

For here we do not have a lasting city, but we are seeking the city which is to come.

Hebrews 13:14

Store In My Heart Matthew 28:18

And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me."

The first of the four books that tell the story of Jesus ends with this assurance and instruction to tell the world.

Though found first in our New Testaments, Matthew probably wrote his gospel about 20 or 30 years after the death of the Savior with a focus on showing his Jewish brethren that Jesus is the Messiah spoken of by the prophets of old. From the genealogy in the first chapter through this statement of authority at the close, Matthew speaks regularly of the conflict between Jesus and the Jewish leaders as he shows the fulfillment of prophecy in the life and ministry of Jesus.

We would do well to spend time considering these proofs for our own faith even today. Truly Jesus is the Promised One who brings salvation to all!



Live A Balanced Life

Dan Henderson

AN ARABIC PROVERB

All sunshine makes a desert. The eternal God, whom we serve, knew that long before men "...for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust" (**Matthew 5:45**). God sends both sunshine and rain, there must be a balance.

Is it possible that in spiritual matters some brethren do not understand this principle? Many seem to think they should be able to go to worship feeling good and leave worship feeling good. The "spiritual fur" must always be rubbed the right way.

Is it possible that some preachers feel it ought to be that way? When preachers always know how to approach every subject in a way that will never make anyone unhappy or when they never deal with subjects on which there are differing positions, one wonders.

How did the Holy Spirit view this matter? The young preacher, Timothy, was commanded, "*Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine...*" (**2Timothy 4:2-3**). The Holy Spirit wants a balance in preaching -- reproof, rebuking, and exhorting.

While we do not want any preacher to be a wet blanket, we are thankful that some preachers believe All sunshine makes a desert. --Glenn Melton

Twenty years ago, my father-in-law, Glenn Melton, placed this article on the front page of his new paper, Straitway. A similar 'proverb' that might be more familiar "I never promised you a rose garden, along with the sunshine, there's got to be a little rain sometime."

As we move into the new year, I would like each of us to consider these thoughts, not just in our teaching, but in our everyday lives. If everything always happened just as we expected and wanted, we would never see challenge. We would never grow if we did not meet some resistance as we went about our life of service. Difficulty and change are part of what we need in life. Just as our bodies need some resistance, so do our minds.

When you read the Scriptures, do you focus on familiar, easy passages, or do you seek sometimes to gain better understanding from those areas that seem more difficult? Studying in Acts is a little different from Revelation, for in a general sense, those two books are on opposite ends of the difficulty spectrum. Acts is pretty straightforward and easy to understand, while Revelation is sometimes hard to read, not to mention understand. How do you approach these two studies? I know I spend much more time reading and preparing for Revelation because of its difficulty. Because of such focus, I feel I have gained a better understanding of some of the symbols and how the teachings found there can benefit us today. Both of our current classes in Revelation and Isaiah are close in difficulty. This means we might should limit our "extra" studies to reviewing familiar topics. You do engage in additional study that is not focused on our Bible classes, don't you?

But let me turn this idea around for a moment. Should studying a less difficult book, like Acts, mean that we spend less time and effort in gaining an understanding of its precepts and teaching? While Acts may be straightforward and easy to grasp, it lays before us the foundations of our relationship to God and one another. These teachings are vital to our work for the Lord. Only with focus and diligence will we make these things a part of our life. We need to be diligent in all study. It is good to read the Bible daily, but we also need to dig deep in the well of God's Truth.

We also need to see balance in our everyday activities. Work is necessary, whether we are on the job or at home. There are always things that need to be done, maintenance, repair, cleaning are things that each one must deal with regularly. But we also need to find time to be refreshed. Just sitting on the porch for a few minutes watching the birds and squirrels in our yard can do wonders for our mind and body. Yet we cannot sit around doing nothing all the time or we will waste away. Eating and exercise are two sides of the same coin, so to speak, if we want to remain healthy.

Only eating, or only resting, or only reading Scripture is like getting only sunshine all day, every day. It might sound good, but without balance we cannot live and grow. We need rain and fog just as much as we need sunshine for this Earth to continue. We need exercise and work along with food and rest for our bodies to grow.

We need some Scripture reading and we also need some diligent Scripture digging if we want our minds and spirits to grow and be useful for the Lord.

For Our Information

Shannon Soliday is recovering from appendicitis surgery.

Jack Brooks has a stress test on the 3rd.

JoBeth Henderson has chemo treatments on Tuesdays.

Paula Laubach is still dealing with difficult pain & will have another MRI on her lower back soon.

Sue Soliday has tests and doctor visits for her stomach issues.

Leta Rivera still has regular help from a caregiver.

Tommy Robinson will have radiation treatment for his cancer.

Stanley & Gloria Hurst will be travelling this week.

Sunday Evening - **Isaiah 43:22** Wednesday - **Revelation 9:13**

Are you reading your Bible regularly?

Contact Us

We like opportunities to speak with others about the Lord.

Church of Christ

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The
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MEETS HERE



10:20 AM • Sunday Worship Service
5:00 PM • Sunday Night Bible Study
7:00 PM • Wednesday Bible Study