
I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the LORD – Psalm 122:1

The Northside church of Christ

25 Greenfield Pike, Hillsboro Oh. 45133 Ph. 937-393-3634

Visitors Welcomed!

Order of Services

Sunday

Bible Study 9:30 am

Worship Service 10:30 am & 5:00 pm

Wednesday

Bible Study 7:00 pm

www.northsidehillsboro.com

Evangelist: Guillermo Alvarez

And Pray For One Another – James 5:16

Please keep in your prayers those who are having physical troubles and those who are traveling.

Remember in your prayers:

**The Prayer Offered In Faith Will Restore
The One Who Is sick – James 5:15**



The New
Northside Proclaimer

“What We Have... Heard We Proclaim To You...”

1 John 1:3

Welcome to the Northside Church of Christ

World's Oldest Seed

Mike Thomas

On January 25, 2005 a seed from a palm tree was planted in Israel which eventually grew to 14 inches tall with only 5 leaves. Not much to get excited about in terms of physical mass. But what made this palm tree unique was its seed, which had been discovered in excavations at King Herod's palace on Mount Masada, near the Dead Sea. Through carbon dating testing, scientists were able to confirm the seed was 2,000 years old - making it "the oldest seed ever known to produce a viable young tree" (San Francisco Chronicle, June 12, 2005). Such uniqueness lead scientists to name the palm tree Methuselah, in honor of the oldest man to ever live.

While scientists are to be commended for their discovery of the Methuselah Palm, they are incorrect in saying it is the oldest seed ever known to produce a plant. The Bible gives evidence of a much older seed with a much greater fruit. Peter said that Christians, in obeying the truth, have "been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever" (1 Pet. 1:23). "All flesh is as grass," he goes on to say (in quoting Isaiah), "and all the glory of man as the flower of the grass. The grass withers, and its flower falls away, but the word of the LORD endures forever" (vv. 24-25).

When you and I handle the word of God, we are handling the most important collection of thought ever assembled. Long before we came on the scene, the Bible was in the world revealing God's mind to mankind. It contains writings that were read by Moses, David, Esther, Mordecai, Job, Mary, Jesus, Paul, scribes, priests, tanners, lawyers, prisoners, slaves, kings, dictators, peasants, and so on. People who read from it a thousand years ago are no longer part of the world's conversation, but they are in eternity meeting consequences for how they handled the word of God. People not yet born will either be in

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in heaven or hell for how they respond to the Book. Soon, you and I will join the countless souls who have been erased from time as the blades of grass and petals of flowers that fade each year but the word of God will still be here. It endures forever. It's been here longer than the Methuselah Palm... and will be here long after the Methuselah Palm is once again forgotten in time.

Are you handling carefully the eternal word of God (2 Tim. 2:15)? Is it the most important book in your life? Are you relying on it to find eternal life? "Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls" (Jas. 1:21).

Gopher Wood or Gopher Forest?

James Hahn

In seeking to impress upon the minds of individuals the importance of respecting the authority of God’s word we use the example of God commanding Noah to build the ark of gopher wood. When God commanded Noah to build the ark of gopher wood we note (and correctly so) that Noah would be in rebellion to God if he used any other wood to build the ark. As simple as this illustration may be we still find many who ridicule this example.

Several years ago (November, 1976) F. L. Lemley wrote an article which appeared in "Integrity" magazine entitled "The Law of Exclusion," in which he rejects and ridicules the idea that when God authorizes a particular thing then anything other than that authorized would be displeasing to God. In an effort to prove his point he uses the example of Noah.

He says, "the assumption that gopher wood was a specific variety of wood cannot be proved" and "Some translate ‘gopher wood’ as ‘resinous wood,’ which is not a specific variety, but would include cypress, redwood, or other varieties." He goes on to say that one person had suggested that "it could mean wood from a nearby forest known as Gopher."

What Mr. Lemley fails to note is if what he says about "gopher wood" is true the example remains the same. If "gopher wood" simply means "resinous wood" then for Noah to obey God he could only use "resinous wood." To use non-resinous wood would be disobedience to God. Suppose "gopher wood" referred to wood from a forest by that name. Would that change the force of the argument? Certainly not! It would simply mean that Noah was to build the ark of wood from “Gopher Forest.” Wood from any other source would not be acceptable.

Let "gopher wood" mean whatever you want it to mean, but the fact still remains that God told Noah to build the ark of "gopher wood" and had he built it of any other kind of wood he would have been in rebellion to God. We can’t justify rebellion to God by making foolish quibbles.

Sunday Morning Lesson

Topic: _____

How can I apply this lesson to my life? _____
