

Thankfulness & Trust

by Tim Dooley

Beginning in Numbers chapter 11 and reading through chapter 15 we notice how the Israelites complained, cried, wept, were ungrateful, murmured, were disbelieving and disobedient. The same could probably be said of the people of our society, especially in the past couple of weeks. There are many great lessons we can learn about the one true and living God and from the history of the children of Israel. Indeed, Paul's inspired pen was correct when he wrote, "For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope" (Romans 15:4).

Here are just a few things for us to consider as we approach this new week:

1) Be content. Hebrews 13:5 says, "Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself

has said, 'I will never leave you nor forsake you.'" Contentment doesn't necessarily mean satisfied. But carries with it the idea of thankfulness and a focus on how God has blessed us. So...

2) Count your blessings, look for the good in every situation, and be thankful. The Psalmist said, "Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name" (Psalm 100:4). Colossians 3:15 instructs us to "let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful." And lastly...

3) Trust in the Lord. While in the history of God's people God recognizes both sins of ignorance and sins of presumption, He still calls both of them sin. And there are consequences for both. Ignorance of the law was/is no excuse. And the only hope we have is to trust in Him and obey His commands (Psalm 37:3). Have a blessed week and be faithful!

Deceptive Advertising

by Doug Dingley

A number of years ago a particular satellite television provider was running a very attractive special on monthly rates for new subscribers. We had lived long enough to know that anything that seemed too good to be true probably was. And so, because we were still somewhat skeptical regarding hidden extra costs and fees, we continually sought – and gained – the salesperson’s repeated assurances that the price as quoted, would be the price we paid. And so, we bought in. And it was then that the nightmare began!

It seemed like every couple of months our bill would increase slightly as some new charge was subtly inserted into our total amount due. I recall one case where they added a couple of new, “free,” complimentary channels... and ironically, our monthly premium still went up for some “mysterious” reason. I remember having to call and correct them on a regular basis because of some new phantom cost-increase or “special offer” we had neither wanted nor requested. Suffice it to say that when that contract ended, so did our experience with that satellite provider – forever.

Fast forward to a week or two ago. My wife and I were out shopping when approached by a salesman from a different satellite provider. He was polite, polished, and well-prepared. Although very leery, weary, and as skeptical as ever, we actually gave him a few minutes to present his pitch. We explained our previous bad experience with his company’s competitor – to which he of course reassured us that his company was not like that at all. We considered it. His company’s package was very good; the price was competitive; and it was locked in for two full years, after which we could cancel it at any time. More than once we sought – and received – assurances that these were the facts. Then came the actual phone call with the company to set it all up. All of the sudden we learned there would be an additional – and heretofore unmentioned – \$20 shipping charge for equipment. Okay, understandable. And then came the kicker. The quoted price was locked in for 24 months – but only if we purchased additional services from their home company within the first 12 months of the contract. Otherwise, the final 12 months of that agreed to 24 month contract would see a 50% price increase per month. And while he later insisted that we had previously covered and understood that, neither Karen nor I remember his having said anything whatsoever about that.

This is sort of like the car insurance company’s commercials that promise that they won’t raise your rates after your first accident – that is, if you’ve already purchased their additional coverage in advance (if I understand it correctly); or, to put it another way, if you’ve already been paying ahead of time for any potential first accident you may or may not ever even have to begin with!

It also seems somewhat similar to all of those medication commercials which show smiling, active, high spirited people who supposedly represent those who’ve taken those medications – medications the side effects of which are far more often than not, far more devastating, far-reaching, and in some cases even fatal, than even the worst of what they’ve been taken to correct.

In such an environment and society, and with all of the well-disguised, other-wise hidden, and often outright misrepresented prices, products, and presentations, is it any wonder whatsoever that people are so skeptical when we try to present to them even something as pure and unadulterated as the absolute truth of the two-thousand year old biblical gospel? Not really. It’s where we are at as a society. Everyone knows and expects that the french fries at the fast-food drive-through window are not going to look anything whatsoever like they do in their golden brown, “all points north in their packaging” commercials.

So, what is the answer to conducting effective evangelism in such a skeptical and “deceptive packaging” conditioned society? Simple. We must so transparently live the truth we will one day seek to convey to them, each and every day before them, each and every day prior to that – living the gospel in such a way daily – that others will actually ask us questions regarding why we are so different from everyone else around them. They must see and know from the lives we have been living before, around, and amongst them, that this Christianity as we profess it, is the real thing, “as it is written.” Truth, sincerity, integrity, and transparency; Christ-like love, obedience, trust, concern, and compassion, constantly and continually. It’s what the apostle Peter’s first epistle is all about! Re-read it and see! And then, let’s continually seek to live it and see what happens as well! And when we do occasionally make those inevitable mistakes, which we all eventually will, let us repent, rely on the Lord to help us get back up, and then continue to try once again to be the best and most biblical Christian we can possibly be! God bless!

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Mission Works

Westhill Works

Benevolence Program

Local Works

Cherokee Children's Home - www.chc4kids.org

House to House, Heart to Heart

In Search of the Lord's Way

Preaching Students - Southwest School of Bible Studies

The Truth in Love - www.ttil.tv

WVBS Online School - school.wvbs.org

Prison Works

La Poynor Prison Ministry - Steve & Carrie Handley

Foreign Works

Four Seas Bible College, Singapore - Peter & Pooi Fun Chin

New Zealand Harvest Missions - James & Emily Cammock

Leadership

Elders

Percell Milton - 903.673.1819

Paul Slaughter - 903.872.1228

Paul Stewart - 903.872.3464

Darwin Thomas - 903.695.0176

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James Ainsworth - 903.872.1390

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Micah Haden - 903.673.1177

James Horn - 903.599.9114

Michael Jones - 214.803.5984

Roy McCullough - 903.872.2069

Greg Olsen - 903.654.1406

James Olsen - 903.874.8918

Rusty Owens - 903.695.0095

Billy Roughton - 903.654.4032

Dickie Russell - 903.874.4457

David Shastid - 903.257.6464

Brent Stewart - 903.641.9052

Justin Williams - 903.875.8288

Ministers

Sam Dilbeck - 903.229.8415 (Pulpit)

Cory Myers - 512.627.6672 (Youth & Family)

Tim Cooke - 903.641.5515 (Seniors)

Prayer List

Beverly Cooke's mother has been having seizures.

Gayle Garner passed away Wednesday morning. His service was held Saturday. Please remember Chris at this sorrowful time.

Bud Moore has returned to his home after leaving the hospital and staying with his sister in Dallas.

Sandra Brunson has been having knee trouble and will need surgery. She plans to schedule that at the first of the year.

Bobbie Roberts' niece, LeAnn Curry, did not get a good report. She is undergoing treatments to try to extend her life expectancy. She needs our prayers.

Phil Pillans is scheduled to have double knee replacement on Dec. 30.

Bryan Bearden is scheduled for thyroid surgery on Dec. 19 in Waxahachie.

Cooper Webster is scheduled for dental surgery on Dec. 22 pending his pre-op on Dec. 19.

Continue to Remember: Julie Dilbeck, Meagan Gould, Garnette Russell, Carolyn Bennett, Bud & Barbara Moore, Billie Murphy, Mary Johnson, Jimmy Pitchford, Helen Strange, David Shastid, Wanda Horner

Service Men: Clay Bayes, Jason Book, Alston Compton, Robert Johnson, Ryan Payne, Douglas Ramsey, Ryan Stewart

Announcements

Titus Ray Myers has arrived!! April & Cory are the proud parents of their newest baby boy who came early Thursday morning!

We rejoice with **Susie Bridges** at her **baptism** last Monday! Let's all welcome our new sister in Christ!

We also rejoice with **Felisha Heim** at her **baptism** that was on Tuesday! Let's be sure to encourage our new converts. Info is on pg 3.

Jason and Susan Hervery, who have been attending here, are expecting a baby girl! **"The Bountiful Baby Baskets"** are set up at the back of the auditorium. Let's help prepare for baby Sophia's arrival by filling them with diapers, wipes, and gift cards.

The Young at Heart Christmas Party will be Tuesday, Dec. 13th in the Outreach Center from 6:00 - 9:00pm. Sign up sheet is in the back of

auditorium. Each person should bring a white elephant (gag) gift \$10 or less. Hope to see you there!!

Youth Group, please mark your calendars for a **Christmas Party** Dec. 18th at the Roughton's immediately following the Sunday evening service. Bring a gift to exchange with a \$10 limit.

Youth Group, this year's lock-in will be on Friday night Dec. 30, and will end that Saturday morning.

Birthdays This Week

- December 11 - Valarie Raley & Paul Slaughter
- December 14 - John Braly, Korri Owens & Billy Roughton
- December 17 - Savanna Bearden
- December 10 - Jim Haden

Next Week's Adult Class

"The Life of the Apostle Paul"

Records for December 04, 2016

Bible Class	180
AM Worship.....	251
PM Worship.....	143
Wednesday	143
Special Contribution.....	\$27,698.25

Privileged to Serve

Song Leader	David Dilbeck
Opening Prayer	Paul Stewart
Communion Leader	Gene Steinkraus
Communion Servers	
Jim Haden	Bronny Watson
Bryan Bearden	Wade Braly
Millard Dowdle	Jose, Jr. Sosa
Larry Rowden	David Shastid
Dalton Shastid	Austin Roughton
Eric Olsen	James Horn
Percell Milton	
Closing Prayer	Justin Mahoney
Nursery	Addie Shastid & Charlotte Weaver
PM Song Leader	Joshua Haden
PM Opening Prayer	George Schmidt
PM Closing Prayer	Bryan Bearden
Wed. Song Leader	Justin Williams
Wed. Devotional	Darrell Olsen
December Contact Elder	Paul Stewart