

THE WOODLAND HILLS PROCLAIMER

"how I kept back nothing that was helpful, but proclaimed it to you"

Acts 20:20

SERVICES

SUNDAY

9:30 AM – BIBLE STUDY
10:30 AM – A.M. ASSEMBLY
6:00 PM – P.M. ASSEMBLY

WEDNESDAY

7:00 PM – BIBLE STUDY

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ELDERS

WAYNE REED HARROLD
STARR

DEACONS

JAMES COST
JIM COOK
VERNON RIEHL

VOLUME 2 WEEK 38

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SEP 20, 2009

These Three Men

Member-Woodland Hills COC

Hebrews Chapter 11 catalogs some of the Bible characters who gained God's approval through obedient faith. There is also an interesting account in the book of Ezekiel where God acknowledges the righteous faith of three famous Bible characters at the same time. In Chapter 14, verses 12-20, God says he would surely punish Israel for its idolatry, if they refused to turn from it. Within these verses, however, we see God's high regard for the obedient faith for these three men. Four times in six verses, two times by name and two times as "these three men", God approves Noah, Daniel and Job. God does this by way of contrast to Israel's behavior. He dramatically announces Israel's provocation---one quote should suffice. Verses 13 & 14 read: "Son of man, (speaking to Ezekiel) if a country sins against Me by committing unfaithfulness, and I stretch out My hand against it, destroy its supply of bread, send famine against it and cut off from it both man and beast, even though these three men, Noah, Daniel and Job were in its midst, by their own righteousness they could only deliver themselves, declares the Lord God". Though God shows approval of these men individually elsewhere, He delivers powerful effect when he uses their righteousness here in contrast to Israel's grievous sins

NOAH

- Consider the quality of character that God valued in these three men. Genesis 6:22 tells us, "Thus Noah did; according to all that God had commanded him, so he did", and in Chapter 7, verse 1: "Then the Lord said to Noah, 'Enter the ark, you and all your household, for you alone I have seen to be righteous before Me in this time.'" God asked much of Noah. No half-hearted effort on Noah's part would have produced and provisioned so vast a vessel as the ark. Clearly, Noah committed himself to obey God and God rewarded his obedient belief.

DANIEL

- In the book of Daniel we read of Daniel's excellent character and conduct and we should note that his conduct flowed from a mind that was determined to understand and humble itself to do God's will. Daniel 6:3 reads: "An excellent spirit was in him". In verse 4, we see, ". . . he was faithful; nor was there any error or fault found in him". And verse 23 concludes, "So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no injury whatever was found on him, because he believed in his God".

JOB

- And, we know from Job Chapter 1, verse 1, that Job was blameless and upright and feared God and shunned evil. As that book progresses we see that Job kept his integrity though tried relentlessly. Even after enduring great anguish, Job in Chapter 13, verse 15 announces, "though he slay me, yet will I trust Him". As the book closes, we read in verse 9 of Chapter 42, ". . . and the Lord accepted Job".

Even this short study from the Old Testament shows conclusively that God has required obedience from his people, but it also shows that God has always accepted His obedient servants as righteous.

IN SEASON, OUT OF SEASON, POSITIVE OR NEGATIVE

Steven J. Wallace

Some brethren have elevated themselves and have become content with a position as a “judge” of sermons, of doctrine and of the Scripture as being “positive” or “negative.” I have always been leery of those who think they have the authority to judge the Word as something “negative.” I sometimes ask churches when I hold a meeting if there is anything negative about “convince,” “rebuke,” “exhort.” Usually someone will think that “convince” and “rebuke” are more “negative” and “exhorting” is more “positive.”

Regardless, Paul told preachers to preach “the word” which includes the “whole counsel” and to do so in season or out of season with longsuffering (2 Tim. 4:2; Acts 20:20, 26, 27). It is “out of season” to preach what men like to judge as “negative.” Such will always be the case when brethren get bold enough to judge God’s word as “negative.” (I always thought that if a person could show me how to escape hell that such was a pretty positive thing!)

When people begin making themselves judges of the law they have sinned by making themselves above the law rather than keeping their place “under” the law. James tells us,

“So speak and so do as those who will be judged by the law of liberty” (Jas. 2:12).

And again he stated,

“... But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge” (Jas. 4:11).

If I understand James’ point, we cannot be partial in God’s law. We cannot set aside part of God’s law and choose to obey another part, or we make ourselves judges rather than doers. If we violate any part, if we reject any part, if we despise any part, we then despise it all for it all condemns us (Jas. 2:4, 10). The next time you are asked to judge God’s word as “negative” think about this admonishment:

“... Behold, the Judge is standing at the door!” (Jas. 5:9).

The irony is, that while some may think they are judging the preaching of the word, it is the word that is judging them, “For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart” (Heb. 4:12).

WOODLAND HILLS NEWS AND NOTES

PRAYER LIST: Ruby Goad, Jane Zeitz, Jerry Harrell, Jerri Scott, Bertie Strokos, James & Lou Ann Webb, Bill & Jo Ellen McCarty, Leola Pence, Nelva Peyton, Jennifer West, Mindy Blackstone, Janice Billeri, Haskell & Doris Butler, and Cindy Kirkwood (from Southside)

PROVERB OF THE WEEK

Proverbs 12:2

A good man obtains favor from the LORD,
But a man of wicked intentions He will
condemn.

SCHEDULE TO SERVE - Sep 27th

AM - Service

Announcements: Bill Isenbarger

Song Leader:

Lord Supper Bread: Jim Cook

Asst: Carl Scott

Cup: Harrold Starr

Asst: Roy Hickenbottom

Prayer Open: David Cade

Close: Ty West

PM - Service

Song Leader: Luis Serpas

Lord Supper: Jim Cook

Prayer Open: Lynn Farrell

Close: Vernon Riehl