
The Story of Jesus

Published By Evangelist Van Billingsley

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Unto the Lord

“Unto thee, O LORD, do I lift up my soul. O my God, I trust in thee: let me not be ashamed, let not mine enemies triumph over me.”

— Psalm 25:1,2

In this prayer, the psalmist David expresses his condition of worship and dependence upon God as lifting his soul up to the Lord. It is not enough to merely lift our hands to Him in praise and worship, which can be (and all too often is) simply a show of the flesh; but we should lift our soul

up to Him. Literally, we should pour ourselves out to him and lift not just our hands, but ourselves up to him. In doing so, we should follow the command penned by the Apostle Paul and present our bodies a living sacrifice. There is so much that could be said about lifting our soul up to the Lord, but suffice it to say, we should simply give ourselves wholly to Him and trust completely in Him and Him alone! For the sermon in this issue, we will look at a few verses later in this Psalm.

Featured Sermon by Evangelist Van Billingsley

“The Way to His Paths”

Psalm 25:8-10

8 Good and upright is the LORD: therefore will he teach sinners in the way.

9 The meek will he guide in judgment: and the meek will he teach his way.

10 All the paths of the LORD are mercy and truth unto such as keep his covenant and his testimonies.

Psalm twenty-five has natural divisions where David alternates between praying to God and meditation about God. The meditation could also be considered instructions or declarations to the

reader about God. For this sermon, I'll focus on his first meditation, or instructions to the reader. In the midst of the opening prayer portion of the psalm, David prays “Shew me thy ways, O LORD; teach me thy paths.” This seems to be the focus of his first meditation found in verses eight through ten. He reveals the way to His Paths.

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Our Ministry News...

From the Desk of the Editor



I'll take just a little space to fill you in on the latest news in the various aspects of our ministry.

We still covet your prayers for Gospel Light Baptist Mission which is a mission church out of Oakside Baptist Church in LaGrange, GA. Gospel Light Baptist Mission is located about twenty miles from our home church and we reach out another 15 miles or so into the rural portions of two counties. We are the only Independent Fundamental Baptist ministry that is currently working the areas we are trying to reach. We are faced heavily with influence from some very modernistic, contemporary and very worldly churches who promote false doctrine and we sometimes experience some opposition from these influences. Our recent efforts have included a very fruitful trip to Living Waters Youth Camp with Brother Mike Ragland and his wonderful family and staff. Our next major event is our summer VBS / Revival in mid July. We are hoping to reach many new families through this outreach.

In other news, we've added much more to our Internet resources. In our last issue we announced several new features on SOJMinistries.com. Since that time, we have actually spun off a totally new web site, IFBSermons.com. This is a work in progress, so there will be more and more changes as it is developed, but it is up and running and well on the way. This is a site devoted solely to MP3 audio sermons of Independent Fundamental Baptist Preachers from yesterday and today. In the future, we will even add the ability for approved users to add sermons to this database.

The second feature we've recently added is called "Christ Honouring Music." This site can be accessed through either of two addresses, <http://music.sojministries.com> or

<http://music.ifbsermons.com>. On this site you will find various IFB musicians with sample clips of each song on each CD offered. You will find information for contacting them directly to purchase music or book them for meetings and you will find prices and any other important information. We do not sell anything on this site, we simply provide sample clips and information for purchasing directly from these musicians. This too is a work in progress and we are working to fill this site with more and more "Christ Honouring Music."

Another feature we've added is our very own tribute to the "Greer Baptist Camp Meeting" with information, photos and links, including several sermons from the camp meeting.

All these changes have come on the heels of moving all our sites to a new server. For several years we have had free service hosted at our home church facilities, but due to hackers and other technical issues, that server was becoming more and more unstable and causing a considerable amount of downtime. This has forced us to move to a paid server, which makes it even more imperative that we use this resource to it fullest potential. We are also working on providing web sites for a few other ministries as part of our own growing Internet ministry.

Please pay us a visit on the web! We hope the services can be a blessing to you as well. Our main site offers Christian/Conservative News, Christian Broadcasting, Christian Radio Stations, a resourceful links page, and links to our other sites and services we've told you about, so check it all out!

I hope to see many of you in our travels throughout the summer!

A Servant of Christ,
Evangelist Van Billingsley

"The Way to His Paths"

(continued from cover) --

First, we see a pair of **Unlikely Partners**. Verse eight shows us the good and upright Lord and the partnership God makes with the unwor-

thy sinner. "Good and upright is the LORD: therefore will he teach sinners in the way." The most elemental study of God's Word shows a vast contrast between God and man. Isaiah records a great summation of

this truth: "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts (Isaiah 55:8-9)." A multitude of passages magnify the holiness of the Lord; the following are just a few examples:

He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he. (Deut. 32:4)

Yea, surely God will not do wickedly, neither will the Almighty pervert judgment. (Job 34:12)

Therefore I esteem all thy precepts concerning all things to be right; and I hate every false way. (Psalm 119:128)

It is because of his goodness and uprightness described in our text that the verse continues "therefore will he teach sinners in the way." Our condition is clear, "All have sinned and come short of the glory of God," and "There is none righteous, no, not one." Man is alienated from God; sin has separated man from God and broken that fellowship which Adam once had with Him. What an unlikely partnership, the holy and righteous God who abhors sin and will not look upon sin partnering up with sinful, fallen man to offer redemption. "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all (Isaiah 53:6)." Our part in this partnership is to sub-

mit to these ways He now teaches us through His Word and by His Spirit.

We see the second thing David reveals to us is found in verse nine; there we see **Unexpected Plans**. "The meek will he guide in judgment: and the meek will he teach his way." One might expect to gain attention from a far greater personality than himself by performing some extraordinary feat, or demonstrating unusual efforts or abilities to merit some attention, but this verse proclaims that the meek get God's attention. Who are the meek? The English definitions I have found that fit the context used throughout scripture are (1) humble, mild, (2) Willing to be taught, led, supervised, or directed, (3) submissive or compliant. Numbers 12:3 says, "Now the man Moses was very meek, above all the men which were upon the face of the earth." Moses was definitely not a weak man. He was strong and courageous, but he was surely a meek man. Jesus said, "Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls." Jesus Himself was not weak or timid, but He is meek. 1 Peter 3:4 tells us the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit is in the sight of God of great price. God has good news for the meek:

The meek shall eat and be satisfied: they shall praise the LORD that seek him: your heart shall live for

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ever. (Psalm 22:26)

But the meek shall inherit the earth; and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace. (Psalm 37:11)

Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth. (Matt. 5:5)

The meek also shall increase their joy in the LORD, and the poor among men shall rejoice in the Holy One of Israel. (Isaiah 29:19)

This good news gets even greater when salvation is promised for the Meek!

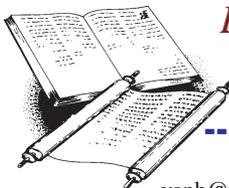
For the LORD taketh pleasure in his people: he will beautify the meek with salvation. (Psalm 149:4)

The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; (Isaiah 61:1)

Seek ye the LORD, all ye meek of the earth, which have wrought his judgment; seek righteousness, seek meekness: it may be ye shall be hid in the day of the LORD'S anger. (Zep. 2:3)

We now move to verse ten and

see the third thing David reveals to us are **Unyielding Paths**. "All the paths of the LORD are mercy and truth unto such as keep his covenant and his testimonies." The paths of the Lord are defined here simply as "Mercy and Truth." This principle is developed throughout God's Word. In the mountain God proclaimed "Mercy and Judgement" as His ways to Moses (Ex. 34:6,7). Jesus describes "The Gospel" to the Pharisees as "Judgement and the Love of God" (Luke 11:42). God is a God of Judgement and when necessary a God of wrath, but He too is a God of mercy. Though His paths are paths of truth, righteousness and judgement, they are also paths of mercy and forgiveness. These are yet unyielding paths; sin is always sin and judgment is always required. The unyielding paths also offer one and only one path to redemption and forgiveness. This mercy is promised to those "such as keep his covenant and his testimonies." These are they who are on His paths! Whose paths do we trod?



Evangelist Van Billingsley
proclaiming

The Story of Jesus

-- A Missionary to our Homeland --

(334)644-2391 ~ (334)644-4913

vanb@mindspring.com ~ <http://www.sojministries.com>

1906 South First Avenue, Lanett, Alabama 36863

Working out of

Oakside Baptist Church - LaGrange, Georgia

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