

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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OBTAINABLE THINGS

Larry R. Ping II

If something is obtainable, it means something is available and accessible to us. Give some thought to these Biblically obtainable things.

1) MERCY IS OBTAINABLE. In the mountain sermon it says, “Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy” (Matt. 5:7). Notice the condition in this verse. Mercy is accessible to the one who shows mercy. The idea of mercy is to show compassion and pity on others. Paul admitted he “was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious: but I obtained mercy, because I did it ignorantly in unbelief” (II Tim. 1:13). We, too, can obtain mercy.

2) HELP FROM GOD IS OBTAINABLE. In his speech to Festus and Agrippa Paul uttered, “Having therefore obtained help of God, I continue unto this day, witnessing both to small and great, saying none other things than those which the prophets and Moses did say should come: That Christ

should suffer, and that he should be the first that should rise from the dead, and should shew light unto the people, and to the Gentiles” (Acts 26:22-23). What better help is there than that of God? The Hebrew author stated, “Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need” (Heb. 4:16).

3) AN ETERNAL PRIZE IS OBTAINABLE. In comparing our spiritual lives to a race Paul urged, “Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain” (I Cor. 9:24). The prize in this place is referred to as “an incorruptible” crown (I Cor. 9:25). This is the “crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him” (Jam. 1:12). Are you living the life necessary to access this crown?

4) AN INHERITANCE IS OBTAINABLE. The Ephesians were told, “In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him

who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will” (Eph. 1:11). Peter describes this inheritance as “incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you” (I Pet. 1:4). This inheritance will come to those determined to “be...faithful unto death” (Rev. 2:10). Do you stand to gain this inheritance from God?

5) SALVATION IS OBTAINABLE. The apostle wrote, “For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ, Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him” (I Thess. 5:9-10). Some teach God does not want all men to be saved. This is not true. Peter penned, “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). Timothy was plainly told, “God...will have all men to be saved” (I Tim. 2:3-4). What about you? Have you obtained salvation yet? If not, why not?

SOME THINGS WHICH NEED LEAVING

Larry R. Ping II

Leaving is a part of many aspects in life. Consider the calling of the apostles, and the following passages.

When Jesus called Peter and Andrew, “*they straightway left their nets, and followed him*” (Matt. 4:20).

When Jesus called James and John, “*they immediately left the ship and their father, and followed him*” (Matt. 4:22; Mk. 1:20).

When Jesus called Matthew, “*he left all, rose up, and followed him*” (Lk. 5:28).

In fact, Jesus would say, “*Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's, But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life*” (Mk. 10:29-30).

Have you thought about the need to leave these following things?

1) FATHER & MOTHER. Jesus, in answering the questions of the Pharisees said, “*For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh*” (Matt. 19:5). He repeats this in Mk. 10:7. Later, Paul confirmed this when writing, “*For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh*” (Eph. 5:31). One part of a successful marriage is the fact the would-be-husband and the would-be-wife understand they are “leaving” their parents’ homes to establish a new one.

2) GIFT. Upon the mountain Jesus said, “*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. 5:24). When brethren are at odds with one another, it affects the value of their worship. In fact, it invalidates it. Jesus’ instruction puts a priority upon mending the relationship, then come and offer your worship. If today there are issues between a

member of God’s family and you, fix them!

3) THE NINETY-NINE. Jesus spoke of a shepherd who would “*leave the ninety and nine (sheep) in the wilderness, and go after that which is lost, until he find it*” (Lk. 15:4; Matt. 18:12). This is a simple lesson from the Lord about the immense value of a lost soul. It is imperative someone who is lost is sought after. Let us not grow lax in our duty to help find and save the lost (Jam. 5:19-20).

4) THE PRINCIPLES OF THE DOCTRINE OF CHRIST.

The Hebrew writer announced there was a time to be “*leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ*” and to “*go on unto perfection*” (Heb. 6:1). In Heb. 5:14, the writer notes there were those who “*ought to be teachers*” but had the need to be taught again. We need to be the sort who have mastered the basics and ready to move on to “*meatier*” matters. This only occurs as a result of diligent Bible study (II Tim. 2:15).

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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