



Blackfoot Church of Christ

Published by Blackfoot Church of Christ
Blackfoot, ID

Volume 6 Number 43

October 28, 2018

Christ our Refuge

By William C. "Bill" Sexton

Joshua 20 reveals the cities God provided for the "slayer that kills any person unawares and unwittingly" to which they may "flee" for refuge. Moses had spoken of such (Ex. 21:13; Deut. 41-43; 19:1-13; Num. 35:9-34) prior to his death, being a prophet of God.

The purpose of these were to provide a place for one to escape to and receive protection, who had accidentally killed a person, until his case could be heard by the magistrates who had the authority to deliver him up to the avenger. Joshua 20:7-9 gives the names of those cities.

"And they appointed Kedesh in Galilee in mount Naphtali, and Shechem in mount Ephraim, and Kirjath-arba, which is Hebron, in the mount of Judah. And on the other side Jordan by Jericho eastward, they assigned Bezer in the wilderness upon the plain out of the tribe of Reuben, and Ramoth in Gilead out of the tribe of Gad, and Golan in Bashan out of the tribe of Manasseh. These were the cities appointed for all the children of Israel, and for the stranger that sojourned among them, that whosoever kills any person unawares might flee thither, and not die by the hand of the avenger of blood, until he stood before the congregation."

George DeHoff in His Commentary has this interesting note relative to the names of these cities:

"Many think that the meaning of the name of each city expresses some characteristic of Christ. (1) Kedesh 'To set apart.' (2) Shechem 'Shoulder' or burden bearer. (3) Hebron 'To associate, join' to have 'fellowship, friendly association.' (4) Ramoth 'To be raised, made high or exalted.' (6)

Golan. 'To remove, transmigrate, or pass away.'" (Dehoff' Commentary Vol. 2, Page 50)

We need to understand today that Christ is the refuge for any and all who would escape from the consequence of sin and receive protection. There are so many wonderful aspects to this place of refuge that we need to THINK about it often and seriously!

The Hebrew writer uses the word "Refuge" for those who have run for cover, by faith in God -- to that provided by Him:

Heb. 6:18-20, "That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us: Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters into that within the veil; Whither the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus, made an high priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec."

1. We have all violated the law of God and stand in need to escape the penalty that will be dealt out if we do not escape. (2 Thess. 1:7-10)
2. God provided the place, gave the instruction to flee -- run for it. If we fail, we shall be the ones who suffers and we can only blame ourselves.
3. The cities of old were all located on a high place that they might be easily seen at a distance. The roads to them were kept in good shape. Christ our refuge is in heaven, and His way is plainly set forth in the New Testament. All are urged to flee sin (1 Cor. 6:18), lest we receive its wages (Rom. 6:23).
4. Faith to flee to the place of refuge was and is still essential in order for one to secure the safety provided. Do you have faith enough to repent, confess and be baptized into Christ where salvation is provided? If not, then you can't enjoy the safety. I urge all to flee to the place of refuge, and remain there! (Cf. 2 Cor. 5:17) I would urge each of us to see the need to FLEE from the evil of the word and be SURE we are in the place of safety! And let each of us be convinced that the place for modern man is IN CHRIST! That is where ALL SPIRITUAL BLESSING are location (Eph. 1:3). That is the location of salvation (2 Tim. 2:10). Each of us need to ask: Are we there?

What of the Ghost & Goblins?

By Ross Ward

Every October the store shelves fill with horror movies. I still see movies resurface that were released when I was a kid. Recently, movie series have been produced include the walking dead and other zombie type movies. It seems our society is fascinated by evil beings from the “spirit world”. It appears we have let these fictional creepy horror movies affect our thinking and our lives. One of the obvious clues to this change is the attitude many take toward clowns. In the 70’s, I always remember clowns being fun and entertaining, though I personally did not take a great liking to them. Today, thanks to a horror movie, they are a symbol of evil. I find it unnecessary to bring this kind of evil into my mind. There are no zombies or similar beings in this world. Idol worship could easily be associated with the activity that goes on this time of year. Paul made a profound statement pertaining to fictitious gods in this letter to the Corinthians:

I Cor 8:4b, “we know that an idol is nothing in the world, and that there is none other God but one.”

Yet many who indulge in these horror movies, fear such things. Our society’s fascination with horror movies and the occult has certainly affected our way of thinking. Let us be very careful letting these fictitious theatrics into our life. In addition, I believe that some of the activities that surround this week’s events can be categorized as idolatry and witchcraft, which are condemned as a works of the flesh in Gal 5. So, let’s remember there are no such things as spooks, ghost, goblins, or any other supernatural/spirit world beings that can haunt anything physical. This time of year, our society glorifies all these evils. Glorifying evil should be disturbing to a Christian, not something celebrated.

Prayer Requests & Announcements

- Empey's are in Boise, April has Dr's appointments this week. They plan to travel back Tuesday.
- Angie Woodside is working to get approved for treating her arthritis.
- The Christians in the Philippines
- Daylights Savings time starts next Sunday; set clocks back one hour; Fall back
- Next Sunday is our monthly business meeting

For prayer requests, call or text

Chad @ (208) 221-2587 or Ross @ (208) 680-6590

Assignments

<u>Today</u> Bible Study – Ross Ward Song Leader – David Porter Lord's Table – Chad Mitchell Sermon – Ross Ward	<u>Wednesday</u> Bible Study – Chad Mitchell Song Leader – David Porter Invitation – Ross Ward
<u>Next Sunday</u> Bible Study – Ross Ward Song Leader – Ben Palmer Lord's Table – David Porter Sermon – Ross Ward	<u>Next Wednesday</u> Bible Study – Chad Mitchell Song Leader – Ben Palmer Invitation – Ross Ward

Blackfoot Church of Christ
370 North Shilling Ave.
Blackfoot, Idaho 83221

Meeting Times:

Sunday Morning Classes 10:00AM
Sunday Morning Worship 11:00AM
Wednesday Evening 7:30PM



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