

Break up your fallow ground

TAPIOLA
APOSTOLIC LUTHERAN CHURCH
NEWSLETTER
JULY 2012

Like Israel before them, Judah had turned its collective back on God for which Jeremiah warned them to repent or to face the same fate as Israel of being defeated and taken into captivity by a foreign nation. We face this same situation today if we depart from God and choose to serve other gods. God calls to all “backsliding” Christians today, “I remember thee, the kindness of thy youth, the love of thine espousals, when thou wentest after me in the wilderness, in a land that was not sown”(Jer 2:2). Through His word God reminds us of the great bondage of sin that He had delivered us from and how, when we were freed, we willingly followed Him through the unknown even into areas that had not the word of God. But as happened to both Israel and Judah, Satan convinces many believers today to reconsider their faith. Other forms of worship begin to look appealing when Satan shows to us the human frailties of those around us and he tells us that any personal difficulties that we might have with the word as presently preached will be assuaged by attending another church. Satan assures such individuals that the same God is spoken elsewhere just in a more modern way that connects with the people. That old simplistic way of preaching is out of touch with the new temptations of our highly educated and technologically advanced society: one must stay in touch with the times. Jeroboam used similar words when he lead Israel away from true worship, “Whereupon the king took counsel, and made two calves of gold, and said unto them, It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem: behold thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt” (1 Kings 12:28). The people were pleased when they did not have to listen to that old-time religion which God says is still true today, “What iniquity have your fathers found in me, that they are gone far from me, and have walked after vanity, and are become vain? Neither said they, Where *is* the LORD...”(Jer 2:5,6).

WORSHIP SERVICE SCHEDULE

July 1st	Ken Storm	10:00	Holy Communion
July 8th	Earl Kaurala	10:00	
July 15th	Ken Storm	10:00	Ken Storm Med Care 2:00PM
July 22nd	Stig Erik Enquist	10:00 & 1:30	Potluck Meal
July 29th	Charles Korhonen	10:00	

In other words your fathers have worshipped God in truth but you have departed from the truth and now serve vanity. Yet, when confronted with this question they refused to truthfully call upon the Lord. If they did He would have drawn nigh unto them and saved them as promised in Psalm 145:18-19, “The LORD *is* nigh unto all them that call upon him, to all that call upon him in truth. He will fulfil the desire of them that fear him: he also will hear their cry, and will save them”. The people insisted to the end that they had done no wrong; “I have not sinned” (Jer 2:36). They firmly believed that they were following the true God: “my faith is firm” is the self-deception that they lived by.

But only God knows the wicked and deceitful condition of the heart and instructs us through Jeremiah’s preaching to till the soil of our hearts so that the word (seed) can find soft soil into which to take root and produce fruit. Fallow ground depicts soil that potentially could support plants but that has been neglected and has become hard and full of thorns. We are unaware of the true condition of our heart unless the word can penetrate. Only outward actions are noticed which Satan uses to tell us all is good when it is not. Matthew 13:22 describes thorns as cares of this world and of the deceitfulness of riches which choke the word so that a person with this type of heart becomes unfruitful and, thus, unprofitable to God.

How do we break up the fallow ground of our heart? We don’t! God does this work through the spoken word. God has ordained that no one can see with their eyes nor understand with their heart (Is 6:9-10), “And he said, Go, and tell this people, Hear ye indeed, but understand not; and see ye indeed, but perceive not. Make the heart of this people fat, and make their ears heavy, and shut their eyes; lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and convert, and be healed”. It is God who calls all people: no one goes without a call from God as 1 Timothy 2:4 states, “Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth”. This truth comes by the circumcision of the heart that Jeremiah 4:4 states that we do amongst ourselves.

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TELECONFERENCE

Local: 334-6338 Long Distance: 1-906-334-6338

Instructions: After “greeting”, enter
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Jesus clearly teaches in Luke 24:47 that we are to preach repentance and forgiveness of sins in His name to all people. Those who will gladly receive this word of reconciliation will receive the gift of the Holy Ghost (Acts 2:38,41) who then become children of God (Romans 8:9). There is a stern warning in Jeremiah 4:4 to those who reject this invitation to repent, “lest my fury come forth like fire, and burn that none can quench *it*, because of the evil of your doings”.

There are many today who, like the people of Israel and Judah, firmly believe that they are saved. Unless we truthfully seek God, all the preaching in the world, all the good works that we might do, all the good feelings that we may have are useless. We must be like King David who as a child of God had to pray “Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if *there be any* wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting”. Seek the righteous God in fervent prayer while He may be found (Is 55:6).

Charles Korhonen

**STIG ERIK ENQUIST
Scandinavian Speaker
Schedule**

TAPIOLA
July 22nd
10:00AM and 1:30PM
(Potluck Meal)

ATLANTIC MINE
July 23rd
7:00PM

CHANGE OF ADDRESS FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

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