

Oaks-West Church of Christ

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December 27, 2020

Shout It Out!

by George Slover

"I have proclaimed the good news of righteousness in the great assembly; Indeed, I do not restrain my lips, O Lord, You Yourself know. I have not hidden Your righteousness within my heart; I have declared Your faithfulness and Your salvation; I have not concealed Your lovingkindness and Your truth from the great assembly. (Psalm 40:9,10)

David is singing the praises of God. He is extolling the righteousness of God to the congregation. He is shouting the good news. But what prompts this outburst of praise?

When the song begins we find David in the middle of a horrible pit and miry clay. This describes one who is deep down in the middle of depression. He is sinking in despair. There seems to be no rest, nor way of escape.

There was a cry to God for help. David waits patiently for God's answer of mercy. There is a delay in God's reply. The wait is long! But finally, God lifts him from the sinking pit and sets him high up on a rock.

The Psalmist's first response is a surrender of will, heart, and life to God. God wanted more than sacrifice and offering. There must be ears (vs. 6) that are tuned to God, and a heart (vs. 8) that the delights in his will. Without this all else is vain.

Along with the consecrated life is a proclamation of God's loving kindness, righteousness, and faithfulness. Gratitude prompts a strong desire to declare God's goodness. Such declarations are made by both the spoken word, and a godly life.

Will you join the Psalmist in shouting the good news to a lost world? A

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contemplation of the depth of your own sin, the completeness of your restoration, and the wonders of redemption should bring forth praise to God.

FIVE WAYS TO SOLVE A PROBLEM

by Dee Bowman

1. Meet the problem head-on, but not too quickly. Remember, patience is a virtue (James 1:4).

2. Make sure you understand all the facts. Many a problem has been proliferated by someone who didn't take the time to research the real reasons involved in the matter (John 8:32).

3. Keep a level head. Even right things, if they not said with a level head, can intensify the difficulty. Control is wisdom; wisdom is control (Proverbs 21:23).

4. Smile. Genuinely, I mean. It's hard to be hateful when you are smiling. And it's hard to retaliate against someone who is genuinely smiling (Proverbs 15:13).

5. Speak softly. I have a note on my desk I wrote years ago when I was about to be involved in a controversial situation. It says, "Think! God, please help me not so say more than need be said, and help me to say it softly." (Proverbs 15:1)

Bowman, D. (1999). That's Life. Christianity Magazine, 16(7), 24.

Ephesians 4:1-16

I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call—one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore it says, "When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men." (In saying, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower regions, the earth? He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.) And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

Welcome!

When you visit our assemblies, you will be received friendly, kindly and courteously. We believe this to be the natural attitude of those who truly love God and mankind. Though you may at first be among strangers, we hope that you will come to know us well and count us as your friends.

We offer Bible studies as well as correspondence courses for those interested in learning more about what God expects of us.



Upcoming Ladies' Bible Classes - Next class January 12.

Services - The elders have decided to continue with the current service times of 10:45 am Sundays and 7:00 pm Wednesdays through the month of January. We will reevaluate in January. Thank you for your support and encouragement as we make these difficult decisions! --DT for the elders

If you know of upcoming events, please inform Darrell so they can be included here.



Please remember the following individuals in your daily prayers:

June Owens
Jack Wilson
Jerry & Nancy Richardson
Ron Stanberry
Karen Hallmark
Shirley Perkins & family
Morgan O'Hair
Dinah Williams
Tyler Hairston
Anna Urquhart
Ken Bibles
Hank Steadman

And continue to pray for each other

If you know of someone that needs to be on this list, please tell Darrell (email preferred) and provide updates so names stay on the list as long as needed.

We have many that face challenges on a daily basis and need your prayers as well.

“praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,”
(Ephesians 6:18 ESV)

