

ARE YOU SABOTAGING THE CHURCH?

JAMES 4:12

INTRODUCTION:

1. In war, the enemy sets traps to sabotage the opposing forces.
2. If we are not careful, our choices could be hurting ourselves and sabotaging the efforts of the church to grow.

I. IMMORALITY

- A. Pornography will sabotage your life and the church.
 1. **JOB 31.1:** *"I have made a covenant with my eyes..."*
 2. Pornography is adultery. (Matt. 5.27,28; 6.22,23)
 3. Failing to address it is unrepentant sin. (1 John 5.16)
- B. Sexual immorality will sabotage your life and the church.
 1. **PROVERBS 6.32.33:** *"Whoever commits adultery with a woman lacks understanding"* (cf. 1 John 1.7)
 2. Abstinence is the will of God. (1 Thess. 4.3; Heb. 13.4).

II. TIME

- A. Not spending enough time on yourself will hurt the church.
 1. Moses spent day and night helping others. (Ex. 18.13)
 2. **EXODUS 18.17,18:** *"The thing that you do is not good...you will surely wear yourself out."*
 3. Jesus told the disciples to take a break. (Mark 6.31,32)
- B. Spending too much time on yourself will hurt the church.
 1. Hoarding time is arrogance. (Prov. 6.17; 21.4)
 2. We are to set time aside for God. (Eph. 5.15,16)

II. THE LAWS OF GOD

- A. Making law will hurt yourself and sabotage the church.
 1. **JAMES 4.12:** *"There is one Lawgiver"*
 2. Your way is not the only way. (Matt. 28.18; Ecc. 7.16)
- B. Not enforcing the laws of God will cause harm.
 1. **MATTHEW 5.19:** *"Whoever breaks the least of these"*
 2. Are you minimizing the laws of God?

CONCLUSION: We are to have the mind of Christ.

NORTHSIDE CHURCH OF CHRIST

APRIL 21, 2024

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"Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature"

-Mark 16.15

January 14, 2024

MEETING TIMES:

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS : 9:00 AM

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP: 9:50 AM

SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP: 6:00 PM

WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE CLASS 7:30 PM

SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS ARE IN CHRIST

The blessings that are enjoyed by Christians are not limited to those in eternity. Christians do not need to wait for death or the day of judgment and entrance into heaven to enjoy the things Christ has to offer. The apostle Paul wrote to the young preacher Timothy of the *"promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come"* (2 Tim. 4.8). There are blessing found in having a home in heaven. But there are also blessings related to the life that now is (cf. Heb. 6.9).

We sometimes sing the song, "Count Your Many Blessings." Time and space will not permit me to list all the blessing we have in this life connected with our relationship with God. We can mention peace of mind (John 14.27; Phil. 4.6,7). We can mention overflowing joy (John 15.11; 1 John 1.4). We can mention the relationships we have with fellow Christians (Eph. 2.19).

The blessings that abound are only available to those who in Christ. To the Ephesians Paul wrote about God *"who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ"* (Eph. 1.3). The way to get in Christ is to be baptized (Gal. 3.27).

What a privilege it is to be called a child of God and be the recipient of innumerable spiritual blessings in Christ. Have you responded to His gospel invitation?

CLP

CROSSING THE RED SEA

EXODUS 14:21

INTRODUCTION:

1. The Red Sea crossing is one of the most well-known accounts in the Bible. Archeologists have long sought to verify this event.
2. The events surrounding the Red Sea crossing show how God feels about His people today.

I. GOD EXPOSES HIS PEOPLE

- A. God exposed the children of Israel to the Egyptians.
 1. **EXODUS 14.1,2:** Turn (yosubu): Literally, turn around. Israel was trapped and told to turn back. Why?
 2. **EXODUS 14.3:** *“The wilderness has closed them in.”*
- B. God exposes His people to the enemy today.
 1. Who is the enemy? (1 Pet. 5.8; 2 Cor. 2.11)
 2. How does Satan tempt us to sin? (James 1.13-15)
 3. God allows Satan to tempt us. (Mat. 6.13)

II. GOD PROTECTS HIS PEOPLE

- A. God protected the children of Israel from the Egyptians.
 1. **EXODUS 14.4-9:** Pharaoh used every resource available to him to pursue the children of Israel.
 2. **EXODUS 14.19,20:** God positioned Himself between Israel and the Egyptians to protect His people.
- B. God protects His people from the enemy today.
 1. **1 CORINTHIANS 10.13:** *“No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to man.”* It is not unique.
 2. **1 CORINTHIANS 10.13:** *“God is faithful who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able.”*

III. GOD DELIVERS HIS PEOPLE

- A. God delivered the children of Israel from the Egyptians.
 1. **EXODUS 14.21-28:** God parted the Red Sea, and the Egyptians were overthrown and drowned.
 2. **EXODUS 14.29-31:** *“The LORD saved Israel that day...”*
- B. God delivers His people from the enemy today.
 1. Jesus destroyed the works of the devil. (1 John 3.8)
 2. We have victory in Jesus. (1 Cor. 15.56,57)

CONCLUSION: Exodus 14 is not about crossing the Red Sea. It is about God demanding respect. (Ex. 5.2; 14.4,17,18)

THE WORDS OF GOD

I love words. They are more than just characters on a page. They express thoughts and communicate ideas. We believe in what theologians call “plenary inspiration.” It is the belief that every word in the original is inspired of God. God did not communicate the ideas and let the writers put it in their own words. The words that are found on the pages of the Bible are not arbitrary. Each individual word was specifically chosen by God to convey a specific meaning. When you study the Greek and Hebrew origins of the words in the Bible (etymology), and trace their usage, it paints a vivid picture that brings the message of God’s word to life.

Consider, for example, the word “sin.” The Greek word is “hamartia.” We know that the word literally means “missing the mark.” Studying the history of the word, we learn that it was used primarily in reference to archery. In archery, the bullseye would be set at a distance. The archer would aim for the center of the target. If the archer missed, it was called a “hamartia.” He missed the mark.

Knowing how “hamartia” was originally used paints a picture that helps to crystalize in my mind the concept of sin. John defines sin this way: *“Sin is lawlessness”* (1 John 3.4). Paul wrote that *“we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him”* (2 Cor. 5.9). Put these thoughts together, and the word “hamartia” paints this vivid picture of someone who is trying to please God by aiming his arrow (his life) at the target of God’s word. He does his best to line up his arrow and point it directly at the target, but sometimes he misses. He fails to keep the commandments of God. Like the archer who misses the bullseye, the individual fails to hit the intended target of obedience. This word paints the sinner as a failure. This paints a different picture from “transgression” which describes one who intentionally rebels against God. It also differs from the word “iniquity” which paints a picture of moral filthiness. When one sins, he fails to do what he intended to do. He missed the mark. What a vivid and clear picture of sin contained in the etymology of the word!

The words that are used often paint a vivid picture. When you understand them as they were originally used, the ideas that God communicates spring to life. When we carefully study the words that God has given to us, they can bring our souls, dead to sin, back to life (Eph. 2.1). The disciples recognized the power of His words as they said to Jesus, *“Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life”* (John 6.68). Are you living by *“every word of God”* (Luke 4.4)?

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