

THE MESSENGER



"... How beautiful are the feet of those who bring glad tidings of good things!" Romans 10:15

A Weekly Publication of the Christians Meeting at
2291 Highway Z, Wentzville, Missouri
Website: westlakechurchofchrist.org

Dedicated to the Proclamation of the Truth in the Spirit of Love (Ephesians 4:15)

Volume 12, Issue 28

Evangelist and Editor:
Dempsey Collins

July 24, 2011

Listen to PROVE ALL THINGS on 730 AM WKRE, Sunday mornings from 8:15 to 8:30

Certainty in the Midst of Uncertainty

by Rick Brumback

If there is one thing that is certain about life, it is that life is basically uncertain. What do we say? *"The best laid plans of mice and men. . ."* In 1929 when the stock market crashed, men jumped from building windows to their deaths because they were suddenly financially ruined. No matter where we look, the unexpected raises its head to the surprise and possible dismay of the victims. Insurances industries are established upon this truth.

Solomon noted that uncertainty is rampant in life when he wrote, *"I returned, and saw under the sun, that the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, neither yet bread to the wise, nor yet riches to men of understanding, nor yet favor to men of skill; but time and chance happeneth to all,"* (Ecclesiastes 9:11). Warner Brothers made a cartoon about the race between the tortoise and the hare (Bugs Bunny) putting Solomon's words in a more familiar scene. The very war that preceded the founding of our great country should not have been won by a largely untrained and under-equipped colonial army, especially as they faced the greatest military machine of the era. In a country where the people who educate our children are paid barely enough to survive while entertainers and athletes earn money beyond the dreams of avarice, who can make heads or tails of the variability of life? As we said, the only predictable thing about life is its unpredictability. Perhaps that's why Jesus said, *"Take no thought for tomorrow; for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil (calamity-RB) thereof,"* (Matthew 6:34). One could go batty trying to lay plans far in advance and then staking all on them. The very last part of Solomon's statement above says chance happens to all, and this is something we must realize. Rather than trying to make sense out of the uncertainty of life (a mind-boggling venture), we should rearrange our thinking so that we are not upset when things go awry.

This shift in thinking must involve certain things that do not change, all of which give us an anchor that the disappointments of life cannot dislodge.

At the end of the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus told his audience to be like a man building upon a rock, which does not shift or change, as opposed to the man building upon sand (Matthew 7:24-27). Not surprisingly, Jesus and His Gospel form this rock, and there are several unchanging truths that deserve our attention.

First, we need to remember that this world is not our home and our interests should not be consumed here. Colossians 3:1, 2 says, *"If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth."*

Second, we need to remember that if we remain true through all the ups and downs of life, we have a reward awaiting (James 5:7-11).

Third, we must remember that all men, great and small, must stand before God and give an account for the deeds done in this life, and we certainly don't desire to be found wanting (II Corinthians 5:10).

Fourth, we should remember that there is no certainty to our lifespan, so we must walk uprightly at all times. We may not get another chance to repent after a moment of indulgence, since our life is like a vapor (James 4:14).

Fifth, we cannot forget that our Father has promised to provide what we need to survive (Matthew 6:26-33).

Finally, we must remember that God does not change (James 1:17), Jesus does not change (Hebrews 13:8), and their love for us does not change (Romans 8:35-39). Let us make sure that we do not let the world and its roller-coaster ride cause us to change and forget our first love.

NOTES & NEWS:

Remember to check the prayer list for those with ongoing spiritual weaknesses and physical illnesses.

"...Pray for one another...The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." James 5:16