

Stephen & Cancel Culture

Stephen was a man of tremendous courage who preached God’s Word with great boldness. On the occasion of Acts chapter 7, Stephen preached that he saw the heavens opened and Jesus standing at the right hand of God (Acts 7:56). In the audience that day were unbelieving Jews who rejected Christ. When they heard Stephen preach Christ, they were enraged and “stopped their ears, and ran upon him with one accord, and cast him out of the city, and stoned him” (Acts 7:57-58). Notice from this text that the Jews “stopped their ears.” They refused to listen to what Stephen preached. Rather than listening, they stoned to death an innocent, godly man.

We live in a time when some refuse to hear any opposing view. Rather than granting others freedom to express opposing views, the culture “cancels” them. “Canceling” often involves some type of punishment against those – mostly conservative – who attempt to express controversial views. One may lose business, be fired, or publicly shamed if one dares to share an opposing viewpoint. Much like the unbelieving Jews “stopped their ears,” some “stop their ears today” and cancel all opposing views.

However, the unbelieving Jews who stoned God’s faithful preacher, Stephen, did not change the truth about Jesus. They refused to listen, even stopping their ears, but their rejection of Stephen’s message did not change the truthfulness of the message.

Likewise, refusing to listen to opposing views today will not change the truth. Refusing to listen to the pro-life position that abortion is taking innocent, human life, does not change the truth about abortion. Silencing the voices of those who oppose homosexuality, does not change the truth that homosexuality is a perversion of God’s plan for human sexuality (Leviticus 18:22; 1 Corinthians 6:9-10). “Canceling” those who affirm that there are only two genders, male and female, does not change the truth that being transgender is a distortion of God’s original plan (Genesis 1:26-27).

Christians must always speak with love and compassion for others (Ephesians 4:15). However, if ever there was a time when bold, brave, Christian voices were needed, that time is now! “And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word” (Acts 4:29).

- Mark Lindley, Chapman church of Christ, Ripley, MS
(via Bridgeport Church of Christ, Bridgeport, WV) -

The public will believe anything, so long as it is not founded on truth. - Edith Sitwell 1887-1964

News & Notes

TODAY’S SPEAKER: Herman McHan of the Columbiana congregation. Bro. Rico is in a weekend meeting in Florida.

SYMPATHY: To David Stefl at the passing of his sister, Charlotte Mader. God bless and comfort in his loss and sorrow.

CONVERT’S CLASS: Resumes this Thursday, May 2nd at 11:00 a.m. Open to all.

MEN’S BREAKFAST: Next Saturday, May 4th, 8:00 a.m. at Family Kitchen & Smokehouse (formerly EJ’s).

NO SUNDAY COVERED DISH DINNERS IN MAY.

CHESTER’S LADIES INSPIRATION DAY: Saturday, May 11th. Registration & Continental Breakfast: 9:00 - 9:30 a.m. Program: 9:45 - 11:45 a.m. Focus on “Being Busy for the Lord ... Buzzing Along. The Do’s & Don’ts.” Speaker: Janie Gallagher. Lunch provided following program.

PANTRY: Oatmeal (Round container).

REMEMBER THESE SICK & SHUT-IN: *Continuing Healthcare, Lisbon:* Stan Williams. *At Home:* Scharlotte Jones, Anita Hopwood, Dean Spencer, Peggy Linger, Claudette Miller, Nancy Cox, Barbara DeLong, David Strum, Cheryl Renfro Walker, David Michaels (Ed’s brother), Todd Grimes (Cindy Miskimen’s nephew), Lori Stocks (Karen Strum’s niece), Eric Martin (friend of Joe Brubaker), Rich Shilling (relative of Iris Durbin). *Fox - Chester:* Audrey Geer (Linda Hall’s mother), Janice Hutchins, Mary Johnson. *Elsewhere:* Carol Williams (Sharon Sprout’s mother), 104 N. Clayton, Carlsbad, NM 88220.

GOSPEL MEETINGS

SissonvilleMay 2 - 4..... Ed Melott
St. Clair Ave., East LiverpoolMay 5 - 8..... Steve Higginbotham

Five Wonderful Words

by Edd Sterchi

The 23rd psalm has been a favorite of God’s people for thousands of years. It is steeped in the Israelite culture of husbandry. But all through the years it has appealed to people who realize that God is watching over them. Just the first five words alone in the English versions reveal so much – even for us today.

- **The** - This is a definite article in reference to God. He is not one of many gods, He is the God. He is the only God.
- **Lord** - This indicates that God is our savior. He is the only one who can bring us eternal salvation.
- **Is** - This present tense word reveals that God is alive and always with us. He remains all powerful and all loving.
- **My** - This shows that God is a personal God. He wants a relationship with us and deals with each of us on a most individual, intimate level.
- **Shepherd** - This reminds us that God is always guiding, feeding, and protecting us. He will never lead us down the wrong path.

And that’s just the first five words of the psalm! Give the rest of it a read with these thoughts in mind, and you will gain the most wonderful feelings of joy, satisfaction, and peace within your heart.

- Broadway Church of Christ - Campbellsville, KY (via *Bulletin Gold*) -