

The Sunday Reader

Vol. 10 No. 18

Till I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine...

May 01, 2005

RAHAB THE HARLOT

“By faith the harlot Rahab did not perish with those who did not believe, when she had received the spies with peace.” (Heb. 11:31) “Likewise, was not Rahab the harlot also justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out another way? For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.” (Jas. 2:25)

The example of Rahab is truly remarkable. The two passages cited above show that she was justified by an obedient faith. Anyone who has ever been justified before God has been justified in this manner. The faith that saves is the faith that obeys (Heb. 5:8-9; Matt. 7:21-23; Rom. 1:5; 16:26; 6:17-18) Rahab is but one example among many in Hebrews chapter eleven that demonstrates this important Bible principle. It is truly a shame that so many in our time have been deceived into believing salvation is by faith only. “You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only. Likewise, was not Rahab the harlot also justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out another way?” (Jas. 2:24-25)

Rahab was a woman who did not follow the crowd. The other inhabitants of Jericho knew that Israel’s God had given them great deliverance and victory, yet she was the only one to acknowledge, “He is God in heaven above and on earth beneath” and the only one to act courageously on her knowledge. (Josh. 2:9-11)

Many today know the truth of the gospel but few have the courage to act on it to make their lives right with God. (Matt. 7:13-14) The cowardly are the first in line when it comes to receiving God’s righteous judgment. (Rev. 21:8)

The example of Rahab also teaches us that God can save the worst of sinners. Paul used himself to point this out in 1 Tim. 1:15-16.

Two important points need to be stressed. First, God will save any sinner who comes to Him. No one is so bad that God will refuse to save him or her. Some feel that they have committed such bad things that God will not save them. They are wrong. Such people need to listen to God’s word rather than to their feelings.

Secondly, we must remember that God will save any sinner who comes to Him on His terms. One of His requirements is repentance. (Act 17:30-31) This means the sinner must give up his practice of sin. The harlot cannot continue in her harlotry; the liar cannot continue lying; the gay person cannot continue being gay; the adulterer cannot continue in adultery; the thief cannot continue stealing, etc. (cf. 1 Cor. 6:9-11) It is true that God will save any sinner (which includes us all – Rom. 3:23) but He will not look with favor on anyone who persists in sin. (John 9:31)

Another important lesson we learn from the story of Rahab is that there is no salvation outside of God’s location. Joshua 2:19 states: “So it shall be that whoever goes outside the doors of your house into the street, his blood shall be on his own head, and we will be guiltless. And whoever is with you in the house, his blood shall be on our head if a hand is laid on him.” Thus only those in Rahab’s house would be saved, providing they were abiding by the other conditions given them. (Joshua 2:14)

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Only those in God’s family are saved now. All others are in the Devil’s family. (1 John 3:10) God’s family is His church. (1 Tim. 3:15) The church does not save, it is the saved. (Acts 2:47; Eph. 5:23) God only has one family or church. (Eph. 4:4; 1:22-23) This is the reason why people need to get out of the churches of men and come to God on His terms. (Acts 2:38, 41, 47)

Rahab also shows us that even the worst of sinners may have the marks of strong Christians. Rahab had strong faith and courage. Sinners in our time often show the characteristics of generosity, compassion, courage, etc. even better than many Christians do. Also, strong Christians come from weak Christians who grow strong over time. D.R.C.

Upcoming Assignments:

Building Cleaning 05/02 – 05/08

Auditorium/Foyer: Davis
Classrooms/Baths/Halls: Crane

Prepare Lord’s Supper May 08

Millie Collier

Making Communion Bread for May

Debbie Mowbray

Note – Please send news items **via email** for inclusion in **The Sunday Reader** to: **newsrockdale@aol.com**

The Information Box

- **Group 1** meets tonight after services
- **Remember in Prayer:**
 - Suzanne Crane, Margaret Wade, Ed Pickett, Ruth Poss
- **Out of Town:** Marshall Irvin
- **Men’s Meeting next Sunday @ 4:30**
- **Our Gospel Meeting** begins this Wednesday May 4 – 8 (Wednesday thru Sunday). *Make plans now to attend!* Richard Boone speaking on **The Home and Family**
- **Gospel Meeting - South Fayette** May 1 – 6. Monday thru Friday @ 7:30pm
- The **Tuesday morning Bible class** meets at 10:30am – Everyone is welcome!
- The **Ladies Bible Class** meets at 7:30pm every 2nd & 4th Thursday of the month.
- The **“Bible-Dial-A-Message”** number is 770-929-3242. Give it a try, and tell your friends!

Today’s Sermons:

A.M. – **A Man And His Children**

P.M. – **The Good Shepherd**

Rockdale Church of Christ

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Bible-Dial-A-Message

770-929-3242

Schedule of Services

Sunday Morning:

Bible Study - 9:30
Worship - - - 10:30

Sunday Evening:

Worship - - - 5:30

Wednesday Evening:

Bible Study - 7:30

Elders:

Forrest Bacon - 770-918-1932
Wendell Holland - 770-761-6987

Deacons:

Gary Collier - 770-483-6017
Andy Dobbs - 770-922-3707
Marshall Irvin - 770-483-5745

Evangelist:

Derek Chancellor
770-860-8430