

May 28, 2023

They Forgot Their Savior

by George Slover

“Thus they changed their glory Into the image of an ox that eats grass. They forgot God their Savior, Who had done great things in Egypt, (Psalms 106:20-21)

It amazes me how often God revealed himself to Israel with mighty deeds. It is frightening to read of how they rejected him. The verses above remind us of the sin at Horeb (Exodus 32:1-10) when they made a golden calf. Their sin was four-fold.

First, Israel disobeyed God's command. Israel was indebted to God for his delivering them from Egypt. They had already pledged their allegiance to him. Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read in the hearing of the people. And they said, “All that the LORD has said we will do, and be obedient.” And Moses took the blood, sprinkled it on the people, and said, “This is the blood of the covenant which the LORD has made with you according to all these words.” (Exodus 24:7-8) They were instructed to wait until they received a word from the Lord, but instead they acted without direction. Such disobedience is often due to impatience with God. (Exodus 32:1)

Second, Israel did not believe God. Israel failed to trust God. God had provided abundant evidence by his mighty deeds in Egypt. However, Israel put their trust in an idolatrous image

and rejected the one who was truly God, the Savior!

Third, the Israelites followed after their own devices. This is a common pattern of mankind. First, he rejects Jehovah. Next, he fashions a god in his own likeness. Finally, he follows the whims of his own heart. They did what they wanted rather than what God approved. This love of self is the root of all false religion. The triumph over self-will is the objective of God fearing people.

Fourth, Israel dishonored God. The command of God was plain. “You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; (Exodus 20:4) The carnal mind walks by sight and not by faith. Thus they changed their glory Into the image of an ox that eats grass. (Psalms 106:20) And, they worshiped the image rather than God.

Like Israel, many in modern times do not rightly value the power of Jehovah God. Thus, they exchange him for a material god who serves their own worldly self-indulgence. The result is tragic.

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

Singing - Northwest church of Christ, Austin, - June 3

Bulverde Summer Series - Bulverde church of Christ, Every Thursday June 1 - August 17

Gospel Meeting - Westside church of Christ, Killeen, June 23-25

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

Our Call to Holiness

By George Slover

“but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, (1 Peter 1:15)

The call to holiness is among the many admonitions found in this letter. God calls upon these pilgrims to live holy lives. To be chosen by God (1:2) involves great privileges and awesome responsibilities.

The word “holy” means to be different from ordinary things or to be set apart. The Christian is to be set apart in all his living. In all that he does he is to be a reflection of God’s purity. (2:9) He no longer lives according to his “former lusts,” but by the will of God. This duty is permeates every relationship from family, to job, to church. He is determined to no longer live according his former lusts, but by the will of God.

Why is the Christian called to live such a holy life? The answer is in verse 16: because it is written, “Be holy, for I am holy.” (1 Peter 1:16) Note: God says be holy! Why? Because God says “I am holy”! The Christian is commanded to walk away from his former ways and act like God!

This concept of holy living also has its roots in the Old Testament. ‘For I am the LORD your God. You shall therefore consecrate yourselves, and you shall be holy; for I am holy. (Leviticus 11:44) Again we find the reason for which God called Israel to holiness; because He is holy. This same command is repeated numerous times in Leviticus. They are to be holy because Jehovah God is holy!

Our association with God should be the compelling reason for our holiness. Most of us feel pressured by Christian friends or a fear of punishment to live sanctified lives, but we should want to be holy, because God who called us to be his child is worthy. Should we not love

our holy God enough to bear his image? It is a lofty calling!

Prayer Requests

Jack Wilson is still struggling with pain and limited mobility and had a procedure to gauge the viability of a treatment for the pain.

Jerry Richardson is still undergoing treatments to strengthen his immune system.

Dinah Williams continues to have mobility issues.

Don Simmons is still struggling with his breathing; he is on oxygen at all times. **Alene** is having hip issues.

Randall Vanaman had surgery on his foot and is recovering.

Doug Adair had surgery on his back and is recovering.

Lisa Mullen (Darrell’s sister) is undergoing chemotherapy.

Mercedes Munoz (in Chiapas) is undergoing treatment for her liver and kidneys.

Margaret Vanaman had surgery on an infected section of her arm.

Sylvia Stinnett had had an accident and cut her leg.

Bill Hare is suffering from Leukemia.

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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