

The Transfiguration of Jesus

David Halbrook

Matthew, Mark, and Luke all tell of Jesus' transfiguration (see Matt. 17; Mk. 9; Lk. 9 for more details). One week earlier, Peter confessed Jesus, and Jesus told them of His death and their death (Matt. 16:13-28). One day, Jesus took three disciples to a mountain. He prayed while they slept, but they awoke to see Jesus' face shining as the sun and clothes white as snow—thus they saw His glory. Then they saw Him speaking with Moses and Elijah. Peter, in a state of shock, suggested they build three tabernacles in memorial of Jesus, Moses, and Elijah. From a cloud, God the Father declared, *This is My beloved Son. Hear Him* (saying nothing about Moses and Elijah). Then, everything was back to normal.

In 2 Peter 1:16-21, Peter wrote about this event, a reminder that he was not telling myths but was an eyewitness. Beyond his claim of being an eyewitness, Peter says that the written words of prophets offer undeniable evidence that Scripture is true. **Have you ever doubted the Bible is truly from God?** If so, have you examined the evidence which proves that it is? Consider some of that evidence by listening to *Is the Bible the Word of God?* at QVCOCCOM (Audio Sermons).

Editor's Note: Denial and doubt concerning the ultimate origin of the Bible remind us that people need reasons to believe. Many people may not know the reasons to believe. Use our article in *Arkansas Weekly* to show or remind someone that faith is not blind but built upon solid evidence.

Simple opportunities to teach the lost and assist each other.

Pray for: Ed & Janice White, The Ledgerwoods, Novela Puckett, Noleka Hopper, Samuel Southall, others with ongoing trials, new Christians among us, and Ben Calderon with whom we fellowship (share) as he works in Conway. Also, we are helping Ron Halbrook on his current travels in the Philippines and Australia

Our fall gospel meeting with Donnie Rader is September 13-18.

Join us each Sunday at 10AM (classes), 10:45AM, & 5PM and Wednesday at 7PM.

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The Exhorter

Acts 11:23 *Exhorted them all... cleave unto the Lord*
church of Christ--Quail Valley
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“Watch Ye, Stand Fast In The Faith ...”

Jim McDonald

“... quit ye like men, be strong. Let all that ye do be done in love” (1 Cor. 16:13-14). We doubt that any other quotation from Paul's letters is more familiar than this one. The five different appeals give five different topics for sermons of exhortations to brethren and have doubtlessly been referenced to thousands through the centuries.

“**Watch ye.**” The appeal to watch was found on the tongues of our Savior, Peter, Paul, and other of the apostles, if not in precise terms, certainly in practical significance. Jesus commanded disciples to “Watch” for His return (Matt. 24:42). Peter urged us to watch against Satan's efforts to devour the unsuspecting (1 Pet. 5:8) and Paul, in our text, commanded the Corinthians to “watch” with no specific item for which they were to “watch”. Paul's warnings and exhortations would provide a whole list of things the Corinthians were to watch for. Simply stated, we need to “watch” our hearts, eyes, tongues, and feet.

“**Stand fast in the faith.**” Most of the ills the Corinthians were bogged down in were not doctrine as much as they were violations of morals and sins against brethren or their conscience. But, there were items of faith which Paul addressed and some of those matters had to do with belief in the resurrection, support for proclaimers of the word, and teaching about marriage and spiritual gifts. It is needful that brethren not be moved away from the faith which has been once for all delivered to saints (Jude 3). As Paul neared his life's end, it was good that he could say, “I have kept the faith” (2 Tim. 4:7). Because he had done that (along with having fought a good fight and finished the course), a crown of righteousness was laid up for him.

“Quit ye like men.” There were so many indications of childishness among the Corinthians: their quarreling over men (1 Cor. 3:1-4), their jealous and envy over the possession of spiritual gifts, etc. Jesus likened the people of His day to children in the marketplace, unhappy and dissatisfied with whatever came their way (Matt. 11:16-19). The Ephesians were warned to “be no longer children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine” (Eph. 4:14). God’s people need to grow up and be men: not grumbling, complaining, and always dissatisfied with life but to have eyes of faith and confidence that “I can do all things in him that strengtheneth me” (Phil. 4:13).

“Be strong.” Acting like men will make us strong, with courage to face whatever trial we meet in life; to resist Satan’s enticements, to have strength to help those who are weak in endurance and faith. We are to be strong — in faith.

“Let all that ye do be done in love.” Had the Corinthians walked in this precept, they would have needed no rebuke about lawsuits with one another; wounding and violating the conscience of weaker brethren; for their selfishness when they had eaten meals together. Doing all things in love does not mean we make no effort to correct those who have been overtaken in a trespass for love for the fallen one’s soul demands we do that — it means such correction is made in gentleness, conscience of the weakness one’s own self (Gal. 6:1). Love for one another is the way the world sees we are Christ’s disciples (Jn. 13:35). Love for one another is the way we are able to cover a multitude of sins (1 Pet. 4:8). Surely, there can’t be too much of this and it is certain we can do much, much more in this area than what we do!

Prayer And Praise In The Inner Prison

B. F. Manire

“But about midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns unto God, and the prisoners were listening to them” (Acts 16:25).

The body may be imprisoned; but the soul can neither be confined within walls, nor bound with chains. The feet may be fettered, but the thoughts fly like swift-winged arrows to the angels’ home beyond the skies. The dungeon may throw its more than midnight darkness over the natural vision, and shut from mortal ears the groans and cries of tortured humanity; but the light of divine mercy will shed a halo of glory around the soul; and the murmured prayer or the suppressed sigh, will be heard, as if in tones of thunder, at the throne of God.

Although the bodies of Paul and Silas are bathed in their own blood, their hearts are full of comfort, hope and joy. They regard it as an honor that they are accounted worthy to suffer persecution for the sake of Him who died for them. While on earth, Jesus said to His disciples, “Blessed are ye when men shall reproach you, and persecute you, and say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad; for great is our reward in heaven; for so persecuted they the prophets that were before you” (Matthew 5:11-12). This happiness Paul and Silas now realize, finding it a well-spring of joy in that night of darkness.

Neither the Roman Empire, nor all the powers of darkness, could pluck this wonderful joy from their irrepressible hearts. They are happy in spite of all that Satanic malice can devise, or human power can inflict. Their hearts are filled to overflowing and their joy breaks forth in prayers of thankfulness and songs of rejoicing. With what strange and thrilling emotions must the other prisoners have listened! For such prayers and songs had never before been heard within those gloomy walls. Nor did the prisoners alone hear them, but God also; and in the quaking earth He dispatched a swift messenger for their relief.

Paul and Silas garnered this beautiful joy from doing the will of God; from seeking to convert others to Jesus Christ. Let us with all due diligence seek to reproduce the desire within the hearts of Paul and Silas to do God’s will by teaching His gospel and showing the light to a lost soul and to resolutely stand in the face of persecution. “The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise” (Proverbs 11:30).

Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying: “Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?” Then I said, “Here am I! Send me.” (Isaiah 6:8, NKJV)

Too often we have an attitude that says, "Here am I...send someone else!" Isaiah's ready faith to volunteer to speak for God to His wayward people arouses our zeal to do the same. We must be ready and willing to accomplish God's purposes. You can have this attitude in your marriage, devoting yourself to be a loving husband or a respectful wife. Like Isaiah, if you are sent to preach the word of God, do so with diligent, enduring faith. If you lead God's people as an elder, faithfully attend to your stewardship to the glory of God. God wants willing servants. Devote yourself to greater zeal in the Lord's service. Isaiah is a great example to follow.

Joe R. Price, Sword Tips #577 (August 24, 2015)