

THE FLORAL HEIGHTS INFORMER

www.floralheightschurchofchrist.org

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Flawed Conviction

Elihu was a young man who had listened patiently to Job, Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar argue about the reason Job was suffering. He was respectful to older men (Job 32:4) and convicted of God’s laws. His conviction is put on display as he expresses to these four men that he would in no way spare any of them through personal favoritism (see Job 32:21-22). Elihu was convinced that what he would bring to this argument would be words from the “*uprightness of his heart*” (Job 33:3). Furthermore, Elihu believed that he spoke on “*God’s behalf... and that his words were not false because he had perfect knowledge*” (Job 36:2-4).

Elihu; however, was not unlike Job’s three friends who falsely accused Job of sin. Elihu concludes that Job is “*not just*” (Job 33:12) and that he is guilty of “*rebellion*” (Job 34:37), “*pride and arrogance*” (Job 35:12-16). Elihu explains that Job’s suffering is God’s chastisement for his sinful conduct. Job’s solution is to admit and repent of his sins so that he may be restored to health and prosperity (see Job 33:19; 36:15). Job has already proved this theory wrong to Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar (see Job 24:25). That leaves us with concluding the same thing about Elihu as we do the three friends of Job; i.e., they are wrong about their friend Job. Job was innocent!

Elihu’s own words identify not only his conviction but the conviction of Job’s three friends as being faulty. They had plenty of “opinions” but no facts to back their biting accusations (see Job 32:6, 10). There is a great lesson to learn from these four men’s convicted spirit of error. Elihu, like many convicted men and women today, may be positively praised for his spirit of conviction until his error is exposed. There are many who have intense convictions of faith in God yet this convicted spirit has little Bible law to substantiate its validity.

Local News:

Welcome to all our visitors:

We pray that you will be edified by our service and that you will ask questions if things are not as you are accustomed to seeing. Please do come back at your every opportunity!

Take time to add our new converts and Cindy addresses to your directory (posted in the foyer).

Please keep the following members in your prayers:

Pat Robertson was admitted to the hospital this past Wednesday evening after Bible classes. She had an accelerated heart beat and very high blood pressure.

Pam Husak had surgery this past Tuesday and is home doing fine. She will spend the next two weeks healing and then the next four weeks on light duty around the house.

Women's Bible Study:

The next Bible class will be Friday April 10th at 12:30 PM. The class meets at the church building with Kasey Robertson doing the teaching.

Continue to pray for our shut-ins:

Stella Davidson
696-1030 (Home)

Calvin York
692-0489 (Home).

The child of God must take great care not to let an overzealous spirit of conviction cause them to perform witch hunts on their own brethren or those in the world to the exclusion of facts. Elihu's youth is depicted in the fact that though he patiently waited his turn to speak when he finally did he just exploded (Job 32:18-19). When Christians react on hearsay or personal opinions they cause trouble in whatever environment they are in. Whether we are at the assembly of the saints, work, school, or recreational events let us take great care to examine all the facts before we make a convicted and condemning judgment against another. Our judgments must be "*righteous*" (Jn. 7:24). Such will be the case as we test every spirit to see whether they are of God or not (I Jn. 4:1ff). Take care that your conviction not convict you!

Robertson

John C.

Days of our lives

Pharaoh of Egypt once asked Jacob "*How many are the days of the years of thy life?*" Jacob answered, "*The days of the years of my pilgrimage are a hundred and thirty years: few and evil have been the days of the years of my life, and they have not attained unto the days of the years of the life of my fathers in the days of their pilgrimage*" (Gen. 47:8-9). Like any man or woman who has reached an older age Jacob had been through much in life. Our lives may be compared to a roller coaster at an amusement park. We have wonderful moments in life such as the birth of children, baptisms, restorations, vacations, and birthdays and then we have heart wrenching moments such as the death of loved ones, financial strains, and various headaches that come with being parents. Though our days, like Jacob's, are few and evil at times we do have hope. One day the faithful will be in heaven with God forever!

Give no place to Unclean Spirits

Matthew 12:38-45

Introduction:

Jesus expels a demon out of a man at Matthew 12:22. The event produced two reactions. Multitudes were amazed but the Pharisees associated Jesus' miracle to Satanic powers. Jesus rebukes the Pharisees and places the association with demons upon them as "evil" people (Matt. 12:34). While demons no longer possess men's souls as they did in the Lord's day they continue to work in the lives of men (see Matt. 25:41; I Tim. 4:1ff). Satan's work of walking to and fro throughout the earth to seek a soul to devour continues to this day (see Job 1:6-8; I Pet. 5:8). The Christian must thereby put on God's armor to wage warfare against this foe (see Eph. 6:10-12).

I. Pharisees crave a sign (Matt. 12:38-42):

- A. "Teacher, we would see a sign..."
- B. The sign of Jonah
- C. The Queen of the South

II. The travels of an unclean spirit (Matt. 12:43-45):

- A. The unclean spirit is restless until he finds a place to lodge.
- B. A house fit for unclean spirits.
- C. The unrepentant mind of lawlessness makes for a cozy home for unclean spirits.

III. Application:

- A. Satan tempts us (II Cor. 2:11; James 1:13ff).
 - 1. Lust (I Jn. 2:16).
 - 2. Vanity (I Jn. 2:16)
 - 3. Pride (I Jn. 2:16).
 - 4. Covetousness (I Jn. 2:16).
 - 5. False doctrines (II Thess. 2:9-10; I Cor. 4:6-13).
- B. When I give in to these temptations I give place to the devil's work of ruining my soul. As I continue in these sins I make the devil very comfortable in the house of my mind.

Conclusion:

The Christian is in a spiritual warfare. We are given a set time to live and then we will be at the mercy of God's judgment day. How will God see the days of our lives? Did we obey the gospel and take advantage of the saving blood of Jesus? Did we wage effective warfare against Satan and his angels? Did we pray to God in humility when we let the devil get the best of us? Did we provide cozy homes for unclean spirits due to a lack of desire, zeal, and conviction to repent? We are given only one life to live. Let us all make the most of our time here and never permit unclean spirits to take up residency in our minds (see James 4:7-10).