

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—32
Wednesday—10
Contribution—\$1420

For meditation:
Proverbs 27.9–11
“Every friend,”
says Richter, “is
to the other a sun
and a sunflower
also; he attracts
and follows.”
How many quali-
ties of friendship
can you identify
from this week’s
passage?

Radio program:
WGCY FM, 106.3
Sundays at 8 AM

Gibeah

The name “Gibeah” stands for one of the most gruesome, depraved events in Israelite history.

The story is told in Judges 19–20. A Levite traveling with his concubine stops for the night in the Benjamite village of Gibeah. They intend to sleep outside, but a resident sees them, tells them they can’t stay outside, and takes them home with him. What followed was a reenactment of what happened in Sodom when angels visited Lot (Gen. 19). Perverted men gathered and demanded the Levite be turned over them that they might molest him. The Levite, instead, shoved his concubine out the door, and the men of Gibeah spend the night raping her. In the morning, the Levite found her dead. The spineless, coward was suddenly overcome with righteous indignation, and chopped up the woman’s corpse into twelve pieces, which he sent to tribes of Israel. When Israel realized what happened in Gibeah, the nation turned “out . . . as one man” and demanded that Benjamin turn over the murderers. When the tribe of Benjamin closed ranks and refused to do so, a battle ensued and the following massacre nearly exterminated the men of Benjamin.

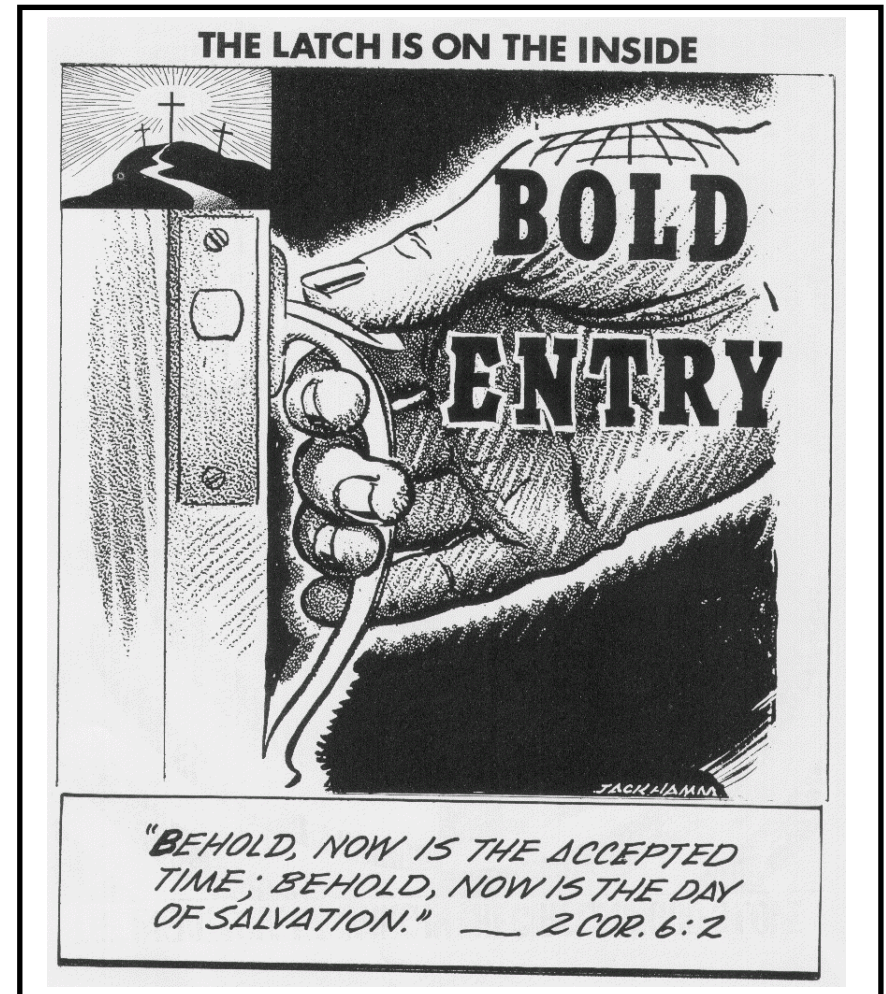
Twice in Hosea (9.9, 10.9), the prophet says Israel was as bad in his day as Gibeah was in the days of the judges.

An argument can be made that our society is even worse. When children are forced to undergo mutilation and chemical castration in pandering to the god of perversity, when Almighty God is blasphemed by people who think individuals are born with the wrong gender, when men who dress as women and women who dress as men are given authority to set policy for the rest of us, when the recently appointed head of the American Library Association is vehemently opposed to books that present the traditional family in a favorable light, and when the abortion industry continues to chew up innocent life, etc, Gibeah ain’t got nothin’ on us.

kenny

Gibson City church of Christ

Highway 47 South, Gibson City, IL



Sermon: 1 Peter 3.1–7

Relationship rules

17 September 2023

Getting to the heart of repentance

Chesterton said that on first reading the Sermon on the Mount, you feel it turns everything upside down, but the second time you read it, you discover it turns everything right side up.

I think the same is true regarding the terms of discipleship Christ laid down in Mark 8.34. “Deny yourself, take up your cross, and follow Me” are bound to give anyone second thoughts, especially after hearing the world scream: “Assert yourself. Care for nothing except for yourself. The only vice is weakness; the only virtues are strength, coercion, and force.”

And here comes Christ, saying that life is about giving, not getting; and that to be preoccupied with ourself, which closes us off from others, is to lose the point of life. When Mark began by giving us a summary of Christ’s message—“Repent, and believe in the gospel” (1.15)—he was telling us we must turn from one set of values to another. Turning from myself to others is at the core of repentance.

Here’s an Old Testament text that illuminates the issues involved in declining discipleship to follow self.

“They soon forgot His works; they did not wait for His counsel, but lusted exceedingly in the wilderness, . . . and He gave them their request, but sent leanness into their soul” (Ps. 106.13–15). The Israelites who came out of Egypt cared only about pleasing themselves. “The Lord took Israel out of Egypt in one night,” said George Morrison, “but it took Him forty years to take Egypt out of Israel.” In their lust they provoked God, and He responded by giving them what they wanted. Sometimes, the worst thing God can do to us is to give us what we want. Their belly was filled, but their heart was empty.

This is the sequence selfishness always follows. Men get what they desire; they assure themselves of their comfort, ease, and wealth; they pamper their pleasures, and then pay for it with an empty soul.

Christ weighs the temporal/worldly and the eternal/heavenly against each other (“For what will it profit a man . . .,” v 36). If you could have everything now but nothing hereafter, or have nothing now and everything hereafter, which would you choose? This is the choice involved in repentance.

This world or heaven? Be careful how you choose.

kenny

Impressions of Israel, 17

In the summer of the year before the crucifixion, the shadow of the cross was falling upon the soul of Christ, and it caused a shift in His priorities. From then on, His emphasis was on preparing His disciples for what was coming over three days at Jerusalem. It is with this in mind that we read in the Gospels that “Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi” (Matt. 16.13).

Only a short time before, the Pharisees and Sadducees buried their mutual hatred (16.12) and came seeking a sign (16.1). They asked “that He should stop the sun,” suggested Chrysostom, “or rein in the moon, or hurl down thunder, or the like.” Leaving the area around the Sea of Galilee, Jesus led the Twelve up a ridge of Mt. Hermon, and it was there that Peter voiced the great confession, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God” (16.16).

Caesarea Philippi, nestled amid the running water and thick woods on the lower slopes of Hermon, was home to a magnificent pagan city of marble columns built by Philip the Tetrarch. In all Israel, there was no site more beautiful. In nearby hills was a grotto the Greeks dedicated to the god Pan, and it was there Herod the Great built a temple to Caesar Augustus and the Greeks built a temple to Zeus.

We don’t know the exact spot where the scene in Matthew 16.13–20 occurred, but the site of the grotto and the adjoining temples is spectacular. Caesarea Philippi, because of its association with Peter’s

great confession, was a place I especially wanted to see.

I was not disappointed!

kenny



News about us

- Jerry began his latest round of treatment this past week. He and Carolyn need our prayers.