

Plain Path

Weekly newsletter of the Fry Road church of Christ

Sunday, July 6, 2014

Volume 19, Number 27

“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)

THE HOPE SET BEFORE US

by Bob Pulliam

The author of Hebrews speaks of hope as something that has been set before us. “...we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us.” (Heb 6:18b) Two words are closely associated with hope in this passage. The first is *consolation*, and the second *refuge*. Hope, for us, should possess both of these attributes. Of course, such is not necessarily automatic. We must have faith before

we can have hope. If I do not believe the promises of God as strongly as I should, how will I have the hope that is to be associated with them? A continual study of God’s word, along with prayer, will help us in this area.

But what of the *consolation* and *refuge* of help for those who truly believe? Consolation carries the idea of comforting and encouraging. Refuge refers to a safe haven from danger or an enemy. The hope that

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From Gracious Words to Wrath

by Bob Pulliam

One of the interesting things about people is how fast their minds can be changed. We are quite fickle. A good example of this can be found in an incident at the beginning of Jesus’ earthly ministry. After He quoted Isaiah, and applied the words to His ministry, Luke said, “So all bore witness to Him, and marveled at the gracious words which proceeded out of His mouth. And they said, ‘Is this not Joseph’s son?’” (Lk 4:22) But from admiration they went to wrath, for Luke later wrote, “So all those in the synagogue, when they heard these things, were filled with wrath,” (Lk 4:28). What happened? All Jesus had done in the meantime was talk about Elijah, Elisha, and faith. Good ole Old Testament preaching.

But look more closely. Jesus pointed out two gentiles and how they were the only one’s to whom these prophets were sent. He didn’t

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Gospel Meeting

July 12 & 13

Saturday at 5:30 PM - Singing
Saturday at 6:00 PM - Evening Worship
Sunday at 9:30 AM - Bible Study
Sunday at 10:30 AM - Morning Worship
Sunday at 6:00 PM - Evening Worship

Our speaker will be Rick Moore

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is set before us has both of these attributes. Nowhere is this better seen than in what Paul wrote to the Romans. For example, “What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? Who shall bring a charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies. Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.” (Rom 8:31-34). What a refuge! What a hope! To know that God stands ready to defend us against condemnation. How do I know this? It is He who justified me to begin with. Would He give His Son

as a sacrifice, and then abandon the very process of redemption that He set in motion? Certainly not! Going on in the text (vv 35-39), Paul rises to the most eloquent of affirmations made regarding the love of God and our relation to it.

Should I have cause for doubts

and discouragements? Perhaps I will fall prey on a momentary basis. But with the word of God as my guide, I find that I have a savior and a refuge, and that I will live eternally with my God. That is true consolation... That is hope!



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say anything that was not true, but they didn’t want to hear what He had to say. They didn’t expect the coming Messiah to say things in rebuke of His own people. They wanted soothing words. And this is one of the biggest problems people in general have. Not just then, but also now. Israel had it bad in the Old Testament. Isaiah said, “Who say to the seers, ‘Do not see,’ And to the prophets, ‘Do not prophesy to us right things; Speak to us smooth things, prophesy deceits.’” (Isa 30:10).

People today have this same problem. They want sermons to be like a classroom experience where

no one is rebuked or criticized. They think of “doctrine” as an optional aspect of religion, not realizing that the word “doctrine” means *teaching*. Everything in scripture is *doctrine*, whether it is the essentiality of baptism, or the resurrection of Jesus. Why do people have this problem with the scriptures? They are exactly like those described by the Lord to Jeremiah:

“So they come to you as people do, they sit before you as My people, and they hear your words, but they do not do them; for with their mouth

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To get your digital class material:



Our third quarter class material on Premillennialism is available on Kindle. If you would like a Kindle copy, you can download “The Kingdom of the Messiah”. It is **free today only** (Amazon rarely allows authors to make their books free on a permanent basis). Here’s how:



Google search: “amazon.com: bob pulliam: kindle store”

Select the first search result (non-advertisement) that comes up. You should now be on my “Amazon Bookshelf”. “The Kingdom of the Messiah” will be our 3rd quarter study. Select it; make sure you’ve selected where you want it sent; click “buy” (price should be \$0.00). You can also get “Sound in the Faith” today for free. It is my “new convert” class study, but makes an excellent review for anyone. These can also be read on tablets.

THIS WEEK'S DAILY BIBLE READINGS

NEW TESTAMENT READING

ACTS 1 - 4

July 6 - 8

OLD TESTAMENT READING

DEUTERONOMY 6 - 13

July 9 - 12

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:

Gospel Meeting (Rick Moore)
July 12 - 13, 2014

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:

Gospel Meeting With
Rick Moore

Tonight:

"This Life"

Baptized...

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they show much love, but their hearts pursue their own gain. Indeed you are to them as a very lovely song of one who has a pleasant voice and can play well on an instrument; for they hear your words, but they do not do them."

(Ezekiel 33:31f)

Scriptures are a very lovely song, but all too often people do not want to do them. It becomes, for them, nothing more than an academic exercise. It becomes nothing more than a song.

Paul wrote of these, "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables." (II Tim 4:3f) We can see itching ears all around us. They do not recognize the serious consequences to be attached to the gospel. "Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are well known to God, and I also trust are well known in your consciences." (II Cor 5:11) There is more to God than just grace, mercy, love, peace, joy and hope. He is just, and a consuming fire (Heb 12:28f). He will punish those who do not serve Him according to the will of the Father (Mt 7:21ff). Does this sound strange to you? It is in your Bible!

We must beware lest we also develop the itch that is so common to mankind. People don't know when they have the itch if they aren't paying attention. So often we can see the problem in others, but we miss it in ourselves. That is why we must continually examine ourselves (II Cor 13:5). Remember, people are fickle, and we are people...



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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