

THE SOUTHEAST SOWER

VOLUME 32 ISSUE 12

DECEMBER 2017

The Southeast
Church of
Christ meets
at:

35 Walnut Ct.

Mogadore,
OH 44260

Phone:

330.628.7432

SERVICES:

Sunday

Bible Study:

10:00 am

Worship:

10:50 am

6:00 pm

Wednesday

Bible Study:

7:30 pm

If You Would Have Been Noah

“By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to truth” (Heb. 11:7).

We often associate self with characters we admire. Noah, for example. However, as we look to the story of Noah, let us ask ourselves a few questions to find out how we compare to this hero of faith.

WOULD YOU HAVE FOUND GRACE IN THE EYES OF THE LORD? Noah did (Gen. 6:9). Noah stood head and shoulders above his environment. Genesis 6:9 teaches us that Noah was a “just” man. This word has to do with being “rigid.” Noah would not bend or

weave, he stood firm. He had convictions.

Also, Noah “walked with God.”



Would you have been satisfied with the Lord’s plan?

Can two walk together except that be agreed? (Amos 3:3) Noah was a man of faith. Faith comes by hearing God’s word (Rom. 10:17). So often man thinks that there must be some mystical connection between himself and God. That it is not enough to take God at His word and by faith do what He says. Yet, that is exactly what Noah did (Heb. 11:7).

WHAT WOULD HAVE BEEN

YOUR REACTION TO THE JOB TO BE DONE? God had asked a great thing of Noah. He was to build a large ark (boat) that was 450ft long, 75ft wide and 45ft high. Where was he going to plug in his Skill saw or his Black and Decker drill? And why use only Gopher wood? Suppose Noah already had a boat? Couldn’t he just use it? Suppose Noah would have begun the job and then quit, not finishing the task? Again, Noah’s assignment was not an easy one. But then the Lord has not asked man to do only what is easy. Some things required of us are most difficult, and very demanding. Perhaps that is one reason why the Lord has told us to count the cost before deciding to follow Him (Lk. 14:25-32).

WOULD YOU

HAVE BEEN SATISFIED WITH THE LORD'S PLAN? How many of us would have wanted to build our own ark according to our own ideas? No doubt, if the present society would have been there, they would have figured out a better way of doing things. A more logical and reasonable solution. However, what man has never learned is that he cannot improve on God's ways.

God has given a plan of salvation: "faith," "repentance," "confession of faith in Christ," and "baptism for the remission of sins." Nevertheless, man does not like the plan. So, he devises his own way of salvation: "faith only," "grace alone," the "sinner's prayer, etc. Can these really associate self with Noah?

God has given the plan for the organization, work and worship of the church. But man comes along and

seeks to improve on every aspect of what God has said. Even though God has told us that His word thoroughly equips us for every good work (2 Tim. 3:16-17). Listen, if we have more than what the scriptures provide then it is not a good work. Doing something will not suffice, unless it is doing what the Lord has commanded. Noah could not just build a boat because not just any boat would have floated. In like manner, we are limited by the teachings of Christ (2 Jn. 9).

WOULD YOU HAVE BEEN SATISFIED JUST TO SAVE THE ONES THE LORD SAID SHOULD BE SAVED? I Peter 3:20 teaches us that only eight souls were saved during the flood. Is that all Lord? What about the rest? How often do men attempt to smooth over what the Lord says? In Matt. 7:14, Jesus said that few would be saved and many would be lost. We need not try to soften what the

Lord has said. But, it's harsh language? Sure, but it is also the truth! We should not be pleased with the fact that the multitudes will be lost. Surely, Noah took no consolation when he saw the masses who refused his message and drowned in the flood. But it was not Noah's decision. It was their decision. They had opportunity to hear and obey Noah's warning!

Well, how did you do? Can you still associate self with Noah? What my attitude is toward God and His word is the determining factor. Our attitude determines what we would have done had we been Noah. It took faith on Noah's part to build the ark and be saved from the flood.

What a sobering thought. To be faced with the decision of whether or not to obey the commandments of the Lord. But then, we have the same choice as did Noah.

> Vernon Teagarden

Some Things God Is Not

> Vernon Teagarden

God is not what many people think He is.

God is not a respecter of persons (Acts 10:34-35). Therefore, God demands the same from all men.

God is not a man (Jn. 4:24; Lk. 24:39). Therefore God does not think as man does (Isa. 55:8-9)

God is not mocked (Gal. 6:7). God has spoken His will and

He will not allow man to get out of reaping what he sows. God means what He says.

God is not the cause of confusion (1 Cor. 14:33). The confusion that exists in the religious world is not God's fault. God wants unity among believers (Jn. 17:20-21).

God is not the God of the dead but of the living (Matt. 22:32). Therefore, God is not

dead but alive!

God is not one to forget. Some think that as time passes, God will forget their sins. Others fail to work hard, thinking God will forget their labor. He will not (Heb. 6:10; 1 Cor. 15:58)

God is not ashamed to be called our God. Not if we come to Him through obedience to His will (Heb. 5:8-9; 11:16; Rom. 8:16-17).