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Overcome with Good

CAPITOL BIBLE STUDY

*monthly (interim) schedule
first Tuesday of the month*

TUESDAY, 6 DECEMBER 2016

12 NOON in 123 CAP

Capitol Commission (interim) Bible Studies are held **the first Tuesday of each month at 12 Noon**, in accordance with the Public Service Commission devotional at 9:55am. The **monthly Bible study is nonpartisan and non-denominational**. The current Bible study is the conclusion of our exposition of the book of Joel. You can find archives (from 2010) at <http://www.capitolcom.org/georgia/studies>.

We will be studying the book of Ecclesiastes during the 2017 legislative session, with weekly Bible studies beginning on Tuesday, 10th of January, and will continue **every week** on the same day of the week. **Two times are available for Bible study:** (1) a legislative Bible study, pastoral counsel, and prayertime from **7:30-8:00am** (location TBD); and, (2) an open-to-all Bible study from **12:00-12:45pm** in 123 CAP (where ministry sponsors provide lunch).

I pray that this study will be edifying to you. My sole intent in this ministry is to serve you, and to be a resource to you for pastoral care, counsel, and prayer. **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

is
Tuesday, 6 December 2016

Joel 3 – “Overcome with Good”

Terrorists not only seek to overthrow governments, they also appear to focus efforts upon decimating vulnerable religious populations that are contrary to their own. Scripture reminds believers, “For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual *forces* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*” (Eph 6:12). Therefore, the people of God are to “pray at all times in the Spirit” (v. 18). The indisputable fact that terrorists are enemies necessitates the holy obligation given by Jesus: “love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven” (Matt 5:44-45; cf. Luke 6:27; Acts 7:60; Rom 12:20).

Terrorists kill their enemies in the name of their god. God’s people are instructed to love their enemies and “do good to those who hate you” (Luke 6:27). The believer’s response to terrorism is not Facebook rants, ground troops, online petitions, or Tweets. Terrorism is a spiritual enemy, and thus the church loves rather than hates (cf. Rom 12:21). One manner in which one can demonstrate such love is by praying for the enemies of the gospel message.

Of course, what has just been stated is not easy; it is impossible, and yet Jesus obligates his followers to love not hate. The biblical worldview is that God created every human being in his image, and thus each person is potentially a brother or sister in Christ, even the most hardened terrorist.

Romans 12:21 – Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

The prophet Joel encountered a world in which terrorists were victorious. Although the land was devastated, God told the prophet not to be anxious. The day of the Lord would soon commence, and that period would be a time of decision. Just as current terrorists have a decision and can receive God’s salvation – by grace through faith in Jesus Christ – , so also did the terrorist nations attacking Judah in the prophet’s era. The time of decision was the final judgment, wherein they would be accountable for the eternal consequences of their terrorism against God. The opportunity to make decisions affecting eternity would not arise again.

THE BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW IS THAT GOD CREATED EVERY HUMAN BEING IN HIS IMAGE. . . .

God has spoken to certain individuals throughout the centuries who have proclaimed a message hundreds of years into the future. Some of the biblical prophecies from 2,500 years ago remain to be fulfilled from humanity’s perspective today (Mic 4:1-5; Mal 4; Isa 65:17; cf. 1 Cor 15:50-58; Rev 11:15). Critics tend to discount the prophecies as mere dreams, or to indicate that other nations asserted the role of prophets, and thus the Bible is supposedly not unique.

Regardless of how the critic understands the biblical prophets, one must consider the context in which a prophet was received. The validity of a prophet was based upon prophecies occurring with 100 percent accuracy in a relatively brief period of time (Deut 18:22). The people were to test a prophet’s speech based upon proclamations that would be fulfilled in months, a year, or two years. If such accuracy was demonstrated, the people realized that a true prophet had spoken, and they were to receive the prophecies occurring in an extended period of time. Through the prophetic Word, one is able to perceive how the supernatural impacts the present world context (and by which people can test the miraculous of the prophecy).

Deuteronomy 18:22 – “When a prophet speaks in the name of the LORD, if the thing does not come about or come true, that is the thing which the LORD has not spoken. The prophet has spoken it presumptuously; you shall not be afraid of him.

Capitol Commission (interim) Bible Study

1st Tuesday (6th of December) from 12 Noon – 12:45pm, 123 CAP

lunch provided from event sponsorship by Centerpoint Community Church, Rincon, GA



Enhancing Trust

The day of the Lord is certain to occur, and just as one of our days reaches a conclusion, so also will it. In view of that coming time, Scripture proclaims, “Behold, now is ‘THE ACCEPTABLE TIME,’ behold, now is ‘THE DAY OF SALVATION’” (2 Cor 6:2). Although the day of salvation has endured for thousands of years, it will certainly reach an end. The opportunity of grace will one day cease.

The thought process of Joel 3 is opposite that of passages such as Isaiah 2:4 and Micah 4:3. The prophets Isaiah and Micah described the glorious kingdom of the Lord when the entire world will experience peace as opposed to war. Joel’s proclamation was, “Prepare a war” (Joel 3:10).

GOD’S CHARGES

(Joel 3:1-8) Joel 3 depicts four vivid representations of God’s future dealings with his people and the nations. In the future day of the Lord, which is related to the coming of Messiah, all the nations will be summoned to God’s court and judged for their rebellion. Specifically, the charges against the nations involve their scattering of God’s people (v. 2), in addition to dividing their land (v. 2), stealing their wealth (v. 5), and behaving as if they were slaves (vv. 3, 6-8). God declared innocence in contrast to the nations (v. 5). Judgment was delayed, yet it is certain to arrive (cf. 2 Pet 3:9-10).

2 Peter 3:9-10 – The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. . . .

GOD’S HARVEST

(Joel 3:9-13) God calls the nations to assemble for battle and reap a final harvest (Isa 63:1-6; Rev 14:14-20). Peace is realized when military weapons are transformed into agricultural tools (v. 10; cf. Mic 4:3). When the Lord summons the nations to their final battle, there will be no time to waste (Joel 3:11). God has chosen the locale where He will “sit” enthroned “to judge all the surrounding nations” (v. 12). The battle represents God’s judgment upon all the nations for mistreating his people (v. 13). God’s people will be resolute because the Lord will uphold their cause.

GOD’S PEOPLE WILL BE RESOLUTE BECAUSE THE LORD WILL UPHOLD THEIR CAUSE.

GOD’S STORM

(Joel 3:14-17) The nations will experience the wrath of God (vv. 14-16). The Lord will provide for his people as “a refuge” and “a stronghold” (v. 16; cf. Ps 46; 91). The outcome will be to remove all doubt that the Lord is the God who dwells in Jerusalem (Joel 3:17), and “there is no other” (2:27). God is always a refuge for those who make Him their stronghold: by demonstration of personal faith (Ps 71:6-78) and by act of will (73:28).

GOD IS ALWAYS A REFUGE FOR THOSE WHO MAKE HIM THEIR STRONGHOLD. . . .

The final day of the Lord will no longer allow people to

experience a preview of ultimate reality. The time of decision will culminate in abiding judgment upon the enemies of God’s people. God will then forever dwell among his people.

GOD’S FIELD

(Joel 3:18-21) Joel’s prophecy began with the announcement of drought and famine, yet concludes with a description of a land flowing with sweet wine and milk (v. 18). God will graciously dwell among his people (vv. 19-20). The day of the Lord will conclude with a new beginning for God’s people.

The book of Joel reveals that one’s future is dependent upon his or her relationship to the Lord. Whosoever trusts Jesus Christ as Savior will never be called into God’s court (John 5:24; Rom 8:1-4; 1 John 2:1-2), and thus never must fear the wrath of God.

THE BELIEVER IS TO “DO BUSINESS” . . . BY USING GOD-GIVEN GIFTS TO BRING GLORY TO THE LORD.

With consideration of the day of the Lord, how should God’s people respond? *First*, “be on the alert, for you do not know which day your Lord is coming” (Matt 24:42). *Second*, recognize that each of us must “give an account” to God for our faithfulness to “do business” until the Lord comes (Luke 19:13; Rom 14:12; cf. 1 Cor 3:10-15; 4:5; 2 Cor 5:10). Jesus used the word “do business” (Gk. *pragmateusasthe*) in the parable of the ten minas (Luke 19:11-27) to command his followers to work until He comes for them.

The parable of the ten minas concerns a nobleman who traveled to a distant country, giving ten minas (pounds) to his servants and instructing them to gain more by doing business (trading in the market place). The “minas” represent the spiritual gifts and responsibilities that the Lord grants to believers. When the nobleman returned, he called his servants to give an account of their stewardship. The application is obvious. The believer is to “do business” in the market place of life by using God-given gifts to bring glory to the Lord.

Knowing that the Lord will hold each believer accountable for his or her stewardship, God’s people should be “making the most” of every opportunity (Eph 5:16). The day of the Lord will come. Therefore, one glorifies and pleases God by using all his/her resources or strength in service of the Lord. “In this case, moreover, it is required of stewards that one be found trustworthy” (1 Cor 4:2).

Thank you for allowing Capitol Commission the nobility in providing Bible studies to you. If we can serve you in any manner, please talk with us, or contact by email or phone.

Who Is Capitol Commission?

Capitol Commission state ministers are pastors-missionaries who teach weekly verse-by-verse Bible studies for legislators, lobbyists, and staff members. The Bible studies are hand-distributed to each legislative office, emailed, and made available throughout the Capitol community. Capitol Commission is a ministry of the church seeking to proclaim the gospel message, and to help believers mature through verse-by-verse Bible teaching. In the Bible, we see God’s love for the world, especially those who have been placed in authority. **This is the foundation for our ministry to you.**

this month’s Bible study sponsored by:



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LOVING GOD. LOVING PEOPLE. RELENTLESSLY.



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NEXT CAPITOL COMMISSION BIBLE STUDIES:
TUESDAY, 10 JANUARY @ 7:30am (location TBD)
and again (with lunch) @ 12 NOON in 123 CAP