

THE GREENWOOD BULLETIN

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VOLUME 9 NO. 44

January 6, 2013

What Has Happened To Us?

By Steve Niemeier

*"How lonely sits the city
That was full of people!
How like a widow is she,
Who was great among the
nations!
The princess among the
provinces
Has become a slave!"
Lamentations 1:1*

Lamentations is a book in the Bible that many do not read nor want to read. It is a book lamenting the fact that Jerusalem has basically died and this is the funeral message about that once great city.

Jeremiah spent just over 40 years prophesying and preaching his heart out to warn the people of the upcoming doom. Now that the doom has come he is lamenting.

One might ask the question of how could this happen – Jerusalem was a city of importance to the people of God. How could that city be destroyed and taken into captivity? In shock no doubt

the residents of Jerusalem must have asked that question over and over to themselves after the fall of the once proud city.

Jeremiah got so frustrated with the people that he stated in Jeremiah 20:7-18 that he wanted to quit teaching – quit prophesying – quit warning – yet the word of God was in his heart like a burning fire and he could not hold it back.

Even with this compassion and this energy and the Lord giving him encouragement WHAT HAPPENED?

Simply put – the people quit listening – the people quit obeying – the people wanted to do it their way and lost sight of the way of the Lord!

Proverbs 14:34 states that ***"Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people."*** How true this is and history confirms the accuracy of this statement from the wise man. Yet, we ask how the people could not see this coming – especially with all the warning from Jeremiah?

Proverbs 15:12 may help us as we read ***"A scoffer does not love one who corrects him. Nor will he go to the wise."*** Today we have become scoffers it

seems. We have the warnings – we have the history – we have been given the direction to go – yet we continue to do the things that have led us to the point we are now facing in our families – in our communities – in our schools – in our country and yes in our local congregation.

So we ask – “What has happened to us?” We know longer grant the Lord the one day that is stated that is His day (Revelation 1:10). It is not family day – it is not sports day – it is not planting the garden day – it is not visiting day – it is not shopping day - it is the LORD'S DAY!

It is the day to worship Him – regardless of the time the services start or the length of the service – no matter if it is one long period of time or two shorter periods of time – it is the LORD'S DAY – the day to partake of the Lord's Supper as a memorial – to sing and pray together – to spend time in the public study of God's word and to spend time listening to a sermon prepared from God's word.

What has happened to us? We want to adjust our service times to God around our schedules – we have failed to uphold the words of Jesus in Matthew 6:33 ***“But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.”***

What has happened to us? We have forgotten the warnings

from Jesus Himself found in Matthew 6:24 – ***“No one can serve two masters; for he either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.”***

When our country falls and it will if we do not change immediately – the reasons will lie in families faltering – causing communities to falter – causing schools to falter – and the blame will be right back on the ones who say they are soldiers of Christ – just as the blame was on those who claimed to be the children of God that caused the destruction of Jerusalem. It will be a very sad day for our children and grandchildren when it is said of this once proud nation.

***“How lonely sits the nation
That was full of people!
How like a widow is she,
Who was great among the
nations!
The princess among the
provinces
Has become a slave!”***

Let us heed the warnings of Jesus:

***“I tell you, no but unless you
repent you will all likewise
perish.”***

Luke 13:3

As we start this New Year let us renew our commitment to God and His plan through His Son Jesus Christ. Let us start this now beginning with us as individuals and then practicing this in our homes and in this congregation and then let it filter to the outside. Our nation depends upon it – but more importantly our souls depend upon our immediate actions!

Focus on

Evangelism

By Dan Barker

"Him we Preach"

The apostle Paul said this in Col. 1:28-29, "Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus. To this end I also labor, striving according to His working which works in me mightily."

In this article I want to focus on the thought of "preaching Him, preaching Jesus" or "Him we preach" as Paul said above. When we are involved in the work of personal evangelism—if we understand our labor at hand...we are preaching Jesus.

I have always been impressed with the account of Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch in Acts 8:26-40. You will remember that Philip, the evangelist, was instructed to meet

up with this eunuch as he returned home from worshipping in Jerusalem. Philip, as he came near to the eunuchs' chariot, heard the eunuch reading from Isaiah and Philip asked him, "Do you understand what you are reading?" and the eunuch said, "How can I, unless someone guides me.?" (v.30-31)

Then the eunuch asked Philip to join him in his chariot and then this famous Bible study begins! As the study begins they read Isaiah 53:7-8 again and the eunuch asked Philip a question about the reading...he said, "I ask you, of whom does the prophet say this, of himself or of some other man?" And Philip said, "**that's a great question!**" (sorry, that's what I would have said), actually Acts 8:35 tells us that, "Philip opened his mouth, and beginning at this scripture, preached Jesus to him." We know that the eunuch obeys the gospel of Christ and goes on his way rejoicing because his sins had been forgiven!

But what I want you to notice is that even though this was a Bible study with only Philip and the eunuch, a one on one study...the passage says Philip preached Jesus to him.

What's my point? We usually think of preaching being a man in the pulpit, don't we? That of course is true, but when we are involved in

teaching our family and friends, we are to be “preaching Jesus” to them.

We are told again in Acts 8:1, that after...”a great persecution arose against the church which was at Jerusalem,” that the Christians, except the apostles, “were scattered throughout the region.” Now what did these Christians do? (v.4) says, “those who were scattered, went everywhere preaching the word.” This preaching wasn’t done in a pulpit, but when they met people as they were scattered!

We need to learn from their example—they preached Jesus. We need to be preaching Him...”warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus.” (Col. 1:28) If only we had Paul’s attitude...”necessity is laid upon me, yes, woe is me, if I do not preach the gospel!” (1 Cor. 9:16b)

A Special Saturday In January

January 26, 2013

9:00 AM until 12:00 Noon

Our Next Gospel Meeting

March 3-8, 2013

David Lanius

Remember

Evening Services Today Start At 3:00 P.M.

All The Time

By Mavhuto Hameda

ALL THE TIME:

Good time, bad time, night time, day time, work time, off time, sad time, happy time, in the mean time God is thinking of you all the time. “Trust in him at all times; ye people, pour out your heart before him: God is a refuge for us. Selah” (Psalm 62:8, KJV).

Remember: “Blessed are they that keep judgment, and he that doeth righteousness at all times” (Psalm 106:3, KJV).