

The Better Way

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SPRING CHURCH OF CHRIST

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SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

SUNDAY

Bible Study.....9:00 a.m.
Worship.....10:00 a.m.
Afternoon Worship.....1:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study.....7:30 p.m.
(via Zoom Meetings)

ELDERS

David P. Brown
Ken Cohn
John West

DEACONS

Bret Bailey
J. D. Gunter
Eric Paluka

EVANGELIST

David P. Brown

SECRETARY

Sonya West

DEFENSE BY FLIGHT

G. K. Wallace

Dunkirk now stands for victory in defeat. By retreating, Churchill was able to save the British Empire. It is not necessarily a mark of cowardice to flee. The wise general in the army calls it retreat. When Paul wrote to Timothy he said **“But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness”** (1 Tim. 6:11). There can be no safety from some sins except in flight. Youthful lusts are not to be wrestled with but fled from. Peter was weak when he was unafraid. When Jesus told His apostles, **“It is written, I will smite the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock shall be scattered abroad, ... Peter answered and said unto him, Though all men shall be offended because of thee, yet will I never be offended”** (Mat. 26:31-34). David was a brave man but he had enough judgment to flee from the wrath of Saul (1 Sam. 22:1). The apostle Paul was a brave man but he knew when it was time to run away.

And when many days were fulfilled, the Jews took counsel together to kill him: but their plot because known to Saul. And they watched the gates also day and night that they might kill him: but his disciples took him by night, and let him down through the wall, lowering him in a basket (Acts 9:23-25).

A man will not flee if he is not afraid. There must be an apprehension of danger or there will be no flight. Oftentimes people perish because they have no sense of danger. Destruction is inevitable if we have no fear of what lies ahead. Jesus repeatedly raised the red flag by saying **“Take heed.”** Paul carefully pointed out the works of the flesh and the consequences thereof in Galatians 6. In the Colossian letter, chapter three, Paul said **“put to death”** or **“crucify your members which are upon the earth.”** Paul further warns by saying **“Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall”** (1 Cor. 10:12).

It is not a mean motive to escape through fear. Fear sometimes is admirable prudence. Noah **“moved with godly fear, prepared an ark”** (Heb. 11:7). We are slow to perceive some dangers. Dangers connected with what men call “sweet sin” are most destructive. A sin that is born of a boastful mind or which is countenanced by the example of others is very dangerous. The most dangerous and poisonous serpents in our land are less likely to be seen. In fleeing, we are simply moving toward God, our strength for protection. Let us flee unto God, and like David who said:

Hear my cry, O God; attend unto my prayer. From the end of the earth will I cry unto Thee, when my heart is overwhelmed; lead me to the rock that is higher than I. For thou hast been a shelter for me, and a strong tower from the enemy. I will abide in thy tabernacle forever; and I will trust in the covert of thy wings (Psa. 61:1-4).

Deceased

GOD'S PURPOSE AND YOU

Leslie G. Thomas

“And we know that to them that love God all things work together for good, even to them that are called according to his purpose” (Rom. 8:28; ASV). The implication of the passage just quoted, is that God has a purpose for every individual who accepts the gospel of Christ; and that if the person in question loves God, and endeavors to live in keeping with God's purpose for him, that the ultimate result will be for his good.

The text further implies that there is not a problem affecting the faithful child of God, which cannot be properly solved, if he will allow God to have His way regarding it. The apostle further says:

There hath no temptation taken you but such as man can bear: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation make also the way of escape, that ye may be able to endure it (1 Cor. 10:13; cf. Mat. 28:20; Jam. 1:5-8).

But if the children of God are confronted with a situation, especially one involving His work and His promise, and they undertake to solve the problem in their way, without taking His revealed will and His providence into consideration (cf. Mat. 28:20), trouble is certain to follow (Isa. 55:8, 9). God wants His people to do the best that they can; but He is never pleased when they undertake to act independently of that which the Scriptures clearly teach (Cf. 1 Cor. 4 6; 2 John 9).

“JEHOVAH SEETH NOT AS MAN SEETH”

Abraham and Sarah were seventy-five and sixty-five years old, respectively, when they reached the land of Canaan; and the inspired historian says, **“And Sarai [their names were Abram and Sarai at first] was barren; she had no child”** (Gen. 11: 30.) It was while they were still in Haran that Jehovah first promised them an heir (See Gen. 12:1-3). Ten years passed by and no child was born to them, notwithstanding God's assurance that **“in thee shall all the families of the earth be blessed.”**

It was at the end of their first ten years in the land of promise that Sarah apparently decided that she and Abraham would have to try another plan for bringing God's promise of a child to fruition. She, accordingly, decided on what

appears to have been a socially accepted method of bringing a child into the family (Cf. Gen. 16:1, 2; 30:1-3, 9). But when people lose confidence in God's purpose and plans, trouble is certain to result.

One has only to read the inspired history of the Old Testament, in order to learn something of the sorrow and distress which Abraham, Sarah, Hagar, and Ishmael experienced then, and of the tragic situation which continues even in our day. The Arabs are the descendants of Ishmael, and the Israelites are, of course, the offspring of Isaac; and **“never the twain”** shall dwell together in peace (Cf. Gen. 16:11, 12). But after twenty-five years of waiting, God's power was brought to bear, and the promised child was born to Abraham and Sarah (Read Gen. 17:1-18: 15; 21:1-7; Rom. 4:16-21).

ONLY THE FAITHFUL CAN WAIT ON THE LORD

After Saul became unfaithful, the kingdom of Israel was promised to David (1 Sam. 16:1-13); and when Saul learn of the prospects which were in store for David, he determined to kill him. This meant that David had a real problem, and he must have wondered how best to solve it. The alternatives which were before him were (1) trust in the Lord to fulfil His promise, and (2) defend himself, even if that meant the destruction of Saul.

David had the chance, and was urged to kill Saul on two occasions (1 Sam. 24:1-7; 26:1-25); but here is his noble reply:

And David said, As Jehovah liveth, Jehovah will smite him; or his day shall come to die; or he shall go down into battle, and perish. Jehovah forbid that I should put forth my hand against Jehovah's anointed.

It requires faith to trust in God, when the odds seem to be against one; but God's promise will never fail. Saul was killed in battle (1 Sam. 31:1-6); but David was not guilty of taking matters into his own hand, in an effort to achieve that which God had promised (See 2 Sam. 1:1-16).

“AND BE NOT FASHIONED ACCORDING TO THIS WORLD”

One may take William M. Ramsay's suggestion, to the effect that each of the seven churches in Asia partook of the character of the

Spring Church Of Christ

Contending For The Faith Lectureship



Things Helpful To Becoming & Being A Christian

February 22, 2025

9:00 AM: *Integrity* (Psalms 26) – Jonathan West

10:00 AM: *Ahab, The Accuser* (1 Kings 16:29-33) – Jack Stephens

11:00 AM: *Courage* (Psalms 27) – Jose Gamez

LUNCH PROVIDED BY THE SPRING CONGREGATION

1:30 PM: *Kinds Of Fear* – Bruce Stulting

2:30 PM: *Let Brotherly Love Continue* (Hebrews 13:1) – Eric Paluka

3:30 PM: *OPEN FORUM* (All speakers)

LECTURESHIP DIRECTOR: David P. Brown

ELDERS: David P. Brown, Kenneth D. Cohn, John West

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city in which it was located, and extend it to apply to the Lord's churches throughout the world. We are living in a restless age, and people in many walks of life are manifesting more and more disregard for properly constituted authority; and that attitude is frequently manifested in the church itself.

The Lord has charged the elders with the responsibility of overseeing the church, in which they have their membership; and they have no right whatsoever to delegate it to any one else, or even to share it with others. It is their responsibility, and the Lord will see to it that they are held accountable for it. Furthermore, they will be required to give account for those who are under their oversight. But how often is the authority of the eldership called in question or disregarded!

A small group becomes dissatisfied with the preacher, or one or more of the elders; and the first thing that one knows, they are demanding their resignation. It apparently never occurs to them that the Lord has a way of solving such problems. If a few people have the right to demand the resignation of the elders or the preacher, they also have the right to force the acceptance, by the remainder of the congregation, elders and preachers of their choice. A strong and united eldership would never allow such things to happen; but, sad to say, the eldership itself is often divided, with the result that determined people simply ignore them and set out to accomplish their own desires.

The inevitable result, in many cases, is a divided church; and those who are responsible for it are the ones who think the least about it. But God takes all of that into consideration; and it is well to note that the matter is so grave, that neither Christ nor any apostle ever authorized any faithful Christian to specifically pray for those who divide the church (Cf. Gal. 5:12; Phi. 3:2, 3). **“And we know that to them that love God all things work together for good, even to them that are called according to his purpose.”** Do we really believe this statement? If we do, we are willing to allow the Lord to have His way.~

Deceased

TEST YOUR BIBLE KNOWLEDGE

What was Purim?

Answer to last week's question:
Jerusalem Christians; Acts 9:26

THOSE TO SERVE

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2025

Announcements Bret Bailey
Scripture Reading Bret Bailey
Genesis 7:1-10

Song Leader Jonathan West
Prayer Stephen Cohn/Eric Paluka (AM)
Joshua West/Gary Blasingame (PM)

Speaker David Brown

Lord's Table (AM)
(Mark 15:27-32)

Steven Johnson Bret Bailey
Andrew Paluka Eric Paluka

Lord's Table (PM)

Joshua West Stephen Cohn

Audio/Video Monitor Eric Paluka
Camera/Door Monitor Joshua West

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2025

(via Zoom Meeting)

Announcements Ken Cohn
Speaker Bret Bailey
Bible Class Teacher David Brown

FOR FEBRUARY

Prepare Communion Mercier
Lock Buildings Blasingame
Prepare Bulletin Board West

IN NEED OF PRAYERS

DeLong & Orsack Families, Edith Young, Cynthia Jackson, Zack Nero, Glenn Kryszak, Barbara Perkins, April McCain, Gayle Barnett, Noah & Glenda Hackworth, Tania Turcios, Robbie Kirby, Debbie Brannon, Charles & Ann Nero, Chuck & Nancy Verkist, Freda Smith, Orlanda Chumbley, and Roelf & Janice Ruffner.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- **Saturday, February 22th:** Spring CFTF lectureship.
- **Sunday, February 23rd:** Monthly meal
- **Tuesday, March 25th:** Ladies' Bible Class.