

The Brantley Beacon

"...BE YE STEADFAST, UNMOVEABLE,"
ALWAYS ABOUNDING
IN THE WORK OF THE LORD..."

I CORINTHIANS 15:58

THE CHURCH OF CHRIST MEETING IN HOBOKEN, GA
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Glamping Towards Canaan's Happy Land By Gary Henry – Wordpoints.com

Have you joined the "glamping" movement yet? Combining "glamorous" and "camping," the word "glamping" refers to luxury camping. "Glamping is where

stunning nature meets modern luxury. It's a way to experience the untamed and completely unique parts of the world — without having to sacrifice creature comforts" (Glamping.com). As another glamping website says, it is "camping without any of the hassle or hard work or dirt . . . a bridge to the outdoors for people who quite frankly don't want to rough it."

Glamping is on the pricey side, of course, and I can only imagine the eye rolls of the poor in the third world who will be saying, "What will these affluent tourists come up with next to keep themselves entertained?" To glamp or not to glamp is a first-world problem.

The first time I heard about "glamping," for some reason I thought of the old gospel song, "Camping Toward Canaan's Happy Land." That song imagines our journey toward heaven as being similar to the camping of the Israelites in the wilderness as they made their way toward Canaan. For Israel, there was nothing luxurious about the wilderness, and as we "camp" toward heaven, we should be prepared for the excursion to involve some "sleeping on the ground," so to speak.

It occurs to me that we want our earthly sojourn to be as "nice" as glampers want their camping adventure to be. We're willing to make the trip as long as we can take our creature comforts with us. Unlike Paul who longed to go to heaven and

be released from the difficulties of his earthly “tent” (2 Corinthians 5:4), we spend our lives making our tents as cozy and comfy as possible — and perish the thought that we might have to quit living in them anytime soon.

But I can hear some saying, “So what, Gary? What’s your point?”

Well, there is no inherent value in physical deprivation, and you would mistake my meaning if you thought this post was a recommendation of old-fashioned “roughing it” as opposed to modern “glamping.” But from a spiritual standpoint, there can be no question that the more luxuries we have with us here in the “wilderness,” the less fervent will be our longing for the Promised Land. It was Jesus who said, “Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” (Matthew 6:21), and we’re being nothing but foolish if we think we’re exceptions to that rule.

At the risk of appearing impertinent and out of touch with reality, I would like to make a radical suggestion. *Deliberately cut back on the number of (1) artifacts, and (2) activities in your life.* On your way to the Promised Land, trek through this temporary world with less baggage. Quit trying to make the wilderness a comfortable experience and let it be what the Lord intends it to be: a test of your endurance. The less luxurious your “tent,” the more you’ll yearn for “home.”

**Of All Men To Be
The Most Pitied
By Gary Henry –
Wordpoints.com**

“And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins! Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable” (1 Corinthians 15:17-19 NKJV).

If there is no afterlife, it makes no sense to live the kind of life a Christian must live prior to death. At least that is Paul’s argument in 1 Corinthians 15:19: “If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable.” But while this would have been true of a person living the difficult life that Paul lived (and most of his brethren in the first century), I wonder how many of us can say this.

Compared to our brethren back then, we have it easy. These days, there is so little price to be paid for being a Christian, most of us would say that we've had "a pretty good life anyway" even if it turns out that there is no afterlife. And if someone suggested sacrificing something of high value to us in this world, we would call such a sacrifice unreasonable (if not outright legalistic). We usually find a way to interpret the Scriptures in a way that eliminates any truly costly sacrifice.

Frankly, there is a sense in which I admire the nineteen Islamic terrorists who gave up their lives on September 11, 2001. What Paul said about Christians in his day could be said about these people. If Islam is not true, they were obviously "pitiable." They wasted their lives. No one in his right mind would do what they did if he knew Islam was false.

Contrast this with the comfortable culture of Christians today, at least in the United States. I once asked a man how his life would change if he found out tomorrow that there is no God. He thought about it and said, "Well, other than changing a few of my beliefs, I guess I'd just go to Starbucks next Sunday morning instead of church." At least he was honest. His job wouldn't need to change. Or his friends. Or his recreation. The only thing Christianity would have cost him was a little time and money, and a few unnecessary beliefs. Yes, he would have missed a few pleasures of the flesh, but other than that, he would have had "a pretty good life." Does that make him pitiable? No.

I stand firm: *Christianity — rightly lived — is not a good deal if there is no afterlife.* Paul Earnhart says the gospel is "an invitation to a spiritual revolution." Revolutionaries are hung for treason if their revolution doesn't work out; nobody says they had "a pretty good life anyway." So I urge you: find some sacrifices to make for the Lord such that, if the gospel turns out to be false, people will see your sacrifice as pathetic. Not just an inconvenience, *but the tragic waste of what could have been a good life.*

**The church of Christ meeting in the
city of Hoboken, Georgia**

5101 Main Street

Hoboken, Georgia

Our Meeting Times

Sunday Morning

Bible Study 9:30 a.m.

Worship 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday

Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

**Upcoming Spiritual Opportunities
Women's Study**

11-04-2018 - 5:00 p.m.

Men's Study

11-11-2018 - 5:00 p.m.

Upcoming Gospel Meetings in the Area

North Valdosta – November 4 – 9

Garden City – November 2 - 5

In Need of Prayers & Encouragement:

- Thornton Family
- Ezekiel Wildes
- Rex & Frankie Hadley & Anita Young
- Jeannie's brother & sister in-law - Harold and Penny Blitchington
- Jeannie's Uncle - Bob Ross
- Micah's Parents - Perry & Kay Byars
- Micah's Aunt - Thelma Harmon
- Thelma Stewart – Jesup Congregation
- Leanne Wiser – Jennings/Oak Grove
- Pete Newsome – Oak Grove Congregation
- Tom Edwards – Tebeau Street Congregation
- The Spiritually wayward and weak
- Our Lord's work in Hoboken & Brantley County
- Our fellow Christians around the world