

"herald the good news" Romans 10:15

THE HERALD

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WITH THEIR HANDS

There is a remarkable sermon delivered by Stephen in Acts 7 . Stephen recounted some of the history of God's chosen people in the Old Testament and concluded by rebuking the Jewish leaders for not having given their hearts to God. Note what the Jews had done or would do with their hands.

(1) While Moses was away at Mt. Sinai receiving the Law of the God the people began to wander what happened to him since he had been gone so long. Not knowing if he would ever return they made gods to go before them (Acts 7:40). "And they made a calf in those days, and offered sacrifice unto the idol, and rejoiced in the works of their hands." This was the beginning of a series of events that would lead to their captivity.

(2) Moses had been given instruction concerning the building of the tabernacle (tent) where sacrifices could be made to God and where the High Priest could enter the holy of holies and make sacrifice for himself and for the people one day each year. Moses and the people built the tabernacle according to God's plan (Exodus 25:40; Acts 7:44) and it was pleasing to Moses (Exodus 39:42-43) and accepted by God. When the people worked with their hands the things that God commanded it was acceptable to Him.

(3) As a result of Stephen's rebuke of the Jewish leaders they became very angry, ran together and took Stephen out of the city and stoned him to death. With their hands they detained Stephen and with their hands they picked up rocks that were cast at Stephen until his body was lifeless. Again we see some of the Jews using their hands once again for an evil purpose.

There are many today who are using their hands to do as they please. I am reminded of the words in (Psalm 127:1) "Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the Lord keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain." Some today are trying to build marriages (homes) without following God's instruction book. Others are attempting to build churches using their own feelings and wishes as the foundation. Every time man departs from God's way and charts his own path it ends in failure. God has given us wonderful abilities and opportunities to do good with our lives (hands). If we choose to use them for his glory we will be rewarded with an eternal joy.

Stephen's life may have been cut short for speaking the truth but who can doubt the reward. "And said, Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God" (Acts 7:56). "And they stoned Stephen, calling upon God, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit" (Acts 7:59). If we do the Lord's work with our hands then the one who is at the Father's right hand will welcome us home. Gary Puryear

WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?

1. I MUST BELIEVE

"But without faith, it is impossible to please Him" (Hebrews 11:6)

2. I MUST REPENT

"Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish" (Luke 13:3)

3. I MUST CONFESS

"And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God" (Acts 8:37)

4. I MUST BE BAPTIZED

"He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned." (Mark 16:16)

5. I MUST LIVE RIGHT

"We should live soberly, righteously, and Godly in this present world" (Titus 2:12)

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

SUNDAY

Worship at 10:30 am & 6:00 pm
Bible Class at 9:30 am

WEDNESDAY

Bible Class at 7:00 pm

ELDERS

Fred Barnett, Mark DeLong,
Rodney Newton, Ray Poston, Stephen Stilwell

DEACONS

Micah Busbey, Karl Dawson, Bob McIndoo,
Jeff Morris, Juan Nunez,
Mark Springer, Leland Steely, Tim Tapp

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OUR AFFLICTION

“For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory” (2 Corinthians 4:17).

Our Affliction

Paul writing to the Corinthian brethren made the point that affliction, or suffering is something we all share; “our affliction.” It is so easy when suffering to feel, and falsely conclude that it is just me. When Jezebel had ordered that all the prophets be slain (I Kgs. 18:4,13), Elijah concluded that he alone was in trouble, fleeing for his life (I Kgs. 18:22; 19:14). But God said, “Yet I have left me seven thousand in Israel, all the knees which have not bowed unto Baal, and every mouth which hath not kissed him” (I Kgs. 19:18). There is comfort and encouragement in knowing that others suffer faithfully the same affliction that we do (I Pet. 5:9; Acts 14:22; 2 Tim. 3:12). For if they with God’s help can overcome, so can we!

Our Affliction is Light

Paul saying light, means suffering is not heavy. I know that you are asking what type of suffering is light? Understand, Paul is somewhat of an expert on the subject of suffering (2 Cor. 4:18-12; 11:23-28), and he not only calls his suffering light, but ours also. Thomas B. Warren, faithful Gospel preacher, writer, debater, and defender of the Truth once made a few inspiring observations under this point: He said suffering is light compared to what Jesus endured, suffering is light compared to what we really deserve, and suffering is light compared to the glories of heaven. So true, suffering really is light if we give it spiritual thought. Never forget that suffering has the inclination of driving us in the direction of our Lord (2 Cor. 12:7-10). That benefit alone minimizes our affliction as a “light thing.”

Our Affliction is Just for a Moment

All suffering seems like an eternity, like it just drags on forever and ever. But all suffering is just for a moment, or a very short time. Job said, “Man that is born of a woman is of few days, and full of trouble (Job 14:1). Even though life is full of affliction it is just for a little while (Jas. 4:14). As a result, if we live for 250 years and suffer every single day, our suffering would be a short time, because life on earth is only a short time. What is a lifetime in the realm of eternity? Just a moment. So what is the length of suffering during our lifetime to gain eternity? Just a moment.

Our Affliction Works for Us an Eternal Weight of Glory

It is so hard to see the bright side of suffering, and I doubt if anyone could without the Word of God. But through God’s Word we see the importance, necessity, and benefits of suffering. Our Lord suffered faithfully (Heb. 5:8; I Pet. 21:21), and it’s important for us to also learn how. Suffering through things faithfully makes us stronger, molding our character in the likeness of our Savior (I Pet.2:20-21; 4:16). (Psa. 119:71). Suffering is the reason why many wayward brethren are restored. Was not suffering the fundamental reason why the prodigal son *came to himself*, and eventually back home? (Lk.15:11-24). Suffering also reminds us that this world is not our home and intensifies our longing for heaven. Richard Stevens III

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY (July 29)

Opening Prayer: Bill Brantley
Closing Prayer: Warren Hust
Devotional: Mark DeLong
Song Leader: Josh Fletcher

SUNDAY (Aug. 2)

AT THE TABLE

*Brad Carter Ray Poston
Barry Green Josh Fletcher
David Hust Alan Carter
David Leigh *Glenn Lewis

*Denotes those to serve communion Sunday night

AM Worship

Announcements: Bob McIndoo
Opening Prayer: Stephen Stilwell
Scripture Reading: Glenn Whittedge
Closing Prayer: Joe Hein
Ushers: Micah Busbey
John Heldreth

DOOR GREETERS

Carolyn Turpin
Pat Turpin
Laverne Thomason

PM Worship

Opening Prayer: Brad Carter
Scripture Reading: Alan Carter
Closing Prayer: James Thomason

FOR THE RECORD (July 19)

Sunday Morning Worship: 224
Sunday Morning Bible Study: 144
Sunday Evening Worship: 158
Wednesday Bible Study: 139
Contribution: \$6175.01

NEWS AND NOTES

Prayer Request: Irby Lapington, Doris McDaniel, Lori Hill, June Bollinger, Ariana DeLong, Patricia DeLong, Donald Stone, Vera Sue Pleasant, Carolyn Clevenger, Debbie Newman, Kathy Riggs, Joann Hayes, Tommy Jenkins, Bob Harrell, Wayne Moore, Gene Thomason, David Zehner, Carole Bass.

V.B.S. We begin our Bible school tonight at 6:30. There will be nightly sessions from 6:30-8:30 through Wednesday night. We have classes for all ages. Speakers for the adults will be Roger Wright, Scott Wiley, Ray Stilwell and Mark Engel.

Annual Give-Away: You can bring items on 7/31, 8/1 & 8/3-7 from 8 a.m.-8 p.m. Giveaway is Aug. 8.

Gospel Meeting: Poole Church of Christ, Aug. 26-29 with James Meadows as their speaker. See bulletin board for details.

25th Anniversary: Huntingburg Church of Christ, Aug. 9 from 3-4:30 p.m. EST. Singing/fellowship.

Just A Word: I want to thank those of you who are always so encouraging to others. You take time to welcome visitors, encourage those who have been away for a time, wait in line to welcome a new member or someone who has been restored to their first love. It seems in our world we don’t get much encouragement so it is wonderful to see people taking the time to show they care. Let’s keep that sweet spirit alive. You certainly encourage me. G.P.