

Light and Life

“I Felt Compelled”

From the start, King Saul was aggressive in making war with the Philistines. In response to a defeat in Geba, the Philistines gathered thousands of chariots and horses “and people as the sand which is on the seashore” (I Sam. 13:5). “When the men of Israel saw that they were in danger... the people hid in caves, in thickets, in rocks, in holes, and in pits. And some of the Hebrews crossed over the Jordan to the land of Gad and Gilead. As for Saul, he was still in Gilgal, and all the people followed him trembling” (I Sam. 13:7-8).

Give Saul credit for staying while many of his men ran to hide! He stayed in Gilgal for seven days, waiting for Samuel to come make a sacrifice. That demonstrated a certain level of trust in God. However, when Samuel did not show up at the appointed time, Saul began to worry. Growing impatient, he performed the sacrifice that was to be done by Samuel himself.

When Samuel showed up just as Saul was finishing, Saul explained, “When I saw that the people were scattered from me, and that you did not come within the days appointed, and that the Philistines gathered at Michmash, then I said, ‘The Philistines will now come down on me at Gilgal, and I have not made supplication to the Lord.’ Therefore, I felt compelled, and offered a burnt offering” (I Sam. 13:11-12). Saul allowed his fear to influence his trust in God. He did what he did because of the way he felt, rather than basing his actions on his knowledge of God’s will.

Samuel answered Saul, “You have behaved foolishly. You have not kept the commandment of the Lord your God, which He commanded you. For the Lord would have established your kingdom over Israel forever. But now your kingdom will not continue” (I Sam. 13:13-14).

We must train ourselves not to base our actions on emotion, but on the word of God!

- Sam Bunyard

Another Perspective

How to Differ

Brethren frequently differ with one another, and that is not necessarily a bad thing. Differences spring from various degrees of learning or experience, and they can be avenues for greater learning.

But we must know HOW to differ constructively. Who will write a “How To-” study with teacher’s manual and workbooks? If I were writing such material, I think I would begin by saying that we may differ with equals—on a compatible basis as neighbors. Childish weakness is evident in those who consider all with whom they differ as blood enemies. We must grow up.

Second: make every effort to understand the other’s position. Can you state his affirmation so he will accept it? You may find that you agree on the principle and differ only on its application. Say so, and study accordingly.

Next: try to understand why your opponent thinks as he does. Seek to walk in his shoes. This will improve your attitude toward him. Be aware that there is a brother on the other end of your lance. Hearts are WON, not TAKEN by battle tactics. A man convinced against his will is of the same opinion still. Real conviction cannot be forced on anyone, and carnal efforts to do so defeat legitimate purposes (2 Co 10).

Listen—at least as much as you speak. Be honest! If you cannot answer a question, say so—and promise to study, then answer later. In such cases, let the opponent explain his answer, and offer proofs; then check these as you study the matter for yourself. As much as possible, turn differences into mutual studies—two people, working together to determine truth. I am aware that ideal circumstances cannot always exist, but we can try.

And remember, he who best serves the Lord is the ‘winner’—always!

- Robert Turner (edited for space)

ASSEMBLY TIMES

Sunday

Morning Bible Class 9:30
Morning Assembly 10:30
Evening Assembly 5:00

Wednesday

Evening Bible Class 6:30

RADIO PROGRAM

The Bible Speaks



Sunday 9:00–9:30a.m.
Thursday 11:30a.m.–noon
KURM 790AM

Downtown Church of Christ

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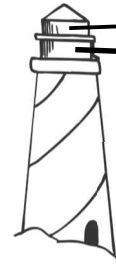
**There's religion & then
there's pure religion;
know the difference.
James 1:27**

ELDERS:

Otis Hardin
Perry Johnson
Ken Parker
Alan Revier
GW Walsh

DEACONS:

TJ Burleson
Scott Hale
Jason Hill
Chris Johnson
Brock McKeel
Randy Potter
Tim Roberts
Randy Shell



DOWNTOWN GOSPEL BEACON

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Life's Scenery Zooming Past

And he said, "I will do this: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, 'Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.'" But God said to him, "Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?" (Lu 12:18-20).

Few parables in the New Testament are more sobering than this one – perhaps because, in our modern society, it hits so close to home.

As with other truths we may find 'unpleasant', it is easy to ignore the warning. "I'll think about that to-

morrow", or "I'm glad I'm not like that guy", or the ever-popular, "Sorry, my mind was wandering. What did you say?"

If ever there was a time to focus, to make personal applications – and to do it **today** – this is the time. Two funerals in the last two weeks of two friends two states away have once again impressed on my mind the brevity of this life – and the extreme importance of being prepared for the life to come. **Nothing** in this life is more important. Truly, if we miss heaven, we have missed all there is.

Something to think about – as life's scenery zooms past.

- *WKing*

FAMILY NEWS

PRAYER LIST –

Preachers we support: Japan, Philippines, Vietnam, Canada, Mexico, Peru, & U.S.

Sick: Fletchers, Swims, JMarshall, RStarr, MiBader

Shut-ins: Billie Pennington, Shirley Cole, Susan Wiese, Virgil Carter, ADosier

Military: Kyler Sullins, Sean Potter

2024 EVENTS STILL REMAINING – Jul 21-25 (Vacation Bible School with PJ Anderson), and Aug 2-4 (Youth Lectures with Ben Hall)

SENTENCE SERMON – If we can teach our children to love the world – its sports, movies, & other entertainment – we can teach them to love God.