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Cast Your Burden on the Lord

by Richie Thetford

David wrote in Psalms 55:22, “Cast your burden on the LORD, and He shall sustain you; He shall never permit the righteous to be moved.” Burdens come to all; rich or poor, young, or old, saint or sinner, and there is no escaping them. For the child of God, however, there is a place to leave them. We cast them on the Lord.

Our burdens can become the source of temptation. Sometimes temptations associated with a burden is worse than the burden itself. For instance, there is the temptation to think that God is not caring. However, 1 Peter 5:7 tells us: “Casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.” There is often the temptation to try to escape life’s responsibilities, and even to try to hide from God. David recognized the futility of trying to hide from God and told us in Psalms 139:7-10 that it was useless to try.

We should never try to deal with our burdens alone. We should anchor our souls in the Lord and as David said, “He shall sustain you.” Notice that the promise is not to remove the burden, but to help us bear it. He may choose to remove it, or He may not. Either way, we will be blessed during our burden. Hebrews 4:16 says, “Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.” If a care is too small to be made into a prayer, it’s too small to be made into a burden.

What are your burdens? Are they pressing heavily upon you? Why not follow the counsel in God’s word and rest your burdens in the hands of the compassionate Savior?

He Hangs the Earth On Nothing

Andy Sochor

“He stretches out the north over empty space and hangs the earth on nothing” (Job 26:7).” This is one of those passages that helps reinforce the validity and inspiration of the Bible. How were the ancients to know that the earth was suspended in space? How were they to know the earth was not resting upon some foundation, whether that foundation was the backs of elephants, turtles, or something else? Myths like these existed, but Job believed something that was not only different, but correct.

How could Job have known this about the earth? It certainly was not based on scientific discoveries of his day, satellite imaging, or anything else. The only way something like this could have been known in Job’s day was that God — the only one who could know this — revealed it. All that the Bible says about the natural world harmonizes with true science. Yes, there are many who revere “science” and attack the Bible as a book of myths. But this is due to one of two things: either they are attacking the false theories of religious people and not the Bible, or they are promoting unproven “science” that can only be accepted by faith (i.e. the Big Bang, evolution, etc.).

Paul warns about this: “O Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to you, avoiding worldly and empty chatter and the opposing arguments of what is falsely called ‘knowledge’ [science, KJV]” (1 Timothy 6:20). The Bible teaches the truth about the natural world, even before the scientific community figures these things out. Eastside Morgantown, KY

Conversion of the Corinthians

Craig Thomas

The conversion of the Corinthians is recorded in the first half of Acts 18. Their conversion takes place during Paul's second journey. The conversion of the Corinthians demonstrates several principles still applicable today. First, it involved a team effort. Paul was not alone as he preached in Corinth. He had as his fellow laborers Priscilla and Aquila (v. 2) along with Silas and Timothy (v. 5). Our success in preaching the gospel is multiplied when brethren work together for a common goal.

Second, Paul spent at least 18 months preaching and teaching in Corinth (v. 11). Whenever one is breaking new ground, patience is a virtue. The soil must be prepared, the seed must be sown, and the potential crop must be watered and cultivated (1 Cor. 3:6-15). A great harvest of souls took place at Corinth, but it did not occur overnight. We would do well to remember that in our gospel labors. Third, Corinth was an unlikely place for success in preaching the gospel. Corinth was a major center for commerce and shipping. It was also a major center for a decadent religion revolving around fornication. Such activities produced a populace steeped in the vilest of sins (1 Cor. 6:9-10). We must remember not to "pre-judge" people as to whether or not they are "suitable" candidates for the gospel.

Finally, the conversion of the Corinthians establishes a Biblical pattern from which we must not deviate. How was their conversion effected? "And many of the Corinthians, hearing, believed and were baptized" (Acts 18:8). The Corinthians were converted as all men are converted; by hearing, believing, and obeying the gospel.

1) Hear. Christianity is a "taught" religion (Jn. 6:44-45). As one good preacher friend of mine is fond of saying, "Christianity is a thinking man's religion." The gospel is God's only "drawing card" (2 Thess. 2:13-14). It makes a persuasive appeal to change our way of thinking and acting (Acts 2:40-41). Denominationalism and liberalism have lost sight of this critical fact. Just yesterday I received a notice from liberal churches of Christ in Michigan advocating carnal means ("Old Fashioned Country Fair," and "Coffee Cafe") to attract people rather than the simple gospel. Such efforts may attract, but they are powerless to effect true conversion because "faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Rom. 10:17; 1:16-17).

2) Believe. The first aim of preaching the gospel is to produce belief. Jesus said, "if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins" (Jn. 8:24). We certainly must be cordial and "nice" to folks, but we must use God's word to "convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment" (Jn. 16:8). Without such conviction folks will not be truly "cut to the heart" (Acts 2:37) and ask the most important question they'll ever ask, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" (Acts 16:30)

3) Obey. Hearing and belief alone leaves one unconverted and lost! Conversion is only effected when they are coupled with obedience (Jas.2:14-26). There are five aspects of obedience that must be critically impressed upon prospects: 1) confessing Christ (Rom. 10:10; Acts 8:36-37);

2) repentance from sins (Acts 2:38; 17:30), 3) baptism (Mk. 16:16; Gal. 3:27; 1 Pet. 3:21), 4) "giving all diligence" to grow as a Christian (2 Pet. 1:5-11), and 5) remaining faithful (Col. 1:21-23). Obedience is essential since Jesus is the "author of eternal salvation" only to those "who obey Him" (Heb. 5:9).

Many ridicule what they derogatorily call "patternism." But Acts 18 offers the inspired pattern for the conversion of the first century Corinthians and, by extension, for all of every subsequent century that would be added to the Lord's church and be saved (Acts 2:47). If we follow God's pattern today it will accomplish for folks exactly what it did for the Corinthians. *Words of Life 11/3/24*