

The

LAMP

Your Word is a Lamp unto my Feet, and a Light for my Path. Psalm 119:105

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Westside Church of Christ  Bloomington, Indiana

The Law as Humor

In Tennessee, it is illegal to fire a gun at any wild game other than whales from a moving car. I kid you not. In Hilton Head, South Carolina, you cannot leave trash in your car for fear of attracting rats. At least that makes sense.

In Oxford, Ohio, you will be ticketed if you drive your car around the town square more than 100 times in a row. Furthermore, if your car breaks down in Oxford, Ohio (probably from driving around the town square repeatedly) and you call a cab, you will be ticketed if you opt to ride on the cabs roof.

In Nevada, of all places, it is illegal to drive a camel on the highway. Now we move on to the really serious offenses. In Minnesota, it is illegal to cross the state line— regardless whether you are walking or driving— with a duck on your head. And, if you are crossing into Wisconsin, the law also applies to chickens.

In Alabama, it is illegal to wear a blindfold while operating a motor vehicle. However, it is perfectly legal to drive the wrong way down a one-way street as long as you have a lantern attached to the front of your car.

Perhaps the best example of legislative silliness can be found in Pennsylvania where, if you are out driving your car, minding your own business, and you see a team of horses approaching, you are required by law to pull to the side of the road and cover your car with a blanket or dustcover that has been

painted or sewn to blend in with the scenery. However, if the horses react skittishly to your efforts, you are then required to disassemble your car and hide the parts in the bushes.

1st Peter 2:13-14 reads: *“^{d3} Submit yourselves for the Lord’s sake to every human authority: whether to the emperor, as the supreme authority, ¹⁴ or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right.”*

Paul says in Romans 13:1, *“¹ Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God.”*

Peter and the other Apostles, as well as Paul also asserted that we must follow the will of our earthly leaders right up to the point where following them would be contrary to God’s oversight (Acts 4:19, 5:29 and others).

But what, you may ask, does that have to do with those arcane laws that take up so much space in this article? While those laws make us chuckle today, all of them, while still “on the books”, were written for another time— for different circumstances, and it is doubtful that they are still being enforced today (with the possible exception of driving blindfolded of course).

What about God’s laws? Do you suppose there are any that are no longer “enforced” today? Certainly they were all written at another time and under different circumstances. We know from

first hand experience that society changes over time. We know from scripture that God *never* changes (Hebrews 13:8).

God’s “laws”, perfect in every way, remain intact and in force thousands of years after they were put in place.

Just ponder that fact for a moment. For several thousand years, each society has formed laws to control behavior, and to “encourage” some modicum of conformity on it’s citizens. Countless thousands of laws no doubt. As society has changed, the laws need to keep pace with changes in technology and moral standards— human moral standards that is.

But God got it right the first time. His laws never change— have never changed and will never change, because they don’t need to change.

If every human were to steadfastly keep to God’s laws, we would need no other laws. That seems so simple, but it is a really huge thing!

Do you ever wonder why we humans have to have so many laws in the first place? It’s because we have become experts at finding loopholes. There are no loopholes in God’s law. It is perfect. And if we were to follow them religiously (sorry, I couldn’t resist) we would be perfect too.

But perfect we are not. So we have man’s law to keep us in line. Sometimes anyway.



You’re never too old to do something incredibly stupid.



Al's brother, **Roland**, is going through a troubling time and needs our prayers.

John's cousin, **Penny Abel**, who has a brain tumor (a glioblastoma) is not responding to chemo.

Neil is requesting prayer for his **Mom**, who is battling some health issues.

Emily Kluesner is in Korea for the next several months.

Jake is also in Korea for a while.

Please also remember to pray for **Max Horrocks** and **Christopher Gagnon** that they might return to the Lord.

A special thanks to **Sandy** for her continuing efforts to keep our building spic and span!

Let's do our part to help her by cleaning up around our area and putting books and Bibles away and throwing out any trash we might otherwise leave behind.

Perpetual Prayer List

This month's perpetual prayer list contains a couple of new names. Please be sure to add them to your prayer list. These are people whom we need to remember regularly and often, in addition to those listed above who have new issues and concerns. Please bring the following names before God:

- Alex Chambers
- Mia Cook
- Jack Horrocks
- Max Horrocks
- Louise Johnson
- Bette Oney-Self
- Leroy Provines
- Sharron Smith
- Jeff Whittington
- Ashley Wood

Times are tough, and getting tougher. Let's all join together and make sure that our brethren's needs are being met.

Some might be too embarrassed to ask for help. They shouldn't have to ask— we should know what is going on in the lives of those we love the most.

We serve an awesome God, and He is so good to give us what we ask for so much of the time. Remember that we should praise Him whether he answers our prayers the way we would like or not.

May Birthdays and Anniversaries

Tyler Wildman 2nd

Mary Ann Horrocks 5th

Ken & Mary Ann 5th

Sherry Myers 22nd

Rebecca Wallace 25th

Building Cleaning This Month:

Sandy

Communion Prep For May:

Trudy

Verse of the Month:

Isaiah 53:5-6

⁵ But He was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on Him, and by His wounds we are healed.
⁶ We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

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JUST FOR KIDS

The Judges of Israel

F M J A I R V F R N
R I L E I N H T O Y
A N B J G J J Q M K
G O H Z T I A P A E
M S M F A B D L C L
A M R K D N O E P O
H A R O D T Y K O N
S S N T P U Z P N N
N J E P H T H A H L
D E B O R A H E R V

Created Just for the great kids at the Westside Church of Christ

Abdon

Elon

Jair

Samson

Deborah

Gideon

Jephthah

Shamgar

Ehud

Ibzan

Othniel

Tola

DAVID THE PROPHET

PART I

Hebrews 11 is known to many as "the Faith Chapter," as it tells us many important things about faith. It contains the names and deeds of several men and women of faith from creation to the time of Israel's entering of the Promised Land. In this book, the author presents illustrations from the Old Testament to bear out his opening statement: *"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. For by it the elders obtained a good testimony"* ([Hebrews 11:1-2](#)).

In individual lives, one after another, he shows that their expressions of faith in God, despite the lack of material evidence, proved they were righteous (verse 4), pleased God (verse 5), and were heirs of righteousness (verse 7). The remarkable acts that they accomplished- from Abel's offering of an excellent sacrifice, to Rahab's hiding of the Israelite spies- were done because, believing the Word of God, they envisioned a heavenly future that others could not see.

We see, then, that these "heroes" of faith not only lived righteous lives in the *present*, but also moved and acted with a steady eye on the *future*.

Their faith had its foundation in the invisible God whose Word they obeyed. Even though the foreknowledge of God's plan for mankind contained in the promises that God gave to them and to Israel also played a major role, it is one not nearly recognized enough among professing Christians today.

It was not just the promise of salvation or even of eternal life dangled before them that made them so unflinchingly faithful. It was also their steadfast *hope* of a better tomorrow in God's Kingdom.

Later in the chapter, Paul(?) writes: *"And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the prophets . . ."* (verse 32). After briefly sketching the faith of Rahab at Jericho, realizing that he cannot tell the tale of every faithful individual from the Old Testament, he begins simply to name them in roughly chronological order. He quickly lists four judges, then lumps David, Samuel, and the prophets in another group before recounting their and others' exploits for God.

We know David primarily as a warrior and king. But we also know that he was "the sweet psalmist of Israel" ([II Samuel 23:1](#)). Less often do

we, as Paul does here, rank him among the *prophets*. Peter does so as well in his Pentecost sermon in [Acts 2:29-31](#).

However, Paul's grouping of David with Samuel- who was a prophet *and* a judge—and the rest of a larger group of Old Testament prophets should be no surprise; for beyond his historical exploits and the lessons we can learn from his full and complex life, his most lasting contribution may well be the numerous prophecies that he wrote down for our learning.

It is intriguing to note that Paul chose to place David at the head of this second group of names, out of chronological order and ahead of Samuel. Was this purposeful or just his stream of consciousness? If purposeful, it may indicate that Paul considered David the greatest of the Old Testament prophets, or at least eminent enough to head the list.

The fact that David appears with Samuel and the prophets, as well as his inclusion in Hebrews 11, argues that he conforms to the themes that Paul is expounding. David also lived a life of righteousness and faith in the firm hope of receiving God's glorious promises in His future Kingdom.

Though his conquests and reign established the Golden Age of Israelite history, he yearned for God's direct rule over, not just Israel, but the entire earth.

Because of David's zeal for Him and His Kingdom, God also used David as a prophet to flesh out many of those promises in his writings, the Psalms.

In his last words, David refers to the fact that God had inspired him: *"The Spirit of the Lord spoke by me, and His word was on my tongue"* ([II Samuel 23:2](#)). We should not understand this to mean that God inspired him only in his last words but that the Holy Spirit was behind his entire contribution to the Old Testament, which was primarily the compositions we know as "psalms."

Even so, his last words have struck commentators down through the ages as unmistakably prophetic and specifically Messianic in tone. [II Samuel 23:1-7](#) contains a glorious prediction of the Messiah's kingdom and conquests, in highly poetic language.

For Our Guests: What to Expect During Today's Worship Service

Singing

We sing "a cappella" (without any instruments). This may be new to you, and if you are wondering why we do it this way, feel free to ask any of us. We encourage you to join in, even if you don't know the songs. But don't feel *obligated*; you are welcome to just sit and listen.

Lord's Supper

Communion is an important part of our worship *each and every week*. This is a celebration of the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus. In this simple memorial, we remember the sacrifice He made for our sins.

Offering

The work here at Westside is supported by the free will offerings of our members, as directed in scripture. You are not expected to make a donation, just pass the basket to the person sitting next to you.

Preaching

The sermon will be 30-35 minutes long, and will be grounded on scripture. Should you have any questions about what is taught here, please ask! We love to talk about our awesome God. After the sermon, an invitation will be given for those who desire to be Baptized. At this time, we will stand and sing a song. Please do not feel uncomfortable; you will not be singled out in any way.

Expected of you:

Nothing! We are honored that you chose to be with us today. Please take a minute after services to let us say hello to you!

Welcome to the Westside Church of
Christ!

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Bloomington, Indiana 47403
Neil Tremblett, Preacher

812-360-1399

Sunday Morning Bible Study — 9:30 A.M.
Sunday Morning Worship — 10:30 A.M.
Sunday Evening Worship — 5:00 P.M.

Wednesday Evening Bible Study — 7:00 P.M.

You are most welcome— please join us!