

Fort Payne church of Christ



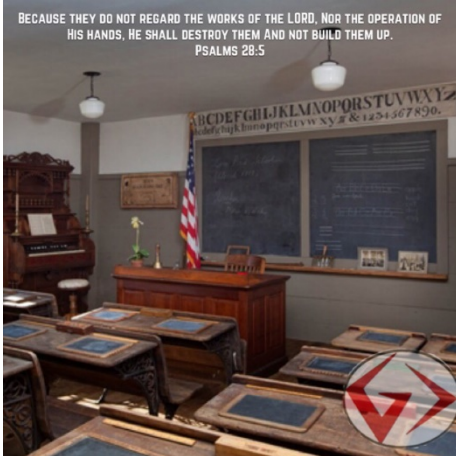
The Weekly Moment

A Weekly Motivational Message

Wednesday, May 2, 2018

(Note: The following is an article shared with me by James Andrews from Ben Stevenson. Ben sends out a weekly email devotional. If you would like to subscribe to this, please visit <http://eepurl.com/di4A7z>.)

Love and Discipline



An old preacher once told me of the good ole' days at his childhood schoolhouse. He said, "Back then if you didn't carry a knife to school you were wearing a dress. You needed the knife to clear out your fort at recess or to whittle while you talked with your friends. We had a paddling room. The teachers called it the principal's office, but we knew what happened in there. That same principal," he continued, "would lead chapel in the afternoon. He would lead prayer and teach scripture right after reminding us of the paddling room that was his office. You see," he finished, "there was a reason

that little boys brought their knives to school and no one was concerned. It was because our principal had a paddling room and led prayer." I dare say that problems found in most schoolhouses today could be cured with this type of love and discipline.

As a child I remember there being a paddling room in my house. On any normal day, it was just my parents' bedroom, but my brothers and I knew what was to happen if we were ever called back there after wrongdoing. We knew that we were going to be punished for refusing to follow the rules of our home. Those same parents that would whip us when we did wrong, took us to church every time that the doors were open. They sat down and talked with us about God's word and worked through their speech and example to teach us the ways of a Christian.

People in the world today often see our Creator as a loving God with infinite mercy. They are correct in that assumption and I am personally thankful for such a God. That being said, many people often overlook the fact that God still has a will for our lives and there are consequences for our refusal to abide by His will. In 1 John 2:4 we read, *"He who says, 'I know Him,' and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in Him."* Also, in John 12:48-50 Jesus says, *"He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him- the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day. For I have not spoken on My own authority; but the Father who sent Me gave Me a command, what I should say and what I should speak. And I know that His command is everlasting life. Therefore, whatever I speak, just as the Father has told Me, so I speak."*

We read in Matthew 11:28, *"Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."* What is lost on most of the world today is that we must come to Him. Man does not invite Jesus anywhere. Man knocks and Christ opens the door (Matthew 7:7-8). If Christ is not in your heart it is not because He hasn't accepted your invitation; it is because you have refused to accept his. God is loving, yes, but He is not weak and waiting for us to come to Him so that He can be fulfilled. The fact is, He wants us to come to Him because He loves us, but He does not feel a void by our absence. By definition, God is self-sustaining, self-existent, and self-sufficient. He always has been and always will be. God needs nothing. He does not need you. **YOU NEED HIM!**

I am thankful that I had parents who could love me enough to demonstrate the love of God, but were willing to discipline me for my wrongdoings. It was, in part, the fear of that discipline that kept me from straying off the proper path on many occasions. God has laid out the pathway to heaven. He has called us to be *"buried with Him (Christ) through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life"* (Romans 6:4). We know that *"if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him"* (Romans 6:8). Just as the all loving and all-powerful Creator provided us with a pathway to heaven through Christ; He also reminds us of the eternal damnation we shall receive if refuse to follow that path. On the day of judgement He will say to us one of two things: *"Come, you blessed of My father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world,"* or *"Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels"* (Matthew 25:34; 41). Let us always be thankful for the mercy and love of God, but always remember that He is just in His judgement of us, and in his eternal discipline for those who refuse to come to Him. May God bless you this week and may you always remember that **God is Greater!**

Think about it.

Here's hoping you'll make the *"most of your minutes"* this week.

Hope to see you at Bible Study tonight.

In Christian Love,

Bob Strickland