

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

Woodland Hills church of Christ
410 Woodland Hills Drive
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ELDERS

WAYNE REED
HARROLD STARR

DEACONS

JAMES COST
JIM COOK
VERNON RIEHL

VOLUME 2 WEEK 48

To our visitors – "WELCOME" - Thank you for choosing to visit with us

Nov 29, 2009

The Lord's Return

Harold Carswell Jr

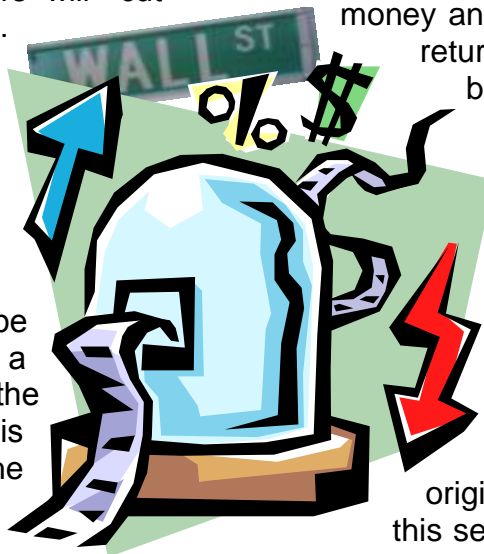
No investor is satisfied with getting back only what they put in as the original investment. When investments are made there is always the hope of getting back a greater return than the investment. I am aware of the fact when it comes to bad investments investors will "cut their loses" before they lose money. This is why it is never wise to invest all that one has in a single venture. However the hope of a profitable return is anticipated, moreover for someone to double their original investment is considered a very "good day".

You see, the word "return" can be defined as a "coming back" or as a "yield, profit or gain". The Lord in the "Parable of the Talents sets this principle forth (Matt 25:13-30). The term "parable is from the Greek word "parabole" which means very simply to "throw beside". Thus a parable is a placing beside for the purpose of comparison. Biblical parables were accounts of possible but fictitious stories, to illustrate a spiritual truth. Our Lord states His purpose for teaching in parables (Matt 13:34-35). In dealing with parables, there is always the danger of over explanation of the parable especially in making comparisons that were not the intent of the speaker. We must always be cautious not to fall into that trap. In Matthew 25 Jesus sets forth 2 parables that teach about His return and how His servants will

be judged according to their expectation of His return and faithfulness because of it.

In this particular parable each servant is given a certain amount according to their ability with the hope of bringing back a return to their master. Two of the servants invested their lord's money and brought back to him a double return. Their lord praised them, as being faithful servants to whom more would be given to rule over. They are told to enter in to the "joy of their Lord". Of course, this has application to the heavenly reward given to the faithful at the Lord's coming cf. (Matt 25:34). Yet, one of the servants hid his lord's money and gave back to him only what his lord had originally gave to him. Notice that this servant even had an excuse as to why he did not bring back a return to his lord but his excuse was unacceptable (Matt 25:24-27). He had his "talent" taken from him and given to the servant who had ten talents. He was called a wicked and lazy servant. The word wicked in this verse is "poneros" and means "worthless" cf. (Matt 7:17-18). This servant was of no use to his Lord and was cast into "outer darkness" which is referring to hell cf. (Matt 25:41).

It is imperative that we as Christians realize that what is expected of us. We were not



translated into the Vineyard of the Lord simply to take up space. We are here to work for our Lord and this is what is expected of us. Many people were added to the Lord and have been Christians for quite some time, yet they have not been instrumental in anyone else being added to the Lord or in bringing an erring Christian back to Him or for that matter, providing comfort or encouragement to those who remain with Him! There are many 'wicked and lazy servants who have the false idea that they will be in heaven with the Lord. The Lord who they have denied and felt no obligation to serve. Excuses are unacceptable (Matt 22:1-14). When we agreed to the terms of the covenant, which, was established by the ultimate sacrifice (Heb 9:14) we agreed to keep that terms of that covenant (Rev 2:10). Our Lord knows exactly what we go through because He went through it as well

“Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.” Heb 4:14-16

Our Lord is there for us and there with us when we are with Him & for Him (2 Tim 2:10-13). Let us have a return for the Lord at His return or we will pay the ultimate price!

WOODLAND HILLS NEWS AND NOTES

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

Area gospel meetings are posted in the foyer

PROVERB OF THE WEEK

11:3

The integrity of the upright will guide them, But the perversity of the unfaithful will destroy them.

SCHEDULE TO SERVE - Dec 6th

AM - Service

Announcements: Gerald Hodges
Song Leader: David Cade
Lord Supper Bread: Jim Rains
Asst: Lynn Farrell
Cup: Vernon Riehl
Asst: Roy Hickenbottom
Prayer Open: Bill McCarty
Close: Carl Scott

PM - Service

Song Leader: Luis Serpas
Lord Supper: Jim Rains
Prayer Open: Harrold Starr
Close: James Webb

