

July 18, 2021

Don't Squander the Wealth

by George Slover

"I have given you a land for which you did not labor, and cities which you did not build, and you dwell in them; you eat of the vineyards and olive groves which you did not plant. Now fear the Lord and serve him in sincerity and truth..." (Josh. 24:13,14)

Prior to verse 13 Joshua reviews the history of Israel. God is reminding them of all he has done – "I gave, I brought, I delivered" you. Such a reminder is given to prepare them for the challenges of vs. 14,15. Israel must make a choice, either to serve Jehovah (the giver of all these things) or to serve false gods. The one choice is to show gratitude to God who gave them the land; the other choice is to squander the wealth!

How does Israel avoid this tragedy? First, they must put away the false gods. God is a jealous god. They must be devoted to him alone. Second, they must avoid the haughty spirit. Israel must not pride themselves in their wealth and forget from whence the riches came. They must remember Jehovah and be grateful. Thus, Joshua reminds them of how God drove out the enemy (vs.10) and gave them this rich land! Would they forget, and thus squander the wealth?

God has also richly blessed us. He has given us a Savior and a means of redemption. He has given us a reason to live and a victorious way to die. He

has blessed us with God's family, the greatest family on earth. We must not squander the wealth.

What will you do, my brother with these great blessings? First, you must put away the false gods. (I Jn. 5:21) God wants single minded devotion. Second, you must humble yourself before God and remember from whence the blessings come. (Jam. 4:10)

God has given us great opportunities. If they are wasted we will regret it eternally.

Tough Choices

By George Slover

"If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it." (Genesis 4:7)

These words God spoke to Cain as he contemplated killing his brother Abel. Jealousy was about to consume him. His sacrifice had been rejected and his brother's accepted. However, Cain can avoid another sin if he will choose to "do well".

C.S. Lewis once wrote, "Every time you make a choice you are turning the central part of you, the part of you that chooses, into something a little

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

Bulverde is having their summer series "Gifts We Can Use For God" each Thursday through August 19.

Westside Annual Youth Lectures - July 30 - Aug. 1 in Irving

Mark your calendar! Our next gospel meeting will be September 12-15 with Mike Walls.

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

different from what it was before. And taking your life as a whole, with all your innumerable choices, all your life long you are slowly turning this central thing with into a heavenly or hellish creature; either into a creature that is in harmony with God, and with other creatures, and with itself, or else into one that is in a state of war and hatred with God, and with its fellow creatures, and with itself. To be the one kind of creature is in heaven: that is, it is joy and peace and knowledge and power. To be the other means madness, horror, idiocy, rage, impotence, and eternal loneliness. Each of us at each moment is progressing to the one state or the other.” Mere Christianity (New York, NY; Macmillan Publishing Co. 1952)pp 86, 87

Most know the unfortunate end of Cain. First he chooses an unacceptable sacrifice. Instead of correcting his mistake he allows his relationship with God to lead to jealousy and finally murder. Thus, Cain became that lonely, hellish creature of which CS Lewis spoke.

Each day we must make important decisions that point us in one direction or the other. What will it be for us – heaven or hell?

Prayer Requests

Jack Wilson is at home recovering from surgery and seems to be doing a little better.

Doug Adair is struggling with back pain. His second opinion still recommended surgery.

Jerry Richardson is still undergoing cancer treatments.

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.

Dinah Williams continues to be homebound due to mobility issues. She had a small fire at her house last week and is staying at the Comfort Inn while repairs are being made.

Bobbie Gibbons continues to be limited by balance and breathing issues.

Tyler Hairston has cancer.

Don and Alene Simmons are both suffering from pain and mobility limitations.

Dorthy Steadman is continuing to recover from her recent stroke. She is staying with Hank in Houston.

Anna Urquhart had knee surgery this past week.

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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