

Prayer List

Sierra
Gene
Veda
Judy
The Williams' Family
Ophelia

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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This Week's Question:

Who was removed from her position as queen mother because she had made an idol?

Answer To Last Week's Question:

Hezekiah - 2 Kings 18:13

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The Everlasting Gospel

by Rod Boston

“IF THE FOUNDATIONS are destroyed, what can the righteous do?” (Psalm 11:3). David’s loyalists were giving their strong defense for what they considered to be sound advice. Saul was in power and in desperate pursuit of David’s life. The environment had changed, government was corrupt, the structure of justice has collapsed, and everything that men usually rely and depend upon was crumbling. When the foundations are destroyed, what can a righteous man do but flee to the mountains—run for his life? David’s response was simply, “The Lord is on His throne and I put my trust in Him.”

An ambitious young man in his mid thirties seems to have everything going for him: a beautiful wife and healthy children, a house on the hill, the best cars, and swift advancement up the corporate ladder. Then he discovers that he has advanced lymphoma, a deadly cancer of the lymph system. When the foundations crumble, what is a man to do?

A man in his forties begins to realize he is not going to reach his goals. When he was younger, he always had the hope of “plenty of time.” Now his hair is thinning and he is

starting to get a depressing sense of his mortality. Time is running out. The confidence he used to have about himself begins to falter. His dreams are becoming dust, and uncertainty and doubt invade his life. When the foundations of a man's life begin to crumble, what is a man to do?

The significance of the everlasting gospel shines no brighter than in contrast to the insecurity of our rapidly changing world. Peter drives this point home in writing: "All flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withers, and its flower falls away, but the word of the Lord endures forever." What word, Peter? Where do we find this everlasting word? "Now this is the word by which the gospel was preached unto you" (1 Peter 1:24–25).

The most precious thing about the gospel is that, in being God's word, in being true, and in being our guide and comfort, it is also eternal. Heaven and earth will pass away, but the word of God will endure forever (Matthew 24:35). After we have set our hope in the revealed promises of God, and after we have built our lives upon the foundation of God's word, there will never be some last minute disappointment, some unexpected event or realization that undermines our hope. There will never be a truth-quake!

In 2 Timothy 3:1–13, the apostle Paul describes our world and the people of our world with coarse and frightening words. He says that the last days will be dangerous times, fierce times (verses 1ff.). He reveals that it will be a time of depravity when men will have corrupt minds (verse 8). And, finally, he says it will be a time of ever-increasing deception (verse 13).

In all of this uncertainty, in all this upheaval and savagery, how do we make it? How do our families survive? How do we prosper? Paul is precise with his young son in the faith: the Scriptures, Timothy! Continue in the things you have learned and been assured of from the Scriptures! Why? "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God ..." What

shall he preach? What do others need to hear? Preach the word, Timothy, the word! (2 Timothy 3:14–4:2).

It is so fitting that in the verses which follow (4:6–16) Paul speaks of the eminent sacrifice of his own life, how Demas had forsaken him, how Alexander had done him much harm, and how all men had deserted him. The events of life really can turn sour. But that's the point! There are no certainties to life, no guarantees, except that we are going to be mistreated, misunderstood, suffer loss, get old, get sick, and eventually die and leave all of our possessions behind.

So what is worth our devotion, our desire, our trust, if it is not God and His word? Money? Wisdom of men? Health? Youth? Only the everlasting word of God, that changes not, can carry our hope and confidence in this life into eternity. Jesus said, "Assuredly, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My sake and the gospel's, who shall not receive a hundredfold now in this time ... and in the age to come eternal life" (Mark 10:29–30).

When Paul told Timothy of his troubles, he also said, "The Lord stood with me ..." and of his sufferings for the gospel he said, "I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I have committed to Him until that Day" (2 Timothy 4:17; 1:12).

We live in rapidly changing times, dangerous times, perilous times, insecure times. How shall we fare? When the foundations of life crumble, what shall we do? Our changeless God, our incorruptible and eternal God, equips us with His changeless and eternal truth, the gospel. The Lord is on His throne, and we will stand if we place our trust in Him.