

RELIGION

Scripture of the Week

John 3:16

Give Your Best To The Master

BY MICHAEL LINDSEY
Dean of North Portland Bible College

The text for the Sunday School lesson (International Series) for next Sunday is Acts 20:17-31. We encourage you to join in a class this Sunday at a local church where the Bible is taught. You'll be glad you did.

Our whirlwind study of the life and achievements of Paul the Apostle continues this week, with a look at Paul's fatherly advice to the elders of the Ephesian church. How much Paul and his missionary band had accomplished since the last lesson! They have labored for three years in the city of Ephesus, establishing the gospel of Christ in that capital and in many smaller cities of Asia Minor. It seems that Paul trained men and quickly sent them forth to surrounding places. One of these men, Epaphras, began the church in Colossae, only 50 miles away, but a city Paul himself never visited (Col 1:7-8; 2:1). He did not actively preach in Troas, the seaport, but there was a church there by the close of his three-year ministry in Ephesus (Acts 20:6-7). Probably many of the churches addressed in Revelation 2 and 3 were also founded during this time.

Following a major riot, brought on by the idol-makers of Ephesus (19:23-41), Paul took a few months to visit and encourage the churches in Macedonia and Greece—churches we know like Philippi, Thessalonica, and Corinth. From Paul's letters we know he was also collecting a special offering for the poor saints in Jerusalem (compare 1 Cor 16:1-4; 2 Cor 8-9; and Rom 15:25-28).

He had not planned to stop in or near Ephesus after putting the churches' offering together, but he apparently had to lay over for several days in the port of Miletus, 30 miles from Ephesus. So he called the elders of Ephesus together for a spiritual "retreat," hastily called together while he waited in Miletus (20:15-16). It would have taken at least three days to summon them and get them out to Miletus, so we know there was some unforeseen delay. Notice how

highly they valued this kind of retreat; some of us would have been unwilling to invest those three days for spiritual growth, even if we didn't have to walk to get there!

As Luke summarizes Paul's message in our Bible lesson, we see Paul emphasizing the things he did to make his own ministry in Ephesus a success. He avoided the trap of false humility, of denying his own part in accomplishing the work the Lord had given him to do. He sets before the elders his own life as an example of excellence in ministry, and challenges them to be ready for the predictable attacks of the enemy, after he is gone.

May I be blunt here? I fear that many times we who are called ministers of God through Christ, are content to be ordinary, mediocre men. We don't want to challenge our thinking, or discipline our minds, our bodies, and our schedules, in order to set an example of godly excellence for God's people. And as a result, the believers are also content with mediocrity, no matter how much we preach and scold and complain.

But the Lord wants us to be men and women of excellence, ready to see stumbling blocks as stepping stones—ready to "expect great things of God, and attempt great things for God," as William Carey, the father of modern missions, once proclaimed. Some of the pastors here in Portland are beginning to meet together in small groups to encourage and challenge and "sharpen" each other, with a purpose to build strong, growing, holy churches of believers. These are noble aims, and we ought to be quick to encourage one another with our words.

What were the standards of excellence which Paul used to challenge the leaders of Ephesus? First, Paul was a man of excellence in teaching the Word. He taught the Scriptures in public meetings and in private homes, holding back "nothing that was profitable unto you" (20:20). He declared to them "I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God" (27). Now this

takes a lot of work, and prayer, and study, to know all that the Lord has commanded, and to apply it straightforwardly for the people of God (compare Matt 28:19). Are we willing to apply ourselves, so that our teaching and preaching makes a difference?

Second, Paul was a man of excellence in bravery. He often had to escape for his life from the plots of Jewish opponents of the faith, but he kept coming back for more (19, 22-23). He would not be intimidated by government, nor by charges of religious bigotry, nor by physical persecution. Followers of Jesus Christ today face exile, prison, and death for proclaiming the same gospel Paul taught—in Moslem, Buddhist and officially atheistic countries. Do we possess that kind of dedication?

Third, Paul was a man of excellence in disciple-making. In three years the Apostle had developed a strong cadre of leaders, men who could serve well as "overseers" and "shepherds". He prepared them for the realities of leadership, and prepared them to succeed (29-31). Are we faithfully preparing a new generation of leadership, and giving them the experience they will need to become the future pastors, missionaries, evangelists, and teachers of the church?

Finally, Paul was a man of excellence in personal integrity. He would not compromise his message to favor one group of another (21). He would not let the natural honor which believers bestow on the preacher, turn into a means of getting rich (33-34). Rather, he would work hard in order to help others in need (35). Are we more concerned with our personal comfort and prosperity, or with helping those who are truly in need? Are we concerned to be people who keep their word, who tell the truth, who are faithful to their friends and to the Lord?

Paul was a man of excellence, and he wanted his elders to be men of excellence, too. Wouldn't it be great to be a part of a church of people who were striving for excellence? It's really up to us!

Young Men, Did You Know?

BY MATTIE ANN CALLIER-SPEARS

The future of the human race rests in the hands of our young men. Satan is so busy creating one snare after another. He is trapping, kidnapping, snaring and coercing young men into one evil situation after another.

Open your eyes! But -- if you have Christ, in your life, you can not only see with your physical eyes -- but, you can also see with your spiritual eyes. Why are spiritual eyes necessary? Because -- with Satan as your enemy, you need spiritual sight; with the aid of the Holy Spirit. Ephesians 6:12 states, "For we are not fighting against people made of flesh and blood, but against persons without bodies--the evil rulers of the unseen world, those mighty satanic beings and great evil princes of darkness who rule this world; and against huge numbers of wicked spirits in the spirit world."

Yes, you will be dubbed as being a very foolish man if you think that you can fight against these forces all by yourself.

God is closely watching you, and He weighs carefully everything you do. **ADVICE FROM THE PROVERBS, Chapter 6:**

Son, if you endorse a note for someone you hardly know, guaranteeing his debt, you are in serious trouble. You may have trapped yourself by your agreement. Quick! Get out of it if you possibly can! Swallow your pride; don't let embarrassment stand in the way. Go and beg to have your name erased. Don't put it off. Do it now. Don't rest until you do. If you can get out of this trap and have saved yourself like a deer that escapes from the hunter, or a bird from the net [DO NOT CO-SIGN]

Take a lesson from the ants, you lazy fellows. Learn from their ways and be wise! For though they have no

king to make them work, yet they labor hard all summer, gathering food for the winter. But you--all you do is sleep. When will you wake up? "Let me sleep a little longer!" Sure, just a little more! And as you sleep, poverty creeps upon you like a robber and destroys you; want attacks you in full armor. [GET UP AND GET A JOB]

Let me describe for you a worthless and a wicked man; first, he is a constant liar; he signals his true intentions to his friends with eyes and feet and fingers. Next, his heart is full of rebellion. And he spends his time thinking of all the evil he can do, and stirring up discontent. But, he will be destroyed suddenly, broken beyond hope of healing. For there are six things the Lord hates--no, seven:

Haughtiness

Lying

Murdering

Plotting Evil

Eagerness to do wrong

A false witness

Sowing discord among brothers.

Young men, obey your father and your mother. Tie their instructions around your finger so you won't forget. Take to heart all of their advice. Everyday and all night long their counsel will lead you and save you from harm; when you wake up in the morning, let their instructions guide you into the new day. For their advice is a beam of light directed into the dark corners of your mind to warn you of danger and to give you a good life. Their counsel will keep you far away from prostitutes with all their flatteries. Don't lust for their beauty. Don't let their coyness seduce you. For a prostitute will bring a man to poverty, and an adulteress may cost him his very life. [OBEY YOUR PARENTS]

Can a man hold fire against his chest and not be burned? Can he walk

on hot coals and not blister his feet? So it is with the man who commits adultery with another's wife. He shall not go unpunished for this sin. Excuses might even be found for a thief, if he steals when he is starving! But even so, he is fined seven times as much as he stole, though it may mean selling everything in his house to pay it back.

But the man who commits adultery is an utter fool, for he destroys his own soul. Wounds and constant disgrace are his lot, for the woman's husband will be furious in his jealousy and he will have no mercy on you in his day of vengeance. You won't be able to pay him off no matter how much you offer.

God's WORD is as sharp as a two-edged sword. It goes forth with love. God only wants what is good for all his people.

The young men of today, are under so much pressure from their peers and from the world. Just remember -- "you can do all things through Christ who strengthens you." --Philippians 4:13

When television, school, the community and even some family members seem to be pressuring you into areas -- you know to be wrong, you must seek assurance from the Holy Scripture. Seek out the truth from an elder of the church; who is entrenched in God's Word. Appropriating the real truth, by faith, is what counts. God is truth.

Young men, Open Open your eyes and your hearts. Listen! See the truth! Be all that you can be in the eyes of God Almighty!

Did we in our own strength confide,

Our striving would be losing,
Were not the right Man on our side,
The Man of God's own choosing.
----Luther

Woodlawn United Methodist Church

A Centennial Music Fest is scheduled for 6:00 pm, Sunday, November 3, at Woodlawn United Methodist Church, 1425 NE Dekum Street.

The choirs from University Park

United Methodist Church and from Celebration Tabernacle will participate along with other choirs and special music presentations. The Rev. Eldred Mondaine will bring a brief message.

Members, friends and neighbors, as well as persons previously connected to Beech Street, Central, Patton, Patton-Central, or Woodlawn Methodist Churches, are invited to join in the celebration.

MALLORY CHURCH OF CHRIST

3908 NE MALLORY AVENUE



Minister Gregory Fobbs

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Bible Study
9:30 am.
Morning Worship
10:45 am.
Men's Training Leadership
Women's Bible Class
5:00 pm.
Evening Worship
6:00 pm.
Attended nursery for all services
Wednesday prayer meeting and bible study
7:30 pm.

Radio Ministry Each Sunday, 11:00 AM - KBMS
288-1092
RESTORING
NEW TESTAMENT CHRISTIANITY

Cold-weather goods needed

As winter nears, blankets, heavy coats and other cold-weather clothing are once again atop our list of desperately needed items. Among the other needs: workboots, rain gear and tents (for the homeless), blankets, pillows, bedsheets, baby blankets, pots, pans, dishes, kitchen utensils, tables and chairs, chests of drawers. **For details: 284-6878.**

Fraser Rasmussen leaving us (almost)

Long-time Board member Fraser Rasmussen resigned that post last month, but vowed to stay "as active as I can be" as a volunteer.



MT OLIVET BAPTIST CHURCH

WE ARE MOVING
SUNDAY SERVICES
TO

Stone Tower Church,
N.E. Sandy Blvd. & 30th

Worship Services 8:00 A.M. & 11:00 A.M.
Church School 9:30 A.M. to 10:30 A.M.
Bible Study, Wednesdays, 116 N.E. Schuyler
10:30 A.M. and 6:30 P.M.

Radio Ministry each Sunday, 8:00 A.M. - KBMS

A Teaching Church With A Reaching Ministry
Dr. James E. Martin, Senior Pastor

Church Office 116 N.E. Schuyler,

Jesus Loves You!

Allen Temple CME Church

Psalm 34:3

4236 NE Eighth Avenue

(corner of 8th & Skidmore)

Portland, Oregon 97211

(503) 287-0261

Phillip S. Nelson Pastor

St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church

8101 N. Fiske Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97203

Church Phone: 289-0147

Study Phone: 289-1911

**Sunday Service
10:45
Sunday School
9:30
Bible Study
6:00
Evening Service
7:00 P.M.**



Pastor, Rev. James C.E. Faulkner

Theme: Whatever you're going to do for the Lord, do it now

I Peter 4:11

For God So Loved the world, he gave his only son for those who should not die but have everlasting life. John 3:16

Mallory Avenue Christian Church

Disciples of Christ

God's Presence promises Power through Jesus Christ in Good Times and Bad Times
Matthew 11:28

"Come to me all you who are weary and heavy laden and I will give you rest"

9:45am Sunday School
11:00am Morning Worship
7:30pm Tuesday Bible Study and Prayer

Inter-racial Congregation

126 N.E. Filberta



Denise A. Bell, Pastor

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