

SLIDELL CHURCH OF CHRIST

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February 8, 2015

Preacher's Point

By Dan Schillinger



Avoiding Negativity

The one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind... Such a person is double-minded and unstable in all they do. (James 1:6, 8, NIV 2011)

The more senior folks among us have surely heard the old song, "You gotta accentuate the positive, eliminate the negative, latch on to the affirmative, and don't mess with Mr. In-Between."

Negative thinking ought to be avoided by Christians, because if we harbor negative thoughts, sooner or later they'll destroy our lives.

There have been people who tried to start their car with a jumper cable, but instead of connecting the correct part of the cable to the positive pole of the battery, they connected it to the negative pole. This mistake can spark a terrible explosion, and because of it, folks have become permanently blind.

In the same way, many people blind themselves by connecting to the negative pole of life. Negativity is like a witch's wand that attaches itself to a person's forehead. The wand kills and destroys whatever it points toward. It may point toward the person who wears it, or it may point to others. You probably know people who walk around with that wand permanently pointed at their own lives. You can recognize them immediately by their negative thoughts: "I'm nobody...I really don't amount to much...I don't have many friends...I'm not too smart."

Today's Sermon

a.m. "Jesus Saves: How?"

Titus 3:3-8

p.m. *Opportunity for discussion and reflection on the morning message*

Others take that wand and point it outward. These people fail in life but blame their failures on others: their parents, their spouses, their bosses, the system, the corporation. They never accept responsibility for their own downfall.

Some even point the wand at God. They say, "God could never love me. I wonder if there even is a God."

"I have begun everything with the idea that I could succeed, and I never had much patience with the multitudes of people who are always ready to explain why one cannot succeed."

- Booker T. Washington (a former slave)

We all have negative thoughts at times, and often we don't recognize them. While we can't avoid all negativity, we can turn our attitudes into more positive perspectives. Today ask God to show you your negative thoughts and to give you the ability to look at the bright side of life.

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Welcome Visitors

We are pleased to have the opportunity to welcome you to our service. We think you will find our congregation family to be one that enthusiastically embraces newcomers and warmly welcomes them into our fellowship. We hope you feel right at home as you join us in worship, praise and thanksgiving.

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

&

“ENCOURAGE”



With Visits, Calls, & Cards

Carey Cenac Woodham, of Houma - Dorothy Bryan's former daughter-in-law, passed away Thursday of TB. Wake will be held this Friday at Honaker's, 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., with the funeral there at 1:00 p.m.

Janet Despenza - scheduled for surgery to repair an abnormal hole in her neck vertebrae this Wednesday, at 7:00 a.m. at Cypress Pointe Surgical Hospital in Hammond. She is expecting to remain there overnight.

Ashley Cheri - Courtney's brother, diagnosed with stage 4 lung cancer, and has a problem with two stents in his leg, such that loss of the leg is possible.

Phyllis Tansil - awaiting results from her MRI procedure on her lower back last Friday.

Alexis Leonard - leg is healing following recent surgery, but her muscles remain weak.

James Baker, Jr. - Schillinger's grandson, failed a vision test last week, prompting a referral to an eye specialist.

Shane Hicks - thanksgiving for his safe return from overseas deployment. He is anticipating his discharge in about four months.

Margaret Schillinger - thanksgiving that she is experiencing considerable relief from her gout.

Schillinger family - pray for their adaptation to big changes soon as their family moves here from Tennessee.

Devin Nelson - scheduled to enlist in the U.S. Army on May 26, following graduation.

Melba Hoyt - member of the Stitches of Love, experiencing dizziness.

Carl Mangus - experiencing congestive heart failure.

Steve Mangus - experiencing depression.

Larry Mac Reynolds - only expected to have a few more months more to live.

Sandy Shell - friend of Fairie Roig's and a member at Tammany Oaks, has renewed spinal compression fractures.

Becky Gilbert - another friend of Fairie Roig's and a member at Tammany Oaks, receiving chemotherapy for breast cancer.

Leonard Cousin (friend of Nayla's) - has a brain hemorrhage.

Mike Mustafa - Nayla's uncle, had a fire inside his gas station eight days ago at the corner of Thompson Road and W. Hwy 190. No one was hurt. Pray for the speedy recovery of his business.

Pray for all who are travelling.

Pray for the Spanish Bible study.

Pray for our elders: Courtney Cheri, Dwight Jones and Gerald Molina.

Pray for President Obama and all our elected officials.

Pray for our men and women in our armed forces, both here and abroad!

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Death is Truth

King David: ***“I am about to go the way of all the earth.”*** (1 Kings 2:2, NIV).

Thomas Paine (1737-1809) was an Englishman who immigrated to America before our Revolution. He is remembered as a political activist, philosopher, political theorist and revolutionary. Toward the end of his life, Paine told a friend to disregard anything he might say about religion around the time of his death. “People get scared when they die,” he explained, “and they tend to experience deathbed repentance. If I do that, just remember that that is not me talking, but a scared old man.”

David disagreed. He asked God to show him the end of his life. ***“Let me know my end, and what is the measure of my days, let me know how fleeting life is!”*** (Ps 39:4)

Many people live in denial of the end of life. We may eat vitamins and pump iron to stay youthful, but try as hard as you may, “all paths lead but to the grave.” David was wiser and more courageous than Paine. He wanted to face the truth of death because he knew it was inevitable. He had that strange desire to know the truth, the whole truth, even the truth about his own demise. David did not know about the resurrection in Jesus of Nazareth, but he knew the true and living God, the father of Christ, and perhaps he had working faith in survival that went something like this: God will sustain every good thing he has created.

Death is truth - but can you face it like David, or will you discount your thinking in the last days of your life, like Paine?

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History of the Early Church (concluded)

Because of their refusal to recognize the divinity of the Roman emperor or pay homage to any god except their own, the early Christians were subjected to a number of persecutions by the Roman authorities. The most savage of these were the one under Emperor Decius (A.D. 249-51) and that instigated by Diocletian (A.D. 303-13). Many Christians welcomed martyrdom as an opportunity to share in the sufferings of Christ, and Christianity continued to grow despite all attempts to suppress it. Out of the experience of persecution a controversy grew over whether those who had denied their faith under pressure could be readmitted to communion, and whether the baptism and the Lord’s Supper could be administered validly by shepherds who had apostatized. In opposition to the Novatianists and Donatists, the larger church replied affirmatively to both questions.

Major Persecutions - Decius A.D. 249-51; Valerian A.D. 253-60; Diocletian A.D. 285-305 - the worst.
Alliance with the state - Constantine’s “Edict of Milan,” A.D. 313.
Official Religion - by A.D. 395 (Emperor Theodosius).

The principal theme of early Christian theological development was the interpretation of the faith in terms of concepts drawn from Greek philosophical thought. This process was begun by Justin Martyr, Tertullian, Origen, and other apologists of the 2d and 3d centuries.

The So-called 'Ten Lost Tribes of Israel'

The idea of the "ten lost tribes of Israel" got its start in an authentic historical event. At least some members of the northern ten of ancient Israel's total of twelve tribes were deported from the Kingdom of Israel after it was conquered by the Neo-Assyrian Empire in about 722 BCE. Since then, claims of descent from these tribes have been proposed in relation to many groups, such as the American Indians as narrated in the *Book of Mormon*.

Leading up to the Exile

2 Kings 16:9; 15:29; 17:3-6

1 Chronicles 5:25

2 Chronicles 15:9

2 Chronicles 30:1-11 explicitly mentions northern Israelites who had been spared by the Assyrians in particular members of Dan, Ephraim, Manasseh, Asher and Zebulun and how members of the latter three returned to worship at the Temple in Jerusalem at that time.

No specific record exists of the Assyrians having exiled people from Dan, Asher, Issachar, Zebulun or western Manasseh. Descriptions of the deportation of people from Reuben, Gad, Manasseh in Gilead, Ephraim and Naphtali indicate that only a portion of these tribes were deported and the places to which they were deported are known locations given in the accounts. The deported communities are mentioned as still existing at the time of the composition of the books of Kings and Chronicles and had not yet disappeared by assimilation.

After the Exile

And the rest of Israel, and of the priests and the Levites, were in all the towns of Judah
(Nehemiah 11:20).

Some evidence exists of a continuing identification in later centuries of individual Jews to the Lost Tribes. For example, in Luke 2:36, *Anna...of the tribe of Asher*.

Acts 26:7 - to which our twelve tribes hope to attain, as they earnestly worship night and day.

The "Ten Lost Tribes" are not lost. They were sent into captivity by Assyria. As a result of the Assyria and Babylonian captivities colonies of Israelites spread all over the ancient world, establishing synagogues. This is one of the reasons that Jews are found scattered around the world to this day.

Our Leaders!

Elders

Dwight Jones
Courtney Cheri
Gerald Molina

Preacher

Dan Schillinger

Deacons

Jesse Fowler
James Richardson

Our Services

Sunday Morning Bible Class 9:30 a.m.

Sunday Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.

Sunday Evening Worship 5:00 p.m.

Wednesday Evening Bible Class 7:00 p.m.

Ladies Bible Class Tuesday 10:30 am