

No Appeal

But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does. James 1:25 (NKJV)

So speak and so do as those who will be judged by the law of liberty. James 2:12 (NKJV)

When I was involved in a jail ministry I noticed that some of the inmates would study the law books intently. They were looking for grounds upon which to appeal their conviction. There was always a chance that they might find something helpful. As I read of the final judgment in the Bible, I see no such opportunity for an appeal. The judgment is FINAL.

James has made it very clear to us about the standard of final judgment. We will be held accountable to the Word of God (law of liberty). There will be no consideration given to our earthly wealth, fame or power. Jesus made the word standard clear in John 12:47-48 (NKJV) "And if anyone hears My words and does not believe, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world. He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him--the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day."

Why not appeal to Him now before it is too late to do so? A group of people once asked the question, "What shall we do?" The answer was clear. You will find it in Acts 2:30. Your decision about those words will have an impact upon your final judgment.

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The Worker

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Who is Your Neighbor?

I saw the red lights flashing. I saw somebody removed from the house on a stretcher. By the time I got there, the ambulance was gone. I did learn that the lady who lived there had fallen and injured herself. I told the lady who gave me that information to please let me know how I could help. I gave her my business card and encouraged her to keep me informed. Then, I was off to perform one of my "official duties." I was to speak at a funeral service for a lady I had never met.

As I spoke at that service, I was haunted by the red lights. Days later, as I write these words, they still haunt me. You see, there is only one house between our house and the house where the ambulance made its stop. Only one house separates me from a neighbor who could have used some help that day --- and maybe other days. Only one house separates me from a neighbor whose name I did not even know!

Modern technology has, in many ways, made the world so much smaller. In much less than the time it has already taken me to write these words, I can go online and communicate with a friend of mine who preaches in Australia or a young preacher in India I met when he was a small boy. I can use some of the tools available to me to share my thoughts with anybody who cares to read them. Type; click; they're out there. Maybe it all began with that man on television in the sweater. You know the one. With a warm smile, he sang, "Won't you be my neighbor?"

Maybe that's where we got the idea that we don't have to be too concerned with real people in our real neighborhoods. I'd never before thought of any connection between Mr. Rogers and "virtual reality," but now I'm beginning to wonder.

The red lights taught me something. They taught me that, along with my "official duties" and my opportunities to communicate widely, I don't need to lose the human touch. I don't need to wrap myself in my own little cocoon. I don't need to be isolated and insulated from real people who are, in a very real sense, my neighbors.

A lawyer, who was trying to put Jesus to the test, asked our Lord, "And who is my neighbor?" (Luke 10:29) His question, like his entire exchange with Jesus, was designed to "...put [Jesus] to the test..." (v. 25) In a sense, I was "put to the test" and I flunked it. I'm taking steps to make sure that will never happen again. I want to know my neighbors and to be a neighbor. Who is your neighbor? Do you know? Do you care? Do they know you care?

- Jim Faughn serves as an elder and preacher for the Central Church of Christ in Paducah KY. He may be contacted through the congregation's website: <http://www.centralchurchofchrist.org>

Leadership

Elders Hayward Blanton, Jerry Casey

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

Pulpit Minister Eric Welch

Associate Minister Irvin F. Williams

Panama Mission

Pablo Sanchez

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Visit Our Website: www.hamburgpikecofc.org

Email: church@hamburgpikecofc.org

Sermon Titles

Sunday Morning: "Press On" Philippians 3:12-21

Sunday Evening: "Will there Be Degrees of Punishment at Judgment?"

Those Privileged to Serve

AM Service

Song Leader Michael Hawkins
Opening Prayer Matt Johnson
Scripture Rick Martin
Sermon Eric Welch
Lord's Supper
Message Jerry Casey
Attendant Marc Owens
Attendant Art Patrick
Closing Prayer Joe Sweeney

PM Service

Song Leader Clint Smith Jr
Bible Reading Greg Blanton
Selection 12
Prayer Leon Stocksdales
Sermon Eric Welch
Closing Prayer Steve Cravens
*If you are unable to serve, please
call Art Patrick 502-819-9481
or Harold Tincher 502-409-3511*

AM & PM Services

Announcements Clint Smith Sr
Lord's Supper Hayward Blanton
Offering Ethan Welch
Usher Fin Burton
Count Offering Art Patrick
Assist Count Robby Stocksdales
Last Sunday
Offering Attendance
\$2,960 88

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

God's Protection

Eric Welch

Someone once asked me this question "Is there a scripture that tells us God will protect us from seeing something evil because we are not strong enough to handle what we may see?" Does this question call to mind a particular verse? 1Corinthians 10:13 "No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it."

However, this passage refers to God's hand in delivering us through temptation, not keeping us from it. Whether we endure or not is our choice. Protecting us from seeing evil would forfeit the free God has given us to choose (cf. Joshua 24.15 and Isaiah 7:15). By seeing the evil and then choosing the good over it we become stronger and are able to "handle" it.

Let take a different approach to this question. Sometimes people were kept from seeing, at first, what would actually seem to help them. In Luke 24:16 the eyes of the two disciples on the road to Emmaus, were "prevented from recognizing" Jesus. Later, as Jesus began breaking the bread, their eyes were opened and they recognized Him (24:30-31, 35). The fact that their eyes "were prevented" from recognizing Him implies that God was behind it. The passive voice of the verb is a often what New Testament scholars call the "divine passive." That is, in order to avoid the writing of God's holy name, Jewish writers would often write in the passive voice. For example, the passive verb in "they shall be comforted" (Matthew 5.4) is the same as saying "God will comfort them."

Why would God prevent them from recognizing Jesus immediately? Would it not have benefited them? These two disciples did not recognize Jesus because they were not expecting him; they thought He was dead. They were slow to believe all that the prophets had said concerning the Christ (v. 25), nor had they believed Jesus when He told them repeatedly that the Christ must suffer (Luke 9.22, 43-45; 18.31-33). Only when Jesus opened the Scriptures to them to show how the Christ had to suffer and rise again do we find that their eyes were opened and they were able to recognize Jesus. He wanted them to connect Jesus to the Messiah of the Scriptures, and, until they did, their eyes would be closed. This incident illustrates the supreme importance of Scripture in our lives.

The Scriptures are our shield against Satan's fiery arrows (Ephesians 6:16). Ignorance of God's Word will cause us to remain weak against evil and blind to the good that the Lord gives us through them. Yet, Eve was not ignorant of God's Word in the garden. Only when she believed Satan's twisting of God's Word over what God had originally told them did she begin to doubt God.

How does God not allow us to be tempted beyond what we can bear? He provides an escape through the temptation so that we can endure it in the form of His Word. For example, what escape did the Lord give the Corinthian Christians who were tempted to worship false gods? He gave them Paul's reminder and warning of what happened to Israel at Mt. Sinai when they worshiped the golden calf (1 Corinthians 10.5-12; cf. Romans 15:4). David said it best in Psalm 119:11 "I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you."

The Scriptures are our shield, our strength and our escape from and through temptation. Only by choosing and obeying them are we able to endure as we pass through the escape. It's our choice and that choice will help us grow and bring us to eternal life (James 1:2-4, 12). Let us choose wisely.

Hamburg Pike Happenings

- The Monday Night for the Master group will meet Monday May 23rd; meal theme is hamburgers and hotdogs. This will be our last MNM meeting until September.
- Sunday May 29th is the next 5th Sunday special contribution. Our goal is to double the weekly budget.
- The Ladies Bible class will meet Saturday May 28th.
- Spring Mill Bible Camp Upcoming Events:
- Camp is in need of 3 specific items; Dixie Cups, Paper Towels and 55 gallon trash bags. Collection sites for these items are located in the fellowship room
- Rally Day is Saturday May 21st breakfast at 9:00 am and continuing throughout the day.
- Our week is June 26th – July 1st; visit on Thursday June 30th for Skit Night at 6:30 p.m.
- We have adopted the Nebo Cabin for the boys.
- Thanks to all who helped clean our cabin last Saturday.
- Any questions see Steve Cravens or Clint Smith Jr.
- A Building Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday June 2nd at 6:30 p.m.
- A youth devo, ages 0 – 12, is scheduled for Thursday May 19th 6:30 p.m. at the building.
- Summer Quarter teaching materials will be ready for pickup on Wednesday May 18th after our Bible study and devotional. We are thankful for our Bible class teachers; please keep them in your prayers.