

THINK ON THESE THINGS (Philippians 4:8)

Jonah

OUR FAMILY NEWS

Pray: Josiah, Wayne and Cathy, Helen Spicer, Peggy
Traveling/Working: Slope workers. Steve and Abby are in Juneau.
Radio Programs: Listen to "Searching the Scriptures", our weekly radio program on KMBQ 99.7 Sunday mornings beginning at 9:00 AM.
Today's Scripture: "Jonah 1:1-3 (KJV)" ¹ Now the word of the LORD came unto Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, ² Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry against it; for their wickedness is come up before me.
Wisdom for Today: "Psalm 24:1-2 (KJV)" ¹ The earth is the LORD'S, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein.
² For he hath founded it upon the seas, and established it upon the floods.

Attendance Last Sunday 63: Our Record: 107
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God's Plan of Salvation

HearRomans 10:17
 BelieveMark 16:16, Hebrews 11:1-6
 Repent Acts 2:38, II Corinthians 7:10
 Confess Romans 10:9-10, Matthew 10:32-33
 Be Baptized Mark 16:16, Acts 22:16
 Arise & Walk in Newness of LifeRomans 6:4

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth..."

CONTACT INFORMATION

MEETING TIMES
Sunday:
 Bible Classes: 10AM
 AM Worship: 11AM
 PM Worship: 5PM
Wednesday:
 Bible Study: 7PM
OFFICE HOURS
 Tue./Thur. Call or Ck Web

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Visitors Always Welcome; Members Expected

As I mentioned a couple Sunday's ago I would be going through some Old Testament individuals and Jonah came to mind. The book of Jonah is a powerful book that reveals so much about how we are today. Jonah also shows the wonderful mercy and grace of God. The book of Jonah has 4 chapters that can easily be read and provides many teachable principals.

In chapter 1 we see what man "religious scholars" fail to see and that is although the Israelites were God's chosen people whom Jesus would come through that did not exclude the rest of humanity from sin. **Jonah 1:2 NKJV "Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry out against it; for their wickedness has come up before Me."** Nineveh could not continue to live in such a wicked way. Yet for some reason Jonah who was just told the wickedness of Nineveh had come before God thought he could avoid that great call. Silly to think about but due to his decision to run away there would be consequences. **Jonah 1:15 NKJV "So they picked up Jonah and threw him into the sea, and the sea ceased from its raging."** When we try to avoid what God has told us through His word we will suffer the consequences

Chapter 2 provides us with the comforting truth that as faithful Christians when we repent from a sincere and humble heart God hears our pleas. Jonah from the bowels from the belly of the great fish would cry out to the Lord Jehovah **Jonah 2:8-9 NKJV "Those who regard worthless idols Forsake their own Mercy. But I will sacrifice to You With the voice of thanksgiving; I will pay what I have vowed. Salvation is of the LORD."** Isn't it wonderfully great to know that God has so much patience and love for His creation. That even in the depths of the darkest places in our lives He would desire to hear His children. Do we forget **Isaiah 59:1 NKJV "Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, That it cannot save; Nor His ear heavy, That it cannot hear."** How great God is!

Chapter 3 gives us such insight into the supreme grace that permeates from the Almighty. One examples is that God shares His word with Jonah a second time **Jonah 3:1-2 NKJV "Now the word of the LORD came to Jonah the second time, saying, "Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and preach to it the message that I tell you."** God certainly didn't have to share His word with Jonah a second time, but because of His grace He did. God did not have to reveal His word to humanity yet He did and because of that fact we are blessed beyond measure to know what His desire is for us. Just as was His desire for Nineveh. **Jonah 3:5 NKJV "So the people of Nineveh believed God, proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest to the least of them."** One of the biggest reasons why people are not converted isn't because there

aren't sincere people but because we as Christians lack the confidence in the word of God to convict men of sin. Let's take the people of Nineveh as a great reminder as to how the word of God can not only change our lives but also the lives of others. **Jonah 3:10 NKJV "Then God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God relented from the disaster that He had said He would bring upon them, and He did not do it."**

Chapter 4 is the final look into how people can get in their own way of God's forgiveness for others. **Jonah 4:1-2 NKJV "But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he became angry. So he prayed to the LORD, and said, "Ah, LORD, was not this what I said when I was still in my country? Therefore I fled previously to Tarshish; for I know that You are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness, One who relents from doing harm."**

Chapter 4 has a similar parallel to Luke 15 and how the people whom Jesus taught cared more for things than people. Sad to see how Jonah could have this attitude towards God who not only spared the souls of those in Nineveh but also not so long before Jonah himself was also spared. How easy it is to forget what God has done for us. **Jonah 4:10 -11 NKJV "But the LORD said, "You have had pity on the plant for which you have not labored, nor made it grow, which came up in a night and perished in a night. And should I not pity Nineveh, that great city, in which are more than one hundred and twenty thousand persons who cannot discern between their right hand and their left—and much livestock?"**

Again the book of Jonah has so much spiritual application and truth that is far too often overlooked. How many of us see ourselves in the book of Jonah from trying to run away from our responsibilities. To recognizing our sinful decision and repenting of those bad choices then becoming bold in the truth. Preaching the word of God to all that need it



and then becoming upset with the outcome! Wayne Jackson describes the characteristics of Jonah in 4 ways. The Prodigal Prophet, Praying Prophet, Preaching Prophet and lastly the Pouting Prophet! Let us ever strive to be praying and preaching children of God rather than the first and the last!