

Lively Stones Baptist Church

May 2018 Newsletter

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Pastor's Pen

In the month of May, Lively Stones celebrates two very important events First, on May 6 is Homecoming. The founding of LSBC in 1956 and thank God to His glory is still moving forward today. God has been so good to LSBC over these years. Many souls have been saved and many lives have been touched. My heart's desire is that we will continue until Jesus comes. This year for Homecoming the Down East Boys will be our special quests and as always we will be having dinner and fellowship following the service. Do make plans to attend and worship, fellowship with us. Second, May 13th we will be celebrating Mother's Day. This is always a special time for us to honor our mothers who have sacrificed for us. Our choir is singing a new song that will touch your heart about mom. To have that godly mother who helped us see Christ and prayed for us was and is such a blessing. That day we will be taking pictures of moms and family to give to them. Hope you will plan to be with us as we honor our mothers. But for the rest of the month as spring has finally arrived, that we will be faithful to God's house.

God Bless
Pastor Mike

Passage of Thought

From Psalms 139:1-6

As I was reading this wonderful passage, God shared with me that He knows everything about me. Sometimes we may think we know someone, but we really don't know their thoughts or intents of their hearts. Sometimes people surprise us with words or actions when we thought we knew them. God Really knows us.

Outline – God Knows Me

- (v.1) – knows me, therefore searched me
- (v.1) – knows my daily routine
- (v.2) – knows my thoughts (glad He does and everyone else!)
- (v.3) – knows me in my sleep (watches over me)
- (v.4) – knows what I say (even writes it all down)
- (v.5) – knows my goings (puts a hedge about me)

This is the Sovereign God who rules and reins. He knows me! He knows you! Take comfort in that, for He watches over you and me.

Welcome Home

Welcome Home, dear Relative, Neighbor or Friend.
It's so nice to see You, In the House of the Lord again.
We come back to the places, that hold a place in Our Heart.
Places that give Us goodness, from the very start.
You can travel the World, but no matter where You Roam,
There's no place on Earth, better than Home.
We're lucky God allows Us, to travel as We please.
He knows We'll be praying, coast to coast.
He knows we'll be prying to the One who means the most.
It's so heartwarming to return to familiar ground.
If You stop and listen, You can hear the sound.
You can hear the sound, of joyous days gone by.
You can hear the days that made You laugh and made You cry.
You may travel strange places, wherever You go.
There's one place You travel, You'll always know.
That one place You'll smile every time You see.
That one place We call H.O.M.E.
Welcome Home

Don't Forget May 13th



WHAT KIND ARE YOU?

What pops into your mind when you hear the word "Christian"? Stop right now! Think about it right now at this very second. When you hear the word "Christian", what is the first thing that comes into your mind? Mr. Webster states regarding the term "Christian":

"person professing belief in Jesus as Christ; or professing belief in the religion based on the teachings of Jesus; a decent, responsible person; having the qualities demonstrated and taught by Jesus Christ, as love, kindness, humility, etc."

I am sure if you were to ask someone at work, perhaps a friend or a family member if they thought they were a Christian, you would get a variety of answers! I remember after I became a follower of Jesus I was full of zeal and short on tact and I lacked wisdom, but I asked almost everyone I came in contact with, if they were a "Christian". The answers were never the same. "Oh yes, I belong to such and such church." "Of course I was baptized when an infant"! "I guess so, my mother and father told me I am!" "Sure, I am not a Jew, or a Hindu, or anything like that, so I must be a CHRISTIAN! "Sure, we live in America, isn't this a CHRISTIAN nation?" Well

that was back then, this is now folks! We are no longer considered a Christian nation! In fact, the fastest growing religion in the good ole U.S. of A. is Islam!

Let's test your Bible knowledge today. Do you know how many times the term Christian is used in the New Testament? Only THREE times! Surprised!!! Check it out below.

Acts 11:26-*"...the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch."* Around AD40 some 7 years after the Resurrection and ascension of Jesus, and the formation of the Church. Antioch was not a Jewish city, but a Gentile trade center, the term was first used as a label of negative derision. People were poking fun at the followers of Jesus!

Acts 26:28-*"...in a short time you will persuade me to become a Christian."* Thirty years later when Paul gave his testimony before King Agrippa, we find Luke recording this term "Christian" again in Agrippa's conversation Paul.

1 Peter 4:16-*"if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but in that name let him glorify God."*

That is the third and final time it is used in the Bible. "That's it! That's all!

Several months ago I came across a very interesting statistical survey. I'll pull it out of the "for-whatever-it's-worth" department and share it with you in this essay. I can't remember where the numbers came from so please take it with "tongue-in-cheek".

"Among people who call themselves Christians, we discovered that a Majority admit they are not overly committed to their faith. Four out of ten (41%) say they are absolutely committed to their faith. However, 44% are only moderately committed, 10% are not committed, and 3% are not committed at all...2% just don't know. The younger a person is, the less fervent their commitment...cultural and generational differences are softening the commitment of younger adults to any faith group."

This survey shows a discernable difference in spiritual beliefs, behavior and general lifestyles and values. It basically reflects the intensity of the "Faith Commitment" of the men of our time! Oh, I forget to relate that this survey was taken among "the male population only"! Sorry ladies, you were left out of these statistics.

Recently, we have been made aware of some terrible things that have taken place coming from the road to Damascus, Syria! However, I submit to you that over 2,000 years ago something happened on the road to Damascus that changed the course of all history; in fact it had a dynamic effect on my life! What am I talking about? One man breathing out threats of murder for all followers of the Jesus of Nazareth, had a "up front and knock down" personal encounter with Jesus! Saul the Persecutor soon became Paul the Preacher and Apostle of Jesus Christ! Everywhere this great man of God went, he by the Power of the Holy Spirit, planted local assemblies (churches) of followers of this very One he once rallied against with great hatred! Once these assemblies were established, it was his plan to revisit them or at least follow-up with letters of instructions. These letters usually dealt with problems that they were facing, but they were also instruction in the "how" to live their lives as Jesus Followers! One such area where the assemblies had been planted was in Corinth, hence 1 & 2 Corinthians. This Church, no doubt became a headache for the Apostle Paul. Some people today wonder if they were really "Christian"! Paul makes it very clear in the first chapter that they were. Let's take a brief look: (you'll see where we are heading with this).

Verse 1 – the church of God, saints by calling (true believers)

Verse 4 – grace of God was given to them

Verse 5 – in everything you were enriched in Him

Verse 6 – the testimony of Christ was confirmed in them

Verse 7 – not lacking any gift cf. chap. 12

Verse 9 – called into fellowship with Christ

Verses 10, 11, 26; 2:1; 3:1 – Paul calls the "Brethren"

These were CHRISTIAN folk, no doubt about it! BUT...they were caught up in a party spirit, divisions existed, they were arrogant (chap. 4); allowing sin of incest to exist in their midst (chap. 5); taking each other to civil courts (chap. 6); problems with married couples, singles & Widows (chap.7); problems with their social witness (chap. 8); even getting drunk when they came together for the Lord's Supper (chaps. 10-11); misusing the gifts of the Holy Spirit for their own fleshly pride (chap. 12)...to the point Paul had to interject the GREAT LOVE Chapter 13; then he spends chap.14 correcting their misuse of the Spiritual Gifts – especially the gift of tongues.

In our next newsletter article we will introduce THREE KINDS OF CHRISTIANS that made up that local church then and compare them to the church of today. See you next time – Lord willing!



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JEPHTHAH'S DAUGHTER A Daughter is a Sacrifice

Scripture Reference

Judges 11:30-39

Introduction

Jephthah offered to fight against the Ammonites. If he was successful, he would become their leader. Hebrews 11:32 has his name enrolled among the "Hall of Fame" for his faith. There is no mention of his wife. Only one child, a daughter.

He makes a rash oath to God, that if God delivered Ammon into his hands, he would sacrifice whatever came out the door of his house to meet him on his victorious return. Leaving God to choose the victim. He was thinking it would be one of the numerous animals that lived on his property; or perhaps one of his slaves. He never dreamed it would be his daughter.

God answered his prayer and punished him through his answer.

Tennyson writes:

"When the next moon was rolled into the sky,
Strength came to me the equalled my desire,
How beautiful a thing it was to die,
For God and my sire."

Her Response

There are no tears, no screams, no resentment. She offered herself a willing sacrifice to honor her father's oath. She did not run away from her father but with true devotion accepted his will. She felt that her blood would be a good price to pay for divine vengeance over the enemies of Israel. But why? It wasn't her oath. Why should she pay for a rash oath her father made?

Her Request

She requests a two-month period to bewail her virginity. It was a bitter hurt to die unwedded and childless. Jephthah hoed that she would be killed in the mountains by wild animals or carried off by bandits while she was gone. Then he wouldn't have to see her sacrificed on an altar. Father is rather selfish, don't you think? What about his daughter's feelings? This is his only child!

Her Renunciation

She returns unharmed, ready to become the sacrifice. Her strength is in the Lord. God's grace is sufficient for any need.

What Did Jephthah Actually Do To His Daughter

View One

If an oath was given to sacrifice a person, then they were dedicated to serve in the Tabernacle. If it was an animal, it was offered as a burnt offering.

View Two

He actually made her a burnt offering. While Levitical Law forbade human sacrifices, the time of the judges was one of 'every man did right in his own eyes' and human sacrifice was common. The giving of her life transfigured the wicked vow of her father. Her sacrificial love turned the blackest deed in Israel's history into a theme for "the sons of the daughters of Israel." It was a two-fold love, love of country and father.

Her Remembrance

Each year a four-day festival is celebrated to remember her. Many poets have written about her. Lord Byron for example:

Though the virgins of Salem lament,
He the judge and the hero unbent,
I have won the battle for thee,
And my father and country are free.

Her Reminder

What a wonderful picture of the Lord Jesus! Because of our sin, Jesus willingly became our sacrifice so that we could go free!

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