

Why, But Don't Forget Who

"O LORD, how long shall I cry, and You will not hear? Even cry out to You, 'Violence!' and You will not save...For plundering and violence are before me; there is strife, and contention arises. Therefore the law is powerless, and justice never goes forth. For the wicked surround the righteous..."

Twenty-six hundred years ago the prophet Habakkuk opened his book with these words, but they could have very well been written this past week. Violence abounds and we wonder why.

Actually the why is easily answered: it is because of sin. Sin has ruined the world and death, disease, and violence abound because of it. But there is another "why" that often enters our minds when violence rears its ugly head. Habakkuk wondered it too. Why would God allow such violence to happen? It's not wrong to wonder such things.

In the end, Habakkuk realized that God will make things right at the proper time. He learned to continue to trust God and realized that his praise for God should also continue regardless of the circumstances (read Habakkuk 3). He knew that he could always draw strength from God, even in uncertain times. We can (and should) too.

- Edd Sterchi, Broadway church of Christ, Campbellsville, KY (*Bulletin Digest*) -

God Asks, 'Where is the Honor Due Me?'

Using the language of his times, the prophet Malachi spoke words from the mind of God to His people. God asked this question, "A son honors his father, and a slave his master. If I am a father, where is the honor due me? If I am a master, where is the respect due me?" says the LORD Almighty" (Malachi 1:6a). Malachi goes on to deal with the degeneration of Old Testament worship among his people.

Today, many people fail to honor our Lord. Some mock Him and disrespect Him openly. Others simply fail to give God the honor He is due. He is the loving Creator who cares for us like the ideal human father should. He is the Lord (which means master). In his Lordship, our God watches over us and directs us. If we follow his directions, then our lives will be filled with joy.

Are you honoring God with how you conduct your life (1 Corinthians 10:31; 1 Corinthians 6:20; Proverbs 3:9)? Are you honoring God by attending worship as you should (Hebrews 10:24-25; Psalm 122:1; Psalm 84:4)?

- Larry Fitzgerald, Woodlawn church of Christ, Abilene, TX (*Bulletin Digest*) -

Do your best; let God do the rest!

News & Notes

SUMMER YOUTH BIBLE CAMP: Begins tomorrow though Saturday, July 16th, Tomlinson Run State Park Group Camp. Ages 8 through high school seniors. Information fliers and registration forms on the desk in the foyer. Sign-up sheets on the desk in the foyer for those who can help in any capacity at camp. Any camper needing assistance to pay the camp fee, please see one of the Elders or Rico.

NO BIBLE STUDY HERE at the building **this Wed., July 13th.** Choose either the service at **camp, 7:00 p.m. OR St. Clair Ave. congregation, 6:30 p.m. PANTRY:** Spaghetti and spaghetti sauce.

SICK & SHUT-IN: Calcutta Health Care: Sam Burdine (Willard's brother). **The Orchards Rehab in East Liverpool:** Charlotte Mader (David Steff's sister). **At Home:** Becky McKitrick, Stan Williams, Mike West, Barbara DeLong, David McCoy, Russell Martin, Claudette Miller, Cheryl Renfro Walker. **Weston, WV:** Rick Beck.

Some things make life pleasant, others make it miserable. The following rules are not always easy to follow. But they help me. Maybe they will be of worth to you:

1. Make up your mind to be happy. Find pleasure in simple things.
2. Make the best of your circumstances. Everyone has some sorrow. Seek to make the smiles outnumber the tears.
3. You cannot please everyone. Do not let your critics run and ruin your life. The more you accomplish the more resistance you will meet.
4. Do not borrow trouble. Imaginary problems are heavier than the actual ones.
5. Hate poisons the soul. Do not cherish grudges. Avoid people who make you unhappy.
6. Do not hold post mortems; brooding over sorrows and mistakes.
7. Do what you can for those less fortunate than yourself; especially those who blessed your life.
8. Keep busy. A busy person does not have time to be unhappy.

- Author Unknown (*Beacon*, Bellview Church of Christ, Pensacola, FL) -

DO NOT WORRY

A businessman who was a chronic addict of the worrying habit determined to find out what he was fretting about as he analyzed his worries.

He discovered that forty percent of his worries were about things that likely never would happen; thirty percent were over past decisions which could not be changed; twelve percent concerned others' criticism of himself which did not matter anyway; ten percent dealt with his health, which he was trying his best to protect as it was. Only eight percent, he decided, were legitimate worries.

- Author Unknown (*Beacon*, Bellview Church of Christ, Pensacola, FL) -