



SERVICE TIMES:

Sunday : 9:30 AM
10:30 AM
5:00 PM
Wednesday: 7:00 PM

ELDERS

Todd Cox Jimmy Griffith
Travis Everett Paul White

DEACONS:

Derek Anderson Bret Cox
James Dow Patrick Gaughan
Ryan Griffith Dan Harbin
Craig Hecht Danny Meek
Skyler Meek Phil Parker
Jay Silvers Jason Stannard
Travis Starling Bryan Tacker
Steve Turquette Eric Wise

EVANGELIST

Paul White

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April 4, 2021

Condemned Man Refuses Pardon

In 1829 George Wilson was convicted in Pennsylvania of mail robbery and murder. He was sentenced to death. Later pardoned by President Andrew Jackson, Wilson refused the pardon. Confusion reigned among all concerned over the case. Nothing like this had ever happened before. What were they to do with a man refusing a pardon and choosing to die on the gallows instead? Finally, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, John Marshall ruled:

“A pardon is a paper, the value of which depends upon its acceptance by the parties implicated. It is hardly to be supposed that one under sentence of death would refuse to accept a pardon. But if it is refused, it is no pardon. George Wilson must hang.”

A few weeks went by and then Wilson walked up the thirteen steps, a black hood was placed over his head and a rope around his neck. Like a bolt of lightning the body fell six or seven feet. The head jerked, the neck snapped, a few convulsive movements and all was quiet. George Wilson was dead! Why? Because he had to die? No. Because he had refused a pardon.

That is a true story. It is a sad story. But more so is the story of a man lost in sin.

Christ came to save the lost sinner. In his death atonement was made for the sins of the whole world, and the way to heaven was thrown open. On the memorable Pentecost, recorded in Acts chapter 2, the gospel was preached and inquiring sinners were told to “repent and be baptized for the remission of sins.” Man, lost in sin and sentenced to die, was now offered a pardon. Man could now have his sins forgiven through the sacrifice of Christ.

But the tragic reality is that many people reject this pardon! Countless men and women refuse to obey the gospel, thus meeting the terms of the pardon. Standing in the shadow of the gallows of eternal death, they refuse God’s gracious offer.

Remember that a pardon is no pardon until it is accepted. Christ will not force any of us to accept it. Why would anyone prefer death to life? Consider the fate of those who will not accept the pardon:

“And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power.” (2 Thes 1:7-9) - adapted from *The Biblical Illustrator*

Our Stewardship

“You wicked, slothful servant!” . . . “Cast out the worthless slave into the outer darkness; in that place there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” Such are the disturbing words of Jesus in the familiar parable of the talents. Recall briefly the story:

When leaving on a journey a master entrusted each of his three slaves with a portion of his money to manage in his absence. Each was given an amount in proportion to his ability. Upon the master’s return two reported that they had doubled his money, but the third merely brought back what he had been given, explaining that fear of failure kept him from doing anything. The master praised and rewarded the productive slaves

but severely condemned and punished the negligent one. What is the lesson Jesus was attempting to teach us in this parable?

While we are here in this life we are the Lord’s stewards. As such He expects us to be using what He has entrusted to us. When He comes again we will be called upon to give an account of how we have used what He placed in our care. But what has been entrusted to us? Allow me to suggest at least three things of which each of us is a steward:

1. Material possessions. We have been greatly blessed with what most of the people in this world would consider great wealth. Do we realize that it is not really ours, but is simply in our control for a few years?
2. Talents. Though this obviously varies from person to person, can any of us deny having any special abilities, which could be used in the Lord’s service?
3. Time. This is really what I mainly wanted to stress in this article. Do we consider that God grants us 24 hours every day and will someday ask, “How did you use it?” Remember Paul’s admonition: “It is required of stewards that one be found trustworthy.” (1 Cor 4:2)

Are you a trustworthy steward? Which will you hear on the day of judgment?

“Well done, good and faithful slave . . . enter into the joy of your master.”

or

“You wicked, lazy slave . . . throw out the worthless slave into the outer darkness.”

- Leonard White



The following quote has been attributed to Mark Twain:

“When I was a boy of 14, my father was so ignorant I could hardly stand to have the old man around. But when I got to be 21, I was astonished at how much the old man had learned in seven years.”