

“... pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart”
2 Timothy 2:22

March 14th, 2021 - Story: The Power to Flip out the Philistines



During the battle where Eli's sons Hophni and Phinehas died, the Philistines captured the ark of the Covenant. When Eli heard the news, he fell off a bench, broke his neck, and died. When Phinehas' wife heard the news, she prematurely delivered her baby, Ichabod, and then died too. The ark was important to the Israelites because it was their meeting place with God. After describing how to make the ark, God said, “*And there I will meet with you, and I will speak with you from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubim which are on the ark of the Testimony, about everything which I will give you in commandment to the Children of Israel.*” (Exodus 25:22)

The Philistines capturing God's ark was bad news for the Israelites, but it was even worse news for them. The Philistines took God's ark into the temple of their god, Dagon. The next morning, Dagon was lying beside God's ark, in a submissive position. The people took Dagon and set him up in his 'rightful' position of superiority before the ark.

The next morning the temple priests found Dagon on the ground again, bowing before the ark. God wasn't finished. He struck the inhabitants of Ashdod and the surrounding territory with tumors. The men of Ashdod concluded that it was the God of Israel who was tormenting Dagon and the people of Ashdod. The Ashdodites did the only thing they could think of—they sent the ark to Gath.

When it arrived in Gath, the Lord sent tumors on everyone in the city. It didn't take the inhabitants of Gath long to send the ark to Ekron. The Ekronites called for the priests and diviners to inquire what they should do with the ark. They all agreed to send it back to Israel. In the middle of the priest' instructions we find the power of story.

⁵Therefore you shall make images of your tumors and images of your rats that ravage the land, and you shall give glory to the God of Israel; perhaps He will lighten His hand from you, from your gods, and from your land.

⁶Why then do you harden your hearts as the Egyptians and Pharaoh hardened their hearts? When He did mighty things among them, did they not let the people go, that they might depart? (1 Sam 6:5-6)

The Philistines knew the story of Israel's departure from Egypt! The Exodus happened nearly 400 years earlier! The priests and diviners used this story to motivate the Philistines to give glory to the God of Israel. They knew from the Exodus story that Pharaoh hardened his heart and God did 'mighty things' among them. Let me remind you of the words God spoke to Pharaoh through Moses hundreds of years earlier:

¹⁵Now if I had stretched out My hand and struck you and your people with pestilence, then you would have been cut off from the earth. ¹⁶But indeed for this purpose I have raised you up, that I may show My power in you, and that My name may be declared in all the earth. (Exodus 9:15-16)

This is where you say, “WOW!” The story of God's victory over the Egyptians was so powerful that His enemies remembered it 400 years later! While the city of Ekron only lasted 600 years, the story of the Exodus is still bringing God glory today! - Dwayne Gandy

Sunday Worship Services

9 a.m. Lord's Supper Service
9:45 a.m. Bible Class
10:45 a.m. Praise & Preaching

Wednesday Bible Classes 7:30 p.m.

Elders

Herb Hinely 407-339-4805
Jeff Hunt 407-739-5266
Joe Rimmer 407-414-7393
Dave Weaver 407-782-1112
Tim Welsh 407-670-8279

Deacons

Matt Hinely, Terry Petty
Erik Quist, Rory Salimbene
Jack Thomas, Terry Tokash
Emory VanCleaf

Evangelists

Brian Messerli 407-300-2517
Dwayne Gandy 214-724-5375

The Threat of "Progress"

Acts 23:6-10

What is "Progressive Christianity"?

- Spiritual progress is great! (**Philippians 1:25**). This isn't that.
- PC believes since we've progressed as humans, we can understand God _____ than the Bible writers.

Not all " _____ " is progress

Matthew 22:23-33

1. Lack of Respect for Bible _____

- Sadducees held the LoM in higher esteem than the rest of the OT. Progressives hold the teaching of _____ in higher esteem than the rest of the Bible. (**1 Corinthians 14:37**)
- The Bible is like a spiritual travel journal where the writers recorded their own thoughts about God.
 - **Matthew 22:29**

2. _____ and Opinions are the Final Authority

- Sadducees didn't feel/think resurrection was possible. Progressives don't like the exclusivity of Jesus, or Hell, or God's sexual ethics, or violence in the OT. (**Matthew 22:29; Isaiah 55:8-9**)

3. _____ Christian Doctrines are Tossed Aside

- Sadducees rejected a core doctrine of the OT. If there's no resurrection, sin wins! Progressives often feel they are too _____ to believe in miracles.
- Problem: When you remove miraculous power from Jesus, you remove His authority to command your life
 - **Matthew 22:29**

4. Historic Bible Terms are Re-Defined

- Sadducees often told people they believed in the "resurrection," but it was a different kind (legacy of your children)
- "Inspired, Jesus needed to die, resurrection, Hell is real, love is the highest virtue" (**Matthew 7:15; 22:29**)

5. The World's Biggest Problem is Social _____, not Sin

- Instead of gospel proclaimers, churches simply become benevolence organizations. (**Matthew 22:29**)

A) Understand the Scriptures

Protects you from false pictures of God, religious extremes, and disillusionment when leaders fall

B) Trust the Power of God

Just because we don't understand how something works doesn't mean it's not true

C) Don't Just Ask Questions. Find and Accept the Answers

Don't be afraid of doubts. Don't think certainty is a sin. We can be certain about a lot! (**Deut. 29:29**)

Questions for Self Reflection

1. Why do you think Christians keep their doubts to themselves instead of seeking help?
2. Why do you think "progressive Christianity" is so appealing to people?
3. Where you can go to find answers to your tough questions?

Announcements

Sunday, March 14th, 2021

Please email all new announcements to announcements@psd.church.

SICK/HEALTH ISSUES:

- **Vicki Simmons** is recovering from another surgery she had on Friday to fix the problems with the first surgery. We're still waiting on details from her daughter to see how she's doing.
- **Scott and Debbie Saario** have sinus colds and coughs
- **Dave Weaver** had a fever that just went away yesterday, but the CDC recommends waiting 24 hours before coming just to be safe.
- **Marilyn Petty** is still recovering from major back surgery. She has had her staples out, has taken herself off pain pills, and is up and moving a bit more. She's still sore and tender, and it's still a long road ahead.

FRIENDS AND FAMILY OF PSD:

- **Pat Steele's son, Bruce**, has determined he'll have to live with the pain in his spine because of a spinal defect at birth. Also, his insurance won't cover more tests on his throat so he has to live with pureeing most of his food in order to eat.

TRAVELING:

- **Ryan and Kerianne Park** are on their second honeymoon in Georgia for a week. (First one was sabotaged by COVID)

SHUT-IN:

- **Anne Dickson**
- **Thurman and Lynna Davis**
- **Geny Harrison**
- **Patsy Holt**
- **Peggy Hunt**
- **Pat Steele**
- **Bea DeBoe**

SPECIAL CONCERNS ABOUT GETTING COVID-19:

- **Carol Van Cleef**
- **Diane Thyben**
- **Mary Ann Rubright**
- **Anna Marcotte**



Name: _____

Paul Speaks to Rulers

N T S L P G Y F L M K B Z E U P O H
A V T I H A P L O T S A X G G N X I
Z O P X A G X R Y H A P Z A G H Z W
A W D O R R R A E A D T F M Y U J N
R R A A I I P N X R D I E A Z M C Q
I U M C S P R A V R U Z S L B O I L
T X A A E P I N R E C E T I F B T H
E N S H E A S I O S E D U E E E I I
V K C L S Q O A M T E Q S L L U Z N
F S U A E K N S E E S E J P I E E J
M M S I I R I A H D V R Y O X T N E
J J E R U S A L E M Y S L W S X L I

Find the following words in the puzzle.

Words are hidden → ↓ and ↘ .

AGRIPPA
ANANIAS
ARRESTED
BAPTIZED
CITIZEN
DAMASCUS
FELIX

FESTUS
GAMALIEL
JERUSALEM
MOB
NAZARITE
PHARISEES
PLOT

PRISON
ROME
SADDUCEES
VOW