

January, 2006

Pause Ponder Profit

We Had Better "Watch"

by James A. Brown

You have heard it said, when you drive, "watch the other fellow." Someone may have also said, "Watch for snakes when walking in the woods." The word watch in these cases means; be on guard, be alert, give attention to the dangers around you. This watchfulness must be a vigilant watch for we know that an auto accident or snake bite can be fatal. So it is with the command — "Watch" in 1 Cor. 16:13. Here, Paul said, "Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong".

Thayer defines this word "watch" as used in 1 Cor. 16:13, as: "to be cautious, to give strict attention to, active: — To take heed lest through remissness and indolence some destructive calamity suddenly overtake one or lest one fall into sin." This word watch in this sense is just as much of a command as arise and be baptized. We as God's children need to give it serious consideration.

Albert Barnes, in his commentary, has this to say about the word "watch" in 1 Cor. 16:13. "The sense here is, that they were to watch, or be vigilant, against all the evils of which he had admonished them, —

the evils of dissension, or erroneous doctrines, of disorder, of false teachers, & c. They were to watch lest their souls should be ruined, and their salvation endangered; lest the enemies of the truth and of holiness should steal silently upon them, and surprise them. They were to watch with the same vigilance that is required of a sentinel..." (Barnes Notes)

We must heed this command to watch or our souls will be lost. The apostle Paul said, "Therefore let us not sleep as do others; but let us watch and be sober." (1 Thess. 5:6) Peter said, "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about seeking whom he may devour." (1 Peter 5:8) Jesus said, "And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch." (Mk. 13:37)

Gospel Facts We Must Heed

◆ Life is short:

"For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away." (James 4:14)

◆ Death is certain:

"And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment." (Heb. 9:27)

◆ Judgment is sure:

"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad." (2 Cor. 5:10)



Family And Responsibility

by James A. Brown

The Greek word ("oikos") translated house in the New Testament basically means a house or dwelling. But as a figure of speech the word is sometimes used to designate, "the inmates of a house, all the persons forming one family, a household" (Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon). For example, in Acts 10:2, Cornelius is said to be a devout man and one who feared God with all his household. Also in Luke 1:27, Joseph, the husband of Mary, is said to be of the house of David or family of David.

The church is referred to in the New Testament as the house of God, meaning family of God (1 Tim. 3:15; Heb. 3:6; Eph. 2:19). When we were born again (John 3:3-5) we were born into the family of God by obedience to His word (1 Pet. 1:22-23; Gal. 3:26-27). All Christians are children of God and are in His family. We are sons and heirs through Christ Jesus (Rom. 8:15-17).

We see many families today torn apart by the sins the family members choose to participate in. The father, mother, son or daughter — or all, may live in such a way that the family decays from within. Simply put, the family members involved fail to realize their responsibilities to God and to one another. Just as a relationship in an earthly family places demands upon us, so does our kinship in God's family.

Our relationship in God's family demands:

That we, as God's children, be separate from the world. "Therefore come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you. I will be a father to you, and you shall be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty" (2 Cor 6:17-18). The Christians at Corinth were

destroying their family. They were sharing in the sins of the world with unbelievers.

That we be obedient as His children.

"Therefore, brethren, we are debtors—not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God" (Rom. 8:12-14). If we are not obedient to God then we do not practice righteousness and we are children of the devil. (1 Jn. 3:10)

That we love one another. "Beloved, let us love one another for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. He who does not love does not know God, for God is love" (1 Jn. 4:7-8). This love is not in word only but is in action toward one another. (1 Jn. 3:13-19) This shows our true concern for each other's soul.

Brethren everywhere should desire to keep their families from falling into moral decay, by fulfilling their responsibilities to God and to one another.

What Of Tomorrow?

*I do not know what still awaits,
Or what the morrow brings;
But with the glad salute of faith,
I hail its opening wings!*

*For this I know — that in my Lord
Shall all my needs be met;
And I can trust the heart of Him
Who has not failed me yet.*

Author unknown

Baptism Is Essential

by James A. Brown

Many people in the religious world today have different views regarding baptism. Some see it as just a ceremony whereby a baby is given a name and a special blessing from God. Others see it as “an outward sign of an inward grace” i.e., something you do to convince the world that you are already saved. To others it is a ceremony which puts one into some denominational church. But how does the Bible view baptism? What we read in the New Testament about baptism, or any other subject, is nothing less than the word of God (1 Thess. 2:13; 2 Tim. 3:16-17). How we see baptism, how our parents viewed baptism, or what is taught by the denominational world about the subject is to be set aside in favor of what God’s word says.

There are two views held in regard to the design and purpose of baptism; (1) baptism is essential, and (2) baptism is not essential. The New Testament presents baptism as essential for the remission of our past sins (Acts 2:38). The general denominational view, as expressed in their writings, is that baptism is not essential, i.e., it has nothing whatsoever to do with the remission of man’s sins — the salvation of man’s soul. Obviously baptism cannot be “essential” and “non-essential” at the same time.

Please, study the three short Bible references below and be honest in answering the questions. You will find that baptism is essential in order to: have your sins washed away, put on Christ, and enter the body of Christ.

When a person is baptized he . . .

Washes away his sins,

Acts 22:16 And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.

Puts on Christ,

Galatians 3:27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

And enters the body of Christ.

1 Cor. 12:13 For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body--whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free--and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.

If a person is not baptized . . .

Has he washed away his sins?

Has he put on Christ?

Has he entered the body of Christ?

One either believes the Bible or he does not.
Which is it with you?

A Teenager's Prayer

“God in heaven. I am young and don't understand what it is like to be a parent, but it must be very hard. I pray that you will help mom and dad to be good parents, strong in the ways you want them to be. I want to look up to them with admiration and feel confident that their instruction is right.”

“Help me, dear Lord, to understand my parents. Remind me that when I don't get my way, it is because they love me and not because they want to be mean or deprive me of a good time.”

“When I become stubborn and refuse to listen, help me God, to accept the fact that they have wisdom and experience since they were once teenagers themselves, whereas I have never been a parent.”

“Put in my heart the respect and consideration they deserve for their years of hard work and sacrifice. They raised me as best they could. Let me not repay them with grief or shame. Rather, help me to give them obedience, respect, forgiveness and love.”

“Most of all, God, while I still have my parents here on earth, help me to appreciate them and let them know I do.”

I do not know the teenager who worded the above prayer. But it holds tremendous lessons for us as parents and our children. Let us be busy in making application of these lessons. The soul of both parent and child is at stake. — James A. Brown



Non-profit Org.
U. S. Postage Paid
Permit # 356
Paragould, AR

**Second and Walnut
Church Of Christ**
400 N. 2nd St.
P. O. Box 356
Paragould, AR 72451

Pause — Ponder — Profit is a monthly publication of the Second and Walnut Church Of Christ, Paragould, Arkansas.

Sunday
Radio 1490 AM . 9:00 A.M.
Bible Study 9:45 A.M.
Worship..... 10:45 A.M.
Worship..... 6:00 P.M.
Wednesday
Bible Study..... 7:00 P.M.

Preacher: James A. Brown
Phone: 870-236-3371
E-Mail: jabrown@gmco.net