

November 20, 2022

Courage to Share the Word

by George Slover

And I, brethren, when I came to you, did not come with excellence of speech or of wisdom declaring to you the testimony of God. For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. I was with you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling. (1 Corinthians 2:1-3)

One of the primary reasons Christians fail to share the Truth with others is fear. Jesus knew long ago the fear of man could hinder his disciples in proclaiming the good news. Thus, Jesus said, "And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell." (Matthew 10:28) Jesus tells them not to fear man, but trust God! (vs. 26) Do not fear man, but fear God! (vs. 28) When one develops a Divine perspective of eternity they should be emboldened to proclaim the good news!

In the Corinthian text Paul uses the word "fear" in another way. Strange that Paul would say, "I was with you in fear". In fact he adds two other verbs to also describe his feelings- "weakness" and "trembling". "I was afraid", Paul says, "but I still preached Christ." Trembling at the thoughts of what man can do is no excuse for timidity. Christ crucified should be burning so much in one's heart that even though the knees tremble, he cannot contain himself from shouting the message!

It has been said that true courage is when one feels fear, but does it anyway. Become bold, brother, in sharing the word of God.

One eternal soul may be waiting to hear!

Lion At the Door

by Rickie Jenkins

"The lazy man says, 'There is a lion in the road!'" (Prov. 26:13)

The lazy man is reduced to such pitiful excuses that contrary to all reason and experience, there is a lion in the way. "There is a lion in the road," he might be killed in the very streets of the city if he goes to work. A lazy person always has an excuse about why we can't do something to change self for the better.

Further, "As the door hinges, so does the lazy man on his bed" (Prov. 26:14). He just keeps rolling over and over. The alarm goes off and off and off. He keeps hitting the snooze button. He just won't get out of bed but keeps turning over and over.

Then, "The lazy man buries his hand in his bosom; it wearies him to bring it back out" (Prov. 26:15). He is so lazy he can't even get his hand to his mouth. Poor thing. It is just too much for himself to feed himself. After all, there is a lion in the way and he may eat me. So feed me!

Therefore, "The lazy man is wiser in his own eyes than seven men who answer sensibly" (Prov. 26:16). He knows it all. Blind to his own laziness and conceit, he thinks himself wiser than seven men who have demonstrated better judgment.

He thinks his excuses are wise. He thinks he has life figured out. Ask him, he will tell

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

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

you. All the while he makes excuse after excuse as to why he will not follow-through and keep his word.

Have you ever met a person like this? Always promising but there is always an excuse to deliver the promise. Maybe once or twice we give the person the benefit of the doubt. But when the person repeatedly makes excuse after excuse, we stop listening and stop asking. We stop trusting their word. There is always a lion in the way. The lazy man hates everything that requires effort. Not only that, the lazy person, who won't even feed himself, begins to tell you how to live your life.

Most see through his excuses. He doesn't. Even his fellow man who says, "There is a lion in the way" sees through, but he doesn't see his own.

Consider the husband who promises but always has an excuse and never follows through. He will tell others loud and sure that he loves his family, but he does not provide. He won't even lift his hand to feed himself. Others serve him. He is pathetic! Consider the person who always has an excuse why they failed morally. Also, a child sees a lion in the way and will not do their homework. Furthermore, what about a wife who always sees a lion and fails to love her children and her husband. How about the person who is slave to the bottle? Oh, the person intends to quit. The person is sure he can quit. But there is always a lion in the way. As the door turns on its hinges, so he keeps rolling over and over in his excuses.

Let's be honest with ourselves. There is no lion in the way. We only say that because we don't want to do what we must do. Further, we do what we want to do. No lion is going to stop what we want to do.

No one is immune to the lion in the way. It requires diligence all the time to make sure the lion stays out of our way.

Prayer Requests

Jack Wilson is still struggling with pain and limited mobility.

Jerry Richardson is still undergoing treatments to strengthen his immune system. He is having some tests run for his lungs.

Karen Hallmark has improved but continues to struggle and could use our prayers.

Dinah Williams continues to have mobility issues.

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

Elaine Kersch is having tests run to diagnose problems with her lungs.

Randall Vanaman is having difficulties with his feet.

Doris Hammons is ill with covid.

Dorthy Steadman's great granddaughter passed away suddenly.

Remember those who have been sick with covid and may still be recovering.

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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