

Order of Worship for 1/31/10 - **YOUTH**

Pre-service Song

Welcome and Announcements:

Ministry Moment:

Call to Worship and Prayer: Psalm 119:113-120

Worship in Song:

“Come, Now is the Time for Worship”

“We Bow Down”

“We Have Come into His House”

“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”

“I Exalt Thee”

Overhead

Overhead

Song # 224

Song # 33

Song # 31

Offering:

Special Music:

Message: AWANA Missionary Joel Cook will bring God’s Word today

Closing Song: “Shine, Jesus, Shine”

Song # 431

Invitation to Prayer and Parting Word of Grace

“The Prayer Closet”

January 31, 2010

“Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving.”

(Colossians 4:2a)

This week let us be united in praying for:

1. **Sheryl Jackson at William Carey Academy**, Chittagong, Bangladesh:
That students and faculty and parents will recover from the recent on campus death of a student; that the hope of the gospel will shine through the shadow of fear and death; that the Bangladeshi teachers will take on broader responsibilities and leadership; that the new teacher from the States will prove a great encouragement for Ms. Jackson.
2. **President Barak Obama**: that the Spirit will open his eyes to truth and goodness in people, wisdom in policies, humility before God; that he will enjoy inner peace and clarity of mind; that he and his family will be healthy and safe
3. **The Missions Team**: that they will not grow weary but will enjoy the Spirit’s encouragement and guidance; that they will be creative in communicating mission challenges, commitments and opportunities; that they will effectively advance God’s gospel & kingdom in us & the world
4. **Military Personnel of the Week: SSG Matthew Basner** (son of Randy and Lou):
5. **College Student of the Week: Anne Lundberg** (daughter of Mark and Susan):

Resting in God's Word
Hebrews 4: 8-16

It is good to be here after a long weekend in Nevada.

Are you resting in God's word? Are you running to God's word with your joys and sorrows? God wants you to. Let's take a look at Hebrews 4 to see what God is trying to tell us, and that is, to **rest** in His word.

But first let set the supremacy of Jesus Christ. The writer of Hebrews tells us in Chapter 1 that Christ is greater than the prophets. In Heb 2 Christ is declared greater than the angels, and in Chapter 3 we are told Christ is greater than Moses. Back in the old testament times people were identified by the family line. In Chapter 4 we will see that God is challenging us to rest in Christ. If Christ is greater ALL (The Prophets, Angels, & Moses) then shouldn't we find comfort in Christ? I think so.

God is warning us in the later part of chapter 3 (vv14-15) not to harden our hearts. He gives the example of what happened to the Israelites as they departed Egypt. You know the story. That God made them wander in the desert until that whole generation died because they had hardened their hearts. God is telling us **not** to do that. So many people today have harden their hearts over areas in their live. They say things like "Where was God when...?" "Why did God allow...?" "Why do bad things happen to good people?" "Why do good things happen to bad people?"

When you have thoughts like that, that controls your actions. Beloved, that is putting God on man's terms from mans perspective. For God tells us that His ways are higher than ours and that His thoughts are higher than ours.(Isa 55:8-9) Putting God on man's term concept is what I ran into the other day when I was having a discussion over the 7 days of creation. He was trying to say that the 7 days of creation was not literal 7 days, they could be 7 thousands, 7 million, 7 billion,..so on. If you think that way then you are putting God in a box. You are limiting God of His power and greatness. You are saying that only part of God's word is true and other parts written as a commentary or opinion of the writer. I do not know about you but I believe that is wrong.

Any time I hear people speak along those lines II Tim 3:16 starts flashing through my mind and bells and whistles go off telling me this is wrong. II Tim 3:16 tells us that "ALL scripture is God breathed." I love the word "ALL" that does not leave anything out. If "ALL" of this Bible is "God breathed" then shouldn't we find rest in that? I think so. Not everyone finds rest, in Ch 4:2-3 "For in deed the gospel was preached to us as well as to them (believers and unbelievers); but the word which they heard did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in those who heard it. For we who have believed do enter that rest, as He said."

Let's pick up the text in verse 11 of chapter 4, "Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall after the same example of disobedience.

V12 For the word of God is living and powerful and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit and of joints and marrow and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

V13 And there is no creature hidden from His sight but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.

V14 Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens Jesus the Son of God let us hold fast our confession.

V15 For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses but was in all points tempted as we are yet without sin.

V16 Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

God is trying to point us to His word, because His word WILL bring us rest. V.11 tells us to be “diligent” (“Do your best, work hard”). God is reminding us of what happens when we do not heed His word. Look at what happened to the Israelites when they were disobedient in the desert. Maybe today you are in a desert searching for God. Run to His word. God promises that you WILL find rest.

Look with me to verse 12. the word of God is “LIVING”. The Greek word here is for “command, authority, commanding.” It is not a guide or passive, but God’s word has authority. When you add “Powerful” to “Living” now you have a very dynamic authority in which you can rest in It’s confidence. “Sharper than any other” This Bible is THE WORD OF GOD. It is the strongest compare any other text used by any other religion. God’s word cuts through any other religion as fast as the sharpest two-edged sword cuts through flesh and bone.

God’s word also is so powerful that it can judge our thoughts and the intentions of our hearts. Let me say that again, It judges our “thought and intentions.” That idea is so contradictory to today’s thinking. Our world today says that our thoughts are ours and our intentions of our hearts belong to ourselves. No wonder why the Bible is the most purchased book of all time but the least read. Because when people pick it up it convicts them because of our thoughts and intentions. Jer 17:9

God knows our every thought and intention it is as if we are naked and open before Him as it tells us in v13. Will we be convicted to confession or harden our hearts against Him? Because we will give an account one day to Jesus of our conduct, thoughts, and intentions.

V15 Jesus knows us and He sympathizes with us in our weaknesses because He was tempted, He lived on this earth, but He did not sin. He IS our example.

V16 God wants us to come boldly to the throne of grace, to obtain mercy and find grace in our time of need.

If I can encourage ALL of us, start reading God’s word. Read it prayerfully. Read it with the anticipation that God will speak to you through it. God will expose your life to you because He knows your thoughts and intentions of your heart. God will show His plan for you. God will give you rest and comfort.

Run to God’s word!

Rest in God’s word!