are inerrant but this is more than a theological statement. The Scriptures are God's manual for eternal life and also, either pointing to the New Covenant or explaining the New Covenant. Their purpose is not to be a history book (although the history is accurate) not a scientific manual (although the facts are still accurate). But although the Scriptures contain all that we need to know about God and our relationship with Him, our faith is in Jesus not a piece of paper. It is Jesus' death, resurrection and glorification that we must believe and when we do, God changes us inside so that we know what is true about Him

Jesus' resurrection is the most credible proof

Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve. After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born... And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead. But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. 1Cor.15:1-20

Is it intolerant to disagree with other points of views?

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2024

Christians are often called intolerant, especially when we disagree with moral values and ideas held by non-Christians in our culture. Voltaire once wrote: "*Of all religions the Christian is without doubt the one which should inspire tolerance most, although up to now the Christians have been the most intolerant of all men.*" How might you help people understand the difference between disagreeing and being intolerant? What might you say to help people understand the nature of true tolerance?

Here is a reasonable response:

Our culture has confused *agreement* with *tolerance*. Tolerance, as it is described popularly, is the notion that all views have equal merit and none should be considered any better than any other. If this definition is true, it's not surprising that Christians would be labelled intolerant when they don't agree with something accepted by the culture.

But true, classic tolerance actually requires the following:

A true definition: The classic definition of tolerance is much more akin to a "*fair, objective, and permissive attitude towards those whose opinions, practices, race, religion, nationality etc. differ from one's own.*" A thoughtful disagreement: Based on this definition, in order for two people to tolerate each other, they must maintain their disagreement. If they agree, there's no need for tolerance.

A tactful demeanour: Even though I may hate a bad idea, as a Christian, I'm called to love the person who may hold the bad idea. In fact, I am called to love the people with whom I disagree.

True Christian believers follow the teaching of Jesus. We may disagree with you, but that alone doesn't make us intolerant.

Is faith incompatible with reason?

Sceptics in our culture often argue faith is the opposite of reason. They also typically characterize themselves as the only "*reasonable*" people in the debate. How would you respond to this common objection given what you now know about the evidential nature of Christianity? Can you think of two or three things you might say to someone who makes this kind of claim?

Here is one way to respond:

Although there may be some unreasonable Christians, **Jesus never asked us to abandon reason as believers.** In fact, the New Testament repeatedly tells us to use reason to determine if Christianity is true. Consider these three points:

We're told not to be "*like unreasoning animals*" (Jude 4, 10), and we're told to love God with our "*mind*" (Matthew 22:37-38).

Jesus told us to examine the evidence he provided (John 10:37-38), and he stayed with his followers after the Resurrection to provide them with additional evidence (Acts 1:2-3).

Jesus' followers regularly "*reasoned*" with people to convince them Christianity is true (Acts 17:2-3), and we're told to "*examine everything*" carefully (1Thessalonians 5:19-21).

So, while not every Christian you meet may be able to defend what they believe with reason, the Christian worldview can be defended reasonably. I'd invite you to examine the evidence.

Are science and religion incompatible?

Ernst Haeckel, the famous German naturalist biologist, once wrote, "*Where faith commences, science ends.*" Ever heard someone say something similar when they argue science is incompatible with your Christian beliefs?

Have you ever been told, as a Christian, that your beliefs contradict what we know is true scientifically? How would you respond to this common objection about the relationship between Christianity and science? Can you think of two or three things you might say to someone who makes this kind of claim?

Here's one option:

Scientists study the "*effects*" they observe in the universe and then try to determine the most reasonable *cause*. If the evidence is best explained by the existence of a timeless, non-material, non-spatial personal Being, science may actually confirm the existence of God.

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2024

But in order to evaluate the scientific evidence properly you have to keep three things in mind: Science doesn't "*say*" anything. Instead, scientists do. If the scientists evaluating the evidence reject the existence of God before they start, they will never interpret the evidence fairly, even if the evidence points to God as the best explanation.

An over-reliance on science is self-defeating. When people say, "*Science is the only way to know the truth,*" they are making a philosophical (rather than scientific) claim that cannot be tested or discovered with science.

Many of the world's greatest scientists have believed in the existence of God, including historic thinkers like Johannes Kepler, Blaise Pascal, Isaac Newton, and Max Planck, and current scientists like John Polkinghorne, Francis Collins, Simon C. Morris, and Michael Behe. The discoveries made by these great thinkers weren't inhibited by their belief in God. Instead, their theistic beliefs encouraged them to discover the immutable laws governing the universe.

30/10/2024

Video: Mike Petzer 35

Psalm 119:113-120

Questions

What is faith?

Why is faith important?

How do we receive faith?

How do we develop our faith?

What are the effects of faith?

Can our words affect our faith?

Comments

What is faith?

Faith is trust. Christian faith is a personal trust and confidence in Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour. And so, a Christian is someone who has personally trusted Jesus Christ to save them from their sins. *Faith assures us of things we expect and convinces us of the existence of things we cannot see. God accepted our ancestors because of their faith. Faith convinces us that God created the world through his word. This means what can be seen was made by something that could not be seen. Faith led Abel to offer God a better sacrifice than Cain's sacrifice. Through his faith Abel received God's approval, since God accepted his sacrifices. Through his faith Abel still speaks, even though he is dead.* Heb.11:1-4

Faith is a conscious, deliberate spiritual act that has emotional, mental and physical consequences! *He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.* Jn.1:11-13

Jesus answered, "Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.' The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit." Jn.3:5-8

All the prophets testify about [Jesus] that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name." Acts.10:43

"Now fear the LORD and serve him with all faithfulness. Throw away the gods your ancestors worshiped beyond the Euphrates River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD." Josh.24:14-15

Why is faith important?

We cannot please God without faith

And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him. Heb.11:6

But we do not belong to those who shrink back and are destroyed, but to those who have faith and are saved. Heb.10:39
For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed—a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith." Rom.1:17

This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood—to be received by faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished—he did it to demonstrate his righteousness at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus. Rom.3:22-26

If you do not stand firm in your faith, you will not stand at all. Is.7:9

How do we receive faith?

By faith! Faith is a gift and we receive gifts by receiving them—but also with thanksgiving!

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. Eph.2:8-10

This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, others will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else. And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you. Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift! 2Cor.9:12-15

How do we develop our faith?

Pray in the spirit

These are the people who divide you, who follow mere natural instincts and do not have the Spirit. But you, dear friends, by building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in God's love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life. Jude.19:21

Persevere and don't give up

Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. Such a person is double-minded and unstable in all they do. Jas.1:2-8

Eat meat!

Accept the one whose faith is weak, without quarrelling over disputable matters. One person's faith allows them to eat anything, but another, whose faith is weak, eats only vegetables. Rom.14:1-2

People who refuse to eat what God has provide because of their religion beliefs are following demonic lies:

The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons. Such teachings come through hypocritical liars, whose consciences have been seared as with a hot iron. They forbid people to marry and order them to abstain from certain foods, which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and who know the truth. For everything God created is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, because it is consecrated by the word of God and prayer. If you point these things out to the brothers and sisters, you will be a good minister of Christ Jesus, nourished on the truths of the faith and of the good teaching that you have followed. Have nothing to do with godless myths and old wives' tales; rather, train yourself to be godly. 1Tim.4:1-7

Walk with God—which for us in the NT means keeping in step with the Holy Spirit,

So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. Gal.5:16-18

For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father." The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. Rom.8:14-16

Our fellowship, communion (common-union), partnership, is with the Trinity (Father, Son and Holy Spirit)

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. 2Cor.13:14

God is faithful, who has called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. 1Cor.1:9

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2024

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched—this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us. We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. 1Jn.1:1-3

To stay in fellowship with God we must live in harmony with Him and not disagree with Him

Woe to him who quarrels with his Maker, Is.45:9

Distress and anguish fill him with terror; they overwhelm him, like a king poised to attack, because he shakes his fist at God and vaunts himself against the Almighty, defiantly charging against him with a thick, strong shield. Job.15:24-26

To agree with God we must know what He think—and we know what God thinks by studying His Word and immersing ourself in the verses and values of Scripture.

We need to stay in fellowship with God's people—which requires meeting together and sharing. We cannot fellowship together if we don't meet together!

What are the effects of faith?

Righteousness

What does Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and that faith was regarded by God to be his approval of Abraham." When people work, their pay is not regarded as a gift but something they have earned. However, when people don't work but believe God, the one who approves ungodly people, their faith is regarded as God's approval. David says the same thing about those who are blessed: God approves of people without their earning it. David said, "Blessed are those whose disobedience is forgiven and whose sins are pardoned. Blessed is the person whom the Lord no longer considers sinful." Rom.4:3-7

The effect of righteousness is Maturity

The fruit of righteousness will be peace; the effect of righteousness will be quietness and confidence forever. Is.32:17

Maturity is seen by the Fruit of the Spirit (i.e. having the character of God)

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Gal.5:22-23

Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work. Eph.4:14-16

Maturity is seen by the way we behave because we have trained our senses to submit to our spirit

We have much to say about this, but it is hard to make it clear to you because you no longer try to understand. In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food! Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil. Therefore let us move beyond the elementary teachings about Christ and be taken forward to maturity, not laying again the foundation of repentance from acts that lead to death, and of faith in God, instruction about cleansing rites, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. And God permitting, we will do so. Heb.5:11-6:3

Spiritual gifts are not a sign of maturity as they are gifts

Brothers, I could not address you as spiritual but as worldly—mere infants in Christ. I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready. You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarrelling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere men? For when one says, "I follow Paul," and another, "I follow Apollos," are you not mere men? 1Cor.3:1-4

Follow the way of love and eagerly desire spiritual [gifts], especially the gift of prophecy. For anyone who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God. Indeed, no one understands him; he utters mysteries with his spirit. But

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2024

everyone who prophesies speaks to men for their strengthening, encouragement and comfort. He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church. I would like every one of you to speak in tongues, but I would rather have you prophesy. He who prophesies is greater than one who speaks in tongues, unless he interprets, so that the church may be edified. 1Cor.14:1-5

Paul doesn't use the word "gift" and so this literally means "eagerly desire spirituality" i.e. be more concerned about maturity than display. Character is more important than charisma!

Tongues are one of the signs that go with every baptised person but it is not the real evidence of baptism in everyday life – the secret is one accord, one place, one heart, one soul, one mind one prayer... it brings us all into one common family. William Seymour "The Apostolic Faith" 1907/08

Can our words affect our faith?

Yes and no! Words are the way we communicate—words convey who we are and what we believe. Our words (especially what we say about God, our relationship with God, our status before God) reflect what we think and they will also affect what we think.

Saying the right thing is greater than external words. Saying the right thing is about internal words, what we think.

"Make a tree good and its fruit will be good, or make a tree bad and its fruit will be bad, for a tree is recognized by its fruit. You brood of vipers, how can you who are evil say anything good? For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of. A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in him, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in him. But I tell you that everyone will have to give account on the day of judgment for every empty [careless, idle, impotent] word they have spoken. For by your words you will be acquitted [justified], and by your words you will be condemned." Matt.12:33-37

A good person produces good deeds and words season after season. An evil person is a blight on the orchard. Let me tell you something: Every one of these careless words is going to come back to haunt you. There will be a time of Reckoning. Words are powerful; take them seriously. Words can be your salvation. Words can also be your damnation."
A good person produces good things from the treasury of a good heart, and an evil person produces evil things from the treasury of an evil heart. And I tell you this, you must give an account on judgment day for every idle word you speak. The words you say will either acquit you or condemn you."

Gracious words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones. Prov.16:24

Words from the mouth of the wise are gracious, but fools are consumed by their own lips. At the beginning their words are folly; at the end they are wicked madness—and fools multiply words. Eccl.12:12-14

Our tongue is a rudder steering our life, giving our life directions

Not many of you should become teachers, my fellow believers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly. We all stumble in many ways. Anyone who is never at fault in what they say is perfect, able to keep their whole body in check. When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal. Or take ships as an example. Although they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are steered by a very small rudder wherever the pilot wants to go. Likewise, the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole body, sets the whole course of one's life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell. All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and sea creatures are being tamed and have been tamed by mankind, but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings, who have been made in God's likeness. Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this should not be. Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring? My brothers and sisters, can a fig tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water. Jas.3:1-12

23/10/2024

Psalm 119:105-112

Questions

What is prophecy?

Who can prophesy?

Are there still prophets today?

Should we take notice of “prophecies”?

How can we discern a false prophet?

Comments

What is prophecy?

A prophet is a spokesperson for God

Now when the LORD spoke to Moses in Egypt, he said to him, “I am the LORD. Tell Pharaoh king of Egypt everything I tell you.” But Moses said to the LORD, “Since I speak with faltering lips, why would Pharaoh listen to me?” Then the LORD said to Moses, “See, I have made you like God to Pharaoh, and your brother Aaron will be your prophet. You are to say everything I command you, and your brother Aaron is to tell Pharaoh to let the Israelites go out of his country.”^{Ex.6:28-7:2}

Prophecy is about Jesus and giving a clear witness to Him

Then I fell down at his feet to worship him, but he said, “No, don't worship me. I am a servant of God, just like you and your brothers and sisters who testify about their faith in Jesus. Worship only God. For the essence of prophecy is to give a clear witness for Jesus.”^{Rev.19:10}

Who can prophesy?

Anyone can “prophesy” (i.e. speak on behalf of God)

Then one of them, named Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, spoke up, “You know nothing at all! You do not realize that it is better for you that one man die for the people than that the whole nation perish.” He did not say this on his own, but as high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus would die for the Jewish nation, and not only for that nation but also for the scattered children of God, to bring them together and make them one. So from that day on they plotted to take his life.^{Jn.11:49-53}

Caiaphas prophesied but was not a Believer and denied that Jesus was the Son of God, the resurrection of the dead, the spirit world (this was before the New Covenant though)

Then the high priest and all his associates, who were members of the party of the Sadducees, were filled with jealousy. They arrested the apostles and put them in the public jail.^{Acts.5:17-18}

(The Sadducees say that there is no resurrection, and that there are neither angels nor spirits, but the Pharisees believe all these things.)^{Acts.23:8}

Most likely the Antichrist in Revelations is the High Priest because he should have been a leader of Faith but he denied Jesus Christ (and thus God Himself). No wonder God called Jerusalem (the centre of Judaism) Sodom, Babylon and Egypt

Now when they have finished their testimony, the beast that comes up from the Abyss will attack them, and overpower and kill them. Their bodies will lie in the public square of the great city—which is figuratively called Sodom and Egypt—where also their Lord was crucified.^{Rev.11:7-8}

Then the angel carried me away in the Spirit into a wilderness. There I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast that was covered with blasphemous names and had seven heads and ten horns. The woman was dressed in purple and scarlet, and was glittering with gold, precious stones and pearls. She held a golden cup in her hand, filled with abominable things and the filth of her adulteries. The name written on her forehead was a mystery: BABYLON THE GREAT THE MOTHER OF PROSTITUTES AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH. I saw that the woman was drunk with the blood of God's holy people, the blood of those who bore testimony to Jesus.^{Rev.17:3-6}

Then a mighty angel picked up a boulder the size of a large millstone and threw it into the sea, and said: “With such violence the great city of Babylon will be thrown down, never to be found again. The music of harpists and musicians,

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2024

pipers and trumpeters, will never be heard in you again. No worker of any trade will ever be found in you again. The sound of a millstone will never be heard in you again. The light of a lamp will never shine in you again. The voice of bridegroom and bride will never be heard in you again. Your merchants were the world's important people. By your magic spell all the nations were led astray. In her was found the blood of prophets and of God's holy people, of all who have been slaughtered on the earth." After this I heard what sounded like the roar of a great multitude in heaven shouting: "Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God, for true and just are his judgments. He has condemned the great prostitute who corrupted the earth by her adulteries. He has avenged on her the blood of his servants." Rev.18:21-19:2

But it is only those who are in fellowship with God who can speak on behalf of God with integrity

The Sovereign LORD has given me an instructed tongue to know the word that sustains the weary. He wakens me morning by morning wakens my ear to listen like one being taught. Is.50:4

Therefore this is what the LORD says: "If you repent, I will restore you that you may serve me; if you utter worthy, not worthless, words, you will be my spokesman. Let this people turn to you, but you must not turn to them. Jer.15:19 This is what the LORD Almighty says: "Do not listen to what the prophets are prophesying to you; they fill you with false hopes. They speak visions from their own minds, not from the mouth of the LORD. They keep saying to those who despise me, 'The LORD says: You will have peace.' And to all who follow the stubbornness of their hearts they say, 'No harm will come to you.' But which of them has stood in the council of the LORD to see or to hear his word? Who has listened and heard his word? ... I did not send these prophets, yet they have run with their message; I did not speak to them, yet they have prophesied. But if they had stood in my council, they would have proclaimed my words to my people and would have turned them from their evil ways and from their evil deeds. Jer.23:22

"I have heard what the prophets say who prophesy lies in my name. They say, 'I had a dream! I had a dream!' How long will this continue in the hearts of these lying prophets, who prophesy the delusions of their own minds? They think the dreams they tell one another will make my people forget my name, just as their fathers forgot my name through Baal worship. Let the prophet who has a dream tell his dream, but let the one who has my word speak it faithfully. For what has straw to do with grain?" declares the LORD. "Is not my word like fire," declares the LORD, "and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces? "Therefore," declares the LORD, "I am against the prophets who steal from one another words supposedly from me. Yes," declares the LORD, "I am against the prophets who wag their own tongues and yet declare, 'The LORD declares.' Indeed, I am against those who prophesy false dreams," declares the LORD. "They tell them and lead my people astray with their reckless lies, yet I did not send or appoint them. They do not benefit these people in the least," declares the LORD. Jer.23:25 -32

Are there still prophets today?

Yes—because we can all speak on behalf of God—

"In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy. Acts.2:17-18

He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.) It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. Eph.4:11-13

But there are no OT prophets today—only NT prophets (i.e. we do not look to people for direction but look to God for ourself) Prophecy is for edification, exhortation and encouragement

Follow the way of love and eagerly desire gifts of the Spirit, especially prophecy. For anyone who speaks in a tongue does not speak to people but to God. Indeed, no one understands them; they utter mysteries by the Spirit. But the one who prophesies speaks to people for their strengthening, encouraging and comfort. Anyone who speaks in a tongue edifies themselves, but the one who prophesies edifies the church. I would like every one of you to speak in tongues but

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2024

I would rather have you prophesy. The one who prophesies is greater than the one who speaks in tongues, unless someone interprets, so that the church may be edified. 1Cor.14:1-5

George Jeffreys—Pentecostal Rays (on enquiring of the Lord through the gift of prophecy)

The assertion. There were prophets in Old Testament times who guided the people through their utterances.

The answer. The pattern for Church government and its various offices is not in the Old Testament, but in the New. There are no indications in the New Testament that it is the function of prophets to guide the Church in the manner in which prophets guided Israel.

The assertion. Agabus the prophet foretold things through the Spirit.

And in these days came prophets from Jerusalem unto Antioch. And there stood up one of them named Agabus, and signified by the Spirit that there should be great dearth throughout all the world: which came to pass in the days of Claudius Caesar. Acts xi.27,28.

The answer. The foretelling aspect is really a very small part of the New Testament prophetic ministry. We do not dispute that God does occasionally reveal things that are unsought and unasked for through His children, as in the case with Agabus. But we do dispute the right to establish the general practice of “enquiring of” or receiving messages for guidance through the gift of prophecy.

Should we take notice of “prophecies”?

Yes—but with caution! We should always check out the prophet and the prophecy. We are responsible for our actions and can never blame it on someone else.

Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not treat prophecies with contempt but test them all; hold on to what is good, reject every kind of evil. May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it. 1Thess.5:16-24

Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. 1Jn.4:1

Two or three prophets should speak, and the others should weigh carefully what is said. 1Cor.14:29

The Bible is not difficult to understand—if we have the Holy Spirit

What we have received is not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may understand what God has freely given us. This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, explaining spiritual realities with Spirit-taught words. The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit. The person with the Spirit makes judgments about all things, but such a person is not subject to merely human judgments, for, “Who has known the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?” But we have the mind of Christ. 1Cor.2:12-16

How can we discern a false prophet?

There are false prophets (which means that there must be true prophets!)

Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world. 1Jn.4:1-3

But there were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the sovereign Lord who bought them—bringing swift destruction on themselves. Many will follow their shameful ways and will bring the way of truth into disrepute. In their greed these teachers will exploit you with stories they have made up. Their condemnation has long been hanging over them, and their destruction has not been sleeping. 2Pet.2:1-3

Prophets can (and should) give warnings so not all prophecy has a “feel-good” factor!

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2024

“Do not prophesy,” their prophets say. “Do not prophesy about these things; disgrace will not overtake us.” Should it be said, O house of Jacob: “Is the Spirit of the LORD angry? Does he do such things?” “Do not my words do good to him whose ways are upright? Lately my people have risen up like an enemy. You strip off the rich robe from those who pass by without a care, like men returning from battle. You drive the women of my people from their pleasant homes. You take away my blessing from their children forever. Get up, go away! For this is not your resting place, because it is defiled, it is ruined, beyond all remedy. If a liar and deceiver comes and says, ‘I will prophesy for you plenty of wine and beer,’ he would be just the prophet for this people!Mic.2:6-11

False prophets are not Glory-minded—they are usually money-minded and amoral!

[False prophets] will be paid back with harm for the harm they have done. Their idea of pleasure is to carouse in broad daylight. They are blots and blemishes, revelling in their pleasures while they feast with you. With eyes full of adultery, they never stop sinning; they seduce the unstable; they are experts in greed—an accursed brood! They have left the straight way and wandered off to follow the way of Balaam son of Bezer, who loved the wages of wickedness. But he was rebuked for his wrongdoing by a donkey—an animal without speech—who spoke with a human voice and restrained the prophet's madness.2Pet.2:13-16

Nevertheless, I have a few things against you: There are some among you who hold to the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to entice the Israelites to sin so that they ate food sacrificed to idols and committed sexual immorality.Rev.2:14

We have the witness of the Holy Spirit (but this witness should be confirmed by other credible people)

For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, “Abba, Father.” The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.Rom.8:14-17

For no matter how many promises God has made, they are “Yes” in Christ. And so through him the “Amen” is spoken by us to the glory of God. Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.2Cor.1:20-22

09/10/2024

Mike Petzer 28

Psalm 119:97-104

Questions

How would you define a miracle?

Do miracles produce faith?

Does God still perform miracles today?

Why don't we see many miracles?

Do miracles only come from God?

Comments

How would you define a miracle?

A miracle is an intervention by God, either naturally or supernaturally.

The usual word translated “*miracle*” in the NT is “*dunamis*” meaning “*power*” —it is where we get the word “*dynamite*” from.

“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” Acts.1 :8

Do miracles produce faith?

Miracles don't produce faith

The Israelites spent 40 years in the wilderness accompanied by miracles but they did not believe
See to it, brothers and sisters, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called “Today,” so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness. We have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original conviction firmly to the very end. As has just been said: “Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion.” Who were they who heard and rebelled? Were they not all those Moses led out of Egypt? And with whom was he angry for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies perished in the wilderness? And to whom did God swear that they would never enter his rest if not to those who disobeyed? So we see that they were not able to enter, because of their unbelief. Heb.3:12-19

But not all the Israelites accepted the good news. For Isaiah says, “Lord, who has believed our message?” Rom.10:16 If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly.” Jesus answered, “I did tell you, but you do not believe. The works I do in my Father's name testify about me, but you do not believe because you are not my sheep. My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. Jn.10:24-27

But miracles can affirm faith.

Now while he was in Jerusalem at the Passover Festival, many people saw the signs he was performing and believed in his name. But Jesus would not entrust himself to them, for he knew all people. He did not need any testimony about mankind, for he knew what was in each person. Jn.2:23-35

Do not believe me unless I do the works of my Father. But if I do them, even though you do not believe me, believe the works, that you may know and understand that the Father is in me, and I in the Father.” Jn.10:37-38

Faith comes from hearing the Word of God

Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ. But I ask: Did they not hear? Of course they did: “Their voice has gone out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world.” Again I ask: Did Israel not understand? First, Moses says, “I will make you envious by those who are not a nation; I will make you angry by a nation that has no understanding.” And Isaiah boldly says, “I was found by those who did not seek me; I revealed myself to those who did not ask for me.” Rom.10:17-20

Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days.” They replied, “It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?” But the temple he had spoken of was his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples recalled what he had said. Then they believed the scripture and the words that Jesus had spoken. Jn.2:19-22

Does God still perform miracles today?

Yes!

Cessationists believe that the miraculous gifts ceased long ago, when the apostles died and scripture was complete but **God doesn't change His character or ability**

You are the God who performs miracles; you display your power among the peoples. Ps.77:14

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. ^{Heb.13:8}

But you remain the same, and your years will never end. Ps.102:26

Don't be deceived, my dear brothers and sisters. Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. Ja.1:16-17

I the LORD do not change. Mal.3:6

He who is the Glory of Israel does not lie or change his mind; for he is not a human being, that he should change his mind." 1Sam.15:28

God is not human, that he should lie, not a human being, that he should change his mind. Does he speak and then not act? Does he promise and not fulfill? Nu.23:19

Warfield, the noted C19th Princeton theologian, who wrote 'Counterfeit Miracles' states that although Dowie (from Zion City, Chicago) prayed for over seventy thousand people a year, he only reported about seven hundred cures in two and a half years. "One success in every two hundred and fifty trials does not impress one as a very successful ministry of healing to the sick and sorrowing world." But although an adamant cessationist, Warfield admitted those seven hundred cures!!!

Some people have more faith in the devil to perform miracles than God—they doubt that God would perform a miracle but are quick to credit the devil with activity!

Jesse Penn-Lewis wrote the book "War on the Saints" to discredit the Pentecostal "signs and wonders". 'Tongues' were experienced in the Welsh Revival under Even Roberts, but with Penn-Lewis's influence, most supernatural events were thought to be counterfeit and accredited to the devil. This was probably the main reason why the Revival was short lived—even though its influence was long-lasting. By placing much emphasis upon the devil and counterfeit experiences, Penn-Lewis manipulated Roberts and many others into fearing deception and thus shunning God's wonderful gifts.

A question arises here as to whether believers may now speak in unknown tongues, as the disciples did at the time of the Holy Spirit's infilling at Pentecost. There are those that say, Yes, but the truths set forth in preceding chapters, show that until the spiritual section of the Church of Christ are more acquainted with the counterfeiting methods of the spirits of evil, and the laws which give them power of working, any testimony to such experience as true, cannot be safely relied upon.

See also the Berlin Declaration (September 1909) and the London Declaration (November 1909) The emerging Pentecostal movement unsettled the Evangelical Churches and on 15 September 1909, 60 leaders from Evangelical Protestant Churches met in Berlin to debate and write a declaration. After 19 hours, the Berlin Declaration was finalized and signed by 56 of the 60 representatives.

The main points of the Berlin Declaration were:

1. The so-called "Pentecostal movement" is not from above, but from below. It has many manifestations in common with spiritism. Demons are sent by Satan to deceive Christians.
2. The evil spirits' primary entry point are prophecies, which gradually seek to replace scripture. What makes matters worse: the spiritual media consist of mainly women, who usurp leadership over men.
3. The movement is not from God.
4. The doctrines of a Second blessing, sanctification, and perfection are rejected.
5. Pastor Paul is the main leader of this movement and its unbiblical teachings.
6. There was only one Pentecost.

The London Declaration

The Baptism in the Holy Ghost. What we teach concerning the Evidence and the Results.

On a recent dark November afternoon a little gathering in a bright room near Regent's Park, London, sought earnestly in prayer the Mind of the Master as to the Baptism of the of the Holy Ghost. There were seven of us thus able to come together, but we felt that with us in sympathy and faith was a "cloud of witnesses" in this Great Britain of ours. It seemed to be of the Holy Ghost that we should put forth a short, scriptural declaration in which others could join who could not be with us, but who were in full agreement. Many have been stumbled by the printing in the English religious papers of "the Berlin Declaration against the so-called Tongues Movement". We now send out in the Name of the Lord, a London Declaration on the same subject primarily to encourage and help those who stand with us. (It does not contain our teaching. It only refers to evidence and results.)

The Sign of Tongues.

The "Promise of the Father " (*Acts 1:4*) was, and is, evidenced by the Speaking in "Tongues" as the Spirit gives to utter (*see Acts 2:4, Greek; also Acts 10:46, and 14:6*).

But it also includes these Seven Results

- 1 **The Consciousness of the Deity of our Lord Jesus Christ** (*John 14:20*).
- 2 **The Consciousness of our "Dwelling in Him"** (*1John 3: 23, 24*) and **He in us** (*Eph.3:17*).
- 3 **Divine Illumination concerning His Word and Will** (*John 14:16, 17*).
- 4 **"The Testimony of Jesus"** *Rev. 19:10; John 15: 26, 27*). The Lord Jesus said that, after receiving this Promise, "Ye shall be witnesses unto Me" (*Acts 1:8*).
- 5 **The Three-fold Conviction of the World by the Spirit in us.** (*I will send the Comforter to you, and when He is come He will reprove the World of Sin, of Righteousness, and of Judgment". John 16:8-11*).
 - 1.—**The great Sin of fallen man** (his unbelief).
 - 2.—**The need of the Righteousness of Christ** (now with His Father).
 - 3.—**The Judgment of the Devil** (*Heb.2:14, 15*).[The Prince of the World is already condemned.]
- 6 **Our continual guidance into the deep things of God.** (*John 16:13; 1Cor.2:9,10*)
- 7 **The continual glorification of Christ** (to the exclusion of self). (*John 16:14; Eph.1:17-23; Col.2:15; 3:13*.)

It is also clear from Holy Scripture (*Heb.2:4*) that God bears witness both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and distributions of the Holy Ghost, according to His own will. (*See also Mark 16:19, 20; John 14:11, 12*.)

Gifts not to cease. There is no hint in Holy Scripture that signs and miracles were to cease, or that gifts were to be withdrawn from the Body of Christ. (*See 1Cor.12:31, and 14:1*.) It is more than possible that the weakness and unbelief of the Christian Church is the reason for these not being more generally manifested in these latter days.

Manifestations must be for Profit. We recognise and emphasise that the gifts are for the building up (edifying) of the Body of Christ (*Eph.4:7-16*). We would not forget, nor allow others to forget, that the Manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one to *profit* withal. The True Manifestation is seen, for instance (*1Cor.12:8-11*) in the Word of Wisdom, the Word of Knowledge, Faith, Gifts of Healings, Working- of Miracles, Prophecy, Discernment of Spirits, Tongues, and the Interpretation of Tongues. "*But all these worked; that one and the self-same Spirit, dividing severally to every man as He will.*"

Gate not Goal. It also should be clearly understood that the Baptism of the Holy Ghost is the "Gate" into, and not the "Goal" of, a true and full Christian Life.

Why don't we see many miracles?

Chrysostom, (AD347-407) was Bishop of Constantinople and his comments on 1Cor.12 are helpful to our understanding of the miraculous in the early Church:

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2024

This whole place [1Cor.12:1-2] is very obscure: but the obscurity is produced by our ignorance of the facts referred to and by their cessation, being such as then used to occur but now no longer take place. And why do they not happen now? Why look now, the cause too of the obscurity hath produced us again another question: namely, why did they then happen, and now do so no more?

At first glance it appears that Chrysostom states spiritual gifts had ceased by the end of the C4th. Indeed Warfield uses this passage to affirm his Cessationist position: “*Chrysostom fairly teems with expressions implying that miracle-working of every kind had ceased.*” However as Floris points out, Chrysostom did not mean the gifts had ceased altogether, but “*the charismata and especially glossolalia were not manifested in every believer at the time of baptism as it used to be in the apostolic times.*” He says that Chrysostom’s language is descriptive of the Church at large and he did not intend to convey the idea that there were not people in his church who were truly possessed by the Spirit of God. “*The contrary is shown by what he says elsewhere. He acknowledges the presence of all the charismata in those who had made a total surrender and were living a life of devotion and dedication.*”

Do miracles only come from God?

No! The devil can perform wonders,

*The LORD said to Moses and Aaron, ‘When Pharaoh says to you, ‘Perform a miracle,’ then say to Aaron, ‘Take your staff and throw it down before Pharaoh,’ and it will become a snake.’ So Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and did just as the LORD commanded. Aaron threw his staff down in front of Pharaoh and his officials, and it became a snake. Pharaoh then summoned wise men and sorcerers, and the Egyptian magicians also did the same things by their secret arts: Each one threw down his staff and it became a snake. But Aaron’s staff swallowed up their staffs. Yet Pharaoh’s heart became hard and he would not listen to them, just as the LORD had said.*Ex.7:8-13

*If those days had not been cut short, no one would survive, but for the sake of the elect those days will be shortened. At that time if anyone says to you, ‘Look, here is the Christ!’ or, ‘There he is!’ do not believe it. For false Christs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and miracles to deceive even the elect—if that were possible. See, I have told you ahead of time.*Matt.24:22-25

*The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with how Satan works. He will use all sorts of displays of power through signs and wonders that serve the lie, and all the ways that wickedness deceives those who are perishing. They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. For this reason God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie and so that all will be condemned who have not believed the truth but have delighted in wickedness.*2Thess.2:9-12

But most of what the world call “miracles” are just coincidences or psychosomatic

Parham estimated half of all diseases were psychosomatic and once people threw back their shoulders and faced the world with a smile and cheerful disposition... the afflictions would disappear.

God responds to faith and honours the Name of His Son and so some of the wonders that are done in the name of Jesus are not necessarily performed by Believer!

*Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?’ Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’*Matt.7:21-23

So how can we be sure if something is from God?

Does the person honour Jesus as God’s one and only Son?

Is the context compatible with the Kingdom of God (i.e. is the person greedy, immoral, self-seeking, etc.)?

When Simon saw that the Spirit was given at the laying on of the apostles’ hands, he offered them money and said, ‘Give me also this ability so that everyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit.’ Peter answered: ‘May your money perish with you, because you thought you could buy the gift of God with money! You have no part or share in this ministry, because your heart is not right before God. Repent of this wickedness and pray to the Lord

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2024

in the hope that he may forgive you for having such a thought in your heart. For I see that you are full of bitterness and captive to sin.”Acts.8:18-23

What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? [2] You desire but do not have, so you kill. You covet but you cannot get what you want, so you quarrel and fight. You do not have because you do not ask God. When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures. You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world means enmity against God? Therefore, anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God. Or do you think Scripture says without reason that he jealously longs for the spirit he has caused to dwell in us. But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: “God opposes the proud but shows favour to the humble.”Jas.4:1-6

Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.1Thes.6:9-10

Teach these things, Timothy, and encourage everyone to obey them. Some people may contradict our teaching, but these are the wholesome teachings of the Lord Jesus Christ. These teachings promote a godly life. Anyone who teaches something different is arrogant and lacks understanding. Such a person has an unhealthy desire to quibble over the meaning of words. This stirs up arguments ending in jealousy, division, slander, and evil suspicions. These people always cause trouble. Their minds are corrupt, and they have turned their backs on the truth. To them, a show of godliness is just a way to become wealthy.Tim.6:2-5

We are to judge the prophets—and discern what they say

Two or three prophets should speak, and the others should weigh carefully what is said. And if a revelation comes to someone who is sitting down, the first speaker should stop. For you can all prophesy in turn so that everyone may be instructed and encouraged. The spirits of prophets are subject to the control of prophets. For God is not a God of disorder but of peace—as in all the congregations of the Lord's people.1Cor.14:29-33

And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.Phile.9-11

Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup. For those who eat and drink without discerning the body of Christ eat and drink judgment on themselves. That is why many among you are weak and sick, and a number of you have fallen asleep. But if we were more discerning with regard to ourselves, we would not come under such judgment.1Cor.11:28-31

The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit. The person with the Spirit makes judgments about all things, but such a person is not subject to merely human judgments, for, “Who has known the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?” But we have the mind of Christ.1Cor.2:14-16

We are under no obligation to do what a “prophet” (true or false “prophet”) says. We are responsible to God for what we do and cannot “pass the buck” by blaming a “word from God”. If God wants to tell us something, He will ensure that we hear Him—and so long as we stay in fellowship with God, His Word and His people, we will hear what God is saying

Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches.Rev.3:6

2/10/2024

Mike Petzer 21

Psalm 119:89-96

Questions

What is God's glory?

How can we participate in God's glory?

Do our circumstances affect our relationship with God?

How can we become more spiritual?

What does Isaiah mean by "Zion"?

Comments

What is God's glory?

God's glory is His aura—His majestic presence, His splendour

I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp. The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their splendour into it. On no day will its gates ever be shut, for there will be no night there. Rev.21:22-25

God's glory is sometimes seen as light, fire, darkness, and often accompanied by thunder, trumpet, shout.

An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Lk.2:9-10 In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord seated on a throne, high and exalted, and the train of his robe filled the temple. Above him were seraphs, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. And they were calling to one another: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory." At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke. Is.6:1-4

The people remained at a distance, while Moses approached the thick darkness where God was. Ex.20:21

While Aaron was speaking to the whole Israelite community, they looked toward the desert, and there was the glory of the LORD appearing in the cloud. Ex.16:10

The hand of the LORD was upon me there, and he said to me, "Get up and go out to the plain, and there I will speak to you." So I got up and went out to the plain. And the glory of the LORD was standing there, like the glory I had seen by the Kebar River, and I fell facedown. Ezek.3:22-23

Now the cherubim were standing on the south side of the temple when the man went in, and a cloud filled the inner court. Then the glory of the LORD rose from above the cherubim and moved to the threshold of the temple. The cloud filled the temple, and the court was full of the radiance of the glory of the LORD. The sound of the wings of the cherubim could be heard as far away as the outer court, like the voice of God Almighty when he speaks. Ezek.10:3-5

Then the cherubim, with the wheels beside them, spread their wings, and the glory of the God of Israel was above them. The glory of the LORD went up from within the city and stopped above the mountain east of it. Ezek.11:22-23

Then the man brought me to the gate facing east, and I saw the glory of the God of Israel coming from the east. His voice was like the roar of rushing waters, and the land was radiant with his glory. The vision I saw was like the vision I had seen when he came to destroy the city and like the visions I had seen by the Kebar River, and I fell facedown. The glory of the LORD entered the temple through the gate facing east. Then the Spirit lifted me up and brought me into the inner court, and the glory of the LORD filled the temple. Ezek.43:1-5

Then the man brought me by way of the north gate to the front of the temple. I looked and saw the glory of the LORD filling the temple of the LORD, and I fell facedown. Ezek.44:4

The man brought me back to the entrance to the temple, and I saw water coming out from under the threshold of the temple toward the east (for the temple faced east). The water was coming down from under the south side of the temple, south of the altar. He then brought me out through the north gate and led me around the outside to the outer gate facing east, and the water was trickling from the south side... Fruit trees of all kinds will grow on both banks of the

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2024

river. Their leaves will not wither, nor will their fruit fail. Every month they will bear fruit, because the water from the sanctuary flows to them. Their fruit will serve for food and their leaves for healing.”Ezek.47:1-12

God’s glory instils fear—awe and reverence in Believers and terror in those who are not born-again (OT) and unbelievers

You have not come to a mountain that can be touched and that is burning with fire; to darkness, gloom and storm; to a trumpet blast or to such a voice speaking words that those who heard it begged that no further word be spoken to them, because they could not bear what was commanded: “If even an animal touches the mountain, it must be stoned to death.” The sight was so terrifying that Moses said, “I am trembling with fear.” But you have come to Mount Zion, to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly, to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven. You have come to God, the Judge of all, to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.Heb.12:18-24

Whenever the living creatures give glory, honour and thanks to him who sits on the throne and who lives for ever and ever, the twenty-four elders fall down before him who sits on the throne and worship him who lives for ever and ever. They lay their crowns before the throne and say: “You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honour and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being.”Rev.4:9-11

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people.Lk.2:8-10

How can we participate in God’s glory?

God’s glory (His majesty and presence) is only accessed through Jesus and what He accomplished on the cross.

But we ought always to thank God for you, brothers and sisters loved by the Lord, because God chose you as firstfruits to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth. He called you to this through our gospel, that you might share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.2Thess.2:13-14

To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder and a witness of Christ’s sufferings who also will share in the glory to be revealed:1Pet.5:1

For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, “Abba, Father.” The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.Rom.8:14-17

Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice inasmuch as you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed. If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. 1Pet.4:12-14

We cannot come to God any other way than through Jesus Christ.

Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you really knew me, you would know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.”Jn.14:6-7

Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.”Acts.4:12

The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For we do not preach ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus’ sake. For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ. But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.^{2Cor.4:4-7}

Do our circumstances affect our relationship with God?

They shouldn't!

Though he slay me, yet will I hope in him; Job.13:15

Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. Ps.23:4

God hasn't forgotten us when we are struggling and God isn't nearer to us when we are enjoying life! Fruit doesn't make a tree good or bad—the tree produces fruit after its own kind

"Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters. And so I tell you, every kind of sin and slander can be forgiven, but blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven. Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but anyone who speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come. Make a tree good and its fruit will be good, or make a tree bad and its fruit will be bad, for a tree is recognized by its fruit. You brood of vipers, how can you who are evil say anything good? For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of. A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in him, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in him. But I tell you that everyone will have to give account on the day of judgment for every empty word they have spoken. For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned." Matt.12:30-37

Tongue is a rudder steering your life, giving your life directions

Not many of you should become teachers, my fellow believers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly. We all stumble in many ways. Anyone who is never at fault in what they say is perfect, able to keep their whole body in check. When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal. Or take ships as an example. Although they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are steered by a very small rudder wherever the pilot wants to go. Likewise, the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole body, sets the whole course of one's life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell. All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and sea creatures are being tamed and have been tamed by mankind, but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings, who have been made in God's likeness. Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this should not be. Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring? My brothers and sisters, can a fig tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water. Jas.3:1-12

A bad confession (no good, failure, sinner, unworthy, worry, anxiety) is an unconscious blasphemy because it denies the finished work of Jesus

Come and hear, all you who fear God; let me tell you what he has done for me. I cried out to him with my mouth; his praise was on my tongue. If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened; but God has surely listened and has heard my prayer. Praise be to God, who has not rejected my prayer or withheld his love from me! Ps.66:16-20

Surely God is good to Israel, to those who are pure in heart. But as for me, my feet had almost slipped; I had nearly lost my foothold. For I envied the arrogant when I saw the prosperity of the wicked. They have no struggles; their bodies are healthy and strong. They are free from common human burdens; they are not plagued by human ills. Therefore pride is their necklace; they clothe themselves with violence. From their callous hearts comes iniquity; their evil imaginations have no limits. They scoff, and speak with malice; with arrogance they threaten oppression. Their mouths lay claim to heaven, and their tongues take possession of the earth. Therefore their people turn to them and drink up waters in abundance. They say, "How would God know? Does the Most High know anything?" This is what the wicked are like—always free of care, they go on amassing wealth. Surely in vain I have kept my heart pure and have washed my hands in innocence. All day long I have been afflicted, and every morning brings new punishments. If I had spoken out like that, I would have betrayed your children. Ps.73:1-15

How can we become more spiritual?

We can't. We are born-again of the Spirit and so we are spiritual

Jesus answered, "Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.' The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit." Jn.3:5-8

However, we can express more of what we possess! —

Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose. Phil.2:12-13

Maturity is working out our salvation

We have much to say about this, but it is hard to make it clear to you because you no longer try to understand. In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food! Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil. Heb.5:11-14

What does Isaiah mean by "Zion"?

Although Isaiah prophesied about Zion, He was referring to Jesus:

For this reason they could not believe, because, as Isaiah says elsewhere: "He has blinded their eyes and hardened their hearts, so they can neither see with their eyes, nor understand with their hearts, nor turn—and I would heal them." Isaiah said this because he saw Jesus' glory and spoke about him. Jn.12:39-41

Jesus has de-Zionised God's promises and prophecies—the city has become a child!

"Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD rises upon you. See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the LORD rises upon you and his glory appears over you. Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. "Lift up your eyes and look about you: All assemble and come to you; your sons come from afar, and your daughters are carried on the hip. Then you will look and be radiant, your heart will throb and swell with joy; the wealth on the seas will be brought to you, to you the riches of the nations will come. Herds of camels will cover your land, young camels of Midian and Ephah. And all from Sheba will come, bearing gold and incense and proclaiming the praise of the LORD. All Kedar's flocks will be gathered to you, the rams of Nebaioth will serve you; they will be accepted as offerings on my altar, and I will adorn my glorious temple. Is.60:1-7

Then the LORD will create over all of Mount Zion and over those who assemble there a cloud of smoke by day and a glow of flaming fire by night; over everything the glory will be a canopy. It will be a shelter and shade from the heat of the day, and a refuge and hiding place from the storm and rain. Is.4:5-6

"The Redeemer will come to Zion, to those in Jacob who repent of their sins," declares the LORD. "As for me, this is my covenant with them," says the LORD. "My Spirit, who is on you, will not depart from you, and my words that I have put in your mouth will always be on your lips, on the lips of your children and on the lips of their descendants—from this time on and forever," says the LORD. "Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD rises upon you. See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the LORD rises upon you and his glory appears over you. Is.59:20-60:2

The Zion that Isaiah spoke about was the Bride of Christ, the heavenly Jerusalem made up of the redeemed people of God—which includes you and me!

But you have come to Mount Zion, to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly, to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven. Heb.12:22-23

"Come, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb." And he carried me away in the Spirit to a mountain great and high, and showed me the Holy City, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God. It shone with the glory of God, and its brilliance was like that of a very precious jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal. Rev.21:9-11

24/09/2024

Mike Petzer 12.55

Psalm 119:81-88

Questions

What is God's anointing?

How can you be anointed?

What is the result of being anointed?

How do we stay anointed?

What does it mean to confess Jesus as Lord?

Comments

What is God's anointing?

Anointing literally means to rub or smear as in cleaning leather

David took up this lament concerning Saul and his son Jonathan, and he ordered that the people of Judah be taught this lament of the bow (it is written in the Book of Jashar): "A gazelle lies slain on your heights, Israel. How the mighty have fallen! "Tell it not in Gath, proclaim it not in the streets of Ashkelon, lest the daughters of the Philistines be glad, lest the daughters of the uncircumcised rejoice. "Mountains of Gilboa, may you have neither dew nor rain, may no showers fall on your terraced fields. For there the shield of the mighty was despised, the shield of Saul—no longer rubbed with oil. 2Sam.1:17-21

Get up, you officers, oil the shields! Is.21:5

Oil represents the Holy Spirit.

How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity! It is like precious oil poured on the head, running down on the beard, running down on Aaron's beard, down upon the collar of his robes. Ps.133:1-2

But about the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever; a sceptre of justice will be the sceptre of your kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has set you above your companions by anointing you with the oil of joy." Heb.1:8-9

When OT priests and kings were anointed, their position and authority was acknowledged as given to them by the Holy Spirit

"Bring Aaron and his sons to the entrance to the Tent of Meeting and wash them with water. Then dress Aaron in the sacred garments, anoint him and consecrate him so he may serve me as priest. Bring his sons and dress them in tunics. Anoint them just as you anointed their father, so they may serve me as priests. Their anointing will be to a priesthood that will continue for all generations to come." Moses did everything just as the LORD commanded him. Ex.40:12-16

Jesus Christ is the Anointed One (Christ means Anointed One)

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?" They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets." "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven. And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." Then he warned his disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Christ. Matt.16:13-20*

The woman said, "I know that Messiah (called Christ) is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us." Then Jesus declared, "I who speak to you am he." Jn.4:25-26

Christians are "little christs" because they follow Christ and He resides within them

I have become its servant by the commission God gave me to present to you the word of God in its fullness—the mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations, but is now disclosed to the Lord's people. To them God

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2024

has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.^{Col.1:25-27}

Then Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, and when he found him, he brought him to Antioch. So for a whole year Barnabas and Saul met with the church and taught great numbers of people. The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch. Acts.11:25-26

Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed. If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. If you suffer, it should not be as a murderer or thief or any other kind of criminal, or even as a meddler. However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name. 1Pet.4:12-16

And so Christians are by definition “anointed”

But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and all of you know the truth. I do not write to you because you do not know the truth, but because you do know it and because no lie comes from the truth. Who is the liar? It is the man who denies that Jesus is the Christ. Such a man is the antichrist—he denies the Father and the Son. No one who denies the Son has the Father; whoever acknowledges the Son has the Father also. See that what you have heard from the beginning remains in you. If it does, you also will remain in the Son and in the Father. And this is what he promised us—even eternal life. I am writing these things to you about those who are trying to lead you astray. As for you, the anointing you received from him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about all things and as that anointing is real, not counterfeit—just as it has taught you, remain in him.^{1Jn.3:20-27}

How can you be anointed?

The personal Presence of God is what we call “*the Anointing*” and so Christians are already “anointed” because they have Christ within them. But it is good to do a spiritual health-check to remind us of who we are and what we have.

Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you—unless, of course, you fail the test? And I trust that you will discover that we have not failed the test. 2Cor.13:5-6

But we need the possession to be our expression. We don’t want anything to hinder the outflow of God’s Holy Spirit

Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers. Finally, all of you, live in harmony with one another; be sympathetic, love as brothers, be compassionate and humble. Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult, but with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing. 1Pet.3:7-9

Then Eliphaz the Temanite replied: “Would a wise person answer with empty notions or fill their belly with the hot east wind? Would they argue with useless words, with speeches that have no value? But you even undermine piety and hinder devotion to God. Your sin prompts your mouth; you adopt the tongue of the crafty. Your own mouth condemns you, not mine; your own lips testify against you. Job.15:1-6

What is the result of being anointed?

God’s anointing enables us to represent God effectively because we have the same Spirit as Jesus

And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you. Rom.8:11

God’s Word has intrinsic life within it

The Spirit alone gives eternal life. Human effort accomplishes nothing. And the very words I have spoken to you are spirit and life. But some of you do not believe me.^{Jn.6:63-64}

For nothing is impossible with God. [For no word from God will ever fail; no word of God void of power.]^{Lk.1:37}

The words we say have spiritual power because the Holy Spirit quickens the words that are spoken so they have life.

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2024

And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as a human word, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is indeed at work in you who believe.^{1Thess.2:13}

*The Sovereign LORD has given me an instructed tongue to know the word that sustains the weary. He wakens me morning by morning wakens my ear to listen like one being taught.*Is.50:4

God's anointing empowers us to witness.

*And he stood up to read. The scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written: "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour." Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him, and he began by saying to them, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."*Lk.4:17-21

God's anointing prepares us for heaven. When we enter heaven we will be like Jesus

Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.^{1Jn.3:2-3}

And so our goal in life should be to be like Jesus—to have the same mindset, attitude, outlook and uplook as Jesus

In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus.^{Phil.2:5}

This is true holiness and whilst our new spirit is holy, our soul needs saving!

These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed. Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.^{1Pet.1:7-9}

God has predestined us to be like Jesus:

For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.^{Rom.8:29-30}

How do we stay anointed?

Remain in Christ

As for you, the anointing you received from him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about all things and as that anointing is real, not counterfeit—just as it has taught you, remain in him.^{1Jn.3:26-27}

Remove any dirt or contamination

*Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*Heb.12:1-2

What does it mean to confess Jesus as Lord?

To submit to His authority

Confess Jesus as Lord means to say the same as Jesus including about what who we are, what we have. In the Greek language "confession" is "homologos" [*homo* (same) and *logos* (word)] meaning of one mind; to speak the same; to agree. Thus "confession" is to "say the same thing."

To stay in harmony with God, we need to simply believe with our heart and repeat with our lips God's own declaration of who we are and what we have in Christ.

But what does it say? "The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart," that is, the word of faith we are proclaiming: That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2024

that you confess and are saved. As the Scripture says, "Anyone who trusts in him will never be put to shame."Rom.10:8-12

To confess what God says about us we need to know what He says about us! And this is in the Scriptures. And so to be a true Disciple of Jesus Christ, we must abide in His Word:

Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."Jn.8:31-32

18/09/2024

Mike Petzer 6.00

Psalm 119:73-80

Questions

How does God speak to us today?

How can we hear God speak to us?

How can we discern whether it is God speaking to us?

How can we get close to God?

Why is fellowship with God important?

Comments

How does God speak to us today?

God speaks to us in many different ways including creation

the heavens tell about the glory of God. The skies show that his hands created them. Day after day they speak about it. Night after night they make it known. But they don't speak or use words. No sound is heard from them. At the same time, their voice goes out into the whole earth. Their words go out from one end of the world to the other.^{Ps.19:1-4}
For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.^{Rom.1:20}

"Friends, why are you doing this? We too are only human, like you. We are bringing you good news, telling you to turn from these worthless things to the living God, who made the heavens and the earth and the sea and everything in them. In the past, he let all nations go their own way. Yet he has not left himself without testimony: He has shown kindness by giving you rain from heaven and crops in their seasons; he provides you with plenty of food and fills your hearts with joy." Even with these words, they had difficulty keeping the crowd from sacrificing to them.^{Acts.14:15-18}

From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us. 'For in him we live and move and have our being.' As some of your own poets have said, 'We are his offspring.'^{Acts.17:26-28}

The heavens tell about the glory of God. The skies show that his hands created them. Day after day they speak about it. Night after night they make it known. But they don't speak or use words. No sound is heard from them. At the same time, their voice goes out into the whole earth. Their words go out from one end of the world to the other.^{Ps.19:1-4}

But God speaks to us specifically through Jesus Christ.

In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe. The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs.^{Heb.1:1-4}

This means that God will never say anything different from Jesus. God will never contradict what Jesus said or what He has accomplished. If we fail to respect what Jesus has accomplished for us at Calvary, we dishonour Him and God the Father

How much more severely do you think someone deserves to be punished who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, who has treated as an unholy thing the blood of the covenant that sanctified them, and who has insulted the Spirit of grace?^{Heb.10:29}

Woe to him who quarrels with his Maker.^{Is.45:9}

How can we hear God speak to us?

Be His sheep

His sheep follow him because they know his voice... My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand.^{Jn.10:5;27-28}

Know the Holy Spirit

For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God.^{Rom.8:14}

God has given us a mind and an intellect that He expects us to use—but within the parameters of the principles of His Kingdom:

I'm a friend and companion of all who fear you, of those committed to living by your rules. Your love, GOD, fills the earth! Train me to live by your counsel. Be good to your servant, GOD; be as good as your Word. Train me in good common sense; I'm thoroughly committed to living your way. Before I learned to answer you, I wandered all over the place, but now I'm in step with your Word. You are good, and the source of good; train me in your goodness.^{Ps.119:63-68}

How can we discern whether it is God speaking to us?

Know the Scriptures

Keep reminding God's people of these things. Warn them before God against quarrelling about words; it is of no value, and only ruins those who listen. Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth. Avoid godless chatter, because those who indulge in it will become more and more ungodly. Their teaching will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus, who have departed from the truth.^{2Tim.2:14-18}

The anointing (God's presence) is a joining of our spirit with God's Holy Spirit and confirmed by the Scriptures

I am writing these things to you about those who are trying to lead you astray. As for you, the anointing you received from him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about all things and as that anointing is real, not counterfeit—just as it has taught you, remain in him.^{1Jn.2:26-27}

The anointing of God sets us free and keeps us free

It shall come to pass in that day that his burden will be taken away from your shoulder, and his yoke from your neck, and the yoke will be destroyed because of the anointing oil. [In that day their burden will be lifted from your shoulders, their yoke from your neck; the yoke will be broken because you have grown so fat.]^{Is.10:27}

And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory.^{Eph.1:13-14}

How can we get close to God?

God is not far from us

God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us. 'For in him we live and move and have our being.'^{*} *As some of your own poets have said, 'We are his offspring.'*^{Acts.17:27-28}

But until we are born again, we are separated from Him

Remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ.^{Eph.2:12-13}

When we are born-again, Christ resides within us

Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you—unless, of course, you fail the test?^{2Cor.13:5}

Jesus replied, "Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them."^{Jn.14:23}

Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.^{Eph.2:19-22}

You said you find it hard to pray, your prayer times empty pass;

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2024

The air it feels like granite, and the ceiling seems like brass!
You said your prayers don't go beyond, the room; that you feel static.
The ceiling! Who told you that God lives inside your attic?
Whoever told you had it wrong—misplacing God's true venue:
The truth is, once invited there, that God resides within you
Gordon Bailey

Fellowship with God requires interacting with God and staying in harmony with Him:

Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. Gal.5:25

We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. We write this to make our joy complete. This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin. 1Jn.1:3-7

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. 2Cor.13:14

Why is fellowship with God important?

Fellowship is communion—common-union, harmony, unity. Our goal should be to be like Jesus
For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified. Rom.8:29-30

The first man was of the dust of the earth; the second man is of heaven. As was the earthly man, so are those who are of the earth; and as is the heavenly man, so also are those who are of heaven. And just as we have borne the image of the earthly man, so shall we bear the image of the heavenly man. 1Cor.15:47-49

And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit. 2Cor.3:18

Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure. 1Jn.3:2-3

In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: Phil.2:5

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." Matt.11:28-30

But if anyone obeys his word, love for God is truly made complete in them. This is how we know we are in him: Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did. 1Jn.2:5-6

I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. Jn.13:15

To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps. 1Pet.2:21

His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires. 2Pet.1:3-4

11/09/2024

Video Overland Mission_ Conference 2024 - Day Four, Morning Session One & Two 2.05

Psalm 119: 65-72

Questions

How can we find strength in God?

How does God expect us to respond to His comfort?

What is the Church?

How can we be encouraged?

How can we encourage others?

Comments

How can we find strength in God?

Jonathan went to David... and helped him find strength in God.^{1Sam.23:16}

David was greatly distressed because the men were talking of stoning him; each one was bitter in spirit because of his sons and daughters. But David found strength in the LORD his God.^{1Sam.30:6}

God is our strength

*My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.*Ps.73:26

*You are my strength, I watch for you; you, God, are my fortress, my God on whom I can rely.*Ps.59:9-10

*Praise be to the LORD, for he has heard my cry for mercy. The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him, and he helps me. My heart leaps for joy, and with my song I praise him. The LORD is the strength of his people, a fortress of salvation for his anointed one. Save your people and bless your inheritance; be their shepherd and carry them forever.*Ps.28:6-9

God gives us strength

*Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.*1Pet.4:10-11

*I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that he considered me trustworthy, appointing me to his service.*1Tim.1:12

*I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do all this through him who gives me strength.*Phil.4:11-13

We find strength in God by faith (actively placing our trusting in Jesus Christ)

*who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, and gained what was promised; who shut the mouths of lions, quenched the fury of the flames, and escaped the edge of the sword; whose weakness was turned to strength;*Heb.11:33-34

Like praise, hope takes an active decision to implement it

*Why, my soul, are you downcast? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Saviour and my God.*Ps.42:11

*Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. For the LORD is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.*Ps.100:4-5

*I delight greatly in the LORD; my soul rejoices in my God. For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of his righteousness,*Is.61:10

*“My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant.*Lk.146-48

The early Church leaders were people who were full of faith and great encouragers who helped other find strength in God:

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2024

When Barnabas arrived and saw what the grace of God had done, he was glad and encouraged them all to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts. He was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith, and a great number of people were brought to the Lord.^{Acts.11:23-24}

Then Paul and Barnabus returned... strengthening the disciples and encouraging them to remain true to the faith. "We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God," they said.^{Acts.14:22}

How does God expect us to respond to His comfort?

Pass it on to others

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God. For just as we share abundantly in the sufferings of Christ, so also our comfort abounds through Christ. If we are distressed, it is for your comfort and salvation; if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which produces in you patient endurance of the same sufferings we suffer.^{2Cor.1:3-6}

For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you:^{1Cor.11:23}

For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,^{1Cor.15:3-4}

You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others.^{2Tim.2:1-2}

What is the Church?

The Church is the gathering of Believers

Jesus is building His Church on the foundation of sound doctrine or teaching. Sound teaching is balanced truth (or truth taken to the utmost) not truth that is compromised or restricted:

"You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." ...on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it (or not prove stronger than it)^{Matt.16:16-18}

Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone.^{Eph.2:19-20}

The word **Church** is from the Greek **ἐκκλησία** (Ekklesia) meaning **a gathering of citizens called out from their homes into some public place for the purpose of deliberating** (deliberating = discourse or debate with action taken after careful consideration).

- ♦ **Gathering:** Church is always a *gathering* of people never just 1 or 2 people in their home.
- ♦ **Citizens:** Christians are *citizens* of heaven. This has nothing to do with our natural or first birth but solely to do with our second birth from above:

Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone.^{Eph.2:19-20}

But our citizenship is in heaven.^{Phil.3:20}

- ♦ **Called:** We have responded to God's call and are doing something about it. Church is when we leave our home thinking - lunch, business, family, friends, leisure etc. to worship God with a single mind:

His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.^{2Pet.1:3}

- ♦ **Public:** Church meets in *public* not in private. We are not a secret society or cult. We are transparent and accountable.

Now this is our boast: Our conscience testifies that we have conducted ourselves in the world, and especially in our relations with you, with integrity and godly sincerity. We have done so, relying not on worldly wisdom but on God's grace. For we do not write you anything you cannot read or understand.^{2Cor.1:12-13}

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2024

Unlike so many, we do not peddle the word of God for profit. On the contrary, in Christ we speak before God with sincerity, like men sent from God. 2Cor.2:17

♦ **Purpose:** Our meetings are deliberate, we intend to take action after hearing the facts:
they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true. Acts 17:11

We are Church when we come together in public to make quality decisions to change after spending time in God's presence.

Church is always an activity with purpose. We don't come together casually but determine to give our best to God because He deserves it. Worship is the central activity of Church—worship means worth-ship; what God is worth to me.

God intends to display His wisdom in the Church

His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, according to his eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. Eph.3:10-11

God's glory is displayed in the Church

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen. Eph.3:20-21

How can we be encouraged?

Know the Scriptures and learn from them—they are spiritual and living

For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope. May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. ^{Rom. 15:4-6}

How can we encourage others?

Smile—be happy and look happy. Happiness is contagious

Love —love God and people

Live —be a good and godly example to others

04/09/2024

Video Overland Mission_ Conference 2024 - Day Four, Morning Session One & Two 1.17

Psalm 119: 57-64

Questions

In what way does God have a plan for our lives?

What is God's plan?

Can God's plan be thwarted?

How can we overcome our difficulties?

What should we do when those difficulties still remain?

Comments

In what way does God have a plan for our lives?

God is Sovereign (i.e. He can do what He wants—literally “despot”)

Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying: “Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace. Lk.2:28-29

God is also Omnipresent, Omniscient, Omnipotent and Omnibenevolent—He is present everywhere, all knowing, all powerful and totally good.

He has planned out our life

LORD, you have seen what is in my heart. You know all about me. You know when I sit down and when I get up. You know what I'm thinking even though you are far away. You know when I go out to work and when I come back home. You know exactly how I live. LORD, even before I speak a word, you know all about it. You are all around me. You are behind me and in front of me. You hold me in your power. I'm amazed at how well you know me. It's more than I can understand... When you were putting me together, your eyes saw my body even before it was formed. You planned how many days I would live. You wrote down the number of them in your book before I had lived through even one of them. God, your thoughts about me are priceless. No one can possibly add them all up. Ps.139:1-17

God over-rides the wrongs of others to fulfil His purposes

But Joseph said to them, “Don't be afraid. Do you think I'm God? You planned to harm me. But God planned it for good. He planned to do what is now being done. He wanted to save many lives. “So then, don't be afraid. I'll provide for you and your children.” He set them free from their fears. And he spoke in a kind way to them. Gen.50:19-21
Surely the wrath of man shall praise you; Ps.76:10 ESV

God is not restricted by time

But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. 2Pet.3:8

God can achieve everything He wants in a moment

And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. Gen.1:3

He can even get time to stand still

On the day the LORD gave the Amorites over to Israel, Joshua said to the LORD in the presence of Israel: “Sun, stand still over Gibeon, and you, moon, over the Valley of Aijalon.” So the sun stood still, and the moon stopped, till the nation avenged itself on its enemies, as it is written in the Book of Jashar. The sun stopped in the middle of the sky and delayed going down about a full day. There has never been a day like it before or since, a day when the LORD listened to a human being. Surely the LORD was fighting for Israel! Josh.10:12-14

Then the word of the LORD came to Isaiah: “Go and tell Hezekiah, ‘This is what the LORD, the God of your father David, says: I have heard your prayer and seen your tears; I will add fifteen years to your life. And I will deliver you and this city from the hand of the king of Assyria. I will defend this city. This is the LORD's sign to you that the LORD will do what he has promised: I will make the shadow cast by the sun go back the ten steps it has gone down on the stairway of Abaz.’” So the sunlight went back the ten steps it had gone down. Is.38:4-8

And God can give us more time—Moses was 80 when he led the people out of Egypt.

Moses was eighty years old and Aaron eighty-three when they spoke to Pharaoh. Ex.7:7

What is God's plan?

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2024

God's plan for us is that we proclaim/preach the Kingdom of God and make Disciples

"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Matt.28:18-20

That none should perish

The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. 2Pet.3:9

Can God's plan be thwarted?

No!

The LORD Almighty has sworn, "Surely, as I have planned, so it will be, and as I have purposed, so it will happen. I will crush the Assyrian in my land; on my mountains I will trample him down. His yoke will be taken from my people, and his burden removed from their shoulders." This is the plan determined for the whole world; this is the hand stretched out over all nations. For the LORD Almighty has purposed, and who can thwart him? His hand is stretched out, and who can turn it back?" Is.14:24-27

Then Job replied to the LORD: I know that you can do all things; no plan of yours can be thwarted. Job.42:1-2

But we can miss out on God's plan by unbelief

Jesus said to them, "Only in his hometown, among his relatives and in his own house is a prophet without honour." He could not do any miracles there, except lay his hands on a few sick people and heal them. And he was amazed at their lack of faith. Mk.6:4-6

By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as an expert builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should be careful how he builds. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. If any man builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, his work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each man's work. If what he has built survives, he will receive his reward. If it is burned up, he will suffer loss; he himself will be saved, but only as one escaping through the flames. 1Cor.3:10-15

Also the flood, parable of Sower, etc.

That is why we need to sing the truth not settle for sentimental or superstitious songs.

Sometimes the greatest hindrance to our growth in truth is the songs that we sing. What we sing affects us more profoundly than what we hear preached because we are participating in it. Our mouths are repeating it aloud, over and over again. In the words of Andrew Fletcher (Scottish parliamentarian 1653–1716) "*Let me make the songs of a nation, and I care not who makes its laws.*"

Sadly, our songs are far too often admissions of lack rather than expressions of faith. Our songs and our prayers too often cry out for more. "More love, more power, more of you..." we sing. Yet we have all the love and power we will ever need right within us because of the indwelling Jesus, the greater one, God, the Creator of all things who happily lives within us. Even though we often may give lip service to this fact, we continue to believe we need "something more." Really? Something more than Jesus? What could there be outside of him? Is the All-Sufficient One not enough? Look what the Scripture says –

God's divine power has given us everything we need for life and for godliness. This power was given to us through knowledge of the one who called us by his own glory and integrity. Through his glory and integrity he has given us his promises that are of the highest value. Through these promises you will share in the divine nature because you have escaped the corruption that sinful desires cause in the world. 2 Peter 1:3-4

How can we overcome our difficulties?

Faith—Faith is the simple yet profound trust in Jesus that is based on His Character and His Word (who He is and what He has said) and is the antidote to doubt, defeat, despair, discouragement and despondency.

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2024

This is love for God: to obey his commands. And his commands are not burdensome, for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world? Only he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God. 1Jn.5:3-5

Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. Jas.1:2-4

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed. Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls. 1Pet.1:3-9

His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires. For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love. For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But whoever does not have them is nearsighted and blind, forgetting that they have been cleansed from their past sins. 2Pet.1:3-9

Victory lies not in telling God about our sin, but in telling our sin about our God. Not in telling God about our disease or sickness or pain or brokenness, but in telling our pains and brokenness about our God. We must preach our God to our problems and not our problems to our God. Answers do not come from accurately expressing or defining problems, but in accurately expressing our faith and confidence in our God's abundant provision in Christ for every situation. If we constantly remind ourselves of who we really are we are far more likely to live who we really are than if we remain passive and let outside voices try to tell us what our identity really is. Even in the face of defeat, we must not speak along with our circumstances, but reaffirm the truth of who we are because of who it is who lives within us. We must be God-inside-minded, Son-conscious rather than sin-conscious. We must not identify ourselves by our greatest failures and weaknesses. "I am an alcoholic." "I am a paranoid schizophrenic." We must identify ourselves with God's strength in us and with the effects of Christ's finished work for us.

Let the weak say, "I am strong" Joel 3:10

"My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong. 2Cor.12:9-10

What should we do when those difficulties still remain?

Praise, thank and worship God

Why, my soul, are you downcast? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God. Ps.42:11

You are my God, and I will praise you; you are my God, and I will exalt you. Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever. Ps.118:28-29

28/08/2024

Video Overland Mission_ Conference 2024 - Day Four, Morning Session One & Two 1.16

Psalm 119: 49-56

Questions

How can we know more about what we believe?

How can we have credibility with other people—especially non-Christians?

Why should we listen to other people's point of view when we are right?

Should we confront people's false beliefs?

How can we be more confident in sharing our faith?

Comments

How can we know more about what we believe?

Study the Bible—

Keep reminding God's people of these things. Warn them before God against quarrelling about words; it is of no value, and only ruins those who listen. Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth. Avoid godless chatter, because those who indulge in it will become more and more ungodly. Their teaching will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus, who have departed from the truth. They say that the resurrection has already taken place, and they destroy the faith of some. Nevertheless, God's solid foundation stands firm, sealed with this inscription: "The Lord knows those who are his," and, "Everyone who confesses the name of the Lord must turn away from wickedness." 2Tim.2:14-19

Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do. Jas.1:22-25

Studying the Bible is different from just reading the Bible. Studying the Bible requires reading with understanding, believing what God says, checking what others say against what God says. *Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?" The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'" "You will not certainly die," the serpent said to the woman. "For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." Gen.3:1-5*

Now the Berean Jews were of more noble character than those in Thessalonica, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true. As a result, many of them believed, as did also a number of prominent Greek women and many Greek men. Acts.17:11-12

Follow what the LORD taught you and said to you through me. People who don't speak in keeping with those words won't have any hope in the morning. They will suffer and be hungry. They'll wander through the land. When they are very hungry, they will become angry. They'll look up toward heaven. They'll call down curses on their king and their God. Then they will look at the earth. They'll see nothing but suffering and darkness. They'll see terrible sadness. They'll be driven into total darkness. Is.8:20-22

"This is the meaning of the parable: The seed is the word of God. Those along the path are the ones who hear, and then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. Those on the rocky ground are the ones who receive the word with joy when they hear it, but they have no root. They believe for a while, but in the time of testing they fall away. The seed that fell among thorns stands for those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by life's worries, riches and pleasures, and they do not mature. But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop. Lk.8:11-15

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2024

God is Spirit and He reveals Himself to spirit and He can reveal Himself to our spirit through the Word. For instance, we hear someone read the Word of God. The thing that is read is weighed and measured by our intellect but in some way which is inexplicable to reason, it affects our spirit. It answers a need. Listening to the Word God changes our spirit. *E.W.Kenyon*

How can we have credibility with other people—especially non-Christians?

Live good lives and live godly lives (there is a difference!)

Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul. Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us. 1Pet.2:11-12

Do everything without grumbling or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, “children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation.” Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky as you hold firmly to the word of life. Phil.2:14-15

Similarly, encourage the young men to be self-controlled. In everything set them an example by doing what is good. In your teaching show integrity, seriousness and soundness of speech that cannot be condemned, so that those who oppose you may be ashamed because they have nothing bad to say about us. Tit.2:6-8

But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behaviour in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. 1Pet.3:15-16

Why should we listen to other people's point of view when we are right?

We are not omniscient—we don't know everything.

The right to be heard is not automatic—we have to earn that right

Andrew Womack: None of Your Business. I would never go up to someone I see on television or hear on the radio and just start rebuking them and them things that I disagree with them about. I've listened to some of them, and they are absolutely wrong on some points. God has shown me some truths in His Word that could help them, but I respect them enough to wait to be invited in. I'm not their supervisor. They don't submit to me. We don't have that kind of rapport built up. I would never do such a thing.

However, every day someone does that to me. Whether it be in a letter, a phone call, an email, or in person, someone who considers themselves to be the official standard of what's right and reams me up one side and down the other. They've never witnessed to anyone, never seen someone set free, never done anything for the Lord, and yet they think that they know it all.

If they just understood authority, they would stop these kinds of abuses and realize that they have to earn the right to speak into someone's life.

I've told my Bible school students before, "There are some things I know about some of you sitting here right now, problems in your life, however, these problems are outside of school and you come to me about them. If we haven't built a rapport to where I feel like you've opened up to me and given me the freedom to candidly speak to you, then I won't come to you and talk to you about those kinds of things." It's not my place, It's none of my business. I'll deal with things that affect people while they're at school, but I'm not going to pry into their personal life. Some folks think, Well, that's wrong. You ought to get more involved. No, I believe it's wrong for you to stick your nose into other people's business. It really does come down to authority.

Should we confront people's false beliefs?

Greg Koukle: Treat people as equally valuable, but treat ideas as if some are better than others, because they are. To argue that some views are false, immoral, or just plain silly doesn't violate any meaningful standard of tolerance. Some ideas are true; some are false. Some are brilliant; others are dangerous. Real tolerance, is about how we treat people, not ideas. Classic tolerance requires that every person be free to express his ideas without fear of abuse or reprisal, not that all views have equal validity, merit, or truth. Be **egalitarian** regarding **persons**. Be **elitist** regarding **ideas**.

How can we be more confident in sharing our faith?

Know what and whom we have believed

Yet I am not ashamed, because I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him for that day. What you heard from me, keep as the pattern of sound teaching, with faith and love in Christ Jesus. Guard the good deposit that was entrusted to you—guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us. 2Tim.1:12-14

Simon Peter answered him, ‘Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and to know that you are the Holy One of God.’ Jn.6:68-69

They said to the woman, ‘We no longer believe just because of what you said; now we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this man really is the Savior of the world.’ Jn.4:42

Whoever believes in the Son of God accepts this testimony. Whoever does not believe God has made him out to be a liar, because they have not believed the testimony God has given about his Son. And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life. 1Jn.5:10-13

It is not how eloquent or proficient we are, nor even what education we have had or our social status—it is by God’s Spirit.

When I came to you, brothers, I did not come with eloquence or superior wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God. For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. I came to you in weakness and fear, and with much trembling. My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit’s power, so that your faith might not rest on men’s wisdom, but on God’s power. 1Cor.2:1-5

‘This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: ‘Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,’ says the LORD Almighty. Zech.4:6

The LORD said, “Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by.” Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake came a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper. When Elijah heard it, he pulled his cloak over his face and went out and stood at the mouth of the cave. Then a voice said to him, “What are you doing here, Elijah?” 1Kg.19:11-13

Moses said to the LORD, “Pardon your servant, Lord. I have never been eloquent, neither in the past nor since you have spoken to your servant. I am slow of speech and tongue.” The LORD said to him, “Who gave human beings their mouths? Who makes them deaf or mute? Who gives them sight or makes them blind? Is it not I, the LORD? Now go; I will help you speak and will teach you what to say.” Ex.4:10-12

That is why we must be confident that Christ lives within us

Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you—unless, of course, you fail the test? And I trust that you will discover that we have not failed the test. 2Cor.13:5-6

You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ. But if Christ is in you, then even though your body is subject to death because of sin, the Spirit gives life because of righteousness. And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you. Rom.8:9-11

the mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations, but is now disclosed to the Lord’s people. To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. He is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ. To this end I strenuously contend with all the energy Christ so powerfully works in me. Eph.1:26-29

21/08/2024

Video Phil & Sharon Smethurst _ Faith Today 35.

Psalm 119:41-48

Questions

Why are we seeing so much unrest in the world?
What should our response be to the chaos around us?
Will God bring people to account for their behaviour?
How can we still our hearts when we are surrounded by chaos?
Can we ever have a Christian nation in this world?
How can we make a difference to our nation?

Comments

Why are we seeing unrest in the world?

Sin. Sin came from Adam's disobedience

*Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned—To be sure, sin was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not charged against anyone's account where there is no law. Nevertheless, death reigned from the time of Adam to the time of Moses, even over those who did not sin by breaking a command, as did Adam, who is a pattern of the one to come.*Rom.5:12-14

Weeds are sown by an enemy:

The owner's servants came to him and said, 'Sir, didn't you sow good seed in your field? Where then did the weeds come from?' 'An enemy did this,' he replied.^{Matt.13:27-28}

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.^{Jn.10:10}

And that enemy is the devil:

Why is my language not clear to you? Because you are unable to hear what I say. You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desire. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.^{Jn.8:43-44}

The one who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work. No one who is born of God will continue to sin, because God's seed remains in them; they cannot go on sinning, because they have been born of God. This is how we know who the children of God are and who the children of the devil are: Anyone who does not do what is right is not God's child, nor is anyone who does not love their brother and sister.^{1Jn.3:8-10}

The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him.^{Rev.12:9}

Although the devil started all the evil, we are now responsible for the sin and destruction in the world

*each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death. Don't be deceived, my dear brothers and sisters.*Jas. 1:14-16

What should our response be to the chaos around us?

We should respond with faith not fear—we should respond by trusting God

*Jesus answered: "Watch out that no one deceives you. For many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am the Messiah,' and will deceive many. You will hear of wars and rumours of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of birth pains. "Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me. At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other, and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people. Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.*Matt.24:4-14

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2024

"There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars. On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea. People will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world, for the heavenly bodies will be shaken. At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near." Lk.21:25-28

When someone tells you to consult mediums and spiritists, who whisper and mutter, should not a people inquire of their God? Why consult the dead on behalf of the living? Consult God's instruction and the testimony of warning. If anyone does not speak according to this word, they have no light of dawn. Distressed and hungry, they will roam through the land; when they are famished, they will become enraged and, looking upward, will curse their king and their God. Then they will look toward the earth and see only distress and darkness and fearful gloom, and they will be thrust into utter darkness. Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for those who were in distress. In the past he humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the future he will honour Galilee of the nations, by the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan—The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned. You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest. Is.8:19-9:3

We should respond with Caution—lest we make the same mistakes as others or fall into sin
Now these things occurred as examples to keep us from setting our hearts on evil things as they did. Do not be idolaters, as some of them were; as it is written: "The people sat down to eat and drink and got up to indulge in revelry." We should not commit sexual immorality, as some of them did—and in one day twenty-three thousand of them died. We should not test Christ, as some of them did—and were killed by snakes. And do not grumble, as some of them did—and were killed by the destroying angel. These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the culmination of the ages has come. So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall! No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it. 1Cor.10:6-13

If some of the branches have been broken off, and you, though a wild olive shoot, have been grafted in among the others and now share in the nourishing sap from the olive root, do not consider yourself to be superior to those other branches. If you do, consider this: You do not support the root, but the root supports you. You will say then, "Branches were broken off so that I could be grafted in." Granted. But they were broken off because of unbelief, and you stand by faith. Do not be arrogant, but tremble. For if God did not spare the natural branches, he will not spare you either. Consider therefore the kindness and sternness of God: sternness to those who fell, but kindness to you, provided that you continue in his kindness. Rom.11:17-22

Will God bring people to account for their behaviour?

Yes! Even Christians!

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad. 2Cor.5:10

But I tell you that everyone will have to give account on the day of judgment for every empty [idle, careless] word they have spoken. For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned. ^{Matt.12:36-37}

What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father's glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what they have done. Matt.16:26-27

He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name." Acts.10:42-43

(Indeed, when Gentiles, who do not have the law, do by nature things required by the law, they are a law for themselves, even though they do not have the law. They show that the requirements of the law are written on their hearts, their consciences also bearing witness, and their thoughts sometimes accusing them and at other times even defending them.)

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2024

This will take place on the day when God judges people's secrets through Jesus Christ, as my gospel declares. Rom.2:14-16

You, then, why do you judge your brother or sister? Or why do you treat them with contempt? For we will all stand before God's judgment seat. It is written: " 'As surely as I live,' says the Lord, 'every knee will bow before me; every tongue will acknowledge God.' " So then, each of us will give an account of ourselves to God. Rom.14:10-12

Slaves, obey your earthly masters with respect and fear, and with sincerity of heart, just as you would obey Christ. Obey them not only to win their favour when their eye is on you, but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from your heart. Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not people, because you know that the Lord will reward each one for whatever good they do, whether they are slave or free. And masters, treat your slaves in the same way. Do not threaten them, since you know that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and there is no favouritism with him. Eph.6:4-9

How can we still our hearts when we are surrounded by chaos?

After the king was settled in his palace and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, 2Sam.7:1

Put our trust in God

My bones suffer mortal agony as my foes taunt me, saying to me all day long, "Where is your God?" Why, my soul, are you downcast? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Saviour and my God. Ps.42:10-11

Never disagree with God

Woe to those who quarrel with their Maker, Is.45:9

All his days the wicked man suffers torment, the ruthless man through all the years stored up for him. Terrifying sounds fill his ears; when all seems well, marauders attack him. He despairs of escaping the realm of darkness; he is marked for the sword. He wanders about for food like a vulture; he knows the day of darkness is at hand. Distress and anguish fill him with terror; troubles overwhelm him, like a king poised to attack because he shakes his fist at God and vaunts himself against the Almighty, defiantly charging against him with a thick, strong shield. Job.15:20-26

Love God's Word

but my heart trembles at your word. I rejoice in your promise like one who finds great spoil. I hate and detest falsehood but I love your law. Seven times a day I praise you for your righteous laws. Great peace have those who love your law, and nothing can make them stumble. I wait for your salvation, LORD, and I follow your commands. I obey your statutes, for I love them greatly. Ps.119:161-167

Scripture can be more than the rule of faith—it can also be the source of meaning which inspires all our willing, planning, acting and serving in the world. Scripture's history, personalities, stories, prophets, precepts, wisdom and challenges can all become a source of inspiration when we apply them to our life's circumstances. In order for this to occur, we need to make time to reflect on our life's circumstances as well as Scripture, and then bring the two into careful dialogue.

We must prayerfully and carefully read the Scriptures—not just for information but to let God's Word mold our conscious and subconscious thoughts so that we begin to think like God.

It is easy to turn time with Scripture into a game of "Twenty Questions": how to have a happy relationship, learn financial faithfulness, or whatever. A sharp line can be drawn between utilitarian approaches that treat the Bible as a how-to manual or a database for addressing my questions, and the formation of Scripture-shaped minds that understand God and God's creation through Scripture-shaped lenses. **The latter requires patient, deliberate reading—reading, as it were, for no good reason but for the sake of having our dispositions and reflexes shaped by Scripture.**

Lk.9:44

Let these words sink into your ears NRSV

Let these words sink into your ears: ESV

Mark these words diligently: Geneva

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2024

Take these words to heart, NET

Listen carefully to what I am about to tell you: NIV

Listen to me and remember what I say. NLTse

Treasure and ponder each of these next words: TM

Can we ever have a Christian nation?

No! — and yes! We will never have a Christian nation because Christianity is a heart religion not an ethnic or political religion. But Christians are a spiritual and holy nation

In the OT, Israel was a holy nation

Then Moses went up to God, and the LORD called to him from the mountain and said, “This is what you are to say to the descendants of Jacob and what you are to tell the people of Israel: ‘You yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt, and how I carried you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself. Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’ These are the words you are to speak to the Israelites.” Ex.19:3-6

For you are a people holy to the LORD your God. The LORD your God has chosen you out of all the peoples on the face of the earth to be his people, his treasured possession. The LORD did not set his affection on you and choose you because you were more numerous than other peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples. But it was because the LORD loved you and kept the oath he swore to your ancestors that he brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the land of slavery, from the power of Pharaoh king of Egypt. Know therefore that the LORD your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commandments. But those who hate him he will repay to their face by destruction; he will not be slow to repay to their face those who hate him. Deut.7:6-10

God was Israel’s Husband

For your Maker is your husband, the LORD of hosts is His name; and the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer, the God of the whole earth He is called. Isaiah 54:5

But something happened—God divorced Israel

This is what the LORD says: “Where is your mother’s certificate of divorce with which I sent her away? Or to which of my creditors did I sell you? Because of your sins you were sold; because of your transgressions your mother was sent away. Is.50:1

“If a man divorces his wife and she leaves him and marries another man, should he return to her again? Would not the land be completely defiled? But you have lived as a prostitute with many lovers—would you now return to me?” declares the LORD... During the reign of King Josiah, the LORD said to me, “Have you seen what faithless Israel has done? She has gone up on every high hill and under every spreading tree and has committed adultery there. I thought that after she had done all this she would return to me but she did not, and her unfaithful sister Judah saw it. I gave faithless Israel her certificate of divorce and sent her away because of all her adulteries. Yet I saw that her unfaithful sister Judah had no fear; she also went out and committed adultery. Because Israel’s immorality mattered so little to her, she defiled the land and committed adultery with stone and wood. In spite of all this, her unfaithful sister Judah did not return to me with all her heart, but only in pretence,” declares the LORD. The LORD said to me, “Faithless Israel is more righteous than unfaithful Judah. Go, proclaim this message toward the north: “ ‘Return, faithless Israel,’ declares the LORD, ‘I will frown on you no longer, for I am faithful,’ declares the LORD, ‘I will not be angry forever. Only acknowledge your guilt—you have rebelled against the LORD your God, you have scattered your favours to foreign gods under every spreading tree, and have not obeyed me,’ ” declares the LORD. “Return, faithless people,” declares the LORD, “for I am your husband. I will choose you—one from a town and two from a clan—and bring you to Zion. Then I will give you shepherds after my own heart, who will lead you with knowledge and understanding. In those days, when your numbers have increased greatly in the land,” declares the LORD, “people will no longer say, ‘The ark of the covenant of the LORD.’ It will never enter their minds or be remembered; it will not be missed, nor will another one be made. At that time they will call Jerusalem The Throne of the LORD, and all nations will gather in Jerusalem to honour the name of the LORD. No longer will they follow the stubbornness of their evil hearts. Jer.3:1-17

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2024

The New Covenant was foretold by the prophets, particularly Jeremiah. It depicted a remnant of the twelve tribes of Israel being reunited under a new covenant.

In those days the house of Judah shall join the house of Israel, and together they shall come from the land of the north to the land that I gave your fathers for a heritage. Jeremiah 3:18

Based on the prophecies in the Book of Hosea, the New Covenant was to encompass those who were not ethnically Hebrew who were depicted with the common Old Testament metaphor for Gentiles of 'beasts'.

Yet the number of the children of Israel shall be like the sand of the sea, which cannot be measured or numbered. And in the place where it was said to them, "You are not my people," it shall be said to them, "Children of the living God." And the children of Judah and the children of Israel shall be gathered together, and they shall appoint for themselves one head. And they shall go up from the land, for great shall be the day of Jezreel. Hosea 1:10-11

But in order for this to happen in accord with what Christ said was permissible, one of the previously divorced parties would have to be dead. This was fulfilled with the death of God the Son. By understanding this and recognising that God has now taken a new bride (as prophesied in the Old Testament) – namely, the Church (referred to as "*the true Israel*" cf. Gal. 6:16) – we can begin to understand that the closing book of the Bible, The Revelation, is the legal divorce papers of Israel and the announcement of God's Son having taken a new bride.

If we read the Book of Revelation in this light, we can see an acrimonious ex-wife who is spiteful and hostile toward the new bride. But there is no mincing of words in the Book of Revelation when this ex-wife is referred to as –

I know your tribulation and your poverty (but you are rich) and the slander of those who say that they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan. Revelation 2:9

Behold, I will make those of the synagogue of Satan who say that they are Jews and are not, but lie—behold, I will make them come and bow down before your feet, and they will learn that I have loved you. Revelation 3:9

The implications of appreciating this issue are dramatic. Rather than persisting with the Dispensational notion that God has two People who are redeemed under two concurrent and equally salvific covenants, the Scriptures declare –

In speaking of a new covenant, He makes the first one obsolete. And what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away. Hebrews 8:13

God now applies His promises to His new Bride—those who will love and obey Him

Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To God's elect, exiles scattered throughout the provinces of Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia, who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to be obedient to Jesus Christ and sprinkled with his blood: Grace and peace be yours in abundance... But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. 1Pet. 1:1-2; 2:9-10

On that day HOLY TO THE LORD will be inscribed on the bells of the horses, and the cooking pots in the LORD's house will be like the sacred bowls in front of the altar. Every pot in Jerusalem and Judah will be holy to the LORD Almighty, and all who come to sacrifice will take some of the pots and cook in them. And on that day there will no longer be a Canaanite in the house of the LORD Almighty. Zech. 14:20-21

How can we make a difference to our nation?

Being salt and light

"You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot. "You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven. Matt. 5:13-16

Living good lives

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2024

Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your souls. Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits 1Pet.2:11-12

Standing up for the values of God's kingdom in our own national kingdom

Make the Master proud of you by being good citizens. Respect the authorities, whatever their level; they are God's emissaries for keeping order. It is God's will that by doing good, you might cure the ignorance of the fools who think you're a danger to society. Exercise your freedom by serving God, not by breaking the rules. Treat everyone you meet with dignity. Love your spiritual family. Revere God. Respect the government. 1Pet.2:13-17

14/08/2024

Video Phil & Sharon Smethurst _ Faith Today 24.

Psalm 119: 33-40

Questions

Why is the OT history important for Christians today?

In the Temple worship, incense was used. What is its relevance to us today?

Should we use written prayers if we must worship God in spirit and truth?

How important is it for Believers to meet together?

What should we expect to happen when we meet together as Believers?

Comments

Why is the OT history important for Christians today?

All Scripture (including OT) is God's Word and our spiritual food—it will feed us spiritually and keep us from sinning

*I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.*Ps.119:11

*Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"*Matt.4:4

All Scripture, including OT history, is true and therefore timeless

*Jesus answered them, "Is it not written in your Law, 'I have said you are gods'? If he called them 'gods,' to whom the word of God came—and the Scripture cannot be broken—"*Jn.10:34-35

*The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God stands forever."*Is.40:8

*The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God stands forever."*Ps.119:89

"Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished." Matt.5:17-18

Scripture, including history, is inspired and living

*All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.*2Tim.3:16-17

*For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.*Heb.4:12

All Scripture, especially history, was written down for our encouragement—so we can learn from the past

*For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope.*Rom.15:4

*Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised. This is why "it was credited to him as righteousness." The words "it was credited to him" were written not for him alone, but also for us, to whom God will credit righteousness—for us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.*Rom.4:20-25

*He will respond to the prayer of the destitute; he will not despise their plea. Let this be written for a future generation, that a people not yet created may praise the LORD: "The LORD looked down from his sanctuary on high, from heaven he viewed the earth, to hear the groans of the prisoners and release those condemned to death."*Ps.102:17-20

*These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the culmination of the ages has come. So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall!*1Cor.10:11-12

In the Temple worship, incense was used. What is its relevance to us today?

For the worshipers in the OT Tabernacle and Temple, anointing oil and incense were reminders of the beauty and majesty of God—and the strong lingering fragrance helped people remember that God was with them. Incense in particular was a reminder that their prayers ascended to God:

*May my prayer be set before you like incense; may the lifting up of my hands be like the evening sacrifice.*Ps.41:2

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2024

And when he had taken it, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp and they were holding golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of God's people.^{Rev.5:8}

Another angel, who had a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. He was given much incense to offer, with the prayers of all God's people, on the golden altar in front of the throne. The smoke of the incense, together with the prayers of God's people, went up before God from the angel's hand.^{Rev.8:3-4}

OT rituals and ceremonies were a visual teaching lesson for people until the New Covenant was instituted.

But in fact the ministry Jesus has received is as superior to theirs as the covenant of which he is mediator is superior to the old one, since the new covenant is established on better promises. For if there had been nothing wrong with that first covenant, no place would have been sought for another. But God found fault with the people and said: "The days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and with the people of Judah. It will not be like the covenant I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they did not remain faithful to my covenant, and I turned away from them, declares the Lord. This is the covenant I will establish with the people of Israel after that time, declares the Lord. I will put my laws in their minds and write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. No longer will they teach their neighbour, or say to one another, 'Know the Lord,' because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest. For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more." By calling this covenant "new," he has made the first one obsolete; and what is obsolete and outdated will soon disappear. Now the first covenant had regulations for worship and also an earthly sanctuary... But when Christ came as high priest of the good things that are now already here, he went through the greater and more perfect tabernacle that is not made with human hands, that is to say, is not a part of this creation. He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves; but he entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood, thus obtaining eternal redemption.*^{Heb.8:6-9:12}

There are no examples or even any suggestions that the OT ceremonies, rituals or festivals have any role in the New Covenant—Baptism and Communion have their roots in OT ceremonies but are not the same and the New should not be confused with the old

Then they secretly persuaded some men to say, "We have heard Stephen speak blasphemous words against Moses and against God." So they stirred up the people and the elders and the teachers of the law. They seized Stephen and brought him before the Sanhedrin. They produced false witnesses, who testified, "This fellow never stops speaking against this holy place and against the law. For we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place and change the customs Moses handed down to us." All who were sitting in the Sanhedrin looked intently at Stephen, and they saw that his face was like the face of an angel.^{Acts.6:11-15}

Then they said to Paul: "You see, brother, how many thousands of Jews have believed, and all of them are zealous for the law. They have been informed that you teach all the Jews who live among the Gentiles to turn away from Moses, telling them not to circumcise their children or live according to our customs."^{Acts.21:20-21}

[When I saw that they were not acting in line with the truth of the gospel, I said to Cephas in front of them all, "You are a Jew, yet you live like a Gentile and not like a Jew. How is it, then, that you force Gentiles to follow Jewish customs? "We who are Jews by birth and not sinful Gentiles know that a person is not justified by the works of the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law, because by the works of the law no one will be justified."^{Gal.2:14-16}

Mark my words! I, Paul, tell you that if you let yourselves be circumcised, Christ will be of no value to you at all. Again I declare to every man who lets himself be circumcised that he is obligated to obey the whole law. You who are trying to be justified by the law have been alienated from Christ; you have fallen away from grace. For through the Spirit we eagerly await by faith the righteousness for which we hope. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.^{Gal.5:2-6}

When the New came the Old went:

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!^{2Cor.5:17}

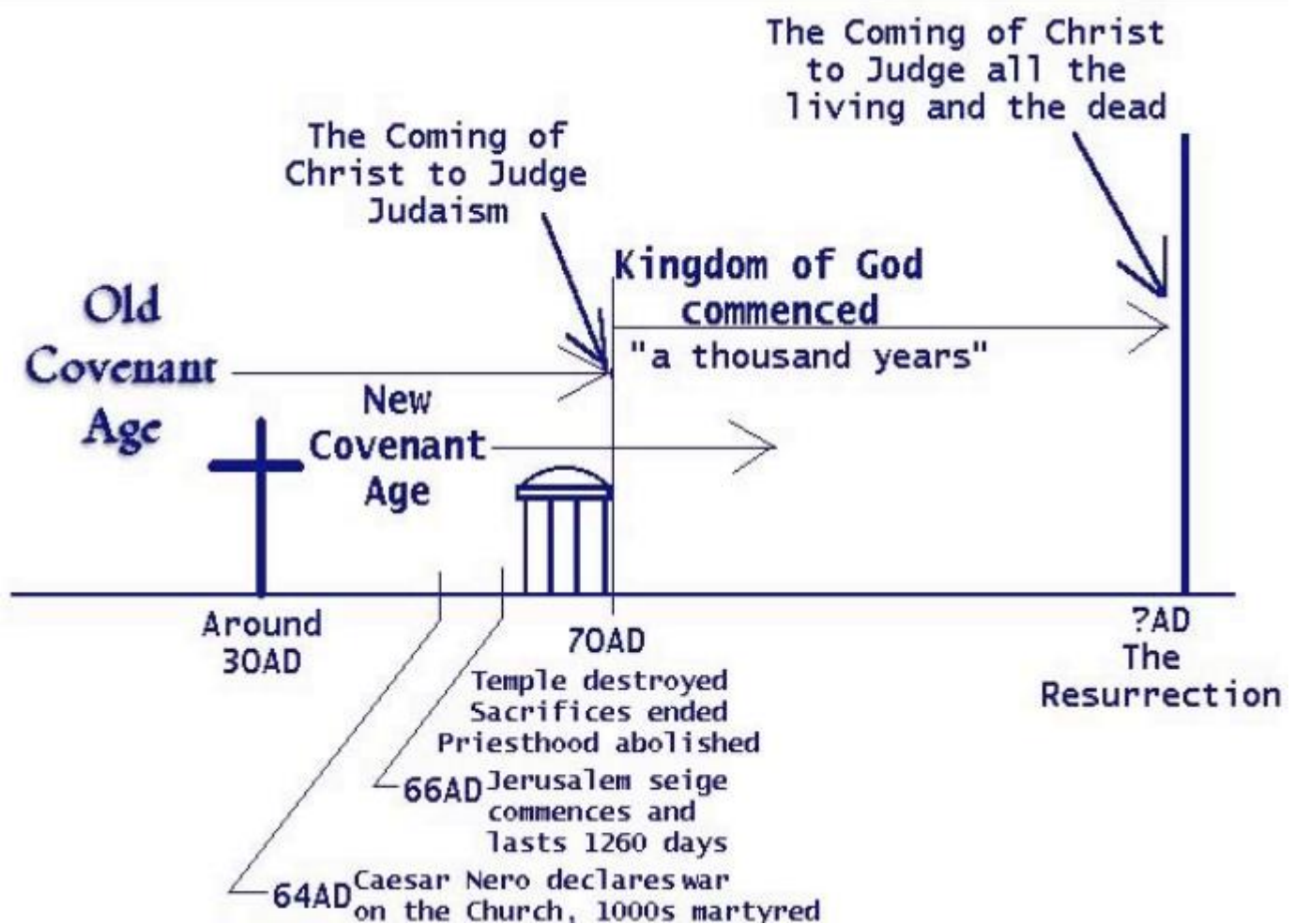
Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2024

However there was a 40 year period of the Old and New Covenants overlapping, from Jesus Crucifixion and the birth of the Church in AD30—the destruction of the Temple and all its accoutrements in AD70.

Josephus records that in 66AD General Cestius invaded Jerusalem and the Temple precincts and eventually set up the Roman insignia as an object of worship. Cestius then inexplicably withdrew from Jerusalem for three days in which time all remaining Christians fled the city.

Titus totally destroyed the Temple and the priesthood (who were mostly Sadducees).

Josephus wrote that 1.1 million people, the majority of them Jewish, were killed during the siege – a death toll he attributes to the celebration of Passover. Josephus goes on to report that after the Romans killed the armed and elderly people, 97,000 were enslaved. Josephus records that many people were sold into slavery, and that of the inhabitants of Jerusalem, 40,000 individuals survived, and the emperor let them to go wherever they chose. Before and during the siege, according to Josephus' account, there were multiple waves of desertions from the city c.f. Jesus' warning in Matt.24



The aroma of bunt offerings reminded people that they had given their complete sacrifice to God and that He was pleased with it.

Then burn the entire ram on the altar. It is a burnt offering to the LORD, a pleasing aroma, a food offering presented to the LORD.^{Ex.29:18}

The NT fulfilment of this is that we give ourselves as a complete spiritual sacrifice to God and that He is pleased with us:

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2024

by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. Rom.12:1-2

Should we use written prayers if we must worship God in spirit and truth?

Christian prayer takes its stand on the solid ground of the revealed Word and has nothing to do with vague, self-seeking vagaries. We pray on the basis of the prayer of the true Man Jesus Christ. ... We can pray aright to God only in the name of Jesus Christ. We learn to speak to God because God has spoken to us and speaks to us. God's speech in Jesus Christ meets us in the Holy Scriptures. If we wish to pray with confidence and gladness, then the words of Holy Scripture will have to be the solid basis of our prayer. *Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Psalms*

Spiritual stability and genuine maturity. There are no shortcuts to spiritual stability and genuine maturity. We have to stick with the basics, the routine, ordinary disciplines that have been around for millennium and have served a very good purpose, to build solid Christian people over time. **We attain a deeper, fuller, richer Christian life by following the fundamental, basic disciplines of Christianity that God has given us and revealed in the Bible:** Prayer; Fellowship with accountability; Bible study; Meditation and memorization; Practicing Christian virtue; Obedience; Repentance; Worship. And every single Christian person can do all of these ordinary, everyday type of things! **It's the practice of these things in a consistent manner over a long period of time that builds deep spirituality—not some power encounter with God (or the devil).** I'm not disregarding powerful spiritual encounters people have with God. Those are valuable and God determines when they happen. But people who seek those sometimes get other kinds of experiences besides God. Not only that, it often substitutes a dramatic emotional experience for substantive, real, genuine transformation of character. We must also know the truth. We've got to know doctrine—the nature of God; the person of Christ; the nature of man; the work of the cross; the nature of revelation. Virtually every significant error in Christendom at large is an error in one of those areas. We have to know something about church history, about the development of Christian thought. People have been getting weird for 2000 years, and a record of the history of the church demonstrates that fact, but it also makes it clear what is weird and what isn't, what was rejected and what was accepted and the reasons why. Most of the errors being made now have been made a number of times in the past. But if your view is out of step with the conventional view of the church, you better be really certain that Scripture unequivocally backs you up. *Greg Koukl*

How important is it for Believers to meet together?

Very!

Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching. Heb.10:19-25

for God's temple is sacred, and you together are that temple. 1Cor.3:17

Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit. Eph.2:19-22

What should we expect to happen when we meet together as Believers?

God's wisdom to be displayed

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2024

His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, according to his eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence. I ask you, therefore, not to be discouraged because of my sufferings for you, which are your glory. Eph.3:10-13

God's unity to be displayed

In the following directives I have no praise for you, for your meetings do more harm than good. In the first place, I hear that when you come together as a church, there are divisions among you, and to some extent I believe it. No doubt there have to be differences among you to show which of you have God's approval. So then, when you come together, it is not the Lord's Supper you eat, for when you are eating, some of you go ahead with your own private suppers. As a result, one person remains hungry and another gets drunk. Don't you have homes to eat and drink in? Or do you despise the church of God by humiliating those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I praise you? Certainly not in this matter! 1Cor.11:17-22

God's presence and power to be displayed

Tongues, then, are a sign, not for believers but for unbelievers; prophecy, however, is not for unbelievers but for believers. So if the whole church comes together and everyone speaks in tongues, and inquirers or unbelievers come in, will they not say that you are out of your mind? But if an unbeliever or an inquirer comes in while everyone is prophesying, they are convicted of sin and are brought under judgment by all, as the secrets of their hearts are laid bare. So they will fall down and worship God, exclaiming, "God is really among you!" What then shall we say, brothers and sisters? When you come together, each of you has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. Everything must be done so that the church may be built up. 1Cor.14:22-26

It is a place we are taught

Then Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, and when he found him, he brought him to Antioch. So for a whole year Barnabas and Saul met with the church and taught great numbers of people. The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch. Acts.11:25-26

For this reason I have sent to you Timothy, my son whom I love, who is faithful in the Lord. He will remind you of my way of life in Christ Jesus, which agrees with what I teach everywhere in every church. 1Cor.4:17

It is a place where we are matured (perfected)

These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised, since God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect. Heb.11:39-40

It is a place where we are encouraged and edified

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching. Heb.10:19-25
On arriving there, they gathered the church together and reported all that God had done through them and how he had opened a door of faith to the Gentiles. And they stayed there a long time with the disciples. Act.14:27-28

But the one who prophesies speaks to people for their strengthening, encouraging and comfort. Anyone who speaks in a tongue edifies themselves, but the one who prophesies edifies the church. I would like every one of you to speak in tongues, but I would rather have you prophesy. The one who prophesies is greater than the one who speaks in tongues, unless someone interprets, so that the church may be edified. 1Cor.14:3-5

It is a place where give and receive—and send and receive

The church sent them on their way, and as they travelled through Phoenicia and Samaria, they told how the Gentiles had been converted. This news made all the believers very glad. When they came to Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the church and the apostles and elders, to whom they reported everything God had done through them. Acts.15:3-4

It is a place where we are protected

"If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over. But if they will not listen, take one or two others along, so that 'every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.' If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church; and if they refuse to listen even to the church, treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2024

*anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them."*Matt.18:15-20

It is a place where belong

God sets the lonely in families, Ps.68:6

Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. And God has placed in the church first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, of helping, of guidance, and of different kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? Now eagerly desire the greater gifts. And yet I will show you the most excellent way. If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal.1Cor.12:27-31:1

07/08/2024

Video Digging Deeper into Paul's Epistle to the Galatians, Part 9 - Breaking The Bondage of False Religion

Psalm 119: 25-32

Questions:

What is God's "glory"?

How can we experience God's glory?

What difference should God's glory make to us?

Does someone's experience of God make them more spiritual?

What is spiritual maturity?

Comments

What is God's "glory"?

God's glory is His presence, His aura

"Who among the gods is like you, O LORD? Who is like you—majestic in holiness, awesome in glory, working wonders? Ex.15:1

Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendour, for everything in heaven and earth is yours. Yours, O LORD, is the kingdom; you are exalted as head over all. Wealth and honour come from you; you are the ruler of all things. 1Chron.29:11-12

"Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD rises upon you. See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the LORD rises upon you and his glory appears over you. Is.60:1-2

"To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honour and glory and power, for ever and ever!" The four living creatures said, "Amen," and the elders fell down and worshiped. Rev.5:13-14

How can we experience God's glory?

By God opening our spiritual eyes

We need God to open our spiritual eyes to see beyond the natural into the supernatural. This is what happened to Elisha's servant:

When the servant of the man of God got up and went out early the next morning, an army with horses and chariots had surrounded the city. "Oh no, my lord! What shall we do?" the servant asked. "Don't be afraid," the prophet answered. "Those who are with us are more than those who are with them." And Elisha prayed, "Open his eyes, LORD, so that he may see." Then the LORD opened the servant's eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha. 2Kg.6:15-17

Paul was commissioned to "open people's eyes":

'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting,' the Lord replied. 'Now get up and stand on your feet. I have appeared to you to appoint you as a servant and as a witness of what you have seen and will see of me. I will rescue you from your own people and from the Gentiles. I am sending you to them to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.' Acts.26:15-18

And so Paul prayed for people's spiritual eyes to be opened and their hearts to be enlightened:

For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God's people, I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. Eph.1:15-19

We experience God's glory through Jesus Christ.

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. Jn.1:14

Therefore, since through God's mercy we have this ministry, we do not lose heart. Rather, we have renounced secret and shameful ways; we do not use deception, nor do we distort the word of God. On the contrary, by setting forth the truth plainly we commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God. And even if our gospel is veiled, it is

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2024

veiled to those who are perishing. The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For what we preach is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God's glory displayed in the face of Christ. 2Cor.4:1-6

The LORD replied, "My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest." Then Moses said to him, "If your Presence does not go with us, do not send us up from here. How will anyone know that you are pleased with me and with your people unless you go with us? What else will distinguish me and your people from all the other people on the face of the earth?" And the LORD said to Moses, "I will do the very thing you have asked, because I am pleased with you and I know you by name." Then Moses said, "Now show me your glory." And the LORD said, "I will cause all my goodness to pass in front of you, and I will proclaim my name, the LORD, in your presence. I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion. But," he said, "you cannot see my face, for no one may see me and live." Then the LORD said, "There is a place near me where you may stand on a rock. When my glory passes by, I will put you in a cleft in the rock and cover you with my hand until I have passed by. Then I will remove my hand and you will see my back; but my face must not be seen." Ex.33:14-23

The history of Israel was often a prophetic statement about our salvation through Jesus Christ: They were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. They all ate the same spiritual food and drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them, and that rock was Christ. 1Cor.10:2-4

We can take this event of Moses hiding in the cleft of a rock as an allegory of Jesus—that we can only experience God's glory through the effects of Jesus' death.

What difference should God's glory make to us?

God's glory should cause us to worship Him

They held harps given them by God and sang the song of God's servant Moses and of the Lamb: "Great and marvellous are your deeds, Lord God Almighty. Just and true are your ways, King of the nations. Who will not fear you, Lord, and bring glory to your name? For you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship before you, for your righteous acts have been revealed." Rev.15:3-4

After this I heard what sounded like the roar of a great multitude in heaven shouting: "Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God, for true and just are his judgments." Rev.19:1-2

God's glory should change us

Now if the ministry that brought death, which was engraved in letters on stone, came with glory, so that the Israelites could not look steadily at the face of Moses because of its glory, fading though it was, will not the ministry of the Spirit be even more glorious? If the ministry that condemns men is glorious, how much more glorious is the ministry that brings righteousness! For what was glorious has no glory now in comparison with the surpassing glory. And if what was fading away came with glory, how much greater is the glory of that which lasts! Therefore, since we have such a hope, we are very bold. We are not like Moses, who would put a veil over his face to keep the Israelites from gazing at it while the radiance was fading away. But their minds were made dull, for to this day the same veil remains when the old covenant is read. It has not been removed, because only in Christ is it taken away. Even to this day when Moses is read, a veil covers their hearts. But whenever anyone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit. 2Cor.3:7-18

Does someone's experience of God make them more spiritual?

No! Spirituality is being united with Christ not having "experiences" or feelings

But whoever is united with the Lord is one with him in spirit. 1Cor.6:16

You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ. But if Christ is in you, then even though your body is subject to death because of sin, the Spirit gives life because of righteousness. And if the

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2024

Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you. Therefore, brothers and sisters, we have an obligation—but it is not to the flesh, to live according to it. For if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live. For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. Rom.8:9-14

Solomon had a face-to-face encounter with God and lost his way spiritually

Solomon answered, “You have shown great kindness to your servant, my father David, because he was faithful to you and righteous and upright in heart. You have continued this great kindness to him and have given him a son to sit on his throne this very day. “Now, LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David. But I am only a little child and do not know how to carry out my duties. Your servant is here among the people you have chosen, a great people, too numerous to count or number. So give your servant a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong. For who is able to govern this great people of yours?” The Lord was pleased that Solomon had asked for this. So God said to him, “Since you have asked for this and not for long life or wealth for yourself, nor have asked for the death of your enemies but for discernment in administering justice, I will do what you have asked. I will give you a wise and discerning heart, so that there will never have been anyone like you, nor will there ever be. Moreover, I will give you what you have not asked for—both wealth and honour—so that in your lifetime you will have no equal among kings. And if you walk in obedience to me and keep my decrees and commands as David your father did, I will give you a long life.” Then Solomon awoke—and he realized it had been a dream. 1Kg.3:5-15

When the priests withdrew from the Holy Place, the cloud filled the temple of the LORD. And the priests could not perform their service because of the cloud, for the glory of the LORD filled his temple. Then Solomon said, “The LORD has said that he would dwell in a dark cloud; I have indeed built a magnificent temple for you, a place for you to dwell forever.” 1Kg.8:10-13

When Solomon had finished building the temple of the LORD and the royal palace, and had achieved all he had desired to do, the LORD appeared to him a second time, as he had appeared to him at Gibeon. The LORD said to him... 1Kg.9:1-3

As Solomon grew old, his wives turned his heart after other gods, and his heart was not fully devoted to the LORD his God, as the heart of David his father had been. He followed Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, and Molek the detestable god of the Ammonites. So Solomon did evil in the eyes of the LORD; he did not follow the LORD completely, as David his father had done. On a hill east of Jerusalem, Solomon built a high place for Chemosh the detestable god of Moab, and for Molek the detestable god of the Ammonites. He did the same for all his foreign wives, who burned incense and offered sacrifices to their gods. The LORD became angry with Solomon because his heart had turned away from the LORD, the God of Israel, who had appeared to him twice. Although he had forbidden Solomon to follow other gods, Solomon did not keep the LORD's command. 1Kg.11:4-10

Judas spent more than 3 years with Jesus

His disciples stared at one another, at a loss to know which of them he meant. One of them, the disciple whom Jesus loved, was reclining next to him. Simon Peter motioned to this disciple and said, “Ask him which one he means.” Leaning back against Jesus, he asked him, “Lord, who is it?” Jesus answered, “It is the one to whom I will give this piece of bread when I have dipped it in the dish.” Then, dipping the piece of bread, he gave it to Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot. As soon as Judas took the bread, Satan entered into him. So Jesus told him, “What you are about to do, do quickly.” But no one at the meal understood why Jesus said this to him. Since Judas had charge of the money, some thought Jesus was telling him to buy what was needed for the festival, or to give something to the poor. As soon as Judas had taken the bread, he went out. And it was night. Jn.13:22-30

The Church at Corinth had all the spiritual gifts in operation and yet Paul said they were not spiritual

Brothers and sisters, I could not address you as people who live by the Spirit but as people who are still worldly—mere infants in Christ. I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready. You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarrelling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2024

acting like mere humans? For when one says, "I follow Paul," and another, "I follow Apollos," are you not mere human beings? 1Cor.3:1-3

What is spiritual maturity?

Spiritual maturity is being soundly established in the faith

So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work. Eph.4:11-16

It is knowing who we are

Yet this is no cause for shame, because I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him until that day. What you heard from me, keep as the pattern of sound teaching, with faith and love in Christ Jesus. Guard the good deposit that was entrusted to you—guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us. 2Tim.1:12-14

People swear by someone greater than themselves, and the oath confirms what is said and puts an end to all argument. Because God wanted to make the unchanging nature of his purpose very clear to the heirs of what was promised, he confirmed it with an oath. God did this so that, by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled to take hold of the hope set before us may be greatly encouraged. We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain, where our forerunner, Jesus, has entered on our behalf. He has become a high priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek. Heb.6:16-20

Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. Jas.1:2-4

We have much to say about this, but it is hard to make it clear to you because you no longer try to understand. In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food! Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil. Therefore let us move beyond the elementary teachings about Christ and be taken forward to maturity, not laying again the foundation of repentance from acts that lead to death, and of faith in God, instruction about cleansing rites, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. And God permitting, we will do so. Heb.5:11-6:3

Epaphras, who is one of you and a servant of Christ Jesus, sends greetings. He is always wrestling in prayer for you, that you may stand firm in all the will of God, mature and fully assured. Col.4:12

To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. He is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ. To this end I strenuously contend with all the energy Christ so powerfully works in me. Col.1:27-29

The seed that fell among thorns stands for those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by life's worries, riches and pleasures, and they do not mature. But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop. Lk.8:14-15

31/07/2024

Video Digging Deeper into Paul's Epistle to the Galatians, Part 9 - Breaking The Bondage of False Religion

Psalm 119: 17-24

Questions

How can we be at rest in the midst of trouble?

What does it mean to be anointed?

How does our cup overflow?

In what way does goodness and mercy follow us?

What does it mean to “dwell in the house of the Lord forever”?

Comments

How can we be at rest in the midst of trouble?

Know God and Jesus Christ

Grace and peace be yours in abundance through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord. 2Pet. 1:2

Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth. Ps. 46:10

Keep focused on God and His Kingdom

You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you. Is. 26:3

Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Col. 3:1-4

Love God's Word

Great peace have those who love your law, and nothing can make them stumble. Ps. 119:165

Live a righteous life

The fruit of that righteousness will be peace; its effect will be quietness and confidence forever. My people will live in peaceful dwelling places, in secure homes, in undisturbed places of rest. Though hail flattens the forest and the city is levelled completely, how blessed you will be, sowing your seed by every stream, and letting your cattle and donkeys range free. Is. 32:17-20

Be wise (that is have heavenly wisdom!)

But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness. Jas. 3:17-18

Get wisdom, get understanding; do not forget my words or turn away from them. Do not forsake wisdom, and she will protect you; love her, and she will watch over you. The beginning of wisdom is this: Get wisdom. Though it cost all you have, get understanding. Cherish her, and she will exalt you; embrace her, and she will honour you. She will give you a garland to grace your head and present you with a glorious crown.” Listen, my son, accept what I say, and the years of your life will be many. I instruct you in the way of wisdom and lead you along straight paths. When you walk, your steps will not be hampered; when you run, you will not stumble. Hold on to instruction, do not let it go; guard it well, for it is your life. Prov. 4:5-13

Remember, Jesus is our Wisdom

It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. 1Cor. 1:30

What does it mean to be anointed?

Anointing refers to delegated authority—the oil represents the Holy Spirit who empowers us to represent God. In the OT, priests and kings were anointed to consecrate them (set them apart) and to show that their authority was not their own but given to them by God.

After you put these clothes on your brother Aaron and his sons, anoint and ordain them. Consecrate them so they may serve me as priests. Ex. 28:41

Then the men of Judah came to Hebron, and there they anointed David king over the tribe of Judah. 2Sam. 2:4

We are anointed by God for exactly the same reason—to set us apart and to empower us with God's Presence. God's anointing (or Presence) teaches about God's Person (or glory).

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2024

As for you, see that what you have heard from the beginning remains in you. If it does, you also will remain in the Son and in the Father. And this is what he promised us—eternal life. I am writing these things to you about those who are trying to lead you astray. As for you, the anointing you received from him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about all things and as that anointing is real, not counterfeit—just as it has taught you, remain in him.^{1Jn.2:24}

And this anointing (i.e. God's Presence) equips us to proclaim the good news—the Gospel:

The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the broken hearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the LORD's favour and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, and provide for those who grieve in Zion—to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the LORD for the display of his splendor.^{Is.61:1-3}

Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.^{2Cor.2:21-22}

You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has set you above your companions by anointing you with the oil of joy.^{1Heb.1:9}

Anointing is not a little dabble but a smearing or a rubbing in of oil:

Get up, you officers, oil the shields!^{1Is.21:5}

David took up this lament concerning Saul and his son Jonathan, "A gazelle lies slain on your heights, Israel. How the mighty have fallen... Mountains of Gilboa, may you have neither dew nor rain, may no showers fall on your terraced fields. For there the shield of the mighty was despised, the shield of Saul—no longer rubbed with oil."^{2Sam.1:17-21}

Shield represents faith because it protects us from attack:

In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.^{Eph.6:16}

And his commands are not burdensome, for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world? Only the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.^{1Jn.5:3-5}

Faith is not just knowing and trusting the facts about God—faith is having that knowledge about God animated and quickened (made alive) by the Holy Spirit! Faith and the Holy Spirit are inseparably linked:

They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit;^{Acts.6:5}

Barnabas was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith, and a great number of people were brought to the Lord.^{Acts.11:24}

How does our cup overflow?

God gives His Spirit without measure

For the one whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for God gives the Spirit without limit. ["For He whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for God does not give the Spirit by measure."] Jn.3:34

Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life." Jn.4:13-14

On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them." By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified. Jn.7:37-39

God gives an abundance

They feast on the abundance of your house; you give them drink from your river of delights. For with you is the fountain of life; in your light we see light.^{Ps.36:8-9}

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2024

You gave abundant showers, O God; you refreshed your weary inheritance.^{Ps.68:9}

We are meant to share what we have received from God:

[Moses] was in the assembly in the wilderness, with the angel who spoke to him on Mount Sinai, and with our ancestors; and he received living words to pass on to us.^{Acts.7:38}

For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you.^{1Cor.11:23}

And so there is always an overflow to others—an overflow of the Kingdom of God, which is righteousness, peace and joy:

For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit,^{Rom.14:17}

In what way does goodness and mercy follow us?

God is with us

We take God with us because He resides within us. Nevertheless, we have an obligation to live a righteous life that honours God. We represent God.

Jesus said that if have seen Him, we have seen the Father—we should be able to say that those who have seen us have seen Jesus.

So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God. Do not cause anyone to stumble, whether Jews, Greeks or the church of God—even as I try to please everybody in every way. For I am not seeking my own good but the good of many, so that they may be saved. Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.^{1Cor.10:31-11:1}

Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers in the world, to abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul. Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.^{1Pet.2:11-12}

This is what the LORD Almighty says: “In those days ten men from all languages and nations will take firm hold of one Jew by the hem of his robe and say, ‘Let us go with you, because we have heard that God is with you.’”^{Zech.8:23}

What does it mean to “dwell in the house of the Lord forever”?

To be part of God’s house

I shall remain a long season in the house of the Lord.

Our relationship with God is permanent because we will dwell in the house of the LORD for a long season—eternity!

The “House of the Lord” is not a building but a relationship with God:

Therefore, holy brothers and sisters, who share in the heavenly calling, fix your thoughts on Jesus, whom we acknowledge as our apostle and high priest. He was faithful to the one who appointed him, just as Moses was faithful in all God's house. Jesus has been found worthy of greater honour than Moses, just as the builder of a house has greater honour than the house itself. For every house is built by someone, but God is the builder of everything. “Moses was faithful as a servant in all God's house,” bearing witness to what would be spoken by God in the future. But Christ is faithful as the Son over God's house. And we are his house, if indeed we hold firmly to our confidence and the hope in which we glory.^{Heb.3:1-6}

God has promised to be with us and that we will be with Him:

For we are the temple of the living God. As God has said: “I will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people.”^{2Cor.2:16}

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”^{Rev.21:1-4}

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2024

Although eternity will be a “*long season*”, it will not go on and on and on, *ad infinitum* so that we get tired or bored but rather eternity for Believers will be the most beautiful and wonderful time ever—but will never end, because time will be no more! Eternity will be a “*now*” moment with no days or nights or changing seasons:

I saw no temple in the city, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. And the city has no need of sun or moon, for the glory of God illuminates the city, and the Lamb is its light. The nations will walk in its light, and the kings of the world will enter the city in all their glory. Its gates will never be closed at the end of day because there is no night there... No longer will there be a curse upon anything. For the throne of God and of the Lamb will be there, and his servants will worship him. And they will see his face, and his name will be written on their foreheads. And there will be no night there—no need for lamps or sun—for the Lord God will shine on them. And they will reign forever and ever.^{Rev.21:22-22:5}

24/07/2024

Video Digging Deeper into Paul's Epistle to the Galatians, Part 8

Psalm 119:9-16

Questions

Are all translations of the Bible the Word of God?

Why did John the Baptist call Jesus the “Lamb of God”?

Why did Jesus say that He was the “Good Shepherd”?

In what ways are we like sheep?

How can we keep on the “paths of righteousness”?

What should we do if we find ourselves fearing evil?

Comments

Are all translations of the Bible the Word of God?

AoG Statement of Faith: We believe that the Bible (i.e. the Old and New Testaments excluding the Apocrypha), is the inspired Word of God, the infallible, all sufficient rule for faith and practice.

ELIM Statement of Faith: We believe the Bible, as originally given, to be without error, the fully inspired and infallible Word of God and the supreme and final authority in all matters of faith and conduct.)

Although written by people, the Bible claims that the Holy Spirit was its author (2Timothy 3:16). In a way that can only be described as mysterious, He was able to take the personalities, experiences, emotions and poetic talents of various men and use them to precisely express God's revelation to man. Theologians, however, debate the process of this inspiration. Some refer to it as *Plenary Inspiration*. It stands in contrast to another view called *Natural Inspiration* (the product of highly intelligent men), *Partial Inspiration* (only some parts of the Bible are inspired), and *Mechanical Dictation/ Verbal Inspiration* (God commanded men to write verbatim the very words He uttered).

The theology of Biblical inspiration was not formerly developed until about 1580.⁹ Prior to this, inspiration of the books within the Canon were taken for granted. There are some elementary thoughts about inspiration in early Christian theology that reflect a general understanding of what is commonly accepted today.

The theory of *Plenary Inspiration* considers that God inspired the writings of various authors (as distinct from the authors themselves). Within the inspiration process of their writings God was able to take the creative abilities of these authors and inspire them to produce the *perfect* Word of God (Psalm 19:7). The result of this process was that we now have a Bible that often exposes the heart, emotions, and trials of its authors. We find this throughout the Psalms of David and the epistles of Paul. Within this theory, the inspiration of God's Word is more concerned about conveying the mind of God through the literary expression of its authors, than it is about the mechanical dictating of precise words.

Jesus is the Incarnate Word of God not the Bible

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. Jn.1:14

The Bible is a library of books that are written by people but inspired by God

Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation of things. For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit. 2Pet.1:20-21

The breath (Spirit) of God is in the words of God and so the inspiration is not limited by translation

The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you—they are full of the Spirit and life. Jn.6:63

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2024

from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. 2Tim.3:15-17

The words of Scripture become the Word of God when the Holy Spirit enlivens them to us and they are in our heart as well as our head

And the Father who sent me has himself testified concerning me. You have never heard his voice nor seen his form, nor does his word dwell in you, for you do not believe the one he sent. You study the Scriptures diligently because you think that in them you have eternal life. These are the very Scriptures that testify about me, yet you refuse to come to me to have life. Jn.5:37-40

I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you. Ps.119:11

Rulers persecute me without cause, but my heart trembles at your word. I rejoice in your promise like one who finds great spoil. Ps.119:161-162

But if I say, "I will not mention his word or speak anymore in his name," his word is in my heart like a fire, a fire shut up in my bones. I am weary of holding it in; indeed, I cannot. Jer.20:9

But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop. Lk.8:15

Now what I am commanding you today is not too difficult for you or beyond your reach. It is not up in heaven, so that you have to ask, "Who will ascend into heaven to get it and proclaim it to us so we may obey it?" Nor is it beyond the sea, so that you have to ask, "Who will cross the sea to get it and proclaim it to us so we may obey it?" No, the word is very near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart so you may obey it. See, I set before you today life and prosperity, death and destruction. For I command you today to love the LORD your God, to walk in obedience to him, and to keep his commands, decrees and laws; then you will live and increase, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land you are entering to possess. But if your heart turns away and you are not obedient, and if you are drawn away to bow down to other gods and worship them, I declare to you this day that you will certainly be destroyed. You will not live long in the land you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. Dent.30:11-18

Moses writes this about the righteousness that is by the law: "The person who does these things will live by them." But the righteousness that is by faith says: "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?' " (that is, to bring Christ down) "or 'Who will descend into the deep?' " (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say? "The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart," that is, the message concerning faith that we proclaim: If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved. As Scripture says, "Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame." For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." Rom.10:5-13

"Take to heart all the words I have solemnly declared to you this day, so that you may command your children to obey carefully all the words of this law. They are not just idle words for you—they are your life. By them you will live long in the land you are crossing the Jordan to possess." Dent.32:46-47

Why did John the Baptist call Jesus the "Lamb of God"

John took the analogy of OT sacrifices especially the Passover lamb

Isaac spoke up and said to his father Abraham, "Father?" "Yes, my son?" Abraham replied. "The fire and wood are here," Isaac said, "but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?" Abraham answered, "God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son." And the two of them went on together... Abraham looked up and there in a thicket he saw a ram caught by its horns. He went over and took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering instead of his son. So Abraham called that place The LORD Will Provide. And to this day it is said, "On the mountain of the LORD it will be provided." Gen.22:7-14

Then Moses summoned all the elders of Israel and said to them, "Go at once and select the animals for your families and slaughter the Passover lamb. Take a bunch of hyssop, dip it into the blood in the basin and put some of the blood on the top and on both sides of the doorframe. None of you shall go out of the door of your house until morning.

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2024

When the LORD goes through the land to strike down the Egyptians, he will see the blood on the top and sides of the doorframe and will pass over that doorway, and he will not permit the destroyer to enter your houses and strike you down. "Obey these instructions as a lasting ordinance for you and your descendants. Ex.12:21-24

Therefore do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival, a New Moon celebration or a Sabbath day. These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ. Col.2:16-17

Your boasting is not good. Don't you know that a little yeast leavens the whole batch of dough? Get rid of the old yeast, so that you may be a new unleavened batch—as you really are. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. Therefore let us keep the Festival, not with the old bread leavened with malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. 1Cor.5:6-8

Why did Jesus say that He was the "Good Shepherd"?

To explain that He was God

The Lord's my Shepherd...

The LORD their God will save his people on that day as a shepherd saves his flock. They will sparkle in his land like jewels in a crown. How attractive and beautiful they will be! Zech.9:16-17

Also to show that He cares provides and protects us

See, the Sovereign LORD comes with power, and he rules with a mighty arm. See, his reward is with him, and his recompense accompanies him. He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young. Is.40:10-11

In what ways are we like sheep?

We have gone astray

We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth. Is.53:6-7

We need a shepherd

For this is what the Sovereign LORD says: I myself will search for my sheep and look after them. As a shepherd looks after his scattered flock when he is with them, so will I look after my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places where they were scattered on a day of clouds and darkness. I will bring them out from the nations and gather them from the countries, and I will bring them into their own land. I will pasture them on the mountains of Israel, in the ravines and in all the settlements in the land. I will tend them in a good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel will be their grazing land. There they will lie down in good grazing land, and there they will feed in a rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. I myself will tend my sheep and have them lie down, declares the Sovereign LORD. I will search for the lost and bring back the strays. I will bind up the injured and strengthen the weak, but the sleek and the strong I will destroy. I will shepherd the flock with justice. " 'As for you, my flock, this is what the Sovereign LORD says: I will judge between one sheep and another, and between rams and goats. Is it not enough for you to feed on the good pasture? Must you also trample the rest of your pasture with your feet? Is it not enough for you to drink clear water? Must you also muddy the rest with your feet? Must my flock feed on what you have trampled and drink what you have muddied with your feet? " "Therefore this is what the Sovereign LORD says to them: See, I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. Because you shove with flank and shoulder, butting all the weak sheep with your horns until you have driven them away, I will save my flock, and they will no longer be plundered. I will judge between one sheep and another. I will place over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he will tend them; he will tend them and be their shepherd. I the LORD will be their God, and my servant David will be prince among them. I the LORD have spoken. " 'I will make a covenant of peace with them and rid the land of savage beasts so that they may live in the wilderness and sleep in the forests in safety. I will make them and the places surrounding my hill a blessing. I will send down showers in season; there will be showers of blessing. The trees will yield their fruit and the ground will yield its crops; the people will be secure in their land. They will know that I am the LORD, when I break the bars of their yoke and rescue them from the hands of those who enslaved them. They will no longer be plundered by the nations, nor will wild animals devour them. They will live in safety, and no one will make them afraid. I will

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2024

provide for them a land renowned for its crops, and they will no longer be victims of famine in the land or bear the scorn of the nations. Then they will know that I, the LORD their God, am with them and that they, the Israelites, are my people, declares the Sovereign LORD. You are my sheep, the sheep of my pasture, and I am your God, declares the Sovereign LORD.' "Ezek.34:11-31

How can we keep on the “paths of righteousness”?

Remember those who journeyed before us and keep our eyes on Jesus

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. Heb.12:1-3

Tell me, you whom I love, where you graze your flock and where you rest your sheep at midday. Why should I be like a veiled woman beside the flocks of your friends? If you do not know, most beautiful of women, follow the tracks of the sheep and graze your young goats by the tents of the shepherds. SofS.1:7-8

Train ourselves to choose right

Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil. Heb.5:13-14

What should we do if we find ourselves fearing evil?

Go to the Word of God

Consult God's instruction and the testimony of warning. If anyone does not speak according to this word, they have no light of dawn. Is.8:20

Remember the rod and staff—God’s stability, ability, protection and authority

I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. Ps.23:4

My comfort in my suffering is this: Your promise preserves my life.... May your unfailing love be my comfort, according to your promise to your servant. Ps.119:50;76

But you, LORD, are a shield around me, my glory, the One who lifts my head high. I call out to the LORD, and he answers me from his holy mountain. I lie down and sleep; I wake again, because the LORD sustains me. I will not fear though tens of thousands assail me on every side. Ps.3:3-6

The LORD is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life—of whom shall I be afraid? When the wicked advance against me to devour me, it is my enemies and my foes who will stumble and fall. Ps.27:1-2

Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come near to God and he will come near to you. Jas.4:7-8

Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings. And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen. 1Pet.5:6-11

17/07/2024

Psalm 119:1-8

Video Digging Deeper into Paul's Epistle to the Galatians, Part 8

Questions

Is “*you reap what you sow*” a Biblical concept?

Are there consequences to our actions?

Why do bad things happen to good people?

How should we deal with suffering?

What should we do when life is a struggle?

Comments

Is “*you reap what you sow*” a Biblical concept?

Yes! But this is not the whole story! Most people want justice and fairness and we feel aggrieved when bad things happen to good people but however much we try to be good and do the right things, our life is not totally in our control—there are other factors at play besides ourself.

However, we can expect direct results from what we do—either good or bad:

Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers. Gal.6:7-10

Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. 2Cor.9:6

Give away your life; you'll find life given back, but not merely given back—given back with bonus and blessing. Giving, not getting, is the way. Generosity begets generosity. Lk.6:38

One person gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty. A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed. Prov.11:24-25

But generous people plan to do what is generous, and they stand firm in their generosity. [But the noble man makes noble plans, and by noble deeds he stands.] Is.32:8

Are there consequences to our actions?

Yes! There are consequences to our actions. We have a judiciary system to bring people to account for what they do—and those who administer justice are called God's Servants:

Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. Consequently, whoever rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and you will be commended. For the one in authority is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for rulers do not bear the sword for no reason. They are God's servants, agents of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer. Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also as a matter of conscience. This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, who give their full time to governing. Give to everyone what you owe them: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honour, then honor. Rom.13:1-7

But there are also eternal consequences to our actions too:

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad. 2Cor.5:10

For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father's glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what they have done. Matt.16:27

Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not people, because you know that the Lord will reward each one for whatever good they do, whether they are slave or free. Eph.6:7-8

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2024

*A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in him, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in him. But I tell you that everyone will have to give account on the day of judgment for every empty word they have spoken. For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned.”Matt.12:35-37
The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit.Prov.18:21*

Just as people are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment, so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.Heb.9:27-28

Why do bad things happen to good people?

We are part of a sinful world

His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.2Pet.1:3-4

There is an enemy who is out to destroy us:

‘Sir, didn't you plant good seed in your field? Where did the weeds come from?’ ‘He told them, ‘An enemy did this.’Matt.13:27-28

That enemy is the devil:

Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings.1Pet.5:8-9

How should we deal with suffering?

If we are at fault we should repent (acknowledge and determine to change)

If it is someone else’s fault, we should forgive them (i.e. not hold a grudge against them) **but not excuse them.**

For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.Matt.6:14-15

But we just “fall into” most of our troubles!

Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. Jas.1:2-5

God will turn our situation around for His glory and our ultimate good

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.^{Rom.8:28}

What should we do when life is a struggle?

Trust God

In fact, this is love for God: to keep his commands. And his commands are not burdensome, for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world? Only the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.^{1Jn.5:3-5}

Trust is faith in action and we must intentionally activate our faith by “hearing” the Word of God

Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ.Rom.10:17

Why are you downcast, O my soul? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God.Ps.42:5

We don’t need to read the Word of God to hear it, especially when we know what the Scriptures say—we just need to have God’s Word in our heart:

And the Father who sent me has himself testified concerning me. You have never heard his voice nor seen his form, nor does his word dwell in you, for you do not believe the one he sent. You study the Scriptures diligently because you think

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2024

that in them you have eternal life. These are the very Scriptures that testify about me, yet you refuse to come to me to have life. Jn.5:37-40

This means meditating, recalling, pondering the Word of God (which is primarily Jesus, but also the written record of Him—the Scriptures)

Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days." They replied, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?" But the temple he had spoken of was his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples recalled what he had said. Then they believed the scripture and the words that Jesus had spoken. Jn.2:19-22

Since we are surrounded by so many examples of faith, we must get rid of everything that slows us down, especially sin that distracts us. We must run the race that lies ahead of us and never give up. We must focus on Jesus, the source and goal of our faith. He saw the joy ahead of him, so he endured death on the cross and ignored the disgrace it brought him. Then he received the highest position in heaven, the one next to the throne of God. Think about Jesus, who endured opposition from sinners, so that you don't become tired and give up. You struggle against sin, but your struggles haven't killed you. You have forgotten the encouraging words that God speaks to you as his children: "My child, pay attention when the Lord disciplines you. Don't give up when he corrects you. The Lord disciplines everyone he loves. He severely disciplines everyone he accepts as his child." Endure your discipline. God corrects you as a father corrects his children. Heb.12:1-7

But when they came to Jesus and found that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. Instead, one of the soldiers pierced Jesus' side with a spear, bringing a sudden flow of blood and water. The man who saw it has given testimony, and his testimony is true. He knows that he tells the truth, and he testifies so that you also may believe. These things happened so that the scripture would be fulfilled: "Not one of his bones will be broken," and, as another scripture says, "They will look on the one they have pierced." Jn.19:33-37

Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. Jn.20:30-31

We shouldn't use the Bible as lucky dip book of nice thoughts or even promises but rather a manual for Kingdom living. We don't need "a word from God" when we have "the Word of God" — Jesus within us! However, God does sometimes highlight a verse from Scripture to us that activates our faith and we should take those "helps" seriously. For instance, Ephraim ignored God's prophetic promises to them and Scripture records it for our instruction:

Joseph is a fruitful vine, a fruitful vine near a spring, whose branches climb over a wall. With bitterness archers attacked him; they shot at him with hostility. But his bow remained steady, his strong arms stayed limber, because of the hand of the Mighty One of Jacob, because of the Shepherd, the Rock of Israel, because of your father's God, who helps you, because of the Almighty, who blesses you with blessings of the skies above, blessings of the deep springs below, blessings of the breast and womb. Your father's blessings are greater than the blessings of the ancient mountains, than the bounty of the age-old hills. Let all these rest on the head of Joseph, on the brow of the prince among his brothers. Gen.49:22-26*

My people, hear my teaching; listen to the words of my mouth. I will open my mouth with a parable; I will utter hidden things, things from of old—things we have heard and known, things our ancestors have told us. We will not hide them from their descendants; we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD, his power, and the wonders he has done. He decreed statutes for Jacob and established the law in Israel, which he commanded our ancestors to teach their children, so the next generation would know them, even the children yet to be born, and they in turn would tell their children. Then they would put their trust in God and would not forget his deeds but would keep his commands. They would not be like their ancestors—a stubborn and rebellious generation, whose hearts were not loyal to God, whose spirits were not faithful to him. The men of Ephraim, though armed with bows, turned back on the day of battle; they did not keep God's covenant and refused to live by his law. They forgot what he had done, the wonders he had shown them. He did miracles in the sight of their ancestors in the land of Egypt, in the region of Zoan. Ps.77:1-12

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2024

God consciously and deliberately eliminates the record of our sins from His memory and He will never hold them against us again—never!

*For by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy. The Holy Spirit also testifies to us about this. First he says: “This is the covenant I will make with them after that time, says the Lord. I will put my laws in their hearts and I will write them on their minds.” Then he adds: “**Their sins and lawless acts I will remember no more.**” And where these have been forgiven, sacrifice for sin is no longer necessary.*^{Heb.10:14-18}

That is why our testimony should never focus on our bad past but on Jesus and how the historical and spiritual facts of Jesus’ death, resurrection and ascension have affected us. *But God has helped me to this very day. So I stand here and give witness to both small and great. I have been saying nothing different from what the prophets and Moses said would happen. They said the Christ would suffer. He would be the first to rise from the dead. He would announce the light of life to his own people and to those who aren't Jews.*^{Acts.26:22-23}

We must focus on our Saviour who always lives, not on our sin—of which God no longer has any record! However, in order to reap the benefits of God’s second chance we must act on His instructions. We must believe that God really has removed the guilt of the past and has restored us. But we must also want to live in the blessings God that has for us.

Esau was able to shake off the consequences of his failure and Jacob’s deceit!

By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau in regard to their future.^{Heb.11:20} *Esau said to his father, “Do you have only one blessing, my father? Bless me too, my father!” ...His father Isaac answered him, “Your dwelling will be away from the earth's richness, away from the dew of heaven above. You will... serve your brother. But when you grow restless, you will throw his yoke from off your neck.”*^{Gen.27:38-40}

[Esau became a Patriarch of 11 tribes^{Gen.36:40} and was eventually reconciled with his brother Jacob and together they buried their father: *Isaac was 180 years old when he took his last breath and died. He joined his ancestors in death at a very old age. His sons Esau and Jacob buried him.*^{Gen.35:29}]

Scripture was written for our encouragement—so we should take heart and live in fellowship with God regardless of circumstances—even if we were to blame!

What we believe affects the way we think, speak and live and so we know what people really believe by the way they live (which is why we should think, speak, live and give as a Believer). *Therefore by their fruits you will know them.*^{Matt.7:20} Of course, some people are actors and say one thing but live another way (the Greek word for “actor” is “hypocrite”!). Sadly there are people who are role-playing for the sake of the crowds—they have learnt to speak like a Christian but they are not really following Christ. True Christianity is heart religion not a club that we attend on Sundays—it affects all of our life and not just the part people see of us. If we don’t “walk the talk” we are pretending to be a Christian, we are an actor—a hypocrite, And Jesus pronounced lots of “woes” to hypocrites! *Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You are like whitewashed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of the bones of the dead and everything unclean. In the same way, on the outside you appear to people as righteous but on the inside you are full of hypocrisy and wickedness.*^{Matt.23:27-28} *Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You shut the kingdom of heaven in men's faces. You yourselves do not enter, nor will you let those enter who are trying to.*^{Matt.23:13} *So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honoured by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.*^{Matt.6:2-4} And the Bible instructs us to avoid “pretend Christians”: *In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we command you, brothers and sisters, to*

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2024

keep away from every believer who is idle and disruptive and does not live according to the teaching you received from us. 2Thess. 3:6

Questions

Why is it important to know who we are?

Who is Jesus?

Who are you?

What do you base your evaluation on?

03/07/2024

Psalm 119:1-8

Video Do All Religions Lead to the Same Place_

Why is much of Israel's history recorded in Scripture?

What can we learn from the history in the Old Testament?

What is the significance of Moses hitting the rock?

Why couldn't the priests *perform their service* when the Temple was dedicated? (1Kg.8:1-11)

What is the spiritual harvest that the Feast of Tabernacles signified?

Explain: *Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified. (Jn.7:39)*

Why will we never be spiritually thirsty again if we believe in Jesus?

Comments

Why is much of Israel's history recorded in Scripture?

To teach us. ("Is written" is 74 times in NT)

For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope. Rom.15:4

The words "it was credited to him" were written not for him alone, but also for us, to whom God will credit righteousness—for us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. Rom.4:23-24

For I do not want you to be ignorant of the fact, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud and that they all passed through the sea. They were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. They all ate the same spiritual food and drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them, and that rock was Christ. Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them; their bodies were scattered in the wilderness. Now these things occurred as examples to keep us from setting our hearts on evil things as they did. Do not be idolaters, as some of them were; as it is written: "The people sat down to eat and drink and got up to indulge in revelry." We should not commit sexual immorality, as some of them did—and in one day twenty-three thousand of them died. We should not test Christ, as some of them did—and were killed by snakes. And do not grumble, as some of them did—and were killed by the destroying angel. These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the culmination of the ages has come. So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall! No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it. 1Cor.10:1-13

Though you already know all this, I want to remind you that the Lord at one time delivered his people out of Egypt, but later destroyed those who did not believe. And the angels who did not keep their positions of authority but abandoned their proper dwelling—these he has kept in darkness, bound with everlasting chains for judgment on the great Day. In a similar way, Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding towns gave themselves up to sexual immorality and perversion. They serve as an example of those who suffer the punishment of eternal fire. Jude 5-7

Brothers and sisters, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. As you know, we count as blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job's perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy. Jas,5:10-11

What can we learn from the history in the Old Testament?

How God deals with people

God's plans and purposes

How God is consistent

What is the significance of Moses hitting the rock?

This historical event is also an allegory to illustrate how the life-giving Holy Spirit would be released.

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2024

I will stand there in front of you by the rock at Mount Horeb. Hit the rock. Then water will come out of it for the people to drink.” So Moses hit the rock in the sight of the elders of Israel.^{Ex.17:6}

Brothers and sisters, here is what I want you to know about our people who lived long ago. They were all led by the cloud. They all walked through the Red Sea. They were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. They all ate the same supernatural food. They all drank the same supernatural water. They drank from the supernatural rock that went with them. That rock was Christ.^{1Cor.10:1-4}

The Holy Spirit has always been active in the world

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light.^{Gen.1:1-3}

Then the LORD said, “My Spirit will not contend with humans forever, for they are mortal; their days will be a hundred and twenty years.”^{Gen.6:3}

So Pharaoh asked them, “Can we find anyone like this man, one in whom is the spirit of God?”^{Gen.41:38}

Then the LORD came down in the cloud and spoke with him, and he took some of the power of the Spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders. When the Spirit rested on them, they prophesied—but did not do so again.

However, two men, whose names were Eldad and Medad, had remained in the camp. They were listed among the elders, but did not go out to the tent. Yet the Spirit also rested on them, and they prophesied in the camp. A young man ran and told Moses, “Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp.” Joshua son of Nun, who had been Moses' aide since youth, spoke up and said, “Moses, my lord, stop them!” But Moses replied, “Are you jealous for my sake? I wish that all the LORD's people were prophets and that the LORD would put his Spirit on them!”^{Nu.11:25-29}

But it was only after Jesus died on the cross that the Holy Spirit took up permanent residence in Believers hearts

On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”^{Acts.1:4-5}

Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them.” By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.^{In.7:38-39}

Why couldn't the priests perform their service when the Temple was dedicated? (1Kg.8:1-11)

The glory of God was too great.

Other examples

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord, high and exalted, seated on a throne; and the train of his robe filled the temple. Above him were seraphim, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. And they were calling to one another: “Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory.” At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke. “Woe to me!” I cried. “I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the LORD Almighty.”^{Is.6:1-5}

While I, Daniel, was watching the vision and trying to understand it, there before me stood one who looked like a man. And I heard a man's voice from the Ulai calling, “Gabriel, tell this man the meaning of the vision.” As he came near the place where I was standing, I was terrified and fell prostrate. “Son of man,” he said to me, “understand that the vision concerns the time of the end.” While he was speaking to me, I was in a deep sleep, with my face to the ground. Then he touched me and raised me to my feet.^{Dan.8:15-18}

Then the man brought me by way of the north gate to the front of the temple. I looked and saw the glory of the LORD filling the temple of the LORD, and I fell facedown.^{Ezek.44:4}

After this I looked, and I saw in heaven the temple—that is, the tabernacle of the covenant law—and it was opened. Out of the temple came the seven angels with the seven plagues. They were dressed in clean, shining linen and wore golden sashes around their chests. Then one of the four living creatures gave to the seven angels seven golden bowls filled

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2024

with the wrath of God, who lives for ever and ever. And the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God and from his power, and no one could enter the temple until the seven plagues of the seven angels were completed. Rev. 15:5-8
I turned around to see the voice that was speaking to me. And when I turned I saw seven golden lampstands, and among the lampstands was someone like a son of man, dressed in a robe reaching down to his feet and with a golden sash around his chest. The hair on his head was white like wool, as white as snow, and his eyes were like blazing fire. His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of rushing waters. In his right hand he held seven stars, and coming out of his mouth was a sharp, double-edged sword. His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance. When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. Then he placed his right hand on me and said: "Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look, I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades. Rev. 1:12-18

What is the spiritual harvest that the Feast of Tabernacles signified?

Celebrate the Festival of Tabernacles for seven days after you have gathered the produce of your threshing floor and your winepress. Be joyful at your festival... For seven days celebrate the festival to the LORD your God at the place the LORD will choose. For the LORD your God will bless you in all your harvest and in all the work of your hands, and your joy will be complete. ^{Dent. 16:13-15}

Harvest is Evangelism

After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go. He told them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field. Go! I am sending you out like lambs among wolves. Lk. 10:1-3

The Feast of Tabernacles signifies the end of time when evangelism will be complete

He answered, "The one who sowed the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world, and the good seed stands for the people of the kingdom. The weeds are the people of the evil one, and the enemy who sows them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels. Matt. 13:37-38

Above all, you must understand that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires. They will say, "Where is this 'coming' he promised? Ever since our ancestors died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation." But they deliberately forget that long ago by God's word the heavens came into being and the earth was formed out of water and by water. By these waters also the world of that time was deluged and destroyed. By the same word the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly. But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare. 2Pet. 3:3-10

Then another angel came out of the temple and called in a loud voice to him who was sitting on the cloud, "Take your sickle and reap, because the time to reap has come, for the harvest of the earth is ripe." So he who was seated on the cloud swung his sickle over the earth, and the earth was harvested. Rev. 14:15-16

Explain: Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.
(Jn. 7:39)

The Holy Spirit was with people but did not reside permanently in people until Jesus returned to Glory

"If you love me, keep my commands. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever—the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2024

who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them.”Jn.14:15-21

Why will we never be spiritually thirsty again if we believe in Jesus?

Because the Holy Spirit resides in us and is like a well or spring that never dries up

Jesus answered her, “If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water.” “Sir,” the woman said, “you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his livestock?” Jesus answered, “Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”Jn.4:10-14

Jesus said to them, “Very truly I tell you, it is not Moses who has given you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is the bread that comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.” “Sir,” they said, “always give us this bread.” Then Jesus declared, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. But as I told you, you have seen me and still you do not believe. All those the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away. For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me. Jn.6:32-38

On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, “Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them.” By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.Jn.7:37-39

The LORD will guide you always; he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land and will strengthen your frame. You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail.Is.58:11

However, we will always desire God and His Kingdom

But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.Matt.6:33

Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.1Pet.2:1-3

25/06/2024

Psalm 118:14-29

Greg Koukl - Does evil have an answer in Heaven

Questions:

God made everything good—so where does trouble come from?

How can we stay cheerful through difficult situations?

Is it wrong to be angry?

Is it wrong to complain about our problems?

What does it mean to “believe Jesus”?

What does it mean to “confess Jesus”?

Comments

God made everything good—so where does trouble come from?

Initially trouble came from satan after he fell from glory

God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day. Thus the heavens and the earth were completed in all their vast array. Gen.1:31-1:1

The word of the LORD came to me: “Son of man, take up a lament concerning the king of Tyre and say to him: ‘This is what the Sovereign LORD says: “You were the seal of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone adorned you: carnelian, chrysolite and emerald, topaz, onyx and jasper, lapis lazuli, turquoise and beryl. Your settings and mountings were made of gold; on the day you were created they were prepared. You were anointed as a guardian cherub, for so I ordained you. You were on the holy mount of God; you walked among the fiery stones. You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created till wickedness was found in you. Through your widespread trade you were filled with violence, and you sinned. So I drove you in disgrace from the mount of God, and I expelled you, guardian cherub, from among the fiery stones. Your heart became proud on account of your beauty, and you corrupted your wisdom because of your splendour. So I threw you to the earth; I made a spectacle of you before kings. By your many sins and dishonest trade you have desecrated your sanctuaries. So I made a fire come out from you, and it consumed you, and I reduced you to ashes on the ground in the sight of all who were watching. All the nations who knew you are appalled at you; you have come to a horrible end and will be no more.’ ” Ezek.28:11-19

But after Adam sinned, trouble came from the human heart

Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned—for before the law was given, sin was in the world. But sin is not taken into account when there is no law. Nevertheless, death reigned from the time of Adam to the time of Moses, even over those who did not sin by breaking a command, as did Adam, who was a pattern of the one to come. Rom.5:12-14

Trouble still comes from evil in the human heart

But because of your stubbornness and your unrepentant heart, you are storing up wrath against yourself for the day of God's wrath, when his righteous judgment will be revealed. God “will give to each person according to what he has done.” To those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honour and immortality, he will give eternal life. But for those who are self-seeking and who reject the truth and follow evil, there will be wrath and anger. There will be trouble and distress for every human being who does evil: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile; but glory, honour and peace for everyone who does good: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. For God does not show favoritism. Rom.2:5-11

See to it that no one misses the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many. Heb.12:15

However, some trouble comes from God

Therefore, among God's churches we boast about your perseverance and faith in all the persecutions and trials you are enduring. All this is evidence that God's judgment is right, and as a result you will be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are suffering. God is just: He will pay back trouble to those who trouble you and give relief to you who are troubled, and to us as well. This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels. He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2024

They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the majesty of his power on the day he comes to be glorified in his holy people and to be marvelled at among all those who have believed. This includes you, because you believed our testimony to you. 2Thess.1:4-10

How can we stay cheerful through difficult situations?

Knowing what God has said and done

Yet I am not alone, for my Father is with me. I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

Jn.16:32-33

You have made known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand. Ps.16:11

By praising God—saying good things and true things about Him

Why are you downcast, O my soul? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Saviour and my God. Ps.42:11

I have seen his ways, but I will heal him; I will guide him and restore comfort to him, creating praise on the lips of the mourners in Israel. Peace, peace, to those far and near," says the LORD. "And I will heal them." Is.57:18-19

By bearing the fruit of the Spirit

But the meek will inherit the land and enjoy great peace. Ps.37:11

Great peace have they who love your law, and nothing can make them stumble. Ps.119:165

So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Gal.5:16-23

Is it wrong to be angry?

No! God is sometimes angry

So I turned and went down from the mountain while it was ablaze with fire. And the two tablets of the covenant were in my hands. When I looked, I saw that you had sinned against the LORD your God; you had made for yourselves an idol cast in the shape of a calf. You had turned aside quickly from the way that the LORD had commanded you. So I took the two tablets and threw them out of my hands, breaking them to pieces before your eyes. Then once again I fell prostrate before the LORD for forty days and forty nights; I ate no bread and drank no water, because of all the sin you had committed, doing what was evil in the LORD's sight and so provoking him to anger. I feared the anger and wrath of the LORD, for he was angry enough with you to destroy you. But again the LORD listened to me. And the LORD was angry enough with Aaron to destroy him, but at that time I prayed for Aaron too. Also I took that sinful thing of yours, the calf you had made, and burned it in the fire. Then I crushed it and ground it to powder as fine as dust and threw the dust into a stream that flowed down the mountain. You also made the LORD angry at Taberah, at Massah and at Kibroth Hattaavah. Dent.9:15-22

But we should never stay angry

"In your anger do not sin": Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold. Eph.4:26-27

But I tell you that anyone who is angry with a brother or sister will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to a brother or sister, 'Raca,' is answerable to the court. And anyone who says, 'You fool!' will be in danger of the fire of hell. Matt.5:22 ["Raca" is an Aramaic term of contempt]

Is it wrong to complain about our problems?

Unregenerate people naturally moan and complain, because their lot in life has no spiritual meaning and they have no eternal rest to look forward to

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2024

*We are consumed by your anger and terrified by your indignation. You have set our iniquities before you, our secret sins in the light of your presence. All our days pass away under your wrath; we finish our years with a moan. Our days may come to seventy years, or eighty, if our strength endures; yet the best of them are but trouble and sorrow, for they quickly pass, and we fly away.*Ps.90:7-10

*So justice is far from us, and righteousness does not reach us. We look for light, but all is darkness; for brightness, but we walk in deep shadows. Like the blind we grope along the wall, feeling our way like people without eyes. At midday we stumble as if it were twilight; among the strong, we are like the dead. We all growl like bears; we moan mournfully like doves. We look for justice, but find none; for deliverance, but it is far away. For our offenses are many in your sight, and our sins testify against us. Our offenses are ever with us and we acknowledge our iniquities.*Is.59:9-12

We can and should share/talk about our troubles—and even groan!

*continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose. Do everything without complaining or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe as you hold out the word of life.*Phil.2:12-16

*We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.*Rom.8:22-5

but complainers did not enter the Promised land!

*The LORD said to Moses and Aaron: “How long will this wicked community grumble against me? I have heard the complaints of these grumbling Israelites. So tell them, ‘As surely as I live, declares the LORD, I will do to you the very things I heard you say: In this desert your bodies will fall—every one of you twenty years old or more who was counted in the census and who has grumbled against me. Not one of you will enter the land I swore with uplifted hand to make your home, except Caleb son of Jephunneh and Joshua son of Nun.*Nu.14:26-30

Remorse before Calvary is of God; remorse after you have been to Calvary is of the devil. Repent of your sin, yes; but do not make your sin a subject for long and melancholy meditation. Why should I cheat God by spending my time and energy on remorse? I am greater than my sins. You think like a man instead of thinking like God. Your thoughts concerning God are too human! *Martin Luther*

It is a sad thing when you hear Christians with a groan. The secret of Christianity is the secret of Christ possessing the heart of a person, a person being yielded to Him so that His victory, His consciousness and His power possesses your spirit and mind. *John G Lake.*

What does it mean to “believe Jesus”?

*“You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”*Matt.16:16

*They tell how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.*1Thess.1:9-10

Faith is believing “that”—believing that God exists:

And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.^{Heb.11:6}

but even the demons believe in God.

You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder!^{Jas.2:19}

Faith is also believing “in”—it is an active reliance on, or trust in, because what you believe is true. Both “believing that” and “believing in” are necessary for genuine Christian faith. Faith is a response to evidence, not a rejoicing in the absence of evidence.

Biblically, *faith is a power or skill to act in accordance with the nature of the kingdom of God, a trust in what we have reason to believe is true.* Understood in this way, we see that faith is built on reason. We should have

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2024

good reasons for thinking that Christianity is true before we dedicate ourselves completely to it. [Moreland, *Love Your God with All Your Mind*]

What does it mean to “confess Jesus”?

“Confess” means to “say the same”—*homo-logos*. Thus, to confess Jesus is much more than say His name—it is to say the same as Jesus.

But the righteousness that is by faith says: “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’ ” (that is, to bring Christ down) “or ‘Who will descend into the deep?’ ” (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say? “The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart,” that is, the message concerning faith that we proclaim: If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved. As Scripture says, “Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame.” For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, for, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” Rom.10:6-13)

Confessing Jesus is simply believing with our heart and repeating with our lips the truth about Jesus and thus ourselves—because our identity is in Jesus

Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Col.3:1-4

We should say the same as God says about who we are and what we have in Christ—what He says about us, our sins and everything included in our redemption. And this is a Good Confession.

A spiritual law that few recognize is that our confession rules us. It is what we confess with our lips that really dominates our inner being. **We must make our lips do their duty and make them harmonize with the Word of God.** We should fill our lips with God’s Word and make them say what God says about us and not allow them to say anything to the contrary! We must refuse to allow our words destroy the effectiveness of God’s Word in our situation. Some confess with their lips but deny in their heart—they say, “Yes, the Word is true,” but in their heart they say, “But it is not true in my case.” The confession of our lips has no value as long as our heart repudiates it. **CONFESSION** (saying what God says in each of His promises) is made **UNTO SALVATION**. ^{Rom.10:10}

That is why we must be careful what we sing. Most of our practical theology—what we believe and live—comes from the songs that we sing!

If you are born again, you are a son of God. And for you to tear yourself out of your sonship, your relationship and the righteousness of God and put yourself over in the reality of death and tell God you are dirty, unclean, that His blood has not cleansed you, and His life has not been delivered to you it is a monstrous thing. It is alright to sing that as an unregenerate but it is not the experience of the sons and daughters of God. John G. Lake

19/06/2024

Psalm 118:1-14

Video

Questions

How does God speak to us today?

What is the purpose of signs, wonders, dreams and visions?

How can we discern what is from our own mind and what is from God?

How can we ensure that we are not deceived?

What security measures has God provided to keep us from error?

Questions

How does God speak to us today?

God speaks through people, through creation—in fact He can speak through anything—

One thing God has spoken, two things I have heard:Ps.62:11

since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.Rom.1:19-20

But God mostly speaks through the Scriptures.

To the law and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to this word, they have no light of dawn.Is.8:20

Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"Matt.4:4

We also have the prophetic message as something completely reliable, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation of things. For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.2Pet.1:19-21

However, God always speaks through His Son, Jesus Christ. This means that whatever He says, will be in harmony with Jesus' character and teaching (i.e. New Covenant teaching).

In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe.Heb.1:1-2

Until God opens our spiritual eyes and ears we cannot see or hear spiritual things:

To whom can I speak and give warning? Who will listen to me? Their ears are closed so they cannot hear. The word of the LORD is offensive to them; they find no pleasure in it.Jer.6:9

When he said this, he called out, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear." His disciples asked him what this parable meant. He said, "The knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of God has been given to you, but to others I speak in parables, so that, "though seeing, they may not see; though hearing, they may not understand.'Lk.8:8-10

The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned.1Cor.2:14

Hearing what God says means believing and acting on it

Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it—he will be blessed in what he does.Jas.1:22-25

What is the purpose of signs, wonders, dreams and visions?

A sign points to God and a wonder makes you wonder what is happening

When God initiates signs, wonders, dreams and visions, it is to accompany the Holy Spirit's call to repentance so people will call on the Name of the Lord

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2024

Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: 'Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. These people are not drunk, as you suppose. It's only nine in the morning! No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: "In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy. I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood and fire and billows of smoke. The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord. And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.' Acts.2:14-21

Tongues, then, are a sign, not for believers but for unbelievers; prophecy, however, is not for unbelievers but for believers. So if the whole church comes together and everyone speaks in tongues, and inquirers or unbelievers come in, will they not say that you are out of your mind? But if an unbeliever or an inquirer comes in while everyone is prophesying, they are convicted of sin and are brought under judgment by all, as the secrets of their hearts are laid bare. So they will fall down and worship God, exclaiming, "God is really among you!" 1Cor.14:22-25

This is what the LORD Almighty says: "In those days ten people from all languages and nations will take firm hold of one Jew by the hem of his robe and say, 'Let us go with you, because we have heard that God is with you.' "Zech.8:23

Then the disciples went out and preached everywhere, and the Lord worked with them and confirmed his word by the signs that accompanied it. Mk.16:20

"Unless you people see signs and wonders," Jesus told him, "you will never believe." Jn.4:48

For since the message spoken through angels was binding, and every violation and disobedience received its just punishment, how shall we escape if we ignore so great a salvation? This salvation, which was first announced by the Lord, was confirmed to us by those who heard him. God also testified to it by signs, wonders and various miracles, and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will. He.2:2-4

How can we discern what is from our own mind and what is from God?

When we are born-again, we have the mind of Christ and so we can normally trust our instinct. Of course we need to be able to back up our conclusion with the Word of God. If we are in fellowship with God, His Word and His people, we can expect to be led by the Holy Spirit and know when something is wrong or unbalanced

Keep reminding God's people of these things. Warn them before God against quarrelling about words; it is of no value, and only ruins those who listen. Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth. Avoid godless chatter, because those who indulge in it will become more and more ungodly. 2Tim.2:14-16

Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other. Gal.5:25-26

How can we ensure that we are not deceived?

Become Bible literate—study the Bible and know how to interpret it

So when you see standing in the holy place 'the abomination that causes desolation,' spoken of through the prophet Daniel—let the reader understand—then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. Matt.24:15-16

Teach me, LORD, the way of your decrees, that I may follow it to the end. Give me understanding, so that I may keep your law and obey it with all my heart. Direct me in the path of your commands, for there I find delight. Turn my heart toward your statutes and not toward selfish gain. Turn my eyes away from worthless things; preserve my life according to your word. Ps.119:33-37

Stay in the spirit (keep in the atmosphere of God)

But, dear friends, remember what the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ foretold. They said to you, "In the last times there will be scoffers who will follow their own ungodly desires." These are the people who divide you, who follow mere natural instincts and do not have the Spirit. But you, dear friends, by building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in God's love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life. Jude 17-21

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2024

Set our minds on things above (i.e. include the spiritual dimension to our daily life)

Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Col.3:1-4

Now those things happened as examples for us. They are supposed to keep us from longing for evil things, as the people of Israel did. So don't worship statues of gods, as some of them did. It is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink. Then they got up to dance wildly in front of their god." We should not commit sexual sins, as some of them did. In one day 23,000 of them died. We should not put the Lord to the test, as some of them did. They were killed by snakes. Don't tell your leaders how unhappy you are with them. That's what some of the people of Israel did. And they were killed by the destroying angel. Those things happened to them as examples for us. They were written down to warn us who are living at the time when God's work is being completed. So be careful. When you think you are standing firm, you might fall. You are tempted in the same way all other human beings are. God is faithful. He will not let you be tempted any more than you can take. But when you are tempted, God will give you a way out so that you can stand up under it. 1Cor.10:6-13

What security (safety) measures has God provided to keep us from error?

We have the Scriptures and the Holy Spirit

You are in error because you do not know the Scriptures or the power of God. Matt.22:29

He writes the same way in all his letters, speaking in them of these matters. His letters contain some things that are hard to understand, which ignorant and unstable people distort, as they do the other Scriptures, to their own destruction. Therefore, dear friends, since you have been forewarned, be on your guard so that you may not be carried away by the error of the lawless and fall from your secure position. But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen. 2Pet.3:16-18

God has given us the Holy Spirit, the Church and the ministry gifts within the Church

So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work. Eph.4:11-16

Learn from history—especially biblical history

Woe to them! They have taken the way of Cain; they have rushed for profit into Balaam's error; they have been destroyed in Korah's rebellion. Jude 11

Learn from creation

Go to the ant, you sluggard; consider its ways and be wise! Prov.6:6

Learn from Jesus

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." Matt.11:28-30

Keep focused on Jesus and never distort the Word of God

Therefore, since through God's mercy we have this ministry, we do not lose heart. Rather, we have renounced secret and shameful ways; we do not use deception, nor do we distort the word of God. On the contrary, by setting forth the truth plainly we commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God. And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For what we preach is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who said, "Let light

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2024

shine out of darkness,” made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God's glory displayed in the face of Christ. 2Cor.4:1-6

Choose friends carefully

Anxiety weighs down the heart, but a kind word cheers it up. The righteous choose their friends carefully, but the way of the wicked leads them astray. Prov.12:25-26

One who has unreliable friends soon comes to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother. Prov.18:24

Do not be misled: “Bad company corrupts good character.” 1Cor.15:33

“Beware of your friends; do not trust anyone in your clan. For every one of them is a deceiver, and every friend a slanderer. Friend deceives friend, and no one speaks the truth. They have taught their tongues to lie; they weary themselves with sinning. You live in the midst of deception; in their deceit they refuse to acknowledge me,” declares the LORD. Jer.9:4-6

12/06/2024

Psalm 116

Forensic Faith New Release Video 4

Questions

What makes people different from the rest of Creation?

What makes Believers different from the rest of humanity?

Can we behave like a mere mortal and still be a child of God?

How can we live as children of God?

How can we prepare for that final day when we take our last breath?

Questions

What makes people different from the rest of Creation?

We are made in God's image

So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground." Gen. 1:27-28

All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and sea creatures are being tamed and have been tamed by mankind, but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings, who have been made in God's likeness. Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this should not be. Jas. 3:7-10

We are spirit, soul and body

May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it. 1Thess. 5:23-24

We are made to worship God

O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens. From the lips of children and infants you have ordained praise Ps. 8:1-2

But when the chief priests and the teachers of the law saw the wonderful things he did and the children shouting in the temple area, "Hosanna to the Son of David," they were indignant. "Do you hear what these children are saying?" they asked him. "Yes," replied Jesus, "have you never read, "From the lips of children and infants you have ordained praise?" Matt. 21:15-16

What makes Believers different from the rest of humanity?

We are redeemed

For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. 1Pet. 1:18-19

We are forgiven

I write to you, dear children, because your sins have been forgiven on account of his name. 1Jn. 2:12

David says the same thing when he speaks of the blessedness of the one to whom God credits righteousness apart from works: "Blessed are those whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. Blessed is the one whose sin the Lord will never count against them." Rom. 4:6-8

We are justified

Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! Rom. 5:9

But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. This is a trustworthy saying. Tit. 3:4-8

We are Reconciled

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2024

*For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! Not only is this so, but we also boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.*Rom.5:10-11

*And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.*Rom.8:28-30

We are Children of God

*Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.*Jn.1:12-13

*See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known.*1Jn.3:1-2

Can we behave like a mere mortal and still be a child of God?

Yes! If we take our focus off God and His Kingdom, we can easily live for the now instead of for God

*Brothers and sisters, I could not address you as people who live by the Spirit but as people who are still worldly—mere infants in Christ. I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready. You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarrelling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere humans? For when one says, "I follow Paul," and another, "I follow Apollos," are you not mere human beings?*1Cor.3:1-4

However, the proof of the pudding is in the eating

*"Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? Likewise, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them. "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?' Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'"*Matt.7:15-23

But if we are not yet completely perfect, it does not annul God's work of grace or mean that God has failed!

*"We who are Jews by birth and not sinful Gentiles know that a person is not justified by the works of the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law, because by the works of the law no one will be justified. But if, in seeking to be justified in Christ, we Jews find ourselves also among the sinners, doesn't that mean that Christ promotes sin? Absolutely not! If I rebuild what I destroyed, then I really would be a lawbreaker. For through the law I died to the law so that I might live for God. I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing!"*Gal.2:15-21

We Jews know that we have no advantage of birth over "non-Jewish sinners." We know very well that we are not set right with God by rule-keeping but only through personal faith in Jesus Christ. How do we know? We tried it—and we had the best system of rules the world has ever seen! Convinced that no human being can please God by self-improvement, we believed in Jesus as the Messiah so that we might be set right before God by trusting in the Messiah, not by trying to be good. Have some of you noticed that we are not yet perfect? (No great surprise, right?) And are you ready to make the accusation that since people like me, who go through Christ in order to get things right with God, aren't perfectly virtuous, Christ must therefore be an accessory to sin? The accusation is frivolous. If I was "trying to be good," I would be rebuilding the same old barn that I tore down. I would be acting as a charlatan. What actually

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2024

*took place is this: I tried keeping rules and working my head off to please God, and it didn't work. So I quit being a "law man" so that I could be God's man. Christ's life showed me how, and enabled me to do it. I identified myself completely with him. Indeed, I have been crucified with Christ. My ego is no longer central. It is no longer important that I appear righteous before you or have your good opinion, and I am no longer driven to impress God. Christ lives in me. The life you see me living is not "mine," but it is lived by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. I am not going to go back on that. Is it not clear to you that to go back to that old rule-keeping, peer-pleasing religion would be an abandonment of everything personal and free in my relationship with God? I refuse to do that, to repudiate God's grace. If a living relationship with God could come by rule-keeping, then Christ died unnecessarily.*TM

How can we live as children of God?

When we are born-again we become God's children

*But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God. They are reborn—not with a physical birth resulting from human passion or plan, but a birth that comes from God.*Jn.1:12-13

Now we must learn to fit into God's family and live by His rules and values. We do this by spending time with God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit

*We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. We write this to make our joy complete.*1Jn.1:3-4

*In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:*Phil.2:5

*"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."*Matt.11:28-30

*Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? What harmony is there between Christ and Belial? Or what does a believer have in common with an unbeliever? What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols? For we are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people."*2Cor.6:14-16

This is why Bible study is important—not just reading the Bible but sharing together what we believe

*I pray that you may be active in sharing your faith, so that you will have a full understanding of every good thing we have in Christ.*NIV

As you share the faith you have in common with others, I pray that you may come to have a complete knowledge of every blessing we have in Christ. GW

that the sharing of your faith may become effective by the acknowledgment of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus. NKJV Philemon 1:6

We should remember how Jesus and our fore-fathers in the faith lived—and honour their memory

*Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.*Heb.12:1-3

How can we prepare for that final day when we take our last breath?

Stay in fellowship God, His Word and His people

Make godly judgements

God presides in the great assembly; he renders judgment among the "gods": "How long will you defend the unjust and show partiality to the wicked? Defend the weak and the fatherless; uphold the cause of the poor and the oppressed. Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked. "The 'gods' know nothing, they understand

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2024

nothing. They walk about in darkness; all the foundations of the earth are shaken. "I said, 'You are "gods"; you are all sons of the Most High.' But you will die like mere mortals; you will fall like every other ruler."Ps.82:1-7

A lady once asked John Wesley how he would spend the intervening time, if he knew he would die at midnight tomorrow. His reply:

"Why madam, just as I intend to spend it now. I would preach this evening at Gloucester, and again at five tomorrow morning; after that I would ride to Tewkesbury, preach in the afternoon, and meet the societies in the evening. I would then go to Rev. Martin's house, who expects to entertain me, talk and pray with the family as usual, retire to my room at 10 o'clock, commend myself to my heavenly Father, lie down to rest, and wake up in Glory."

Wesley was then asked what he would do if he knew his Lord would return at that time the next day and he replied:

"I would go to bed and go to sleep; wake up in the morning, and go on with my work, for I would want Him to find me doing what he had appointed."

05/06/2024

Psalm 115

Forensic Faith New Release Video 3

Questions:

What did Jesus mean by the dead hearing His voice and living?

What did Jesus mean about people coming out of the graves?

Why will the 2nd death have no power over Believers?

How can we have an assurance of salvation?

Are we living in the end times?

If so, what difference should it make to the way we live?

Comments

What did Jesus mean by the dead hearing His voice and living?

Jesus said that *Anyone who hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He will not be found guilty. He has crossed over from death to life. What I'm about to tell you is true. The time is coming for me to give life. In fact, it has already begun. The dead will hear the voice of the Son of God. Those who hear it will live.*

This is clearly conversion:

For God so loved the world, that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish, but have eternal life. John 3:16

We were born into spiritual death

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient... He gave us life even when we were dead in sin. Eph.2:1-5

When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, Col.2:13

Death is separation (physical death is spirit separating from body). We are spiritually dead because of Adam's sin

The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. And the LORD God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die." Gen.2:15-17

Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned. Rom.5:12

Although we are made in God's image and are spirit, soul and body, our spirit (the God-connection part of us) is disconnected from God and is called "dead" (i.e. it is not connected to God). That is why we must be born again

Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again." "How can someone be born when they are old?" Nicodemus asked. "Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother's womb to be born!" Jesus answered, "Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit* gives birth to spirit. You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.' The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit." Jn.3:3-8

Without a new birth we are still in our sins There is not a God-part in each of us that need stimulating or reviving or fanning into flames—we must have new-birth.

What did Jesus mean about people coming out of the graves?

This is the final resurrection when all the dead are raised to "life" —either life with God in eternal joy and peace, or life with the devil in eternal conscious punishment and torment

"When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left... "Then the King will say to those on his

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2024

right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world... "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels... "Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life."Matt.25:31-46

Therefore we are always confident and know that as long as we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord. For we live by faith, not by sight. We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So we make it our goal to please him, whether we are at home in the body or away from it. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad. Since, then, we know what it is to fear the Lord, we try to persuade others.^{2Cor.5:6-11}

Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope. For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. According to the Lord's word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.^{1Thess.4:13-18}

Why will the 2nd death have no power over Believers?

The 2nd death is physical death and the judgement that follows.

The lake of fire is the second death. Anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire.^{Rev.20:14-15}

Those of us who have experienced **conversion** (the 1st resurrection) have no fear of the **conclusion** (the 2nd resurrection) because the 2nd death (physical death and beyond) will not harm us:

Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you the crown of life. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes will not be hurt at all by the second death.^{Rev.2:10-11}

Blessed and holy are those who share in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them.^{Rev.20:6}

But cowards, unbelievers, the corrupt, murderers, the immoral, those who practice witchcraft, idol worshipers, and all liars—their fate is in the fiery lake of burning sulphur. This is the second death.^{Rev.21:8}

2nd death will have no power over us because we have been united with Christ and have eternal life.

Nothing can separate us from God

But whoever is united with the Lord is one with him in spirit.^{1Cor.6:17}

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.^{Rom.8:37-39}

My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all*; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand. I and the Father are one."Jn.10:27-30

How can we have an assurance of salvation?

We can only have assurance of our salvation if we can trust Jesus and what He has said.

Trust and obey, for there's no other way to be happy in Jesus but to trust and obey.

Assurance is based on God's Word. Jesus said if we believe in Him, we have crossed over from death to life—we are saved and safe

Look to God's instructions and teachings! People who contradict his word are completely in the dark. They will go from one place to another, weary and hungry. And because they are hungry, they will rage and curse their king and their God. They will look up to heaven and down at the earth, but wherever they look, there will be trouble and anguish and dark despair.^{Is.8:20-22}

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2024

*"If God were your Father, you would love me, for I have come here from God. I have not come on my own; God sent me. Why is my language not clear to you? Because you are unable to hear what I say. You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies. Yet because I tell the truth, you do not believe me! Can any of you prove me guilty of sin? If I am telling the truth, why don't you believe me? Whoever belongs to God hears what God says. The reason you do not hear is that you do not belong to God."*Jn.8:42-47

*Do not believe me unless I do the works of my Father. But if I do them, even though you do not believe me, believe the works, that you may know and understand that the Father is in me, and I in the Father."*Jn.10:37-38

*Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the works themselves.*Jn.14:11

The Holy Spirit gives us the assurance

*For no matter how many promises God has made, they are "Yes" in Christ. And so through him the "Amen" is spoken by us to the glory of God. Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.*2Cor.1:20-22

*Now the one who has fashioned us for this very purpose is God, who has given us the Spirit as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come. Therefore we are always confident and know that as long as we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord. For we live by faith, not by sight.*2Cor.5:5-7

The Holy Spirit's love in our heart gives us assurance

*We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love each other. Anyone who does not love remains in death. Anyone who hates a brother or sister is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life residing in him.*1Jn.3:14-15

The Scripture gives us assurance

*Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.*Jn.20:30-31

*I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.*1Jn.5:13

Are we living in the end times?

The "end times" is not mentioned in the Scriptures but "last days" are.

The Last Days started at Pentecost and so, yes we are living in the last days!

*Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: "Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. These men are not drunk, as you suppose. It's only nine in the morning! No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: "'In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy. I will show wonders in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood and fire and billows of smoke. The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord. And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."*Acts.2:14-21

Paul believed he was living in the last days. Paul warned Timothy about the last days and instructed him about what to do about it

But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God—having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with them. They are the kind who worm their way into homes and gain control over weak-willed women, who are loaded down with sins and are swayed by all kinds of evil desires, always learning but never able to acknowledge the truth. Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2024

also these men oppose the truth—men of depraved minds, who, as far as the faith is concerned, are rejected. But they will not get very far because, as in the case of those men, their folly will be clear to everyone. 2Tim.3:1-9

Also James and Peter

Now listen, you rich people, weep and wail because of the misery that is coming upon you. Your wealth has rotted, and moths have eaten your clothes. Your gold and silver are corroded. Their corrosion will testify against you and eat your flesh like fire. You have hoarded wealth in the last days. Look! The wages you failed to pay the workmen who mowed your fields are crying out against you. The cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord Almighty. You have lived on earth in luxury and self-indulgence. You have fattened yourselves in the day of slaughter. You have condemned and murdered innocent men, who were not opposing you. Jas.5:1-6

First of all, you must understand that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires. They will say, “Where is this ‘coming’ he promised? Ever since our fathers died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation.” But they deliberately forget that long ago by God’s word the heavens existed and the earth was formed out of water and by water. By these waters also the world of that time was deluged and destroyed. By the same word the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men. But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. 2Pet.3:3-9

The writer of Hebrews used the phrase “last days” to refer to Jesus

In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe. Heb.1:1-2

If so, what difference should it make to the way we live?

It should make no difference and every difference!

We should live in hope and happiness of Jesus’ return but not in fear.

Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord’s will is. Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit. Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. Eph.5:15-21

We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently. In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God’s people in accordance with the will of God. Rom.8:22-27

Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. He will also keep you firm to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, who has called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. 1Cor.1:7-9

But you, dear friends, by building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in God’s love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life. Jude.20-21

For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good. These, then, are the things you should teach. Encourage and rebuke with all authority. Do not let anyone despise you. Tit.2:11-15

The Lord’s message rang out from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia—your faith in God has become known everywhere. Therefore we do not need to say anything about it, for they themselves report what kind of reception you

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2024

gave us. They tell how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath. 1Thess. 1:8-10

We should be ready and not found wanting

‘Who then is the faithful and wise manager, whom the master puts in charge of his servants to give them their food allowance at the proper time? It will be good for that servant whom the master finds doing so when he returns. Lk. 12:42-43

29/05/2024

Psalm 114

Forensic Faith New Release Video 2

Questions:

What does God want us to do?

How do we do what God wants us to do?

How can we ensure that we are not tricked (like the Galatians)?

What should we do if we realise that we are tricked?

Define “sin”.

What is the greatest sin (and why)?

Comments

What does God want us to do?

God wants us to believe in Jesus

But don't be so concerned about perishable things like food. Spend your energy seeking the eternal life that the Son of Man can give you. For God the Father has given me the seal of his approval." They replied, "We want to perform God's works, too. What should we do?" Jesus told them, "This is the only work God wants from you: Believe in the one he has sent."Jn.6:27-29

Don't believe me unless I carry out my Father's work. But if I do his work, believe in the evidence of the miraculous works I have done, even if you don't believe me. Then you will know and understand that the Father is in me, and I am in the Father."Jn.10:37-38

Don't you believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words I speak are not my own, but my Father who lives in me does his work through me. Just believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me. Or at least believe because of the work you have seen me do.Jn.14:10-11

God wants us to love Him with our whole person

'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."Matt.22:37-39

God wants us to offer ourselves to Him daily

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. Rom.12:1-2

God wants us to walk uprightly before Him

He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.Mic.6:8

And the word of the LORD came again to Zechariah: "This is what the LORD Almighty said: 'Administer true justice; show mercy and compassion to one another. Do not oppress the widow or the fatherless, the foreigner or the poor. Do not plot evil against each other.'Zech.7:8-10

Those who consider themselves religious and yet do not keep a tight rein on their tongues deceive themselves, and their religion is worthless. Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.Jas.1:26-27

How do we do what God wants us to do?

Stay in fellowship with God, His Word and His people

This means being “spiritual”—that means being in the Spirit

Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth."Jn.4:23-24

On the Lord's Day I was in the Spirit, and I heard... Rev.1:10

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2024

After this I looked, and there before me was a door standing open in heaven. And the voice I had first heard speaking to me like a trumpet said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this." At once I was in the Spirit, and there before me was a throne in heaven with someone sitting on it. Rev.4:1-2

United with the Spirit

But whoever is united with the Lord is one with him in spirit. 1Cor.6:17

Walk with the Spirit

So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law... Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. Gal.5:16-25

Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. Eph.4:3-6

Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: Phil.2:1-5

How can we ensure that we are not tricked (like the Galatians)?

Know what God really said

Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?" Gen.3:1

But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ. For if someone comes to you and preaches a Jesus other than the Jesus we preached, or if you receive a different spirit from the Spirit you received, or a different gospel from the one you accepted, you put up with it easily enough. 2Cor.11:3-4

Know the basics and don't deviate from them

I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you to live in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel—which is really no gospel at all. Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ. But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let them be under God's curse! As we have already said, so now I say again: If anybody is preaching to you a gospel other than what you accepted, let them be under God's curse! Gal.1:6-9

You foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? Before your very eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed as crucified. I would like to learn just one thing from you: Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law, or by believing what you heard? Are you so foolish? After beginning by means of the Spirit, are you now trying to finish by means of the flesh? Have you experienced so much in vain—if it really was in vain? So again I ask, does God give you his Spirit and work miracles among you by the works of the law, or by your believing what you heard? So also Abraham "believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness." Understand, then, that those who have faith are children of Abraham. Ga.3:1-7

What should we do if we realise that we are tricked?

Repent (i.e. change our mind)

Study and divide the Word of truth properly

Keep reminding God's people of these things. Warn them before God against quarrelling about words; it is of no value, and only ruins those who listen. Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth. 2Tim.2:14-15

I say this because many deceivers, who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh, have gone out into the world. Any such person is the deceiver and the antichrist. Watch out that you do not lose what we have worked for, but that you may be rewarded fully. Anyone who runs ahead and does not continue in the teaching of Christ does not

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2024

have God; whoever continues in the teaching has both the Father and the Son. If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not take them into your house or welcome them. Anyone who welcomes them shares in their wicked work. 2Jn.7-11

Define “sin”.

1st mention of sin:

Now Abel kept flocks, and Cain worked the soil. In the course of time Cain brought some of the fruits of the soil as an offering to the LORD. And Abel also brought an offering—fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock. The LORD looked with favour on Abel and his offering, but on Cain and his offering he did not look with favour. So Cain was very angry, and his face was downcast. Then the LORD said to Cain, “Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast? If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must rule over it.” Now Cain said to his brother Abel, “Let’s go out to the field.” While they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother Abel and killed him. Gen.4:2-8

Sin will kill (which is why God told Cain to master sin or it will master him)

When you are tempted, you shouldn’t say, “God is tempting me.” God can’t be tempted by evil. And he doesn’t tempt anyone. But your own evil longings tempt you. They lead you on and drag you away. When they are allowed to grow, they give birth to sin. When sin has grown up, it gives birth to death. Jas.1:13-15

Sin is unbelief—all that is not of faith is sin

and everything that does not come from faith is sin. Rom.14:23

Sin is missing God’s standard of glory

for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, Rom.3:23

Sin is lawlessness

Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is lawlessness. But you know that he appeared so that he might take away our sins. And in him is no sin. No one who lives in him keeps on sinning. No one who continues to sin has either seen him or known him. Dear children, do not let anyone lead you astray. The one who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous. The one who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil’s work. No one who is born of God will continue to sin, because God’s seed remains in them; they cannot go on sinning, because they have been born of God. 1Jn.3:4-9

Sin is doing wrong

If you see any brother or sister commit a sin that does not lead to death, you should pray and God will give them life. I refer to those whose sin does not lead to death. There is a sin that leads to death. I am not saying that you should pray about that. All wrongdoing is sin, and there is sin that does not lead to death. We know that anyone born of God does not continue to sin; the One who was born of God keeps them safe, and the evil one cannot harm them. 1Jn.5:16-18

Sin is not doing good

Now listen, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money.” Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. Instead, you ought to say, “If it is the Lord’s will, we will live and do this or that.” As it is, you boast in your arrogant schemes. All such boasting is evil. If anyone, then, knows the good they ought to do and doesn’t do it, it is sin for them. Jas.4:13-17

Sin is death’s sting

The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. [Death’s power to hurt is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But we thank God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.] 1Cor.15:56-57

What is the greatest sin (and why)?

Unbelief is the source of all sin—all other sins are manifestations of unbelief

Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned—To be sure, sin was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not charged against

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2024

anyone's account where there is no law. Nevertheless, death reigned from the time of Adam to the time of Moses, even over those who did not sin by breaking a command, as did Adam, who is a pattern of the one to come. But the gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died by the trespass of the one man, how much more did God's grace and the gift that came by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, overflow to the many! Nor can the gift of God be compared with the result of one man's sin: The judgment followed one sin and brought condemnation, but the gift followed many trespasses and brought justification. For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ! Consequently, just as one trespass resulted in condemnation for all people, so also one righteous act resulted in justification and life for all people. For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous. The law was brought in so that the trespass might increase. But where sin increased, grace increased all the more, so that, just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through righteousness to bring eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. Rom. 5:12-21

22/05/2024

Psalm 113

Forensic Faith New Release Video 1 - Why Are You A Christian

Questions:

Why do you believe in Jesus?

What is Christian faith?

How much faith do you need to become a Christian?

Why do so many people think that the Bible is irrelevant?

How can we show that the Bible is relevant?

What are the results of believing in Jesus?

Comments:

Why do you believe in Jesus?

Jesus lived nearly 2000 years ago and is universally accepted as a real historical person. However, Jesus is unique and different from anyone else who has lived. Many people have influenced others for good and some have helped others through their kindness; some have facilitated healing including miracles and some have even claimed to be a god but only Jesus did all that and then proved His claim by rising to life with an immortal body. My belief in Jesus is based on these historical facts plus a knowing in my heart (i.e. a spiritual awareness) that these facts personally relevant to me.

The Bible is a valid and credible document that has a proven track record of changing people's lives for good. The violence from people associated with the Bible can be explained by their ignorance of the Bible and especially Jesus' teaching. However, there is often a tension between a Christian's duty to their country and a Christian's duty to God.

What is Christian faith?

The historical facts of Jesus are the basis for faith but Christian faith is the personal application of those facts by trusting Jesus for their own salvation—the forgiveness of sins and peace with God

You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder. Jas.2:19

"Who do people say the Son of Man is?" They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets." "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven." Matt.16:13-17

For I passed on to you what I received, which is of greatest importance: that Christ died for our sins as the Scriptures say; that he was buried and was raised to life on the third day as the Scriptures say; and that he was seen by Peter and then by the twelve apostles. After that, Jesus was seen by more than five hundred of the believers at the same time. Most of them are still living today but some have died. Then he was seen by James and later by all the apostles. Last of all he was seen by me. 1Cor.15:3-8

In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge: Preach the Word, 2Tim.4:1

Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, descended from David. This is my gospel. 2Tim.2:8

He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name. Acts.10:42-43

Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call." Acts.2:38-39

"The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart, that is, the word of faith we are proclaiming: That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved." Rom.10:8-10

How much faith do you need to become a Christian?

Not a lot!

Then the disciples came to Jesus in private and asked, "Why couldn't we drive it out?" He replied, "Because you have so little faith. Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you." Matt. 17:19-20

However, faith should grow and Jesus commends great faith

When Jesus heard this, he was amazed and said to those following him, "Truly I tell you, I have not found anyone in Israel with such great faith." Matt. 8:10

Then Jesus said to her, "Woman, you have great faith! Your request is granted." And her daughter was healed at that moment. Matt. 15:28

Maturity is faith in action

News of this reached the church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. When he arrived and saw what the grace of God had done, he was glad and encouraged them all to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts. He was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith, and a great number of people were brought to the Lord. Acts. 11:22-24

A deacon must be faithful to his wife and must manage his children and his household well. Those who have served well gain an excellent standing and great assurance in their faith in Christ Jesus. 1 Tim. 3:12-13

Who is it that overcomes the world? Only he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God. 1 Jn. 5:5

Jesus rebuked His Disciples for their lack of faith and also their little faith!

Later Jesus appeared to the Eleven as they were eating; he rebuked them for their lack of faith and their stubborn refusal to believe those who had seen him after he had risen. Mk. 16:14

"Consider how the wild flowers grow. They do not labour or spin. Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendour was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today, and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, how much more will he clothe you—you of little faith! And do not set your heart on what you will eat or drink; do not worry about it. For the pagan world runs after all such things, and your Father knows that you need them. But seek his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well. Lk. 12:27-31

He replied, "You of little faith, why are you so afraid?" Then he got up and rebuked the winds and the waves, and it was completely calm. Matt. 8:26

Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?" And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God." Matt. 14:31-33

Aware of their discussion, Jesus asked, "You of little faith, why are you talking among yourselves about having no bread? Do you still not understand? Don't you remember the five loaves for the five thousand, and how many basketfuls you gathered? Or the seven loaves for the four thousand, and how many basketfuls you gathered? How is it you don't understand that I was not talking to you about bread? But be on your guard against the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees." Matt. 21:8-11

Why do so many people think that the Bible is irrelevant?

Mankind has been blinded by the devil and by sin:

Therefore, since we have such a hope, we are very bold. We are not like Moses, who would put a veil over his face to prevent the Israelites from seeing the end of what was passing away. But their minds were made dull, for to this day the same veil remains when the old covenant is read. It has not been removed, because only in Christ is it taken away. Even to this day when Moses is read, a veil covers their hearts. But whenever anyone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit. 2 Cor. 3:12-8

Therefore, since through God's mercy we have this ministry, we do not lose heart. Father, we have renounced secret and shameful ways; we do not use deception, nor do we distort the word of God. On the contrary, by setting forth the truth plainly we commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God. And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2024

to those who are perishing. The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For what we preach is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God's glory displayed in the face of Christ. 2Cor.4:1-6

In the beginning was the Word. He made all things come into being. He spoke the universe into existence and breathed life into our world. And there was harmony between man and Maker. Then our enemy whispered the question that drew our first parents into falsehood: “*Did God really say?*” Ever since his primal lie we have been questioning our Maker’s message. We fell from innocence to guilt, from beauty to brokenness, from fellowship to alienation. To rescue his creation, the Maker divulged his plan in written form. He gave man his Word, the Bible. But because of man’s rebellion, every generation has brought with it a new cadre of characters set on destroying the Bible’s credibility. Sceptics and critics routinely doubt Scripture’s accuracy, question its reliability, and challenge its goodness. Those who are persuaded by their schemes adopt the belief that Scripture is irrelevant. The belief that the Bible’s credibility has been undermined leaves believers without a powerful tool against our foe. Jesus, the Divine Word, modelled how to evade the enemy’s snare. When tempted, he appealed to God’s Word with, “*It is written.*” Why? Because Scripture is the proclamation of truth. It is sharper than a two-edged sword, an anchor that keeps us from drifting, and in it are the words of life. The confidence of Jesus can be ours as we respond to the world’s challenges when we declare, “***It Is Written.***”

How can we show that the Bible is relevant?

By living it:

Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?' Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!' Matt.7:21-23

Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth. 1Jn.3:18

The teachers of the law and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat. So you must be careful to do everything they tell you. But do not do what they do, for they do not practice what they preach. They tie up heavy, cumbersome loads and put them on other people's shoulders, but they themselves are not willing to lift a finger to move them. Matt.23:2-4

He replied, "My mother and brothers are those who hear God's word and put it into practice." Lk.8:21

He replied, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it." Lk.11:28

Now then, my children, listen to me; blessed are those who keep my ways. Listen to my instruction and be wise; do not disregard it. Blessed are those who listen to me, watching daily at my doors, waiting at my doorway. For those who find me find life and receive favour from the LORD. But those who fail to find me harm themselves; all who hate me love death. Prov.8:32-36

What are the results of believing in Jesus?

Believing in Jesus means that we know that we have **eternal life**:

I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life. 1Jn.5:13

Believing in Jesus means that we **overcome the world** (that is, the world's ways):

Who is it that overcomes the world? Only he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God. 1Jn.5:5

Believing in Jesus means that we are identified as Christians by the **gift of the Holy Spirit**:

And when you believed in Christ, he identified you as his own by giving you the Holy Spirit, whom he promised long ago. The Spirit is God's guarantee that he will give us the inheritance he promised and that he has purchased us to be his own people. He did this so we would praise and glorify him. Eph.1:13-14

Great joy

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2024

Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls. 1Pet. 1:8-9

15/05/2024

Psalm 112

Forensic Faith New Release Video 1 - Why Are You A Christian

Questions

What has God done to prepare us for heaven?

What should we do to prepare ourselves for heaven?

What is worship?

How do we worship God in the spirit?

How important are the words of the hymns that we sing?

Comments

What has God done to prepare us for heaven?

God has already done everything that we need

*When he had received the drink, Jesus said, "It is finished." With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit. Jn.19:30
Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. 1Pet.1:3-5*

His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires. 2Pet.1:3-4

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. Eph.1:3

What should we do to prepare ourselves for heaven?

Although God has done His part, we have to do our part—make every effort...

For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love. For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But whoever does not have them is nearsighted and blind, forgetting that they have been cleansed from their past sins. Therefore, my brothers and sisters, make every effort to confirm your calling and election. For if you do these things, you will never stumble, and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. 2Pet.1:5-11

You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness. Eph.4:22-24

Even praise is a choice that we make

Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. Ps.100:4

I will praise you, O LORD, with all my heart; before the "gods" I will sing your praise. I will bow down toward your holy temple and will praise your name for your love and your faithfulness, for you have exalted above all things your name and your word. When I called, you answered me; you made me bold and stouthearted. Ps.138:1-3

What is worship?

Benediction= good(bene) + word (diction)

Doxology= good (dox) + word (logy)

The meaning of praise and worship overlaps each other but generally, praise is saying good words about God and worship is expressing what God is worth to us

God the Father seeks worshippers. "Your worship must engage your spirit in the pursuit of truth... Those who worship Him must do it out of their very being - their spirits - in true adoration." Jn.4:23-24

Worship: Worship is all that we are responding to all that He is. To worship is to quicken the consciousness by the holiness of God, to feed the mind with the truth of God, to purge the imagination

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2024

by the beauty of God, to open the heart to the love of God and to devote the will to the purpose of God.

(OT) **Shachah** to bow down, prostrate, to fall on knees with forehead touching the ground, to fall flat, to reverence. Gen.22:5, Ex.34:14, Ps.95:6

(NT) **Proskuneo** means to crouch, do reverence, adore. The word is taken from a word meaning to kiss, like a dog licking his master's hand. Worship is not a distant thing but an intimate activity.

You are able to determine that it is no more than 12 days since I went up to worship [proskuneo] in Jerusalem. Acts 24:11

The devil asked Jesus to worship him and he craves for that but he can never receive *proskuneo* because it is only performed in mutual love.

The devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And he said to him, "I will give you all their authority and splendour, for it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to. So if you worship [proskuneo] me, it will all be yours." Jesus answered, "It is written: Worship [proskuneo] the Lord your God and serve him only." Lk.4:5-8

Latreuo means to minister to God, to serve (as a slave completely sold out to his lord & master). However, I admit that I worship [latreuo] the God of our fathers as a follower of the Way, which they call a sect. Acts 24:14

Praise: Hebrew has more than 37 different words and derivatives for praise. In OT praise is always active and demonstrative.

Hallal: used approx. 160 times in OT. To shine, boast, celebrate, commend (especially beauty), sing, be clear, laud; implies unashamed use of voice in demonstration of what you think of God. (Complete abandonment of self because we are in love (with God) as in marriage; head over heels in love)

You who fear the LORD, praise [hallal] him! Ps.22:23

Tehillah: used approx. 57 times. To sing or laud; derived from *hallal* and usually means the singing of *Hallals*. It is perceived as involving music, especially singing. It is the praise that God inhabits, implying that God has responded and is enthroned in the midst of *tehillah* praise

Yet you are enthroned as the Holy One; you are the praise [tehillah] of Israel... From you comes the theme of my praise [tehillah] in the great assembly; before those who fear you will I fulfill my vows. Ps.22:3;25

Yadah: (Judah) used approx. 120 times in OT. Thankful expression of praise from root word meaning to throw out the hand; hence to lift up hands. (hands are an extension of our personalities.) [God loves it, flesh hates it & devil is devastated by it]

I will praise [yadah] you, O LORD, with all my heart; I will tell of all your wonders. Ps.9:1

Some translations: *I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart;*

Barak: used approx. 330 times in OT. To kneel bless salute praise. Of all the words for praise, this is the only one that infers some kind of silence

Sing to the LORD, praise [barak] his name; proclaim his salvation day after day. Ps.96:2.

To praise God (*barak*) is to enthrone Him as Lord - to kneel before Him; thus when He no longer has pre-eminence in our lives we praise (*barak*) someone or something else. This is called a curse.

When a period of feasting had run its course, Job would send and have them purified. Early in the morning he would sacrifice a burnt offering for each of them, thinking, "Perhaps my children have sinned and cursed [barak] God in their hearts." This was Job's regular custom. Job 1:5.

Zamar: 40 times: to make music, lit to pluck the strings and sing praises accompanied by that music.

For God is the King of all the earth; sing to him a psalm [Heb. maskil – Gk. Psalms] of praise [zamar]. Ps.47:7

Towdah: used approx. 30 times. Thanksgiving. A sacrifice of praise or thanks before receiving the manifestation a total agreement with the Word. It is an act of faith beyond which God moves to bring

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2024

deliverance. Also implies lifting of hands; in Leviticus it is used in connection with offering of thanksgiving which has already been examined for purity. (Lev.7:12/13/15 Lev.22:29)

He who sacrifices thank offerings [towdah] honours me, and he prepares the way so that I may show him the salvation of God. Ps.50:23

Shabach: approx. 7 times. To commend, triumph, glory, shout

Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify [shabach] you. I will praise [barak] you as long as I live, and in your name I will lift up my hands. Ps.63:3

Greek Words For Praise

Ainosis Corresponds to Hallel and Yadab. Translated "praise" cf Matt.21:16, Lk.2:13/20, 19:37, 24:53,

Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising [ainosis] God and enjoying the favour of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved. Acts 2:46-47

Epainos (Ainos with preposition Epi is a strengthened form of Ainos). Has to do with man being praise instead of something he does. cf Eph.1:6/12/14, Phil.1:11,

These have come so that your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may be proved genuine and may result in praise [epainos], glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. 1Pet.1:7

Doxa Generally translated "glory/glorify". Root meaning 'to seem or to suppose' and signifies an opinion or estimate or honour resulting from a good opinion. Ascribes to God the honour due to Him ... "as the glory of God is the revelation of all that He is and has" (Vines Exp. Dic.) cf Lk.2:14, Jn.17:1/4, 13:31, 14:13, 15:8, 16:4, Acts 12:23, Rom.11:36,

God and Father, to whom be glory [doxa] for ever and ever. Amen. Gal.1:5

Eulogatos Eulogy; corresponds to Barak. Blessed, blessing, to bless. Used only of God. We are capable of blessing the Lord with our words. cf Lk.1:68, 2Cor.1:3, Eph.1:3,

Praise [eulogatos] be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! 1Pet.1:3

Exomologeo Derivative of Homologeo - to confess (say the same) Preposition Ek means 'out of' and makes the word stronger and more intense. Means to confess openly and freely. cf Matt.11:25, Lk.10:21, so that the Gentiles may glorify God for his mercy, as it is written: "Therefore I will praise [exomologeo] you among the Gentiles; I will sing hymns to your name." Rom.15:9

Humneo To sing praise. cf Matt.26:30; Mk.4:26; Acts 16:25; Eph.5:19; Col.3:16;

"I will declare your name to my brothers; in the presence of the congregation I will sing your praises [humneo]. " Heb.2:12

Megaluno Means to make great, large, to magnify. Corresponds to Gadai which means extol. cf Acts 10:46, 19:17

And Mary said: "My soul glorifies [megaluno] the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, Lk.14:46-47

Psalmos To sing praise in spiritual ecstasy; to make melody. to twitch or twang, i.e. to play on a stringed instrument. Corresponds to Zamar and also Ranan. C.f. Rom.15:9, 1Cor.14:15, Eph.5:19,

Is any one of you in trouble? He should pray. Is anyone happy? Let him sing songs of praise [psalmos]. Jas.5:13

All the above Greek words are translated Praise in NIV. Also Charis, Hosannah, Eucharisteo plus many others.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving and into His courts with praise (Tehillah). Ps.100:4

This is the high praise of God: it is the praise that God inhabits. Jesus takes us into the place where God lives but we must still praise so that God will inhabit our praise. We might well be in the place where God lives (salvation) but never experience the manifestation of God because we are reluctant to praise. Tehillah praise is praise that implies that God has responded to our faith. Whilst other forms of praise involve faith, Tehillah praise is suggesting that God has responded to our faith to the extent that He literally inhabits and is enthroned in the midst of it. Ps.22:3 Praise in a Christian's life is a good indication of his distance to or from God. If he is far off from God (although he is still saved) you can

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2024

be sure he will not be a praiser. If he is close to God, praise is something he continually does because it is a natural response to intimacy with God.

How do we worship God in the spirit?

First of all, we must have an alive spirit (i.e. a spirit that is in fellowship with God). Death is separation and we are born spiritually dead (separated from God). Conversion is re-birth of our spirit.

Anyone can call on the name of the Lord in order to be saved but only Christians (those who are united to God) can worship God. Unbelievers can praise God by saying good words about Him but worship is intimate and only Believers can fellowship with God.

We come to God the Father through Jesus the Son. That is why people from other religions cannot worship God—hence the importance of Evangelism.

Thanks be to God—through Jesus Christ our Lord!Rom.7:25

But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.1Cor.15:57

And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.Col.3:17

How important are the words of the hymns that we sing?

Very important. Songs influence us and when we are troubled or stressed, we will remember songs but if they are poor theology or just emotional mush, we will struggle in our faith. We must build our faith on the Word of God not emotions. Also, it is insulting to God to promote untruths about Him or only say half-truths—plus, it cultivates a wrong understanding of all the good things that God has done for us.

Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; bring an offering and come into his courts. Worship the LORD in the splendour of his holiness; tremble before him, all the earth.Ps.96:8-9

For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles. Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen.Rom.1:21-25

After the LORD had finished speaking to Job, He said to Eliphaz the Temanite: “I am angry with you and your two friends, for you have not spoken the truth about Me, as My servant Job has.Job.42:7

08/05/2024

Psalm 111

Video *What Is the Role of Faith Given That We Are Saved*

Questions

Why is the cross of Christ so important?

What does the cross signify?

Why was Jesus crucified?

Why did Moses make a bronze snake and hang it on a pole?

What lessons can we learn from the snake story?

How does Jesus draw people to Himself through the cross?

Comments

Why is the cross of Christ so important?

The cross is central to the Christian message and is a reminder that we have died to our old life—and to the world:

May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. Neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything; what counts is a new creation. Peace and mercy to all who follow this rule, even to the Israel of God. ^{Gal.6:14-16}

The cross is the power of God for salvation

For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ^{1Cor.1:18}

The cross is where Jesus died to appease God's wrath:

For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross. ^{Col.1:19-20}

The cross is where Jesus broke the curse of sin: *Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: "Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree." He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit.* ^{Gal.3:13-14}

The cross is where the devil was defeated, disarmed and his work destroyed.

When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, having cancelled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to the cross. And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross. ^{Col.2:13-15}

The cross reminds us that Jesus is the Christ the Son of God:

They did not understand that he was telling them about his Father. So Jesus said, "When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am he and that I do nothing on my own but speak just what the Father has taught me. The one who sent me is with me; he has not left me alone, for I always do what pleases him." Even as he spoke, many believed in him. ^{Jn.8:27-30}

And it is Jesus on the cross that draws people to God:

Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and will glorify it again." The crowd that was there and heard it said it had thundered; others said an angel had spoken to him. Jesus said, "This voice was for your benefit, not mine. Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." He said this to show the kind of death he was going to die. The crowd spoke up, "We have heard from the Law that the Messiah will remain forever, so how can you say, 'The Son of Man must be lifted up'? Who is this 'Son of Man'?" Then Jesus told them, "You are going to have the light just a little while longer. Walk while you have the light, before darkness overtakes you. Whoever walks in the dark does not know where they are going. Believe in the light while you have the light, so that you may become children of light." When he had finished speaking, Jesus left and hid himself from them. ^{Jn.12:28-36}

What does the cross signify?

Initially, the cross signified cruelty, death and despair but now it signifies victory

Why was Jesus crucified?

Jesus was crucified to pay for our sin. Jesus was the substitute who bore the punishment due us, paying the penalty for our rebellion, his blood atoning for sin and thus cleansing those sinners who are in Christ (*Penal Substitution*). Jesus willingly offered himself to satisfy the Father's wrath, thus enabling God to freely release the grace of forgiveness to us.

Jesus rescued us from the Father.,

Do not fear those who kill the body but are unable to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell. Matt.10:28

It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God. Heb.10:31

Clearly, the cross provides rescue from a host of spiritual hazards (I will say more about that later). Yet that series of magnificent benefits cascades down from something specific that took place on the cross to secure those outcomes.

Saying we are "*saved from sin*," is simply shorthand for saying we are saved from the One who punishes sin. All other benefits of the cross are secondary in sequence. Sins must be dealt with before the cascade of spiritual benefits begins.

The English word "*atonement*" is sometimes rendered "*at-one-ment*," a derivation from Middle English.

That characterization is premature, though. Rather, *purging* and *cleansing*, not restoration, are the root meanings of the Hebrew and Greek words translated "*atonement*."

To be at-one-with God is to be reconciled to him. Yet that cannot happen until the problem causing the separation is solved. Sin separates us from God. We are defiled, we owe him, and God is angry. This much—the bad news—is biblically undeniable. **That stain must be cleansed, the debt must be paid, and the anger must be spent. Only then—when the breach is mended—can "*at-one-ment*" be restored.**

Jesus...rescues us from the wrath to come. 1Thess.1:10)

Christ died for sins...so that He might bring us to God. 1Pet.3:18

Why did Moses make a bronze snake and hang it on a pole?

As a prophetic type of Jesus

Venomous snakes were biting the Israelites because they had rebelled against God—again!

But the people grew impatient on the way; they spoke against God and against Moses, and said, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? There is no bread! There is no water! And we detest this miserable food!" Then the LORD sent venomous snakes among them; they bit the people and many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, "We sinned when we spoke against the LORD and against you. Pray that the LORD will take the snakes away from us." So Moses prayed for the people. The LORD said to Moses, "Make a snake and put it up on a pole; anyone who is bitten can look at it and live." So Moses made a bronze snake and put it up on a pole. Then when anyone was bitten by a snake and looked at the bronze snake, they lived. Nu.21:4-9

Snakes in the Bible often symbolise the devil because the devil appeared to Eve as a snake:

Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?" Gen.3:1

The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him. Rev.12:9

What lessons can we learn from the snake story?

We should not put the Lord to the test, as some of them did. They were killed by snakes. Don't tell your leaders how unhappy you are with them. That's what some of the people of Israel did. And they were killed by the destroying angel. Those things happened to them as examples for us. They were written down to warn us who are living at the time when God's work is being completed. So be careful. When you think you are standing firm, you might fall. You are tempted in

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2024

the same way all other human beings are. God is faithful. He will not let you be tempted any more than you can take. But when you are tempted, God will give you a way out so that you can stand up under it.^{1Cor.10:9-13}

However, we should be careful not to idolise the cross like the Israelites idolised the bronze snake. *Hezekiah was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem twenty-nine years... He did what was right in the eyes of the LORD, just as his father David had done. He removed the high places, smashed the sacred stones and cut down the Asherah poles. He broke into pieces the bronze snake Moses had made, for up to that time the Israelites had been burning incense to it. (It was called Nehushtan. [Nehushtan sounds like the Hebrew for both bronze and snake.])*^{2Kg.18:1-4}

How does Jesus draw people to Himself through the cross?

Christianity is a supernatural religion and it takes the Holy Spirit to reveal spiritual truths. When we proclaim the message of the cross, the Holy Spirit quickens the message and the spiritual dimension starts to work:

Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and will glorify it again." The crowd that was there and heard it said it had thundered; others said an angel had spoken to him. Jesus said, "This voice was for your benefit, not mine. Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." He said this to show the kind of death he was going to die. The crowd spoke up, "We have heard from the Law that the Messiah will remain forever, so how can you say, 'The Son of Man must be lifted up'? Who is this 'Son of Man'?" Then Jesus told them, "You are going to have the light just a little while longer. Walk while you have the light, before darkness overtakes you. Whoever walks in the dark does not know where they are going. Believe in the light while you have the light, so that you may become children of light." When he had finished speaking, Jesus left and hid himself from them.^{Jn.12:28-36}

01/05/2024

Psalm 110

Video Deeper Connections_ Parables of Jesus Session 2 13.56

Questions

How simple is the Gospel?

What makes the Gospel spiritual?

If the Gospel is settled, what do we have to do for our salvation?

What is repentance?

How important is repentance to our salvation?

How can we stay united when we are different?

How can we stay whole when we are bruised?

Comments

How simple is the Gospel?

Simple enough for a child to accept

Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it. Mk.10:15

And he said: "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, whoever takes the lowly position of this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me." Matt.18:3-5

As simple as ABC—Admit, Believe, Confess, (plus Do and Experience)

Admit: Admit you are a sinner: separated from God and spiritually dead.

There is no one righteous, not even one Rom.3:10

Believe: Believe in Jesus

Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved Acts 16:26

Believe that Jesus death paid the penalty for your sin:

The punishment that brought us peace was upon him Is.53:5

Believe that God raised Jesus from the dead and He is your Lord (owner):

That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved Rom.10:9

Change: Repentance is making a quality decision to change. We change the ownership of our lives to Jesus

Repent then and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out Acts 3:19

Do: "Believing" alone is not enough. We must act on what we say we believe.

Faith without deeds is dead. Jas.2:26

Experience: If you want to experience this spiritual new birth, pray this prayer...

What makes the Gospel spiritual?

God is Spirit and He has created us in His image—and so we are spiritual because we have a spirit

May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 1Thess.5:23

For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. Heb.4:12

I have seen the burden God has laid on the human race. He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end. I know that there is nothing better for people than to be happy and to do good while they live. That each of them may eat and drink, and find satisfaction in all their toil—this is the gift of God. I know that everything God does will endure forever; nothing can be added to it and nothing taken from it. God does it so that people will fear him. Eccl:3:10-14

Because God is Spirit, our relationship with Him has to be spiritual—from our spirit

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2024

Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.”Jn.4:23-24

My soul is downcast within me; therefore I will remember you from the land of the Jordan, the heights of Hermon—from Mount Mizar. Deep calls to deep in the roar of your waterfalls; all your waves and breakers have swept over me.Ps.42:6-7

We can only discern the things about God by the Holy Spirit

However, as it is written: “What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived”—the things God has prepared for those who love him—these are the things God has revealed to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. For who knows a person's thoughts except their own spirit within them? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. What we have received is not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may understand what God has freely given us. This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, explaining spiritual realities with Spirit-taught words. The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit. The person with the Spirit makes judgments about all things, but such a person is not subject to merely human judgments, for, “Who has known the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?” But we have the mind of Christ.1Cor.2:9-16

If the Gospel is settled, what do we have to do for our salvation?

God works our salvation in us

Sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvellous things; his right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him. The LORD has made his salvation known and revealed his righteousness to the nations.Ps.98:1-2

But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.Eph.2:4-5

For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people.Tit.2:11

“Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.”Rev.7:10

“Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God, for true and just are his judgments.Rev.19:1-2

As God's co-workers we urge you not to receive God's grace in vain. For he says, “In the time of my favour I heard you, and in the day of salvation I helped you.” I tell you, now is the time of God's favour, now is the day of salvation.2Cor.6:1-3

But we have to work our salvation out of us:

Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.^{Phil.2:12-13}

He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.Jn.1:11-12

We have to hear and then believe

And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory.Eph.1:13-14

We have to receive our salvation

For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.1Thess.5:9

We have to know Scripture

But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.2Tim.3:14-17

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2024

Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls. 1Pet.1:8-9

We have to grow up in our salvation

Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good. 1Pet.2:2

What is repentance?

Repent means to change one's mind or purpose

Repentance will always include these 5 A's

- 1 Acknowledgement** of the wrong
- 2 Apology** for the wrong
- 3 Action** of determination to change
- 4 Appreciation** of God's forgiveness
- 5 Attitude** of grace, gratitude and gentleness towards God and people.

How important is repentance to our salvation?

Essential

In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah: "A voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.'" Matt.3:1-3

From that time on Jesus began to preach, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." Matt.4:17

But now God commands all people everywhere to repent. Acts.17:30

But unless you repent, you too will all perish. Lk.13:5

Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call." Acts.2:38-39

When they heard this, they had no further objections and praised God, saying, "So then, even to Gentiles God has granted repentance that leads to life." Acts.11:18

Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest and repent. Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me. Ren.3:19-20

Even if they sin against you seven times in a day and seven times come back to you saying 'I repent,' you must forgive them. Lk.17:4

However, true repentance is seen by actions not by emotions

So then, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the vision from heaven. First to those in Damascus, then to those in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and then to the Gentiles, I preached that they should repent and turn to God and demonstrate their repentance by their deeds. Acts.26:19-20

Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. Matt.3:8

Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret. 2Cor.7:10

How can we stay united when we are different?

Stay firm on the essentials—the Apostle's Creed

Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to... 1Cor.15:1-5

Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, descended from David. This is my gospel, 2Tim.2:8

Be conformed to the image of Jesus

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2024

For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified. Rom.8:29-30

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Col.3:12-17

Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit

Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. Eph.4:3-7 Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many... The eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you!" And the head cannot say to the feet, "I don't need you!" On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and the parts that we think are less honourable we treat with special honor. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty, while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has put the body together, giving greater honour to the parts that lacked it, so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honoured, every part rejoices with it. Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. And God has placed in the church first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, of helping, of guidance, and of different kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? Now eagerly desire the greater gifts. And yet I will show you the most excellent way. If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing. 1Cor.12:12-13:3*

But recognise that there will be differences and sadly sometimes divisions

In the first place, I hear that when you come together as a church, there are divisions among you, and to some extent I believe it. No doubt there have to be differences among you to show which of you have God's approval. 1Cor.11:18-19 If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Rom.12:18

How can we stay whole when we are bruised?

Fix our eyes on Jesus

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. Heb.12:1-2

Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Col.3:1-4

Jesus came to bind up the broken-hearted

The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners to proclaim the year of the LORD's favour and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, and provide for those who grieve in Zion—to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2024

of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the LORD for the display of his splendour. Is. 61:1-3 (also Lk. 4)

Stay in fellowship with God, His Word and His people

24/04/2024

Psalm 108

Video Deeper Connections_ Parables of Jesus Session 2 2.46

Questions:

Why is it so important to believe that Jesus is both God and Man?

What part does our mind have in what we believe about Jesus?

What part does our spirit have in what we believe about Jesus?

How can we get spiritual understanding (revelation) about Jesus?

How much do we need to understand about Jesus to be saved?

Does study and understanding increase our faith?

Comments

Why is it so important to believe that Jesus is both God and Man?

“Because fallen man cannot rediscover and assimilate the form of God, the only way is for God to take the form of man and come to him.” *D. Bonhoeffer, The Cost of Discipleship*

If Jesus was not God, He could not forgive sin

Help us, God our Saviour, for the glory of your name; deliver us and forgive our sins for your name's sake. ^{Ps.79:9}

When Jesus saw their faith, he said, “Friend, your sins are forgiven.” The Pharisees and the teachers of the law began thinking to themselves, “Who is this fellow who speaks blasphemy? Who can forgive sins but God alone?” Jesus knew what they were thinking and asked, “Why are you thinking these things in your hearts? Which is easier: to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Get up and walk’? But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.” ^{Matt.9:20-24}

This was John the Baptist’s message:

The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, “Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! This is the one I meant when I said, ‘A man who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.’ I myself did not know him, but the reason I came baptizing with water was that he might be revealed to Israel.” ^{Jn.1:29-31}

If Jesus was not Man, He could not die for our sin. Spirit is eternal and cannot die which is why Jesus had to become a human in order to die for us.

But we do see Jesus, who was made lower than the angels for a little while, now crowned with glory and honour because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone. In bringing many sons and daughters to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through what he suffered. Both the one who makes people holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters. He says, “I will declare your name to my brothers and sisters; In the assembly I will sing your praises.” And again, “I will put my trust in him.” And again he says, “Here am I, and the children God has given me.” Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil—and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham's descendants. For this reason he had to be made like them, fully human in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted. ^{Heb.2:9-18}

This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time, but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Saviour, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. ^{2Tim.1:9-10}

Because Jesus had no sin of His own, death had no hold over Him:

God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. ^{2Cor.5:21}

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2024

But because Jesus lives forever, he has a permanent priesthood. Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them. Such a high priest truly meets our need—one who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens. Unlike the other high priests, he does not need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for the sins of the people. He sacrificed for their sins once for all when he offered himself. Heb. 7:24-27

This man was handed over to you by God's deliberate plan and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross. But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him. Acts 2:23-24

It is not just another man that the Father is punishing for our sins, but God who became a man Himself and took upon Himself His own just punishment. This is why it's so important to approach this challenge with an understanding of the Trinity, and understanding of the nature of God Jesus is God; He isn't just an innocent third party. He is the Judge Himself suffering, the One who determines the punishment takes it, the One who passes judgment receives it. It is Jesus, the incarnate God. That is how it's an example of the love of God. It is precisely because God is love that He has made a way for sinful men to be forgiven and His holy quality of justice to be upheld at the same time so that, as Paul writes, He can be both the just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. *Greg Koukele*

What part does our mind have in what we believe about Jesus?

Man is a spirit-soul-body being. Both the physical and the non-physical in components in man combine together to form an integrated unity. This is contrary to the well-known formula of the faith school, "*Man is a spirit, he has a soul and lives in a physical body*".

May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 1Thes. 5:23

Soul is psyche—will, emotions and intellect. Our will is in our soul. God's will is in our spirit. God's Temple is our body and He dwells in our spirit.

Praise and thanksgiving are decisions of our will in our soul:

Praise the LORD, my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name. Praise the LORD, my soul, and forget not all his benefits. Ps. 103:1-2

Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. Ps. 100:4

Praise and thanksgiving releases God's will, and not giving praise or thanksgiving, quenches God's will:

Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. Do not quench the Spirit. 1Thes. 5:16-19

If we are miserable, ungrateful, etc., it is because we have decided not to praise God and have forgotten all His benefits:

Praise the LORD, my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name. Praise the LORD, my soul, and forget not all his benefits. Ps. 103:1-3

His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil [strong] desires. For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love. For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But whoever does not have them is near-sighted and blind, forgetting that they have been cleansed from their past sins. 2Pet. 1:3-9

Our ears hear the words, our mind processes the facts

I will pray with my spirit, but I will also pray with my understanding; I will sing with my spirit, but I will also sing with my understanding. Otherwise when you are praising God in the Spirit, how can someone else, who is now put in

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2024

the position of an inquirer, say "Amen" to your thanksgiving, since they do not know what you are saying? You are giving thanks well enough, but no one else is edified. 1Cor.14:15-17

We must ensure that our mind is not neglected in our relationship with God

There is today a desperate need for "Spirit-filled thinking". We need to re-assert the primacy of Biblical study. "Doctrine" and "Theology", must not be dirty words among us. But we must learn to study with the Mind of Christ, the intellect bowing to the revelation of the Holy Spirit. Our distinctive Pentecostal contribution to the Body of Christ in Britain and the world can be sound theology together with warm-hearted experience—worship with the mind and the spirit.

What part does our spirit have in what we believe about Jesus?

Our spirit is our God-conscious part of us and where we connect with God

Because God is Spirit, we need spiritual insight to understand spiritual matters. When we became a Christian, we were given a new spirit and were also given the Holy Spirit—and it is the Holy Spirit who reveals spiritual matters to us:

However, as it is written: "What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived"—the things God has prepared for those who love him—these are the things God has revealed to us by his Spirit... The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit... But we have the mind of Christ. 1Cor.2:10-16

Man is human, not Divine. He is a created being, not the Creator. The image of God in man does not mean that man can create like God. **Man possesses no supernatural or superhuman powers of himself.** Any notion that man has inherent supernatural or god-like powers exalts him unduly and exposes him to the influence of deceiving spirits. The Bible teaches that man needs God's supernatural help and cannot rely on any powers latent within himself. Man is dependent upon God and made for the glory of God. This means his proper role is found only in submission to God, not by seeking to control Him or the world of spirits that God has created.

How can we get spiritual understanding (revelation) about Jesus?

Hearing the Word of God, meditating on the Word of God

Reflect on what I am saying, for the Lord will give you insight into all this. 2Tim.2:7

Ask God

If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. Jas.1:5

I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. Eph.1:17-19

If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him! Matt.7:11

What we have received is not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may understand what God has freely given us. 1Cor.2:12

How much do we need to understand about Jesus to be saved?

That Jesus is God, that He died for our sin, that He rose again from the dead and that He is our Lord

Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, descended from David. This is my gospel, 2Tim.2:8

"The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart," that is, the message concerning faith that we proclaim: If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved. Rom.10:8-10*

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2024

"Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah." When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call." Acts.2:36-39

Does study and understanding increase our faith?

Faith is a spiritual attribute but we still need to learn about God and we learn the facts through our mental capacity. But then we need to process that information through our spirit. *Keep reminding God's people of these things. Warn them before God against quarrelling about words; it is of no value, and only ruins those who listen. Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth. Avoid godless chatter, because those who indulge in it will become more and more ungodly.* 2Tim.2:14-16

Revelation is a spirit (a spiritual attribute) and comes from the Holy Spirit

I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. Eph.1:17-19

"I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. He will glorify me because it is from me that he will receive what he will make known to you. All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will receive from me what he will make known to you." Jn.16:12-15

There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, And a Branch shall grow out of his roots. The Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon Him, The Spirit of wisdom and understanding, The Spirit of counsel and might, The Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD. Is.11:1-2

The more know about God the more we can trust Him (place our trust in Him)

I pray that your partnership with us in the faith may be effective in deepening your understanding of every good thing we share for the sake of Christ. NIV

I pray that you may be active in sharing your faith, so that you will have a full understanding of every good thing we have in Christ. NIV 1982

that the sharing of your faith may become effective by the acknowledgment of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus.* NKJ

17/04/2024

Psalm 107:1-22

Video Taylor Interview Part 2

Questions

What does it mean to be a Christian?

What role does Judaism have in Christianity?

Are there any differences between the four Gospel accounts of Jesus' Ministry?

In your own words explain the Trinity: God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

How is the New Covenant better than the Old Covenant?

How does God dwell with people?

Comments

What does it mean to be a Christian?

A Christian is someone who has consciously and intentionally placed their trust in Jesus as their Lord and Saviour. A Christian has been born from above by God and has been given the Holy Spirit who resides within them

the message concerning faith that we proclaim: If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved. Rom.10:8-10

Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. Jn.1:12-13

When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call." Acts.2:37-39

Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you—unless, of course, you fail the test? 2Cor.13:5

What we have received is not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may understand what God has freely given us. This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, explaining spiritual realities with Spirit-taught words. The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit. The person with the Spirit makes judgments about all things, but such a person is not subject to merely human judgments, for, "Who has known the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?" But we have the mind of Christ. 1Cor.2:12-16

What role does Judaism have in Christianity?

Christianity has its roots in Judaism

However, I admit that I worship the God of our ancestors as a follower of the Way, which they call a sect. I believe everything that is in accordance with the Law and that is written in the Prophets, and I have the same hope in God as these men themselves have, that there will be a resurrection of both the righteous and the wicked. So I strive always to keep my conscience clear before God and man. Acts.24:14-16

They arranged to meet Paul on a certain day, and came in even larger numbers to the place where he was staying. He witnessed to them from morning till evening, explaining about the kingdom of God, and from the Law of Moses and from the Prophets he tried to persuade them about Jesus. Some were convinced by what he said, but others would not believe. They disagreed among themselves and began to leave after Paul had made this final statement: "The Holy Spirit spoke the truth to your ancestors when he said through Isaiah the prophet: Acts.28:23-25

Therefore, the promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed to all Abraham's offspring—not only to those who are of the law but also to those who have the faith of Abraham. He is the father of us all. As it is written: "I have made you a father of many nations." He is our father in the sight of God, in whom he believed—the God who gives life to the dead and calls into being things that were not. Rom.4:16-17

Christianity is New Covenant and Judaism is Old Covenant—which is now obsolete. However faith is the same—a personal trust in God and His plan of redemption—but in the New Covenant we know our redemption is through Jesus Christ

This is the covenant I will establish with the people of Israel after that time, declares the Lord. I will put my laws in their minds and write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. No longer will they teach their neighbour, or say to one another, 'Know the Lord,' because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest. For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more." By calling this covenant "new," he has made the first one obsolete; and what is obsolete and outdated will soon disappear. Heb.8:10-13

So they stirred up the people and the elders and the teachers of the law. They seized Stephen and brought him before the Sanhedrin. They produced false witnesses, who testified, "This fellow never stops speaking against this holy place and against the law. For we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place and change the customs Moses handed down to us." Acts.6:12-14

However faith is the same—a personal trust in God and His plan of redemption—but in the New Covenant we know our redemption is through Jesus Christ

Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. This is what the ancients were commended for. By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible... All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance, admitting that they were foreigners and strangers on earth. People who say such things show that they are looking for a country of their own. If they had been thinking of the country they had left, they would have had opportunity to return. Instead, they were longing for a better country—a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them... These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised, since God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect. Heb.11

Are there any differences between the four Gospel accounts of Jesus' Ministry?

They each say the same message but with different emphases. Although the chronology may appear different, they are all inspired by the Holy Spirit and are what God wanted as a written record of Jesus' ministry

We also have the prophetic message as something completely reliable, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation of things. For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit. 2Pet.1:19-21

In your own words explain the Trinity: God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

How is the New Covenant better than the Old Covenant?

Better promises and better premises

The former regulation is set aside because it was weak and useless (for the law made nothing perfect), and a better hope is introduced, by which we draw near to God. And it was not without an oath! Others became priests without any oath, but he became a priest with an oath when God said to him: "The Lord has sworn and will not change his mind: 'You are a priest forever.' " Because of this oath, Jesus has become the guarantor of a better covenant. Heb.7:18-22

But in fact the ministry Jesus has received is as superior to theirs as the covenant of which he is mediator is superior to the old one, since the new covenant is established on better promises. For if there had been nothing wrong with that first covenant, no place would have been sought for another. Heb.8:6-7

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2024

It was necessary, then, for the copies of the heavenly things to be purified with these sacrifices, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. For Christ did not enter a sanctuary made with human hands that was only a copy of the true one; he entered heaven itself, now to appear for us in God's presence. Heb.9:23-24

These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised, since God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect. Heb.11:39-40

We have direct access to God without any human mediator

In him [Jesus] and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence. Heb.3:12

Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. Heb.4:16

For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all people. This has now been witnessed to at the proper time. 1Tim.2:5-6

With a loud cry, Jesus breathed his last. The curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. And when the centurion, who stood there in front of Jesus, saw how he died, he said, "Surely this man was the Son of God!" Mk.15:37-39

We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain, where our forerunner, Jesus, has entered on our behalf. He has become a high priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek. Heb.6:19-20

Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. Heb.10:19-22

How does God dwell with people?

God puts His breath/life/Spirit within us

Then the LORD God formed a man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being. Gen.2:7

Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit." Jn.20:21-22

God dwells with us. He abides with us and makes His home with us

Jesus replied, "Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them [make our abode with him; take up residence with him; will dwell with him]." Jn.14:23

And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit. Eph.2:22

Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in your midst? 1Cor.3:16

In the New Covenant God never leaves us but resides with us permanently (unlike the Old Covenant where God came and went)

Now if the ministry that brought death, which was engraved in letters on stone, came with glory, so that the Israelites could not look steadily at the face of Moses because of its glory, fading though it was, will not the ministry of the Spirit be even more glorious? If the ministry that condemns men is glorious, how much more glorious is the ministry that brings righteousness! For what was glorious has no glory now in comparison with the surpassing glory. And if what was fading away came with glory, how much greater is the glory of that which lasts! Therefore, since we have such a hope, we are very bold. We are not like Moses, who would put a veil over his face to keep the Israelites from gazing at it while the radiance was fading away. 2Cor.3:7-13

Then she called, "Samson, the Philistines are upon you!" He awoke from his sleep and thought, "I'll go out as before and shake myself free." But he did not know that the LORD had left him. Judg.16:20

"As for me, this is my covenant with them," says the LORD. "My Spirit, who is on you, will not depart from you, and my words that I have put in your mouth will always be on your lips, on the lips of your children and on the lips of their descendants—from this time on and forever," says the LORD. Is.59:21

Now the one who has fashioned us for this very purpose is God, who has given us the Spirit as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come. 2Cor.5:5

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2024

Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you. So we say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can mere mortals do to me?" Heb.13:5-6

The Holy Spirit overshadows us and gives us life—in a similar way to Mary's conception, *The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.* Lk.1:35

We too are called "sons (or children) of God"

He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. Jn.1:11-13

Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure. 1Jn.3:2-3

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves the father loves his child as well. This is how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and carrying out his commands. In fact, this is love for God: to keep his commands. And his commands are not burdensome, for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world? Only the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God. 1Jn.5:1-5

We know that anyone born of God does not continue to sin; the One who was born of God keeps them safe, and the evil one cannot harm them. We know that we are children of God, and that the whole world is under the control of the evil one. We know also that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true. And we are in him who is true by being in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life. 1Jn.5:18-20

Do everything without grumbling or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, "children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation." Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky as you hold firmly to the word of life. Phil.2:14-16

So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, Gal.3:26

For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father." The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory. Rom.8:14-17

10/04/2024

Psalm 106:1-12

Video Taylor Interview Part 2

Questions:

What does it mean to be made in God's image?

What is the difference between milk of the Word and the meat of the Word?

How can we change spiritual food into solid faith?

How important is it for a Christian to have a personal faith?

Why did Peter want to go fishing?

How can we be more effective in fishing for people?

Comments

What does it mean to be made in God's image?

God is Spirit and He reveals Himself to spirit and He can reveal Himself to our spirit through the Word. For instance, we hear someone read the Word of God. The thing that is read is weighed and measured by our intellect but in some way which is inexplicable to reason, it affects our spirit. It answers a need. Listening to the Word God changes our spirit. *E.W.Kenyon*

Animals have a body and soul but we have a body soul and spirit. We have a God-given conscience—a moral compass. We intrinsically know that somethings are wrong. However, because of sin, our conscience is flawed and can be seared.

So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts. Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, and they are full of greed. That, however, is not the way of life you learned when you heard about Christ and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus. Eph.4:17-21

As I urged you when I went into Macedonia, stay there in Ephesus so that you may command certain people not to teach false doctrines any longer or to devote themselves to myths and endless genealogies. Such things promote controversial speculations rather than advancing God's work—which is by faith. The goal of this command is love, which comes from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith. Some have departed from these and have turned to meaningless talk. They want to be teachers of the law, but they do not know what they are talking about or what they so confidently affirm. 1Tim.1:3-7

The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons. Such teachings come through hypocritical liars, whose consciences have been seared as with a hot iron. They forbid people to marry and order them to abstain from certain foods, which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and who know the truth. For everything God created is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, because it is consecrated by the word of God and prayer. If you point these things out to the brothers and sisters, you will be a good minister of Christ Jesus, nourished on the truths of the faith and of the good teaching that you have followed. Have nothing to do with godless myths and old wives' tales; rather, train yourself to be godly. 1Tim.4:1-7

For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like a mortal human being and birds and animals and reptiles. Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. They exchanged the truth about God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen. Rom.1:21-25

Conversion resets our conscience because God gives us a new, holy spirit

This is the covenant I will establish with the people of Israel after that time, declares the Lord. I will put my laws in their minds and write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. Heb.8:10

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2024

I desire to do your will, my God; your law is within my heart.”Ps.40:8

*I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.*Ezek.36:26-27

God is holy and his standards are holy or sacred

*But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: “Be holy, because I am holy.”*1Pet.1:15-16

Society is built on trust and truth (which are God’s standards). When these are broken, society falls apart. That is the real problem of society today.

*Jesus said to them, “If God were your Father, you would love me, for I have come here from God. I have not come on my own; God sent me. Why is my language not clear to you? Because you are unable to hear what I say. You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies. Yet because I tell the truth, you do not believe me! Can any of you prove me guilty of sin? If I am telling the truth, why don't you believe me? Whoever belongs to God hears what God says. The reason you do not hear is that you do not belong to God.”*Jn.8:42-47

People break their word—especially in relationships

*Lead me, LORD, in your righteousness because of my enemies—make your way straight before me. Not a word from their mouth can be trusted; their heart is filled with malice. Their throat is an open grave; with their tongues they tell lies. Declare them guilty, O God! Let their intrigues be their downfall. Banish them for their many sins, for they have rebelled against you. But let all who take refuge in you be glad; let them ever sing for joy.*Ps.5:8-11

Marriage is sacred

*Marriage should be honoured by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral.*Heb.13:4

*Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight; so you are right in your verdict and justified when you judge.*Ps.51:1-4

*Now Joseph was well-built and handsome, and after a while his master's wife took notice of Joseph and said, “Come to bed with me!” But he refused. “With me in charge,” he told her, “my master does not concern himself with anything in the house; everything he owns he has entrusted to my care. No one is greater in this house than I am. My master has withheld nothing from me except you, because you are his wife. How then could I do such a wicked thing and sin against God?” And though she spoke to Joseph day after day, he refused to go to bed with her or even be with her.*Gen.39:6-10

What is the difference between milk of the Word and the meat of the Word?

Milk is when we are spoon-fed—when we listen to the Word of God

Meat is when we search out the truths of the Bible for ourselves—and put it into practice and start living it

In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food [strong meat^{KJV}]. Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.^{Heb.5:12-14}

I could not address you as people who live by the Spirit but as people who are still worldly—mere infants in Christ. I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready. You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarrelling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere humans? For when one says, “I follow Paul,” and another, “I follow Apollos,” are you not mere human beings?”^{1Cor.3:1-4}

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2024

Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good. ^{1Pet.2:1-3}

We are blessed when we put God's Word into practice:

But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop.... Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it. ^{Lk.11:15;28}

How can we change spiritual food into solid faith?

Just do it!

Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do. Those who consider themselves religious and yet do not keep a tight rein on their tongues deceive themselves, and their religion is worthless. ^{Jas.1:22-26}

I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them. ^{Jn.13:15-17}

Scripture can be more than the rule of faith—it can also be the source of meaning which inspires all our willing, planning, acting and serving in the world. Scripture's history, personalities, stories, prophets, precepts, wisdom and challenges can all become a source of inspiration when we apply them to our life's circumstances. In order for this to occur, we need to make time to reflect on our life's circumstances as well as Scripture, and then bring the two into careful dialogue.

Meditation is important—not emptying our minds but filling them with God's Word

"Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go." ^{Josh.1:7-9}

Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers, but whose delight is in the law of the LORD, and who meditates on his law day and night. That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither—whatever they do prospers. Not so the wicked! ^{Ps.1:1-4}

Then I thought, "To this I will appeal: the years when the Most High stretched out his right hand. I will remember the deeds of the LORD; yes, I will remember your miracles of long ago. I will consider all your works and meditate on all your mighty deeds." Your ways, God, are holy. What god is as great as our God? You are the God who performs miracles; you display your power among the peoples. ^{Ps.77:10-14}

Meditation leads to revelation

Reflect on what I am saying, for the Lord will give you insight into all this. Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, descended from David. This is my gospel. ^{2Tim.2:7-8}

Revelation is that knowing in your heart by the Holy Spirit that brings confidence, assurance and peace (but different from wishing or hoping)

Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven." ^{Matt.16:16-17}

I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. ^{Phil.1:3-6}

God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus. There is no fear in love. But perfect

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2024

love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love. 1Jn.4:16-18

Because God wanted to make the unchanging nature of his purpose very clear to the heirs of what was promised, he confirmed it with an oath. God did this so that, by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled to take hold of the hope set before us may be greatly encouraged. We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain, where our forerunner, Jesus, has entered on our behalf. He has become a high priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek. Heb.6:17-20

How important is it for a Christian to have a personal faith?

Absolutely essential. Christianity is a heart-religion where only our own personal faith counts—second-hand theology is a good start but we have to personalise the Christian truths for ourselves. Faith is always personal, not proxy. We can pray for others and God will answer our prayers—that is what intercession is—but you cannot save someone else by your prayers. Salvation is personal—it is “**I believe**”. That is why babies cannot be baptised—and if a baby undergoes the ceremony of baptism, it cannot be “*Believers’ Baptism*” because they cannot express their own belief or faith.

The same applies to an adult who is baptised without believing.

Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus. As they travelled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water. What can stand in the way of my being baptized?” Philip said, “If you believe with all your heart, you may.” The eunuch answered, “I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.” Acts.8:35-37

Baptism is not a sacrament and cannot impart any grace or spiritual life. The ceremony of baptism has no intrinsic value—it is faith that is the sacrament; it is faith that imparts spiritual life.

For through the Spirit we eagerly await by faith the righteousness for which we hope. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love. Gal.5:5-6

You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did. And the scripture was fulfilled that says, “Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness,” and he was called God’s friend. You see that a person is considered righteous by what they do and not by faith alone. Jas.2:22-24
But whoever has doubts is condemned if they eat, because their eating is not from faith; and everything that does not come from faith is sin. Rom.14:23

Like Peter, we all need a personal revelation that Jesus is God’s Son:

“You are the Christ, the Son of the living God!” Jesus replied, “Simon, son of Jonah, you are blessed! No human revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven revealed it to you.” Matt.16:16-17

We want to hear God say “*well done good and faithful servant*”^{Matt.25:19-22} not “*well what have you done?*”!

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.^{2Tim.4:7-8}

Paul made every effort to ensure that he was not disqualified:

So I run with purpose in every step. I am not just shadowboxing. I discipline my body like an athlete, training it to do what it should. Otherwise, I fear that after preaching to others I myself might be disqualified.^{1Cor.9:26-27}

And we too should make sure that we don’t fail the faith test either!

Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you—unless, of course, you fail the test? And I trust that you will discover that we have not failed the test. Now we pray to God that you will not do anything wrong.^{2Cor.13:5-7}

Why did Peter want to go fishing?

Peter obviously enjoyed fishing because when he was despondent, he decided to go fishing. Peter had boasted that he would never deny Jesus—then denied Him three times and later watched Him die! He was feeling about as low as you could get but the best way to cope with stress is to do

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2024

something familiar that you enjoy, with friends that you trust—so Peter went fishing with his closest friends. And that is where Jesus restored Peter with the challenge:

Do you love me? Then follow Me and feed My sheep. ^{Jn.21:15-17}

How can we be more effective in fishing for people?

Keep doing it

Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers. ^{Gal.6:7-10}

Don't change the message but be open to new ideas for presenting the same message

Tell me the old, old story of unseen things above,
Of Jesus and His glory, of Jesus and His love.
Tell me the story simply, as to a little child,
For I am weak & weary and helpless and defiled.
*Tell me the old, old story, tell me the old, old story,
Tell me the old, old story, of Jesus and His love.*

Tell me the story slowly, that I may take it in,
That wonderful redemption, God's remedy for sin.
Tell me the story often, for I forget so soon;
The early dew of morning has passed away at noon.

Tell me the story softly, with earnest tones and grave;
Remember I'm the sinner whom Jesus came to save.
Tell me the story always, if you would really be,
In any time of trouble, a comforter to me.

Tell me the same old story when you have cause to fear
That this world's empty glory is costing me too dear.
Yes, and when that world's glory is dawning on my soul,
Tell me the old, old story: "Christ Jesus makes you whole."

03/04/2024

Psalm 105:1-15

Video Clark

Questions

Is the Christian Gospel cheap or expensive?

Who caused Jesus' death?

What happened at Jesus' crucifixion?

Name some benefits of Jesus' crucifixion.

How is Jesus different now from when He lived on earth?

Why is the resurrection so important?

Comments

Is the Christian Gospel cheap or expensive?

The Gospel, is “free at the point of need”, but not free from cost!

(In the fiscal year 2021/22, the Department for Health and Social Care allocated a total of £190 billion to fund various health and care services.)

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son. Jn.3:16-18

He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? Rom.8:32

All inhabitants of the earth will worship the beast—all whose names have not been written in the Lamb's book of life, the Lamb who was slain from the creation of the world. Rev.13:8

Otherwise Christ would have had to suffer many times since the creation of the world. But he has appeared once for all at the culmination of the ages to do away with sin by the sacrifice of himself. Just as people are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment, so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him. Heb.9:26-28

Our spiritual health is very costly, but it can't be bought with money—not even £190 billion!

Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost. Why spend money on what is not bread, and your labour on what does not satisfy? Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good, and you will delight in the richest of fare. Give ear and come to me; listen, that you may live. I will make an everlasting covenant with you, my faithful love promised to David. Is.55:1-3

No one can redeem the life of another or give to God a ransom for them—the ransom for a life is costly, no payment is ever enough—so that they should live on forever and not see decay. Ps.49:7-9

The price of our spiritual health is our life because we have to “die to self” in order to live for God.

Whoever does not take up their cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Whoever finds their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for my sake will find it. Matt.10:38-39

Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it. What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? Matt.16:24-26

Who caused Jesus' death?

Judas betrayed Jesus

And Judas went to the chief priests and the officers of the temple guard and discussed with them how he might betray Jesus. They were delighted and agreed to give him money. He consented, and watched for an opportunity to

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2024

hand Jesus over to them when no crowd was present... the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you. But the hand of him who is going to betray me is with mine on the table. The Son of Man will go as it has been decreed. But woe to that man who betrays him!" They began to question among themselves which of them it might be who would do this. Lk.22:4-6;20-23

The Jewish leaders arranged it

Then the chief priests and the Pharisees called a meeting of the Sanhedrin. "What are we accomplishing?" they asked. "Here is this man performing many signs. If we let him go on like this, everyone will believe in him, and then the Romans will come and take away both our temple and our nation." Then one of them, named Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, spoke up, "You know nothing at all! You do not realize that it is better for you that one man die for the people than that the whole nation perish." He did not say this on his own, but as high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus would die for the Jewish nation, and not only for that nation but also for the scattered children of God, to bring them together and make them one. So from that day on they plotted to take his life. Jn.11:47-53

But the Pharisees went out and plotted how they might kill Jesus. Matt.12:14

The Jewish public claimed responsibility

But the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus executed. "Which of the two do you want me to release to you?" asked the governor. "Barabbas," they answered. "What shall I do, then, with Jesus who is called the Messiah?" Pilate asked. They all answered, "Crucify him!" "Why? What crime has he committed?" asked Pilate. But they shouted all the louder, "Crucify him!" When Pilate saw that he was getting nowhere, but that instead an uproar was starting, he took water and washed his hands in front of the crowd. "I am innocent of this man's blood," he said. "It is your responsibility!" All the people answered, "His blood is on us and on our children!" Matt.27:20-25

"Fellow Israelites, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know. This man was handed over to you by God's deliberate plan and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross. But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him. Acts.2:22-24

Pilate signed Jesus' death warrant

Then he [Pilate] released Barabbas to them. But he had Jesus flogged, and handed him over to be crucified. Matt.27:26

The Roman soldiers crucified Him

When the soldiers crucified Jesus, they took his clothes, dividing them into four shares, one for each of them, with the undergarment remaining. This garment was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom. Jn.19:23

The devil instigated Jesus death

Then Satan entered Judas, called Iscariot, one of the Twelve. And Judas went to the chief priests and the officers of the temple guard and discussed with them how he might betray Jesus. Lk.22:3-4

So the LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, "Cursed are you above all livestock and all wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life. And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel." Gen,3:14-15

A great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet and a crown of twelve stars on her head. She was pregnant and cried out in pain as she was about to give birth. Then another sign appeared in heaven: an enormous red dragon with seven heads and ten horns and seven crowns on its heads. Its tail swept a third of the stars out of the sky and flung them to the earth. The dragon stood in front of the woman who was about to give birth, so that it might devour her child the moment he was born. She gave birth to a son, a male child, who "will rule all the nations with an iron sceptre." And her child was snatched up to God and to his throne. The woman fled into the wilderness to a place prepared for her by God, where she might be taken care of for 1,260 days. Rev,12:1-6

God the Father planned Jesus' death and allowed it

Indeed Herod and Pontius Pilate met together with the Gentiles and the people of Israel in this city to conspire against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed. They did what your power and will had decided beforehand should happen. Acts.4:27-28

Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and he will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels? But how then would the Scriptures be fulfilled that say it must happen in this way?" Matt.26:52-53

and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed. We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. Is.53:4-6

Jesus laid down His own life for our sake

The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—only to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father." Jn.10:17-18

Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross! Phil.2:5-8

But it was our sins that nailed Jesus to the cross

When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, having cancelled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross. And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross. Col.2:13-15

When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. "He himself bore our sins" in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; "by his wounds you have been healed." For "you were like sheep going astray," but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls. 1Pet.2:23-25

What happened at Jesus' crucifixion?

The physical events involved a whipping and scourging, a parade out of the city where He carried His own cross (until He was too weak to continue) to Golgotha. There Jesus was further humiliated, nailed to the cross and left hanging for 6 hours until He died.

Then the governor's soldiers took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole company of soldiers around him. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on his head. They put a staff in his right hand. Then they knelt in front of him and mocked him. "Hail, king of the Jews!" they said. They spit on him, and took the staff and struck him on the head again and again. After they had mocked him, they took off the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him. As they were going out, they met a man from Cyrene, named Simon, and they forced him to carry the cross. They came to a place called Golgotha (which means "the place of the skull"). There they offered Jesus wine to drink, mixed with gall; but after tasting it, he refused to drink it. When they had crucified him, they divided up his clothes by casting lots. And sitting down, they kept watch over him there. Above his head they placed the written charge against him: THIS IS JESUS, THE KING OF THE JEWS. Matt.27:27-37

The spiritual events of Jesus crucifixion included the single sacrifice for sins as God laid our sins on Jesus and gave us His righteousness—the Great Exchange.

First he said, "Sacrifices and offerings, burnt offerings and sin offerings you did not desire, nor were you pleased with them"—though they were offered in accordance with the law. Then he said, "Here I am, I have come to do your will." He sets aside the first to establish the second. And by that will, we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. Day after day every priest stands and performs his religious duties; again and again he offers the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. But when this priest had offered for all time

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2024

one sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, and since that time he waits for his enemies to be made his footstool. For by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy. Heb. 10:8-14
He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world. 1Jn. 2:2
God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood—to be received by faith. Rom. 3:25

God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. 2Cor. 5:21
But you know that he appeared so that he might take away our sins. 1Jn. 3:5

Name some benefits of Jesus' crucifixion.

Peace with God

His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace, and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit. Eph. 2:15-18

Forgiveness of sins

In fact, the law requires that nearly everything be cleansed with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness. It was necessary, then, for the copies of the heavenly things to be purified with these sacrifices, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. Heb. 9:22-23

In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace Eph. 1:7

Eternal life

No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man. Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.” Jn. 3:13-15

How is Jesus different now from when He lived on earth?

Jesus was always God

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Jn. 1:1-2

Jesus became a human being (flesh) when He was conceived in Mary

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. Jn. 1:14

“Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”).* Matt. 1:20--23

Jesus was born as a baby and grew up as a child with other brothers and sisters

On the eighth day, when it was time to circumcise the child, he was named Jesus, the name the angel had given him before he was conceived. Lk. 2:21

And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was on him. Lk. 2:40

Then he went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. But his mother treasured all these things in her heart. And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man. Lk. 2:51-52

While Jesus was still talking to the crowd, his mother and brothers stood outside, wanting to speak to him. Someone told him, “Your mother and brothers are standing outside, wanting to speak to you.” Matt. 12:46-47

When Jesus had finished these parables, he moved on from there. Coming to his hometown, he began teaching the people in their synagogue, and they were amazed. “Where did this man get this wisdom and these miraculous powers?” they asked. “Isn't this the carpenter's son? Isn't his mother's name Mary, and aren't his brothers James, Joseph, Simon and Judas? Aren't all his sisters with us? Where then did this man get all these things?” And they took offense at him. Matt. 13:53-56

Jesus was anointed by the Holy Spirit at His baptism after which He taught and wrought miracles

As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased." Matt.3:16-17

"The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour." Lk.4:18-19

What Jesus did here in Cana of Galilee was the first of the signs through which he revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him. Jn2:11

"Fellow Israelites, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know. Acts.2:22

You know what has happened throughout the province of Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached—how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him. Acts.10:37-38

Jesus was killed on the cross and rose again on the 3rd day with an immortal body that was not restricted by physical limitations

Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord!" And she told them that he had said these things to her. On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord. Jn.20:17-20

Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." None of the disciples dared ask him, "Who are you?" They knew it was the Lord. Jesus came, took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. This was now the third time Jesus appeared to his disciples after he was raised from the dead. Jn.21:12-14

For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve. After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born. 1Cor.15:3-8

Jesus was seen physically ascending to heaven after 40 days where He was received by His Father and glorified

When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God. Lk.24:50-53

Jesus then sent the Holy Spirit to earth to fellowship and empower Believers

On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them." By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified. Jn.7:37-39

All this I have spoken while still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. Jn.14:25-26

When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father—the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father—he will testify about me. Jn.15:26

But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. This is why it says: "When he ascended on high, he took many captives and gave gifts to his people." (What does "he ascended" mean except that he also descended to

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2024

the lower, earthly regions? He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.)Eph.4:7-10

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”Acts.1:8

“Fellow Israelites, I can tell you confidently that the patriarch David died and was buried, and his tomb is here to this day. But he was a prophet and knew that God had promised him on oath that he would place one of his descendants on his throne. Seeing what was to come, he spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, that he was not abandoned to the realm of the dead, nor did his body see decay. God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of it. Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear.Acts.2:29-33

Jesus is now glorified

I turned around to see the voice that was speaking to me. And when I turned I saw seven golden lampstands, and among the lampstands was someone like a son of man, dressed in a robe reaching down to his feet and with a golden sash around his chest. The hair on his head was white like wool, as white as snow, and his eyes were like blazing fire. His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of rushing waters. In his right hand he held seven stars, and coming out of his mouth was a sharp, double-edged sword. His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance. When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. Then he placed his right hand on me and said: “Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look, I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades.Rev.1:12-18

Why is the resurrection so important?

Without the resurrection, our gospel is a delusion and we still in our sins

But if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead. But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. f only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.1Cor.15:12-19

Jesus’ resurrection guarantees our resurrection

But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. or as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. But each in turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him.1Cor.15:20-23
If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body. So it is written: “The first man Adam became a living being”; the last Adam, a life-giving spirit. The spiritual did not come first, but the natural, and after that the spiritual. The first man was of the dust of the earth; the second man is of heaven. As was the earthly man, so are those who are of the earth; and as is the heavenly man, so also are those who are of heaven. And just as we have borne the image of the earthly man, so shall we bear the image of the heavenly man. I declare to you, brothers and sisters, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed—in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: “Death has been swallowed up in victory.”1Cor.15:44-54

27/03/2024

Psalm 104:1-15

Video: Kathryn Kuhlman interviewing Corrie Ten Boom 26:39

“Religion is the sigh of the oppressed creature... It is the opium of the people.” Is this a valid statement?

How involved should Christians be in social concerns?

What was the significance of Jesus riding into Jerusalem on a donkey?

What was the significance of Jesus driving out from the Temple those who were buying and selling?

Why did people shout praise to God?

Comments

“Religion is the sigh of the oppressed creature, the heart of a heartless world, and the soul of soulless conditions. It is the opium of the people. The abolition of religion as the illusory happiness of the people is the demand for their real happiness.” **Is this a valid statement?**

Yes if it refers to religion that excludes God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit

We are delusionary and are calling God a liar if we deny Jesus is the Son of God who has been raised from the dead.

And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead. But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. 1Cor.15:14-19

We are made by God and made in His image and consist of spirit, soul and body.

May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it. 1Thess.5:23-24

At birth, our spirit is “dead”, that is, it is sinful and separated from God

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.* Eph.2:1-5

When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, having cancelled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross. And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.* Col.2:13-15

Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me. Ps.51:5

There is an inherent frustration within everyone because we are made in God’s image and yet are disconnected from God. Because of Adam’s sin and the death (separation from God) that it brought, we are separated from God—which is why Jesus came to save us.

He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit. Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit. Eph.2:17-22

Religion is man’s attempt to connect with God and like opium, it is delusionary but addictive—unless Jesus makes that connection between us and God

God our Savior, who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all people. This has now been witnessed to at the proper time. 1Tim.2:3-6

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2024

Religion spiritualizes God; Jesus humanises God.

Religion keeps people away from God; Christianity unites people with God through Jesus.

Religion is man's attempt to get to God; Christianity is God coming to the people in Jesus.

Religion is a ritual, a dogma, a ceremony; Christianity is a relationship with God through Jesus Christ.

Religion is following a set of rules; Christianity is following Jesus Christ.

How involved should Christians be in social concerns?

We should be involved in social concerns such as feeding the poor, caring for widows and orphans but not to the exclusion of spiritual concerns

Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it. What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his Father's glory with the holy angels." Mk.8:34-38

Join with me in suffering, like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No one serving as a soldier gets entangled in civilian affairs, but rather tries to please his commanding officer. 2Tim.2:3-4

Here's the lesson: Use your worldly resources to benefit others and make friends. Then, when your earthly possessions are gone, they will welcome you to an eternal home. "If you are faithful in little things, you will be faithful in large ones. But if you are dishonest in little things, you won't be honest with greater responsibilities. And if you are untrustworthy about worldly wealth, who will trust you with the true riches of heaven? And if you are not faithful with other people's things, why should you be trusted with things of your own? Lk.16:9-12

What was the significance of Jesus riding into Jerusalem on a donkey?

It fulfilled prophecy

As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, say that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away." This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet: "Say to Daughter Zion, 'See, your king comes to you, gentle and riding on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.'" The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. Matt.21:1-6

*A prophecy: The word of the LORD is against the land of Hadrak and will come to rest on Damascus—for the eyes of all people and all the tribes of Israel are on the LORD—and on Hamath too, which borders on it, and on Tyre and Sidon, though they are very skilful. Tyre has built herself a stronghold; she has heaped up silver like dust, and gold like the dirt of the streets. But the Lord will take away her possessions and destroy her power on the sea, and she will be consumed by fire. Ashkelon will see it and fear; Gaza will writhe in agony, and Ekron too, for her hope will wither. Gaza will lose her king and Ashkelon will be deserted. A mongrel people will occupy Ashdod, and I will put an end to the pride of the Philistines. I will take the blood from their mouths, the forbidden food from between their teeth. Those who are left will belong to our God and become a clan in Judah, and Ekron will be like the Jebusites. **But I will encamp at my temple to guard it against marauding forces. Never again will an oppressor overrun my people, for now I am keeping watch. Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion! Shout, Daughter Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and victorious, lowly and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. I will take away the chariots from Ephraim and the warhorses from Jerusalem, and the battle bow will be broken. He will proclaim peace to the nations. His rule will extend from sea to sea and from the River to the ends of the earth.** As for you, because of the blood of my covenant with you, I will free your prisoners from the waterless pit. Return to your fortress, you prisoners of hope; even now I announce that I will restore twice as much to you. I will bend Judah as I bend my bow and fill it with Ephraim. I will rouse your sons, Zion, against your sons, Greece, and make you like a warrior's sword. Then the LORD will appear over them; his arrow will flash like lightning. The Sovereign LORD will sound the trumpet; he will march in the storms of the south, and the LORD Almighty will*

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2024

shield them. They will destroy and overcome with sling stones. They will drink and roar as with wine; they will be full like a bowl used for sprinkling the corners of the altar. The LORD their God will save his people on that day as a shepherd saves his flock. They will sparkle in his land like jewels in a crown. How attractive and beautiful they will be! Grain will make the young men thrive, and new wine the young women. Zech.9

It portrayed Jesus coming in peace rather than war

I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and wages war. His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself. He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. Coming out of his mouth is a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. "He will rule them with an iron sceptre." He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS. Rev.19:11-16

What was the significance of Jesus driving out from the Temple those who were buying and selling?

He was showing that the Old Covenant was coming to an end and that the associated sacrifices were redundant.

The Old Covenant required sacrifices and because most people did not have access to doves or sheep, they were provided by the Temple. Even Mary and Joseph used doves for sacrifices:

When the time came for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord"), and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: "a pair of doves or two young pigeons." Lk.2:22-24

And because the Law was very specific about religious protocol, including what was ceremonially clean or unclean, it was not permitted to make gifts of foreign money—hence the money changers. But like today, true religion has been hijacked and even good rituals have become "*useless rituals that lead to death*"

Therefore let us leave the elementary teachings about Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again the foundation of repentance from acts that lead to death, [Or from useless rituals] and of faith in God, instruction about baptisms, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. And God permitting, we will do so. Heb.6:1-3

How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God! Heb.9:14

Why did people shout praise to God?

They were enthusiastic! But however enthusiastic we might be, if we don't worship Jesus as the Son of God, our praise is not acceptable as spiritual worship

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?" They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets. "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am? Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven. And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. Matt.16:13-18

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. Rom.12:1-2

As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him—you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. 1Pet.2:4-5

20/03/2024

Psalm 103

Video Kathryn Kuhlman interviewing Corrie Ten Boom 17.21

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.^{Matt.5:5}

Questions

How is God's Kingdom different from the kingdoms of this world?

What does it mean to be meek?

How is Christianity different from other religions (including Judaism)?

Are the promises of the Old Testament still relevant in the New Covenant?

What are the blessings of God's Kingdom?

How can we qualify for the blessings of God's Kingdom?

Comments

How is God's Kingdom different from the kingdoms of this world?

God's Kingdom is a spiritual kingdom where God's values and principles rule. Anything of value in God's Kingdom must be aligned to God's character—which is holiness, righteousness compassion, grace, love, mercy, goodness

See, a king will reign in righteousness and rulers will rule with justice. Each one will be like a shelter from the wind and a refuge from the storm, like streams of water in the desert and the shadow of a great rock in a thirsty land. Then the eyes of those who see will no longer be closed, and the ears of those who hear will listen. The fearful heart will know and understand, and the stammering tongue will be fluent and clear. No longer will the fool be called noble nor the scoundrel be highly respected. For fools speak folly, their hearts are bent on evil: They practice ungodliness and spread error concerning the LORD; the hungry they leave empty and from the thirsty they withhold water.

*Scoundrels use wicked methods, they make up evil schemes to destroy the poor with lies, even when the plea of the needy is just. But the noble make noble plans, and by noble deeds they stand.*Is.32:1-8

*Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever; a sceptre of justice will be the sceptre of your kingdom. You love righteousness and hate wickedness; therefore God, your God, has set you above your companions by anointing you with the oil of joy.*Ps.45:6-7

The LORD is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love... as a father has compassion on his children, so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him,^{Ps.103:8-13}

*So I say, live by the Holy Spirit's power. Then you will not do what your sinful nature wants you to do. The sinful nature does not want what the Spirit delights in. And the Spirit does not want what the sinful nature delights in. The two are at war with each other. That's what makes you do what you don't want to do. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the authority of the law. What the sinful nature does is clear. It enjoys sexual sins, impure acts and wild living. It worships statues of gods. It also worships evil powers. It is full of hatred and fighting. It is full of jealousy and fits of anger. It is interested only in getting ahead. It stirs up trouble. It separates people into their own little groups. It wants what others have. It gets drunk and takes part in wild parties. It does many things of that kind. I warn you now as I did before. People who live like that will not receive God's kingdom. But the fruit the Holy Spirit produces is love, joy and peace. It is being patient, kind and good. It is being faithful and gentle and having control of oneself. There is no law against things of that kind. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have nailed their sinful nature to his cross. They don't want what their sinful nature loves and longs for. Since we live by the Spirit, let us march in step with the Spirit. Let us not become proud. Let us not make each other angry. Let us not want what belongs to others.*Gal.5:16-26

What does it mean to be meek?

Meekness is humility, which is the opposite of pride

Don't you realize that friendship with the world makes you an enemy of God? I say it again: If you want to be a friend of the world, you make yourself an enemy of God. Do you think the Scriptures have no meaning? They say that God is passionate that the spirit he has placed within us should be faithful to him. And he gives grace generously. As the Scriptures say, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." So humble yourselves

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2024

before God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come close to God, and God will come close to you. Wash your hands, you sinners; purify your hearts, for your loyalty is divided between God and the world. Jas.4:3-8

All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, "God opposes the proud but shows favour to the humble." Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. 1Pet.5:5-7

Moses was meek but not weak

(Now Moses was a very humble man, more humble than anyone else on the face of the earth.) ... The LORD said, "Listen to my words: "When there is a prophet among you, I, the LORD, reveal myself to them in visions, I speak to them in dreams. But this is not true of my servant Moses; he is faithful in all my house. With him I speak face to face, clearly and not in riddles; he sees the form of the LORD." Nu.12:3-8

How is Christianity different from other religions (including Judaism)?

Christianity is not based on a mystical revelation or self-inspired philosophy but it is deeply rooted in history. In fact, it is the only religious system I can think of that depends on a historical event (the resurrection of Jesus) being real—not fake—news. *Alisa Childers*

Christianity has stood the test of time for over 2000 years—and it is relevant today in every culture.

Only Christianity claims that God became a sinless human being in Jesus Christ

Only Christianity claims that Jesus Christ is God's Son who became our Saviour by dying for our sins.

Only Christianity claims that Jesus Christ rose from the dead with an immortal body.

Only Christianity claims that Jesus Christ will come to judge the world justice.

Christianity is a gift from God to us.

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. Jn.3:16

All other religions try to appease their deity through work, following rules, denying self, etc.

Since you died with Christ to the elemental spiritual forces of this world, why, as though you still belonged to the world, do you submit to its rules: "Do not handle! Do not taste! Do not touch!"? These rules, which have to do with things that are all destined to perish with use, are based on merely human commands and teachings. Such regulations indeed have an appearance of wisdom, with their self-imposed worship, their false humility and their harsh treatment of the body, but they lack any value in restraining sensual indulgence. Col.2:20-23

However, even though salvation is a gift from God, if we don't change our lifestyle, it shows that we haven't actually encountered God.

Therefore, with minds that are alert and fully sober, set your hope on the grace to be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed at his coming. As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy." 1Pet.1:13-16

What then? Shall we sin because we are not under the law but under grace? By no means! Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one you obey—whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness? But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you have come to obey from your heart the pattern of teaching that has now claimed your allegiance. You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness. Rom.6:15-18

"Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? Likewise, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them." Matt.7:15-20

Christianity is a heart religion where God gives a new heart/spirit

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2024

You yourselves are our letter, written on our hearts, known and read by everyone. You show that you are a letter from Christ, the result of our ministry, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts. Such confidence we have through Christ before God. Not that we are competent in ourselves to claim anything for ourselves, but our competence comes from God. He has made us competent as ministers of a new covenant—not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life. 2Cor.3:2-6

“The days are coming,” declares the LORD, “when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and with the people of Judah. It will not be like the covenant I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant, though I was a husband to them,” declares the LORD. “This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel after that time,” declares the LORD. “I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. No longer will they teach their neighbour, or say to one another, ‘Know the LORD,’ because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest,” declares the LORD. Jer.31:31-34

Day after day every priest stands and performs his religious duties; again and again he offers the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. But when this priest had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, and since that time he waits for his enemies to be made his footstool. For by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy. The Holy Spirit also testifies to us about this. First he says: “This is the covenant I will make with them after that time, says the Lord. I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds.” Then he adds: “Their sins and lawless acts I will remember no more.” Heb.10:11-17
‘For I will take you out of the nations; I will gather you from all the countries and bring you back into your own land. I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols. I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws. Then you will live in the land I gave your ancestors; you will be my people, and I will be your God. I will save you from all your uncleanness. I will call for the grain and make it plentiful and will not bring famine upon you.’ Ezek.36:24-29

My eyes will watch over them for their good, and I will bring them back to this land. I will build them up and not tear them down; I will plant them and not uproot them. I will give them a heart to know me, that I am the LORD. They will be my people, and I will be their God, for they will return to me with all their heart. Jer.24:6-7

Christianity gives peace with God

Therefore do not let what you know is good be spoken of as evil. For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit, because anyone who serves Christ in this way is pleasing to God and receives human approval. Rom.14:16-18

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now* Rom.5:1-2

Christianity gives a clear conscience

How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God! For this reason Christ is the mediator of a new covenant, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance— Heb.9:14-15

Let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. Heb.10:22-23

My conscience is clear, but that does not make me innocent. It is the Lord who judges me. Therefore judge nothing before the appointed time; wait until the Lord comes. He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of the heart. At that time each will receive their praise from God. 1Cor.4:4-5

The goal of this command is love, which comes from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith. Some have departed from these and have turned to meaningless talk. They want to be teachers of the law, but they do not know what they are talking about or what they so confidently affirm. 1Tim.1:5-7

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2024

Pray for us. We are sure that we have a clear conscience and desire to live honourably in every way. I particularly urge you to pray so that I may be restored to you soon. Heb. 13:18-19

Are the promises of the Old Testament still relevant in the New Covenant?

Yes, but they are fulfilled and expanded in Jesus

Therefore do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival, a New Moon celebration or a Sabbath day. These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ. Col. 2:15-17

Jesus has de-Zionised God's promises and prophecies—which are now around the Child, not the City. Isaiah 60 is about Jerusalem but was fulfilled with Jesus (cf. Lk. 2). It is de-Zionised around a Child (not the city) with the Light, wise men and shepherds

"The Redeemer will come to Zion, to those in Jacob who repent of their sins," declares the LORD. "As for me, this is my covenant with them," says the LORD. "My Spirit, who is on you, will not depart from you, and my words that I have put in your mouth will always be on your lips, on the lips of your children and on the lips of their descendants—from this time on and forever," says the LORD. Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD rises upon you. See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the LORD rises upon you and his glory appears over you. Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. Lift up your eyes and look about you: All assemble and come to you; your sons come from afar, and your daughters are carried on the hip. Then you will look and be radiant, your heart will throb and swell with joy; the wealth on the seas will be brought to you, herds of camels will cover your land, young camels of Midian and Ephah. And all from Sheba will come, bearing gold and incense and proclaiming the praise of the LORD. All Kedar's flocks will be gathered to you, the rams of Nebaioth will serve you; they will be accepted as offerings on my altar, and I will adorn my glorious temple. "Who are these that fly along like clouds, like doves to their nests? Surely the islands look to me; in the lead are the ships of Tarshish, bringing your children from afar, with their silver and gold, to the honour of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has endowed you with splendour.

Foreigners will rebuild your walls, and their kings will serve you. Though in anger I struck you, in favour I will show you compassion. Your gates will always stand open, they will never be shut, day or night, so that people may bring you the wealth of the nations—their kings led in triumphal procession. For the nation or kingdom that will not serve you will perish; it will be utterly ruined. The glory of Lebanon will come to you, the juniper, the fir and the cypress together, to adorn my sanctuary; and I will glorify the place for my feet. The children of your oppressors will come bowing before you; all who despise you will bow down at your feet and will call you the City of the LORD, Zion of the Holy One of Israel. Although you have been forsaken and hated, with no one traveling through, I will make you the everlasting pride and the joy of all generations. You will drink the milk of nations and be nursed at royal breasts. Then you will know that I, the LORD, am your Saviour, your Redeemer, the Mighty One of Jacob. Instead of bronze I will bring you gold, and silver in place of iron. Instead of wood I will bring you bronze, and iron in place of stones. I will make peace your governor and well-being your ruler. No longer will violence be heard in your land, nor ruin or destruction within your borders, but you will call your walls Salvation and your gates Praise. The sun will no more be your light by day, nor will the brightness of the moon shine on you, for the LORD will be your everlasting light, and your God will be your glory. Your sun will never set again, and your moon will wane no more; the LORD will be your everlasting light, and your days of sorrow will end. Then all your people will be righteous and they will possess the land forever. They are the shoot I have planted, the work of my hands, for the display of my splendour. The least of you will become a thousand, the smallest a mighty nation. I am the LORD; in its time I will do this swiftly." The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the broken hearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the LORD's favour and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, and provide for those who grieve in Zion—to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the LORD for the display of his splendour. Is. 59:20-61:3

What are the blessings of God's Kingdom?

Forgiveness of sins

*Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will—to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace that he lavished on us.*Eph.1:3-7

*David says the same thing when he speaks of the blessedness of the one to whom God credits righteousness apart from works: "Blessed are those whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. Blessed is the one whose sin the Lord will never count against them."*Rom.4:6-8

Peace with God

*Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand.*Rom.5:1-2

Eternal life

*For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son. This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil.*Jn.3:16-19

And much, much more!

*Praise the LORD, my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name. Praise the LORD, my soul, and forget not all his benefits—who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion, who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.*Ps.103:1-5

How can we qualify for the blessings of God's Kingdom?

God qualifies us

*and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light. For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.*Col.1:12-14

New birth qualifies us

*Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again." "How can someone be born when they are old?" Nicodemus asked. "Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother's womb to be born!" Jesus answered, "Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.' The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit."*Jn.3:3-8

*The Word was in the world that was made through him. But the world did not recognize him. He came to what was his own. But his own people did not accept him. Some people did accept him. They believed in his name. He gave them the right to become children of God. To be a child of God has nothing to do with human parents. Children of God are not born because of human choice or because a husband wants them to be born. They are born because of what God does.*Jn.1:10-13

*See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.*1Jn.3:1-3

13/03/2024

Psalm 102:16-28

Video Kathryn Kuhlman interviewing Corrie Ten Boom 6.42

Questions

Is it unspiritual to be sad?

How does God comfort us?

Is God's comfort automatic or do we have to do anything to receive it?

How can we understand the Bible better?

Will we always have a good harvest when we sow generously?

What is your favourite Scripture?

Comments

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted

Is it unspiritual to be sad?

No! Jesus was anointed with joy but also had sad times

But about the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever, and righteousness will be the sceptre of your kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has set you above your companions by anointing you with the oil of joy." Heb.1:8-9

When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. "Where have you laid him?" he asked. "Come and see, Lord," they replied. Jesus wept." Jn.11:33-35

Now my soul is troubled, and what shall I say? Father, save me from this hour? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour. Father, glorify your name!" Jn.12:27-28

He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee along with him, and he began to be sorrowful and troubled. Then he said to them, "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me." Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will." Matt.26:37-39

As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it and said, "If you, even you, had only known on this day what would bring you peace—but now it is hidden from your eyes." Lk.19:41-42

How does God comfort us?

God comforts us a mother comforts her children

For this is what the LORD says: "I will extend peace to her like a river, and the wealth of nations like a flooding stream; you will nurse and be carried on her arm and dandled on her knees. As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you; and you will be comforted over Jerusalem." Is.56:12-13

God comforts us a father comforts his children

As a father has compassion on his children, so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him; for he knows how we are formed, he remembers that we are dust. Ps.103:13-14

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God. For just as we share abundantly in the sufferings of Christ, so also our comfort abounds through Christ. If we are distressed, it is for your comfort and salvation; if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which produces in you patient endurance of the same sufferings we suffer. And our hope for you is firm, because we know that just as you share in our sufferings, so also you share in our comfort. 2Cor.1:3-7

God comforts us by showing us His love and compassion

Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2024

value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:Phil.2:1-5

But you, Lord, are a compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness. Turn to me and have mercy on me; show your strength in behalf of your servant; save me, because I serve you just as my mother did. Give me a sign of your goodness, that my enemies may see it and be put to shame, for you, LORD, have helped me and comforted me.Ps.86:15-14

Shout for joy, you heavens; rejoice, you earth; burst into song, you mountains! For the LORD comforts his people and will have compassion on his afflicted ones. But Zion said, "The LORD has forsaken me, the Lord has forgotten me. Can a mother forget the baby at her breast and have no compassion on the child she has borne? Though she may forget, I will not forget you! See, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands; your walls are ever before me.Is.49:13-16

God comforts us through fellowship

For when we came into Macedonia, we had no rest, but we were harassed at every turn—conflicts on the outside, fears within. But God, who comforts the downcast, comforted us by the coming of Titus, and not only by his coming but also by the comfort you had given him. He told us about your longing for me, your deep sorrow, your ardent concern for me, so that my joy was greater than ever. Even if I caused you sorrow by my letter, I do not regret it. Though I did regret it—I see that my letter hurt you, but only for a little while—yet now I am happy, not because you were made sorry, but because your sorrow led you to repentance. For you became sorrowful as God intended and so were not harmed in any way by us. Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death. See what this godly sorrow has produced in you: what earnestness, what eagerness to clear yourselves, what indignation, what alarm, what longing, what concern, what readiness to see justice done.2Cor.7:5-11

Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.Ps.23:4

God comforts us through His promises

My comfort in my suffering is this: Your promise preserves my life. The arrogant mock me unmercifully, but I do not turn from your law. I remember, LORD, your ancient laws, and I find comfort in them.Ps.119:50-52

I have seen their ways, but I will heal them; I will guide them and restore comfort to Israel's mourners, creating praise on their lips. Peace, peace, to those far and near," says the LORD. "And I will heal them." But the wicked are like the tossing sea, which cannot rest, whose waves cast up mire and mud. "There is no peace," says my God, "for the wicked."Is.57:18-21

The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the broken hearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the LORD's favour and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, and provide for those who grieve in Zion—to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the LORD for the display of his splendour.Is.61:1-3

Is God's comfort automatic or do we have to do anything to receive it?

God's gift of comfort is free but we have to receive it. We have to apply the Scriptures and add our faith to them (i.e., believe the Scriptures and act on them)

Therefore, since the promise of entering his rest still stands, let us be careful that none of you be found to have fallen short of it. For we also have had the good news proclaimed to us, just as they did; but the message they heard was of no value to them, because they did not share the faith of those who obeyed [because those who heard did not combine it with faith]. Now we who have believed enter that rest, just as God has said,Heb.4:1-3

But not all the Israelites accepted the good news. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed our message?" Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ. But I ask: Did they not hear? Of course they did: "Their voice has gone out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world." Again I ask: Did Israel not understand? First, Moses says, "I will make you envious by those who are not a nation; I will make you angry by a nation that has no understanding." And Isaiah boldly says, "I was found by those who did not

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2024

seek me; I revealed myself to those who did not ask for me.” But concerning Israel he says, “All day long I have held out my hands to a disobedient and obstinate people.” Rom.10:16-21

And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as a human word, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is indeed at work in you who believe. 1Thess.2:13

How can we understand the Bible better?

The Holy Spirit authored the Bible and He gives revelation (understanding). Academic study is important but there is also a spiritual dimension to Scripture

But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. 2Tim.3:14-17

Pay attention to the Holy Spirit

“I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you. All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will take from what is mine and make it known to you. Jn.16:12-15

The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man's spirit within him? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us. This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words. The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned. The spiritual man makes judgments about all things, but he himself is not subject to any man's judgment: ‘For who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct him?’ But we have the mind of Christ. 1Cor.2:10-16

Pay attention to the Scriptures

We also have the prophetic message as something completely reliable, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation of things. For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit. 2Pet.1:19-21

Will we always have a good harvest when we sow generously?

We should sow generously and abundantly

Sow your seed in the morning, and at evening let your hands not be idle, for you do not know which will succeed, whether this or that, or whether both will do equally well. Eccl.11:6

Sow for yourselves righteousness, reap the fruit of unfailing love, and break up your unploughed ground; for it is time to seek the LORD, until he comes and showers righteousness on you. But you have planted wickedness, you have reaped evil, you have eaten the fruit of deception. Because you have depended on your own strength and on your many warriors, Hos.10:12-13

Christian giving is giving to God—even though we give to people and organisations.

We will always have a good spiritual harvest when we sow to God but there is no guarantee we will see any direct results from what we do or give.

Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers. Gal.5:7-10

And so it is to God that we look for a return or a harvest—not the person or organisation we physically gave to.

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2024

And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him. Heb. 11:6

Here is something to remember. The one who plants only a little will gather only a little. And the one who plants a lot will gather a lot. You should each give what you have decided in your heart to give. You shouldn't give if you don't want to. You shouldn't give because you are forced to. God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to shower all kinds of blessings on you. In all things and at all times you will have everything you need. You will do more and more good works. It is written, "They have spread their gifts around to poor people. Their good works continue forever." God supplies seed to the planter. He supplies bread for food. God will also supply and increase the amount of your seed. He will increase the results of your good works. You will be made rich in every way. Then you can always give freely. We will take your many gifts to the people who need them. And they will give thanks to God. Your gifts meet the needs of God's people. And that's not all. Your gifts also cause many people to thank God. You have shown yourselves to be worthy by what you have given. So people will praise God because you obey him. That proves that you really believe the good news about Christ. They will also praise God because you share freely with them and with everyone else. Their hearts will be filled with longing for you when they pray for you. God has given you grace that is better than anything. Let us give thanks to God for his gift. It is so great that no one can tell how wonderful it really is! 2Cor. 9:6-15

And God rarely gives back to us the same sort of gift that we gave out! (i.e. we should never look for a financial return on our money but see it as sowing a spiritual gift that will bear spiritual fruit)

"The master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly. For the people of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own kind than are the people of the light. I tell you, use worldly wealth to gain friends for yourselves [use your worldly resources to benefit others and make friends], so that when it is gone, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings. Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else's property, who will give you property of your own? Lk. 16:8-12

Jesus answered, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." Matt. 18:21

And do not set your heart on what you will eat or drink; do not worry about it. For the pagan world runs after all such things, and your Father knows that you need them. But seek his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well. Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will never fail, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. Lk. 12:29-34

When Tithing Comes With a Money-Back Guarantee

Kate Shellnutt June 28, 2016 www.christianitytoday.com

How did churches like NewSpring and Life.Church get thousands of Christians to start giving? By offering a refund if God isn't faithful.

This month, hundreds of Christians at a South Carolina megachurch can request a refund on all the money they've given since March.

NewSpring Church, led by pastor Perry Noble, is one of hundreds of congregations across the country that have offered 90-day tithing challenges.

Participants sign up with a commitment to give 10 percent of their income or more, and if "God doesn't hold true to his promises of blessings" after three months, they can request their money back—no questions asked. It's the church's version of "satisfaction guaranteed."

The challenge pulls inspiration from the last book of the Old Testament, Malachi, which states:

Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the Lord Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it (Mal. 3:10).

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2024

“God literally says, ‘Test me out, see if I’m God,’” Noble preached. “You and I cannot out-give him.” About 440 Christians joined NewSpring’s most recent challenge. Of the more than 7,000 participants over the past four years, fewer than 20—that’s a fraction of 1 percent—have asked for their money back.

The Bible says that when we do this God will bless us, not just materially, but God blesses us in more ways than we can imagine,” said Life.Church lead pastor Craig Groeschel. “We will lead the way with irrational generosity because we truly believe it’s more blessed to give than to receive.”

NewSpring Church To Offer 90-Day Refund On Salvation

<http://babylonbee.com/news/newspring-church-offer-90-day-refund-salvation/>

ANDERSON, SC—Continuing its recent theme of provocative statements, NewSpring Church announced Tuesday that they will refund the salvation of anyone not completely satisfied after 90 days of confessing themselves a Christian and getting saved.

“What we’re saying is, within 90 days of saying the Sinner’s Prayer and accepting Jesus into your heart, if you haven’t seen a radical change, we’ll let you go. We won’t pester you about joining any groups, we won’t try to get you to tithe—none of it,” a NewSpring spokesperson confirmed to reporters. “We’re just willing to stake that the Bible is true—even to the point of refunding your salvation. That’s how confident we are.”

The church’s website has a page dedicated to what they’re calling the “90-Day Salvation Challenge,” replete with claims that work, finances, health, and relationships will all markedly improve after becoming a Christian. If any individual isn’t completely satisfied, the website states NewSpring will “Unsave you—no questions asked. We’ll even help remove the little fish symbol from the back of your car.”

Although NewSpring isn’t able to refund anyone’s time, their website does say that those who are unsatisfied with their salvation will get a set of high-quality kitchen knives just for trying it out.

Compare that with Bible teaching!

But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs. ^{1Tim.6:6-10}

Those who work their land will have abundant food, but those who chase fantasies will have their fill of poverty. A faithful person will be richly blessed, but one eager to get rich will not go unpunished. To show partiality is not good—yet a person will do wrong for a piece of bread. The stingy are eager to get rich and are unaware that poverty awaits them. ^{Pron.28:19-22}

What is your favourite Scripture?

I waited patiently for the LORD; he turned to me and heard my cry. He lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire; he set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand. He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God. Many will see and fear the LORD and put their trust in him. Blessed is the one who trusts in the LORD, Ps.40:1-4

06/03/2024

Psalm 102:1-17

Video Kathryn Kuhlman interviewing Corrie Ten Boom

Questions

What does “*blessed*” mean?

What does “*poor in spirit*” mean?

How is God’s spiritual Kingdom different from the natural kingdoms of this world?

Give some examples where God’s Kingdom is different from this world’s kingdoms

Can we be theologically right but spiritually wrong?

What can we do to keep our heart in tune (in unison) with God’s heart?

Comments

What does “*blessed*” mean?

To be blessed is to possess God’s favour—to have God smile on us and receive His grace and peace: *The LORD spoke to Moses. He said: Tell Aaron and his sons, ‘Here is how I want you to bless the people of Israel. Say to them, “May the LORD bless you and take good care of you. May the LORD smile on you and be gracious to you. May the LORD look on you with favour and give you his peace.” In that way they will put the blessing of my name on the people of Israel. And I will bless them.* ^{Nu.6:22-27}

Being happy comes from favourable external circumstances whereas being blessed comes from favourable internal circumstances

we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. ^{Rom.5:1}
Christ is in us, the hope of glory. ^{Col.1:}

What does “*poor in spirit*” mean?

It does not mean “*poor-spirited*” or “*mean spirited*” because God’s blessings make us rich not poor!

He will make you rich in every way. ^{2Cor.9:11}

The blessing of the LORD brings wealth, and he adds no trouble to it. ^{Prov.10:22}

Those who are mean-spirited or stingy we will become poor (actually, they already are poor!).

One man gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty. A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed. ^{Prov.11:24-25}

Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. ^{2Cor.9:6-8}

God’s Kingdom is about abundance—spiritual abundance, an abundance of grace and peace:

Grace and peace be yours in abundance through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord. ^{2Pet.1:2}

How precious is your unfailing love, O God! People take refuge in the shadow of your wings. They feast on the abundance of your house; you give them drink from your river of delights. For with you is the fountain of life; in your light we see light. ^{Ps.36:7-9}

His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires. ^{2Pet.1:3-4}

For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. ^{Rom.14:17}

The “*poor in spirit*” are those who are humble in spirit, who know that they have nothing good of themselves and must rely on God alone!

Before salvation we had no inherent or intrinsic goodness:

There is no one righteous, not even one; there is no one who understands; there is no one who seeks God. All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one. ^{Rom.3:10-12}

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2024

This doesn't mean there aren't nice people—there are lots of lovely people who spend their lives being good to others. No! What this means is that there is no-one who by nature, is right with God—no-one who is good enough to enter God's holy presence. But at conversion we were given a new spirit—just like Ezekiel prophesied:

I will give them an undivided heart and put a new spirit in them; I will remove from them their heart of stone and give them a heart of flesh. Then they will follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws. They will be my people, and I will be their God.^{Ezek.11:19-20}

I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.^{Ezek.36:26-27}

We are given Jesus' righteousness:

What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith.^{Phil.3:8-9}

God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.^{2Cor.5:21}

But after salvation, we still need to rely on God for our rightness and our holiness.

We shouldn't put the Lord to the test as some of them did. They were killed by snakes. Don't complain as some of them did. The angel of death destroyed them. These things happened to make them an example for others. These things were written down as a warning for us who are living in the closing days of history. So, people who think they are standing firmly should be careful that they don't fall.^{1Cor.10:9-12}

How is God's spiritual Kingdom different from the natural kingdoms of this world?

God's Kingdom is spiritual and has spiritual values

Jesus said, "My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now my kingdom is from another place."^{Jn.18:36}

Once, on being asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, Jesus replied, "The coming of the kingdom of God is not something that can be observed, nor will people say, 'Here it is,' or 'There it is,' because the kingdom of God is in your midst." Then he said to his disciples, "The time is coming when you will long to see one of the days of the Son of Man, but you will not see it. People will tell you, 'There he is!' or 'Here he is!' Do not go running off after them. For the Son of Man in his day will be like the lightning, which flashes and lights up the sky from one end to the other. But first he must suffer many things and be rejected by this generation.^{Lk.17:20-25}

Give some examples where God's Kingdom is different from this world's kingdoms

Jesus said to them, "The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those who exercise authority over them call themselves Benefactors. But you are not to be like that. Instead, the greatest among you should be like the youngest, and the one who rules like the one who serves. For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one who is at the table? But I am among you as one who serves. You are those who have stood by me in my trials. And I confer on you a kingdom, just as my Father conferred one on me, so that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom and sit on thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.^{Lk.22:25-30}

Can we be theologically right but spiritually wrong?

Yes! Christianity is a heart religion and God looks on the heart

The LORD does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.^{1Sam.16:7}

"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.' But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to stumble, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to stumble, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to go into hell.^{Matt.5:27-30}

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2024

Peter answered: "May your money perish with you, because you thought you could buy the gift of God with money! You have no part or share in this ministry, because your heart is not right before God. Repent of this wickedness and pray to the Lord in the hope that he may forgive you for having such a thought in your heart. For I see that you are full of bitterness and captive to sin." Acts.8:20-23

Whenever God slew them, they would seek him; they eagerly turned to him again. They remembered that God was their Rock, that God Most High was their Redeemer. But then they would flatter him with their mouths, lying to him with their tongues; their hearts were not loyal to him, they were not faithful to his covenant. Yet he was merciful; he forgave their iniquities and did not destroy them. Time after time he restrained his anger and did not stir up his full wrath. Ps.78:34-38

"What do you think? There was a man who had two sons. He went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work today in the vineyard.' " 'I will not,' he answered, but later he changed his mind and went. "Then the father went to the other son and said the same thing. He answered, 'I will, sir,' but he did not go. "Which of the two did what his father wanted?" "The first," they answered. Matt.21:28-31

Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples: "The teachers of the law and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat. So you must obey them and do everything they tell you. But do not do what they do, for they do not practice what they preach. They tie up heavy loads and put them on men's shoulders, but they themselves are not willing to lift a finger to move them. Everything they do is done for men to see: They make their phylacteries wide and the tassels on their garments long; they love the place of honour at banquets and the most important seats in the synagogues; [7] they love to be greeted in the marketplaces and to have men call them 'Rabbi.' But you are not to be called 'Rabbi,' for you have only one Master and you are all brothers. And do not call anyone on earth 'father,' for you have one Father, and he is in heaven. Nor are you to be called 'teacher,' for you have one Teacher, the Christ. The greatest among you will be your servant. For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted. Matt.23:1-12

Without faith

But whoever has doubts is condemned if they eat, because their eating is not from faith; and everything that does not come from faith is sin. Rom.14:23

And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him. Heb.11:6

Without love

If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast,* but do not have love, I gain nothing. 2Cor.13:1-13

What can we do to keep our heart in tune (in unison) with God's heart?

Stay in fellowship with God, His Word and His people

Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other. Gal.5:25-26

And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near. Heb.10:25

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved. Acts.2:42-47

Make sure that we say the same as God

It is written: "I believed; therefore I have spoken." Since we have that same spirit of faith, we also believe and therefore speak, 2Cor.4:13

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2024

These are the things you are to teach and insist on. If anyone teaches otherwise and does not agree to the sound instruction of our Lord Jesus Christ and to godly teaching, they are conceited and understand nothing. They have an unhealthy interest in controversies and quarrels about words that result in envy, strife, malicious talk, evil suspicions and constant friction between people of corrupt mind, who have been robbed of the truth and who think that godliness is a means to financial gain. But godliness with contentment is great gain. 1Tim.6:2-6

Keep in step with the Holy Spirit

The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other. Gal.5:19-26

28/02/2024

Psalm 101

Video *What's the Difference Between Bad Theology and Her*

Questions

Where does evil come from?

How dangerous is the devil to Christians?

Can a Christian live a holy life?

Why is it important to know the Bible?

Are there any absolutely essential doctrines of Christianity?

Can we disagree with a Church's teaching and continue in fellowship?

Comments

Where does evil come from?

Evil originally came from the devil but now it comes from anywhere he has dominion—including people.

It appears that pride was satan's original sin

The word of the LORD came to me: "Son of man, take up a lament concerning the king of Tyre and say to him: 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: "You were the seal of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone adorned you: carnelian, chrysolite and emerald, topaz, onyx and jasper, lapis lazuli, turquoise and beryl. Your settings and mountings were made of gold; on the day you were created they were prepared. You were anointed as a guardian cherub, for so I ordained you. You were on the holy mount of God; you walked among the fiery stones. You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created till wickedness was found in you. Through your widespread trade you were filled with violence, and you sinned. So I drove you in disgrace from the mount of God, and I expelled you, guardian cherub, from among the fiery stones. Your heart became proud on account of your beauty, and you corrupted your wisdom because of your splendour. So I threw you to the earth; I made a spectacle of you before kings. By your many sins and dishonest trade you have desecrated your sanctuaries. So I made a fire come out from you, and it consumed you, and I reduced you to ashes on the ground in the sight of all who were watching. All the nations who knew you are appalled at you; you have come to a horrible end and will be no more.'" Ezek.28:11-19*

Pride is still the manifestation of sin

Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world. The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever. 1Jn.2:15-17

But the real sin is unbelief—

But whoever has doubts is condemned if they eat, because their eating is not from faith; and everything that does not come from faith is sin. Rom.14:23

And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him. Heb.11:6

What we usually call "sin" is actually a manifestation of unbelief

"Are you still so dull?" Jesus asked them. "Don't you see that whatever enters the mouth goes into the stomach and then out of the body? But the things that come out of a person's mouth come from the heart, and these defile them. For out of the heart come evil thoughts—murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander. These are what defile a person; but eating with unwashed hands does not defile them." Matt.15:16-20

"No good tree bears bad fruit, nor does a bad tree bear good fruit. Each tree is recognized by its own fruit. People do not pick figs from thornbushes, or grapes from briars. A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of. Lk.6:43-45

Temptation leads to sin and sin leads to death

When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death. Jas.1:13-15

From now on the Israelites must not go near the tent of meeting, or they will bear the consequences of their sin and will die. Nu.18:22

The one who sins is the one who will die. Ezek.18:20

We must master sin

So Cain was very angry, and his face was downcast. Then the LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast? If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must rule over it." Gen.4:5-7

For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good. Tit.2:11-14

How dangerous is the devil to Christians?

Our reaction to Satan's attacks has more to do with the outcome than the attacks themselves.

Give the devil an inch and he'll become a ruler!

The devil is as dangerous as we let him

Although the devil is prowling like a lion, he cannot harm us (unless we give him an open door)

We know that anyone born of God does not continue to sin; the One who was born of God keeps them safe, and the evil one cannot harm them. We know that we are children of God, and that the whole world is under the control of the evil one. We know also that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true. And we are in him who is true by being in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life. Dear children, keep yourselves from idols. 1Jn.5:18-21

Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings. And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen. 1Pet.5:6-11

The devil is very crafty at deception

Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?" Gen.3:1

For I do not want you to be ignorant of the fact, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud and that they all passed through the sea. They were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. They all ate the same spiritual food and drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them, and that rock was Christ. Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them; their bodies were scattered in the wilderness. Now these things occurred as examples to keep us from setting our hearts on evil things as they did. Do not be idolaters, as some of them were; as it is written: "The people sat down to eat and drink and got up to indulge in revelry." We should not commit sexual immorality, as some of them did—and in one day twenty-three thousand of them died. We should not test Christ, as some of them did—and were killed by snakes. And do not grumble, as some of them did—and were killed by the destroying angel. These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the culmination of the ages has come. So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall! No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it. 1Cor.10:1-13

Can a Christian live a holy life?

We will never be without sin

This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin. If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us. My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world. 1Jn.1:5-2:2*

Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus. Phil.3:13-14

When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal. Or take ships as an example. Although they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are steered by a very small rudder wherever the pilot wants to go. Likewise, the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole body, sets the whole course of one's life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell. All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and sea creatures are being tamed and have been tamed by mankind, but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. Jas.3:3-8

But our new nature is holy

As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy." Since you call on a Father who judges each person's work impartially, live out your time as foreigners here in reverent fear. For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable [incorruptible, immortal] through the living and enduring word of God. 1Pet.1:14-23

Why is it important to know the Bible?

Jesus replied, "You are in error because you do not know the Scriptures or the power of God. Matt.22:29

But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. 2Tim.3:14-17

Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. Jn.20:30-31

The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you—they are full of the Spirit and life. Jn.6:63

"Take to heart all the words I have solemnly declared to you this day, so that you may command your children to obey carefully all the words of this law. They are not just idle words for you—they are your life. By them you will live long in the land you are crossing the Jordan to possess." Deut.32:46-47

My son, do not forget my teaching, but keep my commands in your heart, for they will prolong your life many years and bring you peace and prosperity. Prov.3:1-2

Jesus answered them, "Is it not written in your Law, 'I have said you are gods'? If he called them 'gods,' to whom the word of God came—and the Scripture cannot be broken—Jn.10:34-35

Are there any absolutely essential doctrines of Christianity?

Yes

The Apostles' Creed summarizes it well

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; He descended to the dead. On the third day He rose again; He ascended into heaven, He is seated at the right hand of the Father, and He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. AMEN.

The eternal nature and deity of Jesus

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. Jn.1:1-3

The vicarious death of Jesus

But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed. We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. Is.53:5-6

Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved. Acts.4:12

The resurrection of Jesus

Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, descended from David. This is my gospel. 2Tim.2:8

Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve. After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born. 1Cor.15:1-8

Faith in Jesus and submission to His Lordship

But what does it say? "The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart," that is, the message concerning faith that we proclaim: If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved. As Scripture says, "Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame." For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." Rom.10:8-13

Depravity of mankind (all have sinned)

Ministry of the Holy Spirit

The return of Jesus

The inspiration and of the Scriptures

Can we disagree with a Church's teaching and continue in fellowship?

Depends which teachings!

The essential doctrines cannot be compromised but secondary doctrines and Church traditions should not stop fellowship. However, sometimes the differences make it hard to work together

For instance, if a church insists salvation is conditional on baptism (either christening "baptism" or even adult baptism), their understanding of salvation is very weak or worse—and it would be difficult to share any meaningful work (although a limited relationship might be possible).

A Church that holds a strong sacramental position would be difficult to work with because they believe that God's grace is received by objects rather than faith.

A Church that prays for the dead, prays to "saints" or Mary would be difficult to work with

Theosophy tries to make us believe that all people have the nature of deity, the “spark of divinity dwells in all men and new birth is simply the awakening, blowing into flame”. If man had a spark of deity or any part of deity abiding in him then man was already God incarnate. No spark of divinity is in man apart from the new birth. Every man born again is an incarnation and Christianity is a miracle.

The Holy Spirit makes His home in the physical body (of a Believer) and dominates the human spirit that has been re-created. As this is cultured and developed by through the Word there is no limit to its possibilities.

Before we were Born Again, our minds were in harmony with our unregenerate spirit. Now that our spirit has been recreated, our minds become renewed by the Word. Now the two, our spirit and our mind are brought into harmony.

Your mind, which has been dominated by the senses, receiving all of its knowledge through the nerve centres, is being renewed through the Word, so that it is coming into fellowship with your recreated spirit. What is spirit? In a word it may be said that it is the divine element in man or, perhaps more correctly, that which is cognizant (aware) of God. It is not the intellectual or mental or aesthetic (philosophical theory as to what is beautiful) or sensational (of the senses) part of man but the spiritual, the higher nature, that which recognises and holds converse with the heavenly and divine.

Faith demands a sweet fellowship with God, an abandonment to His Word, a recognition of His Lordship and a walk in love. When faith dies, philosophy flourishes. A living Christ and a living Father God perfectly satisfies and we need no philosophy, we need no metaphysics. It is when we lose Christ out of our daily life that we turn to metaphysics and philosophical theories that have no place in the life of faith. **E.W.Kenyon** *Righteousness (An unpublished manuscript)*

21/02/2024

Psalm 100

Video Greg Koukl - Faithless Prayer

Questions

Why is there chaos and darkness in society?

Is it realistic to be optimistic about the future?

What do you base your hope on?

How important is Jesus' resurrection to the Christian faith?

Explain what you understand by "faith".

Comments

Why is there chaos and darkness in society?

There was darkness before the world was created (but not chaos)

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. Gen.1:1-3

so Chaos means disorder, confusion, anarchy. Everything God created was good and so this the chaos came after God had completed Creation:

God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day. Thus the heavens and the earth were completed in all their vast array. Gen.1:31-2:1

The devil destroys and brings chaos—and the world is under the his influence/control

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. Jn.10:10

We know that we are children of God, and that the whole world is under the control of the evil one. 1Jn.5:19

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. Eph.2:1-2

Jesus told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and went away. When the wheat sprouted and formed heads, then the weeds also appeared. The owner's servants came to him and said, 'Sir, didn't you sow good seed in your field? Where then did the weeds come from?' 'An enemy did this,' he replied... He answered, "The one who sowed the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world, and the good seed stands for the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, and the enemy who sows them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels. As the weeds are pulled up and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will weed out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil. They will throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear. Matt.13:24-43

Therefore, since through God's mercy we have this ministry, we do not lose heart. Rather, we have renounced secret and shameful ways; we do not use deception, nor do we distort the word of God. On the contrary, by setting forth the truth plainly we commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God. And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. 2Cor.4:1-4

Jesus said, "This voice was for your benefit, not mine. Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." Jn.12:30-32

When someone tells you to consult mediums and spiritists, who whisper and mutter, should not a people inquire of their God? Why consult the dead on behalf of the living? Consult God's instruction and the testimony of warning. If anyone does not speak according to this word, they have no light of dawn. Distressed and hungry, they will roam through the land; when they are famished, they will become enraged and, looking upward, will curse their king and

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2024

their God. Then they will look toward the earth and see only distress and darkness and fearful gloom, and they will be thrust into utter darkness. Is.8:19-22

Is it realistic to be optimistic about the future?

Yes! Jesus is the Christ who come to bring light

For what we preach is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God's glory displayed in the face of Christ. 2Cor.4:5-6

Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for those who were in distress. In the past he humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the future he will honour Galilee of the nations, by the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan—The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned. Is.9:1-2

There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. Jn.1:6-10

Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son. This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God. Jn.3:18-21

When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." Jn.8:12

Then Jesus cried out, "Whoever believes in me does not believe in me only, but in the one who sent me. The one who looks at me is seeing the one who sent me. I have come into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness." Jn.12:44-46

This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin. 1Jn.1:5-7

We also have the prophetic message as something completely reliable, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. 2Pet.1:19

For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person—such a person is an idolater—has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient. Therefore do not be partners with them. For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) and find out what pleases the Lord. Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. It is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret. But everything exposed by the light becomes visible—and everything that is illuminated becomes a light. This is why it is said: "Wake up, sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you." Eph.5:5-14

What do you base your hope on?

Our hope is not in our piety or our good works or even the church

To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everyone else, Jesus told this parable: "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.' But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner.' I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted." Lk.18:9-14

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2024

The Pharisees, who loved money, heard all this and were sneering at Jesus. He said to them, "You are the ones who justify yourselves in the eyes of others, but God knows your hearts. What people value highly is detestable in God's sight." Lk.16:14

Then Eliphaz the Temanite replied: "If someone ventures a word with you, will you be impatient? But who can keep from speaking? Think how you have instructed many, how you have strengthened feeble hands. Your words have supported those who stumbled; you have strengthened faltering knees. But now trouble comes to you, and you are discouraged; it strikes you, and you are dismayed. Should not your piety be your confidence and your blameless ways your hope? Consider now: Who, being innocent, has ever perished? Where were the upright ever destroyed? Job.4:1-7 After the LORD had said these things to Job, he said to Eliphaz the Temanite, "I am angry with you and your two friends, because you have not spoken of me what is right, as my servant Job has." Job.42:7

Our hope is in God Himself

For you have been my hope, Sovereign LORD, my confidence since my youth. From birth I have relied on you; you brought me forth from my mother's womb. I will ever praise you. Ps.71:5-6

This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah: "Here is my servant whom I have chosen, the one I love, in whom I delight; I will put my Spirit on him, and he will proclaim justice to the nations. He will not quarrel or cry out; no one will hear his voice in the streets. A bruised reed he will not break, and a smouldering wick he will not snuff out, till he has brought justice through to victory. In his name the nations will put their hope." Matt.12:17-21

If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. 1Cor.15:19-20

In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, in order that we, who were the first to put our hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory. Eph.1:11-12

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the command of God our Savior and of Christ Jesus our hope, 1Tim.1:1

He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake. Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God. 1Pet.1:20-21

Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint. Is.40:30-31

Our hope is in God's Word

May your unfailing love come to me, LORD, your salvation, according to your promise; then I can answer anyone who taunts me, for I trust in your word. Never take your word of truth from my mouth, for I have put my hope in your laws. I will always obey your law, for ever and ever. Ps.119:41-44

Our hope is in God's promise

We want each of you to show this same diligence to the very end, so that what you hope for may be fully realized. We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised. When God made his promise to Abraham, since there was no one greater for him to swear by, he swore by himself, saying, "I will surely bless you and give you many descendants." And so after waiting patiently, Abraham received what was promised. People swear by someone greater than themselves, and the oath confirms what is said and puts an end to all argument. Because God wanted to make the unchanging nature of his purpose very clear to the heirs of what was promised, he confirmed it with an oath. God did this so that, by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled to take hold of the hope set before us may be greatly encouraged. We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain, where our forerunner, Jesus, has entered on our behalf. He has become a high priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek. Heb.6:11-20

How important is Jesus' resurrection to the Christian faith?

Jesus' resurrection is pivotal to the Christian faith

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2024

I'm more convinced than ever that Christianity is not based on a mystical revelation or self-inspired philosophy. It's deeply rooted in history. In fact, it is the only religious system I can think of that depends on a historical event (the resurrection of Jesus) being real—not fake—news. *Alisa Childers. Another Gospel*

For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve. After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born. 1Cor.15:3-8

If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead. But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. 1Cor.15:13-20

Fellow Israelites, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know. This man was handed over to you by God's deliberate plan and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross. But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him... Seeing what was to come, [David] spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, that he was not abandoned to the realm of the dead, nor did his body see decay. God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of it. Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear. Acts.2:22-34

If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. Rom.10:9

Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, descended from David. This is my gospel, 2Tim.2:8

I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. Eph.1:18-21

It is written: "I believed; therefore I have spoken." Since we have that same spirit of faith, we also believe and therefore speak, because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus from the dead will also raise us with Jesus and present us with you to himself. 2Cor.4:13-14

When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. Then he placed his right hand on me and said: "Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look, I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades. Rev.1:17-18

Explain what you understand by "faith".

Biblically, "faith" is "the power or skill to act in accordance with the nature of the kingdom of God". It is a trust in what we have reason to believe is true.

Perhaps the best known Gospel verse is John 3:16:

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Understood in this way, we see that faith is built on reason and we should have good reasons for thinking that Christianity is true before we dedicate ourselves completely to it. There are 2 aspects to faith—"believing that" and "believing in".

Faith is believing that God exists:

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2024

And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.^{Heb.11:6}

But even the demons believe in God— they tremble with fear!^{Jas.2:19}

But saving faith is also **believing in God and Jesus Christ:**

“Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household.” Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house.^{Acts.16:31-32}

This is eternal life: to know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you sent.^{Jn.17:3}

This is an active reliance on, or trust in, what you believe is true. Both believing that God exists and believing in God are necessary for genuine Christian faith.

Faith is a response to evidence, not a rejoicing in the absence of evidence. The Bible was written so that we could have a reliable, trustworthy record of the facts.

Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.^{Jn.20:30-31} *Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us, just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word. With this in mind, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I too decided to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught.*^{Lk.1:1-4}

Yes we build our faith on reason and true faith is credible because it is based on Jesus Christ who rose from the grave with an immortal body and gave many indisputable proofs to many different people and many different times.

But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep... Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed—in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality... But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you.^{1Cor.15:20-58}

14/02/2024

Psalm 99

Video Can Struggling and Doubt Ever Be Beneficial

Questions

Why is it important to begin our prayers with reverencing God and His Name?

Is temptation sin?

Where does temptation come from?

How can we resist temptation?

Does God tempt us?

How important is it to end our prayers by focusing on God's power and glory?

God is Spirit and He reveals Himself to spirit and He can reveal Himself to our spirit through the Word. For instance, we hear someone read the Word of God. The thing that is read is weighed and measured by our intellect but in some way which is inexplicable to reason, it affects our spirit. It answers a need. Listening to the Word God changes our spirit.

Comments

Is it important to begin our prayers with reverencing God and His Name?

God is worthy of all praise and worship is expressing God's worth to us. Reverencing God and His Name is also the polite way to address Him and the Biblical way too!

Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. For the LORD is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations. Ps. 100:4-5

Sing to the LORD, all the earth; proclaim his salvation day after day. Declare his glory among the nations, his marvellous deeds among all peoples. For great is the LORD and most worthy of praise; he is to be feared above all gods. For all the gods of the nations are idols, but the LORD made the heavens. Splendour and majesty are before him; strength and joy in his dwelling place. Ascribe to the LORD, O families of nations, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength, ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name. Bring an offering and come before him; worship the LORD in the splendour of his holiness. Tremble before him, all the earth! The world is firmly established; it cannot be moved. Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad; let them say among the nations, "The LORD reigns!" 1Chron. 16:23-31

Is temptation sin?

No! Even Jesus was tempted—but He did not sin

Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. Heb. 4:14-16

Since all of these sons and daughters have flesh and blood, Jesus took on flesh and blood to be like them. He did this so that by dying he would destroy the one who had power over death (that is, the devil). In this way he would free those who were slaves all their lives because they were afraid of dying. So Jesus helps Abraham's descendants rather than helping angels. Therefore, he had to become like his brothers and sisters so that he could be merciful. He became like them so that he could serve as a faithful chief priest in God's presence and make peace with God for their sins. Because Jesus experienced temptation when he suffered, he is able to help others when they are tempted. Brothers and sisters, you are holy partners in a heavenly calling. So look carefully at Jesus, the apostle and chief priest about whom we make our declaration of faith. Heb. 2:14-3:1

Where does temptation come from?

The devil:

Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?" The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, [3] but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'" "You will not certainly die," the serpent said to the woman.

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2024

"For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves. Gen.3:1-7

[And there was war in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven. The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him. Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: "Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ. For the accuser of our brothers, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down. They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death. Rev.12:7-11

And I saw an angel coming down out of heaven, having the key to the Abyss and holding in his hand a great chain. He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil, or Satan, and bound him for a thousand years. He threw him into the Abyss, and locked and sealed it over him, to keep him from deceiving the nations anymore until the thousand years were ended. After that, he must be set free for a short time. Rev.20:1-3]

As Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased." At once the Spirit sent him out into the desert, and he was in the desert forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and angels attended him. Mk.1:10-12

Then come together again so that satan will not tempt you. 1Cor.7:5

I sent Timothy to find out about your faith. I wanted to see whether the tempter had in some way tempted you, making our work meaningless. 1Thess.3:5

In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. Eph.6:16-17

He must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil's trap. 1Tim3:7

Self — people's own desires

Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs. But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses. 1Tim.6:9-12

A person's own folly leads to their ruin, yet their heart rages against the LORD. Prov.19:3

Bear in mind that our Lord's patience means salvation, just as our dear brother Paul also wrote you with the wisdom that God gave him. He writes the same way in all his letters, speaking in them of these matters. His letters contain some things that are hard to understand, which ignorant and unstable people distort, as they do the other Scriptures, to their own destruction. Therefore, dear friends, since you have been forewarned, be on your guard so that you may not be carried away by the error of the lawless and fall from your secure position. 2Pet.3:15-17

How can we resist temptation?

Word of God

During that time the devil came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become loaves of bread." But Jesus told him, "No! The Scriptures say, 'People do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" ... Jesus answered him, "It is also written..." Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'" Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him. Matt.4:3-11

Faith

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2024

In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests.^{Eph.6:16-18}

Submit to God

Keep us from falling into sin when we are tempted. Save us from the evil one.^{NIV}

*Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.*Jas.4:7-8

Say “No”!

*For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.*Tit.2:11-14

Does God tempt us?

No—God can’t tempt or be tempted

*When tempted, no one should say, “God is tempting me.” For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.*Jas.1:13-15

But God does test us to show us our dependence on Him and He allows difficulties to strengthen our faith

*Then the LORD said to Moses, “I will rain down bread from heaven for you. The people are to go out each day and gather enough for that day. In this way I will test them and see whether they will follow my instructions. On the sixth day they are to prepare what they bring in, and that is to be twice as much as they gather on the other days.”*Ex.16:4-5

*Be careful to follow every command I am giving you today, so that you may live and increase and may enter and possess the land the LORD promised on oath to your ancestors. Remember how the LORD your God led you all the way in the wilderness these forty years, to humble and test you in order to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep his commands. He humbled you, causing you to hunger and then feeding you with manna, which neither you nor your ancestors had known, to teach you that man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD. Your clothes did not wear out and your feet did not swell during these forty years. Know then in your heart that as a man disciplines his son, so the LORD your God disciplines you.*Deut.8:1-5

*Praise our God, all peoples, let the sound of his praise be heard; he has preserved our lives and kept our feet from slipping. For you, God, tested us; you refined us like silver. You brought us into prison and laid burdens on our backs. You let people ride over our heads; we went through fire and water, but you brought us to a place of abundance.*Ps.66:8-12

*My son, do not despise the LORD's discipline, and do not resent his rebuke, because the LORD disciplines those he loves, as a father the son he delights in.*Prov.3:11-12

*And have you completely forgotten this word of encouragement that addresses you as a father addresses his son? It says, “My son, do not make light of the Lord's discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you, because the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and he chastens everyone he accepts as his son.” Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as his children. For what children are not disciplined by their father? If you are not disciplined—and everyone undergoes discipline—then you are not legitimate, not true sons and daughters at all. Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of spirits and live! They disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, in order that we may share in his holiness. No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it. Therefore, strengthen your feeble arms and weak knees. “Make level paths for your feet,” so that the lame may not be disabled, but rather healed.*Heb.12:5-13

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2024

How important is it to end our prayers by focusing on God's power and glory?

Very important. If we take our eyes off God's ability we will be overcome by the situation

*They came back to Moses and Aaron and the whole Israelite community at Kadesh in the Desert of Paran. There they reported to them and to the whole assembly and showed them the fruit of the land. They gave Moses this account: "We went into the land to which you sent us, and it does flow with milk and honey! Here is its fruit. But the people who live there are powerful, and the cities are fortified and very large. We even saw descendants of Anak there. The Amalekites live in the Negev; the Hittites, Jebusites and Amorites live in the hill country; and the Canaanites live near the sea and along the Jordan." Then Caleb silenced the people before Moses and said, "We should go up and take possession of the land, for we can certainly do it." But the men who had gone up with him said, "We can't attack those people; they are stronger than we are." And they spread among the Israelites a bad report about the land they had explored. They said, "The land we explored devours those living in it. All the people we saw there are of great size. We saw the Nephilim there (the descendants of Anak come from the Nephilim). We seemed like grasshoppers in our own eyes, and we looked the same to them."*Nu.13:26-33

*That day when evening came, he said to his disciples, "Let us go over to the other side." Leaving the crowd behind, they took him along, just as he was, in the boat. There were also other boats with him. A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped. Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, "Teacher, don't you care if we drown?" He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Quiet! Be still!" Then the wind died down and it was completely calm. He said to his disciples, "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?" They were terrified and asked each other, "Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!"*Mk.4:35-41

*When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. "It's a ghost," they said, and cried out in fear. But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid." "Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water." "Come," he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!" Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?"*Matt.14:26-31

Benedictions or Doxologies from the Bible

To him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy—to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen. Jude 24-25

*Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.*Eph..3:20-21

*But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen.*2Pet.3:18

07/02/2024

Psalm 98

Questions

What are the main differences between the Kingdom of God and the kingdom of this world?

Can we be citizens of God's Kingdom and be good citizens in our country?

Why should we pray for our daily bread?

On what basis does God forgive our sins?

Explain: *forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.*

What is peace?

How do we get God's peace?

Comments

What are the main differences between the Kingdom of God and the kingdom of this world?

The Kingdom of God is the rule of Christ in peoples' hearts;

The kingdom of this world is the rule of self (or even the devil) in people's hearts.

There are also the political kingdoms of nations.

Jesus said, "My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jews. But now my kingdom is from another place."^{Jn.18:36}

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus.^{Eph.2:1-6}

Where is the wise person? Where is the teacher of the law? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?^{1Cor.1:20}

I beg you that when I come I may not have to be as bold as I expect to be toward some people who think that we live by the standards of this world. For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ. And we will be ready to punish every act of disobedience, once your obedience is complete.^{2Cor.10:2-6}

Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself."^{Jn.12:31-32}

We are to live by the values and ethics of God's Kingdom not by the values and ethics of this world's kingdom:

Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world. The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever.^{1Jn.2:15-17}
Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.^{Rom.12:2}

Dear friends, you are outsiders and strangers in this world. So I'm asking you not to give in to your sinful longings. They fight against your soul. People who don't believe might say you are doing wrong. But lead good lives among them. Then they will see your good works. And they will give glory to God on the day he comes to judge.^{1Pet.2:11-12}

Can we be citizens of God's Kingdom and be good citizens in our country?

Yes! And we should

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2024

Make the Master proud of you by being good citizens. Respect the authorities, whatever their level; they are God's emissaries for keeping order. It is God's will that by doing good, you might cure the ignorance of the fools who think you're a danger to society. Exercise your freedom by serving God, not by breaking the rules. Treat everyone you meet with dignity. Love your spiritual family. Revere God. Respect the government.^{1Pet.2:13-17}

Of course, we live in this world and should function as citizens of political kingdoms but we “march to a different tune”—we have different standards and different ethics.

Jesus said to them, “The kings of nations have power over their people, and those in authority call themselves friends of the people. But you're not going to be that way! Rather, the greatest among you must be like the youngest, and your leader must be like a servant. Who's the greatest, the person who sits at the table or the servant? Isn't it really the person who sits at the table? But I'm among you as a servant. You have stood by me in the troubles that have tested me. So as my Father has given me a kingdom, I'm giving it to you. You will eat and drink at my table in my kingdom. You will also sit on thrones and judge the twelve tribes of Israel.”^{Lk.22:25-30}

Why should we pray for our daily bread?

Because we are dependent on God for our life—provision, protection, promotion

Jesus answered, “You would have no power over me if it were not given to you from above. Therefore the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin.”^{Jn.19:11}

Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God.^{Rom.13:1}

“Praise be to the name of God for ever and ever; wisdom and power are his. He changes times and seasons; he deposes kings and raises up others. He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the discerning.^{Dan.2:20-21}

‘The decision is announced by messengers, the holy ones declare the verdict, so that the living may know that the Most High is sovereign over all kingdoms on earth and gives them to anyone he wishes and sets over them the lowliest of people.’^{Dan.4:17}

We should remember our dependence on God:

Don't be deceived, my dear brothers and sisters. Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.^{Jas.1:16-17}

Even when we work hard, it is God who enables us to work!

You may say to yourself, “My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me.” But remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your ancestors, as it is today.^{Deut.8:17-18}

LORD, you establish peace for us; all that we have accomplished you have done for us.^{Is.26:12}

And when we ask God for our daily food, we are not being lazy—we are not asking God to put our food on in our cupboard or on our plate! Whilst we should ask God for our daily needs, we must also do our part:

For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: “The one who is unwilling to work shall not eat.” We hear that some among you are idle and disruptive. They are not busy; they are busybodies. Such people we command and urge in the Lord Jesus Christ to settle down and earn the food they eat.^{2Thess.3:10-12}

We still need to sow the seed to grow the wheat to make the bread:

Sow your seed in the morning, and at evening let your hands not be idle, for you do not know which will succeed, whether this or that, or whether both will do equally well.^{Ecd.11:6} *Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. As it is written: “They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor; their righteousness endures forever.” Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.*^{2Cor.9:6-11}

We should also be thankful for our daily bread! Jesus regularly gave thanks

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2024

And he directed the people to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves.^{Matt.14:19}

While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples.^{Matt.26:26}

On what basis does God forgive our sins?

On God's Grace alone! That means it has nothing to do with us or our ability (or lack of ability)

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.^{Rom.5:8}

For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit.^{1Pet.3:18}

This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.^{1Jn.4:10}

In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace that he lavished on us.^{Eph.1:7-8}

Explain: forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

The word “forgive” literally means “to send away” or “expire” and so if we don't forgive others we will still carry the guilt of our own sins!

Trespass/Debt Vs 12 οφειλῆματος, to owe. Debt, that which is owed, which is strictly due (Ro 4:4). Also an offense, a trespass which requires reparation

Debt/sin Vs 14 παραπτώμα paráptōma; to fall by the wayside. Debts: to fall by the wayside. Fault, lapse, error, mistake, wrongdoing.

for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.^{Rom.3:23-24}

Sin ἁμαρτάνω hamartánoō; To sin, to miss a mark on the way, not to hit the mark. One who keeps missing the mark in his relationship to God is a sinner.

Our relationship with God is based on the forgiveness of our sins which is a work of grace (i.e. God freely forgives them by the merit of Jesus' death alone. God's forgiveness of our sins is unconditional).

Therefore, my friends, I want you to know that through Jesus the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you. Through him everyone who believes is set free from every sin, a justification you were not able to obtain under the law of Moses.^{Acts.13:38-39}

But in this prayer Jesus is explaining that if we hold a grudge against someone else, we will disconnect with God and never experience the peace that God has promised us. The New Covenant deals with our conscience in a way that the Old Covenant never could:

The Holy Spirit was showing by this that the way into the Most Holy Place had not yet been disclosed as long as the first tabernacle was still functioning. This is an illustration for the present time, indicating that the gifts and sacrifices being offered were not able to clear the conscience of the worshiper. They are only a matter of food and drink and various ceremonial washings—external regulations applying until the time of the new order. But when Christ came as high priest of the good things that are now already here, he went through the greater and more perfect tabernacle that is not made with human hands, that is to say, is not a part of this creation. He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves; but he entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood, thus obtaining eternal redemption... How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God! or this reason Christ is the mediator of a new covenant, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance—now that he has died as a ransom to set them free from the sins committed under the first covenant.^{Heb.9:8-15}

What is peace?

tranquillity, arising from reconciliation with God and a sense of a divine favour

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2024

Shalom is peace and prosperity, health and wealth

Old Testament saints expected to die in peace

You, however, will go to your ancestors in peace and be buried at a good old age. Gen.15:15

How do we get God's peace?

We cannot buy spiritual fruit with money or anything else from the natural world because it is a by-product of living in Christ:

Live in me, and I will live in you. A branch cannot produce any fruit by itself. It has to stay attached to the vine. In the same way, you cannot produce fruit unless you live in me. I am the vine. You are the branches. Those who live in me while I live in them will produce a lot of fruit. But you can't produce anything without me.^{Jn.15:4-5}

Both grace and peace come from God the Father and God the Son (who is the Prince of peace):

Grace and peace be yours in abundance through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.^{2Pet.1:2}

But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ. For he himself is our peace.^{Eph.2:13-14}

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end.^{Is.9:6-7}

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.^{Rom.5:1}

When we know God and pray with thanksgiving and gentleness, peace will fill our heart:

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.^{Phil.4:4-7}

Peace comes from loving God's Word:

Great peace have those who love your law, and nothing can make them stumble. I wait for your salvation, LORD, and I follow your commands. I obey your statutes, for I love them greatly. I obey your precepts and your statutes, for all my ways are known to you.^{Ps.119:165-168}

And peace also comes from keeping our minds on spiritual matters:

You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you. Trust in the LORD forever, for the LORD, the LORD himself, is the Rock eternal.^{Is.26:3-4}

And so if we hold a grudge against anyone, the peace that should control us and rule our hearts will be disrupted!

As holy people whom God has chosen and loved, be sympathetic, kind, humble, gentle, and patient. Put up with each other, and forgive each other if anyone has a complaint. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. Above all, be loving. This ties everything together perfectly. Also, let Christ's peace control you. God has called you into this peace by bringing you into one body. Be thankful. Let Christ's word with all its wisdom and richness live in you. Use psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to teach and instruct yourselves about God's kindness. Sing to God in your hearts. Everything you say or do should be done in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.^{Col.3:12-17}

31/01/2024

Psalm 98

Video *The Unexpected Way to Effectively Make Your Point*

Questions

What is prayer?

What does “don't address anyone here on earth as 'Father,’” mean?

How can we honour God's Name?

Where is God's Kingdom?

What is God's Will?

How is God's Will done on earth?

Comments

What is prayer?

Prayer is communion with the Father; it is pondering what His Word says about our ideas and conforming our concepts to His. Never contemplate that sacred season with demons on your mind. Never project a war with darkness or anticipate a battle with evil forces. *Christ did all of that for us, in our name.* ^{Col.1:13; 2:15} T.L.Osborn

Prayer is the soul's sincere desire, uttered or unexpressed;

the motion of a hidden fire that trembles in the breast.

Prayer is the simplest form of speech that infant lips can try,

prayer the sublimest strains that reach the Majesty on high.

Prayer is the Christian's vital breath, the Christian's native air,

his watchword at the gates of death: he enters heaven with prayer.

Prayer is the contrite sinner's voice, returning from his ways;

while angels in their songs rejoice, and cry, 'Behold, he prays!'

The saints in prayer appear as one, in word and deed and mind;

while with the Father and the Son sweet fellowship they find.

Nor prayer is made on earth alone: the Holy Spirit pleads,

and Jesus on the eternal throne for sinners intercedes.

O Thou by whom we come to God, the Life, the Truth, the Way,

the path of prayer thyself hast trod: Lord, teach us how to pray!

James Montgomery (author of “Angels from the realms of glory”):

In her deep anguish Hannah prayed to the LORD, weeping bitterly... As she kept on praying to the LORD, Eli observed her mouth. Hannah was praying in her heart, and her lips were moving but her voice was not heard. Eli thought she was drunk and said to her, “How long are you going to stay drunk? Put away your wine.” “Not so, my lord,” Hannah replied, “I am a woman who is deeply troubled. I have not been drinking wine or beer; I was pouring out my soul to the LORD. Do not take your servant for a wicked woman; I have been praying here out of my great anguish and grief.” Eli answered, “Go in peace, and may the God of Israel grant you what you have asked of him.” ^{1Sam.1:10-17}

Hear my cry for help, my King and my God, for to you I pray. In the morning, LORD, you hear my voice; in the morning I lay my requests before you and wait expectantly. For you are not a God who is pleased with wickedness; with you, evil people are not welcome. The arrogant cannot stand in your presence. ^{Ps.5:2-5}

When we pray, we are expressing our dependence on God (c.f. many of the Psalms). *Andrew Corbett*

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2024

Prayer isn't a "*spare wheel*" you pull out when in trouble, it's a "*steering wheel*" that directs the right path throughout your life. When we lose hope and think it's the end, God smiles and says, "*It's just a bend, not the end*".

Triumphant prayer is almost impossible where there is neglect of the study of the Word of God. Prayer that is born of meditation upon the Word of God is the prayer that soars upward most easily to God's listening ears. *R.A. Torrey*

Christian prayer takes its stand on the solid ground of the revealed Word and has nothing to do with vague, self-seeking vagaries. We pray on the basis of the prayer of the true Man Jesus Christ. ... We can pray aright to God only in the name of Jesus Christ. *Dietrich Bonhoeffer*

When we pray, we can rely on Jesus Christ, who is always praying for us and with us. Christ's praying on our behalf is what makes our prayers true prayer. Prayer is not fundamentally about us pouring out our words, our hearts, or our emotions to God... When suffering and grief make it difficult to pray, we can rest in the reality that the Holy Spirit and Jesus Christ will continue to intercede on our behalf. When we go through seasons of dryness, we can persevere in faith, remembering that our experience of prayer is not foundational. Jesus Christ himself is the foundation, the Word of God, who always lives to intercede for us. Praying with the borrowed words of the Bible was one way God rebuilt my life of prayer on a more solid basis, reminding me that prayer is answering God, not generating my relationship with God. *Kristen Deede Johnson, "Our Theology of Prayer Matters More than Our Feelings."*

What does "don't address anyone here on earth as 'Father'" mean?

Don't let anyone call you 'Rabbi,' for you have only one teacher, and all of you are equal as brothers and sisters. And don't address anyone here on earth as 'Father,' for only God in heaven is your spiritual Father. And don't let anyone call you 'Teacher,' for you have only one teacher, the Messiah. The greatest among you must be a servant. But those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted. ^{1Matt.23:8-12}

Interestingly, many of those who use this verse against RCs' use of the title "Pope" (Latin "*papa*" meaning "Father") and "Father" for their priests, are very happy to call the leader of their own congregation "*pastor*"!

In both the Old and New Testaments we are told to honour our parents (so Jesus didn't mean that we shouldn't call our Dad "Father"):

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. "Honour your father and mother"—which is the first commandment with a promise— "so that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth." ^{1Eph.6:1-3}

Paul said that he was a spiritual father to the Believers in Corinth and that Timothy was his spiritual son (making Paul a spiritual father to him!).

Even if you had ten thousand guardians in Christ, you do not have many fathers, for in Christ Jesus I became your father through the gospel. Therefore I urge you to imitate me. For this reason I have sent to you Timothy, my son whom I love, who is faithful in the Lord. He will remind you of my way of life in Christ Jesus, which agrees with what I teach everywhere in every church. ^{1Cor.4:15-17}

We should acknowledge God as our true Father and give Him the respect that He deserves:

See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure. ^{1Jn.3:1-3}

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2024

We should not try to gain authority over one another as teachers or masters, since Jesus is ultimately our teacher and master (you have one teacher... one instructor), to whom we are accountable. Jesus does not literally forbid use of the titles “teacher,” “doctor,” or “father” for all time and in all circumstances, but he prohibits his disciples from using these terms in the way the Pharisees used them, *i.e.* in a spirit that wrongly exalted leaders and reinforced human pride.

How can we honour God's Name?

Living by His standards; making Him proud of us by the way we live (think, speak and act)

Make the Master proud of you by being good citizens. Respect the authorities, whatever their level; they are God's emissaries for keeping order. It is God's will that by doing good, you might cure the ignorance of the fools who think you're a danger to society. Exercise your freedom by serving God, not by breaking the rules. Treat everyone you meet with dignity. Love your spiritual family. Revere God. Respect the government. ^{1Pet.2:13-17}

Upholding the principles of God's Kingdom

Saying good things about God

Where is God's Kingdom?

Kingdom is the King's dom(ain) and so God's Kingdom is the dominion, rule or reign of God through Jesus Christ (Messiah)

“The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he will reign for ever and ever.” And the twenty-four elders, who were seated on their thrones before God, fell on their faces and worshiped God, saying: “We give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty, the One who is and who was, because you have taken your great power and have begun to reign.” ^{Rev.11:15-17}

Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this. ^{Is.9:7}

“I have installed my King on Zion, my holy hill.” I will proclaim the decree of the LORD: He said to me, “You are my Son; today I have become your Father. Ask of me, and I will make the nations your inheritance, the ends of the earth your possession. You will rule them with an iron scepter.” ^{Ps.2:6-9}

Jesus dwells (reigns and rules) in our heart (spirit).

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. ^{Col.3:15-16}

Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you—unless, of course, you fail the test? ^{2Cor.13:5}

God's Kingdom is in heaven

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven... Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.” ^{Matt.5:3-12}

The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and will bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory for ever and ever. Amen. ^{2Tim.4:18}

He replied, “The knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven has been given to you, but not to them.” ^{Matt.13:11}

Heaven is in our heart!

Once, on being asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, Jesus replied, “The coming of the kingdom of God is not something that can be observed, nor will people say, ‘Here it is,’ or ‘There it is,’ because the kingdom of God is in your midst [is within or among you].” Then he said to his disciples, “The time is coming when you will long to see one of the days of the Son of Man, but you will not see it. People will tell you, ‘There he is!’ or ‘Here he is!’ Do not go running off after them. For the Son of Man in his day will be like the lightning, which

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2024

*flashes and lights up the sky from one end to the other. But first he must suffer many things and be rejected by this generation.*Lk.17:20-25

What is God's Will?

God's will is His purpose—His plan

God's will is that none should perish

*The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting [willing] anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.*2Pet.3:9

(obviously some do perish and so God has a desired will and an implemented will). Not everything God wills, wants or desires will actually happen because He has given us a will—we have to choose to obey. By nature we are disobedient—at least until conversion—and so we don't choose to disobey—we disobey naturally. That is why new-birth is essential, so we want to obey.

How is God's Will done on earth?

God's will (of saving people) is done through sowing the seed of the Kingdom—the Word of God

*"This is the meaning of the parable: The seed is the word of God. Those along the path are the ones who hear, and then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. Those on the rock are the ones who receive the word with joy when they hear it, but they have no root. They believe for a while, but in the time of testing they fall away. The seed that fell among thorns stands for those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by life's worries, riches and pleasures, and they do not mature. But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop.*Lk.8:11-15

*For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God. For, "All men are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of the Lord stands forever." And this is the word that was preached to you.*1Pet.1:23-25

24/01/2024

Psalm 97

Video Five Easy Issues_ Why Are Christians Confused_ — Stand to Reason University

Questions

What are the main differences between the Old Covenant and the New Covenant?

How can we know what parts of the Bible are potentials (aspirations) and what are promises?

How can we determine what is advice and what is instruction in the Bible?

What is faith?

How can we develop our faith?

How do we pray in faith?

Comments

What are the main differences between the Old Covenant and the New Covenant?

Old Covenant vs New Covenant

Jesus introduced the New Covenant in His blood

In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, ‘This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you. Lk.22:20

But you have come to Mount Zion, to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly, to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven. You have come to God, the Judge of all, to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel. Heb.12:23-24

The New Covenant made the Old Covenant obsolete

But in fact the ministry Jesus has received is as superior to theirs as the covenant of which he is mediator is superior to the old one, since the new covenant is established on better promises. For if there had been nothing wrong with that first covenant, no place would have been sought for another. But God found fault with the people and said: ‘The days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and with the people of Judah. It will not be like the covenant I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they did not remain faithful to my covenant, and I turned away from them, declares the Lord. This is the covenant I will establish with the people of Israel after that time, declares the Lord. I will put my laws in their minds and write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. No longer will they teach their neighbour, or say to one another, ‘Know the Lord,’ because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest. For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.’ By calling this covenant ‘new,’ he has made the first one obsolete; and what is obsolete and outdated will soon disappear. Heb.8:6-13

Now the first covenant had regulations for worship and also an earthly sanctuary. A tabernacle was set up.... When everything had been arranged like this, the priests entered regularly into the outer room to carry on their ministry. But only the high priest entered the inner room, and that only once a year, and never without blood, which he offered for himself and for the sins the people had committed in ignorance. The Holy Spirit was showing by this that the way into the Most Holy Place had not yet been disclosed as long as the first tabernacle was still functioning. This is an illustration for the present time, indicating that the gifts and sacrifices being offered were not able to clear the conscience of the worshiper. They are only a matter of food and drink and various ceremonial washings—external regulations applying until the time of the new order. But when Christ came as high priest of the good things that are now already here, he went through the greater and more perfect tabernacle that is not made with human hands, that is to say, is not a part of this creation. He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves; but he entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood, thus obtaining eternal redemption. The blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkled on those who are ceremonially unclean sanctify them so that they are outwardly clean. How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death [useless rituals], so that we may serve the living God! For this reason Christ is the mediator of a new covenant, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance—now that he has died as a ransom to set them free from the sins committed under the first covenant. Heb9:1-15*

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2024

Old Covenant	New Covenant
Conflict, struggle and unrest	Reconciliation, rest and peace: <i>Col.1:19-20; Eph.2:14-18</i>
Bondage and slavery	Freedom: <i>2Cor.3:17; Gal.4:21-5:1</i>
Law weak and useless	Better and permanent: <i>Heb.7:18-22</i>
Law of sin and death	Law of Spirit and Life: <i>Rom.8:2; 2Cor.3:6</i>
10 Commandments summarized as 2	1 Commandment—Royal law of love: <i>Jn.13:34-35; Gal.5:14; 1Cor.13:13</i>
Was an illustration, a type, a shadow	Is the substance and reality: <i>Col.2:14-17; Heb.10:1</i>
Was inferior and faulty	The New Covenant is permanent <i>Heb.8:6-7</i>
Was temporary until the New had come	The New Covenant replaces the Old Covenant which is now obsolete: <i>Heb.8:13; 10:9.</i>
Made man conscious of sin	Conscience is cleansed: <i>1Tim.1:5/19; Acts 23:1; Heb.9:14; 10:22; 13:18</i>
God's law written on stone	God's law written in our hearts: <i>Heb.8:10; 10:16; 1Jn.5:10</i>
Man's Responsibility. <i>If you fully obey... Deut.28</i>	God's Responsibility: <i>Heb.8:8-10; Eph.3:10</i>
Man failed to be righteous	Jesus is our Righteousness: <i>1Cor.1:30; 2Cor.5:21; Rom.3:21-22</i>
Man provided animals for sacrifices	God provides His Son as the Sacrifice: <i>Jn.1:29; 1Cor.5:7; 1Jn.2:2</i>
Man strived for victory	God gives the victory: <i>1Cor.15:57; 2Cor.2:14</i>
Man separated from God by Veil	Nothing separating man from God: <i>Rom.8:39; Eph.2:7</i>
Priest was a man who was a descendant of Aaron	Priest is Jesus: <i>Heb.6:20; 8:1; 10:19-22</i>
Priest's ministry was limited by death	Jesus' ministry is unlimited by His Resurrection: <i>Heb.7:26f</i>
Confessed sin to approach God	Confess Jesus to approach God: <i>Rom.10:8-10; Heb.4:16; 10:19-22</i>
Sacrifices were continually repeated	Christ died once for all: <i>1Pet.3:18; Heb.7:27; 9:26; 10:12</i>
Sin temporarily covered over (<i>atoned</i>)	Sin forgiven; taken away permanently: <i>Jn.1:29; Lk.24:45-49; Rom.11:27; 1Jn.3:5</i>
God dwelt in a place	God dwells in people: <i>Eph.2:22; 1Jn.4:12</i>
Worship was at Jerusalem	Worship is in spirit at the New Jerusalem: <i>Heb.12:22-24; Jn.4:23; Phil.3:3; Gal.4:24-26</i>
People were servants	We are sons and friends (albeit still servants): <i>2Cor.6:18; Rom.1:1; Jn.15:12-15; Gal.3:26; 4:6-7</i>

How can we know what parts of the Bible are potentials (aspirations) and what are promises?

To understand the difference between a potential and a promise in the Bible, we have to understand the context of the passage and also how the passage fits in with New Covenant teaching. We cannot claim physical healing or physical protection as an absolute but we can expect God to intervene and the over-riding principle is that although the sun and rain fall on righteous and unrighteous alike, there is a distinction between those who serve God and those who don't.

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2024

But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. Matt. 5:44-45

Then those who feared the LORD talked with each other, and the LORD listened and heard. A scroll of remembrance was written in his presence concerning those who feared the LORD and honoured his name. "On the day when I act," says the LORD Almighty, "they will be my treasured possession. I will spare them, just as a father has compassion and spares his son who serves him. And you will again see the distinction between the righteous and the wicked, between those who serve God and those who do not." Mal. 3:16-18

Although a wicked man commits a hundred crimes and still lives a long time, I know that it will go better with God-fearing men, who are reverent before God. Yet because the wicked do not fear God, it will not go well with them, and their days will not lengthen like a shadow. eccl. 8:12-13

Far be it from you to do such a thing—to kill the righteous with the wicked, treating the righteous and the wicked alike. Far be it from you! Will not the Judge of all the earth do right?" Gen. 18:25

A lot of the proverbs are advice and aspirations or rather than promises. However the New Covenant promises are for us

For no matter how many promises God has made, they are "Yes" in Christ. And so through him the "Amen" is spoken by us to the glory of God. Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come. 2Cor. 1:20-22

As for you, see that what you have heard from the beginning remains in you. If it does, you also will remain in the Son and in the Father. And this is what he promised us—eternal life. I am writing these things to you about those who are trying to lead you astray. As for you, the anointing you received from him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about all things and as that anointing is real, not counterfeit—just as it has taught you, remain in him. 1Jn. 2:24-27

Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. [Live like that as you look forward to the day of God. It will make the day come more quickly.] That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells. 2Pet. 3:11-13

God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of it. Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear... Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call. Acts. 2:32-39

And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory. Eph. 1:13-14

He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit. Gal. 3:14

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. "Honor your father and mother"—which is the first commandment with a promise— "so that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth." Eph. 6:1-3

His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires. 2Pet. 1:3-4

Listen, my dear brothers and sisters: Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him? Jas. 2:5

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2024

Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him. Jas.1:12

Let us hold unwaveringly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. Heb.10:23

Not all promises are immediate—and some are only received in heaven

You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised. Heb.10:36

All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance, admitting that they were foreigners and strangers on earth... These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised, since God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect. Heb.11:13;39-40

What is faith?

Faith is the absolute trust in God—based on His Word and His Character

My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, so that your faith might not rest on human wisdom, but on God's power. 1Cor.2:4-5

And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective. Jas.5:15-16

How can we develop our faith?

We use it or lose it!

We ought always to thank God for you, brothers and sisters, and rightly so, because your faith is growing more and more, and the love all of you have for one another is increasing. Therefore, among God's churches we boast about your perseverance and faith in all the persecutions and trials you are enduring. 2Thess.1:3-4

The disciples came to him and asked, "Why do you speak to the people in parables?" He replied, "Because the knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven has been given to you, but not to them. Whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. This is why I speak to them in parables: "Though seeing, they do not see; though hearing, they do not hear or understand. In them is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah: " 'You will be ever hearing but never understanding; you will be ever seeing but never perceiving. For this people's heart has become calloused; they hardly hear with their ears, and they have closed their eyes. Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts and turn, and I would heal them.' But blessed are your eyes because they see, and your ears because they hear. For truly I tell you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear." Matt.13:10-17

[To those who listen to my teaching, more understanding will be given, and they will have an abundance of knowledge. But for those who are not listening, even what little understanding they have will be taken away from them. That is why I use these parables, For they look, but they don't really see. They hear, but they don't really listen or understand. This fulfils the prophecy of Isaiah that says, 'When you hear what I say, you will not understand. When you see what I do, you will not comprehend.]

Pray in the spirit

But, dear friends, remember what the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ foretold. They said to you, "In the last times there will be scoffers who will follow their own ungodly desires." These are the people who divide you, who follow mere natural instincts and do not have the Spirit. But you, dear friends, by building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in God's love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life. Jude17-21

Therefore put on the full armour of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2024

praying for all the Lord's people. Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Eph.6:13-20

How do we pray in faith?

Have faith in God (not faith in our faith)

"Have faith in God," Jesus answered. "Truly I tell you, if anyone says to this mountain, 'Go, throw yourself into the sea,' and does not doubt in their heart but believes that what they say will happen, it will be done for them. Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive them, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins." Mk.11:22-25

Early in the morning they left for the Desert of Tekoa. As they set out, Jehoshaphat stood and said, "Listen to me, Judah and people of Jerusalem! Have faith in the LORD your God and you will be upheld; have faith in his prophets and you will be successful." After consulting the people, Jehoshaphat appointed men to sing to the LORD and to praise him for the splendour of his holiness as they went out at the head of the army, saying: "Give thanks to the LORD, for his love endures forever." As they began to sing and praise, the LORD set ambushes against the men 2Chron20:20-22

We can trust God to remove whatever hinders us from bearing fruit for God. Moving a mountain is a metaphor for doing what is seemingly impossible

Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. And the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all people will see it together. Is.40:4-5

They will neither hunger nor thirst, nor will the desert heat or the sun beat down on them. He who has compassion on them will guide them and lead them beside springs of water. I will turn all my mountains into roads, and my highways will be raised up. Is.49:10-11

So keep up your courage, men, for I have faith in God that it will happen just as he told me. Nevertheless, we must run aground on some island." Acts.27:25-26

Therefore let us move beyond the elementary teachings about Christ and be taken forward to maturity, not laying again the foundation of repentance from acts that lead to death, and of faith in God, instruction about cleansing rites, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. And God permitting, we will do so. Heb.6:1-3

God's Word works in those who believe

And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as a human word, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is indeed at work in you who believe. 1Thess.2:13

17/01/2024

Psalm 96

Video Aren't We All Children of God_ 5.40

Questions:

- How can we be sure that the Bible is trustworthy?
- Why is it important to read the Bible correctly?
- How can we be sure that we are interpreting the Bible correctly?
- Why should we take Jesus' teaching on prayer seriously?
- How can we apply Jesus' teaching on prayer to ourself?
- How can we apply Jesus' teaching on prayer to our Church?

Comments:

How can we be sure that the Bible is trustworthy?

It has stood the test of time for 2000 years. The early Church did not make the writings into Scripture but merely recognised them as Scripture and inspired by the Holy Spirit. The inspiration of Scripture was recognised by its

1. **Intrinsic Content:** *All have the work and person of Jesus Christ as their central subject and are historically correct.*
2. **Moral Effect:** *Transforms people for the good.*
3. **Testimony:** *The Church had accepted them (this merely recognised inspiration, it did not determine it).*

a) Internal Testimony:

And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as a human word, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is indeed at work in you who believe.^{1Thes.2:13}

Take special note of anyone who does not obey our instruction in this letter. Do not associate with them, in order that they may feel ashamed. Yet do not regard them as an enemy, but warn them as you would a fellow believer.^{2Thes.3:14-15}

Bear in mind that our Lord's patience means salvation, just as our dear brother Paul also wrote you with the wisdom that God gave him. He writes the same way in all his letters, speaking in them of these matters. His letters contain some things that are hard to understand, which ignorant and unstable people distort, as they do the other Scriptures, to their own destruction.^{2Pet.3:15-16}

b) External Testimony: Early Church Fathers: *Clement* cAD95 makes allusions to 1Corinthians Romans & Matthew; *Ignatius* cAD116 knew of all Paul's letters & quoted Matthew; *Polycarp* cAD150 knew Paul's letters, Matthew & Acts and quoted from 1Peter and 1John.

If we cannot identify what Scripture is, then we cannot properly distinguish any theological truth from error.

Why is it important to read the Bible correctly?

So we aren't deceived. If we are deceived, we are to be pitied above all people

And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead. But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.^{1Cor.15:14-19}

People have done many heinous deeds under the guise of religion including some under the deception of obeying Scripture. Paul killed Christians believing that he was obeying Scripture and serving God.

For you have heard of my previous way of life in Judaism, how intensely I persecuted the church of God and tried to destroy it. I was advancing in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people and was extremely zealous for the traditions of my fathers.^{Gal.1:13-14}

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2024

If someone else thinks they have reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for righteousness based on the law, faultless. But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. Phil.3:4-7

If we don't correctly divide the Word of God we will be never live in the promises of God but still be asking Him to do what He has already done

Keep reminding God's people of these things. Warn them before God against quarrelling about words; it is of no value, and only ruins those who listen. Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth. [Study to show yourself approved unto God, a workman that needs not to be ashamed, dividing the word of truth aright.] Avoid godless chatter, because those who indulge in it will become more and more ungodly. Their teaching will spread like gangrene.^{2Tim.2:14-17}

The Holy Spirit is our Teacher

But the Counsellor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. Jn.14:26

As for you, the anointing you received from him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about all things and as that anointing is real, not counterfeit—just as it has taught you, remain in him. 1Jn.2:27

But God has given the Church giftings of teachers to open up the Scriptures to us so we can become mature

We have much to say about this, but it is hard to make it clear to you because you no longer try to understand. In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food! Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil. Therefore let us move beyond the elementary teachings about Christ and be taken forward to maturity, not laying again the foundation of repentance from acts that lead to death, and of faith in God, instruction about cleansing rites, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. And God permitting, we will do so. Heb.5:11-6:3

For everything God created is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, because it is consecrated by the word of God and prayer. [6] If you point these things out to the brothers and sisters, you will be a good minister of Christ Jesus, nourished on the truths of the faith and of the good teaching that you have followed. Have nothing to do with godless myths and old wives' tales; rather, train yourself to be godly. For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come. This is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance. That is why we labor and strive, because we have put our hope in the living God, who is the Saviour of all people, and especially of those who believe. Command and teach these things. Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity. Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to preaching and to teaching. 1Tim.4:4-13

But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. This is why it says: "When he ascended on high, he took many captives and gave gifts to his people." (What does "he ascended" mean except that he also descended to the lower, earthly regions? He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.) So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work. Eph.4:7-16

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2024

The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honour, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching. For the Scripture says, "Do not muzzle the ox while it is treading out the grain," and "The worker deserves his wages." 1Tim.5:17-18

How can we be sure that we are interpreting the Bible correctly?

See what has the Church has taught over the centuries. Of course the established Church has often gone into error and heresy but we should listen to the general teaching of those who have loved God and displayed the fruit of God

The Nicene Creed has been the benchmark for Doctrine for 1700 years and has stood the test of time.

We believe in one God the Father, the Almighty, creator of heaven and earth, and of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father (and the Son). With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Anything that conflicts with that statement of belief will, at best be a distraction, and at worst a deception. We may like to argue finer points of our interpretation such as how Jesus will return (and some want to debate when He will return too!) but those debates only lead to division. Any "new" interpretation of the Scriptures is likely to be at least skewed or most likely heretical—c.f. JW's, CLDS, Oneness and Unitarians, SDA, etc.

If we over-emphasised one doctrine it will make us unbalanced—such as tongues, Jesus' return, holiness, water baptism, predestination, freewill, prosperity, healing, etc. But balance is not a little of this or a little of that but the complete teaching of what God has given us on every subject.

Jesus replied, "You are in error because you do not know the Scriptures or the power of God. Matt.22:29

Whenever we promote the idea that things or routines have spiritual power over, or with, God or the enemy we have become superstitious. We can make seemingly good things like faith, prayer, fasting, giving, or even worship into a superstitious act - because we believe that if we do these things God must do something for us. In other words, the working of miracles is achievable by works of the flesh as Paul said in Galatians.

Does he who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you do so by works of the law, or by hearing with faith. Gal.3:5

We can even turn faith into superstition! If we think that if we can only have faith in God then God must act, we have turned faith into superstition. The Scriptures declare that even our faith is a gift from God.

For by grace are you saved through faith- it is not of yourselves- it is a gift from God. Eph.2:8

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2024

Paul told the Galatians that they had been "bewitched" because they had accepted the false teaching that a work of the flesh ("work of the law") could produce a spiritual result in and of itself Gal.3:1. He reminded them that any miracle, any work of the Spirit, was the result of God's grace and sovereignty. Yet today we hear people promoting a superstitious doctrine of prayer "power" where praying is disgracefully held up to be the means by which we can coerce God into action on our behalf, or even worse—do "battle" with the powers of darkness! Prayer is one of the greatest privileges of God's grace and is the means by which we commune with Him in pouring out our hearts, presenting our requests, and stilling our spirits to hear His voice. A similar thing could be said about worship. Worship is presented by the superstitious as the means by which we advance the Kingdom and defeat the enemy, when in fact it was always meant to be about adoring God with no thought of the worshiper benefiting in any way!

Debating evil has little to do with faith, except knock it flat. We are ministers (servants), not philosophers. Our calling is compassion, prayer, faith and the Word.

Why should we take Jesus' teaching on prayer seriously?

Jesus is the Word of God^{Jn.1:1} who is also the Way, Truth and Life^{Jn.14:6}

The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you—they are full of the Spirit and life. Jn.6:63

Life is spiritual. Your physical existence doesn't contribute to that life. The words that I have spoken to you are spiritual. They are life.

The Holy Spirit gives life. The body means nothing at all. The words I have spoken to you are from the Spirit. They give life.

The Spirit can make life. Sheer muscle and willpower don't make anything happen. Every word I've spoken to you is a Spirit-word, and so it is life-making.

How can we apply Jesus' teaching on prayer to ourself?

Do it

Jesus answered them, "My mother and my brothers and sisters are those who listen to God's word and obey and practice it!" Lk.8:21

"Blessed is the mother who gave birth to you and nursed you." But Jesus said, "No, on the contrary, blessed are those who hear the word of God and obey, practice and keep it." Lk.11:27-28

Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do. Jas.1:22-25

How can we apply Jesus' teaching on prayer to our Church?

Should we change the format of our meetings?

We always give the opportunity for open prayer and for personal prayer but not many take the opportunity to pray audibly

Now, brothers, if I come to you and speak in tongues, what good will I be to you, unless I bring you some revelation or knowledge or prophecy or word of instruction? Even in the case of lifeless things that make sounds, such as the flute or harp, how will anyone know what tune is being played unless there is a distinction in the notes? Again, if the trumpet does not sound a clear call, who will get ready for battle? So it is with you. Unless you speak intelligible words with your tongue, how will anyone know what you are saying? You will just be speaking into the air.

Undoubtedly there are all sorts of languages in the world, yet none of them is without meaning. If then I do not grasp the meaning of what someone is saying, I am a foreigner to the speaker, and he is a foreigner to me. So it is with you. Since you are eager to have spiritual gifts, try to excel in gifts that build up the church. 1Cor.14:6-12

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2024

For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my mind is unfruitful. So what shall I do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will also pray with my mind; I will sing with my spirit, but I will also sing with my mind. If you are praising God with your spirit, how can one who finds himself among those who do not understand say “Amen” to your thanksgiving, since he does not know what you are saying? You may be giving thanks well enough, but the other man is not edified. 1 Cor. 14:14-17

10/01/2024

Psalm 95

Video Aren't We All Children of God_

Questions

How can we have a good journey through life?

Can a Christian love God half-heartedly?

How can we be sure we are zealous for the right things?

Is there a difference between happy and joy?

How can we “view everything in the mirror of eternity”?

Comments

How can we have a good journey through life?

Prosperity literally means to have a good journey

Dear friend, I pray that you may enjoy good health and that all may go well with you, even as your soul is getting along well. It gave me great joy to have some brothers come and tell about your faithfulness to the truth and how you continue to walk in the truth.^{3Jn.2-3}

A more literal translation is “I pray that in all respects you may prosper and be in good health, just as your soul prospers.” And the word “prosper” means “have a good journey”.

So John’s prayer was that we may have a good journey through life but that it would depend on our soul’s health!

That is why we need to take care of our soul and as our reading from the Psalms today reminds us, if we feel despondent, we should tell our soul to praise God and put our hope in Him:

Why are you downcast, O my soul? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God.^{Ps.42:5;11;43:5}

Praise is literally saying good and true words about God

Then they made signs to his father, to find out what he would like to name the child. He asked for a writing tablet, and to everyone's astonishment he wrote, “His name is John.” Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue set free, and he began to speak, praising [eulogéo] God.^{Lk.1:62-64} Eulogy = good word

The centurion, seeing what had happened, praised [doxázō] God and said, “Surely this was a righteous man.” Doxology = glory word

True prosperity is to be blessed and the greatest blessing is knowing our sins are forgiven

Now to the one who works, wages are not credited as a gift but as an obligation. However, to the one who does not work but trusts God who justifies the ungodly, their faith is credited as righteousness. David says the same thing when he speaks of the blessedness of the one to whom God credits righteousness apart from works: “Blessed are those whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. Blessed is the one whose sin the Lord will never count against them.”^{Rom.4:4-8}

Can a Christian love God half-heartedly?

Yes! But Jesus has some harsh words about them

Here is what I command you to write to the church in Laodicea. Here are the words of the One who is the Amen. What he gives witness to is faithful and true. He rules over what God has created. He says, ‘I know what you are doing. I know you aren't cold or hot. I wish you were either one or the other! But you are lukewarm. You aren't hot or cold. So I am going to spit you out of my mouth. You say, ‘I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.’ But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked. I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see. Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest and repent. Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me. To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I was victorious and sat down with my Father on his throne. Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches.^{3Jn.3:14-22}

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2024

Those who have been forgiven much, love much—and we have been forgiven everything!

“Two people owed money to a certain moneylender. One owed him five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. Neither of them had the money to pay him back, so he forgave the debts of both. Now which of them will love him more?” Simon replied, “I suppose the one who had the bigger debt forgiven.” “You have judged correctly,” Jesus said...

“Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven—as her great love has shown. But whoever has been forgiven little loves little.”^{Lk.7:41-47}

How can we be sure we are zealous for the right things?

We must base our zeal on knowledge not just on emotion or determination:

Brothers, my heart's desire and prayer to God for the Israelites is that they may be saved. For I can testify about them that they are zealous for God, but their zeal is not based on knowledge. Since they did not know the righteousness that comes from God and sought to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness. Christ is the end of the law so that there may be righteousness for everyone who believes.^{Rom.10:1-4}

If someone else thinks they have reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for righteousness based on the law, faultless. But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith.^{Phil3:4-9}

We base our knowledge on Scripture.

Our faith *“was once for all entrusted to the saints.”* Jude 3

Since our faith is defined by Scripture, and Scripture was given once for the benefit of all Christians, there are no hidden or lost manuscripts yet to be found, there are no secret books only familiar to a select few, and there are no people alive who have special revelation requiring us to go on a pilgrimage in order to be enlightened. God has not left us without a witness. The same supernatural power God used to produce His Word has also been used to preserve it.

See how I love your precepts; preserve my life, LORD, in accordance with your love. All your words are true; [Your instructions are totally reliable; The sum of your word is truth;] all your righteous laws are eternal.^{Ps.119:159-160}

After the books included in our NT were originally written they were in general use throughout the churches as were other books (similar to books of sermons, testimonies etc. of today.)

Soon an **accepted standard** needed to be recognised—a **CANON** (from Greek κανών kanōn, meaning "rule" or "measuring stick"). The standard or “measuring stick” used to measure or accept writing as Scripture was the **Inspiration** of the 27 books was the **standard** used

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.^{2Tim.3:16-17}

There are other writings from the apostles that were obviously inspirational but were not considered inspired and thus not included in Scripture

After this letter has been read to you, see that it is also read in the church of the Laodiceans and that you in turn read the letter from Laodicea.^{Col.4:16}

Inspiration was evaluated and demonstrated by these 3 ways:

1. **Intrinsic Content** All have the work and person of Jesus Christ as their central subject and are historically correct.

2. **Moral Effect** Transforms people for the good.

3. **Testimony** The Church had accepted them. This did not determine inspiration but merely recognised it.

a. **Internal Testimony:**

And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as a human word, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is indeed at work in you who

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2024

believe. 1Thes.2:13

Take special note of anyone who does not obey our instruction in this letter. Do not associate with them, in order that they may feel ashamed. Yet do not regard them as an enemy, but warn them as you would a fellow believer. 2Thes.3:14-15

Bear in mind that our Lord's patience means salvation, just as our dear brother Paul also wrote you with the wisdom that God gave him. He writes the same way in all his letters, speaking in them of these matters. His letters contain some things that are hard to understand, which ignorant and unstable people distort, as they do the other Scriptures, to their own destruction. 2Pet.3:15-16

b. External Testimony: Early Church Fathers: *Clement* cAD95 makes allusions to 1Cor. Rom. & Matt.; *Ignatius* cAD116 knew of all Paul's letters & quoted Matt.; *Polycarp* cAD150 knew Paul's letters, Matt. & Acts and quoted from 1Pet. & 1Jn.;

Note: The writings of Scripture were canonical at the moment they were written. Scripture was Scripture when the pen touched the parchment. This is very important because Christianity does not start by defining God, or Jesus Christ, or salvation—the basis of Christianity is found in the authority of Scripture. If we cannot identify what Scripture is, then we cannot properly distinguish any theological truth from error.

Apollos taught others enthusiastically:

Apollos had been taught the way of the Lord, and he taught others about Jesus with an enthusiastic spirit and with accuracy. ^{Acts.18:25}

But if we don't serve God with enthusiasm we will end up oppressed, suppressed and depressed!

If you do not serve the LORD your God with joy and enthusiasm for the abundant benefits you have received, you will serve your enemies whom the LORD will send against you. You will be left hungry, thirsty, naked, and lacking in everything. ^{Deut.28:47-48}

Is there a difference between happy and joy?

Happy usually refers to feeling good because of circumstances whereas joy is not dependant on external situations but an internal peace and contentment. The joy of the bubbling out of God's presence within us

On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them." By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified. Jn.7:37-39

In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed. Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls. 1Pet.1:6-9

Our mouths were filled with laughter, our tongues with songs of joy. Then it was said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them." The LORD has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy. Ps.126:2-3

The jailer brought them into his house and set a meal before them; he was filled with joy because he had come to believe in God—he and his whole household. Acts.16:34

The word of the Lord spread through the whole region. But the Jewish leaders incited the God-fearing women of high standing and the leading men of the city. They stirred up persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and expelled them from their region. So they shook the dust off their feet as a warning to them and went to Iconium. And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit. Acts.13:49-52

How can we "view everything in the mirror of eternity"?

Keep our minds on spiritual matters and especially Jesus

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2024

Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Col.3:1-4

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. Heb.12:1-3

My eyes are ever on the LORD, for only he will release my feet from the snare. Ps.25:15

we do this through meditating (pondering) on what God has said (the Scriptures), singing praises to God (especially Scripture—and the Psalms are a great way so long as you see them through the death and resurrection of Jesus) and also through giving thanks to God.

Instead, be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Eph.5:18-20

03/01/2024

Psalm 94

Questions

What is God's purpose for us?

Can a Christian's physical life be completely free from hardship?

Can a Christian's spiritual life be comfortable and enjoyable?

How can we become more spiritual?

Why is it important to partake in Church activities

What does it mean to be "anointed"?

Why should we be careful what we say and do?

Comments

What is God's purpose for us?

God's eternal purpose for us is to be saved:

Your Father in heaven is not willing that any of these little ones should perish.^{Matt. 18:14}

He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.^{2Pet. 3:9}

He has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time, but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Saviour, Christ Jesus.^{Tim. 1:9-10}

God's purpose for us is to enter His rest:

God's promise that we may enter his place of rest still stands. We are afraid that some of you think you won't enter his place of rest. We have heard the same Good News that your ancestors heard. But the message didn't help those who heard it in the past because they didn't believe... Therefore, a time of rest and worship exists for God's people. Those who entered his place of rest also rested from their work as God did from his. So we must make every effort to enter that place of rest. Then no one will be lost by following the example of those who refused to obey. God's word is living and active. It is sharper than any two-edged sword and cuts as deep as the place where soul and spirit meet, the place where joints and marrow meet. God's word judges a person's thoughts and intentions.^{Heb. 4:1-12}

God's purpose for us is to see His wisdom displayed when we meet together

God's purpose in all this was to use the church to display his wisdom in its rich variety to all the unseen rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was his eternal plan, which he carried out through Christ Jesus our Lord. Because of Christ and our faith in him, we can now come boldly and confidently into God's presence.^{Eph. 3:10-12}

Can a Christian's physical life be completely free from hardship?

No! We are still living under the result of Adam's sin, life will be toilsome until our bodies return to the ground.

You will have to work hard and sweat a lot to produce the food you eat. You were made out of the ground. And you will return to it. You are dust. So you will return to it.^{Gen. 3:19}

I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.^{Rom. 8:18-25}

Jesus promised trouble

"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."^{Jn. 16:33}

Look at Paul's life

I have worked much harder, been in prison more frequently, been flogged more severely, and been exposed to death

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2024

again and again. Five times I received from the Jews the forty lashes minus one. Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was pelted with stones, three times I was shipwrecked, I spent a night and a day in the open sea, I have been constantly on the move. I have been in danger from rivers, in danger from bandits, in danger from my fellow Jews, in danger from Gentiles; in danger in the city, in danger in the country, in danger at sea; and in danger from false believers. I have laboured and toiled and have often gone without sleep; I have known hunger and thirst and have often gone without food; I have been cold and naked. Besides everything else, I face daily the pressure of my concern for all the churches. Who is weak, and I do not feel weak? Who is led into sin, and I do not inwardly burn? 2Cor.11:23-29

James said we should expect trouble

Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. Jas.1:2-4

Brothers, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. As you know, we consider blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job's perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy. Jas.6:11

Peter said we should expect trouble

Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed. If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. If you suffer, it should not be as a murderer or thief or any other kind of criminal, or even as a meddler. However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name. 1Pet.4:12-16

So did Eliphaz

Hard times don't just grow out of the soil. Trouble doesn't jump out of the ground. People are born to have trouble. And that's just as sure as sparks fly up. Job.5:6-7

And Solomon

What does a man get for all of his hard work on earth? What does he get for all of his worries? As long as he lives, his work is nothing but pain and sorrow. Even at night his mind can't rest. That doesn't have any meaning either. Eccl.2:22-23

Should a Christian's spiritual life be comfortable and enjoyable?

Yes! Our spiritual life should be enjoyable and invigorating, never tiresome or wearisome—we can find rest for our souls!

Then Jesus said, "Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle at heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy to bear, and the burden I give you is light." Matt.11:28-30

If our soul is at rest, then the whole of our life will be well—but this is dependent on walking in the truth.

Dear friend, I pray that you may enjoy good health and that all may go well with you, even as your soul is getting along well. [I hope all is well with you and that you are as healthy in body as you are strong in spirit.] It gave me great joy to have some brothers come and tell about your faithfulness to the truth and how you continue to walk in the truth. 3Jn.2-3

In God's presence is great joy

For we know, brothers and sisters loved by God, that he has chosen you, because our gospel came to you not simply with words but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and deep conviction. You know how we lived among you for your sake. You became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you welcomed the message in the midst of severe suffering with the joy given by the Holy Spirit. And so you became a model to all the believers in Macedonia and Achaia. 1Thess.1:4-7

Therefore, brothers, in all our distress and persecution we were encouraged about you because of your faith. For now we really live, since you are standing firm in the Lord. How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy we have in the presence of our God because of you? 1Thess.3:7-9

David said about him: "I saw the Lord always before me. Because he is at my right hand, I will not be shaken. Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will live in hope, because you will not abandon me to

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2024

the grave, nor will you let your Holy One see decay. You have made known to me the paths of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence.' Acts.2:25-28

We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. We write this to make our joy complete. 1Jn.1:3-4

You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has set you above your companions by anointing you with the oil of joy." Heb.1:9

How can we become more spiritual?

We can't become more spiritual but we can become more mature

Within Christianity, there is not an elite group of people who have more access to God than others, or are who more "spiritual" than others—all Christians have equal access to God through Jesus.

God our Savior wants all people to be saved and to learn the truth. There is one God. There is also one mediator between God and humans—a human, Christ Jesus. He sacrificed himself for all people to free them from their sins.

This message is valid for every era. ^{1Tim.2:4-6}

Christians are born-again of God's Holy Spirit and so they are intrinsically spiritual.

Jesus answered, "What I'm about to tell you is true. No one can enter God's kingdom without being born through water and the Holy Spirit. People give birth to people. But the Spirit gives birth to spirit. You should not be surprised when I say, 'You must all be born again.' The wind blows where it wants to. You hear the sound it makes. But you can't tell where it comes from or where it is going. It is the same with everyone who is born through the Spirit." Jn.3:5-8

I will give them a single purpose and put a new spirit in them. I will remove their stubborn hearts and give them obedient hearts. Then they will live by my laws and obey my rules. They will be my people, and I will be their God. ^{Ezek.11:19-20}

Christians have already been blessed with every spiritual blessing in Christ Jesus.

Give praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. He has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. Those blessings come from the heavenly world. They belong to us because we belong to Christ. God chose us to belong to Christ before the world was created. He chose us to be holy and without blame in his eyes. He loved us. So he decided long ago to adopt us as his children. He did it because of what Jesus Christ has done. It pleased God to do it. All those things bring praise to his glorious grace. God freely gave us his grace because of the One he loves. We have been set free because of what Christ has done. Through his blood our sins have been forgiven. We have been set free because God's grace is so rich. He poured his grace on us by giving us great wisdom and understanding. ^{Eph.1:3-8}

Maturity is developed

The seed that fell among thorns stands for those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by life's worries, riches and pleasures, and they do not mature. But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop. Lk.8:14-15

We do, however, speak a message of wisdom among the mature, but not the wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. No, we declare God's wisdom, a mystery that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began. 1Cor.2:6-7

So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. Eph.4:11-14

Why is it important to partake in Church activities

Church is a life-boat not a pleasure-boat—we are all called to be workers not spectators.

Church is the fellowship of Believers and fellowship means participation and partnership

And so when we come together as Church, we should include everyone—which we do by singing our hymns together, by reading God's Word together, by praying together and saying "Amen" at the end of our prayers, by having our Bible Study and discussing what we have learnt from the Scriptures.

The evidence of the Spirit's presence [manifestation of the Spirit] is given to each person for the common good of

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2024

everyone... All of you together are Christ's body, and each of you is a part of it.^{1Cor.12:7;27}

So it is with you. Since you are eager to have spiritual gifts, try to excel in gifts that build up the church...

When you come together, everyone has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation.

All of these must be done for the strengthening of the church.^{1Cor.14:12;26}

Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.^{Eph.4:15-16}

What does it mean to be “anointed”?

To be anointed means to be filled, immersed, equipped and empowered with the Holy Spirit.

“Christ” means “Anointed One” and so Christians are “anointed”.

“Mountains of Gilboa, may you have neither dew nor rain, may no showers fall on your terraced fields. For there the shield of the mighty was despised, the shield of Saul—no longer rubbed with oil.^{2Sam.1:21}

Get up, you officers, oil the shields!^{Is.21:5}

In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.^{Eph.6:16}

In fact, this is love for God: to keep his commands. And his commands are not burdensome, for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world? Only the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.^{1Jn.5:3-5}

Christians have the anointing of God in the Person of the Holy Spirit and the Presence of the Holy Spirit.

As for you, the anointing you received from him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about all things and as that anointing is real, not counterfeit—just as it has taught you, remain in him... But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and all of you know the truth. I do not write to you because you do not know the truth, but because you do know it and because no lie comes from the truth.^{1Jn.2:20-27}

Jesus words were anointed i.e. they were greater than just mere words—they were spiritual words and communicated life:

Life is spiritual. Your physical existence doesn't contribute to that life. The words that I have spoken to you are spiritual. They are life.^{Jn.6:63}

Our words carry an anointing: they have spiritual power and spiritual life. Paul's impartation to Timothy was an impartation of life that was eternal:

I have been reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also. For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline.^{2Tim.1:5-7}

The anointing breaks the yoke:

It shall come to pass in that day that his burden will be taken away from your shoulder and his yoke from your neck, and the yoke will be destroyed because of the anointing oil.^{Is.10:27}

In that day their burden will be lifted from your shoulders, their yoke from your neck; the yoke will be broken because you have grown so fat.

Why should we be careful what we say and do?

We represent Christ

Therefore, we are Christ's representatives, and through us God is calling you. We beg you on behalf of Christ to become reunited with God.^{2Cor.5:20}

Who is wise and understanding among you? Let them show it by their good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom.^{Jas.3:13}

Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul. Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us. Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human authority: whether to the

Deal Pentecostal Church Bible Studies 2024

emperor, as the supreme authority, or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right. For it is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish people. Live as free people, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as God's slaves. Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers, fear God, honour the emperor. 1Pet.2:11-17

We impart life with our words and that life is eternal so never give up on those you have prayed for, or you have spoken to:

No word from God will ever fail [no word from God is void of power]. Lk.2:37

We should take every opportunity to use the legacy of God's Word that we have within our hearts to sustain weary people:

The Sovereign LORD has given me an instructed tongue, to know the word that sustains the weary. He wakens me morning by morning, wakens my ear to listen like one being taught. The Sovereign LORD has opened my ears. Is.50:4-5