

Problems with Pride from Proverbs

Author unknown

- "These six things the LORD hates, yes, seven are an abomination to Him: A proud look, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that are swift in running to evil, a false witness who speaks lies, and one who sows discord among brethren." (6:16-19)
 - "When pride comes, then comes shame; but with the humble is wisdom." (11:2)
 - "By pride comes nothing but strife, but with the well-advised is wisdom." (13:10)
 - "In the mouth of a fool is a rod of pride, but the lips of the wise will preserve them." (14:3)
 - "The LORD will destroy the house of the proud, but He will establish the boundary of the widow." (15:25)
 - "Everyone proud in heart is an abomination to the LORD; though they join forces, none will go unpunished." (16:5)
 - "Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall." (16:18)
 - "A haughty look, a proud heart, and the plowing of the wicked are sin." (21:4)
- "A man's pride will bring him low, but the humble in spirit will retain honor." (29:23)

Credit: www.moodychurchofchrist.com ♦

HOW TO GET WHAT YOU WANT

- If you want friends — **be friendly.**
- If you want someone to smile — **smile.**
- If you want courtesy — **be courteous.**
- If you want knowledge — **study.**
- If you want a good name — **live right.**
- If you want to reap well — **sow well.**
- If you want to be a Christian — **obey God's word.**
- If you want to go to heaven — **live a Christian life ♦**

What Must I Do To Be Saved?

- Hear and Learn** - Rom. 10:17 m. 10:9-10 ; 1 Pet. 3:21 ; John 6:45; 17:3
- Believe** - Heb. 11:6; John 6:29; 8:24
- Repent** - Luke 13:3; Acts 3:19; 17:30
- Confess the Lord** - Matt. 10:32-33; Romans 10:9-10; 1 Pet. 3:21
- Be Baptized** - Mark 16:16; Acts 22:16; Gal. 3:26-27
- Continue in the Apostles' Teaching** - Acts 2:42; 2 Tim. 3:14-17

About the Hillcrest church of Christ

Evangelist: Jimmy Pettigrew

How to Contact Us

Telephone: (920)499-5677
E-mail: hillcrestcofc@live.com



Our Address

1621 Hillcrest Drive
Green Bay, WI 54313

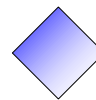


Schedule of Assembly

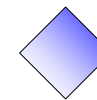
Bible Study: Sunday, 9:00am
Worship Service: Sunday, 10:00am
Bible Study: Wednesday, 7:00pm*

*A song service is held on the last Wednesday of every month

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The Voice of Truth



June 26, 2011

The Little Maid
By Jimmy Pettigrew

"Now Naaman, captain of the host of the king of Syria, was a great man with his master, and honourable, because by him the LORD had given deliverance unto Syria: he was also a mighty man in valour, but he was a leper. And the Syrians had gone out by companies, and had brought away captive out of the land of Israel a little maid; and she waited on Naaman's wife. And she said unto her mistress, Would God my lord were with the prophet that is in Samaria! for he would recover him of his leprosy. And one went in, and told his lord, saying, Thus and thus said the maid that is of the land of Israel" (2 Kings 5:1-4).

Though Naaman was captain of the Syrian army, a great military hero, in a position of honor and prestige, he had the dreaded disease of leprosy, which had no cure. His fame and greatness could not save him from his leprosy, just as a man's sincerity, honesty, fairness or goodness by itself will not save him from sin.

An Israelite maid had been stolen during one of the raids of a Syrian company; she ended up serving Naaman's wife. This young girl told of Elisha, who could heal Naaman.

(1) By observing this little maid, we see that she did not forget her religion though away from home. She remembered the power of God (2 Kings 5:3). We see that, though in a foreign land, she still thought of God and the prophet of God. This little maiden took her religion with her, even in this difficulty.

The motto with great many professing Christians seems to be when they leave home, they leave God and their religion home. When away from home some seem to forget that they are Christians, leaving God and their religion behind. Acting in a different way than while at home, when away from home some engage in sinful activities. Some fail to assemble with a congregation of God's people (Hebrews 10:25). Let us remember no matter where we go, God sees us (Psalm 33:13-14; Job 34:21; Hebrews

4:13). No matter where we go, let us take our religion with us, as Joseph took his into Egypt, as Daniel took his into Babylon, as this little Hebrew maid took hers into Syria.

(2). By observing this little maid we see her story is one of faith. She was faithful even in a difficult situation. She believed that God would take care of her when she was faithfully serving Him. Though she was a captive and had no means to help Naaman, she knew of one who could. She had faith in God. She knew that God was with Elisha, and therefore she had no doubt about Elisha's success.

Where is our faith in God's promises when difficulties and trials come our way? The secret of this little maid's faithfulness and usefulness was here strong and simple faith. Where is our faith in God's promises when discouragements come to us? Let us have the faith has this little maid.

(3) By observing this little maid we see she did not render evil for evil. She had been torn from her home from her native land by the rude hands of Syrian soldiers. Her family may have died at the hand of her master. Familiar faces, voices and places were far from her. Yet, she did not demonstrate a spirit of revenge. Instead of rejoicing to see her captor suffer, she pities him. She longs that he may be healed of that terrible disease. Have we ever felt just a little joy when someone who has wronged us meets misfortune?

A spirit of revenge is not the spirit of Christ (Matthew 5:44). The disciples of Jesus are to love those who personally hate, curse and despise them. How beautiful and wonderful would life on this earth be, if every person lived in obedience to this instruction of Jesus which has been well called by men, the golden rule (Matthew 7:12). The way to overcome evil is by doing good (Romans 12:19-21).

The little maid longed that her captor be healed; "And

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she said unto her mistress, Would God my Lord were with the prophet that is in Samaria! for he would recover him

of his leprosy." (2 Kings 5:3) What a lesson this little maid has taught us! May we learn from this, and may God help us to demonstrate our Christianity at all times! ♦

“What The Resurrection Means ...”

By Jarrod Jacobs

The resurrection of Christ is the focal point of the Bible, as well as the focal point of history. Each of the four gospel records close with the resurrection of Christ from the dead. Christ’s resurrection was an actual event, and hundreds of people saw Christ after His resurrection (I Cor. 15:5-8). Truly, the resurrection of Christ is the focal point of all we do and say! When folks in the Bible confessed, and when folks today confess, “I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God,” they are proclaiming faith in the resurrection of Christ (Acts 8:37; Rom. 1:3-4)! The apostles’ preaching pointed to the central fact that Christ resurrected from the dead. The book of Acts makes this clear (Acts 2:22-32, 3:12-15, 5:29-32, 13:26-37; etc.).

In reading the New Testament, we learn that the epistles written to the churches and to the Christians of the first century focus consistently on the resurrection of Christ (Rom. 1:1-4; I Cor. 15:1-8, 12-58; Gal. 1:1; Eph. 1:20-23; Phil. 2:5-10; Col. 2:12, 3:1; I Thess. 4:14; II Tim. 2:8; Heb. 13:8; I Pet. 1:3, 21, 3:18, 21; Revelation). The reason for so many Bible references is to show the great emphasis that God places upon the resurrection of Christ throughout the New Testament. Thus, it demands study!

The resurrection of Christ on the third day following the Lord’s crucifixion means a great deal to those who are Christians. For the remainder of this article, let us consider the importance of Christ’s resurrection, and what it means to those who are Christians.

Christ Was Declared To Be The Son Of God By The Resurrection.

Atheists, Muslims, Hindus, Jews, and others deny that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. In so doing, they are contradicting the Sacred Text, and denying the very plan of God in resurrecting His Son from the dead after His crucifixion. The apostle Paul, an eye-witness of Christ after His resurrection, said, “We declare unto you glad tidings, how that the promise which was made unto the fathers, God hath fulfilled the same unto us their children, in that he hath raised up Jesus again; as it is also written in the second psalm, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee. And as concerning that he raised him up from the dead, now no more to return to corruption, he said on this

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resurrection, Christ then “opened [the apostles’] understanding, that they might understand the Scriptures” and see what it meant for Christ to suffer, die and resurrect the third day (Lk. 24:45-46).

When we read of Christ’s resurrection, and the apostles’ proclaiming the resurrection to be a true event, we see the fulfillment of a great prophecy promised by the Old Testament prophets, and Christ Himself (Matt. 28:1-6, Mk. 16:1-8, Lk. 24:1-9, Jn. 20:1-10)!

What It Means If Christ Did Not Resurrect From The Dead.

Consider for a moment the possibility of Christ not resurrecting. What if His body saw corruption, and His bones were left on earth? What if there was no empty tomb for Mary and the apostles to enter, but instead, a tomb that had Christ’s body in it? Does this make any difference to us and our salvation?

The best explanation on record that tells us what it means if Christ did not resurrect is found in I Corinthians 15:12-20. There, the apostle Paul confronts such a theory and says that if Christ did not resurrect the third day, then the apostles’ preaching was vain, our faith is vain (worthless), the apostles were false witnesses (liars) in saying that Christ resurrected, we are yet in our sins, and all who have died have perished!! What a terrible picture painted by the apostle in this passage! But thanks be to God that Christ is risen and therefore we do not have to live in our sins. Our faith is not vain, the apostles were not liars, and their preaching was not in vain! Let us remember this section of Scripture that shows us how terrible life would be if Christ was crucified and never came out of the grave!! Without the resurrection of Christ, nothing else matters!

We Have The Forgiveness Of Sins By The Resurrection.

I Corinthians 15:17 says, “if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins.” Since we know that Christ resurrected from the dead, then we know we can have the forgiveness of sins! When Paul wrote about Christ, he said Christ, “was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification” (Rom. 4:25). The Bible teaches that as a result of Christ’s death, burial, and resurrection, we can obtain justification and forgiveness through our obedience to God’s plan of Salvation. The Bible says that when we are baptized we can have our

sins forgiven (Mk. 16:16; Acts 2:38, 22:16). Baptism “now” saves us because of the resurrection of Christ (I Pet. 3:21)!

Christ’s Resurrection Means One Day We Will Resurrect, Too!

Even before His death, Jesus taught this fact, and said that “the hour is coming” when “all who are in the graves shall hear his voice” and will be resurrected to go to either eternal life or eternal damnation (Jn. 5:28-29). The fact of a resurrection was not only taught by Christ, but by the apostles as well. For example, when defending himself before Felix, the apostle Paul declared that there will be “a resurrection” of the dead, both of the just and the unjust (Acts 24:15). Yes, since Christ resurrected, so also we will resurrect! The apostle Paul not only taught this as he taught folks “publicly and from house to house”, but he wrote about it as well. When reading I Thessalonians 4:13-18 and II Thessalonians 1:6-9, we read this same truth – men will one day resurrect!

In fact, I Corinthians 15:20 states plainly that Christ has “become the firstfruits of them the slept.” In other words, Christ’s resurrection declares that one day all men will resurrect to receive our eternal rewards!! Thus, the question is not “if” it will happen, but “when” this event will happen. Are you ready for the resurrection day? Now is the time to prepare (II Cor. 6:2). Do not wait until it is too late! Credit: www.southside-churchofchrist.com ♦

THE EMPTY PEW

The empty pew speaks volumes concerning ones:

1. Desire to serve God.
2. Desire to worship God.
3. Desire to learn more of God.
4. Desire to be an example to others.
5. Desire to change one's life.
6. Desire to raise one's children in the Lord.
7. Desire to be morally right in God's sight.
8. Desire to save one's own soul.
9. Desire to save the souls of others.
10. Desire to put the kingdom of God first in one's life.

Do not let the empty pew speak against you at the judgment day! ♦