

LECTURESHIP

I had the opportunity to attend the Southeast Institute of Biblical Studies lectures this past week. I enjoyed the lectures and the fellowship a great deal. It is always enjoyable to go back to where it all began for me and see some of the same people still there. As long as I have known, the Karns church of Christ has always been a great congregation. The fellowship with members of the body of Christ is always enjoyable, especially with other preachers that you have known through the years. Thanks to the West End church of Christ for providing an excellent meal on Tuesday evening. The theme for the Lectureship this year was "Seek: Discipling for Jesus." This is a series of five years of lectures on the theme of "From Sinner to Saint." In 2014 it was "Lost: Needing Jesus" In 2015 it was "Faith: Responding to Jesus". Last year was "Grow: Becoming Like Jesus" Next year will be "Hope: Longing for Jesus." The school has the possibility of have ten or more new students in the fall. I believe that Will Hanstein and the rest of the staff are doing an excellent job.

It was also good to be back home to preach Sunday morning and to hear and see the young men conduct the services Sunday night. Kaleb did an excellent job. You could tell he had spent some time putting together what he wanted to say and then presenting it in a way for us to understand. He also used PowerPoint and did a great job with that as well. The other young men who participated (and some not so young) were Gavin, Dallas, Ethan, Craig, and John W., Glen, Steve and Jacky Sr. If I missed anyone I apologize. It is encouraging to see these young people develop spiritually.

—L. Cole

PRACTICAL WISDOM IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

In Colossians 2:14 the apostle Paul said that Jesus nailed the Old Testament law to His cross. Christ is the end of the Old Testament law and is the mediator of a New Covenant, the New Testament (Rom. 10:4; Heb. 12:24). It is the doctrine of Christ that is our authority and the word that will judge us in the last day (Matt. 28:18; John. 12:48; Col. 3:17; 2 Pet. 1:3; 2 John. 9-11). At being the case, why do we use the Old Testament at all? What is its purpose? Does it have any value for us? Why is it even included in our Bible? Thankfully, Paul answered that question for us a long time ago. In regard to the Old Testament Paul wrote, "Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come" (1 Cor. 10:11). He also wrote "For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope" (Rom. 15:4).

We would have a difficult time understanding God's will in the New Testament if we did not know and understand at least some of the Old Testament. Much of the New Testament consists of quotations and allusions from the Old Testament. There are many lessons and principles found in the Old Testament that teach us about God and help mold and shape us into the people that He would have us to be. Although we do not live under the Old Testament law, there can be no doubt that the Old Testament itself is very valuable to New Testament Christians.

The Old Testament is full of practical wisdom for everyday living. In his first epistle to the young preacher Timothy, Paul said that the Old Testament scriptures were “able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus” (2 Tim. 3:15). From the Pentateuch to the Prophets, every page is overflowing with the wisdom of God.

We learn great things from the people of the Old Testament. Men and women like Noah, Sarah, Abraham, Isaac, Moses and others whom the writer of Hebrews described as a “great cloud of witnesses” (Heb. 12:1) teach us what it means to live a life of humble service to Jehovah. They are living examples of the fact that “faith is the victory” (1 John 5:4), and their example encourages us to press onward. Daniel teaches us how to be courageous in the midst of adversity (Dan. 6). He reminds us that “the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men” (Dan. 4:17) and therefore our faith is steadfast and sure. David teaches us that even a man after God’s own heart can sin, but that the greatness of a man is defined by how he deals with that sin (2 Sam. 11; Ps. 51). Joshua and Nehemiah both teach us what it means to be a great leader of God’s people. The prophets provide a steadfast example of the reason and conviction needed to preach the preaching that God bids us (Jonah 3:2) and know that He stands with His faithful servants (Jer. 1:8). The Old Testament gives us a unique glimpse into both the good and the bad of the lives of a number of men and women—their beauty and their warts. By studying their lives we are able to understand how God expects His children to live in this world.

The Old Testament also teaches us about God and how we are to approach Him. We learn that God is holy and can have nothing to do with sin (Lev. 11:44-45; Hab. 1:13). In Leviticus, we learn about the devastating impact of sin and the role of sacrifice in atonement. We also see the wisdom and love of God as His plan to save man from sin is revealed little by little throughout the Old Testament scriptures. The Old Testament teaches us how to approach God in prayer (e.g., Ps. 51, 86); how to respect and love the word of God (Ps. 119), how to be wise and bring Him honor (Prov. 1), and how important it is to obey Him with the right attitude and motive (1 Sam. 15:22; Mic. 6:8). It shows us what an obedient faith really looks like (Gen. 12:1-4; Rom. 4). It warns us of the dangers of looking backward (Gen. 19:26; Luke 17:31-32), and it vividly describes the vanity of pursuing true value apart from service to God (Ecclesiastes). Indeed the Old Testament is full of great divine truths, principles, and practical wisdom that are still very applicable today. Though we do not live under its law it is still of great value to us in our desire to please God. It truly does make us “wise unto salvation” (2 Tim. 3:15).—
CW, Cody Westbrook, 4/17

***The bulletin has changed due to Postal Regulations concerning the size of the bulletin. Sorry about not getting them out last week.*

THOSE PRIVILEGED TO SERVE

MAY 7, 2017

Coordinator Mitchell Brooks
Announcements Jacky Carver Sr.
Scripture Reading..I Tim. 3:14,15....John Leonard

Song Leader Glen Reece
Opening Prayer. Steve Anderson

Lord's Supper-Preside: Roger Draper
Serve: George Clay, Austin Clay,
Kaleb Bush, Gavin Spurlin
Closing Prayer.....Brian Smith

Greeter— Billy & Karen Halliburton
Greeter— Rachel, Kimmie

Count Offering. Dallas Eddie
. Kaleb Bush

AM Sermon— The Church-God's People
PM Sermon— The Mercy of God

WORSHIP---SUNDAY---6:00 PM

Announcements Jacky Carver Sr.
Song Leader. Glen Reece
Scripture Reading,..Eph. 2:4-7 John W. Leonard

Opening Prayer Roger Draper
Lord's Supper Mitchell Brooks
. Kaleb Bush
Closing Prayer George Clay

BIBLE STUDY WEDNESDAY---7:00 PM

Announcements Jacky Carver Sr.
Song Leader Glen Reece

First Prayer. Billy Halliburton
Opening Prayer George Clay
Closing Prayer Dallas Eddie

Prepare Communion for **MAY**.
Patsy Reece

Note: If you are not able to fulfill your assignment listed above, **please notify the coordinator** so that he can find a replacement.

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Arnold Rich, Sue Buckner, Ruth Smuckers,
Neil Marshall, Randy Martin

PANTRY ITEMS:. This week: Laundry Detergent

OUR RECORD OF LOVE FOR CHRIST

04/30/17

Wednesday.	46
Worship Sunday AM	73
Bible Study Sunday AM	56
Daily Bible Readers	39
Worship Sunday PM	48

UPCOMING EVENTS:

May 7th. Elders, Deacons, Preacher meeting

READING SCHEDULE FOR MAY

01 II Chron 28-30	16 Job 8-10
02 II Chron 31-33	17 Job 11-13
03 II Chron 34-36	18 Job 14-16
04 Ezra 1-3	19 Job 17-19
05 Extra 4-7	20 Job 20-23
06 Ezra 8-10	21 Job 24-27
07 Neh 1-4	22 Job 28-30
08 Neh 4-7	23 Job 31-33
09 Neh 8-10	24 Job 34-36
10 Neh 11-13	25 Job 37-39
11 Esther 1-3	26 Job 40-42
12 Esther 4-6	27 Psalm 1-5
13 Esther 7-10	28 Psalm 6-8
14 Job 1-4	29 Psalm 9-11
15 Job 5-7	30 Psalm 12=14
	31 Psalm 15-17