

THE BOOK OF JOB

JOB 27:1-10

INTRODUCTION:

1. The book of Job helps us learn how to remain faithful during times of hardship. (Job 14.1; Eph. 1.3)
2. Job 27 records some criticism Job has for his friends and expresses his determination to remain faithful.

I. JOB HAD UNWAVERING FAITHFULNESS

- A. Job makes an emphatic assertion.
 1. **JOB 27.1,2:** “*As God lives.*” (cf. Hos. 4.15; 1 Thess. 1.9)
 2. **JOB 27.3:** “*As long as my breath is in me.*” (Gen. 2.7).
- B. Job promises to never concede guilt.
 1. **JOB 27.4:** “*My lips will not speak wickedness, Nor my tongue utter deceit.*” Falsehoods and careless speech.
 2. **JOB 27.5:** “*Far be it from me That I should say you are right.*” (cf. Job 22.5; 11.6).
- C. Job promises to always do what is right.
 1. **JOB 27.6:** “*My righteousness I hold fast*” (1 John 3.21)
 2. Is your faithfulness conditioned on everything going right in your life? (Job 21.15)

II. IS YOUR FAITHFULNESS UNWAVERING?

- A. God loves you unconditionally.
 1. God loves us even when we were sinners. (Rom. 5.6-8)
 2. God’s love for us is not conditioned on how well we keep His commandments. (1 John 4.19)
- B. When life is hard, how can we be unwavering in our faith?
 1. Trust in the wisdom of God. (Job 27.2; Ruth 1.20)
 2. Make a decision to remain faithful even when life is difficult. (Job 27.6; Dan. 3.17,18)
 3. Think about your influence. (Job 26.5; 1 Pet. 3.15)

CONCLUSION: Do you have the endurance of unwavering faith?

NORTHSIDE CHURCH OF CHRIST **AUGUST 18, 2024**
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“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature”
-Mark 16.15

August 18, 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 7:00 PM

“VANITY OF VANITIES”

The title contains the first words spoken by the preacher presumed to be Solomon. According to Strong, “vanity” is defined as “emptiness” and “something transitory and unsatisfactory.” Literally, Solomon is saying that there was nothing more empty and less satisfying than a life without God.

On the surface, such a statement would seem puzzling. Solomon lived a life that most would consider exciting and fulfilling. He lived in a mansion, employed many male and female servants, and was the wisest man that ever lived. Everything that many in the world pursue in the hopes of making them feel happy and satisfied, he obtained. Yet in spite of it all, he looked at life and said that all is empty, transitory, and unsatisfactory.

When we come to the end of his somewhat cynical view of life, he reached this conclusion: “*Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is man’s all*” (Ecc. 12.13). Literally, “the whole of man”. Life is all about fearing God and keeping His commandments. When God is removed from life, it becomes empty, transitory, and unsatisfactory.

For what do you live? Who is at the center of your life? Paul wrote that when one obeys the gospel, “*the life that he now lives, he lives for God*” (Rom. 6.10). CLP

Do You Make Jesus Sick?

REVELATION 3:16

INTRODUCTION:

1. The Holy Spirit tells us that we need to be active as members of the church. (Gal. 5.7; Heb. 12.1; 1 Cor. 9.24).
2. Our survival as an aging congregation depends on being active and not loitering in the realm of complacency.

I. THE PRINCIPLE OF COMPLACENCY

- A. The concept of complacency.
 1. **REVELATION 3.15:** *“I know your works, that you are neither cold...”* Cold: being hostile. (cf. Acts 26.9-11)
 2. **REVELATION 3.15:** *“...nor hot.”* The idea of being hot is being passionate for Jesus. (cf. Acts 18.24,25)
 3. **REVELATION 3.16:** *“because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth.”*
- B. The cause of complacency.
 1. **REVELATION 3.17:** *“Because you say, ‘I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing’”* Satisfied.
 2. **REVELATION 3.18-20:** *“Behold, I stand at the door and knock”* Jesus was on the outside of their lives.
- C. The cure for complacency.
 1. **REVELATION 3.19:** *“Be zealous”* Get fired up!
 2. **REVELATION 3.19:** *“...and repent”* Mindset change!

II. THE PRACTICALITY OF COMPLACENCY

- A. The ordinary can be on fire for Jesus.
 1. The bush on Mount Sinai was an ordinary bush.
 2. **EXODUS 3.11:** *“Who am I that I should go”*
- B. Live a life with God on the inside.
 1. **EXODUS 3.2:** *“And the Angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire from the midst of a bush.”*
 2. **GALATIANS 2.20:** *“it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me.”* The fire comes from having Christ in you.
- C. Being on fire will get attention.
 1. **EXODUS 3.3:** *“Then Moses said, ‘I will now turn aside and see this great sight, why the bush does not burn.’”*
 2. Whose attention do you capture by a life that is on fire for the Lord? (1 Pet. 3.15).

CONCLUSION: Are you on fire for the Lord, or are you lukewarm?

THE ESSENTIALS OF BIBLE STUDY

Christians are to live by *“every word that proceeds from the mouth of God”* (Matt. 4.4). We are to *“hunger and thirst for righteousness”* (Matt. 5.6). Failing to study results in individuals who do not grow to spiritual maturity (Heb. 5.12-14). However, many find the prospect of Bible study daunting. What should I study? How am I to understand a passage? Over the next several weeks, we will give some thought to the essentials of Bible study.

To study the Bible effectively, it is essential that I approach the Bible with passion. The apostle Paul wrote, *“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth”* (2 Tim. 2.15). The word “diligent” comes from the Greek word “spoudaza.” Literally, the word means, “to use speed.” It carries the idea of doing something with urgency. I am not to approach my study with a lazy, apathetic mindset. I am to study the Bible with passion.

In Acts 17, we find this same thought. After the Jews in Berea heard the gospel, it says that they *“received the word with all readiness”* (Acts 17.11). The word “readiness” comes from the Greek word “prothumia.” The word “thumia” means “passion.” It is prefixed by “pro” meaning “before.” These were individuals who received the word of God having a passion for it even before it was presented to them. This is the attitude we need to take to our studies.

In 1 Peter 2.2, we find a similar thought. *“As newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word that you may grow thereby.”* The word “desire” comes from the Greek word “epipotheo.” The word “potheo” means “to intensely crave.” It is prefixed by “epi” which means “over.” When you put it together, you are to have an intense craving over the word of God. It is this kind of attitude that we need to have when we approach the Bible.

The Bible is not just a good book. It is a book *“given by the inspiration of God”* (2 Tim. 3.16). It is a book in which God has set before us *“life and death, blessings and cursings”* (Deut. 30.19). We will never be able to *“understand what the will of the Lord is”* (Eph. 5.17), and invite His teachings into our lives unless we approach His Holy book with a passion to know what God wants us to know. In our studies, let’s be diligent! CLP