

Search and Find

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VICTORY	SUPREMACY	BATTLE
WAR	SUCCESS	DEFEAT
FOUGHT	CARNAL	INCLINATIONS
FIGHT	SUFFER	HARDSHIPS
PREACH	WORD	SEASON
RIGHTEOUSNESS	TRUTH	PERISH
LOVE	ENEMY	SHRANK
DECLARING	COUNSEL	AFRAID

Notes

Seeking That Which Is Good

Welcome

It is a pleasure to have you with us this hour. Our endeavor is to worship God in Spirit and in Truth by adhering to the scriptures in all that we do and teach.

If you desire to have a private Bible Study at your convenience, let us know.

Website

Meeting Location

ASSEMBLIES

SUNDAY:

A.M. _____

Phone

P.M. _____

Bible Study: _____

Volume II

0009

Salem Witch Trials

“On March 1, 1692, Salem, Massachusetts authorities interrogated Sarah Good, Sarah Osborne, and an Indian slave, Tituba, to determine if they indeed practiced witchcraft. So began the infamous Salem Witch Trials of 1692. Over the following months, more than 150 men and women in and around Salem were jailed on charges of exercising ‘Certain Detestable Arts called Witchcrafts & Sorceries.’ Nineteen people, including five men, were eventually convicted and hanged on Gallows Hill; and an additional male suspect was pressed to death. Others died in prison. Today they are seen as victims of a tragic mistake.

Cousins Abigail Williams and Elizabeth Parris, ages eleven and nine, respectively, began to enter trance-like states and to suffer from convulsive seizures in January 1692. By late February, prayer, fasting, and medical treatment had failed to relieve their symptoms, or to quiet the blasphemous shouting that accompanied their fits. Pressured to explain, the girls accused the three above-named women of afflicting them. (Continued, pg. 2)

A recent epidemic of smallpox, heightened threats of Indian attack, economic uncertainties, and small-town rivalries may have all primed the people of Salem and its surrounding areas for the mass hysteria that fueled the witchcraft trials. Although social status and gender offered little protection from accusations, historians note that single women particularly were vulnerable to charges of practicing witchcraft, while pre-adolescent girls were likewise most vulnerable to affliction. Sarah Good, Sarah Osborne, and Tituba, for example, all lacked male protectors” (Google).

Prior to these witch trials in Salem, “across the pond,” two specific trials in 1645 and 1662 became historically well known. “The 1645 trial ‘facilitated’ by the Witchfinder General saw 18 people executed in one day. The judgment by the future Lord Chief Justice of England and Wales, Sir Matthew Hale in the 1662 trial acted as a powerful influence on the continuing persecution of witches in England (Bury Edmunds Witch Trials).

What’s the point? Concerning the character of Matthew Hale, he was said, “to be considered the most eminent judge who ever filled the office, and we view with admiration and reverence the rules which he laid down for his conduct. They ought to be inscribed in letters of gold on the walls of Westminster Hall, as a lesson to those entrusted with the administration of justice” (Great Lawyers).

“There is but one lamentable blot upon the character of this most excellent man. The trial of the (so called) witches at Bury St. Edmunds, and the execution of the poor creatures accused of the crime, is still remembered with a shudder. That Sir Matthew should have been so blinded by superstition as to pass the awful sentence with satisfaction, supposing that he was thereby serving the cause of religion, appears incredible, and we can only marvel that such ignorance should have been found combined with so great excellence and learning” (Ibid.).

And now, brethren, I know that in ignorance ye did it, as did also your rulers, Acts 3:17: these also thought they were righteous. Seeking to establish a righteousness of their own (Rom. 10:3). ret

Victory Through Jesus (Fighting the good fight)

I. Victory:

- A. “Final supremacy in battle or war. Success in any struggle involving the defeat of an opponent” (Webster’s)
- B. 1 Tim. 1:18 – Fighting against carnal inclinations is warfare.

II. Paul’s Final Words to Timothy: 2 Tim. 4:7

- A. 2 Tim. 2:3-6 – “I have fought the good fight”
- B. 2 Tim. 4:1-5 – Suffer hardships
- C. Vs. 2 - Preaching is inherently aggressive.
 - 1. Preach the Word:
 - a. 2 Tim. 2:15; Jam. 1:18 – Word of truth
 - b. Heb. 5:13 – Word of righteousness
 - c. 2 Thess. 2:8-12 – “them that perish; because they receive not the love of the truth”
 - d. Gal. 4:16 - “...become your enemy, by telling you the truth?”
 - 2. Be urgent: to stand upon, that is, be present (in various applications, friendly or otherwise)
 - 3. In season, out of season:
 - a. Acts 20:20, 27 – “shrank not from declaring”
 - b. Acts 18:9 - “Be not afraid, but speak”
 - c. Matt. 10:16-28 – “be not afraid”

Solomon Says

In the multitude of words there wanteth not transgression; But he that refraineth his lips doeth wisely
Prov. 10:19