

The Bulletin

Meeks Street Church of Christ

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January 28, 2024

“Ancient Landmarks”

By Heath Rogers

There are a handful of passages in the Old Testament that refer to landmarks which the Children of Israel were to respect. The first of these passages is found in Deuteronomy 19:14, *“You shall not remove your neighbor's landmark, which the men of old have set, in your inheritance which you will inherit in the land that the Lord your God is giving you to possess.”*

When Canaan was conquered, the land was distributed to tribes and families by allotment. This was the will of God. Each person was to respect the property belonging to everyone else. These landmarks Moses spoke of were stones or posts which marked these original property boundaries.

Today, property lines are filed with the county auditor's office, and any dispute over property lines can usually be settled by looking at these records. There were no such records in ancient times, only landmarks. These landmarks could be moved, which would result in the theft of property.

Proverbs 22:28 warns, *“Do not remove the ancient landmark which your fathers have set.”* Respect was to be given, both to the property of one's neighbor, and to the action taken by their fathers in distributing this land.

Moses pronounced a curse on one who would move his neighbor's landmark (Deuteronomy 27:17). Proverbs 23:10-11 warns, *“Do not remove the ancient landmark, nor enter the fields of the fatherless; for their Redeemer is mighty; He will plead their cause against you.”* Instead of a penalty, there is a warning and a curse pronounced against the one who would dare to take such action against his neighbor.

The idea is that such a crime would sometimes go unnoticed because the landmarks would be moved slowly over time, or that land would be snatched away by force from those who were powerless to defend themselves. One may “get away with it” here and now, but would eventually pay the price for such action when they faced the Lord in judgment.

These warnings against removing ancient landmarks provide an important lesson for us today. The word of God establishes boundaries. When we surpass or go beyond these boundaries we sin. *“Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son”* (2 John 9). Some are not content to abide within God's word. They want to move these boundaries to accommodate their own desires.

The Lord has long ago established His law regarding marriage. According to Jesus, marriage is to be between one man and one woman for life (Matthew 19:4-6). Today, same-sex unions are being recognized by many states in our country. It appears the next “landmark” to be moved will be the legal recognition of polygamy.

Multitudes of people have moved God's law regarding what one must do in order to be saved. The Lord and His apostles taught one must believe (John 8:24), repent of his sins (Luke 13:3), confess his faith (Romans 10:9-10), be baptized (Mark 16:16) and remain faithful in order to be saved in Heaven (Revelation 2:10).

Many brethren are not content with the blueprint the Lord has established for the work, worship and organization of the church. The “landmarks” have been moved ever so slightly over time so that today we fellowship halls, gymnasiums, daycare centers, food pantries, instrumental music and women preachers in some churches of Christ.

Remember, the removal of an ancient landmark was an act of theft against one's neighbor and an expression of disrespect against God. It is no different today. When we fail to abide within the boundaries set forth by God's word, we are attempting to steal His authority (His right to establish and enforce the boundaries set forth in His word). Cursed be the man who disrespects God's authority.

“Fathers, Religion, and Children”

By Steven Deaton

The Heritage Foundation recently reported on a study that says the religious life of a father has a great, positive impact on his children. While it is good that academic studies affirm this truth, it is sad men must have research to believe it. Why? Because the Bible has taught this for thousands of years.

The Bible teaches that fathers have a duty to raise their children in the Lord (Ephesians 6:4). In order to do this, the father must be religious; dedicated to the Lord. It cannot be a feigned religion. The father cannot live like the devil on Saturday, go to church on Sunday, and expect his children to be devoted to God. Many children have been ruined by a hypocritical parent. Rather, fathers must practice what they preach.

There are some practical ways for a father to pass his religion on to his children. In the Old Testament fathers were admonished to talk to their children about the Word of God (Deuteronomy 6:7-9). We must do the same. Devote some time each evening to a discussion of Bible. It may be only 10-15 minutes. Read a short passage and discuss it. This will put an indelible impression on the children and open doors for discussing things on their mind.

Further, fathers need to pray with their children to help train them in the way they should go (Prov. 22:6). The old saying goes, "The family that prays together, stays together." How true that is. The children will learn how to pray, as well as what to pray for. They should be given opportunities to say what they want to pray about. There are things on their mind too.

Finally, fathers need to go to worship services and Bible classes and take their children with them (Hebrews 10:24, 25). This will show the children the priority daddy puts on God. It is not just a hobby or leisurely activity. Too, the children will learn about God and how to serve Him. They will learn how to fight the devil and live a peaceful, content life.

Fathers matter. If you are a father or hope to be one day, take these things to heart. If you are still at home, but do not have a father who does the above, go to him and ask him to help you. Tell your father you want to do better and grow closer to God. If you cannot depend on him, be reassured you can depend on the heavenly Father.

Did you get a vision or message from the Lord?

By Joe Price

“The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.” (2 Thessalonians 2:9-12, NKJV)

Those who believe they have had a vision from God should consider this simple, scriptural fact: there are "lying wonders" that deceive those who do not love and believe the truth. Could it be you have been deceived into thinking your experience was from God? There is a way to find out. Test it against the Scriptures. You see, Scripture says God speaks to us now by His Son, through His apostles - not by visions and dreams (Hebrews 1:1-2; 2:3-4; John 13:20).

Therefore, to accept an experience as a divine message contradicts the Scriptures (which, by the way, completely equip us for every good work, 2 Timothy 3:16-17). When we want to believe a lie, the Lord will let us (2:11).

Please know that God speaks to us all in the Scriptures, not through experiences, feelings, dreams, and visions. Love the truth. Believe the truth. Be saved by the truth. Or, perish by the deception of error. This is the choice each of us must make.

SWORD TIPS #1172 (August 31, 2017)

News and Notes:

Sick and recovering: Tim Harris Sr, Tim Harris Jr, Daniel Holloway, Debbie Keplinger, Robbie, Sheila, Sherry Doles, Sandi Poole, Nathan Cox, Sandra Oliver, Chad Harris, Eli Johnson, Burt Ward, Jamie Jones, Mary Ann Holley, Robert Howard, Billy Grisham.

Those Who Serve:

Sunday Morning 9:00 A.M. Service:

Opening Prayer: Danny Sheffield
Preaching: Brian Meade
Sermon #1: *"Faith That Pleases God"*

Auditorium Bible Class: 9:35am:

Workbook: Jerry Kennemur
1 & 2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon
Author: Herschel Patton
Starting Page & Question: *Page #28, Question #9*

Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service:

Announcements: Doug George
Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading: Paul Johnson
Scripture Reading: *1 Samuel 17:45-47*
Song Leader: Paul Busby
Lord's Supper: Jerry Kennemur
Assisting: — —
Preaching: Brian Meade
Sermon #2: *"The Battle Belongs To The Lord"*
Closing Prayer: Paul Busby

Wednesday Evening: 7:00 P.M.

January 31, 2024

Auditorium Bible Class: Paul Johnson
Workbook: Preparing To Teach Our Neighbors
Author: Max Tice
Starting Page & Question: *Page #98, Question #3*
Invitation: Paul Busby
Song Leader: Adam Harris
Closing Prayer: Danny Sheffield



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Meeks Street Church of Christ https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgiXJxZC1oraOugO9qlfBtw?view_as=subscriber

And Our Facebook Page.

For sermon videos, articles, and announcements.

“Faith That Pleases God Pt. 1”

Lesson Text: **Hebrews 11:6.**

I. Is More Than Just Believing That God Exists.

- **Hebrews 11:8-12; James 2:19.**
 - Why Aren't The Demons Saved? No Obedience To God (**2 Peter 2:4; Jude 6**).
- Saving Faith Starts With Belief In God, But Doesn't End There.
- It Requires A Diligent Seeking To “Draw Near” To Him **Hebrews 11:6—James 4:8.**
- **Acts 17:24-28.**

II. Requires Obedience To God's Commands.

- **Acts 17:29-31** Response In Faith To Repent.
- True Faith That Pleases God Doesn't Refuse God's Commands! **Genesis 26:4-5.**
- Belief Is Working The Works Of God- **John 6:28-29.**
- Repentance Is A Command Of God- **Acts 17:30; Luke 24:46-47; Acts 11:18.**
- Confession Is Required By God- **Romans 10:9-16; Acts 8:**
- Baptism Is Commanded Under Christ- **Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 10:5-6; vs. 33; vs. 48.**
- Abraham Believed—Obeyed God- **Hebrews 11:17-19; Genesis 22:12; Eccl. 12:13.**
- We Are His Children By Faith- **Galatians 3:26-29.**
- Why The Jews Who Wanted To Kill Jesus Didn't Please God- **John 8:37-41.**

“Faith That Pleases God Pt. 2”

Lesson Text: **Hebrews 11:1-6.**

III. Is Not Full Of Doubts, Scepticisms, And Fears.

- **Romans 4:17-21.**
- Has Doubt, Scepticism, And Fear Ever Helped Anyone Please God?
 - It Caused the Israelites To Complain & Rebel Against Moses- **Numbers 14:1-11.**
 - It Led The To Unbelief- **Hebrews 3:16-19.**
 - It Caused Zacharias To Be Mute- **Luke 1:18-20.**
 - It Caused Some Jews To Not Follow Jesus- **John 10:22-28.**
 - It Can Decrease Our Faith- **Matthew 8:23-27; Luke 8:25.**
- Jesus Expects Our Faith To Be Strong- **Mark 11:21-24.**

IV. Doesn't Stumble At The “Why.”

- **Hebrews 11:17-19.**
- Many People Never Come To Faith Because Of This!
- Many Ask Why?
 - Why Did God Require Blood Sacrifices In The Old Testament? **Hebrews 9:22.**
 - Why Does Jesus Require Us To Deny Self? **Matthew 16:24.**
 - Why Must We Worship God? **John 4:23-24.**

V. Places God Before All Things.

- **Genesis 22:1-12.**
- Do We Put God Before All Things? **Matthew 6:33; Philippians 3:20.**
- Are We Like Abraham? **Hebrews 11:8-10; 1 Peter 2:9-12.**
- Only People Who Put God First Can Do This!