

Good News From Chardon

Church of Christ

128 Maple Ave.
Chardon, OH 44024
440-286-5505
December 24, 2023
Issue 52

Sayings of Jeremiah (6)

I don't Have it Within Me

ASV: O Jehovah, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps.

NET: "LORD, we know that people do not control their own destiny. It is not in their power to determine what will happen to them."

Preachers will quote this passage frequently. The congregants, because the preacher quotes it often, can repeat it. What does it mean? Man determines which direction he wants to go, but as the NET reads, the Lord does not grant him the privilege of determining what will happen to him when he does walk the direction he chooses. No one of good sense will purposely seek to destroy himself with his choices, but in the choices, he makes, it's not possible for him to know where he'll arrive. He thinks he knows, but that is not the same thing as actually knowing.

The thrust of the passage is easy enough to understand. Humanity does not have within itself knowledge that can know one's eternal destination. The only way to know is to gain that information from Him who has that knowledge, He who is in eternity. Since this information is now available, why is it that so many choose to live as if it does not matter what comes from the "mouth" of the Lord? People choose to live the way they do for at least two reasons (cf. John 3:19). First, they live in the present, that is, they judge what is in front of them by what they have been taught and mesh that in with their experiences, then make decisions about how to go forward. Second, they convince themselves God is on their side, and with that conviction or hope they move toward a destination they hope will facilitate a safe landing.

I am reminded in Psalms 14 the foolish one lives as if God does not exist, the stupid one has conviction that He does not exist. In all cases, the choices made determine the direction walked. One's arrival at the door of eternity comes much quicker than is realized. Did you not just graduate high school yesterday? How old are you now?

I am also reminded that many believe (even strongly) in the Lord, but justification is made for the path chosen to walk. "The Lord knows my heart" they will say. Yes, that is true; He knows you have rejected His Son, or you have accepted His Son, but chose a way that is diverted from the Lord's exact way. In this context, He knows your heart is not with Him. "I don't live an evil life like so many that I hear and read about" they say. That may be true, but as with them, so with you, the Lord begins with one's response to Jesus, followed by loyalty to the words of Jesus and His apostles.

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Schedule of Services

Greeting: Mark

Song Leader: Dale

Opening Hymn:

190—Leaning On The Everlasting Arms

Opening Prayer: Jerad

Hymn:

578—This Is My Father's World

Scripture Reading: Ryan

Luke 2:4-11

Hymn:

477—Blessed Assurance

Lord's Supper: Robert

Hymn:

459—The Gloryland Way

Sermon: Mark

Invitation Hymn:

605—Just As I Am

Closing Hymn:

114—I Want To Be A Worker For The Lord

Closing Prayer: Jacob

John 1:14

¹⁴ And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

CALENDAR

Dec. 17—Bible Study 10 am, Worship 11 am
Speaker Mark

Dec. 24—Bible Study 10 am, Worship 11 am
Speaker

Dec. 29—(b) Caleb

Dec. 31—Bible Study 10 am, Worship 11 am
Speaker

Dec. 31—(b) Randy

Jan. 2—(b) Carl

Jan. 7—(b) Cindy

Jan. 14—Bible Study 10 am, Worship 11 am
Speaker

Jan. 15—(a) Tom & Nina

SUNDAY: Bible Study—10:00 am, Worship—11:00 am

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Audio Service: 312-626-6799 Zoom I.D.: 81430241090 Password: 444015

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It is not in man that walketh to direct his steps, the Lord said. Let us be reminded, then, of two things: first, Whoever believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself. Whoever does not believe God has made him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has borne concerning his Son (1 John 5:10, ESV). In this context, belief is trust and obedience. Second, If any man thinketh himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him take knowledge of the things which I write unto you, that they are the commandment of the Lord (1 Corinthians 14:37, ASV). To acknowledge the authority of the Lord through His chosen servants means one will obey the words written by such men as Paul.

We don't have it within us to know the Lord's way of righteousness. Because of that, those who love the Lord will hear Him and obey from the heart His ways.

Ron Thomas preaches for the Church of Christ at Rio Grande in Bidwell, OH

Luke 2:4-11

⁴ And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) ⁵ To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. ⁶ And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. ⁷ And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. ⁸ And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. ¹⁰ And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. ¹¹ For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

PRAYER LIST

Mynda's sisters-in-law Father passed away
As she travels. Celeste's mother in law
Amy's heart, Friend **Tina's** knee & foot
Nina health issues
Tom surgery recovery
Mark and **Debbie** as they travel. **Mark's** back and
Heart procedure recovery
Tom's Bible Study with **Roberta, Channing,**
and **Kris.**
Bonnie's feet, grandsons **Devin & Dakota, Rhonda**
Wanda's migraines; son **Allen,** sisters **Lorraine &**
Joyce . Her niece **Nikki** in bad accident
Her niece **Lorrie** had a heart attack
Mary and family. Mary's friend **Aubrey's** pregnancy.
Kathy's foot healing. Her sister passed away.
Linda's health, **Tiffany's** health & stress & family
2 1/2 year old baby with terminal cancer.
Zarna and her family
Juanita, is at Briar Hill rehab room 100, and the rest of
her family.
Ray and **Barbara** and their family.
Dale's health issues, headaches and his family.
His **Mother.** heart and lungs. 7 year old
girl, **Lucie,** with leukemia. His uncle **James**
sadly has passed away. Cousin **Kenny** hernia,
Cousin **Joshua** heart Issues,
Cousin **Randal** physical & mental health
Ray's health and his family. **Rebecca's** knee & illness
Steven health & strep throat
Pat and her family
Robert's friend **Freeman** with cancer
Sara's father injuries from a fall
Brenda's health, her sister **Linda** with shingles and
sister-in-law **Linda** as they struggle with can
cer. Her son **Mark** surgery recovery,
granddaughter **Amanda**
Lenise—knee problems.
The nations at war
Myron & Carole as they travel. Carole's brother Oscar
is in the hospital
Larry & Ruth
Mike & Debra as they lead Bryce back to Christ

In his heart a man plans his
course, but the Lord determines
his steps Proverbs 16:9