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shanewms@sheltonbbs.com

There is, of course, no cost or obligation to you!

Thoughts Worth Pondering

"All I have seen teaches me to trust the Creator for all I have not seen." - Ralph Waldo Emerson

"Where one man reads the Bible, a hundred read you and me." — Dwight L. Moody

Do you know of anyone who would like to receive this bulletin each month? If so, write us at:

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Times of Assembly:

Sunday:

Bible Class	9:45am
Morning Worship	10:45am
Evening Worship	5:30pm

Wednesday:

Bible Class	7:30pm
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www.geocities.com/heartland/cabin/8851/

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The Lilbourn Light



"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path" - Psalm 119:105



Volume 6

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Number 1

The Man Nobody Missed

Have you ever heard of a man passing away from this life and nobody cared? We read about such a man in II Chronicles 21. Not a poor lowly peasant or a common servant, but a King! King Jehoram of Israel.

2 Chron 21:20, *"He was thirty-two years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem eight years; and he departed with no one's regret, and they buried him in the city of David, but not in the tombs of the kings."*

Early in his reign he killed all his brothers and other potential rivals. He led the nation in the worship of false gods (No wonder, he married King Ahab's daughter!), had a troubled 8-year reign, and died from a terribly painful disease.

It's a sad story. Jehoram wasn't missed when he died because he had been a self-centered and godless person. The Bible gives Jehoram this short and tragic description of his life: *"He did evil in the sight of the LORD"* (v.6).

Let us remember that to the extent which we care about our relationships will determine how much we will be missed when we pass on. But that is certainly not the most important thing. Let the Words of God not be to us, *"He did evil in the sight of the Lord"* but rather, *"Well done, good and faithful servant... enter into the joy of your master."*

— Shane Williams

Do You See Only Giants?

There were 12 spies who were sent out by Moses to scout out the land of Canaan for 40 days. When they returned, all but Joshua and Caleb gave this negative report: "We are not able to go up against the people for they are too strong for us" (Num. 13:31) and "We were like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight" (Num. 13:33).

These "leaders" from their respective tribes (13:2-3) lacked faith and only saw difficulties and defeat. Yes, the giants were great, but wasn't their God greater? How could they so easily forget the way God parted the waters of the Red sea or led them through the wilderness?

The 10 spies who were filled with doubt died by a plague before the Lord (Num. 14:36-37). In fact, the entire nation of Israel from 20 years old and up wandered in the wilderness for forty years until they died because of their unfaithfulness. All except the 2 spies who stood by the Lord (14:30). We know that Joshua led the people into the land of Canaan but what about Caleb? God

blessed him and brought him into the Promised Land because he had "a *different spirit and follows Me wholeheartedly*" (14:24).

Num 14:24, "*But because my servant Caleb has a different spirit and follows me wholeheartedly, I will bring him into the land he went to, and his descendants will inherit it.*"

We need more Caleb's — willing to follow the leading of the Lord because they are filled with a different attitude than others.

We need more Caleb's — willing to follow the leading of the Lord because they are filled with a different attitude than others. Are you a Caleb of faith, or are you among the skeptics who always see the giants of difficulty? Faith sees opportunity (II Cor. 5:7) but fear sees obstacles.

— Shane Williams



Psalm 119:9, "*How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to your word.*"

Are You Preparing For Heaven?

There are some people, I'm sure, who don't want to go to heaven. Most people, however, say they hope to go to heaven when they die but I've often wondered what makes them think they would be happy there. They ignore Jesus Christ's teachings and the simple gospel message (Acts 2:38). They show no interest in reading their bibles, praying, or worshipping. **Why would they suddenly enjoy an eternity with God on the other side?**

Ps 63:1-5, "*O God, You are my God; Early will I seek You; My soul thirsts for You; My flesh longs for You; In a dry and thirsty land Where there is no water. 2 So I have looked for You in the sanctuary, To see Your power and Your glory. 3 Because Your lovingkindness is better than life, My lips shall praise You. 4 Thus I will bless You while I live; I will lift up my hands in Your name. 5 My soul shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatness, And my mouth shall praise You with joyful lips.*"

There is no doubt about David's deep longing for God and his desire to

please Him. The godly attitudes and actions in our lives here and now prepare us for heaven.

That raises some questions: We say we want God in our lives, but how fervently do we seek after Him? How much time do we spend reading His Word, praying, and worshipping? How earnestly do we want to please Him? Can we say that our soul thirsts for Him and our flesh longs for Him, as David's did?

If so, we can say with David, "*My soul follows close behind You*" (v.8). If not, can we really say we desire heaven more than anything else?

— Shane Williams

The godly attitudes and actions in our lives here and now prepare us for heaven.

God's Plan for Saving Man

- ⇒ Hear the Gospel (Romans 10:17)
- ⇒ Believe the Gospel (Hebrews 11:6; John 20:31)
- ⇒ Repent of Past Sins (Luke 13:3; Acts 17:30)
- ⇒ Confess Faith in Christ (Romans 10:10; Matthew 10:32)
- ⇒ Be Baptized in water (Acts 2:38; Mk. 16:16; Gal. 3:27; I Pet. 3:21)
- ⇒ Be Faithful until/ unto Death (Rev. 2:10)