

“THE BABY STILL DIED”

It is easy for us to overlook the consequences of wrong doing. We think that because there has been forgiveness and the guilt of sin is passed, that the fruit of the sin should no longer follow.

I remember vividly learning this truth when a student at Freed-Hardeman College. Several of the students had violated the rules of the college and had made public confession of the wrong they had done. When I learned that the administration still planned to expel them, I went to the president of the college and expressed my disapproval. I will never forget the answer brother Dixon gave to me. “Jenkins, you remember the story about David and Bathsheba? David repented and God forgave him.” Then brother Dixon added, “But the baby still died.”

There it was. Sin had both guilt and consequences. God had decreed that part of the punishment for David’s sinful acts which had brought shame on all Israel was the death of the illegitimate child. The guilt of sin had passed, but the consequences of sin had to be faced.

What parent has not faced this situation? A child has done wrong, and has sincerely expressed his sorrow. The parent tends to think he should also remove the punishment the child was aware of before his disobedience. Such could not be farther from the truth. To do such would keep the child from understanding how God deals with us.

The prophet Jeremiah looked at Israel and described the dire circumstances in which Israel found itself. *“From the least of them even to the greatest of them, everyone is given to covetousness; and from the prophet even to the priest, everyone deals falsely...this people has slid back in a perpetual backslide. They hold fast to deceit, they refuse to return...No man repented of his wickedness. Were they ashamed when they had committed abominations? No! They were not at all ashamed, nor did they know how to blush”* (Jer. 6:13; 8:5,12).

Even though they eventually repented in Jeremiah’s day, they still had to face the consequences of sin. They had to go into Babylonian captivity.

Sin has its consequences even though the guilt is removed. Don’t ever forget the story of David and Bathsheba. “The baby still died.”

Author Unknown
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BELVEDERE BEACON

“Ye are the light of the world” (Matthew 5:14)

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535 Clearwater Road, Belvedere, SC 29841-2574

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THINGS NOT IN HEAVEN

In Revelation 21-22 we read a beautiful description of heaven. The language is designed to stir our hearts, arouse our interest and cause us to desire to go there whatever the cost. In studying these chapters it is evident that at least four things are missing by God’s design. God does **NOT** want them there! God will **NOT** allow them to be there!

NO SIN THERE

There is no sin in heaven! Sin has been left for hell. Sin has been a curse to the entire human race since Adam and Eve were in the garden. It resulted in the first disobedience to God (Gen. 3), and caused the first murder (Gen. 4) and has been found in the life of every accountable being since, except in the life of Jesus Christ. Sin has cursed our world, has been responsible for all the wars, crimes, abortions, child abuse, pornography, wife swapping, tax evasion and religious error found in our world. Sin keeps the whole world in bondage to sin (1 John 45:19). Thank God sin will be missing in heaven

NO SICKNESS THERE

There will be no sickness in heaven. Because of the sin of Adam and Eve they were driven from the garden and their bodies began to degenerate and all manner of sickness became endemic to man. The *“halt, the maimed, the lame and the blind”* are found in all societies of the world. Man constantly battle germs, viruses and illnesses of this world, but ultimately most die from one sickness or another. Thank God no sickness will be in heaven!

NO SORROW THERE

There will be no sorrow in heaven. Just as sin and sickness are common to man, so is sorrow. There are world conditions, personal problems and mental anxieties that wreck lives, bringing sorrow to our hearts. Often we simply have to suffer. There will be no sorrow in heaven!

NO SEPARATION THERE

Finally, there will be no separation ever again. All separations are reserved for life and the judgment. One of the most disappointing things about life is the constant separations that take place. Some are temporary; some are permanent. But once we have entered heaven, thank God there will be no separation ever again!

Heaven is a prepared place for a prepared people (John 14:1-3; Matt. 25: 31-46). Our task is to get ready by obeying the gospel (John 8:24; Luke 13:3; Matt. 10:32-33; Acts 2:38) and living faithful unto death (Rev. 2:10). When eternity is ushered in, all the joys and happiness an infinite God can provide will be ours. Thank God four things will be missing in heaven! most die from one sickness or another. Thank God no sickness will be in heaven!

Andrew Connally (Deceased)

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

SUNDAY:

Bible Classes for all ages 10.00 am.
Morning Worship 11.00 am.
Evening Worship 6.00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY:

Bible Classes for all ages 7.00 p.m.

EVANGELIST: Ken Chumbley - Tel. No. (803) -279-8663

www.belvederechurchofchrist.org E-mail church@belvederechurchofchrist.org

HOW DO WE MEASURE UP TODAY?

Wayne Dehoney, a former president of the Southern Baptist Convention made a statement nearly thirty years ago in which he notes some significant points regarding the Lord's church, as he viewed it at that time. He stated:

"Or again, while statistical tools suggest a declining church, a closer look at the Churches of Christ would hardly reveal that their brand of religion is on the downgrade! This fast-growing group is one of the most potent missionary and evangelistic forces in this country. The congregations are flourishing, and new churches are continually being established.

A profile of their faith and practice contradicts practically every 'solid conclusion' by the authorities of the main-line denominational establishments about the renewal the church must experience to survive. The Churches of Christ are anti-ecumenical in their relationships; conservative in their theology; autonomous and democratic in their congregational practices without any semblance of denominational superstructure; they have a rigid biblical theology, with a strong emphasis on Bible preaching and Bible teaching; they make rigid moral and ethical demands on their members in such matters as social drinking; they are not 'social action' oriented; they have a 'messianic complex' about being the true people of God and the true church! All of these factors combine to give them a high motivation, an unquenchable zeal, and inescapable compulsion to win the world to acceptance of their convictions and beliefs. *And they are growing rapidly!* (How To Set The Church Afire, p .30, pub. 1971).

How do we "measure up" today in the 21st century? Looking about, we see that many congregations no longer take a stand in the ways that the above writer mentions. Indeed many are becoming like the denominations around about them and now doing what the "authorities" back then were telling the denominations to do. The things that distinguished the Lord's people from denominationalism are criticized by today's "change-agents" and we are told by them that we are being "too narrow" in maintaining such positions as Mr. Dehoney enumerates. Yet, what do we find, we find that the church is not growing, but rather shrinking in many places, certainly, we are not "growing rapidly."

Surely these facts should serve to encourage us to walk in the "old paths" (Jeremiah 6:16). It was right thirty six years ago, it is still right today! Let us stand fast and "*contend earnestly for the faith which was once delivered to the saints*" (Jude 3).

Ken Chumbley

NEWS AND NOTES

Let us continue to keep in our prayers Helen Culpepper, Dot McLemore, Pam Gossett and her mother, Kathy Treadway's mother, Lanny Niver's father.

Ken Chumbley will be leaving for England tomorrow for his mission effort in England. Pray for his safety and the work in which he will be involved. On March 17 he will be participating in an all day lectureship with David Brown who will also be in England from Texas. This was a successful effort last year that resulted in a new contact that obeyed the gospel before Ken returned to the States.

Ken appreciates brethren Glenn Aaron, Les Culpepper, Mike Farmer and Ron Wilson, who will be preaching and teaching during his absence, for their willingness to do so.

IMPORTANT: Daylight Savings Time begins March 11 - Don't forget to "spring forward" one hour - this is new this year!

LET US GO BACK TO THE BIBLE _____

- FOR THE STANDARD IN Religion. II Peter 1:20-21; II Timothy 3:16-17
- FOR THE SCRIPTURAL PLAN OF SALVATION. Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; 17:30; Romans 10:9-10; Galatians 3:36-27; I Peter 1:21
- TO LEARN THE IMPORTANCE OF THE CHURCH. Acts 2:47; Ephesians 1:3; 4:4; 5:23-25; Colossians 1:18; Galatians 3:26-27
- TO LEARN OF THE ORGANIZATION OF THE CHURCH. Philippians 1:1; Colossians 1:18; I Timothy 3:3-13; Titus 1:5-9
- TO LEARN HOW TO WORSHIP SCRIPTURALLY. John 4:24; Acts 20:7; 2:42; I Corinthians 16:1-2; Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16
- TO LEARN HOW TO LIVE THE RIGHT KIND OF LIFE. Titus 2:12; Romans 12:1-2; Galatians 5:19-23
- IN OUR PREACHING. II Timothy 4:1-5; I Peter 4:11; Romans 15-17
- IN OUR HOMES. Matthew 19:3-9; Ephesians 5:22-25; 6:1-4; Colossians 3:18-21
- IN EVANGELISM. Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:46-47; 5:42
- TO LEARN OUR RESPONSIBILITIES TOWARD THE BRETHERN. Hebrews 13:1-2; II Timothy 4:2; Galatians 6:1-2; James 5:16, 19-20; I John 3:17; Romans 16:17; II Thessalonians 3:6, 15

*Jerry Joseph,
St. Charles, MO*