

The Vincennes Voice

"...The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight..." (Matt. 3:3)

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MAY LESSONS

Larry R. Ping II

As we usher in this new month of May 2021, did you realize there are many lessons we can learn from the word and idea of "May?" Here are some for your reflection.

1) A Lesson About Willful Sin. In a conversation with the cunning serpent Eve said, we "may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden" (Gen. 3:2). In fact, she iterated to the serpent God's whole law concerning the trees of the garden. Clearly, she knew what she and Adam could and could not do. However, Gen. 3:6 reports, "*And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.*" This is willful sin, plainly knowing something is wrong and sinful but doing it anyway. The Hebrew writer penned, "*For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins,*

But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries" (Heb. 10:26-27). Sinning willfully, with knowledge of who Jesus is, of what He did and of what His Will teaches, indicates a hard, calloused heart which is in dire spiritual jeopardy (Job 41:24; I Tim. 4:2).

2) A Lesson About God's Faithfulness. After God had flooded the earth, He promised "*waters shall no more become a flood to destroy all flesh*" (Gen. 9:15). He then proceeded to say, "*And the bow shall be in the cloud; and I will look upon it, that I may remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is upon the earth*" (Gen. 9:16). God is, without doubt or any disputation, the greatest Promise-Keeper of all time. Peter wrote, "*The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all*

should come to repentance" (II Pet. 3:9). God is faithful in allowing escapes with every temptation (I Cor. 10:13) and in forgiving the sins of Christians who come humbly seeking it (I Jn. 1:9). Simply and beautifully said, "*Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it*" (I Thess. 5:24).

3) A Lesson About The Need For Purity In Worship. Good Bible students will recall Saul's disdain for God's commands to "*go and smite Amalek, and utterly destroy all that they have, and spare them not; but slay both man and woman, infant and suckling, ox and sheep, camel and donkey*" (I Sam. 15:3). Saul brought back Agag the king, sheep, and oxen. The prophet Samuel, after lengthy discussions, finally prompted Saul to say, "*I have sinned: for I have transgressed the commandment of the LORD, and thy words: because I feared the people, and obeyed their voice. Now therefore, I pray thee, pardon my sin, and turn again with me, that I may*

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may worship the LORD” (I Sam. 15:24-25). Saul, based upon these words, understood the connection of keeping one’s self pure in order to make worship effective. Jesus recognized this too by saying upon the mount, *“Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee; Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift”* (Matt. 5:23-24).

4) A Lesson About The Brevity Of Life. The Psalmist authored, *“LORD, make me to know mine end, and the measure of my days, what it is; that I may know how frail I am”* (Psa. 39:4). Men must know life, at best, is brief. This is something we must know and acknowledge. Later in the same book Moses said, *“So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom”* (Psa. 90:12). The Bible offers abundant reminders about the shortness of life. James famously wrote, *“Whereas ye know not what shall be on the*

morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away” (Jam. 4:14). The wise man warned, *“Boast not thyself of to morrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth”* (Prov. 27:1). This is why Paul cautioned, *“now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation”* (II Cor. 6:2).

5) A Lesson About Good Works Giving Glory To God. In His mountain sermon, Jesus preached, *“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven”* (Matt. 5:16). Paul indicated, *“we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them”* (Eph. 2:10). In writing to the evangelist, the apostle said to be a *“pattern of good works”* (Tit. 2:7), to be *“zealous of good works”* (Tit. 2:14) and to *“maintain good works”* (Tit. 3:14). These are all done in an effort not to shine the light on ourselves, but that God may be glorified in our life (I Pet. 4:11).

6) A Lesson About The Need For Discipline. The Holy Spirit said with regard to a Christian involved in sin, *“To deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus”* (I Cor. 5:5). Discipline within a local body of God’s people is often missing, neglected, or forgotten. Yet, the words of the New Testament are as effective today as the day they were written. The aim of discipline is to save one’s soul. This is why the Thessalonians were commanded, *“in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us”* (II Thess. 3:6) and why the Corinthians were ordered to *“not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat”* (I Cor. 5:11). Souls are far too precious and eternity is far too long for churches to ignore God’s teaching regarding discipline. What say ye?

FIRST CITY CHURCH OF CHRIST

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MEETING TIMES (EST)

SUNDAY

Bible Study – 10:00 am

Worship – 11:00 am & 3:00 pm

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study – 7:00 pm