

“What Must I Do To Be Saved?”

Acts 16:30

Learn The Gospel

John 6:45; Romans 10:17;

Believe On GOD In CHRIST

Hebrews 11:6; John 3:16

Confess CHRIST

Matthew 10:32-33; Romans 10:9-10

Repent Of Sin

Acts 3:19; 17:30

Be Baptized Into CHRIST

Mark 16:16; Romans 6:3-6

Remain Steadfast

1st Corinthians 15:58; Revelation 2:10

“The Assembling Of Ourselves Together”

Hebrews 10:24-25

Sunday

10:15 am.....Worship

Las Vegas Library

833 Las Vegas Boulevard North

Tuesday

7:00 pm.....Ladies' Study

Winstead residence

Wednesday

7:00 pm.....Study & Worship

Jerry & Beverly Dockens residence

**Visitors Welcome.
Members Expected.**

“Let The Word... Dwell In You Richly”

Colossians 3:16

The new memory assignment is: *“All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left”* (Matthew 25:32-33).

Commit this passage to memory. Read it, write it, hear it, and say it.

“Give Attention To Reading”

1st Timothy 4:13

Sunday...Psalm 64; Joshua 11:10-13:23; Luke 6:12-38

Monday...Proverbs 11; Joshua 13:24-15:32; Luke 6:39-7:10

Tuesday...Psalm 65; Joshua 15:33-18:7; Luke 7:11-35

Wednesday...Psalm 66:1-7; Joshua 18:8-19:51; Luke 7:36-8:3

Thursday... Psalm 66:8-20; Joshua 20:1-22:6; Luke 8:4-21

Friday...Proverbs 12; Joshua 22:7-23:13; Luke 8:22-39

Saturday...Psalm 67; Joshua 23:14-24:33; Luke 8:40-9:6

“Sound Doctrine”

Titus 2:1

“WE ARE WELL ABLE”

Bryan Matthew Dockens

Following the Exodus from Egypt, the Lord God commanded Moses to *“Send men to spy out the land of Canaan”* (Numbers 13:2), which he did, telling the twelve to *“see what the land is like: whether the people who dwell in it are strong or weak, few or many; whether the land they dwell in is good or bad; whether the cities they inhabit are like camps or strongholds; whether the land is rich or poor; and whether there are forests there or not”* (Numbers 13:18-20). In this, they obeyed. *“So they went up and spied out the land”* (Numbers 13:21).

Upon their return, the majority of the spies *“gave the children of Israel a bad report of the land which they had spied out, saying, ‘The land through which we have gone as spies is a land that devours its inhabitants, and all the people whom we saw in it are men of great stature. There we saw the giants... and we were like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight’”* (Numbers 13:32-33).

Among the twelve spies, only two dissented from the majority's report. Joshua declared, *“The land we passed through to spy out is an exceedingly good land. If the Lord delights in us, then He will bring us into this land and give it to us, a land which flows with milk and honey. Only do not rebel against the Lord, nor fear the people of the land, for they are our bread; their protection has departed from them, and the Lord is with us. Do not fear them”* (Numbers 14:7-9). Caleb said, *“Let us go up at once and take possession, for we*

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THE FORTY YEAR OLD VIRGIN

Bryan Matthew Dockens

"The 40 Year Old Virgin" was a movie released in 2005, starring Steve Carrell. One need not have seen it to deduce the movie's plot. A socially awkward man entering his fifth decade of life is ashamed never to have been to bed with a woman. His friends discover his secret and go to great lengths to make it happen. High jinks ensue.

I'm pretty sure I got that right, although I've never seen it.

The scriptures make reference to a forty year old virgin, too. His name was Isaac. *"Isaac was forty years old when he took Rebekah as wife"* (Genesis 25:20), we are told. There is no reason whatsoever to believe he was sexually experienced until that time, for Isaac was a righteous man, and sex is a marital activity, as God has said, *"Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge"* (Hebrews 13:4).

There should be no shame associated with virginity, *"For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality; that each of you should know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor, not in passion of lust, like the Gentiles who do not know God... For God did not call us to uncleanness, but in holiness. Therefore, he who rejects this does not reject man, but God"* (1st Thessalonians 4:3-5, 7-8). Virginity is not a source of shame, but of honor!

Besides divine approval, not to mention safety from venereal diseases, abstinence until marriage brings another benefit, namely better marriage. Those couples who remain chaste offer one another the most precious wedding gift of all, purity. The exhilaration of conjugal love will be experienced together for the first time. Awkwardness the first time they come together is unlikely, for each knows it is the first time for the other, as well; even if there is awkwardness, it will be shared. The husband will not remember another woman as being better in bed, and the wife will not doubt if she is as satisfying to him as another woman. Each one will be the other's ideal lover.

Where is the shame in that?

COMMON EXPRESSIONS FROM SCRIPTURE

Bryan Matthew Dockens

Many expressions common to everyday speech originated in the scriptures. This just goes to show the wide influence of God's word. Do these phrases sound familiar?

"apple of Your eye" (Proverbs 17:8) | *"flies [in the] ointment"* (Ecclesiastes 10:1) | *"drop in a bucket"* (Isaiah 40:15) | *"by the skin of my teeth"* (Job 19:20) | *"rule... with a rod of iron"* (Revelation 2:27) | *"fat of the land"* (Genesis 45:18) | *"eleventh hour"* (Matthew 20:6) | *"thorn in the flesh"* (2nd Corinthians 12:7) | *"my cup runs over"* (Psalm 23:5) | *"a man after My own heart"* (Acts 13:22) | robbing Peter to pay Paul (2nd Corinthians 11:8) | *"wolves... in sheep's clothing"* (Mark 7:15)

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are well able to overcome it" (Numbers 13:30).

Do we, the members of the Vegas Valley Church of CHRIST, have the attitude of the ten spies who gave the bad report? Do we see ourselves as mere grasshoppers, a congregation of two dozen souls, compared to giants, a metropolis of two million? As they would faint in the sight of strong opponents in fortified cities (Numbers 13:28), do we despair, knowing that our mission is to convert to Christ the occupants of Sin City? Do we belittle ourselves, knowing we own no building and cannot afford to fully pay a preacher? Do we bemoan the fact that we are unknown to most of our community?

Or, do we, the members of the Vegas Valley Church of CHRIST, have the mindset of the two spies, Joshua and Caleb? Do we shun cowardly fear? Do we take confidence in the fact that the Lord is with us? Do we boldly proclaim that we can fulfill the task set before us? Do we insist on seizing every opportunity immediately?

After the conflicting reports were heard, *"those very men who brought the evil report about the land, died by the plague before the Lord. But Joshua the son of Nun and Caleb the son of Jephunneh remained alive, of the men who went to spy out the land"* (Numbers 13:37-38). The Almighty punishes cowardice, but rewards fortitude. May we behave accordingly.