

Stop Signs

Two very true statements: (1) Stop signs don't stop cars. (2) God's laws don't stop sin.

Laws are not designed to stop lawlessness. They only specify what is forbidden. It's the driver who either obeys or disobeys stop signs. And it's the individual who obeys or disobeys God's commandments.

The driver must deal with the consequences of disobeying stop signs. And the individual must deal with the eternal consequences of disobeying God's "stop signs."

Ignoring a stop sign may not always result in a serious consequence, but disobeying God's commandments will certainly incur consequences. Sometimes in this life, but definitely in the judgment.

"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad." 2 Corinthians 5:10

"He who rejects Me and does not receive My sayings, has one who judges him; the word I spoke is what will judge him at the last day." John 12:48

LESSON: Obey stop signs to avoid serious problems. Obey God's commandments to avoid eternal consequences.

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The Worker

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Paul's Prescription for Peaceful Living

Would I be correct in assuming that you would rather be happy than sad? Would you rather be rejoicing than in grief? Would you rather be at peace than in pain? Among the many wondrous God-inspired passages penned by the apostle Paul, Philippians 4:4–9 certainly stands out in its positive exhortation. Almost in step-by-step fashion, Paul directs the minds of Christians in Philippi toward a life of peace and contentment. What did Paul prescribe?

1. Be in the Lord (4:4). The only way to get into the Lord is through baptism (Gal 3:27). And anyone who is outside of the Lord will not be saved when He returns (Eph 5:26).

2. Rejoice in the Lord (4:4). Once one is in Christ, he has a reason to rejoice, and rejoice again.

3. Show gentleness to everyone (4:5). How many does "all men" include? Does it include the person who made a snide remark to me? Does it include the person who mistreated my loved one? Does it include the person who lives selfishly and needs the love of Christ shown to them? Do we ever decide to show these types of people our meanness, boldness, and rudeness instead of realizing they, too, and especially they, need to see our gentleness?

4. Sense the Lord's presence (4:5). I'm not referring to an emotional feeling or excitement. I'm referring to an acknowledgment of the fact that for a person who is "in Christ," the Lord is always near. He is not in some far away distance where we cannot reach Him—He is "at hand."

5. Abstain from anxiety (4:6). Instead, cast all of your cares upon Him, for He cares for you (1 Pet 5:7).

6. Pray (4:6). One who is "in the Lord" has a tremendous privilege in communicating with the Father through the Lord. Ask Him. Plead with Him. Make requests. But never forget to give thanks. Giving thanks will always make the latter three better. Giving thanks will always help in abstaining from anxiety, sensing the Lord's presence, remembering to be gentle, and rejoicing in the Lord.

7. Fill the mind with positive purity (4:8). Those true, honest, just, pure, lovely, reputable, virtuous, praise-worthy things—meditate on those.

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Leadership

Elders Hayward Blanton, Jerry Casey

Deacons Clint Smith Sr, Clint Smith Jr,
Robby Stocksdale, Joe Sweeney

Pulpit Minister Eric Welch

Associate Minister Irvin F. Williams

Panama Mission

Pablo Sanchez

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Sermon Titles

Sunday Morning: "Kingdom Parables" Mark 4:21-34

Sunday Evening: "Four Anchors of Faith" Hebrews 6:13-20

Those Privileged to Serve

AM Service

Song Leader Michael Hawkins
Opening Prayer Leon Stocksdale
Scripture Rick Martin
Sermon Eric Welch
Lord's Supper
Message Greg Blanton
Attendant Grover Blanton
Attendant Jerry Montgomery
Closing Prayer Irvin Williams

PM Service

Song Leader Clint Smith Jr
Bible Reading Joe Sweeney
Selection 26
Prayer Hayward Blanton
Sermon Eric Welch
Closing Prayer Ernie Marshall
*If you are unable to serve, please
call Art Patrick 502-819-9481
or Harold Tincher 502-409-3511*

AM & PM Services

Announcements Robby Stocksdale
Lord's Supper Jerry Casey
Offering Ethan Welch
Usher Hank Tincher
Count Offering Joe Sweeney
Assist Count Art Patrick
Contribution Attendance
\$2,439

Last Sunday

In His Right Hand...a Scroll

Eric Welch

In my Sunday morning Bible class, I mentioned that writing on the front and back of the scroll was common. Actually, the opposite was true. I correct that statement with the following that I wrote a few years ago.

In Revelation 5:1 John writes, *Then I saw in the right hand of him who was seated on the throne a scroll written within and on the back, sealed with seven seals.* To understand the full impact of that wonderful verse, an understanding of how scrolls were made at the time is helpful. Strips from the stem of a papyrus reed were laid vertically side by side on a flat surface. Holding them together was a layer of glue and then a second layer of strips placed on top the first layer horizontally. The sheets were pressed and then connected to other sheets to make a scroll. The scroll was rolled up, the end dabbed with molten wax, and the owner's seal stamped into the wax, especially for legal documents. The more important the document, the more seals it had.

The fascinating thing about this verse is the emphasis on the fact that "the scroll in the hand of him who sat on the throne" had writing "on the backside" (cf. Ezekiel 2:9-10). Normally writing was done on only one side, called the recto, because the fibers of the strip were horizontal and it made writing on it easier. If you flipped it over to write on the back, verso you would see the bottom layered strips running vertically, but that would have meant writing against the grain and over the bumps and ridges. The writing would have been difficult. Writing on the backside was so rare that a technical name was even given to it: opisthograph. This rarity would have the seer of the vision to take special note of it.

Why would anyone write on the back if it were so difficult? Scrolls were expensive, and the poor would have been compelled to do so. Another reason would have been to keep all the contents in one place, especially legal documents such as wills. The document would have been self-contained, complete. No additional scrolls would be needed. All the contents pertaining to that legal matter were on that one scroll; nothing was omitted that needed to be there.

Like parables, visions contained earthly objects familiar to the viewer in order to convey a heavenly meaning. Once John saw the scroll with writing on both sides in the vision, he would have would have grasped the meaning instantly. The scroll John saw in heaven contained God's complete will for ALL humanity in the immediate future. He, not Rome, was in control. The scroll indeed contained the persecution that God's people would endure, but it also contained justice and victory over their oppressors in the end.

Isn't the same true today? Human destiny is still in God's right hand. Nothing, not even an oppressive government can thwart God's will. Regardless of the country a child of God finds himself in, whether republic, socialist or dictatorship, God will have the final say and His people the final victory. May this one verse be a source comfort in troubled times such as ours.

(Paul's Prescription for Peaceful Living, continued from page 1)

8. Do (4:9). Paul said, "Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do" (Philippians 4:9). A person who is busy doing good doesn't have time for anything but peace and contentment.

When our lives are filled with positive practices, we will be recipients of the peace that passes all understanding (4:7). The God of peace will be with us (4:9). We can be content in whatever condition we find ourselves (4:12). And we can endure all things (4:13). Have you taken your prescription today?

- Clifton Angel preaches for the Coldwater Church of Christ in Coldwater, MS.

Hamburg Pike Happenings

VBS is scheduled for July 20th – 23rd at 7:00 pm each evening. The theme is "The Mighty Miracles of Jesus". Mark your calendars and invite your friends; flyers are available. Please remember this effort in your prayers and volunteer to help with this good work.

Attention Teens: the Elizabethtown, KY youth rally is scheduled for August 14th and 15th. Mark your calendar for this event; more details to follow.

A teen devotional is scheduled for Tuesday July 7th 6:30 at the building.