

“THE GOD WE SERVE”

God *has* revealed Himself to all of mankind. He is revealed in His created universe (Psalm 19; Romans 1:18-22), and He has clearly shown Himself in His written revelation (Hebrews 11:1-3; Romans 10:17). Thus, we can know who God is and what He expects from His creation. John, by inspiration stated that eternal life and knowing God are joined together (1 John 5:13). James gives an insight into the character of God. To realize these attributes is to have more respect for Him. In James 1:12-17 we see at least three things that all men need to realize.

1. GOD IS A GIVER. (James 1:17, also vs. 5)

The literal translation of verse 5 is, “let man ask of a giving God.” This would contrast the true and living God with the “dead gods” which could give nothing! God’s nature is to be loving, giving and forgiving. He gave Christ for our salvation (John 3:16), the gospel which reveals His plan of salvation (Romans 1:16), the peace which “passeth all understanding” (Philippians 4:7), and the hope which is sure and steadfast (Colossians 1:5, 23, 27). Truly God has “given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness” (2 Peter 1:3).

2. GOD IS UNCHANGING. (James 1:17)

Man needs security and stability for successful living. It is comforting to know that God is unchanging. His love for us does not change (Romans 8:38-39), His justice does not change (Romans 2:1, 11), and His demands upon mankind are unchanging. He has always required that men believe in Him (Hebrews 11:6ff), and that they obey all of His commandments (Hebrews 10:26-31; 11:1-38). This unchanging nature helps us to know of our relationship with Him.

3. GOD CREATED MAN FOR A SPECIFIC PURPOSE. (James 1:17)

Man’s whole duty is summarized in Ecclesiastes 12:13-14; “Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.” Man’s purpose is to keep His commandments. It may not be popular, but it nevertheless is God’s purpose for us. We are told to “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven” (Matthew 5:16).

“Teach me thy way, O LORD; I will walk in thy truth: unite my heart to fear thy name.” (Psalm 86:11)

TonEy L. Smith *from The Encourager*

“REWARDS OF OBEDIENCE”

If used in some circles of today’s “religious” world, the word obedience will almost always cause the teacher to be scorned. Yet the Bible has a great deal to say on the subject of obedience to God. His word is filled with examples and admonitions to obey. From the very beginning, God promised to bless and reward those who were obedient to His commandments (Deuteronomy 30:1-20). But just as clearly the Bible teaches that disobedience would bring punishment and ruin. Let’s look at some of the rewards that are promised to us today, based upon our obedience.

Our fellowship with God, and with the brethren is dependent upon our obedience to Him, thus to be walking in the light (1 John 1:7). Clearly taught also is that if we do not walk in the light, we cannot enjoy this good fellowship. We cannot walk in the light and in darkness at the same time (1 John 1:5-6).

The forgiveness of sins requires all men being obedient to God’s terms for that forgiveness. Scripture teaches us to repent and confess our sins; “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9).

We “know” God, only if we obey Him; “And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments” (1 John 2:3).

If we obey His words, we are told that the love of God is perfected in us, “But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him” (1 John 2:5).

If we do God’s will (the requirements), we will abide forever; “And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever” (1 John 2:17).

We know that our prayers will be answered if we are obedient to God: “And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight” (1 John 3:22).

All of these blessings depends on our continued faithfulness to Him. To be “born again” (John 3:3-5) requires that we do that which is right in His sight. “If ye know that he is righteous, ye know that every one that doeth righteousness is born of him” (1 John 2:29).

All of these fit in with doing God’s will; “This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable unto men” (Titus 3:8).

“If ye love me, keep my commandments” (John 14:15).

Author Unknown *from The Encourager*

ILL

Sunday: Millie Robertson (PM).

Wednesday: Janice Carter; Millie Robertson.

Marion Stone was released from the Hoeger House and is at home. Cheryl Kruger was released from Olathe Medical Center to another hospital. Dudley Morton's father, Grover Morton was hospitalized last week. Jim O'Connor was taken to the ICU at Centerpoint Medical Center in Independence, MO on Thursday morning and is being treated for pneumonia. Floyd Thrasher is in Cox South in Springfield, MO for a pacemaker placement.

Those battling cancer: Ledgia Campbell, Betty James and Cleo Stone. Please remember these in your prayers.

HOME BOUND

Kathleen Camp is in Room 101 at the Royal Terrace Nursing Home in Olathe. Cleo and Marion Stone are at home. Barbara James' Aunt, Evelyn Marquardt is at Sharon Lane in Shawnee. Please remember these in your prayers and visitation.

OUT OF TOWN

Jared Nelson was in Newton, KS last week visiting relatives. Debra Gragg was vacationing in Cleveland, OH last week. Chris Edwards was in Nebraska and Colorado last week visiting with his brother. Melissa Cole was visiting in Liberal, KS last Sunday. John and Barbara James were away camping during part of last week.

MEN'S BUSINESS MEETING

Our monthly Men's Business Meeting will be held this Sunday, August 9, following our AM worship. All men of the congregation are encouraged to attend.

ATTENDANCE

Sunday AM, 47; Sunday PM, 37; Wednesday PM, 38.

"...God is no respecter of persons: But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him." Acts 10:34-35

Those To Serve

August 9, 2009

BUILDING AND COMMUNION.....Thrasher (1)

MORNING WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS..... George Thomas
SONG LEADER..... Trent Thrasher
OPENING PRAYER John Cody Carter
PRESIDE..... Joel Nelson
ASSIST..... John Dodson
ASSIST..... Steven Schleif
CLOSING PRAYER..... Chris Edwards

EVENING WORSHIP

OPENING PRAYERSteve Brown
CLOSING PRAYER.....Jared Nelson
LORD'S SUPPER..... Joel Nelson

WEDNESDAY 12th

SONG LEADER..... Joel Nelson
INVITATIONJared Nelson

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday

Bible Study 9:30 AM
Morning Worship 10:30 AM
Evening Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday

Ladies Bible Study 10:00 AM
Bible Study 7:00 PM

Preacher: Ted J. Thrasher

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