

Ministers:
the congregation

Kenny Chumbley
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Sunday:
8:00 AM: WGCY
9:00 AM: Worship

Wednesday:
7:00 PM: Bible Study

[gibsoncitychurchof
Christ.com](http://gibsoncitychurchofChrist.com)

This Past Week:
Worship—34
Wednesday—11
Contribution—\$1285

For meditation:
Proverbs 27.18–20
The grave has
taken in every
generation that
has ever lived,
and it is still insatiable. What does
Solomon say is
equally insatiable?

Radio program:
WGCY FM, 106.3
Sundays at 8 AM

Do Flesh and Nature Dread to Die?

Do flesh and nature dread to die?
And timorous thoughts our minds enslave?
But grace can raise our hopes on high,
And quell the terrors of the grave.

What! Shall we run to gain the crown,
Yet grieve to think the goal so near?
Afraid to have our labours done,
And finish this important war?

Do we not dwell in clouds below,
And little know the good we love?
Why should we like this twilight so,
When 'tis all noon in worlds above?

There shall we see him face to face,
There shall we know the Great unknown,
And Jesus, with his glorious grace,
Shines in full light amidst the throne.

When we put off this fleshly load,
We're from a thousand mischiefs free,
Forever present with our God,
Where we have long'd and wish'd to be.

No more shall pride or passion rise,
Or envy fret, or malice roar,
Or sorrow mourn with down-cast eyes,
And sin defile our souls no more.

'Tis best, 'tis infinitely best,
To go where tempters cannot come,
Where saints and angels ever blest,
Dwell and enjoy their heavenly home.

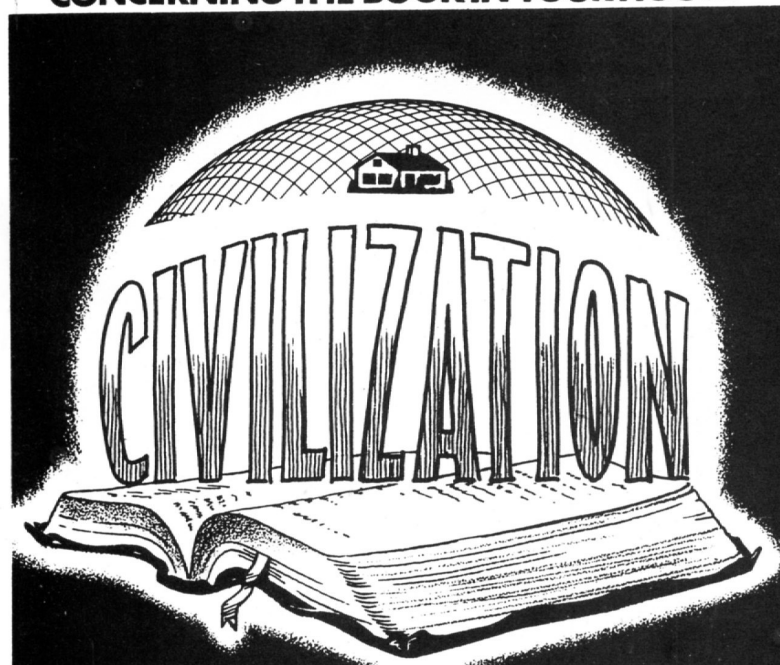
O for a visit from my God,
To drive my fears of death away,
And help me thro' this darksome road,
To realms of everlasting day!

Isaac Watts

Gibson City church of Christ

Highway 47 South, Gibson City, IL

CONCERNING THE BOOK IN YOUR HOUSE



WILLIAM LYON PHELPS, LONG A PROFESSOR AT YALE,
SAID, "OUR CIVILIZATION IS FOUNDED UPON THE BIBLE;
MORE OF OUR IDEAS, OUR WISDOM, OUR PHILOSOPHY,
OUR LITERATURE, OUR ART, OUR IDEALS COME FROM
THE **BIBLE** THAN FROM ALL OTHER BOOKS PUT
TOGETHER."

JACK HAMM

Sermon: 1 Peter 3.13–17

Using suffering to save

22 October 2023

Unbelieving belief

“If you can do anything, have compassion on us and help us.” Jesus said to him, “If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes.” Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, “Lord, I believe, help my unbelief!”

There are folks who haven’t given up on Christ, but they doubt He can help them with their problem. They come to Him not out of assurance in His willingness or power, but out of desperation, having no where else to go. The father in Mark’s account of the demonized boy, to some degree, is everyman.

We’ll look at his story under three headings.

A DEBILITATING CONDITION

It was a bad case (vv 17–18,22). Matthew uses the word that literally means *moonstruck* (17.15, lunatick/epilepsy), which seems to have been the local explanation for demon possession. For years (“from childhood,” v 21) a boy had been speechless, subject to involuntary seizures that threw him to the ground, caused him to foam at the mouth, grind his teeth, go stiff as a board, and fall into fire or water: a cycle of onstant agony, fear, and nightmare. You can be sure the parents had done everything they could to find a cure, but without success. Whatever hope they had put in the disciples (Matt. 17.16) had been shattered by the disciples’ failure.

A DESPAIRING CONFIDENCE

The severity of the demon and the failure of the disciples had shaken the father’s confidence. He didn’t want *not* to believe; he wanted to believe, but he wasn’t sure he had a basis for doing so. His admission, “I do believe; help me with my unbelief,” perfectly expressed the challenge to our faith we’ve all felt at one time or another.

A DRAMATIC CONCLUSION

A phrase is repeated: “If You can “ (v 22) . . . “If you can” (v 23). If there is any “if” (uncertainty) in a situation, it’s in us, not Christ. Whether the father doubted Christ’s power or willingness is irrelevant; he should have doubted neither. Nor should we. Christ can hold up His end of the bargain; but can we?

Isn’t it comforting to read that the man’s defective faith didn’t limit Christ’s power? If the Lord made blessing contingent on perfect faith, praying a perfect prayer, or having a perfect day,

how many of us would be blessed? The Lord bears with our infirmities, piles grace on top of grace (Jn. 1.16), and helps us to higher ground.

I suspect that ever after his son’s healing, the father’s faith wasn’t shaky, but unconquerable (Rom. 8.37).

kenny

Impressions of Israel, the end

Most travelers set out on a journey having one or two places they really want to see. I really wanted to see Caesarea Philippi and Petra and didn’t give Amman a second thought, but I’m grateful our trip ended in Amman.

It was Great Britain that restored Amman to the dignity of a capital city, a position it had not held since Biblical times when it was the chief city of the Ammonites. It was here that the bedstead of Og king of Bashan was to be seen (Deut. 3.11), and it was here that the Romans



built the enormous and most perfectly preserved Greek theatre still in existence. It seated 6,000 and was a theatre Aeschylus and Sophocles would have drooled over!

It was after midnight when we all got on our planes to fly home, closing the door on the most memorable trip I’ve ever taken.

It’s heartbreaking to see what’s happened . Israel is mainly occupied by Jews who have no valid claim to it, who are surrounded by Arabs who hate them with a murderous rage for taking land they (the Arabs) had owned and occupied for centuries. Nothing has changed much since the time of Amos (1.11–2.1). If the wolf and lamb are ever to coexist in that little strip of land called Israel, it will have to be by the gospel—a gospel that is hard to find today in the Bible lands.

kenny

News about us

- Alberta has been moved to Eagle View in Rantoul.
- Rantoul’s next gospel meeting is November 10, 11, 12 with Ken McDaniel of Springfield.
- Donna’s reports were all good! She’s clean as a whistle!