



Welcome To The Killeen Church of Christ!

"Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep His commandments: for this is the whole duty of man." Ecclesiastes 12:13



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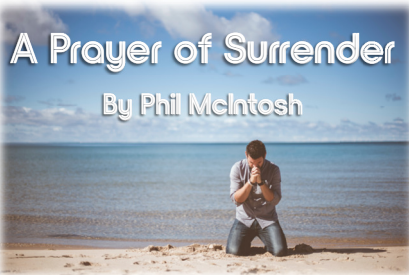
MONTHLY SUPPORT:

*Cherokee Home
For Children
Cherokee, TX*

*Christian Homes &
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Abilene, TX*

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Almost two thousand years ago, the Lord's church in Rome received a letter from the apostle Paul. He wrote about something that links all of mankind together. He wrote that the "wages of sin" are "death" (**Rom. 6:23**) and that all men deserve such a sentence,

"for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God," **Romans 3:23**

That means the strong, the weak, the new, the experienced, the occasional Sunday morning worshipper, and the every-time-the-doors-are-open believer is fallible and susceptible to sin. The scripture tells us that even the prophets of God were capable of stumbling. We respect men who have served God with courage and dedication; the Bible even encouraging to hold devoted servants of God in esteem (**Phil. 2:28-30**). Many men of old were moved by God and His Spirit to speak (**2 Pet. 1:20-21**), and their words, emanating from God, carry great weight. They were not, however, perfect men. One effective example of such a man was the prophet Jonah.

Jonah was called by God and charged with taking a message to the wicked people of the kingdom of Assyria (**Jonah 1:1-2**). The nation of Assyria has been documented in the annals of history as being a ferociously destructive, bloodthirsty people. It has been told they committed some (almost) unspeakable atrocities on their enemies and opponents. They were an ungodly people and, from the text it is easy to conclude, Jonah wanted nothing to do with them. As soon as he was charged to preach to them, he ran. He not only refused not to preach to them, but he also actually went the opposite direction from Nineveh (the capital city) toward a place called Tarshish (**Jonah 1:3**). Do you remember how God responded to this insolence and rebellion?

God, who created all that exists and holds power over the same, commanded the weather and created a storm which enveloped the ship on which Jonah was traveling. Not only had Jonah refused to preach to Nineveh, had boarded a ship to run away from God, but he also expressed brashness by going into the bottom part of the ship and sleeping (**Jonah 1:5**). What had happened to Jonah? How could a prophet of God have reacted so poorly and shamefully to a direct command from God Almighty? Jonah had started thinking too much of himself and for himself. To borrow a phrase from old American culture, Jonah had "gotten too big for his breeches" and forgot who was really in charge.

God reminded him. **And how.**

Jonah surrendered to God on the ship that day, confessing that he served the Lord God and that it was from Him he was running. He then instructed the mariners to throw him overboard (**Jonah 1:12**). Who knows what Jonah was thinking as they hoisted him into the air and heaved him over the side of that ship. What we do know is that God wasn't finished with Jonah yet. What follows in the text is one of the more beautiful pictures of a prayer of surrender in the Bible (at least in my estimation). Jonah prayed the prayer of someone who has lost every ounce of power, ability, and control over their surroundings. He spoke as if he could do nothing more but surrender to God:

"I cried out to the LORD because of my affliction, And He answered me. "Out of the belly of Sheol I cried, And You heard my voice. ³For You cast me into the deep, Into the heart of the seas, And the floods surrounded me; All Your billows and Your waves passed over me. ⁴Then I said, 'I have been cast out of Your sight; Yet I will look again toward Your holy temple.' ⁵The waters surrounded me, even to my soul; The deep closed around me; Weeds were wrapped around my head. ⁶I went down to the moorings of the mountains; The earth with its bars closed behind me forever; Yet You have brought up my life from the pit, O LORD, my God. ⁷"When my soul fainted within me, I

SERVICE SCHEDULE

SUNDAY BIBLE CLASS - 9:30 AM

SUNDAY WORSHIP - 10:30 AM

WEDNESDAY - 7:00 PM

remembered the LORD; And my prayer went up to You, Into Your holy temple. ⁸“Those who regard worthless idols Forsake their own Mercy. ⁹But I will sacrifice to You With the voice of thanksgiving; I will pay what I have vowed. Salvation is of the LORD.” -**Jonah 2:2b-9**

When you have failed God, when you have fallen short, when you have disappointed the Father you love-remember that can pray a prayer of surrender. John wrote that if we confess to our Heavenly Father our faults, He will forgive us (**1 Jn. 1:9**). Even if it's not because of sin, but rather because life sometimes life might wrap around your head like seaweed and your surroundings might cause you great distress- remember to give it all to God and to “cast your cares” on Him because the Bible tells us that He hears, and He cares (**1 Pet. 3:12; 5:7**).



MARCH CLEANING CALENDAR

•May be done any time before the next Sunday.
•Please consult with your team leader for further questions.
THANK YOU!

Feb. 27-TEAM ROGER
Patrick
Brenda
Roger
Linda

March 6-TEAM JAMES S.
Kim-Marie
Xavier
Jaden
Kingsford

13-TEAM PHIL
Michelle
Beverly
Donna
Josephine
Yvonne
Lois
Marcella

20-TEAM LEE
Lee
Natalie
Rufus
Derek
Ken
Tim

27-TEAM ZACK
Zack
Amanda
Diedre
Paul
Ruby

TRUTH & ERROR

Shepherds Notes by Zack Petties

Anyone who belongs to God listens earnestly to the words of God. But, those that don't listen to his word don't belong to God. In 2 John 1:9 the Bible states, "*Whosoever transgressed, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son.*" The difference between truth and error can distinguish one person from another, discern who are the true ministers of Christ, and who are the false teachers. In Jude 1 he is urging them to defend the faith and the truth, avoiding those who distort the Bible to suit their own purposes.

The Truth of the scriptures points out sin, motivates us to confess our sin, renews our relationship with Christ, and guides us back to the right path. Truth is the way to be sanctified- which is to make us holy, consecrated, and set apart; this is the positive aspect of being delivered from the world. The Truth is of Christ; in John 14:6, Jesus saith unto him, "I am the way (John 10:9), the truth (John 8:32), and the life (John 1:4; 3:16); no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." But, when one enters into the realm of spiritual error, we are drawn to II Timothy 4:4, "*where they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.*" The word of God should be fundamentally sound teaching of the faith that is being preached to the church. We should not take the knowledge of the word for granted! We should give direct heed to the things that we hear, lest many will drift away. II Peter 1:12, 15 even shows Peter realizing and viewing the church/body needing to be continually reminded of scriptural teaching. Earlier, he wanted to awaken the complacent believers that began to listen to false teachers, believing in good deeds and that they could live as they choose. So, easily members/non-members were lured and were finding an attraction to listen to false doctrine that led to spiritual error. These false teachers were simply confused due to misguided opinions that weren't checked against the Bible. Jesus and the apostles repeatedly warned against false teaching (Mark 13:22, Acts 20:29, II Thess. 2:3-12) because it corrupts the foundation of the truth and integrity which Christian faith is built upon. 1 John 4:6 indicates that false teaching is becoming more popular with the world as people are home more, surfing social media; as they tell people what they want to hear (1 Timothy 4:1).

We must stand firmly in the truth of the Good News, putting our confidence in Christ alone to make us right with God. Accepting what is true and rejecting what is false, avoiding every kind of evil (1 Thess. 5:21), we are encouraged to continue to test all things, applying Christian principles to all situations, to hold fast to that which is good! Reminded of these things, we should continue to abstain from every possible kind of evil. Neither be overcritical nor gullible to that which is unsound.

In love, Brother Petties

