

Heeding Examples From The Old Testament

By Mike Riley

For many, the Old Testament is the “boring” part of the Bible. Their reasoning is that it contains little in the way of instruction for the Christian, certainly not like the more practical epistles in the New Testament. But in one of those epistles, the apostle Paul says, “For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures, we might have hope” (Rom 15:4 NASB).

Thus, the Old Testament is filled with examples by which we might learn, both about how to serve God (and how not to), and about the character of God Himself. To neglect the Old Testament would be to rob ourselves of much of what we can know about the Creator and Sustainer of this world.

For example, one of the most maligned books in all of Scripture is the book of Leviticus. Perceived as boring because of its detailing of many of the laws by which the Israelites were governed, most people would be happy if it were simply skipped over in our studies. But doing so would deprive us of great lessons on the importance of serving God.

There is a vital lesson on the authority of God’s “silence” in Leviticus 10 (the story of Nadab and Abihu). There are details of the rituals involved in the sacrifices for sin, which point to the serious nature of sin in the eyes of God. Leviticus 20 teaches us of God’s displeasure with those who would commit spiritual adultery, particularly those who participated in the barbaric offering of their own children as sacrifices to the idol god Molech (Lev 20:1-5).

But God is also displeased with other forms of irreligion, such as the practice of witchcraft and the attempts to contact the dead (Lev 20:6-8). God expected worship of Him alone (Matt 4:10; cf. Deut 6:13; Deut 10:20). And He made serious provision for the punishment of those who would “play the harlot” with other gods (Hos 3:1-4). He will not tolerate such from us either.

Those who would commit such spiritual adultery in the Old Testament would find that such worship was vain because, in times of true need, these gods could not help them (see the contest on Mount Carmel between Elijah and the prophets of Baal (1 Kings 18:20-40). In addition, the worship of other gods proved to be costly, for the punishment was death by stoning.

What is the cost of following other gods today (be they money, fame, lust, etc.)? While it is true that the followers of idolatry will not be stoned, they do not escape. Still, the gods of men cannot help in times of trouble.

In fact, like the character of many men, these false gods are said to laugh at their follower’s problems. And the punishment for service to these gods is still death, albeit spiritual, for it is separation from God for eternity (Isa 59:1-2; Rom 6:23).

The Old Testament is filled with such important teachings, and we would be well-served to “take heed” of the examples of old (Heb 3:7-12).



STERLINGTON

Church of Christ



P.O. Box 82
1095 Highway 2
Sterlington, Louisiana 71280
www.sterlingtoncoc.com

Sunday Morning Bible Classes - 9:30 AM
Sunday Morning Worship - 10:30 AM
Sunday Evening Worship - 5:00 PM
Wednesday Evening Classes - 6:00 PM.

4/16/23

Welcome Visitors

If you are seeking a church home, we hope that you will consider joining with us. We are a growing congregation, dedicated to worshiping in truth and spirit. Please fill out the Visitor's Card and place it in the collection plate!

Elders:

Todd Chapman
Paul Simpson

Deacons:

Wayne Fowler David Garris
Billy Granger Buddy Hollis

Preacher:

Don Delukie

Those to Serve

Today

Announcements-Todd Chapman **Opening Prayer-** Gary Harris

Communion- Rick Cook **Closing Prayer-** Larry Randolph

April 23rd

Announcements- Wayne Fowler **Opening prayer-** Jerry McDonald

Communion- Lyle Russell **Closing Prayer-** Damien Miller

Announcements

—**SCOC Ladies Day:** Our congregation is hosting a Ladies Day on **May 6th**. Save the date! More details will be announced soon.

—**Question & Answer Series:** There will be no Question & Answer Series in April. **May 7th** will be our next Question and Answer Series. Please submit your questions via the church email address SCOC2006@att.net or to Don.

—**Potluck & Wedding Shower:** There will be a Wedding Shower for Brandon Rogers & Sydney Leija on Sunday, **May 28th** following the potluck. They are registered at Dillards, The Muffin Tin and Southern Creations (in Rayville) and on theknot.com. They will be getting married in June 2023.

—**Fish Fry:** There will be a Fish Fry on Saturday, **June 3rd** at 5 PM. Everyone is invited!

—**Children's Home Collection:** Our congregation is collecting items for the Children's Home in Paragould, AR. Collection boxes are by the nursery. A list of needed items is in the foyer.

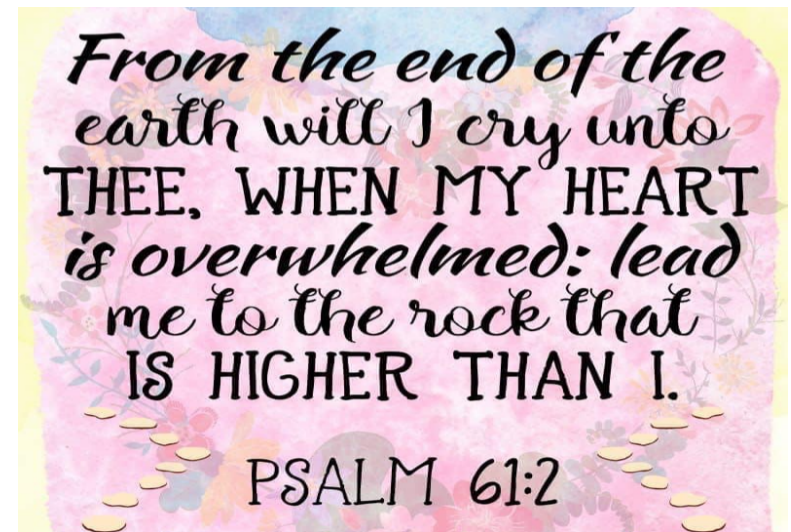
Please Pray For:

Gena Granger, Ken White, June Chapman, Joyce Moses, Jonah Scharf, Dwain Flowers, Judy Strickland, Chris Reppond, John Alred, Steve Torres, Terry Wagner-Matthews.

Bereaved: Families of Steve Perry, Teresa Moody.

Continue to Pray For:

Linda Garris, Sharon White-Ross, James & Lorene Johnson, Shirley Goodwin, Bobby Barker, Gail Sewell, Malea Zuber, Bobby Simmons, Max Aubel, Tricia Muse, Elizabeth Hollis, Terrance Dawson, Jamie Ross, Charlie McDaniel Jr.



April birthdays

10 - Sydney Scharf
12 - Joanne Fowler
15 - Keith Brister
27 - James Johnson

April anniversaries

4 - Ronnie and Janice Hayes
28 - Larry and Joanne Randolph

