

Indio Informer

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February 25, 2018

Upcoming Events...

Galatians Class: Every Thursday at 1:00 p.m.

Barnabas Group Meeting: February 27

March 11 Daylight savings time begins: move clocks ahead

Business Meeting: March 11

Ladies Bible Class: March 18

February Birthdays

8 Zoie Perales 25 Mike McKnight

February Anniversaries

5 Mike & Morgie McKnight

March Birthdays

4 Joseph McKnight 8 Drina Zamarripa
9 Jessica Aguiar 18 Buddy Cashion 30 Barrett Hoffman

March Anniversaries

6 Harold & Dortha Gentry

Regular Meeting Times

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

Preacher:
Mike McKnight

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The Foolishness of Preaching

By Bill Brandstatter

The apostle Paul wrote: *“For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe”* (1 Corinthians 1:21—NKJV). Why did Paul refer to preaching as foolishness? From the viewpoint of many in the world and perhaps some in the church the following may be part of the reason.

Preaching is not entertaining enough. Many today want to be entertained. The Bible tells of a certain reverence and awe that occurred during the Word being proclaimed. One of the Old Testament Minor Prophets, Habakkuk describes the attitude during worship: *“But the LORD is in his holy temple: let all the earth keep silence before him”* (Habakkuk 2:20). A worshipper today might declare: “How boring!” Yet we cannot equate preaching with entertainment. They are two entirely different areas.

The purpose of preaching is not to entertain. The job of the preacher is to proclaim the Word of God. David wrote: *“I have preached righteousness in the great congregation: lo, I have not refrained my lips, O LORD, thou knowest”* (Psalms 40:9). The first words Jesus preached were: *“Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand”* (Matthew 4:17). Peter stated, *“If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God”* (1 Peter 4:11). John F. McArthur Jr., in his book *Ashamed of the Gospel* states “Nothing in Scripture indicates the church should lure people to Christ by presenting Christianity as an attractive option. Nothing about the gospel is optional”. He further declares: “There seems almost no limit to what modern church leaders will do to entice people who aren’t interested in worship and preaching. Too many have bought the notion that the church must win people by offering an alternative form of entertainment”.

Increased Knowledge Brings Increased Responsibilities

Excerpts from article by Garreth L. Clair

Preaching causes me to make a change. Throughout the Bible many were changed by preaching. On the Day of Pentecost in Acts 2 thousand were pricked to their hearts and gladly received the message and were baptized. The jailer in Acts 16 heard the spoken Word and was baptized (Acts 16:30-31). Felix however did not want to change and when Paul preached to him he stated, *“Go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee”* (Acts 24:25). There is no doubt about it, preaching can change a person. Many unfortunately simply do not want to make a change. If a person hears preaching long enough, there is a likelihood something in that person’s life will change. The Gospel may not be obeyed, but change might come. It is easier for some to stay where they are than to make a change.

Preaching gives a message that means responsibility. In a day and time when everyone seems to be a victim taking responsibility for actions is not a popular message. Whenever evil occurs, excuses are made for the person’s actions. Perhaps they were mistreated as a child. Maybe they simply did not get enough attention. There may have been discrimination of some kind in life, and that person reacted in a negative way. Sin today is condoned because many do not want to take responsibility.

When Jesus said *“except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish”* (Luke 13:3), He was preaching a message that was hard for some to obey. If a person repents, that person must admit wrong in life. There must be an acknowledgment of sin and wrong doing. In our day where negativism, truth, and responsibility are wrong, that is something few want to do.

For the above reasons, we can understand why preaching seems foolish to some. To the child of God however it is “the power of God unto salvation” (Romans 1:16). If a person tells me “I enjoyed your sermon” it usually means, I said something they found of benefit. Whenever the Word of God is preached, great benefit can come. If the heart of the listener is right, faith and obedience can result (Acts 2:41). Thanks be to God for the foolishness of preaching!

One of the important by-products to study is increased knowledge regarding our relationship to God and to our fellow man. We are suggesting that increased knowledge is a good thing and that study is a worthy pursuit by any and all Christians, cf., 2 Timothy 2:15, *“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”* The spiritually of each Christian increases as more and more spiritual information is placed into the brain as a result of study, hearing the Word of God expounded, etc.

Jesus taught that increased knowledge brings about increased responsibility, please note the following passages of Scripture: Luke 12:48, *“But he that knew not, and did commit things worthy of stripes, shall be beaten with few stripes. For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more.”* (KJV) The parable of the talents recorded in Matthew 25:15-28 also indicate that the individual that possesses the greatest talents (abilities) will be responsible for more than those with less. The important point in the parable of the talents though, is; each individual is to use whatever abilities they possess in the Lord’s service. If one has abilities and does not use them surely he is not fulfilling his responsibility to God or his neighbor.

We will all be fulfilling our responsibility to God if, as we learn God’s will we put it to practical use in our life. From our study, it is apparent that when we learn more and more of God’s Word we are required to put that new knowledge to good use, not only in our life but in the life of others around us. It is evident that as we learn more of God’s Word we will appreciate our relationship to God and our neighbors better.

Thank You!

What a “Last-Saturday-in-February” meeting we’ve had! What an opportunity! What a motivational experience! Our thanks to brothers Collin Stringer, DJ McKnight and Rick Byrd.

And thanks to brothers David Hall and Adam Burruss for helping out with our wonderful song service. We thank everyone who helped make this such a wonderful and successful meeting!