

Devotional Thought
Week of March 23, 2008

THEME: A Disobedient Prophet

“And you will again see the distinction between the righteous and the wicked, between those who serve God and those who do not.”

Malachi 3:18

Don't like a particular TV program? Turn it off. Don't like a certain kind of soap powder? Don't buy it. Don't like a type of soft drink, or candy bar, or hair spray? Forget it. Manufacturers know the fickleness of the American market, so they change packaging, advertising, taste, or ingredients just to get us to purchase their products.

God, on the other hand does not change. He is always there. He is the same yesterday, today, and forever. He is omnipresent (everywhere), omnipotent (all powerful), omniscient (all knowing), and eternal.

When Jonah received a message from the Lord, he thought he could run from God. God challenged Jonah to go to Nineveh and preach against the wickedness that was in the city. But Jonah ran away from the Lord and headed to Tarshish. He went down to Joppa where he found a ship bound for Tarshish. He paid his fair, boarded the ship and headed for Tarshish.

However, Jonah soon learned that God is everywhere and the God of all – even the pagan nations and the dumb whale in the depths of the sea. From Jonah we learn that we likewise cannot run from God or retreat from His presence. Even when we disobey His Word, God loves us in our disobedience as he did Jonah, but He requires that we turn in our direction and return to serve Him, willingly.

Prayer: Fulfill in us Lord, Your will. When we disobey, correct us. Show us the virtue of obedience and the magnificence of Your grace. Amen.

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