

June 4, 2023

Your Work Is Not In Vain

by George Slover

“Yet behold, there shall be left in it a remnant who will be brought out, both sons and daughters; surely they will come out to you, and you will see their ways and their doings. Then you will be comforted concerning the disaster that I have brought upon Jerusalem, all that I have brought upon it. (Ezekiel 14:22)

Imagine looking in the “want ads” of your local newspaper in the “help wanted” section and finding an opening that read: “needed, a prophet, a watchman sent to the exiles of Judah.” In this job description you are told that your audience will be a rebellious people who will liken your sermons to a lovely song, but will refuse to apply the message. Your mission will include predictions of a heathen nation that will totally destroy the cities, temple, and homes of these prideful Jews. Many of them would be exiled to a faraway land. Would you take the job?

These prophecies of doom and gloom would have been discouraging. Ezekiel surely must have contemplated the futility of preaching to those who would not listen. The faithful ones would have been frightened with the prospect of losing their homes and shrines of religious tradition. It would have been a dark picture indeed. Therefore, God gave them a glimpse of the future and, revealed to them his purpose. This incite would bring them consolation.

There would be the consolation of knowing God is just. Abraham appealed to the justice of God: “Far be it from You to

do such a thing as this, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous should be as the wicked; far be it from You! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?” (Genesis 18:25) There is consolation in knowing that God has a righteous object in all of his actions, and that “good” will triumph over evil. A God-fearing remnant will be spared, and the wicked will be ultimately punished.

There is consolation in knowing that God is merciful. The ultimate effect of the coming judgment would be to purge Israel of evil. A child cannot always see the end results of the lessons taught by the parents, but hopefully in time of maturity they will look back with appreciation for the special character they have developed. Hopefully, the disciplines of life will make us into a special people – God’s people!

Let us be assured that God is just in all of his designs and deeds. If his ways seem hidden, wait patiently for one day we will see it has all been good.

Focusing On Sin

By Rickie Jenkins

Coming to Christ, we had a change of mind. We used to say “no” to God and “yes” to Satan, but now we say “yes” to God and “no” to Satan. In our repentance, Satan considers us lost but he doesn’t give up

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 - Cedar Park church of Christ, Austin, - June 16

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.

easily. When Jesus withstood him, the Bible says, “he departed for a season.” But Satan would be back, and he’d come back with a vengeance.

Consider how Satan accomplishes his victory. It’s known that Christians disdain sin. In one of the imprecatory Psalms, David wrote, “I hate them that hate YOU.” So, if we hate sin and Satan knows it, how will he entice us once again?

Think about it. We spend so much time talking about sin and focusing on sin. We talk about how dark sin is. We speak of the horror of hell. If Satan can control our thinking by keeping us so focused on sin, hasn’t he accomplished his task? Satan will say, “Go ahead and go to church. Sit in your pew. Pray. Sing. Take the Lord’s Supper. Listen to how ferocious I am. When you leave that church building and go out on Monday, don’t forget to think about how you need to overcome sin.” Yes, knowing our adversary and his devices is very important, but if he is all we focus on, we have lost. It is more passive and unintentional, but lost nonetheless.

To fight Satan and take our eyes off of him, we must focus on someone else. That someone must be greater and more powerful than Satan himself. The one who receives our focus must have something to offer. Good news! That person is Jesus Christ. Paul will say it this way, “I thank God – through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, with the mind I myself serve the law of God, but with the flesh the law of sin. There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to flesh, but according to Spirit. ...For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace,” (Romans 7:25-8:1,6).

Our minds are changed, and our focus is on Jesus Christ. The word produces a spiritual mind so that the mind of the flesh no longer has our attention. Walking by the Spirit does not have us focus on sin and Satan, but rather on the One who provided

the ability to change our thinking, Jesus Christ.

Pursuing a spiritual-mind will allow us to overcome any thought of sin because we are so focused on walking by the Spirit. Coming to Christ we not only changed our will, but He enables us to think about things that are spiritual. When we’re walking with God, Satan’s traps will be apparent, but so will the escape provided by God.

So, while we acknowledge Satan and sin, let’s stay focused to walk with the Spirit and a spiritual mind. There is true peace and freedom!

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.

Doug Adair had surgery on his back and is recovering.

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

Sylvia Stinnett had had an accident and cut her leg.

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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