

Plain Path

Weekly newsletter of the Fry Road church of Christ

Sunday, August 17, 2014

Volume 19, Number 33

“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)

DRIVING OUT THE ENEMY

by Bob Pulliam

When the Israelites left the land of Egypt, they were promised the possession of Canaan. The Israelites were told that they would have to drive out the inhabitants of the land, and not make any covenant with them (Ex 23:31 - 33). As we read about the fulfillment in the book of Judges, we

notice disobedience on the part of the Israelites. They made covenants (put them under tribute) with the inhabitants (Jgs 1:27 - 33). Judges chapter two relates the coming of the Angel of the Lord to convict the people of their error and tell them the consequences (2:1 - 3). The Angel of the Lord said of the Canaanites,

“they shall be thorns in your side, and their gods shall be a snare to you.” Two future problems are enumerated: the people themselves, and their gods. Surely there is a lesson here for us today.

Beware of Their “Gods”...

The people who were allowed to remain among the Israelites worshiped false gods, and the Israelites fell prey to the common practice of Idolatry. God warned of it over and over, giving the ultimate penalty for it's practice; and yet the people did it anyway.

There are false gods today. “Gods” because they are followed, coveted, and worshiped by people. Money, fame, power, pleasure, and possessions all have a “god-like” status in the minds of people who worship them. It is easy to give one or more of these first priority in our lives. Anything placed before the God of heaven becomes a false god in the mind of the individual. If we

(Enemy, continued on pg 2...)

Gospel Meeting

Is it on your calendar?

September 7 - 10

The main thrust of this meeting will be reaching out to, and saving the lost.

Our Theme: Forgiveness Comes by Turning to God

Our speaker will be Joseph Casimier

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(Double-Talk, continued from pg 1...)

want to serve God then we must follow the prescription of Paul: "If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth." (Col 3:1 & 2) This leaves little room for the pursuit of riches or glory. Putting it in Jesus' words, "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness..." (Mt 6:33).

How many set out to reach the promised land today, but never really drive the enemy out of their lives. They allow idolatry (covetousness - Col 3:5) to remain in their lives, which keeps them from possessing the promised prize.

Beware of The People...

The Israelites allowed the Canaanites to remain in the land. Before long they were causing trouble for the Israelites. At times we allow people into our friendships that we shouldn't. People who are constantly exerting an influence for evil should be avoided if efforts to change them have failed. Certainly, none of us are perfect; but companionship which will not allow us to be our best should be shunned if possible. Paul wrote: "Do not be deceived: Evil company corrupts good habits." (I Cor 15:33)

Today, the company we keep may not always be personal. Movies, television and radio are company to a lot of peopl. The company kept depends on the person buying the tickets, working the remote control, or turning the tuner; and with such in mind we should remember that "evil company corrupts good habits." I've heard many members of the church tell me, "I watch it; but I don't do those things!" These aren't paying attention to Paul as he writes, "Do not be deceived". Paul also wrote: "And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them. For it is shameful

even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret." (Eph 5:11 & 12)

Paul said it is shameful, but it's alright for us to laugh at those situations in a movie or on TV? How is that again? Is it shameful to speak about, but not shameful to be entertained by it? We need to pay attention to righteousness as we choose our company (even if it is a movie or a song on the radio).

Conclusion...

God called for the Israelites to drive out their enemies and destroy them, making no covenant with them. The Israelites didn't and it cost them peace and happiness.

God has called for us to drive out distractions and unrighteousness from our lives. Give Him first priority over every other "god" that draws you away. Keep yourself from influences that entice and lure you from the only true and living God. God has promised us the heavenly promised land. Drive out the enemy! Conquer your life and the forces around it that you may please the only God who can give you the everlasting prize.



"Therefore, let us fear lest, while a promise remains of entering His rest, any one of you should seem to have come short of it."

(Hebrews 4:1)



Something to Think About...

God is never further than a prayer away.

THIS WEEK'S DAILY BIBLE READINGS

NEW TESTAMENT READING

ACTS 25 - 28

August 17 - 19

OLD TESTAMENT READING

JOSHUA 17 - 24

August 20 - 23

I TIMOTHY 4:13

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:

Annual Singing
September 6, 2014

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

Sick and Shut-Ins

Sections have been removed to preserve members' privacy

Sermons:

Next Sunday:

Great Bible Preachers
(Part One)

Tonight:

Choices
(Joshua 24)

"...I was sick, and you visited me..."
Matthew 25:36



"... they served other gods."
(Joshua 24:2)

It might surprise you to know that Abraham was in that number of "they" in the passage above. So why would God choose Abraham if he had worshiped other gods? We forget that God never calls because a person is perfect. Make a list of Bible characters who were less than perfect, who were blessed by God's wondrous grace. You might begin with Paul...

Ladies' Class

A special Ladies' Class will meet on the 17th and 24th of August before Sunday evening services (5:00 - 5:45 PM). The study will be on Two Remarkable Women of God (Rahab and Esther). If you can attend, please sign up on the sheet in the foyer. This will allow us to print up an adequate amount of class material.

Address...

FOR THE RECORD

WEEKLY ASSIGNMENTS

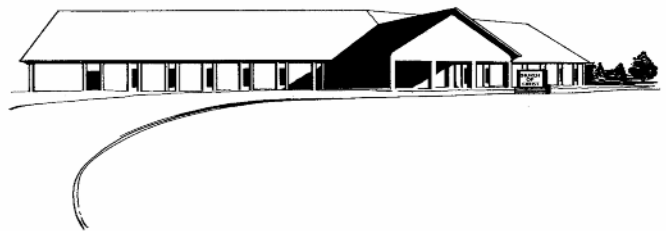
MONTHLY ASSIGNMENTS

Sections have been removed to preserve members' 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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