

Doing God's bidding; is it enough?

**TAPIOLA
APOSTOLIC LUTHERAN CHURCH
NEWSLETTER
AUGUST 2012**

We read in the Bible the account of Jehu, king of the Northern Kingdom of Israel, and of how he fulfilled God's will as spoken by a prophet sent to Jehu by Elisha, "Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, I have anointed thee king over the people of the LORD, *even* over Israel. And thou shalt smite the house of Ahab thy master, that I may avenge the blood of my servants the prophets, and the blood of all the servants of the LORD, at the hand of Jezebel" (2 Kings 9:6-7). It was Ahab's wife, Jezebel, who tried to kill all the prophets of God and might have succeeded except for Obadiah who saved 100 prophets by hiding them in a cave. And it was Ahab who was more evil in the eyes of God than all the kings before him (1 Kings 16:30). Jehu carried out Elisha's prophesy, and that of Elijah before him, by having her thrown out of a window to her death such that the dogs below left nothing recognizable of her to bury. Jehu then had all seventy of Ahab's sons slain and later gathered, by trickery, all the prophets of Baal and had them slain, "Thus Jehu destroyed Baal out of Israel" (2 kings 10:28). God rewarded Jehu for his actions, "And the Lord said unto Jehu, Because thou hast done well in executing that which is right in mine eyes, and hast done unto the house of Ahab according to all that was in mine heart, thy children of the fourth generation shall sit on the throne of Israel" (2 Kings 10:30). No doubt these were very pleasing words to the ears of Jehu.

In this account we see a man who openly did God's bidding and was openly rewarded for doing so. Yet, although Jehu did well in God's eyes he did not follow the word of God when it came to his personal faith, "Howbeit from the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel to sin, Jehu departed not from after them," (2 Kings 10:29).

WORSHIP SERVICE SCHEDULE

Aug 5th	Ken Storm	10:00	Holy Communion
Aug 12th	N/A	10:00	
Aug 19th	Reino Maunu with other guest speakers	10:00 1:30	Chad Kuivanen Med Care 2:00PM
Aug 26th	Nathan Ruonavaara	10:00	

Though he destroyed all the prophets of Baal in the land Jehu continued to worship Baal and not the living God who had blessed him. Jehu had heard the preaching of Elisha who called for repentance, confession of sin, and shedding of blood according to Levitical law but he chose to follow after his own idea of how to serve God, "They feared the Lord, and served their own gods" (2 kings 17:33). Jesus tells us that this doubled-mindedness should not be, "No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon" (Matt 6:24). Jehu knew that Ahab was destroyed not so much for his evil ways but for rejecting God's patience and longsuffering in urging men to repent. Rather than thank God for his blessings and to seek forgiveness Jehu became filled with self-righteous pride so much so that he followed after his desires perhaps even more than before. Like Jeroboam before him, Jehu and the kings that came after him caused the people to continue to serve Baal, "And they left all the commandments of the LORD their God, and made them molten images, *even* two calves, and made a grove, and worshipped all the host of heaven, and served Baal" (2 Kings 17:16).

The sad truth of all this is that even though we can do great works for God, they are, as Isaiah 64:6 says, not good enough, "But we are all as an unclean *thing*, and all our righteousnesses *are* as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away". Jehu accomplished mighty works for the Lord but faith is not measured in acts of obedience to God. Instead we have living faith if we repent of our sins and continue to believe the spoken word of reconciliation until He comes again. God's Peace, Charles Korhonen

FALL SERVICES

Tapiola ALC

Aug 17th - 2 services at 7:00PM

Aug 18th - 2 services at 2PM and 6PM

Aug 19th - 2 services at 10AM and 1:30PM

TELECONFERENCE

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

Instructions: After "greeting", enter Conference I.D. No. 4444



TAPIOLA APOSTOLIC LUTHERAN CHURCH

P.O. Box 531

Houghton, MI 49931

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

U.S. POSTAGE PAID

HOUGHTON, MI

PERMIT NO. 1



will not be long...this time of lonely waiting;

God keeps His *word*...the promised hour is near.

Soon shall there burst from startled skies the wonder

Of that glad, quickening shout...'The LORD is here!'

Oh, joyous day....sweet secret of His planning,

Not even shared with those about His throne

Do wondering angels sometimes whisper softly,

'Perhaps today...He'll go to claim His own!' Mrs. Donald A. Dey

CHANGE OF ADDRESS FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

Mail To: Tapiola Apostolic Lutheran Church

P.O. Box 531

Houghton, Michigan 49931