

Sunday - June 25, 2017
WELCOME TO OUR WORSHIP SERVICE
AT CONCORDIA AVE CHURCH OF GOD
705 Concordia Ave - Winnipeg, Manitoba
www.cachog.org - Tel. (204) 661-0812
We're so glad you came to worship with us today!

Order of Service

Prelude Heidi Roesler
Congregational Song *Come Thou Almighty!* #40

Memory Scripture for the month of June

John answered, saying to all, "I indeed baptize you with water; but One mightier than I is coming, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to loose. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. (Luke 3:16)

Greetings & Information Nikolai H.

Tithes & Offerings Music by Heidi R.

Men's Choir Song

Scripture 2 Chronicles 18:1-17

Prayer Time

Youth Group Song

Message *How to avoid Spiritual Dangers!* Pastor Kehler

Congregational Song *Stand up! Stand up! For Jesus!* #683

Benediction

Meet today's Greeters

Nikolai, Leanne H. and family Middle
Daniel & Margaret G. East

For questions, prayer and spiritual counsel,
Please call or text Pastor Kehler at: (204) 661-0812

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wednesday - Our monthly English Prayer Hour at 7:30PM.

We will study about the man of God Moses!

Friday - June 30 - Youth meeting in Steinbach - No Choir!

Next Sunday, July 2 - 9:45AM German Service; Sunday School for all; 11:00AM - English Service!

Our Annual Children's VBS will be held **July 9-13**.

The Theme will be ***Over the Moat!*** - The story of David! All Children, ages 6-12 are invited to attend - 6:30-8:45PM each evening. There will be exciting songs to sing, crafts, great Bible lessons, games, food and much more[?]

Invite as many as you can!

The Church of God Bible Course will be held this year in Edmonton Alberta - **August 14-25**. Applications are still accepted! The deadline to apply is June 30th. Please ask Pastor Kehler for more information.

Jehoshaphat and Dangerous Naiveté

by Cameron Buettel

Godliness doesn't always guarantee godly discernment. It's possible for Christians-even those who are spiritually mature-to make dumb decisions, bad friends, and foolish alliances. But the fact that those things happen doesn't make them any easier to comprehend. I'm referring to people who have solid track records of faithful Christian witness but foster associations that are inconsistent with the testimony of their lives. Such paradoxical behavior-and its frequently ruinous outcome-are puzzling to say the least. But there are powerful lessons we need to learn from the fallout-as in the story of Israel's beloved King Jehoshaphat. Jehoshaphat's reign was a rare period of God's favor, in contrast to the spiritual darkness, military tension, and political instability that usually plagued Israel. His rule was a time of extended peace, military strength, material prosperity, and intense instruction of the people in God's law (2 Chron 17:9-18).

Jehoshaphat made a marriage alliance with the wicked Ahab (2 Chron 18:1). Marriage alliances were often used in the ancient world to safeguard the peace between two nations through marriage between members of each royal family. But that bizarre coalition with his wicked neighbor didn't signify Jehoshaphat's crossing over to the

dark side. He continued to conduct himself in a righteous manner even after his foolish alliance with Ahab (2 Chron 19:4-11). What we are left to conclude, then, is that Jehoshaphat was not acting out of rebellion or wickedness, but naiveté. Jehoshaphat's naiveté nonetheless produced devastating consequences. The alliance between Jehoshaphat and Ahab was forged by the marriage of Jehoshaphat's heir, Jehoram, to the daughter of Ahab and Jezebel, Athaliah (2 Chron 21:6; 22:2-3). Athaliah was clearly well schooled in the wickedness of her parents and brought that heritage as a dominant influence into Jehoshaphat's house (2 Chronicles 21:5-6). Jehoshaphat didn't live to see the consequences, but Athaliah's entry into his family instigated a murderous trail that decimated his male descendants. When Jehoram ascended the throne after Jehoshaphat's death, Athaliah clearly had his ear. Jehoram had his six brothers murdered. When Jehoram died, Ahaziah, son of Jehoram and Athaliah, took the throne. As in Jehoram's reign, Ahaziah's wickedness was directly attributed to Athaliah's role as his counselor (2 Chron 22:3). When Ahaziah died, Athaliah assassinated all of her grandchildren (except for one infant who was hidden) so that she could rule Judah on her own (2 Chron 22:10-12). All that horrific bloodshed was the direct result of Jehoshaphat's naiveté. It would seem that many Christians today are afflicted with the same blind spot.

We see Jehoshaphat's error repeated continually in the evangelical world: every time a good theologian endorses a book with overtly bad theology, signs onto a statement that contradicts his biblical teaching, or shares the stage with a prosperity heretic. The church hasn't learned anything from Jehoshaphat's naiveté-if anything, believers seem determined to repeat his grave mistake, as they continue to forge bad friendships with the world and with false teachers.

There is no shortage of Christians whose love for others includes a naive tolerance of the Athaliahs in their homes and churches. Because they don't directly feel the danger, they carry on as if there is no danger for anyone else-allowing evil influences to gain a foothold in their families and among their fellow believers. But we need to heed the apostle Paul's counsel and recognize our responsibilities as not only advocates for God's truth but guardians of it as well. *Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership has righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has*

light with darkness? Or what harmony has Christ with Belial, or what has a believer in common with an unbeliever? Or what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; just as God said, "I will dwell in them and walk among them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Therefore, come out from their midst and be separate," says the Lord. "And do not touch what is unclean." (2 Corinthians 6:14-17)