

WUSBC NEWSLETTER

For the CROSS | the CROWN | and the COVENANT

TITHES & OFFERINGS

Please mail your giving to:
Lana C.

STATISTICS FOR May 17, 2020

Worship Attendance:
Facebook: 76 views
YouTube: 15 views
Budget Offering: \$1,275.00
Building: \$17.50
Smiths (missionaries to
Zambia, Africa): \$37.50
Counseling: \$50.00

SUNDAY'S SCHEDULE

No Sunday School
9:45 - Service for adults
11:00 - Service for families with
children
(no childcare provided)



Pastor's Note:

Perhaps back in school you were required to memorize President Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address. My guess is you still remember how it began, "Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal..." And you may even remember how it ended, "...and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth." Possibly you still remember the entire speech. Maybe the opening and closing you just read sounds familiar, but you couldn't have quoted that from mere memory. Today, in honor of Memorial Day, I want to reflect on the middle portion of Lincoln's speech through a Biblical lens.

"Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battle-field of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field, as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.

But, in a larger sense, we can not dedicate -- we can not consecrate -- we can not hallow -- this ground. The brave



PRAYER REQUESTS

- Brenda H., Emily G., Eric H., Heather V., Jason B., Stacy F., and other healthcare worker
- Phyllis C., Rae Jean's mom, her neck has shifted and the nurse practitioner is suffusing surgery, but the surgeon wants her to try wearing a brace another four weeks. Please pray for continued healing.
- Our church family
- Our nation

men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but *it can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us -- that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion -- that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain -- that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom -- and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.*"

Abraham Lincoln
November 19, 1863

Do you see what Lincoln is challenging the people to do? He is telling them to look back, remember, what the dead have died for and then live in a way to carry on their work. Or to put it another way, a look back should direct your future. But does Lincoln's challenge to the divided nation resonate for Christians? Is it Biblical? Should a look back direct our forward movement? The Bible gives a resounding, YES!

For example, turn to the book of Deuteronomy. This is the book of the Law; the covenant between God and His people and the description of how God expects His people to live. Moses begins the book with three chapters of history - looking back at what God has done. Then when Moses starts introducing the law in chapter four, look at how he tells the people to look back:

A look back
should direct
your future.

"Your eyes have *seen* what the LORD did..." v. 3

"Only take care, and keep your soul diligently, lest you *forget* the things that your eyes have *seen*, and lest they depart from your heart..." v. 9

"And you *came* [past tense]..." v. 11

"You *heard* [past tense]..." v. 12

Chapter five opens with the Ten Commandments and right there, in the midst of telling His people how to live, how to move forward, He begins, "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery... You shall remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the LORD your God brought you out from there with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm" (vv. 6, 15). Again, in chapter six, after giving the greatest commandment (6:4-5) God once again says, "then take care lest you forget the LORD, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery" (v. 12).

“Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, the offspring of David...”

- 2 Timothy 2:8

Truly God, through Moses, is telling the people: remembering the salvation of the Lord is the foundation for how they should live and act - their past determines their future.

But what about us New Testament Christians? How does this passage of Deuteronomy apply to us? Paul reminds us in Romans 6:17 “you who were once slaves to sin have become obedient from the heart...” (cf. 6:20). The slavery that we were in was far greater than the Egyptian bondage the Israelites were in. The slavery, the mastery that sin had over us, could not even be escaped from through death. And, just as

Deuteronomy 5:15 says God brought His people “out from there with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm”; Luke opens his gospel describing Jesus as “the strength [of the Lord’s] arm” (Lk. 1:51) and “a horn of salvation for us” (Lk. 1:69). Isaiah 53 describes Christ as “the arm of the LORD...upon Him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with His wounds we are healed...He bore the sin of many, and makes intercession for the transgressors” (Is. 53:1, 5, 12).

Oh yes! If Lincoln could challenge the nation to look back to direct where they’re going; if Moses could tell the Israelites to look back at God’s saving works and thus lay a foundation for their living; then how much more true for Christians to look back on Christ and let that direct our current actions and directions! As Lincoln challenged the nation, so let us be challenged and reminded to face our mission, our “task remaining before us” with “resolve” for Jesus Christ our Savior.

To read how the apostle Paul sees the remembrance of Christ changing the way we live see 2 Timothy 2:8-19.

In His grace,

Pastor Heath Huskey

CRUCIFIED WITH CHRIST

|Galatians 2:11-21|

The Context of the Text

We must remember that early Christianity had a very distinctively Jewish flavor. After all, it had begun with almost exclusively from converts with Jewish backgrounds, traditions and histories. When larger numbers of Gentiles began embracing Jesus as the Messiah there was a collision of diametrically different cultural and religious worlds! In this early church, there arose those who were devout God-fearing people claiming to follow Christ but teaching that Gentiles must be circumcised and follow the Mosaic Law...these were the Judaizers. In this section of scripture, Paul recounts how he confronted Peter in a moment of hypocrisy. Paul's rebuke of Peter serves to us as a statement on the unwavering necessity of the doctrine of justification by grace through faith...alone.

The Keys to the Text

There are basically two keys to understanding this text. First is the identity and theology of the Judaizers. While the Judaizers claimed to be Christians, most of their doctrine was orthodox. They did not openly deny the gospel but rather sought to **improve** it by adding requirements, ceremonies, and standards from the old covenant. The second key to this text is the doctrine of grace. Simply put, grace is the gospel of divine redemption totally separate from any work or merit of man. When we understand our regeneration in this light, it simply makes no sense to accept it by grace and then endeavor to



Come and Die with Me

A.W. Tozer said “People who are crucified with Christ have three distinct marks: 1. they are facing one direction, 2. they can never turn their back, and 3. they no longer have plans of their own.” Can we just take a few minutes to ponder these three points separately as they relate to our own hectic lives today?

First, are you facing one direction and one only? Look at how the virus that has now spread all across the globe has divided the church. Consider how differing viewpoints have placed people at disagreement when the entirety of scripture calls for the church to be unified. I am not saying we all have to believe the same ideas regarding all things but if the cross of Christ is in focus in our minds, very little else will matter to us. When I consider the life of Jesus, I often wonder at what point did the cross fully become reality in His mind. Clearly it was the guiding light throughout His entire ministry, but as a child playing at His mother's feet, did He fully grasp this reality? If you and I are crucified with Christ today, we will face in only one direction and that direction will be at opposition to the views of the world.

The second point is one I am afraid to ponder for too long. I so wish I could say that I have never turned my back on God, but sorrowfully I was born that way and with that nature. Regretfully, I have failed many times through out my life. How well have you done regarding this point? Have you ever turned your back, walked away, or betrayed Him who came to seek and save that which was

Questions for Reflection

1. How did Peter deviate from the true gospel and become hypocritical? Do we need to be concerned with this in our lives?
2. If the law cannot save a lost soul, what is its purpose?
3. How was the teachings of Christ in contrast to the teachings of the Judaizers?

Acts 11:1-8

Dig a Little Deeper

1. What enabled Peter to stand up to the Judaizers' accusations of eating with uncircumcised Gentiles?
2. What was the role of the Holy Spirit in spreading the gospel?
3. What role does the Holy Spirit play in life and spiritual growth?
4. What does it mean to you to be "crucified with Christ"?

lost? You don't need to answer, I know you have. In fact, we all have and that is the point of Isaiah 53. Make the time to read and meditate on that scripture. Let the truth of what Isaiah wrote sink in..."all we like sheep have gone astray; we have tuned every one to His own way; and the LORD hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all". It's nearly more than I can stand to read and meditate on. Here we see the grace of God poured out to overflowing!

The last point flies in the face of the American ideal of independence!! What plans do you have? Do you ever consider, when making decisions, what exactly is the will of God in the matter at hand? To be honest with you, I believe I am better at this now than I have ever been. It's not because I'm just so wise or full of knowledge or exploding with spiritual growth. Sadly, throughout my younger years, I made so many poor decisions without even considering God at all. By thinking I knew it all, I demonstrated I knew nothing and laid waste to my life and hurt many around me. Suffice it to say, my life has not turned out according to my plans and today, I can honestly say, I thank God for that. I can honestly say that I trust Him completely and all I want in my life is whatever He wants in my life. I simply desire to be used of Him to edify, admonish, uplift and grow His church while I journey here. I pray that is your desire as well. I pray you have no plans of your own. I pray that you are dying to yourself a little more each day so that each day He can create more of the life in you He wants.

As you study this week, I want you to consider where you would have been if you had been alive the day Jesus was crucified. Would you have simply stayed home? Maybe you had laundry to do, groceries to get, or errands to run and one more dead Jew would have made no difference to you. Perhaps you would have went out of curiosity or just to see who else was there. After all, inquiring minds want to know. Hopefully you were not one of the many who railed on Him, mocked Him, and scorned Him. Would you have stood at a distance weeping not wanting anyone to know that you secretly believed? Maybe you would have wept openly at the foot of the cross unashamed of being His disciple. There is another possibility. One that we see demonstrated by a common thief...a nobody, really. Perhaps, you may have been so convicted by your faith that you would have made such a declaration of the Gospel of Jesus that you would have found yourself on a cross beside Him...dying to self that He may live in you! This is exactly what He desires today. Let your life so declare the glorious truth of His grace, that you find yourself crucified with Him in order that you may one day live with Him also!!