



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

Essential Lessons

Tuesday, 1 April 2014

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CAPITOL BIBLE STUDY

monthly (interim) schedule

*** 1st Tuesday of the month ***

TUESDAY, 1 APRIL @ 12 NOON in 123 CAP

Capitol Commission (Interim) Bible Studies are held the *first* Tuesday of every month at 12 Noon. The monthly Bible study is nonpartisan and nondenominational. We are currently studying First Corinthians, chapter-by-chapter, and verse-by-verse.

I pray that this study will be edifying to you. I am here *solely* to serve you and to be a resource for prayer and counsel. Please accept my study in the Word of God, as evidence of my desire to serve you.

– Dr. Ron J. Bigalke, Georgia State Minister, Capitol Commission

Capitol Commission (Interim) Bible Study

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Tuesday, 1 April 2014

First Corinthians 10 – “Essential Lessons”

Some things in the past must be forgotten (Phil 3:12-14), but others should never be forgotten. American philosopher George Santayana (1863-1952) famously stated, “Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it” (*The Life of Reason*, 5 vols. [New York: Scribner’s, 1905-06] 1:284). Knowing the past is an exercise in remembering as opposed to forgetting, and that remembrance is fundamental to life itself.

Whereas some people regard history as interesting, many others perceive it as boring. The complaint against history is that it is merely involved with dates, events, and people that no one cares to know any longer. Many students have asked their history teachers, “How does the study of history affect me today?” One answer in response to that question is that history is remembering the events, faith, and individuals, which we recognize as foundational to our lives.

Throughout the Old Testament, one can easily discern the priority given to remembering. For instance, the Jewish people observed Passover to remember their enslavement in Egypt, and how God delivered and redeemed them from their bondage by the Passover sacrifice (Lev 23; Deut 16). Of course, believers today also have a Passover lamb — the Lord Jesus Christ — and his sacrifice does not need repeating (1 Cor 12:23-26; Heb 7:1-28). In the Old Testament, one can easily discern that the vitality of the nation of Israel was not only related to their continual trust in God, but also remembering the Lord’s actions on their behalf. Even the church has

special days for remembering, such as the Lord’s resurrection, which believers will soon celebrate this month on Easter Sunday.

Americans also celebrate many memorable days on our calendar. Next month, we will celebrate Memorial Day with thankfulness for our fallen servicemen and women who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country, and to honor both the fallen and those still serving. The most significant celebration of American independence and individual freedom will be remembered a few months from now on the Fourth of July.

The memory of our nation is also enshrined in concrete and granite, such as Mount Rushmore and the Washington Monument. Even our coins and currency are continual memories of America’s illustrious history. If we forget our history, we will be reshaped into whatever forms that new leaders will desire. The consequence, however, will not be a “new” people, but a lost and dying population. For this very reason, First Corinthians 10 begins with an exhortation to believers that we remember the past.

The history of Israel provides many lessons for Christians. First Corinthians 10 makes applications from history to warn the church against knowledge that leads to arrogance. Scripture exhorts believers to avoid the mistakes of Israel by remembering their wilderness wanderings in the days of Moses. However, if the church today ignores the essential lessons from the Old Testament, we risk repeating the idolatries of Israel.

AN ESSENTIAL LESSON

(1 Cor 10:1-5) First Corinthians 10 addresses Christian living in general and idolatry in particular. Verse 1 contains a favorite phrase of the Apostle Paul when introducing a subject: “For I do not want you to be unaware.” The idea is that what follows is something essential for every Christian to know. Many problems arise — even among those who trust in the Lord Jesus Christ — as the natural consequence of biblical ignorance on the part of one or more individuals.

MANY PROBLEMS ARISE . . . AS THE NATURAL CONSEQUENCE OF BIBLICAL IGNORANCE . . .

Of course, there may have been some justification for the original recipients of First Corinthians to be lacking certain knowledge since they did not yet have the complete New Testament (as we do today). Consequently, there is little excuse for Christians today to lack knowledge of God’s will (cf. 2 Pet 1:3). In the case of the Corinthians, the Old Testament was still sufficient to direct their actions, if they had only read and applied the message to themselves.

2 Peter 1:3 – seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence.

Capitol Commission Bible Studies

1st Tuesdays (monthly) @ 12 Noon – 12:45pm, 123 CAP

(Bible Study Luncheon is Sponsored by First Baptist Church Atlanta)



Enhancing Trust

Capitol Commission Georgia

Essential Lessons

The verb (Gk. *baptizō*) translated “baptized” in verse 2 should not be confused with another Greek verb, *baptō*, which is used in Luke 16:24 (John 13:26) and properly translated “to dip” (cf. “to dye” in Rev 19:13). Both verbs have the meaning of immersion; however, *baptō* has a temporary effect, whereas *baptizō* indicates an action that produces a permanent effect. The use of *baptizō* primarily refers to the believer’s identification and union with Christ Jesus (as opposed to water baptism). Mere intellectual assent to Christ is not sufficient to produce everlasting salvation; there must *also* be a union with Him (an incorporating into the body of Christ and identifying with the Lord’s death and resurrection, producing genuine change).

Verses 1-5 refer to the Old Testament experience of the Israelites when they departed from Egypt and sojourned toward the Promised Land. The point is that everyone had the same occurrence. All were guided directly and divinely “under the cloud and all passed through the sea.” Everyone was united with (lit. “baptized into”) Moses in those events. Although each person was united with Moses, and together experienced the miraculous events, “with most of them God was not well-pleased.” Consequently, most never entered into the Land but “were laid low in the wilderness.” Even today (as in ancient times), many think that mere association with a servant of God, and mutual participation in experiences with them, will somehow result in the favor of God in their lives. *Each true believer in the Lord Jesus Christ must individually and genuinely relate to God!*

AN ESSENTIAL EXHORTATION

(*I Cor 10:6-13*) The past events of the Old Testament “happened as examples for us, so that we would not crave evil things as they also craved” (1 Cor 10:6; cf. Rom 15:4). Obviously, if the events of the past did not have any future ethical application to subsequent generations, there would have been no reason to record them; however, “they were written for our instruction” (1 Cor 10:11). Both the Old and New Testament narratives contain essential exhortations with regard to idolatry (v. 7), sexual immorality (v. 8), tempting the Lord (v. 9), and grumbling (v. 10). The admonitions are essential to confront us so that we do not receive God’s displeasure.

NO ONE NEEDS TO FAIL...!

Although the Israelites experienced many God-given blessings, “some of them” succumbed to idolatry and sexual immorality (vv. 7-9). With little gratitude for God’s provision, “some of them” were not satisfied with the Lord’s actions on their behalf and thus they grumbled (v. 10). “Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed that he does not fall” (v. 12). No one needs to fail (v. 13)!

AN ESSENTIAL PROHIBITION

(*I Cor 10:14-22*) The point of stating “no temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man” (10:13) is to demonstrate that the command to “flee from idolatry” is possible (v. 14). The prohibition

against idolatry (and additional explanations) is developed in the remainder of the chapter. The instruction is to those who are “wise” (v. 15); they are the ones to benefit from the reasoning that follows.

THE PROFESSION OF ONE COMMON FAITH UNITES “WE WHO ARE MANY”...

When believers partake of the Lord’s Supper (Communion), all share in proclaiming faith in the shed blood of Christ (10:16). Christians also identify with one another by partaking “of the one bread,” which symbolizes the Lord’s death on behalf of sinners. The profession of one common faith unites “we who are many” (v. 17). The notion of “one body” conveys the truth that all believers are in spiritual union with Christ, and thus share that unity with one another. Consequently, those who are united with Christ must avoid any participation (identification) with idolatry (vv. 18-22).

AN ESSENTIAL APPLICATION

(*I Cor 10:23-33*) The remainder of the chapter provides essential guidelines based upon principles already stated. The basic application is found in verses 23-24. “All things are lawful, but not all things are profitable.” Not everything lawful (legitimate) edifies other Christians, thus one should not merely seek their own advantage, but the good of another (10:24; cf. Phil 2:2-3).

Everything belongs to the Lord because He is the only true God of all things, and thus idols are insignificant. Nevertheless, the conscience of another believer may be troubled by one’s freedom in Christ, which must be balanced by a desire to benefit and edify others (10:27-30). Believers must never exercise their freedom in such a manner that it causes anyone to sin (vv. 31-33).

All one’s actions must be done “to the glory of God” (v. 31). Our ambition is not to satisfy our own desires; rather, it is to imitate Christ (11:1). Christ relinquished his freedom and honor for the sake of others (Phil 2:5-8). The tremendous sacrifice of the Lord Jesus is the perfect model of concern and love for others (Eph 4:32—5:1). For us to imitate Christ, it means learning by means of the revelation of God’s Word, in addition to practicing and watching the example of others who follow the Lord’s example. Praise God for the essential lessons of the Holy Bible – and the power of the Holy Spirit – to lead us in doing so!

Thank you for allowing Capitol Commission the honor to provide Bible studies to you. If you have any questions, please talk with us, or contact us by email or phone.

About Capitol Commission

Capitol Commission state ministers teach ongoing verse-by-verse Bible studies for the entire Capitol community, and also meet personally with many government leaders (and their staff) to proclaim God’s grace in salvation, to encourage our leaders, pray with them, and provide biblical counsel.

Capitol Commission is a charitable and religious nonprofit corporation under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Capitol Commission is supported by the generous gifts of businesses, churches, and individuals. Capitol Commission is not state-funded; rather, those with a heart for the Capitol community fund it. *Please join us in this ministry!*

Bible study luncheon sponsored by:



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH ATLANTA

**NEXT CAPITOL COMMISSION (INTERIM) BIBLE STUDY:
TUESDAY, 6 MAY @ 12 NOON in 123 CAP
(always the 1st Tuesday of each month, during interim)**