

Thanks to our Speaker
John Buttrey

Scripture Reading

“Why do you look at the speck that is in your brother’s eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ and look, the log is in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother’s eye!” Matthew 7:3-5

April Birthdays

3 Amanda Hoffman 6 Susan Hudson 16 Alana Hudson
23 Shannon Hudson 26 Stori Rose Hoffman

April Anniversaries

19 Bill & Kena Brown

Regular Meeting Times

Sunday.....9:45 a.m.
Sunday.....10:45 a.m.
Sunday.....6:00 p.m.
Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.

Temporary Meeting Times

Sunday.....10:00 a.m.
Wednesday.....7:00 p.m

Preacher:
(Vacant)

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There’s No Need to Hurry

By Al Behel

The late evangelist, D. L. Moody, tells of a preacher who was preparing a sermon on the urgency of receiving Christ when he fell asleep in his chair. The preacher had a strange dream in which he heard a group of demons discussing how to devise a scheme to lead people into hell.

One of the evil spirits said, “Let’s tell people that the Bible is not the word of God and that it cannot be trusted.” Other spirits spoke up and said that isn’t enough to persuade men. Another demon said, “Well, let’s tell them that God doesn’t exist, that Jesus was only a man, and that there is no heaven or hell.” The other spirits rejected that idea as well. Finally, a third demon said, “Let’s tell them that there is a God, a Savior, a heaven and hell. But let’s assure them that they do not need to hurry, because they have all the time in the world to be saved. Let’s encourage them to delay their decision to serve God.”

Satan is the master of deceit. He doesn’t care if we believe in God because he also believes in God. He doesn’t care if we accept that Jesus died on the cross for our sins. He was there and witnessed the entire crucifixion. He doesn’t care if we believe that the Bible is God’s infallible Word. He knows Scripture and knows that God doesn’t lie. He isn’t even concerned if we believe that the church is the body of Christ.

What satan wants is for us to put God off. To tell God that we will serve Him when we have time, or get the kids through school, or

finish our other commitments. He wants us to believe there is no rush, no need to be in a hurry. Sure, he would be delighted if we just denounced God completely, but he knows historically that approach has limited effectiveness.

Time is God's gift to us. Each day is an "extension" of life granted by our heavenly Father. Each day He longs for us to fill each moment in deep fellowship with Him, in sharing His love, His grace, and His message of redemption with a dying world. God wants our hearts without diversion, without distraction, without reservation.

The demons in the preacher's dream were correct. Tell the world that there is no rush. Tell believers that they will have time to serve God...later. That is satan's deceptive and fatal message.

Be Safe...Not Sorry

By Ron Bartanen

There are innumerable uncertainties in life, but there is one thing we cannot afford to be unsure of—our salvation. The apostle Peter admonished people of faith, "*Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to make your calling and election sure*" (2 Peter 1:10a, ESV). He was writing these words, not to alien sinners, but to those who had once been "*cleansed from (their) former sins*" (v. 9). They were baptized believers, washed in the blood of Christ. Were some of those he addressed becoming assured that because they had once accepted Christ, they could now relax in their commitment to godliness and still be granted "*entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ*" (v. 11)? Evidently so. At least Peter saw the need to "remind" them of the spiritual qualities that are to characterize those called of the Lord to share "*His glory and excellence*" (vs. 12, 3b). These qualities are described as supplements to their initial faith: virtue, knowledge, self-control, steadfastness, godliness, brotherly affection and love (vs. 5-8). He further describes any who ignore

these qualities as being "*so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins*" (v. 9). He later compares those who continue in their former vices to the dog who "*returns to its own vomit, and the sow, after washing herself, returns to wallow in the mire*" (2:22). In these verses, Peter is evidently saying that such are not making their "*calling and election sure.*" He would that they would be safe—not sorry in the day they would face the Lord in judgment.

There is one way, and one way only, in which we can be assured of our standing with the Lord. It is through a personal knowledge of Christ as both Savior and Lord in our lives. Peter's warning to believers was, in effect, saying that while they may had once taken seriously their need for Christ as Savior, they had not been as serious in making Him Lord. Jesus had said, "*Not everyone that says to me, 'Lord, Lord' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven*" (Matthew 7:21). He went on to explain, in the parable of the building of two houses—one on solid rock, and another on sand—that simply hearing Jesus' teachings, without submission to them, would result in the soul's destruction. It's not safe to build a life on the sands of this world—not even the sands of humanly devised religion. Some build on the sand of emotion and feeling, without regard for a "thus says the Lord." Such are not given assurance from God. Peter was not expecting, nor demanding, perfection. In no way can we live our lives so perfectly that we could, in any sense, merit salvation. But, while it is true that "*by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing: it is the gift of God*" (Ephesians 2:9), v. 10 is equally true: "*we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.*" We can be safe—not sorry only when our works manifest the reality of our faith. With Jesus as the sure foundation for our lives and guided by His word as revealed in Scripture (the Bible), we can be truly safe—not sorry.