

ACTIVITIES FOR JUNE

- **Pleasant Acres Ladies Meeting**— Tuesday June 25th at 7 PM

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- The girls that are making the cookbook, please have the cover done by July 14th. We will be making sugar cookies on Sunday July 14th at 3 PM. You can make, take and eat your cookies.
- Ladies of the church, if you haven't turned in your recipes yet, please do so by July 1st. Please remember to sign your recipes. Thank you, Evelyn

- **WV Christian Youth Camp Dates:** (Registration Forms are available on the tables)

College Week — June 16— June 21	Sports Week — June 23— June 28
Senior Week — June 30— July 6	Intermediate Week — July 7— July 12
Junior Week — July 14— July 19	All Age Week — July 21— July 27
Singing Emphasis Week — July 28-August 3	

UPCOMING FRIDAY NIGHT SINGS:

- June 21-36th Street Church of Christ
- June 28— North End Church of Christ
- June 28— Valley Bend Church of Christ
- July 5-Cairo Church of Christ

Bridgeport Church of Christ

June 16, 2019

Answering the Skeptics: Slaves under the Law of Moses



In recent years I was questioned by a college student concerning laws of slave ownership in the Old Testament (Exodus 21:1-22:17). Specifically, does God condone slavery *and* does the Law of Moses endorse human trafficking? These questions are worth examination. The practice of slavery in Israel was restricted to a penalty for a delinquent debtor or the poor could sell themselves to gain money. The debtor was not a slave forever and the poor were not to be considered slaves.

Understanding the Law of Moses

The Law of Moses was to govern the nation of Israel for 1,400 years until Christ came to fulfill the Law (Matthew 5:17; Luke 16:16). One of the governing principles for following the Law of Moses was remembering God freed Israel from slavery (Duet. 6:20-25; 15:15). While not valued in the Law of Moses slavery was common among the nations influencing Israel. Much of the Law of Moses was written defensively to protect humanity from the cruelty of local national laws with which Israel so desired to be guided.

The Law of Moses divides itself into two categories (Ex. 24:3): the *WORDS (debarim)* and the *JUDGMENTS (mispatim)*. Probably this, refers to the apodictic (absolute; *THOU SHALT*) laws and casuistic (conditional; *IF/THEN*) laws, respectively. All slavery laws are casuistic.

The ancient world used casuistic laws as a primer for judicial*Continued*

Sunday Worship

Bible Study 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am

Evening Worship 6 pm

Wednesday Bible Study 7 pm

www.bptchurch.com

...Continued

systems, apart from daily application. Casuistic laws gave grounding for judges and lawyers who were to try difficult cases. What is unique about the Law of Moses compared to all other ancient laws is that its laws (apodictic or casuistic) applied to all people, not just the upper class.

Marital Rights

Exodus 21:10 provides the common issue concerning slavery questions. A father could sell his daughter to be a bride. If she did not please her master-husband as a wife and he takes another wife “he shall not diminish her food, her clothing, and her marriage rights.” Most likely the daughter was sold by a poor father. According to Leviticus 25:39, she is not to be treated like a slave.

So what are the legal responsibilities of the owner for his ex-wife/current slave? Is this human trafficking? No. The owner is to treat her like his wife and not diminish her rights including the honor of bearing children. That might incense modern American thought, but for the Hebrew woman, child bearing was a high virtue. Note the pain of infertility among the Hebrew women (Sarah, Rachel, Hannah) and that miscarriages were considered a curse (Ex. 23:26). For the Hebrew woman, child birth was a reminder of the promise that the Son of Man would come from the seed of woman and barrenness was to end a lineage from participating in the eternal blessings of God. For a master to keep marital rights from a Hebrew woman was a terrible thing.

Ultimately, Christ came to “free the captives” (Isaiah 61:1; Luke 4:18). The Law of Moses was written to champion God’s love for humanity even when Israel acted like the nations around them and practice abominable acts including slavery. God did not condone slavery in the Law of Moses, rather limited terms of slavery when Israel engaged in it.

-Mark Jones

Elders:

Raymond Anderson, Lafe Hutcheson & Stan Williams

Deacons:

Gene Wright, Don Riffle, Robbie Nichols, & Robbie Buffington

Minister: Mark Jones

Phone: (304) 842-6738

June Card Distributor: Linda Williams

June Baptismal Garments: Valerie Neill

June Greeters– 16–Need Greeter 23–Need Greeter 30- Need Greeter



Our Record: June 9

Sunday Morning Assembly

87

Sunday Bible Class

70

Sunday Evening

85

Wednesday Bible Study

55


Contribution (Budget \$4,000)

\$2,957

June Birthdays & Anniversaries:

16-Phillip Seyler 21-Natalie Seyler

24-Susan Hartman/Robbie & Micah Nichols (A) 25-Lori Baxter 29-Lois Jenkins



Prayers– Those of Our Congregation

- Our shut-in’s: Helen Potts & Brenda Fortney
- Jackie Moore
- Judy Garner

Prayers– Family & Friends

- Mike Yost
- Ester Lewis-home bound.
- Marshall Doll-Cancer
- Dan Hatfield
- Brandi Garner-Chemo treatments
- Becky Britton-Had surgery on Friday
- Beth Carder
- Kay Burnett-metastatic breast cancer
- Delma Thompson
- Erin Murphy-Stage 3 Hodgkin's Lymphoma.
- Dave Jones
- Maurice Young (Kristina Riffle’s dad)
- Paula Garner (Valerie Neill’s Aunt)

- Debbie Mowbray-Health Issues
- Loverine Pigott

- Karen (Sharon Loy’s Cousin)-Liver & Colon Caner
- Bonnie Snabley-Cancer
- Mary Kaufman (Brandi Garner’s Grandmother)-Congestive Heart Failure
- Landman Family-Baby Athan- liver transplant
- Christine Craig (Cheryl’s Sister) -Broke her leg.
Address for cards: 12 Pelham Road N. Voorhees, NJ 08043
- Evelyn’s Sister Louise-Health Issues
- Cheryl’s Mom
- Steve Williams-Knee Recovery
- Christy Williams-Retina Tear

(If you have a prayer request or need to put something in the bulletin– Please email or write it down and give it to Jessica Kerns before Thursday of that week: bgptchurchofchrist@yahoo.com)