

Family Items

A Clipboard of News for God's Family at Jones Road



Sick:

- ◇ **Marshall Pepper** lung condition is steadily worsening.
- ◇ **Peggy Nave**, Susan Turner's mother and grandmother to Aimee Turner and Emily Banta, is at home under hospice care.
- ◇ **Julie Flatt** has a sinus infection.
- ◇ The **Smith family** has been hit with the stomach bug.
- ◇ **Mary Jane White**, Christy Gabardi's mom, is recovering from surgery.

Miscellaneous:

◇

Travelers:

- ◇ **Dustin Hall family...Proudfoots...John Gibson** is leaving this afternoon to teach at the Young Men's Leadership Camp...The **Markums** are at Persimmon Grove this morning where Kevin is preaching...**Grant and Debra Pepper** are in Italy...**Teresa Rusk...**

Meetings:

- ◇ The children's class will not meet this week.
- ◇ Group 4 will meet in the back tonight and Group 2 will meet at the Sandlins' house tonight after the evening worship.
- ◇ Lowell Sallee at **Jennings Chapel** July 22-27.
- ◇ Singing at **Reunion** July 29 at 3:00 P.M.
- ◇ **Oakland**—singing Aug. 4 and a meeting with Kenny Mooror Aug. 5-10.
- ◇ The class for young mothers will be August 4. There will be a morning session from 10:00—12:00 and an afternoon session from 1:30—3:30.

We Meet...	Elders
Sunday Morning 9:30 A.M. Sunday Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday Evening 7:00 P.M.	Mike Huggins Steve Leverette Daryl Turner
Deacons	Evangelist
Marcus Dean Ron Flatt John Harris	John R. Gibson

Jones Road Journal

July 22, 2018



Lessons from the Judges

By John R. Gibson

As a child I found the stories from the time of the judges to be some of my favorites. After all, what child doesn't love to hear of Samson's mighty exploits and the thrilling victory of Gideon's brave 300? But as I grew older I came to see the period the judges for the dark time that it was. Over and over again Israel's sins led to suffering and oppression. Then they would cry out for help and God would send a deliverer and provide them with a time of peace. But the peace never lasted, for they would again go into apostasy and suffer oppression at the hands of their enemies. And not only do we see oppression from other nations, we also read of the Israelites dwelling in Gilead slaughtering a great multitude of their brethren from Ephraim. The violence within the nation doesn't end there, for Gideon's son slew sixty-nine of his half-brothers, and later suffered his own violent death when he sought to destroy the people of Shechem. And who can forget the brutal, fatal assault on the Levite's concubine, an assault that sparked the war that almost eliminated one tribe from Israel. It was a dark time and one we do well to learn from.



A Generation Must Not Be Left Untaught

Near the beginning of Judges we are told what went wrong; viz. a good generation of God's people failed with their children. "So the people served the Lord all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders who outlived Joshua, who had seen all the great works of the Lord which He had done for Israel....When all that generation had been gathered to their fathers, another generation arose after them who did not know the Lord nor the work which He had done for Israel" (Judges 2:7, 10).

I don't know exactly how it happened, but somehow a generation that served the Lord faithfully must have failed to "teach them diligently to [their] children" as was demanded in Deut. 6:1-9. As parents we must take

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seriously the admonitions of Eph. 6:4 and other similar texts, realizing the absolute necessity of their knowing God, His word, and His work. They need some secular education and should be able to enjoy some recreation, but as parents we must prioritize the kind of training Lois and Eunice did with Timothy so it can be said of our children that “from childhood [they] have known the Holy Scriptures.” 2 Tim. 3:15

But what of us a congregation? What can we do to help prevent the rise of a generation that does not know God? We need good, content-filled classes with dedicated teachers who understand they are not providing childcare, but instead are seeking to instill faith through the teaching of His word (Rom. 10:17). Those who are older and more mature must insist on and then appreciate lessons that may seem like “old hat” to us, but are new to those coming along behind us. While preachers can become too repetitious and get in a rut, don’t ever forget that while you are listening to a lesson thinking you have heard this before, that thirteen-year-old probably didn’t grasp all that was said on the subject when it was preached to him at the tender age of eight. To have a generation that knows God will require that old truths be preached again and again. (And as an aside—we who preach need to seek fresh ways of presenting these truths. The message cannot change (Jude 1:3), but with some diligent effort we can keep it fresh.)

We Need a Standard and the Standard Needs Enforcement

“In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.” Judges 17:6

“In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.” Judges 21:25

The repetition of this statement should make its significance clear. This untaught generation had become a law unto itself and that is a recipe for disaster. Years later Solomon would warn that though a way may seem right to us, it can lead to death (Proverbs 14:12). The Lord had delivered His law to them at Mt. Sinai and promised to richly bless them if they were obedient to it (Lev. 26; Deut. 28). However, they had chosen to do their own thing and it resulted in the curses rather than the blessings God sought to bestow. As children of God today we must commit ourselves to the will of God and not our own desires (Matthew 7:21). As tempting as it is at times, the period of the judges should help us see how important it is that, instead of going along with the natural process of conformity to the world, we commit ourselves to being transformed by God and His word (Rom. 12:1-2).

And let’s not miss the part about there being no king in those days. There was a time when that simply seemed to me like a statement of the obvious, but I have come to believe this was the author’s way of saying that lawlessness became more rampant because there was no strong authority to enforce the law or punish lawbreakers. Solomon would later say it this way, “Because the sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, there-

fore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil” Eccles. 8:11). Though parents are not to provoke their children to wrath (Eph. 6:4), teaching obedience requires a willingness to enforce the rules. In a similar way, congregations of God’s people must also practice discipline. In 1 Cor. 5 we read that a purging needed to take place because “a little leaven leavens the whole lump” (1 Cor. 5:6). In 2 Thes. 3:6-15 withdrawal was intended to make one ashamed of his conduct. In speaking of the rebuke of a sinning elder, Paul said that when done properly the rest would also fear (1 Tim. 5:20). Whether we are rebuking someone as an individual or disciplining them as a congregation, we must do so with love, kindness, gentleness, humility, etc., but those qualities are not in opposition to discipline. Let’s be sure our homes and churches are not places where anarchy prevails because of an unwillingness to follow the Lord’s disciplinary instructions.

(To be continued.)

All Scripture quotations are taken from the New King James Version, copyright 1995, Thomas Nelson Publishing, Inc.

Readings for July 22-28

2 Kings 7-8; 2 Chron. 21; Matt. 6 / 2 Kgs. 9-10; Psa. 49; Matt. 7 /
2 Chron. 22-23; 2 Kgs. 11; Psa. 131; Matt. 8 / 2 Chron. 24;
2 Kgs. 12; Psa. 50; Matt. 9 / Joel 1-3; Matt. 10

Privileged to Serve

SUNDAY AM

Announcements: Steve Leverette	Song Leader: John M. Huggins
Opening Prayer: Bradly Craid	Lord’s Supper: Bryant Pepper
Serving Lord’s Supper: Drake R. John S. Daryl T. Everette C. John G. Preston G. John H. Alfred K.	Closing Prayer: Jim Durham
Sermon: John Gibson	Count Contribution: Dustin Hall David Hough

SUNDAY PM

Announcements: Nathan Pepper	Song Leader: Aaron Banta
Scripture Reading: Coulter Broadway	Opening Prayer: Mark Hooton
Sermon: Singing Keith Britnell	Lord’s Supper: David Conn
	Closing Prayer: David Croley

WEDNESDAY PM

Announcements: John Harris	Song Leader: Nathan Pepper
Invitation: John M. Huggins	Closing Prayer:
Sound Booth: Lance H. / Preston G.	Ushers: Tracy S. David H.