



CHURCH OF CHRIST

West Palm Beach

Striving Toward the Prize of the Upward Call of God

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DECEMBER 3, 2017

AGENDA

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dan Schmidt

GREETER

Ali Poyner

SONG LEADER

Evan Bennett

LORD'S SUPPER

Dave Thomas
Sandford Cooper
Robert Haynes

SCRIPTURE READING

Jeff Fiser

CLOSING PRAYER

Gary Gerber

SUN 9:30AM BIBLE STUDY

Faithful Proclamation
Facing Persecution:
The Message of Jeremiah

SUN 10:30AM MESSAGE

Together:
Love One Another
(1 Thessalonians 4:9-12)

SUN 6:30PM MESSAGE

Equal In His Eyes
(James 2:1-13)

WED 7PM BIBLE STUDY

The Road To Redemption:
Seeing Christ in the Exodus

2018 HAVERHILL ROAD LECTURES

August 8-12, 2018

SHEPHERDS

Emil Kay and Dan Schmidt

FAMILY NEWS

Dick Saleeby received a good report from his doctor and has no concerns regarding his head.

Just a continued reminder: Please continue help show love toward our guests by not sitting in the last row of pews, leaving them for our guests.

In a few weeks the plans and vision for the Haverhill Road church in 2018 will be delivered by the elders and we will print those plans in the upcoming bulletins.

NEIGHBORHOOD BIBLE STUDIES

PROVERBS BIBLE STUDY

Friday, December 8 @ 7:30pm
at the church building

REQUESTED PRAYERS

Sydney Banuelos for physical difficulties and kidney stones

Byron Butterfield for difficulty walking

Elsie Griffith with cancer in her blood

Kay Heilman's grand-niece has an aggressive form of lupus

Kay Kay for health difficulties

Berry Kercheville for prostate cancer

Grace Kercheville for Prader-Willi syndrome

Donna Koon for physical and spiritual strength

Bessie Presnell's son for cancer and her sister for lung cancer

Emily Richardson's cousin, Pam Inman, for physical difficulties

Evelyn Rollins is recovering from a dislocated hip and for various health difficulties

Evelyn Rollins' sister-in-law who is going through chemotherapy for cancer

Dick Saleeby for diabetes issues

Jennifer Schofield for MS

Janet Wloch is recovering from a broken ankle

SCRIPTURE FOR TODAY'S MESSAGE

Now concerning brotherly love you have no need for anyone to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love one another, for that indeed is what you are doing to all the brothers throughout Macedonia. But we urge you, brothers, to do this more and more, and to aspire to live quietly, and to mind your own affairs, and to work with your hands, as we instructed you, so that you may walk properly before outsiders and be dependent on no one. (1 Thessalonians 4:9-12 ESV)

THE COLLAPSE OF A SINFUL NATION

God reminds us that we do not want to be like Babylon because Babylon will be judged for its sins. Do not look longingly at the behavior of the world because God's wrath will come upon their wickedness. God says that he will take vengeance for their sins and spare no one (47:3). In doing so, God is redeeming his people again. Depending on the Lord means not acting like the world. This message is alluded to in Revelation 18:4 when God calls for his people to come out from Babylon (the Roman Empire is the meaning of the symbol) lest we take part in their sins and take part in the judgments that fall. The warning is to look at God's judgment, to come out from the world, and live differently. Let's notice what sins Isaiah identifies in Babylon that God's people must avoid that show our full dependence is on the Lord.

47:1 Come down and sit in the dust, O virgin daughter of Babylon; sit on the ground without a throne, O daughter of the Chaldeans! For you shall no more be called tender and delicate.

2 Take the millstones and grind flour, put off your veil, strip off your robe, uncover your legs, pass through the rivers.

3 Your nakedness shall be uncovered, and your disgrace shall be seen. I will take vengeance, and I will spare no one.

4 Our Redeemer—the Lord of hosts is his name— is the Holy One of Israel.

5 Sit in silence, and go into darkness, O daughter of the Chaldeans; for you shall no more be called the mistress of kingdoms.

6 I was angry with my people; I profaned my heritage; I gave them into your hand; you showed them no mercy; on the aged you made your yoke exceedingly heavy.

7 You said, "I shall be mistress forever," so that you did not lay these things to heart or remember their end.

8 Now therefore hear this, you lover of pleasures, who sit securely, who say in your heart, "I am, and there is no one besides me; I shall not sit as a widow or know the loss of children":

9 These two things shall come to you in a moment, in one day; the loss of children and widowhood shall come upon you in full measure, in spite of your many sorceries and the great power of your enchantments.

10 You felt secure in your wickedness; you said, "No one sees me"; your wisdom and your knowledge led you astray, and you said in your heart, "I am, and there is no one besides me."

11 But evil shall come upon you, which you will not know how to charm away; disaster shall fall upon you, for which you will not be able to atone; and ruin shall come upon you suddenly, of which you know nothing.

12 Stand fast in your enchantments and your many sorceries, with which you have labored from your youth; perhaps you may be able to succeed; perhaps you may inspire terror.

13 You are wearied with your many counsels; let them stand forth and save you, those who divide the heavens, who gaze at the stars, who at the new moons make known what shall come upon you.

14 Behold, they are like stubble; the fire consumes them; they cannot deliver themselves from the power of the flame. No coal for warming oneself is this, no fire to sit before!

15 Such to you are those with whom you have labored, who have done business with you from your youth; they wander about, each in

his own direction; there is no one to save you. (Isaiah 47:1–15 ESV)

Lovers of pleasure (47:8). One of the sins of the nation is that the people are lovers of pleasure. How true is this label today! Everything people do today is all about pleasure. Pleasure and happiness is all that matters. People use God so that they can have happiness now. If we do not like it, then we will not do. If it is not enjoyable, then we will not participate. We spend our money so heavily on the pursuit of pleasure. Do we love the Lord or do we love pleasure? Which dictates the decisions of our lives? Which will we spend our time on money on — the Lord or pleasure? Our goal is to find the pleasure in serving Christ so that even the things that do not sound enjoyable become enjoyable because it is our service and worship to him.

Pride (47:8). The people are also full of pride. They say in their hearts, "I am, and there is no one besides me." Notice that they are speaking as if they are gods. This is what God says about himself. God is the I AM and there is no one else but him. But we set ourselves up as gods. This is humanity's downfall and the downfall of every nation. We have a saying that is increasing in popularity "The rules apparently do not apply to that person." In other words, you are god. This is pride. All that matters is me and things that are important to me. Nothing else matters. The increase of selfishness is the increase of pride. We cannot allow ourselves to be consumed with thinking about ourselves. God teaches to think about others, not ourselves (Philippians 2:3-4).

Secure in sin (47:10). Thinking that we can commit sins and not receive consequences for our decisions. This is a symptom of pride. We think we can do what we want and be lovers of pleasure but not deal with the consequences of our choices. We feel secure in our sins. We think that we will not be caught in sin. We think that we are getting away with what we are doing. We think that we will not pay consequences now nor in the final analysis on the day of judgment before the Lord. How foolish we are to think that our sins will not catch up to us. Our sins always catch up to us, becoming burdens in our lives which only can be alleviated by God. God is our burden bearer.

Conclusion

What decision will we make for our lives? We can either continue to create more burdens for our lives, believing that decisions are going to help us and save us when they are hurting us. We can look to the Lord as the true Savior who relieves our burdens. The Lord is sovereign has rules over all the earth. We must put our lives in his hands. Let us not be sucked into these sins that bring the judgment of God. Pleasure is not the goal of life. Pride is not acceptable to our God. Our sins are not hidden from God's eyes.

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil. (2 Corinthians 5:10 ESV)

We need to return to the Burden Bearer. Let him carry you in your suffering. Let him forgive your sins. Let him be the hope for your life.✠

— Brent Kercheville



— Tim Challies

