

Prayer List

Wallace
Sheila
Ophelia
Josh
Daniel
Olene

Services:

Sunday

Bible Class 9:00 a.m.
Assembly 9:50 a.m.
Assembly 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday

Bible Class 7:00 p.m.

Pinole Tidings

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Elders:

Brad Behrens - bradbehrens@pinolechurchofchrist.com
Michael Odom - MichaelOdom@pinolechurchofchrist.com
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This Week's Question:

When Adonijah tried to grab the throne of Israel, what priest took his side?

Answer To Last Week's Question:

The Babylonians - 1 Kings 17:30

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THE LURE OF THE EASY WAY

"And Jeroboam said in his heart, 'Now shall the kingdom return to the house of David: if this people go up to do sacrifice in the house of the Lord at Jerusalem, then shall the heart of this people turn again unto their Lord, even unto Rehoboam king of Judah, and they shall kill me, and go again to Rehoboam king of Judah'" (1 Kgs. 12:26,27).

Whether or not Jeroboam's fears were well founded is uncertain. However, of one thing we can be sure, he was more concerned about the people's loyalty to him than to God. To accomplish his aims, he shrewdly baits his trap with something that entices most all men -- the lure of the easy way. He told them, "It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem..." Little did it matter, apparently, that he gave them idols, pretended priests and pagan worship. The important thing was that he provided them with an easy religion -- and that overshadowed all else. They became victims of the easy way.

Many are the mortals who have succumbed to the lure of the easy way, both spiritually and otherwise. Our advertising agencies have learned the devil's sales pitch well. They tell you how to lose weight -- the easy way. They offer easy ways to quit smoking, to achieve physical fitness or financial independence. People haven't changed much since Jeroboam's day. They still fall for the same old bait, "the easy way", and in doing so have filled the prisons, swelled the

welfare rolls and lengthened unemployment lines (Not to mention the irretrievable waste of time, talent and potential).

And, as in Jeroboam's day, the easy way is still a popular way in religion. The prospects of having to "go up to Jerusalem" (or even across town) is still too much for too many. They would take the denying self out of following Christ; the giving of diligence out of seeking approval; and the striving out of entering in at the strait gate. Such would have the benefits without the bother. As Jesus says of others, "They have their reward."

As might be expected, even the Lord's church has been touched by the lure of the easy way. It is felt in our teaching program when preachers and teachers find it "too much" to make adequate preparation of their lessons and when Bible class students find it "too much" to study and prepare assigned work. It affects our visitation program when members find it "too much" to leave their comfortable homes and TV programs to call on the sick or unfaithful. It affects our personal evangelism program when brethren think it "too much" to try and teach others the way of salvation. It affects the purity of the church when we think it "too much" to finally discipline the unruly among us. Of all things that contribute to the weakening of the church, none is more influential than taking the easy way.

The narrow way can never be the easy way. Not only are the ways different, they lead to different destinations (Matt. 7: 14). "Going up to Jerusalem" may require self-denial, sacrifice and hard work but it's the way of the cross -- and that leads home. ----- Dan S. Shipley, via, Gospel Power, Vol. 15, No. 18, May 4, 2008.

God's Prophetic Word Carey Scott

The interesting thing about many of the prophecies of the Old Testament is that many of them have dual purpose and application. Of course they were spoken and written to the people of the prophet's day, and the purpose was to get them to repent and return to serving God who had provided for them. As we read the O.T. we see that the people did not heed the message of the

prophets and paid a physical price. As we are instructed in the N.T. we are to learn from what was written in the O.T. (Romans 15:4; 1 Corinthians 10:11). One particular prophecy is found in Isaiah 9 and 10. There are four woes pronounced upon God's people that not only applied to them, but to us as well. Vs 8-12 speaks of those who plan without God. Vs. 13-17 speaks of those who trust in mankind rather than God. Vs 18-21 speaks of those who are selfish and have no respect or consideration of others and especially God. Chap 10, vs 1-4 speaks of those who rely upon the government or others instead of God. The problem that they faced was pride and arrogance, and everyone knew it (Isaiah 9:8-9). That is exactly the same problem we as a people have in this country. Everybody knows it, and unless it turns around, we as a people will fall under the same punishment as those of the past. What we need is to learn the words of Micah 6:8 iHe has told you, O man, what is good; And what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? Friends, if we want our world to be a better place, we need to follow this spiritual advice. We need to treat others fairly and rightly, we need to do acts of kindness to ourselves, our families, our neighbors, our friends, our coworkers and anybody else. We need to submit to God and walk in fear and reverence before Him. If you need to learn how, let us help you. Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, (Acts 16:31), repent of your sins (Acts 8:22), confess His name (Romans 10:9-10), and be baptized for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38, Mark 16:15-16). This sequence of actions will put you INTO Christ where you will receive spiritual blessings (Ephesians 1:3) As a new Christian, you will need to grow in spirituality (2 Peter 3:18) and to learn to do God's will and be faithful unto death (Revelation 2:10). May God bless you in your study of His word.