

VOICE OF CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

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Happy
New Year!

"THE ESTABLISHING OF THE TABERNACLE OF DAVID" "GOD DIVIDES HIS HOUSE OF WORSHIP INTO TWO PARTS"

Can you believe another year has come and gone? Time has a way of slipping away as some of us recognize that we're growing older while young people take no recognition of the fleeting years. I think that we older-young people have learned to appreciate the beauty of life. The fullness of life can only be felt and appreciated by those who are aware of the Master's presence. This awareness comes only by a deliberate and dedicated commitment to Him. When we begin to see life through the eyes of the Lord, what could otherwise be dull and gray becomes something of beauty. The transformation of the mind through Christ affects our eyes, not necessarily the things around us. Learning to extract the good from the bad, understanding what people are really saying, expecting the good of God to come my way, feeling resiliency in my steps when I fall, and believing that I am making a mark in life for my Lord, are just a few ways my transformed mind helps me chart the course for the new year. Hey, it's great to have the privilege to live in 2002 and make a difference in our great nation.

Pastor George Ferrington

JUST A THOUGHT

2001 was quite eventful. I don't have to rehash for you to know what I'm talking about. So as we look ahead, 2002 holds the hope of a new day in the Lord. We know that every new day places us one day closer to Glory. In living life, we must live in the expectation of the Lord's return; and yet, God's Word says to live each day attending to the needs of that day. I have found this to be an interesting perspective.

Actually, what we must do is be prepared, instant in season and out, listening for the unction of God's Spirit to acts of obedience in our lives. Each new day will have greater adventures in serving our Father, and draw us closer to God and into the Day of the Lord. Bro. Mike

In last month's article we wrote about the establishing of the Tabernacle of David. I want to point out here that this is the first time since Israel left Egypt that God's House (the Tabernacle of the Congregation) was divided into two parts. The Tabernacle of the Congregation was located in Shiloh during the days of Eli, but at some point had been moved (with it's empty Hovies of Hovies) to Gibeon. Gibeon was about six or seven miles northwest of Jerusalem and was noted as a "high place." The term "high place" was used to denote a place for the worship of a false god. I can only guess why the Tabernacle of the Congregation was moved to such a place. Perhaps the Elders of Israel moved it there in order to draw people to the Tabernacle for worship in a place they were already familiar with.

As we look at the divided House of God, we realize that there had to be a reason of great importance for David not returning the Ark of the Covenant to the Tabernacle of the Congregation. We know that David was a man upon whom the Spirit of God rested, and who often prophesied by the Spirit. We also know that in addition to being a king, David was one of Israel's foremost anointed prophets. These two reasons assure us that David was being led by God in not returning the Ark to the Tabernacle of the Congregation, but instead placing it in the Tabernacle of David, thus establishing its ordained ministry there.

It is my belief that the Spirit of God was directing David to establish the Tabernacle of David, portraying what would one day be made available to all believers when the Kingdom of God was fully manifested upon this earth. I also believe that David was one of three men in the Old Testament who operated as a Royal Priest. Moses, David and Jesus were anointed by God to operate as Royal Priests and were not of the Levitical Priesthood. Because of this special anointing, David's operating position before God as a Royal Priest required that He would administrate the two functioning houses of God, and show forth God's purpose in dividing them. David appointed singers and priests at both locations, thus revealing that both Tabernacles were functioning and serving God's purpose to His people. David appointed Asaph and his fellow priests to conduct divine worship in Zion at the Tabernacle of David; and Zadok, a distinguished priest of Israel, to take charge of the worship being conducted in the Tabernacle of the Congregation (1 Chronicles 16:5, 39). These actions by David make it clear that the blessing of God remained on both tabernacles.

I believe the establishing of the Tabernacle of David in Zion was God's plan to raise the spiritual level of praise and worship to a new high. The reason for this new spiritual level was for His children to be able to unlock the gates of the inner court into His presence. In Isaiah 62:10 we read, **"Go through, go through the gates; prepare you the way of the people; Cast up, cast up the highways; gather out the stones; lift up a standard for the people."** The **"gates"** of the Lord are the entrances whereby we gain access into the presence of God and the rewards thereof. Those who would find that key would experience God, and God would remove the stones out of their paths in life, and they would enjoy the protection of His standard.

The establishing of the Tabernacle of David was more than a type or shadow of what was to come. It was the prophetic manifestation of God's desire in delivering all Israel, and finally the nations of the earth, from the evil that was locked into place.

On the other hand, I believe that in the Tabernacle of the Congregation there were types and shadows representing the Church and the Christian life God would manifest one day in Christ. We will now look at the spiritual (Continued on Page Three)

HONOR

Lawmen, prosecutors and district attorneys have a saying that there is no honor among thieves. To go a step further, there is also no honor among sinners who are apart from Godly principles. Every law set in place by God, to lead His people, depended on the fact that the recipients were people of honor, having received salvation. The actions of these Godly people were honorable, as individuals or as a group. But as the entire

Bible relates, satan slowly crept into the daily lives of those people until they had become backslidden, and apart from God. There is none so cruel as a Christian that has completely drifted away from God's teachings. He is deadly and totally without honor.

When a businessman enters a situation where he recognizes the helplessness of a customer, he will try to help, if he is a Christian. If not, he will try to gouge and get the last shekel for what is in reality a minor service. Being a Christian can change the way you do your job. It can change the way you do business, it can change the relationship that you have with the people of your community. The evidence that you are a Christian is revealed in the forthrightness of your dealings with your customers. If you do it the way Jesus would have done it, you will be perceived as honorable. If you don't, you will be regarded with suspicion and people will be very wary of your practices.

Godly principles are all important to any enterprise. Those who abide in the teachings of Jesus do so with honor as their guide. Those who only pay lip service to those Godly and Jesus' teachings, will be guilty of dishonor. No, they won't do it out in the open where their misdeeds can be seen by all, but it will be done furtively in back rooms, and in smoke filled clubs and in a kind of gangster-code where only the bad guys know what is being said. An example is a word they call "vigorish", (as near as I can spell it). What this is, is a reference to loan shark's illegal interest. To keep from uttering the word "interest" in a situation where they might be talking to a wire tap, they use this word instead of the actual word "interest."

Not only do individuals who do not know God do terrible things to others less able to defend themselves, but so also do churches, clubs, societies, or even whole nations. What then emerges is absolute dishonor. Therefore, if you really want to be honorable in everything, you must first get to know Godly principles. You can't learn this out of any university, or out of any book except one. That is the Bible. When you get to know God's Word, then you are on your way to getting to know God. And to know God is to know the truth. Truth and honor are how we must approach God through His Son Jesus. Honor then, is what the world will come to see in us. Honorably is how we will approach each day, and the dealings therein. Having learned this approach to honor and truth, we are not treading in the area of salvation. It is only a small step to seeking forgiveness for what we now perceive as our sins. You are now saved! The desire to want to do right, and to do things honorably, is a condition that precedes salvation. The Bible says that angels have been sent to you as an individual, perhaps for some time, to prepare you for salvation. In Hebrews 1:14, the question has been asked, after telling all of the things that angels are not, what then are angels? "They are spirits who serve God and are sent by Him to help those who are to receive salvation."

In other words, being honorable is not the way man normally is. He can be taught to be an honest person, he can be led to be a moral person, but he can only be an honorable man when he follows God's concepts. Then that honor binds him to do what is right. Or what he sees as right on any given situation. It is a given then, that any animal that is deprived of a parent at too early an age, is subject to die from the inability to acquire food; but worse, it has not developed the needed skills to even survive its own species. A child who is more or less abandoned much of the early years will still find a way to survive if possible, but when that child reaches adulthood, look out. This is no longer a person, but a deadly monster who will kill without blinking, and steal without a thought. Yet the power of Christ is so great, that even this kind of animal/person can also be saved. God's principles can be instilled, and an honorable person emerges; but not until after lots of wasted years. The honor then is God-given. Our own conscience triggers an alarm every time we are led into a less than honorable position.

It is at this point that many Christians fail. Their faith is not strong enough, or they are too soon from the old life. But the difference is that at this point of failure, the born-again Christian knows he has failed and is already repentant. He has recognized his sin and will seek forgiveness. Seeking and receiving this forgiveness brings the peace that is part of being a child of God. Honor then, is knowing in any given situation what God would want us to do, and then doing it to the best of our ability. Individuals, groups, societies and nations, must all function in this way. But it is not going to be that way until Jesus conquers over all, and rules supreme on this earth. Then everything will be honorable and right. No rancor, no deceit, no guile, no dishonesty, no lies, no theft, no covetousness, no anger, just honor. May God bless us all.

Bro. Vic Clayton

As we begin this new year, it seems fitting to recall an Old Testament promise of God. It is this: "Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I am doing a new thing; . . . I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert." Those words will be found in one of the prophets. Are they in: a) Jeremiah, b) Isaiah, or c) Ezekiel. Whatever the answer, it is still true that God makes a way for us out of our wilderness and offers us "the living water" in whatever desert we may find ourselves (see John 4:10).



TABERNACLE OF DAVID "QUALITY VS. QUANTITY" (Cont. from page one)

significance of the two parts of God's house. At the Tabernacle of the Congregation, the people worshiped with five of its original seven furnishings. The teaching for us (the Church), resulting from the types and shadows of the five furnishings that God left in the Tabernacle of the Congregation, are amazing. First, there was the **Altar of Burnt Offering** which was the type and shadow that would manifest in the sacrifice of our Lord on the cross of Calvary. It carries with it the meaning of our receiving the blood atonement. Then there was the **Laver** which spiritually typed and shadowed our repentance and water baptism. It also revealed our daily washing through the reading of the Word of God. Next, there was the **Table of Showbread** which spiritually represents the born again experience; especially our partaking of the body and blood of Christ, which is the substance of Christ represented in the preaching of the Word of God. Also, there is the **Lampstand** which spiritually represents the believer receiving the Baptism of the Holy Spirit; plus the gifts and ministries of the same. And lastly, we have the **Altar of Incense** as a type and shadow spiritually manifested as the believer's place of death to self as he pours out his soul in consecration to God. This act of consecration is manifested in worship, praise, supplication and intercession.

Before we look at the Tabernacle of David, we need to fully understand that in the Tabernacle of the Congregation, with its five holy furnishings, the Christian has everything that most Spirit filled believers operate with. We as believers have the death of Christ on the cross, we have His blood in atonement, repentance in our lives, water baptism, the ministry of the Word, the Holy Spirit in baptism, and the right to die to self in order that we might live for Him. Truly there is a wealth of ministry operating in the Church today! People are being born again, baptized in water, filled with the Spirit and many are seeking God in receiving the gifts of His Spirit. All of the above happenings are the fulfillment of the types and shadows of the five holy furnishings found in the Tabernacle of the Congregation. What else could we possibly need in the Church today? Yes, we have it all, that is, with the exception of operating our lives in the Presence of God, through fellowship that allows His judgment of satan in this world.

In next month's article, we will look at the types and shadows of the two holy furnishings found in the Tabernacle of David. Inside the Court of the Tabernacle was the Ark of the Covenant and the covering Lid of Atonement. We also will look at the spiritual manifestation God brought about through the Tabernacle of David. We will discover that it holds God's method of unlocking the gates that allow believers to enter into His presence. Until that time, may the blessings of our Lord be found active and alive in each of you at the Fellowship.

Gene R. Brown, Associate Pastor

I suppose there are many things in our lives this phrase would fit. None more so than our relationship with our Heavenly Father. You know, we rush through our lives and do things. It seems like we're always in a hurry. Everything we do is on a schedule of some sort. When we go to our jobs, everything must be just so. Our suits must be pressed. Our hair and our appearances must not be out of place. And above all, no matter what else happens, we must do everything in our power to stay until the job is finished. No matter how long it takes, then by the time the day is over, we are satisfied with the outcome in that we stayed to see the job through regardless of how long it took. We spend a lot of time making sure the things we do at our jobs are done correctly, as well as thoroughly. Well, certainly these are accomplishments that are to be noted.

I find myself doing things to the point of my own satisfaction—trying my best to make a plan come together. It doesn't make any difference how long it takes. I am not concerned with time; but with the seeing of this particular project through, whatever it may be. By constantly putting our nose to the grindstone, we have nearly succeeded in shutting God out of our lives. Of course, we love the Lord. We just seem to have more time for ourselves, than we do for Him Who loves us. Quality time with the Father is not measured in moments, but in joyful experiences and memories. I would rather spend five minutes with the Lord while sitting in my chair, than two hours screaming and begging the Lord for things I can't believe Him for anyway.

Well, I guess I just realized how important the Father is to me. More important than my job, more important than anything. I don't think I'll ever forget that again. So then, when you have a bare spot in your time schedule, remember to give it to the Lord. Just be sincere. I'll guarantee you that He'll be waiting. Be Blessed, Bro. Neal Emfinger, Jr.

a message from Matthew

Seven-year-old Matthew was riding along in the car with his mother on one of those very rainy days. He had been pensive for awhile but suddenly he said, "Mom, I'm thinking of something."

The good mom responded, "What are you thinking?"

Slowly Matthew put his thoughts into words; "The rain," he began, "is like sin and the windshield wipers are like God, wiping the sins away."

Pleased with such thinking, his mother said, "That's really good, Matthew. Do you notice how the rain keeps on coming? What does that tell you?"

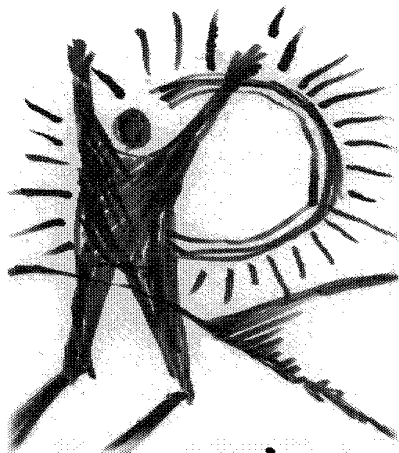
Matthew had the answer. He said, "We keep on sinning and God just keeps on forgiving us."



TRUST GOD!



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Arise, shine,
for your light has come,
and the glory of the
LORD rises upon you.
Isaiah 60:1