

Trends

According to a recent Gallup poll the following percentage of Americans found these behaviors "morally wrong":

91% elicit sexual affair	37% gay/lesbian relationships
83% polygamy	37% unmarried sex
83% human cloning	33% unmarried having babies
77% suicide	32% divorce

-via Gallup

2 Corinthians 6:17: "Therefore 'Come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord. 'Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you.'"

Sentence Sermons

"Moral evil is the immorality and pain and suffering and tragedy that come because we choose to be selfish, arrogant, uncaring, hateful and abusive.

—Lee Strobel

Psalm 10:4: "The wicked in his proud countenance does not seek God; God is in none of his thoughts."

News & Notes

Please pray for those mentioned in the announcements after services and others listed on the bulletin board in the foyer of the church building.

Pray that much fruit will come from the seed planted during our gospel meeting last week with Jesse Flowers. If you would like to contact Jesse his e-mail address is: jafapie@hotmail.com.

Please pray for Susan Ferrell and her family as she continues to recover from a brain tumor. Her chemo treatment is completed and so far everything is clear! Please continue pray for her and her family.

Please pray for Alan Jones. He underwent deep brain stimulation to hopefully relieve severe facial pain. Alan held a gospel meeting for us in October 2014. He's been unable to preach for several months due to his affliction. Pray for him and his family.

Please keep sisters Virginia Brown and Wilma Cardwell in your prayers. Their faithfulness sets such a good example and gives encouragement to all! Ditto for Al (our Barnabas!).

Pray for Larry Halley; his heart valve replacement surgery was a success!

Pray for the all of our students: elementary, secondary and college. Our young people face many temptations in today's school environment.

Words of Life is published by the **Westside Church of Christ** meeting at 1301 N. Enterprise, Bloomington, IN 47404

Times of Service: Bible Study, Sunday 9:30 AM and Wednesday 7:00 PM; Worship, Sunday 10:30 AM and 5:00 PM

Editor: Craig Thomas (812-320-9569); craigthomas82000@gmail.com

Please direct questions and comments to the editor.

Words of Life

Westside
church of Christ

June 4
2017

Vol. 9,
No. 19

"Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life."

John 6:68



Teach Us To Number Our Days

Craig Thomas

Psalm 90:12 says, "So teach us to number our days, That we may gain a heart of wisdom." This Psalm teaches us at least three critically important truths, let's examine them.

1) **"Teach us"**. We need to learn something! We need to learn of God's eternal nature and mighty power. The Psalm says, "Before the mountains were brought forth, Or ever You had formed the earth and the world, Even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God." (Psa. 90:2) Read Isaiah 40:12-17. Surely you agree, "To whom then will you liken God?" (Isa. 40:18). God's powers and ways are far above man's, "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways," says the LORD. "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts." (Isa. 55:8-9) We must come to grips with our "powerlessness". Read Job 38:1-42:6. Notice Job's conclusion concerning God's power versus his own "powerlessness": "Then Job answered the LORD and said: 'I know that You can do everything, And that no purpose of Yours can be withheld from You. You asked, 'Who is this who hides counsel without knowledge?' Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand, Things too wonderful for me, which I did not know. Listen, please, and let me speak; You said, 'I will question you, and you shall answer Me.' 'I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear, But now my eye sees You. Therefore I abhor myself, And repent in dust and ashes.'" Let us "gain a heart of wisdom" by learning these lessons.

2) **"To Number Our Days"**. We must learn that our lives pass so quickly. Job lamented that his days were "swifter than a weaver's shuttle" (Job 7:6). We too must learn that our lives are "even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away" (Jas. 4:14). We cannot escape the inevitability of death and judgment because "it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment" (Heb. 9:27). Have you really learned these lessons?

3) **"That We May Apply Our Hearts Unto Wisdom"**. The Bible says that people who don't appreciate their own mortality are fools! (Lk. 12:19-20) Our most valuable possessions are our soul and our time. Listen to Jesus, "For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?" (Mt. 16:26) Therefore, let us "walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming

the time" (Eph. 5:15-16). It is so easy to get caught up in the day-to-day "urgencies" of life and procrastinate the really important things. The day is coming when "we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad." (2 Cor. 5:10) Thus, let us heed Solomon's wisdom, "He who keeps His command will experience nothing harmful; And a wise man's heart discerns both time and judgment" (Eccl. 8:5). Are you applying your heart to wisdom? Are you "redeeming the time" and preparing your soul for eternity?

Fellowship

Larry Hafley

Much is said about "fellowship with God." The term, fellowship, is used by many who have no concept of "the communion (fellowship) of the Holy Spirit" (2 Cor. 13:14).

(1) To some, it means association and acceptance with God apart from salvation. Baptists speak of those who are "out of fellowship with God" because of sin, but who, nonetheless, "maintain their salvation." Such a view is totally foreign to the word of God (2 Cor. 6:14-7:1; 1 Jn. 1:5-2:6).

(2) Others associate "fellowship" with carnal, worldly, and physical activities. When atheists convene to fight against God, they have "fellowship." Workers have "fellowship" on the job. There is "fellowship" at a family reunion. Brethren who fish or drink coffee together have "fellowship." However, it is not the Biblical, spiritual fellowship spoken of in the word of God (1 Cor. 1:9; 1 Jn. 1:3, 7).

When brethren argue that one may be involved in moral sin and doctrinal error and yet maintain his "fellowship" with God, they sound like the Baptists under the first point above (Rom. 13:13, 14; 16:17). When brethren speak of leaving a worship assembly in order to "have a period of fellowship" in a dining area, they identify with the second position (1 Cor. 10:6, 7).

Elements Of Scriptural Fellowship

First, it is a state into which we are called "by the gospel" (1 Cor. 1:9; Eph. 3:6; 2 Thess. 2:14). One cannot have fellowship with God until he obeys the gospel (Cf. 2 Thess. 1:8; 2:14). The apostles "declared" their message "that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ" (1 Jn. 1:3). "Feel good" stories and amusing, heart-warming tales may lift one's self esteem, but they cannot convert the soul and give it fellowship with God (Rom. 1:16; Psal. 19:7).

Second, one who is in fellowship with God is a member of the body, the church of Christ (Eph. 2:19-22; 3:6). Those who claim fellowship with God, but who are not members of the church, are deceived. Worse yet, they are lost (Eph. 2:12, 16). Those who dismiss preaching about the church as being out of date and old-fashioned cannot lead men to fellowship with God, for that fellowship can only be attained in the church (Eph. 2:16, 19-22; 3:6).

Third, living in sin and moral darkness is contrary to spiritual fellowship with God, for God has "called (us) out of darkness into his marvelous light" (1 Pet. 2:9, 11). Note the contrast between "the children of darkness" and the "children of light" (Eph. 5:6-11; 1 Thess. 5:4-7).

My dear, dying friend, are you in fellowship with God? If not, by obeying the gospel, you can be "called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord" (1 Cor. 1:9). Why not do so today?

The Final Judgment

Carey Scott

There are many teachings about the final judgment. Some teach there will be no judgment at all. Most people believe this because the evidence of their lives shows no concern for a judgment. Some think that it is going on now. In a way, they are correct because everything we do effects our final judgment, and then the day of the Lord will be more of a sentencing or declaration day than one of judgment (as we understand the word). A few people teach that the judgment has already passed, and this teaching confuses people. If there is no judgment to come, why do people live by strict rules and try to convert people to their beliefs?

Despite all the error and false teaching about the final judgment day, we must recognize that the Bible is certain of its coming. Wicked angels are awaiting judgment (2 Peter 2:4). There are passages all through the pages of the Bible that speak of a final judgment. The wicked need to fear the judgment because the wrath of God will be upon them (Romans 2:8), but the righteous look forward to that great day when God will reward them with eternal life in heaven (Romans 2:7).

We do not know when this will take place for only God knows that time, we can be assured of this from the pages of the Bible; All will die and after that each will face their judgment (Hebrews 9:27). This final judgment will come unexpectedly, like a thief in the night (Matthew 24:36; 2 Peter 3:10). Acts 17:30-31 tells us that God has appointed A DAY in which He will judge the

"...it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment."

Hebrews 9:27

world. Everyone will be judged. Almighty God will judge each individual. The standard of judgment will be the life that was lived

and the actions of the person living that life. Jesus Christ will be the great Judge. God will judge the earth through Christ.

We also know that God keeps records in heaven. He writes down the names of the righteous into the Lamb's Book of Life, and he also records the names of those who rebel against Him. Here are some of the things for which we will be judged: Our thoughts (Proverbs 23:7; 2 Corinthians 10:5); Secret things (Romans 2:6); Every work (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14); Our words (Matthew 12:36-37); All we have done (1 John 3:4; Galatians 6:7-8); and what we have failed to do (James 4:17). This last one should be the most sobering thought that comes into our mind every day we live.

We know that God's judgment will be true, just, righteous, and everybody will be treated fairly and justly, and everyone will get what they deserve. There will be no appeals process, because there will be no error in judgment by the perfect God. Prepare to meet thy God.