

Our Prayer List

Health

- ◆ Sarah Adams
- ◆ Chestine Akers
- ◆ Dawn Copes
- ◆ Bill Cyrus
- ◆ Dottie Daniels
- ◆ Kimberly Daniels
- ◆ Ann Egan
- ◆ Tom & LaVonne Haines
- ◆ Keith Hodges
- ◆ Beulah Keppler
- ◆ Bob Meiers
- ◆ Gaylin Miller
- ◆ Liz Miller
- ◆ Mike Miller
- ◆ Janice Ortman
- ◆ Hallie & Don Phillips
- ◆ Fay Runyon
- ◆ Cora Shrake
- ◆ Rene Whitaker
- ◆ Mark Young
- ◆ Shirley Young
- ◆ Geco "Hannah's Aunt"

Encouragement

- ◆ Bill Copes
- ◆ Don Craig
- ◆ Matt Wood

Order of Service

Morning

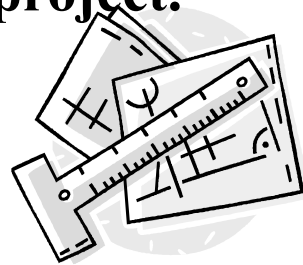
Song Leader	Bob Whitaker
Prayer	Don Phillips
Table	Doug Cyrus
Assist	Eric Whitaker
Assist	Jerry Witt
Assist	Arnold Miller
Lesson	Shawn Daniels
Prayer	Jerry Witt

Evening

Song Leader	Eric Whitaker
Prayer	Bob Calvert
Lesson	Shawn Daniels
Prayer	Don Craig

From Ogden Biblical Recourses
Thought for the Day, www.aogden.com

**To compromise
the standard is
foolish in any
project.**



This Morning Sermon

**"Some Truths About
Truth"**

(John 18:38) "What is truth?"

(1 Cor 1:10) "Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment."

Weekly
Memory
Verse



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"...these two exceptions make partial obedience complete disobedience."

Samuel says, "No!" Saul came back from this triumphant victory and with a heart of joy exclaimed to Samuel, "Blessed are you of the Lord! I have performed the commandment of the Lord." (1 Sam 15:13) Saul truly thought that he obeyed the commandment of God. Samuel inquires, "What then is this bleating of the sheep in my ears, and the lowing of the oxen which I hear?" (1 Sam 15:14) "Why then did you not obey the voice of the Lord? Why did you swoop down on the spoil, and do evil in the sight of the Lord?" (1 Sam 15:19)

In not fully being obedient, Saul did not fulfill the commandment of God. You can not almost obey God. Either you do what God commands or you don't. It's as simple as that. Saul obeyed every command of God except for two excep-

tions. Yet these two exceptions make partial obedience complete disobedience.

Saul didn't like this verdict. He tried to argue with the prophet of God by proclaiming that he did obey God; he did go down and destroyed Amalek, and the 'trophies' that they brought back were for the purpose of sacrifice to God.

Not only did Saul not truly obey God, he added to God's word by supposing that God wanted this worship rather than completely fulfilling God's commands. This does not bring honor to God. Honor is given when we keep his commandments.

Let us apply this to our lives today. Are we being completely obedient to the commands of God? Are we being arrogant as Saul was by thinking he can take the commands of God and do what he wants with them? Are we influenced, as he was (1 Sam. 15:24), by the majority around us. God warns us, "Thou shalt not follow a multitude to do evil; neither shalt thou speak in a cause to decline after many to wrest judgment." (Ex 23:2)

We need to resolve to fully keep the commandments of God as he has given it to us through His word. In doing so, we can know that we can have a place in glory when this life is over. Jesus says, "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven." (Matt 7:21)

GSD



Anvil Sparks

By: RL Whiteside

Much falsehood lies wrapped up in the old sayings. For instance: "Honesty is the best policy." But honesty is not a "policy"; it is a principle. There is no such thing as honesty for policy's sake.

God buried beneath the mass of human creeds and spiritual Zion divided into warring factions. But a remnant remained true, and set out to restore spiritual Zion and rebuild its walls. Here the work of Zerrubbabel, Nehemiah and Ezra finds its spiritual counterpart. As the departure was gradual, so must be the return; and as the old wall was rebuilt and repaired at the points where it was broken down, so we do not seek to make a creed, build a church, or create a denomination, but to restore the original New Testament church by returning to the original doctrine and practice.

There were, and yet are, many places where the walls are broken clown, but the task can be completed with the same elements of success that gave to Nehemiah and his coadjutors victory. Faith, courage, consecration, sacrifice, unity and perseverance were those elements. Nothing short of that can bring the work to its consummation today. It is an achievement of unity. Unity within brought victory over enemies without. Mutiny within delayed the work and threatened to defeat

Article taken from “The Gospel Guardian” June 1936

Word’s From a Biblical Point of View continue from page 3

age by us in nothing. For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death.” (2 Cor 7:8-10) Notice that he didn’t regret making them sorrowful, even though he felt sympathy for them. The reason why he didn’t feel regretful is because “godly sorrow worketh repentance.” We see that repentance comes after godly sorrow. Godly sorrow is needful. It motivates us to repentance, but it isn’t repentance.

Some may say that repentance is a change in actions, but this also fails to completely tell us of repentance. This jumps ahead of repentance because John

it wholly. Christians must stand united if the walls of Zion are to be rebuilt, doctrinally and spiritually united. Not in a union of incongruous, discordant elements but in the oneness for which the Lord prayed oneness in the truth. We are sanctified in the truth and without it there is no sanctification, no matter what may be the appearances of piety or the pretensions of humility, or the manifestations of love.

When the task is done God’s people must be one. The prayer of Jesus for unity in the truth must be respected. The church must be exalted above men and their parties. God’s word must be elevated to a place above opinions and creeds. Those who enter the church must do so under the conviction of gospel preaching and not under the spell of an over-much persuasion or meaningless propositioning, just as they entered it under the preaching of the Apostles. There must be no denominational barriers nor “doctrinal defections,” but Christian unity. The walls of Jerusalem will then have been restored. Lord hasten the day!

FEW jr.

the Baptist says that a change in character is fruits of repentance. (Luke 3:8-14) This character change comes as a result of repentance, but it’s not repentance.

Repentance is simply defined as a change of mind. Repent comes from two Greek words; ‘meta’, which means “after”, and ‘noeo’, which means “comprehend” or “consider”. Repentance is the change of mind, or laying down of our will and the acceptance of God’s will.

When Jesus said, “except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish,” he was telling us to lay down our rebellious ways and decide to obey God. Let us all have this mindset that we will not perish!



“Rebuilding and Restoring”

By: Foy E. Wallace Jr.

The books of Ezra and Nehemiah are generally considered minor and unimportant. They are not. They preserve the story of true patriots, of a sacred city and of a renowned people. They are replete with principles of truth, and the courage, sacrifices and loyalty required to defend and preserve it. From the story great lessons are evolved.

Jerusalem

The history of Jerusalem is both sacred and secular. It was holy ground to the Jew, and there are events that make it sacred to the Christian. There was the Temple of Solomon, the Ark of the Covenant, and the name of God. There priests and prophets wrought marvelous achievements of faith through the Old Testament centuries. Within its walls Jesus wept for its plight and without its gates he died for our sins. Time has not dimmed our memory nor dulled our reverence for the city of Israel’s King, and our King.

Its secular history was checkered. The first mention of it is in connection with the ancient priest and king, Melchizedek,

“king of Salem” and “priest of the Most High God.” It attained its greatest splendor under Solomon, son of David, and later lost its glory and power in a divided kingdom. During the decline of Judah it lay between two rival nations, Babylonia and Egypt and became the battleground and the prey of those nations. It was finally captured and ruined by the kings of Babylon.

Nebuchadnezzar carried its inhabitants away in three detachments. In B. C. 604 he took 18,000 subjects and placed Jehoiachim, an eight year old prince, on the throne, who ruled through the princes of Judah just three months and ten days. Because the princes sought an alliance with Egypt the anger of Nebuchadnezzar was aroused and the second move against the city was made and ten thousand subjects taken. Zedekiah was placed on the throne and because of unfaithfulness to his oath to Nebuchadnezzar the city was besieged the third time, the temple destroyed, the walls leveled and the remainder of the people carried away.

The Babylonian captivity was the mid-

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WORDS FROM A BIBLICAL POINT OF VIEW

Repentance

By: Shawn Daniels

Jesus says, “Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.” (Luke 13:3) The consequence for one not repenting is severe. Since this act is so important, we need to completely understand what repentance is. The Bible has much to say about repentance. You can find the word in noun form 26 times and in verb form 46 times.

What is repentance and repenting? When asking this question, most people may tell you that repentance is being sorrowful. This definition is not complete

enough. One can have sorrow and not have repentance. Paul, when writing to the Corinthians, said some things that caused them to be very sorrowful. He said in his second letter, “For though I made you sorry with a letter, I do not repent, though I did repent: for I perceive that the same epistle hath made you sorry, though it were but for a season. Now I rejoice, not that ye were made sorry, but that ye sorrowed to repentance: for ye were made sorry after a godly manner, that ye might receive dam-

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night of Jewish history. The memories of the departed grandeur of their nation filled the Jews with remorse and in multitudes they wept beside the waters of Babylon. Prophets warned and comforted them and by promise of their restoration kept their hopes alive. After seventy years of exile, Cyrus, king of Persia, who captured Babylon and introduced a new political era, took compassion on the exiled Jews, and issued their Emancipation Proclamation. Thus their restoration began.

Nehemiah

The restoration of Israel was not accomplished overnight. Their departure from God’s order, which was the cause of their exile, was gradual and so must be their restoration. The -order of events may be capitulated as follows :

1. Under Zerrubbabel a contingent of fifty thousand Jews returned and from B. C. 556 to 516 the temple was rebuilt. This work was hindered by division and halted by mutiny. The Samaritans bolted and refused help and engendered strife. Darius restored order eventually, and the work proceeded.

2. The wall was left in ruins and in B. C. 445, seventy five years after the completion of the temple, Nehemiah received word in Babylon of the conditions of reproach, resolved to rebuild the walls, and through many hardships and hostilities accomplished that task.

3. Ezra, the scribe, in collaboration with Nehemiah, restored the law and the worship of God in Jerusalem, and thus the work of restoration was complete in its essentials, though the return of the Jews from first to last covered a period of about one hundred years. This accounts for certain references of later prophets to their restoration which some have attempted to refer to a yet future hope, but

careful study of the gradual return of the Jews from various countries of their dispersion and exile reveals that the restoration referred to by these prophets is the same as that which began under Zerrubabel, Nehemiah and Ezra.

Nehemiah understood that God’s promise to gather Israel from the lands of their captivity was to be fulfilled in their return from Babylon, as is set forth in his prayer of Neh 1:8-11, too plainly for conscientious denial. Isaiah prophesied one hundred years before the captivity; Nehemiah prophesied on the eve of the captivity; Ezekiel prophesied during the captivity ; and later prophets prophesied during the period of the deferred return of certain contingencies. But it is evident that all of these prophecies relating to the temporal restoration were fulfilled in these events. So the prophets understood it. So Nehemiah understood it. So the apostles understood it. And only certain theorists who have a future program of things to care for would have it otherwise.

A Parallel

There is an evident parallel between the literal and the spiritual running through the whole history of Israel. There was fleshly Israel; there is spiritual Israel. There was literal Babylon; there is spiritual Babylon. There was literal Jerusalem; there is spiritual Jerusalem. There was the Babylonian captivity--the midnight of Jewish history; there was the Dark Ages, the Roman Apostasy--the midnight of the church’s history. Back of Israel’s captivity was her gradual departure from God’s law of God; back of the Dark Ages was the church’s gradual departure from the Word of God. Literal Jerusalem was besieged, the literal temple destroyed and the literal walls broken down; spiritual Israel was afflicted, swallowed up in a great apostasy, the word of

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Announcements

Birthdays this month:

Rene Whitaker	5
Joshua Cyrus	7
Shari Baker	10
Ike Wilson	15

Anniversaries this month:

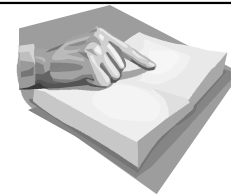
Don & Hallie Phillips	17
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Church Family News

- Something that we may forget to do from time to time is to remember our young members that are at college. Let us pray that God will bless them, keep them safe, and let them be successful in their endeavors!

READ AND STUDY YOUR BIBLE DAILY!
 “The wise in heart will receive commandments:
 but a prating fool shall fall.”

(Prov 10:8)



**Hickory Estates Singing
 Night will be held on
 May 28, 2009
 at 6:30 pm.**

Women's Online Bible Study
Presented by the church of Christ in Pana, Illinois

The Women’s Online Bible Study was designed to give women, that perhaps cannot come to a traditional class, a chance to study the Bible with others. If you are interested in signing up or know others in the community or abroad that may be interested, please pass the word of this work.

