

Preserving the Church I

Jude 3

- A. Matt. 16:18 – The Lord said, “I will build my church.”
 - B. 2 Cor. 11:28 – Paul maintained an anxiety for all the churches.
 - C. Phil. 2:15 – Christians are a light to the world, within which they reside.
 - D. Rev. 2:5 – The church’s candlestick can be removed.
 - E. How do we feel about the preservation of the church in this area?
 - F. To preserve the church requires that its members are aware of conditions that oppose the purity and the preservation of the church: we want to consider a number of those conditions.
- I. Persecution:**
- A. Matt. 13:20-21 - Results from not being thoroughly rooted
 - B. Acts 4:15-18; 5:40 - Results from government oppression
 - C. Acts 8:1; 9:1-2 - Results from fear of death
- II. Worldliness:**
- A. Matt. 13:22; 1 Tim. 6:10 - Result from the cares and riches of the world choking out the word
 - B. 1 Jn. 2:15-17 - Must remember that the world passeth away.

The First Step

When thoughts become words, and words become actions, everyone must consider the consequence of taking that “first step.”

Positively: “Ye know this, my beloved brethren. But let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath: for the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God. Wherefore putting away all filthiness and overflowing of wickedness, receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deluding your own selves. For if any one is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a mirror: for he beholdeth himself, and goeth away, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. But he that looketh into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and so continueth, being not a hearer that forgetteth but a doer that worketh, this man shall be blessed in his doing” (Jam. 1:19-25).

Negatively: “their works are works of iniquity, and the act of violence is in their hands. Their feet run to evil, and they make haste to shed innocent blood: their thoughts are thoughts of iniquity; desolation and destruction are in their paths. The way of peace they know not; and there is no justice in their goings: they have made them crooked paths; whosoever goeth therein doth not know peace” (Isa. 59:6-8).

“I have taught thee in the way of wisdom; I have led thee in paths of uprightness. When thou goest, thy steps shall not be straitened; And if thou runnest, thou shalt not stumble. Take fast hold of instruction; let her not go: Keep her; for she is thy life. Enter not into the path of the wicked, And walk not in the way of evil men.

Avoid it, pass not by it; Turn from it, and pass on” (Prov. 4:10-15)

Think on these things: “If my step hath turned out of the way, And my heart walked after mine eyes, And if any spot hath cleaved to my hands: Then let me sow, and let another eat; Yea, let the produce of my field be rooted out” (Job 31:7-8). ret



Do You Believe There is a God?

Do you believe there is a God? The scriptures reveal a very basic truth: "For every house is built by someone" (Heb. 3:4). Individuals would deem you foolish if you attempted to convince them that your car, your house, your watch...or any other possession you have was a result of chance. The atheist would have us believe that the universe is the result of a "Big Bang." Such a "theory" is as likely as a theory that your house is the result of the local lumberyard exploding and the foundation, walls, plumbing and fixtures fall into place. The scriptures affirm that "the invisible things of him since the creation of the world are clearly seen, being perceived through the things that are made, even his everlasting power and divinity; that they may be without excuse" (Rom. 1:20). What is seen in creation is evidence to the things, which cannot be seen, i.e., God. Genesis 1:1 affirms that "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." Do you believe there is a God? Yes or No? If not, why not? What evidence do you have that would nullify God’s evidence that "every house is built by someone; but he that built all things is God" (Heb. 3:4)? ret

Do You Believe God?

Do you believe God? Not simply that there is a God, but do you believe God will do what He says He will do? James showed the invalid nature of believing in God, but not obeying Him, when he said, "Thou believeth that God is one; thou doest well, the demons also believe, and shudder" (2:19). Just believing there is a God will not suffice for obedience. Paul said, "For Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned unto him for righteousness" (Romans 4:3). Why? Because, "By faith Abraham, when he was called, obeyed to go out unto a place which he was to receive for an inheritance" (Hebrews 11:8). Just as Abraham believed God concerning the promises He gave, so also must we believe God will do what He says he will do. God says, "So then each one of us shall give account of himself to God" (Romans 14:12). God says, "For we must all be made manifest before the judgment-seat of Christ; that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he hath done, whether it be good or bad" (1 Corinthians 5:10). God said, concerning the righteous and the wicked, "And these (wicked, emph. mine, ret) shall go away into eternal punishment: but the righteous into eternal life" (Matthew 25:46). Do you believe God? Yes or No? If not, why not? What evidence do you have that would nullify God's promises: the blessing as well as the curse. ret



Solomon Says

Keep thy foot when thou goest to the house of God;
for to draw nigh to hear is better than to give the
sacrifice of fools: for they know not that they do evil.
Eccl. 5:1

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C O U N C I L E D N J A C Y
 A P A S S E T H A F E B A A
 N G O V E R N M E R O N P
 D C O M M A N D E D U U D O
 L O V E R E R I C H S N I S
 E P E A M I L I B E A D E T
 S P R R I I C B T Y L J S L
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 I E M S P O G A E T M W I S
 C S E D F I R L C S O Y C T
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 O N A A H U J E K A E A U U
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 R L E S H C I R U S C A E S
 E E S P R E A D I F E A E S
 I A B I D E T H L F A I D A
 P R I E S T E B D A M A S P

WILL BUILD	CHURCH	LIGHT
WORLD	CANDLESTICK	ROOTED
OPPRESSION	GOVERNMENT	FEAR
CARES	PASSETH AWAY	TRIBULATION
FRUIT	RICHES	MONEY
FAITH	PIERCED	LOVE
FLESH	VAINGLORY	ABIDETH
COMMANDED	COUNCIL	NOTABLE
MIRACLE	JERUSALEM	SPREAD
SPEAK	AGREED	APOSTLES
BEAT	CHARGED	REGIONS
DAMASCUS	PRIEST	BOUND

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With Him is

Plenteous Redemption

Psalms 130:7

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Weekly Reading:

Acts 7—8:3; 12:1-19; 13:13-52
 Acts 14:1-7, 19-20; 15:1-41



Luke 16:19-31

Your Choice
Choose Wisely



Revelation 4:4

What is Your Life?

“Come now, ye that say, Today or to-morrow we will go into this city, and spend a year there, and trade, and get gain: whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. What is your life? For ye are a vapor that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away. For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall both live, and do this or that. But now ye glory in your vauntings: all such glorying is evil. To him therefore that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin” (James 4:13-17).

Making preparation for the moment in which each will stand before the Creator should be of utmost importance to all. The Apostle Paul said, “For we must all be made manifest before the judgment-seat of Christ; that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he hath done, whether it be good or bad” (2 Cor. 5:10). ret