

The Lantern

Highway Church of Christ 704 West Jackson Street, Sullivan, IL 61951



Times of Worship

Bible Classes—9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship—10:20 a.m.
Evening Worship—6:00 p.m.
Wed. Bible Study—7:00 p.m.

Elders

Lyle Baumgartner
Wayne Miller
Ron Thomas

Preacher

Ron Thomas

WELCOME to today's Bible class and/or worship assembly. It is our hope that you will have been blessed in joining with us in praise of our Lord. We especially appreciate any that may be **VISITORS**. We hope you will return at every opportunity.

Ron's blog

ronthomas.preachersfiles.com

THE KEYS TO SALVATION

HEAR the gospel	Rom.10:17
BELIEVE the gospel	John 3:16
REPENT of your sins	Luke 13:3
CONFESS Christ	Mt. 10:32
Be BAPTIZED	Mark 16:16
	Acts 2:38
Live FAITHFULLY	Rev. 2:10

November 1, 2009



Bible Reading Schedule

● Sunday	Luke 21-22
● Monday	Luke 23-24
● Tuesday	John 1-3
● Wednesday	John 4-5
● Thursday	John 6-7
● Friday	John 8-9
● Saturday	John 10-11

I sought the LORD, and he answered me; he delivered me from all my fears.-- Psalm 34:4

Have you sought the LORD lately? Many of us made a commitment to turn all of our lives over to him last week; how have you done at that commitment? God promises wisdom to those who ask and don't doubt. Have you asked for wisdom recently? Let's join our hearts together, and with the Spirit's help, let's seek our Father so that we can honor and glorify him, finding our blessing in his presence.

- ❖ Be reasonable—don't expect your children to listen to your advice and ignore your example!
- ❖ Two friends, two bodies with one soul inspired.
- ❖ Be slow in choosing a friend, slower in changing

News & Notes

- If you didn't set your clocks back last night I hope you didn't have trouble getting in the building, because you were early.
 - For those of you that were unable to make the meeting this past week missed a very fine set of lessons.
 - Terry is going to try to run copies of all the lessons by David Pharr. If you would like a set let Terry know.
 - Next Saturday (Nov. 7th) will be the Great Giveaway. We will be setting up Friday night. Please support this work in whatever capacity you can.
 - There will be a marriage Seminar November 6th and 7th at Collinsville. Info on BB.
 - November 15th Lakeside will host a presentation by the Crowley's Ridge College Choralaires. Starts at 1:00pm
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The Sin of Pride

The Wise Writer tells us in Proverbs 16:18 [RSV], ***"Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall."*** So what does this proverb mean? It means that there is a real need for us to strive to remain humble before our God, not allowing pride to gain the mastery over us. Always remember the inspired words from the pen of the Lord's brother: ***"God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble"*** (James The Scriptures also counsel us: ***"For if anyone thinks he is something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself"*** (Galatians 6:3 [RSV]). Yes, pride is destructive and deceptive. We are wise to hate ***"Pride and arrogance and the way of evil and perverted speech"*** (Proverbs 8:13 [RSV]) since these are all things the Lord hates. Humility will draw us closer to God. ***"Humble yourselves before the Lord and He will exalt you"*** (James 4:10 [RSV]). How sad it was that Eve did not cling to the Lord in her time of trial! How true in the case of Eve did the old adage prove to be: ***"Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall."***

With Eve one can see a textbook case of how sin manifests itself. The Apostle John tells us, ***"For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the pride of life, is not of the Father but is of the world."*** (1 John 2:16) From our earlier reading we see this all transpiring before our very eyes. When Eve ***"saw that the tree was good for food,"*** the ***"lust of the flesh"*** stirred within her. Eve gazed further at the fruit and ***"it was a delight to the eyes."*** This is ***"lust of the eyes"*** coming to fruition. Finally, when Eve saw ***"that the tree was to be desired to make one wise"*** her ***"pride of life"*** was awakened.

All sin follows this same path, and when it comes right down to it where the tire meets the pavement, all sin is idolatry, for we are letting our evil desire for something take the place of that which rightfully belongs only to the Lord. The Apostle Paul seems to make this case when he wrote in Colossians 3:5 [RSV], ***"Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry."***

You and I and all mankind everywhere must die because of the consequences of Adam's one sin committed in the Garden of Eden when he chose to eat of the forbidden fruit. But each one of us has the opportunity, due to God's amazing grace, to return to the Father when we come to Him through obedient, saving faith. Jesus calls us now, saying, ***28. "Come to Me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29. Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me; for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30. For My yoke is easy, and My burden is light."*** (Matthew 11:28-30 [RSV]).

Who's Fault Is It?

Whoever puts up security for a stranger will surely suffer harm, but he who hates striking hands in pledge is secure (Proverbs 11:15)

The sentiment is not about a person doing wrong, but not being wise. To pledge your honor for one you do not know is to allow yourself to be exposed and hurt. Finding fault with another when you were the one being unwise is like one being guilty of a crime and then saying you didn't do it!

The word "hate" conveys the sense of "reject" or "avoid." The New English Translation reads, "but whoever avoids shaking hands will be secure."

Wisdom teaches us "The one who lacks wisdom strikes hands in pledge, and puts up financial security for his neighbor" (17:18). In the end, he loses.

Though we manifest a lot of failures when it comes to wisdom, there is one who never failed. We know Him to be the Lord Jesus. He knows us well; let us take time to hear what He says. We want to remember that He is the author (creator) of life, our life.

PROBABLY ALL OF us remember of the story of Abraham's intercession on behalf of the city of Sodom (Genesis 18:16-33)... Not only was Abraham unable to find fifty righteous souls within the city, he was even unable to find ten righteous people within the city, so God's judgment was unleashed.

With a slight variation, if I were to ask the question, "Can you find 100 people in your city who love God?" I think you could answer in the affirmative and have little problem finding them. But now, what if I were to ask, "Can you find 100 people in your city who hate sin?" Now that may be a different proposition altogether.

I think we could easily find 100 people who love God, but I'm not sure we could find 100 people who hate sin. Today, our problem may not be so much a problem of "love," but a lack of properly directed "hatred." Paul said that we should "abhor that which is evil..." (Romans 12:9).

Friends, learning to love God is easy because of who He is. Learning to hate sin takes a little more work, but it's work in which we must grow and mature. Give it some thought. (Steve Higginbotham)

"Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good" (Rom. 12:9).