

Upcoming Events

Wednesday evening Bible study
7:00 P.M.

Meet Up Open Bible Study:

For study subject and location: see church website

Memory Verse Class

This afternoon at 2:30 p.m.

Thanks to our Speaker Today *Ron Robinson*

Perseverance

“Nothing in this world can take the place of persistence. Talent will not; nothing is more common than unsuccessful men with talent. Genius will not; unrewarded genius is almost a proverb. Education will not; the world is full of educated derelicts. Persistence and determination alone are omnipotent. The slogan Press On! has solved and always will solve the problems of the human race.” - Calvin Coolidge -

February Birthdays

8 Zoie Perales

Regular Meeting Times

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

Preacher:
(Vacant)

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Don't Quit!

By Lance Cordle

Like many people these days, I own an e-reader (electronic reading tablet). Also like many people, I keep several books loaded on it for the times of reading pleasure, as well as for when I have some time to kill in a waiting room, mall, etc. The company that produces my tablet sent me a challenge at the beginning of 2021: Basically, “Don’t Quit!” Read more and we will reward you. They offered badges for reading seven days in a month, fifteen days in a month and thirty days in a month, and others.

However, the badge that especially caught my attention was a badge for reading from my tablet on January 19th. January 19th? What is so special about January 19th? According to the notification, someone, somewhere has determined that January 19th is the day when most people give up on their resolutions for the new year. So, as a way of saying to their readers, “Don’t Quit!”, they offered a badge for the day that most people would be giving up (or had already done so).

Whether in a good habit such as reading, or exercise, Bible study, or living a godly life, we need to be encouraged to keep going. That is why the book of Hebrews was written and included in the biblical canon. Most students of the Bible believe that the fall of Jerusalem (A.D. 70) was set to occur within a few years following the writing of this book. Whatever the circumstance was, at the time of writing (mental persecution, peer pressure, seizure of property), it was causing some Jewish Christians to quit following Jesus and return to Judaism. We do know, however, that they had not yet shed blood in their struggle (Hebrews 12:4). A “word of exhortation” (Hebrews 13:22) was needed and provided in the form of the letter we now know as Hebrews. In fact, some scholars believe that Hebrews may have originally been a sermon.

Whatever the original form, Hebrews is indeed a “word of exhortation.” Emphasizing Jesus and his way as “better” (superior) over and over again (at least thirteen times), the author admonishes the readers to continue to follow Jesus.

We know that anything that is good is worth holding onto (Philippians 4:8)—whether it be marriage, friendship, education, reading, exercise, and, especially, following Jesus! Let us use our minds and commit to continuing to do those things which are good for us. “. . . *And let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith . . .*” in other words, “Don’t Quit!”

Selfishness

By Joe Slater

Selfish people often despise authority (2 Peter 2:10). Do we remember being irked as a child when our parents, teachers, or other adults told us what to do? Wise parents discipline their children, teaching them to respect authority. As adults, we recognize civil authorities’ right to tell us to drive on the right side of the road and keep our speed within the posted limit, even when we want to go faster.

Unfortunately, while everyone grows older, not everyone grows up! Some adults kept the self-willed attitude of their youth, and it shows as they resist not only civil authority, but the authority of God Himself! The selfish person childishly exclaims, “I’ll do what I want!” But the mature Christian humbly says, “I’ll do as I ought.”

Just suppose that Jesus had been selfish – where would we be? When He left the glorious splendor of heaven to take on human flesh, was He thinking of His own personal benefit? Hear the Savior’s words: “*For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me*” (John 6:38). Jesus submitted to the authority of His Heavenly Father and acted unselfishly to save us. Pleasing the Father and saving us were more important to Jesus than His own personal comfort. Hebrews 12:2 exhorts us to look “*unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame . . .*”

A single word tells how to overcome selfishness: LOVE. If we love God, we will seek to please Him through obedience to His commands (John 15:14). If we love each other, we will act in one another’s best interests. “*Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God*” (1 John 4:7).

Patience

By Larry Pasley

Have we ever rushed into something too quickly and regretted it later? It may have been a job, a decision to buy a house/car or something else, a marriage, a divorce, anger, an accusation or something else.

- Haste makes waste. Proverbs 21:5 “*The plans of the diligent lead surely to plenty, But those of everyone who is hasty, surely to poverty.*”
- Haste leads to sin. Proverbs 19:2 “*Also it is not good for a soul to be without knowledge, And he sins who hastens with his feet.*”
- Haste leads to shame. Proverbs 25:8 “*Do not go hastily to court; For what will you do in the end, When your neighbor has put you to shame?*”
- Haste will not bring blessings. Proverbs 20:21 “*An inheritance gained hastily at the beginning Will not be blessed at the end.*”
- Haste is foolish. Ecclesiastes 7:9 “*Do not hasten in your spirit to be angry, For anger rests in the bosom of fools.*”

Patience is truly a virtue. Ecclesiastes 7:8 “*The end of a thing is better than its beginning; The patient in spirit is better than the proud in spirit.*”

We need to be patient to the end. James 5:7-8 “*Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, waiting patiently for it until it receives the early and latter rain. You also be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.*”

May we all stop to think about our actions and what the future results of those actions might be.