

## MOTIVATION FOR THE CHRISTIAN TO DEVELOP GODLINESS (II Peter 3:11, 12)

Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?

Notice that verses eleven and twelve comprise a rhetorical question. Peter is appealing to what his readers already know to motivate them to greater service, Remember that Peter began chapter three by pointing out that he would "...stir up..." their "...pure minds by way of remembrance:..." (vs. 1).

We are wrong today not to remind the brethren of what they have been taught for the purpose of helping them have a closer walk with God. Paul did this (Romans 6; Colossians 3). It is a shame and disgrace that some today would label their preaching negative and, therefore, unloving. The inspired Peter thought that it would have positive effects in bringing Christians to greater heights of spirituality. Would that we would be content with God's approach in developing godly character and reject "the every thing is beautiful," "I'm okay, you're okay" false philosophy.

Most people (many in the church) are not "beautiful" nor "okay" morally and spiritually. What makes the church think that we or the world in the twenty first century is better off than the church and the world of the first century? All need the same thing today as was needed then. Sin continues to be the problem. The world must be called to salvation through the gospel of Christ (Romans 1:16). Moreover, the church must be taught those things of the gospel that pertain to godliness (2 Peter 11-15). The pattern of how to accomplish this is not found in denominational, sectarian preachers nor the Zig Zigers of our time. Follow the example of our Lord, the prophets, the apostles, and the evangelists found in the Bible and you will never dissatisfy God in any way.

Regarding sanctification, godly character is developed in the child of God when there is the full realization that:

1. Our old manner of life ceased with repentance (Acts 3:19); and that we are born anew when we rise from the watery grave of baptism (Romans 6:3,4).
2. A strong desire for the "...sincere milk of the word..." is cultivated that growth may be obtained (I Peter 1:22,23; Matthew 5:6; Hebrews 5:12-14).
3. We will have biblical authority for all our beliefs and practices (Colossians 3:17).

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**BELVEDERE BEACON**  
*"Ye are the light of the world" (Matthew 5:14)*  
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SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

<b>SUNDAY:</b>		<b>WEDNESDAY:</b>	
Bible Classes for all ages	10:00 am.	Bible Classes for all ages	7:00 p.m.
Morning Worship	11:00 am.		
Evening Worship	6:00 p.m.		

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### "MOSTLY FAITHFUL?"

It might be that some have a mighty strange view of the word "faithful." Have you ever heard a brother described as "mostly faithful," or a congregation as "fairly faithful?" How about this "he is pretty faithful-most of the time."

The Bible records that Moses was faithful (Numbers 12:7), as was Timothy (I Corinthians 4:17) and Tychicus (Ephesians 6:2 1). Jesus used the word "faithful" to describe the five and two talent men who were prepared to give account to their Lord in a parable: **"His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will set thee over many things; enter thou into the joy of thy Lord"** (Matthew 25:23). Paul, through inspiration, set forth that **"here, moreover; it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful"** (I Corinthians 4:2). Research the word *faithful* and you will see that it carries the idea of those who are "trustworthy...who show themselves faithful in the transaction of business, the execution of commands, or the discharge of official duties... one who kept his plighted faith, worthy of trust... that can be relied on" (Thayer). In light of the meaning, how can one be "mostly, pretty, or fairly" faithful? Either one is or he is not faithful to God. (Of course we are not arguing for perfection—it must be understood that faithfulness in God's children is demanded of God (I Corinthians 4:2). This faithful condition is synonymous with walking in the light (I John 1:7) as we humbly bring our hearts and deeds into harmony with the dictates of heaven.) What ambiguous spiritual condition is represented by the term "mostly faithful?" Could it be a term employed to represent a person, or a congregation, that does some, or even most of what God directs—but not all? Here are some examples of those who fit in the category of being "mostly, fairly, or pretty" faithful:

1. The brother or sister that attends 9 out of 10 Sunday and Wednesday assemblies but forsakes one "every now and then" for TV, shopping, Boy Scouts, walk-a-thons, the Super Bowl, vacation, company at home, or because they are disgruntled with someone or something in the church, is probably the person some have in mind when they say, "he is mostly faithful."
2. The brother who preaches the truth on the fundamental matters of salvation, the distinctive nature of the church, and the errors of denominations, but teaches that baptism makes an adulterous marriage into a sanctified one, is labeled by some misguided brethren as "mostly faithful."
3. A congregation that demands soundness from its preachers and teachers, refuses to budge an inch in the face of new and novel doctrines, but neglects to do what God commanded in the matter of restoring the erring and church discipline is one that many would call "mostly faithful."

The "mostly faithful" are "mostly sound" and "mostly obedient." They pick and choose when and where they will obey God. They will all, on the day of judgment, give answer for the lack of complete submission to Christ's will. "Mostly faithful" sounds "pretty good" until you realize that the "mostly faithful" will be "mostly lost." **"Here, moreover, it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful"**(1 Cor. 4:2).

Lynn Parker, New Braunfels, TX

## PHILIP'S FAMILY

And the next *day* we that were of Paul's company departed, and came unto Caesarea: and we entered into the house of Philip the evangelist, which was *one* of the seven; and abode with him. And the same man had four daughters, virgins, which did prophesy (Acts 21:8-9).

In this passing reference, Luke sets forth some very interesting people to help others get an insight of what one's home ought to be. Philip is that fellow who was selected to serve tables in a Jerusalem church (Acts 6). He is that same young fellow we read about preaching the Gospel in Samaria, and he also taught the Ethiopian (Acts 8). He possessed spiritual gifts by the *laying on* of an apostle's hands. He also knew that "the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets" (1 Cor 14:32). We are not discussing the probabilities of Philip's house needing more space, better plumbing, or more beds.

### Responsibility

We look at this home and know its quality attributes Philip knew how to correct Jerusalem's deplorable poverty. In preaching, he was account able, dependable, conscientious, trustworthy, and could dictate reliable supervision. Thus, he taught his daughters so well that when an apostle saw them, he imparted to them gifts distributed by the Spirit of Truth. The problem at Jerusalem shows us he took charge and solved the situation. How would you expect a family to respond to such a character as this man? If he were our father, we would learn to love, to be kind, tenderhearted, forgiving, and gentle in dealing with others, "provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord" (Eph. 6:4). Many fail in this! Thus, the reason we lose so many youth!

### Unwavering Loyalty

Philip knew how to solve problems. So when there arose some abuse in a house full of women, as *damage control officer*, he knew how to dissolve it. He would not scream, yell, and create havoc, for already he has demonstrated obedience to God's authority by quelling the strife in Jerusalem. How? By sowing seeds of a calming peace:

But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, *and* easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy. And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace (Jam. 3:17-18).

He taught them to be "with all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love" to keep the bond of peace (Eph. 4:23). Philip was never afraid of large crowds, and his house was regularly such a scene, what with each daughter having two friends each at the house simultaneously. Since they prophesied, plenty others were there too—women's classes taught by each or together. That must have been a glorious sight! And Philip was teaching and preaching also! Oh how that home was filled with glorious praise and devotion! What a contrast to our homes, which has the TV teaching everything but the holy Word of Truth! Then, too, many homes today has no discipline at all; and if some, it is only a "Now, Johnny you must not do that, my dear." Yet, Johnny just keeps on keeping on!

### Resource for Spirituality

Preachers dropped by often! Agabus came by! Bible studies incessantly going on! Each of these events reveals the high attentiveness to Jesus our Lord in a house full of servants of our precious savior. Four women are prophesying. One who prophesied had special knowledge to teach the Word of God without having studied any of it, but these women never did it in the presence of men (1 Tim. 2:12). Amazing! I would want to be there! So folks, what can ye say of your home?

Delbert Goines, Hubbard, TX  
*Ken Chumbley*

## NEWS AND NOTES

There will be no news and notes while Ken Chumbley is away in England. Please keep him and the work their in your prayers.

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4. We will always teach the gospel to the lost (Mark 16:15).
5. We will edify the church in the way that God has instructed us (I Corinthians 12:13-27; Ephesians 1 :22, 23).
6. We will, in every way, seek the things that are above as the Bible teaches us how **to** do so (Colossians 3:1,2; 1:5; Matthew 6:19-21; Philippians 3:20; I Peter 1:4).
7. We will contend for "the faith" and preach the gospel at all times and places conducive for such activity (II Timothy 2:2; II Timothy 4:1-5; Jude 3).

When the time comes for **the** heavens by fire to be "...**dissolved, and the elements shall melt with. fervent heat...**," what will be most important to men? For that matter, if at death we are rational, what will **occupy** our thoughts? Please consider the following questions relative to determining what is most important in life:

1. Will the world economical crises be important?
2. Will the various wars that will be going on concern us?
3. Will our houses, cars, insurance policies, bank accounts, social security, or debts have our attention?
4. Will the acquisition of wealth and fame be of concern?
5. Brethren, will anything that pertains to this physical realm hold any interest for us at the Lord's second coming or the day of our death?

To the sober and honest minded person to ask these questions is to answer them (Matthew 6:33). The only sane conclusion for us is that of the writer of Ecclesiastes and the apostle Paul: all that really matters is the keeping of the commandments of God" (Ecclesiastes 12:13, 14; I Corinthians 7:19; John 12:4-8).

David P. Brown  
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