

# PARK HEIGHTS CHURCH OF CHRIST

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*Thus Saith the Lord*

## A CARROT ON A STICK

By Jeff Sweeten

Most everyone is familiar with the image of the donkey plodding forward and leaning into the carrot that is tied on a stick just out of reach. It conjures up a rather dismal view of motivation. I'm not sure it really works or if mules are just smarter but baiting the mule I used to ride only worked momentarily and, when he figured it out, he came to a dead stop. The look on his face was a classic.

So as not to be misunderstood, I'm not comparing us to equines of questionable lineage but it seems to me that many live their lives in much the same manner. Evidently, some folks are just not smart enough to recognize bait when they see it. And, to argue that being enticed by the unattainable is an innate characteristic of humanity is just weak. It is as if the pleasure of the moment is all the further some can see.

It reminds me of some sound, biblical advice: "Come now, you who say, 'Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit'; whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away" (James 4:14), and, "By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin" (Hebrews 11:24-25).

In these two texts, it's sobering that our time on this planet is not only short but that our motivation and planning are a testament to how we prioritize our life. What is important to us is evidenced in what consumes our thinking, planning and living. Unfortunately, too many seem to be focused on the here-and-now with little to no thought given to the hear-after, not realizing that nothing about this existence really satisfies (Ecclesiastes 12:13). When God has no priority in your life, it frighteningly resembles that donkey's hypnotic stare at a carrot on a stick.

What do you prioritize? Is Bible study a part of your daily life? Don't let eternity fall between the daily cracks, unplanned and neglected. Look past the carrot.

**JOIN US ON SUNDAY AND WEDNESDAY!**

**SUNDAY: 9:30 a.m. Bible Class • 10:25 a.m. Morning Worship • 1:30 p.m. Afternoon Worship**

**WEDNESDAY: 7:00 p.m. Bible Study • Contact the minister at 254-370-4130**