

## For Our Information

Joyce Venable had a bit of surgery last week. She is recovering nicely.

Gloria Hurst had a tooth pulled.

Vickie McNees has not felt well this past week.

Ricky Ragsdale came home Friday but is still having difficulty with mobility.

Phyllis Jackson is visiting in Hot Springs today. The Simpson Family is visiting in Star City this weekend.

Remember one another as we pray to the Father each day

## Contact Us

We want opportunities to speak with others about our work in the Lord's Kingdom.

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We seek only to serve God according to His Will!

But we also need to be careful that those to whom we turn for learning are teaching the things of God. It can be easy to just accept a teaching because of the age of the teacher, but there are some who are older that hold to teachings that are not according to God. Some may simply do things because "we have always done that." Even in the time of Paul, brethren were warned of those teaching "another gospel."

No matter the teacher, we need to follow the example of the brethren of Berea in "examining the Scriptures ... to see whether these things are so." As with the young prophet in 1Kings, our very life depends upon conducting our way through this life in complete accordance with God's Word, not the teachings of men. Study carefully and with great diligence DLH)

# Seeking His Righteousness

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## The Young Prophet and the Old Prophet

Matthew Bassford

One of the strangest stories in the entire Old Testament appears in 1Kings 13. In this story, God sends a young prophet to curse the idolatrous altar that Jeroboam has built at Bethel. God has told him not to eat or drink until he returns to Judah. On his way home, though, the young prophet encounters an old prophet who lies to him, claiming that an



*... for they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so.*

**Acts 17:11**



## Meet With Us

### Worship Services

Sunday 10:20 am & 5:00 pm

### Bible Classes

Sunday 9:30 AM

Wednesday 7:00 PM

1512 Tanner St. Malvern, AR

[TannerSt.com](http://TannerSt.com)

angel has told him that the young prophet is supposed to eat in the old prophet's house.

The young prophet agrees to come with him, and in mid-meal, the old prophet prophesies that the young prophet will die because of his disobedience. Indeed, on the way home, the young prophet is attacked and killed by a lion. The old prophet, so far as we know, is never punished, even though his lie cost the life of another.

To us, this seems horribly unfair. The old prophet had evil intent. The young prophet was merely deceived. How come God killed the young prophet and not the old one???'

I think the story exists to lead us to a difficult spiritual truth. God sees two spiritual categories: faithful and unfaithful. Either we follow His revealed will, or we don't. Past that point, the whys and wherefores don't matter much. Disobedience for whatever reason is still disobedience. The gullible young prophet who is deceived by a lying revelation is in the same spiritual boat as a (hypothetical) rebellious young prophet who defies God to His face.

Sadly, there are countless millions of people who are in the same position as the young prophet. They are sincere people. They want to do what's right. However, they have been deceived by somebody else about God's revelation.

This deceit takes many different forms. Some false teachers have constructed entire lying gospels. Others simply say, "Don't worry about reading the Bible on your own. We'll tell you what you need to

## Store In My Heart

### Matthew 17:5

While he was still speaking, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and behold, a voice out of the cloud said, "This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased; listen to Him!"

God, from heaven, declared to Peter: Jesus is The Prophet. No longer would the teachings of Moses and the Prophets of old guide mankind. Jesus is here and He is The Spokesman.

Peter would later reference this very event as proof that the message he delivered was not "cleverly devised myths" but the account of "eyewitnesses of his majesty."

Peter remembered the proclamation from God. Jesus is the One to whom we must listen.

do." No matter the form, though, the deadliness remains the same. All those sincere people who have been led from the truth will lose their souls as surely as the young prophet lost his life.

There are two crucial lessons that we must take from this. First, our salvation is too important to entrust to any other human being. When it comes to the things of the spirit, the only word we should take is God's word. If anybody else wants us to believe something, fine. Show us where it's written, and we'll agree. This Berean spirit is not only noble-minded. It is soul-preserving.

Second, we must appreciate the danger that all those deceived millions are in. If they continue in their error, the Day of Judgment will come as a dreadful surprise. Our sacred responsibility is to point as many to the truth as possible. Maybe they won't listen, but the danger is too great for us to remain silent.

(Maybe we also need to consider a third lesson from this story. Age does not always mean authority. There are certainly many passages that speak to us about the wisdom that can be found in those who have experienced life for many years. We do need to give attention to those who have experience in dealing with the difficulties of life. Many of us have probably had a "if I had only listened" moment or two in our life. Experience is a great teacher and we need to take advantage of the examples and teaching of those who have been learning longer because we do not have time to make all the mistakes necessary to learn many of these things.