

October 3, 2021

What We Should and Can Be

by Rickie Jenkins

This is not new, "Treat a person as he is, and he will stay what he is. Treat a person what he could be and should be, and he will become what he could and should be."

Isn't that what God has done for us? Think about Peter for a moment. God told him his name would be changed. That name change reflected what Christ knew Peter could and should be. Peter became that rock. He became that individual who did strengthen his brethren. Jesus did not leave him as He found him.

Also, it would have been easy for the Lord to leave Saul of Tarsus as He found him. It would have been easy to justify leaving him as that Pharisee who was determined to destroy people of The Way. It would have been so easy to cast him off as one who would not listen. Too hard-headed. Too radical. Too fervent. No, God treated him for what he could and should be. Paul did not disappoint. We got him prolifically. He stands as a hero only second to Jesus in the eyes of many.

Moses was the fugitive from Egypt. He was a wondering nomad. He was a shepherd in the desert. God could have said, "He had his chance. He blew it." No, God did not leave him where he was or treat him as he was. God called him to be the one to deliver his people. He treated him based on what He saw Moses able to do and what he could become.

Barnabas and John Mark are a classic example too. Paul treated John Mark as he was. As far as Paul was concerned, he could stay as he was. In the eyes of Paul, he was going to be no better. That was not true of Barnabas. Barnabas saw what John Mark could and should be. He helped him become what he could be and should be. In the end, Paul tells Timothy to bring John Mark to him for "he is good for me." Say what? The man Paul thought would be no better than he was, is now good for him. Amazing, isn't it?

How about us? Do we simply see through the eyes of what people are and that they will not or cannot be any different today? Do we see possibilities of what they can and should be? Do we treat them in a manner that tells them we know they can and should be better and be more? Do we amplify their possibilities or shout their deficiencies?

Somewhere people gave me and you the opportunity to become better and more than we were. Surely, we want to see people not for who they are but for who they can and should be. That is what we want to help them become.

After all, that is exactly what God has done for us. He did not treat us as we are, but what we can be, for Him.

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.

Important Dates

Our meeting with Mike Walls has been rescheduled for October 24-27.

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

Yearning for God

By George Slover

“As the deer pants for the water brooks, so my soul pants for you, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.” (Psalms 42:1,2)

This is one of the most touching and beautiful of all of the Psalms. A favorite hymn has been written with the first verse of the Psalm.

The imagery is of a young stag crying for water in a hot country in time of drought. The Psalmist compares himself to this deer. He is in a dry and thirsty land panting for God. “My soul thirsts for God, the living God.” (vs. 2) Jehovah God is the only living God, and the sole source of spiritual life. All other gods are imposters.

The Psalmist acknowledges that only the living God can satisfy the cravings of the human spirit. Worldly men thirst for riches, honor, and power. Yet, these never satisfy. Some may suppress such cravings until they are no longer felt. But, such numbness is not to be confused with satisfaction. If I go on a hunger strike, I am told the time comes when I will no longer desire the food. Yet, for all of that I will still be a starving man. Thus, man may absolve himself from God, but deep down his need for God remains.

The longer I live in this old world the more I appreciate the value of fellowship with God. Only Jehovah satisfies, only God is the source of genuine joy! So sing it my brother! “I want you more than gold or silver. Only you can satisfy. You alone are the real joy giver and apple of my eye.”

Prayer Requests

Jack Wilson has improved some but still has limited mobility.

Jerry Richardson is still undergoing cancer treatments and is recovering from Covid.

Nancy Richardson is doing better but still dealing with breathing problems.

Karen Hallmark has improved but is still struggling with her health and her eyes, as well as asthma.

Dinah Williams is back home but still has very limited mobility.

Don Simmons is recovering from covid and was scheduled to come home Saturday Oct 2.

Danny Crumley has covid.

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.

“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)

The Oaks West church of Christ is a group of individual Christians who have been added to the Lord's body through baptism (Acts 2:38, 47; Gal 3:26, 27), and have joined themselves together (Acts 2:42ff) in an effort to do the Lord's will.

We are not a part of any larger organization - we do not follow any man-made creeds and we do not answer to anyone other than the Lord.

Our standard of faith and practice is the Word of God. We believe in the God of revelation (Eph 3:1-7; 2 Tim 3:16-17) and follow his instructions in an effort to have an ongoing relationship with him (1 John 4:7-11; 5:3).

Our times of study and worship are open to all, and our members are happy to meet with interested individuals or families for study.

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