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BIBLE LESSON TEXTS

Sunday June 21, 2020
Luke 2:8-20
Shepherds & Jesus
Babies depend on us greatly



Wednesday June 24, 2020
Luke 2:21-39
Baby Jesus at Temple
We can see Jesus if we live for Him.

GOD'S SALVATION PLAN

HEAR the Gospel - Romans 10:17
BELIEVE on the Lord & His Word - Mark 16:16;
John 8:24
REPENT of our sins - Luke 13:3,5; Acts 17:30
CONFESS Christ - Matthew 10:32; Luke 12:8;
Romans 10:9
BE BAPTIZED for the remission of sins - Acts
2:38; Mark 16:16; Galatians 3:27; 1 Peter
3:21
Live a FAITHFUL, dedicated life - Revelation
2:10; 2 Peter 1:5-10

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Johnny Thomas 903/628-1292
Russell Tyndell 903/748-2672
Deacons: John David Thomas Mike Raney
Scott Hobson Jody Thomas
Blake Tyndell Jamey Thomas
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Happenings in God's Family

Vol.49 No.24 June 21, 2020

A World of Distractions

We live in a world of distractions. Cell phones, television, romance novels, fantasy movies, electronic games, online videos, and many other diversions frequently shift our attention from where our focus should be. To be fair, not all distraction is bad. Sometimes we need distraction to rest our bodies, minds, and spirits from periods of intense work. Distractions may be unrelated to entertainment. We can be distracted by problems: at work, at home, financially, emotionally, physically.

Distractions are problematic when they interrupt, delay, or prevent what is important; when we substitute the distraction for what is real, or when we cease focusing on what we need to be concerned about immediately. When we are driving, distractions are dangerous and deadly. When we are working, distractions create loss of productivity, delays in production schedules, and decreased income. When we are worshipping, distractions result in formalism, Pharisaism, and heartlessness toward God (Matthew 15:9), which is not what Jesus wants.

How do we manage our distractions? First, we must have the right values. When we value the wrong things, we will be lured by distractions to do the wrong thing. Right values come from God's word (Matthew 4:4). Prioritizing these values will reduce distractions (Matthew 6:33). Second, we must focus on others instead of self (Philippians 2:1-4). When we are just trying to entertain self, distractions become the main focus. Investing time in other people means we are not just thinking about self. Third, we need self-control and discipline (1 Corinthians 9:27). When we cannot control our behavior, we pursue distraction. When we have no discipline, distractions take over. Finally, we must spend time in Bible study and prayer (1 Thess.5:16-22). These daily activities will help us in all of the above.

God bless you, and I love you.

Kevin Cauley

Know who you are following Part 1.

In the original 1883 story of *The Adventures of Pinocchio* (pre-Disney), the title character is lead astray by a pair of con-men type characters, a “friend” named Candlewick, and other distractions. Pinocchio’s naivety and youthful desires put him at high-risk as he is lured away from his tasks and assignments. He is not wise nor wary in his contacts and does not censor those who would tempt him. Many such stories exist to help us realize the value of maturing with regard to our priorities, social contacts, and work ethics. This kind of lesson helps us mature spiritually as well as function in society, especially if we recognize some of God’s instructions along these lines. Indeed, we ought to work hard to become “those who by reason of use have exercised their senses to discern good and evil” (Heb 5:12-14) (potentially effective teachers).

Don’t be blind or willingly ignorant. The Apostle Paul mentions in the New Testament “We are not ignorant of his devices” (2 Cor 2:11), referring to Satan’s ways and means of leading us astray in life. James amplifies the message in his epistle, chapter 1, giving us a run-down of the way temptation occurs:

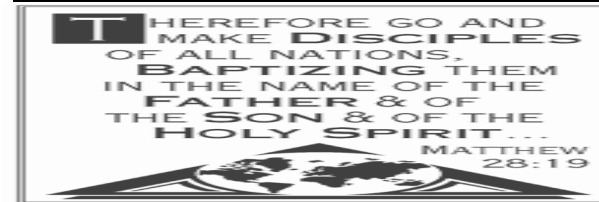
(14) But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.

(15) Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.

The word picture is that of a baited hook for a fish, or some enticement into a trap for an animal. In animals, we expect and observe the simple instinct behavior and wariness that is only gained with experience. People, however, can avoid many problems in life by proceeding carefully and with the right motives. Villains of *Scooby Doo* cartoons invariably followed convincing bait Scooby and Shaggy into a trap. Simply seeing this convincing depiction over and over again, perhaps we can acknowledge many traps are avoidable?

Heed warnings from proven sources. Wise King Solomon gave elaborate cautions (>20 X’s in Proverbs) to his son regarding strange women and other vices such as alcohol. Scripture is full of those warnings and cautions and examples that are “written for our admonition.” While we cannot know all the dangers and problems in life beforehand, we do know who WE are up against (the most experienced of hunters and predators). WE ought to be sober and vigilant (1 Pet 5:7-8). We’ll expedite our journey to Heaven and help others along the way if we are focused on the ONE who has gone before us (Hebrews 12). “He knows the way He taketh, and I will walk with Him.” jp

Please Pray For these in need	
Don Grider	Clara Inman
James Love	Faith Salfen
Robin Upson	Enoies Curbow
Billy Johnson	Shina Shaw
Amanda Georgakis and family	Juanita Higginbotham
Winnie Tucker	Blake Drinkard
Sara Jo Vance	Meg Shelton
Juanita Shelton	Marie McPherson
Keith & Helen Clark	Charles Lansford
Miki Fowler	



Let’s pray for and support the brethren at De Kalb as the church will be hosting an evangelism seminar with Rob Whitaker July 5-7. More details to follow.

Birthdays

Johnny Thomas June 21
Mike Raney June 25

Anniversary!

M/M Russell Tyndell June 21



PANTRY NEEDS
Canned soup or Ramen Noodles will help stock our pantry.

June 21, 2020 Servants	
Announcements: Johnny Thomas	
AM Prayers	PM Prayers
Jimmy Smith	
Ernest Shelton	
Lord’s Table	
John David	Jody Thomas
Jamey Thomas	Ben Dooley
June 28, 2020 Servants	
Announcements: Johnny Thomas	
Am Prayers	PM Prayers
Scott Hobson	
Monty Crawford	
Lord’s Table	
John David	Jody Thomas
Jamey Thomas	Ben Dooley
<i>If for some reason you cannot serve, please call Mike Raney-903-559-4141, or John D. Thomas-903-490-5572</i>	

OUR FAITH IN ACTION SUNDAY, June 14, 2020

Bible Classes----- n/a
AM Worship----- 80
PM Worship----- n/a
Contribution----- \$3,233.00
Average to Date ----- \$3,039.51
Budget ----- \$3,100.00
Wednesday, June 10-----