

Plain Path

Weekly newsletter of the Fry Road church of Christ

Sunday, February 23, 2014

Volume 19, Number 8

“Teach me thy way, O Lord, and lead me in a plain path... Wait on the Lord; be of good courage, and He shall strengthen thine heart” (Psalm 27:11-14)

SOMETIMES YOU MUST LET IT HURT

by Bob Pulliam

Dentists aren't my favorite sort of people. They have sharp instruments that they stick inside your mouth. I guess you might say they are a "necessary evil." Dental hygienists don't do much for me either. They may not use the needles, but those picky-probe-scraper-teeth things really get next to me. But having said all that, let me point out that I visit one every three months. That's right! Every ninety days. What they sometimes do to my teeth and gums

seems like torture, and yet, I know that the alternative is to lose my teeth. If I wanted to take a short sighted view, I could go in once a year. After all, some people have teeth that only need that once a year visit.

I once went to a dentist who had a "great" hygienist filling in for the regular. She told me how good everything looked, and how there just wasn't much tartar, etc... What I liked most was that she did very little scraping and picking. She had my vote... until

I went in for my next visit and a really good hygienist found what she left behind. No wonder I had started having trouble in the meantime. Sometimes, the hurting isn't bad

(Hurt, continued on pg 2...)

TAKE HEED...

by Bob Pulliam

“Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.” (1 Timothy 4:16)

Have you ever thought that maybe some folks just pay too much attention to doctrine when it comes to religion? It's not uncommon for people to draw that conclusion, especially in our day and age.

Paul told Timothy to “Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine.” Taking heed to the doctrine will involve time and energy on Timothy's part. Now perhaps you think that this was only for Timothy's benefit. Read on... Paul said that in doing this he would save both himself and those who **heard** him. Did you

(Heed, continued on pg 2...)

V.B.S. Countdown Schedule

(for Teachers *and* helpers/volunteers)

March 29 - Workday
April 26 - Workday
May 17 - Workday
June 23-26 V.B.S.

Each work session
is scheduled for
10:00 AM

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(Heed, continued from pg 1...)

catch that? Timothy was supposed to be teaching doctrine. But more than that. Salvation is connected with the idea of hearing doctrine.

When it comes to salvation, hearing is of vital importance. Here is what Luke wrote about the day of Pentecost in Acts 2: "And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, 'Be saved from this perverse generation.' Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them. And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers." (Acts 2:40-42) The word was received. The angel

who appeared to Cornelius told him to send for Peter who would speak unto him **word** whereby he would be saved (Acts 11:14). James urged his readers to receive the ingrafted word which was able to save their souls (Jms 1:21).

Doctrine is teaching (any Bible subject applies), and salvation requires it's plain, simple presen-

tation that faith and obedience might result. Faith comes by hearing God's word (Rom 10:17), and without faith it is impossible to please Him (Heb 11:6). Our acceptable service to God depends on our taking heed to ourselves and the doctrine. Our souls are at stake, but also, the souls of others depends on it as well! 



The balance of Effort and Benefit

by Bob Pulliam

I know that this print is awfully small. It's six point type size, and it's down right difficult to read! If you like you can get a magnifying glass to help you through it. Just be assured that, not only does this article have a purpose, so also does the size of the print. So if you must, you may get someone to read it to you. Just bear with me while I make my point (pardon the pun).

As your eyeballs converge and blur with effort, consider the worth of the work being exerted to read this article. Are you reading it because it is so small? Did it stir your curiosity in an irresistible way? Are you reading it only because someone else could not read it, and so you are reading it to them? You must have a reason. I hope that it's because you believe a benefit will be involved. And rest assured, you will receive such before your eyeballs shut down from fatigue.

Here's the point. And I believe it is worthwhile. We may expend our effort on things which are either curious, necessitated by the requests of others, or out of a realization of worth. And we usually weigh the effort against the benefit (satisfaction of curiosity, concern for another, benefit received). If the effort is too much, we simply will not put forth the effort. You have read to this point, and therefore I would conclude that you have weighed the benefit out to overcome the inconvenience of the effort. Thus you are willing to do what you need to do to find out what this article says.

How does the Bible weigh out for you? Does the benefit of Bible study outweigh the television, a romance novel, a movie, recreation, etc...? How much effort are you willing to endure in Bible study before the benefit you perceive to be waiting is overcome? Would you have even read this much of your Bible if it were printed this small?... or at least found someone to read it to you? And what about attending services. If you don't see enough benefit, you won't make the effort. It's all about our perception; the way we view the things of God. Do we take them lightly, or give them the weight they deserve?



THIS WEEK'S DAILY BIBLE READINGS

NEW TESTAMENT READING

MATTHEW 11 - 13

February 23 - 25

OLD TESTAMENT READING

GENESIS 21 - 27

February 26 - March 1

I TIMOTHY 4:13

(Hurt, continued from pg 1...)

— it's actually good (and it kinda hurts to admit that).

Have you ever had someone tell you that you're wrong?... Maybe that you're not serving the Lord right? It might have hurt. It probably made you a little angry. Your first reaction is to defend yourself. You might go to your preacher and ask him how to answer any arguments that were used. But stop and think. What if

you **are** wrong? What if this person who **seems** to be attacking you is actually trying to **save** you? What if you may be happy in your error now, but will suffer eternally for it when this life is over? Hmmmmmm...

By the way, I never let that fill-in "great" hygienist in work in my mouth again. She may not have "hurt" me, but the result hurt far worse! 

"Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?; unless indeed you are disqualified." (II Corinthians 13:5)

FAMILY NEWS & NOTES

News and Notes of Interest
to Fry Road Members

Because of the large number of visitors to our services, we would ask those wishing to identify with the congregation to do so by expressing this interest directly to the elders.

Upcoming Meetings & Events:

Gospel Meeting (Steve Wolfgang) V.B.S. ("We Would See Jesus")
April 13 - 16, 2014 June 23 - 26, 2014

Annual Singing September 20, 2014
Gospel Meeting (Joseph Casimier) September 7 - 10, 2014

Sick and Shut-Ins

Sections have been removed to preserve member's privacy

Sermons:

Next Sunday:

Arrows That Never Miss
Their Mark

Tonight:

When People Won't Believe



"Stand by the ways and see and ask for the ancient paths, Where the good way is, and walk in it ..." (Jeremiah 6:16)

This admonition to ancient Israel is a worthy motto for every generation. Every generation has a tendency to think that they have a better grasp of reality, and feel more competent than those that have gone before. As a result, there is a tendency to change the previous order, thinking that progress is under way. But what we fail to realize is that the previous generations did not establish the direction that is right in religion. Later, Jeremiah said, "I know, O Lord, that a man's way is not in himself; Nor is it in a man who walks to direct his steps." (Jer 10:23)

But the text we began with says that there are ancient *paths*. That would seem to indicate that many paths are acceptable, but that is not the point. Israel was told to *ask* for the ancient paths because "the good way" may be found there. When you find that good way, you are to walk in it. It's not uncommon to find ways that *seem* right (Prov 14:12).

This week, find statements by Jesus, Paul, and Peter that bear on this subject. Each of them expressed the truth about finding God's way. Share your list with family, and don't be surprised if there were scriptures you didn't think of!

FOR THE RECORD

WEEKLY ASSIGNMENTS

MONTHLY ASSIGNMENTS

Sections have been removed to preserve member's privacy

IN KEEPING WITH OUR LONG STANDING AGREEMENT, THOSE SERVING PUBLICLY ARE REMINDED TO PLEASE DRESS IN A MANNER RESPECTFUL OF THE GOD WHOM WE SERVE.

ELDERS:

Ruben Amador
Matthew Heaton
Donnie Mangrum
Steve Voss



DEACONS:

John Coleman	Ken Dunsmore
David Ellison	Ray Farrell
Aubrey Garner	Steve Geraci
Steve LaGrasta	John Light
Steven Martin	Mike McMurray
Jason Mock	David Stevenson
Glenn Tomblin	

TIMES OF SERVICES

Sunday Bible Classes	9:30 AM
Sunday Morning Assembly	10:30 AM
Sunday Evening Assembly	6:00 PM
Wednesday Bible Classes	7:30 PM

EVANGELIST & EDITOR:

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