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WHAT TO EXPECT?

Many people are reluctant to visit the services of the church of Christ. That may be the case for a number of reasons: prejudice, what others have told them, bad experiences, or they simply are not interested. However, there are a great number who have visited the Lord's church, and would wholeheartedly recommend it to others. What about you dear reader? Have you considered attending the services of the Lord's church? Perhaps, you are hesitant not knowing what to expect. I can tell you, my friend, when you visit the services of the Prairie Grove church of Christ, you may expect the following:

- Bible Preaching (2 Tim. 4:1-2; Eph.4:15).
- Friendly, Loving People (Jno.13:35; I Jno.3:18).
- Classes For All Ages (2 Tim.2:15).
- An Evangelistic Church (Mk.16:15-16).
- A Church Where Everyone Is Needed and Wanted (I Cor.12:12-14).
- A Congregation Attempting to Pattern After the New Testament (Matt.16:18; Eph.1:22-23; Acts 2:47; Titus 1:5; Phil.1:1; 2 Tim.4:1-2).
- Bible Authority For All We Do (Col.3:17).
- Bible Believing People (2 Tim.3:16-17).
- Worship Patterned After the New Testament Church (Eph.5:19; Acts 20:7; I Cor.11:23-29; Acts 2:42; I Cor.16:1-2).
- A Benevolent Church (Jas.1:27; Gal.6:10).

Please accept this as your *personal invitation* to be our honored guest at any and all services of the Lord's church at Prairie Grove. I along with the brethren at Prairie Grove, look forward to seeing you with a smile on your face, a Bible in hand, and a heart prepared to worship God "in spirit and in truth" (Jno.4:24).

Sunday: Bible Study 10:00 A.M.

- Ivie Powell III, **Preacher**

Worship 11:00 A.M. • Worship 6:00 P.M.

Wednesday Bible Study: 7:00 P.M.

"The churches of Christ salute you. "Romans 16:16

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UNDERSTANDING THE MESSAGE OF THE PROPHETS "HABAKKUK - SOCIAL INJUSTICE"

"Therefore the law is slacked, and judgment doth never go forth: for the wicked doth compass about the righteous; therefore wrong judgment proceedeth" (Habakkuk 1:4). The wicked in Judah were persecuting the righteous. Habakkuk's question of God was, how long, and why was God allowing this injustice toward righteous men to prevail, "O Lord, how long shall I cry, and thou wilt not hear! even cry out unto thee of violence and thou wilt not save" (Habakkuk 1:2)! God is no respecter of persons, He is about to act in behalf of the righteous by sending the Chaldean armies to destroy these wicked men of His own land, Judah, "For there is no respect of persons with God" (Romans 2:11), and, "For, lo, I raise up the Chaldeans, that bitter and hasty nation, which shall march through the breadth of the land, to possess the dwelling places that are not theirs" (Habakkuk 1:6).

David, likewise fretted over the prosperity of the wicked, "Behold, these are the ungodly, who prosper in the world; they increase in riches" (Psalms 73:12). However, God assured him that the Day of Judgment is coming for the wicked. The wicked will be held accountable for his deeds, "Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for him: fret not thyself because of him who prospereth in his way, because of the man who bringeth wicked devices to pass. Cease from anger, and forsake wrath: fret not thyself in any wise to do evil. For evildoers shall be cut off: but those that wait upon the Lord, they shall inherit the earth" (Psalms 37:3-9). The Bible says of Lot, "And delivered just Lot, vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked: (For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds;) The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the Day of Judgment to be punished:" (2nd Peter 2:7-9). The souls of the prophets who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony which thy held, cried a similar cry to Habakkuk, "And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held: And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth" (Revelation 6:9-10). A few chapters later, they are vindicated, "For true and righteous are his judgments: for he hath judged the great whore, which did corrupt the earth with her fornication, and hath avenged the blood of his servants at her hand" (Revelation 19:2).

Christians have been warned, "Yea and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution" (2nd Timothy 3:12). James said, "Take, my brethren, the prophets, who have spoken in the name of the Lord, for an example of suffering affliction, and of patience" (James 5:10). And Stephen asked, "Which of the prophets have not your fathers persecuted? and they have slain them which shewed before the coming of the Just One; of whom ye have been now the betrayers and murderers:" (Acts 7:52). Social injustice is going to exist as long as we live, but don't be discouraged, for eventually the wicked will be held accountable for their deeds, and the righteous will be vindicated and rewarded (2nd Thessalonians 1:7-9).

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