

Welcome to Rosedale

Sunday July 6, 2014

Welcome & Announcements

Invocation

Musical Praise & Worship

Junior Church

Family Prayer

Scripture Reading..... Judges 17-18

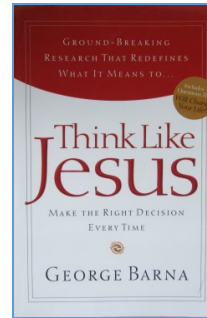
Message..... Pastor John Bellingham

USER FRIENDLY RELIGION

Final Song

Benediction

New in the Rosedale Library:



Think Like Jesus – a book by George Barna. How to make every choice consistent with God’s principles and commands. It shows you how to ask and answer: “What would Jesus do if He were in my shoes right now?”

Families of the Week

Please remember to encourage and pray for the following families this week.

- Monday** Sarides, Nick
- Tuesday** Schoenfeldt, Eileen
- Wednesday** Schoenfeldt, Jeffrey
- Thursday** Schoenfeldt, Darryl & Diane
Nathan, Ryan
- Friday** Scodellaro, Sandy & Denise
- Saturday** St. Amour, Sue

ROSEDALE BAPTIST CHURCH



Reaching up....

Reaching in....

Reaching out...

11 Rosedale Place
Welland, ON L3B 1J2
905-735-0788

Pastor: John C. Bellingham

www.rosedalebaptistwelland.com

Memory Verses for Junior Church:

Younger Elementary:

“I lift up my eyes to the hills – where does my help come from? My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth.” Psalm 121:1-2

Middle Elementary:

This Week at Rosedale

Monday: Youth Group – 6:30 pm

Tuesday: Men’s Study – 9:30 am
Ladies’ Study – 8:30 pm

Wednesday: Hopeful Hearts – 12:00 pm
Prayer and Praise – 7:00 pm

Saturday: Men’s Study – 8:00 am

Sunday: Outdoor Service & Picnic - 10:30 am

Worship on the Water (WOW): On July 6 at 6pm, the Churches of Welland are joining together once again for an outdoor service on the Aluminaqua stage.

Outdoor Service and Picnic: Our annual outdoor service and Picnic will be held in Memorial Park next Sunday morning. Please choose an item to bring from the foyer.

Free 5 Day Kids Club (VBS): July 14 to 18, 9am – noon. Youth workers from Child Evangelism Fellowship will be helping lead skits and Bible stories. There will also be crafts, games, snacks and songs. All children aged 4-12 are welcome to attend.

Garage Sale Items: If you would like to donate items for our upcoming garage sale, please start bringing them to the church building. The Garage Sale will be part of our upcoming Family Festival (August 9th), and all proceeds will go to support Open Arms Mission.

Church Nursery: We are in need of a few new volunteers to join the nursery rotation. Please speak to Michelle Metcalfe if interested.

User Friendly Religion - Judges 17-18

- The book of Judges began with a double introduction (1:1-2:5; 2:6-3:6), and ends with a double conclusion (17-18; 19-21).

- the first conclusion which we consider this morning emphasizes Israel’s religious corruption
- the second conclusion which we will consider next time emphasizes Israel’s moral corruption

I. Corruption of the Laity (17:1-6)

- 1) Crisis in the Family
 - a. A son who steals from his mother, and a mother who steals from God
 - b. Parents who lead their family in false religion (syncretism – a blending of true worship with false worship)
- 2) Micah’s Personal Cult
 - a. Fills his house with idols
 - b. Ordains his own son to be a priest
 - c. Has a thoroughly pagan understanding of God and God’s ways (v. 13)
 - d. Everyone is doing what is right in his own eyes – personalized, privatized, user-friendly religion!

Application:

- As the family goes, so goes the church and the nation. Discipleship must begin within our homes!
- If we rationalize disobedience to God and His Word, we are as guilty of idolatry as Micah and his mother

II. Corruption of the Clergy (17:7-13)

- 1) A Wandering Levite
 - a. The grandson of Moses! (cf. 18:30)

- b. Not living in one of the designated cities – Why not?? The people stopped tithing
- 2) A Religious Opportunist
 - a. Works for the highest bidder
 - b. A ‘hireling’ who does not care about God’s Word or tending the flock
 - c. Tells the people what they want to hear rather than what they need to hear (v. 6)

Application: God’s people must be discerning in every age. Do not blindly accept everything you see on TV and read online from so-called spiritual authorities. Test everything you see, hear and read against the Scripture!

III. Corruption of the Nation (18:1-31)

- a. A Wandering Tribe
 - i. Sending out of the ‘spies’ in vv. is a parody of Joshua and Caleb, and a stinging indictment of Israel
 - ii. Dan had been given land already – they are ‘homeless’ because of sin
- b. An Idolatrous Tribe
 - i. Their depravity is emphasized by the fact that they are stealing idols!
 - ii. The massacre at Laish was not sanctioned by God – they were wiped out because they were an easy target (v. 27)
 - iii. The sin of Micah is now replicated at the Tribal/ national level – Dan remains a site of Idol worship (cf 1 Kings 12:26-30); the tribe is not listed in Revelation 7

Application: The outward trappings of ‘success’ do not in any way guarantee God’s hand of blessing on our lives or in our ministries: *“Many justify themselves in their impiety by their prosperity”* - Matthew Henry