

Good and Perfect Gifts

For as long as I can remember I have always loved baseball, and one of my fondest memories as a very small child was begging my Mom to go outside and pitch to me. And more often than not, she would stop what she was doing and pitch that ball to me for hours on end, and I would hit it with a borrowed bat that belonged to my older brothers. So you can imagine what joy I felt when I turned seven years old way back in 1968, and I received my first brand new baseball bat, glove and ball to call my very own. Not only that, my older brother Lonnie gave me a birthday present of my very own transistor radio so I could listen to my favorite baseball team, the St. Louis Cardinals, on KMOX. For a boy of seven, that birthday seemed to be just the best birthday ever. I thought that baseball, bat, glove and radio were just the best and most perfect gifts any boy could ever receive.

James, the Lord's brother, knew of good and perfect gifts, too, when he wrote in James 1:17, "Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow." Jesus Christ is the greatest gift ever bestowed upon mankind, and Jesus explains in John 3:16 [NAS] why God gave us such a wondrous gift: He did it because He loves us and He wishes to save us from our sins. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life." The gift of eternal life is there for our taking if we will simply give our lives to God and come to Him in obedient, saving faith.

So what had seemed to be the most perfect gifts to a seven year old boy fail when it comes to those everlasting gifts that come from God. That ball, bat, glove and radio are long gone now, having perished with the passage of time through the ensuing decades. But in one sense they still are, and will forever remain, perfect gifts. They are perfect for they were given from a source of love, the love of a family given to a small child. God's word tells us that He is the Source from which all love emanates for God Himself is love (1 John 4:7-8).

- David R. Ferguson preaches for the Lakeland Church of Christ in Mattoon, IL.



The Worker

3108 Hamburg Pike, Jeffersonville, IN 47130 Ph. (812) 284-3125

Volume 5 Issue 38

www.hamburgpikecofc.org

September 18, 2016

The Judgment Day

Johnny Ramsey

When we stand before God, the judge of all (Heb. 12:23), what will our sentence be? When life's journey shall have ended, will we regret our poor decisions that caused us to be lost (Gal. 6:7)? Or shall we rejoice to know that our sojourn was meaningful (1 Jno. 4:17)? "Only one life, it will soon be past. Only what is done for Christ will last." How very true those sentiments! When the clock of life no longer ticks because eternity has been ushered in what will our destiny hold? What kind of day will judgment disclose?

IT WILL BE A DAY OF RECKONING. Will it be reward or remorse when we stand before our Maker? Will there be handwriting on the wall of our record that proclaims our doom (Dan. 5)? Shall we reap the whirlwind of shameful activity (Hos. 8:7) or the joy of our salvation? When God's "book of remembrance" is opened (Mal.3), what will be the contents? Can we say what Nehemiah did? "Remember me, O my God, for good." (Neh. 13:31).

IT WILL BE A DAY OF REST. Yes, rest from a wicked world and a sinful environment awaits the faithful child of God (Heb. 4:9). In Rev. 21:3-5 we see the fruition of godliness in a realm that knows no sickness, sadness or separation. Earthly corruption never enters and the toils of life are gone (2 Cor. 5:1). Fleshly lusts forsaken (1 Pet. 2:11) and even death shall have been turned into victory! We will be glad we obeyed: "Redeeming the time because the days are evil." (Eph. 5:16).

IT WILL BE A DAY OF REUNION. Christ will take us to be with Him (Jno. 14:3). According to Matt. 8, Abraham and Isaac and Jacob will be there. David spoke of his dead son in 2 Sam. 12:23, "I shall go to him." Loved ones will be together again! I believe Heb. 12:23 give us a hint of the same. What joy it will be to see the redeemed of all the ages. There has never been a family reunion like that one will be!

IT WILL BE A DAY OF REVELATION. The one who knows us as we really are, and not as we pretend to be, will reveal our eternal destiny (Rom. 2:16). The sins we were forgiven of by the Redeemer shall not be remembered (Heb. 8:12; Psa. 32:1; 1 Jno. 1:7), for which we should praise God. But hypocrisies and sincerities we tried to hide will be exposed, and those things we knew we should have done will haunt us: "To him that knoweth to do good and doeth it not, to him it is sin." (Jas. 4:17).

We are given this life to prepare for eternity, but many pervert this purpose and waste their moments upon earth. On that notable day, the infidel will confess the Lord (Phil. 2:9-11) and the disobedient will try to hide from the wrath of the Almighty (Rev. 6:12). May we be wise enough, now, to search our ways and return to the Lord (Lam. 3:40). Let us use our days wisely: "So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom." (Psalm 90:12). And let us never "follow a multitude to do evil" (Exodus 23:2). Heaven is just too precious to miss.

- via The Encourager, weekly bulletin for the Calvert City Church of Christ, Calvert City, KY.

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

Schedule of Services

Sunday

Bible Class 10:00 AM

Morning Worship 11:00 AM

Evening Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday

Bible Class 7:00 PM

We Offer Free Personal Bible Studies and Bible Correspondence Courses - Phone (812) 284-3125

Visit Our Website: www.hamburgpikecofc.org

Email: church@hamburgpikecofc.org

Sermon Titles

Sunday Morning: "The Christian's Body" 1 Corinthians 6:19-20

Sunday Evening: "Jereboam" 1 Kings 12:25-33

Those Privileged to Serve

AM Service

Song Leader Michael Hawkins
Opening Prayer Clint Smith Jr
Scripture Fin Burton
Sermon Eric Welch
Lord's Supper Luke 24:1-35
Message Greg Blanton
Attendant Ryan Irwin
Attendant Nathaniel Welch
Closing Prayer Eric Welch

PM Service

Song Leader Robby Stocksdale
Bible Reading Clint Smith Sr
Selection 29
Prayer Jerry Casey
Sermon Eric Welch
Closing Prayer Irvin Williams
*If you are unable to serve, please
call Art Patrick 502-819-9481
or Harold Tincher 502-409-3511*

AM & PM Services

Announcements Joe Sweeney
Lord's Supper Hayward Blanton
Offering Rick Martin
Usher Ernie Marshall
Count Offering Harold Tincher
Assist Count Marc Owens

Did Jesus Die a Sinner?

Eric Welch

Have you ever wondered about 2 Corinthians 5:21 where Paul says that God made Jesus “to be sin” on the cross for us or that he bore the sins of many in his body? (1 Peter 2:24; Hebrews 9:28). Some have believed that Jesus actually became a sinner on the cross and that He died a sinful man, not with his own sins, but with ours. When the centurion concluded that Jesus was the Son of God or an innocent man (Matthew 27:54; Luke 23:47; Mark 15:39), he most likely did not understand the significance of his statement, but each inspired author certainly did and used it to prove the point. When they looked “on him whom they have pierced” did they see a sinner (John 19:37)? By no means.

In an article of the Christian Courier, Wayne Jackson points out that Paul is employing Old Testament language in this verse. In Exodus 29:14, Moses says, “But the flesh of the bull and its skin and its dung you shall burn with fire outside the camp; it is a sin offering.” The Hebrew word “sin offering” is the word for “sin.” This usage of “sin” to mean “sin offering” occurs about 40% of the time where the context is clear that a sacrifice is taking place.

Therefore, what Paul says in 2 Corinthians 5:21 is an Old Testament idiom. Specifically, the term is a figure of speech called metonymy, which substitutes the characteristic associate with a thing as a name for the thing itself. For example, when we say “White House” we are using something associated with the executive branch of government as a name for it. Reporters might say, “The White House issued a statement.” One theologian explains that this metonymy might mean that, although Jesus was sinless (“knew no sin” and “without sin” – Hebrew 4:15), God allowed him to be treated as if sinful. Thus, when Jesus “bore our sins” does not mean that he became guilty of human sin personally (1 Peter 2:24). Instead, he carried the penalty for our sins. He took the punishment that we deserve. The Bible does not teach Jesus died a sinner.

This misunderstanding is one more reason to understand the different types of figurative language used in Scripture.

⁵⁴When the centurion and those who were with him, keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were filled with awe and said, “Truly this was the Son of God!”

Matthew 27:54

⁴⁷Now when the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God, saying, “Certainly this man was innocent!”

Luke 23:47

³⁹And when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, “Truly this man was the Son of God!”

Mark 15:39

²⁴He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.

1 Peter 2:24

Hamburg Pike Happenings

A youth devo for sixth grade and younger is scheduled for Thursday September 15th from 6:00 to 7:00 pm at the building.

On Saturday, September 17th, Stephanie Welch will be speaking on the topic Daughters of the King at a Ladies' Day in Florence, KY, at the Florence church of Christ. Any ladies who would like to attend and want to carpool are welcome to come along! The Ladies' Day activities will last from 9 A.M. to 1 P.M., and both breakfast and lunch will be served. Any ladies wanting to go can see Stephanie or Ashley Smith by Wednesday, September 14.

A congregational fellowship meal is scheduled for Sunday September 18th after the morning service. A sign-up sheet is on the table in the foyer.

The Monday Night for the Master group will meet September 19th at 6:30 pm. Please create a list of those individuals you are trying to influence for the Lord. Please, provide the names, address, phone number and the type of contact (card, visit or call) to Harold or Debbie Tincher. The meal for this meeting will be pot luck.

On Tuesday September 27th, Eric plans to attend the Gilmore – Rosenberg debate on the existence of God. The debate begins at 6:30. If you would like to attend, see Eric so he can order tickets since seating is limited.

Men of the congregation are encouraged to sign up for a Wednesday evening devotional. Devotional should be 3-5 minutes in duration. Please see the sign-up list on the board.

Our Fall Gospel Meeting is scheduled for October 21st thru the 23rd at 7:00 pm Friday and Saturday with regular class and worship times on Sunday. The lesson titles are: “The Origin and Development of Islam”, “The Real Agenda”, “Bible vs. Quran”, “Jesus vs. Muhammad”. The speaker is Jack Honeycutt from Gainesboro, TN.