

Truth

Magazine

TM

MAY 2017 | NO. 05 | VOLUME 61

Entertainment &

RECREATION

“For bodily exercise profits a little, but godliness is profitable for all things, having promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come” (1 Tim. 4:7-8).



Truth Magazine™

(ISSN 1538-0793) is published once a month by Guardian of Truth Foundation, 220 S. Marion, Athens, AL 35611. Postage paid at Bowling Green, KY and additional mailing offices.

Manuscripts should be sent to:
Mark Mayberry (mark@truthpublications.com)

Subscriptions, renewals & other correspondence should be sent to:
Truth Magazine
220 S. Marion
Athens, AL 35611

Book orders should be sent to:
CEI Bookstore
220 S. Marion
Athens, AL 35611
Phone: (855) 492-6657
www.CEIbooks.com

Online Website:
www.TruthMagazine.com

Send change of address to Postmaster at:
220 S. Marion
Athens, AL 35611

Graphic Designer:
Kelly McCombs
KMCimage@gmail.com

DISCLAIMER:
Books in ads are screened but an ad does not mean unqualified endorsement. All books should be tested by Scripture. We appreciate readers notifying us if they find some glaring fault in ads.

pg 35



Features

■ WHY I RUN

by Mark Mayberry

pg 4

My passion is running. Your's may be something else entirely. Biblical principles should govern all aspects of life, our work and worship, along with our pastimes, pleasures and passions.

■ THE CLOSE OF THE O.T. CANON

by Kyle Pope

pg 6

While religious books were written between the Old and New Testaments, they were not inspired by God and should not be considered Scripture.

■ TEACHING OUR CHILDREN: THE PRINCIPLE OF THE LEARNER (II)

by Aleta Samford

pg 8

Even at young ages, children can learn to listen, process information, understand the benefit of heeding parental instructions, and begin developing a system of values.

■ BILBE TEACHING: SOVEREIGNTY VS FREE WILL

by David Flatt

pg 10

The sovereignty of God establishes the free will of man. Moreover, He holds us accountable for how we exercise our free will.

■ PARENTS, HOLD FAST!

by Ron Halbrook

pg 12

Parents must lovingly lead their children, teaching them obedience, knowing this is good and pleasing to the Lord.

■ QUESTION & ANSWERS

by Bobby L. Graham

pg 14

Why are we hearing about so many preachers being unfaithful to their wives?

■ BABEL: THE STORY OF GOD'S PRESENCE AMONG US

by Luke Chandler

pg 16

The Tower of Babel is more than just a history of language. It is a chapter in God's plan for our redemption. Archaeology provides a clue on how to understand Babel in context, and how we may ourselves relate to this story.



Entertainment & Recreation

■ SPORTS & EXERCISE: THE ATHLETE & THE CHRISTIAN

by Jake Locklear

pg 20

Athletes and disciples of Christ share dedication and discipline, and a mutual commitment to achieving their respective goals.

■ INDOOR ACTIVITIES: TELEVISION, MOVIES & MUSIC

by Bruce Reeves

pg 22

Despite the diversity of choices we face relating to media consumption, basic Bible principles provide needed spiritual guidance.

■ INDOOR ACTIVITIES: PLAYING VIDEO GAMES

by Ryan Mayberry

pg 24

Video games are a popular pastime, especially with the young. Christians, and especially parents, should be mindful of the need for caution and discernment.

■ THE LURE OF THE LOTTERY

by Richie Thetford

pg 26

Gambling has gone mainstream, being broadly accepted in modern society; yet, it violates many principles of righteous behavior.

■ ESCAPISM THROUGH ALCOHOL AND DRUGS

by Steve Wallace

pg 30

Substance abuse is at epidemic levels in contemporary culture. What does Sacred Scripture have to say about this problem?

■ THE SIN OF SEDUCTIVENESS

by David Halbrook

pg 32

Christianity enjoins a sense of decorum and modesty that should be seen in our dress and demeanor at work, play, and worship.

Why I Run

by Mark Mayberry

This month, we focus on the theme of recreation and entertainment. My passion is running. Your's may be something else entirely. Biblical principles should govern all aspects of life, our work and worship, along with our pastimes, pleasures and passions.

The Bible contains various references to running, some inspirational and uplifting in tone (Psa. 19:1-6; Prov. 4:10-12; Isa. 40:27-31), others laced with sadness and lamentation (2 Sam. 18:19-33; Job 9:25; Gal. 5:7). Sometimes running is suggestive of unrestrained excitement (John 20:1-10); sometimes, it symbolizes intense spiritual exertion (Heb. 12:1-3).

I have been running for years, but since I started tracking my activities using the Runtastic app on my mobile phone, I have logged over 7,000 miles in the last six years. Typically, I run five days a week, 50 weeks a year, rain or shine, summer or winter, when it feels great and when it don't.

For Discipline

Why do I run? I run for the sake of discipline. Paul oft employed athletic imagery in his epistles. Calling upon disciples to run the Christian race with dedication and single-minded focus, he said, "Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win. Everyone who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things. They then do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. Therefore I run in such a way, as not without aim; I box in such a way, as not beating the air; but I discipline my body and make it my slave, so that, after I have

preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified" (1 Cor. 9:24-27).

Speaking of the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus, the apostle said, "Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal..." (Phil. 3:13-16).

Later, nearing the end, and knowing that death is nigh, the apostle declares, "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith..." He challenges all to manifest this same spirit (2 Tim. 4:7-8).

The writer of Hebrews says, "Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God" (Heb. 12:1-2).

For Diversion

Why do I run? I run for the sake of diversion. Unrelenting toil is draining and debilitating, exhausting. Strength often revives through some form of pleasant diversion, i.e., amusement or entertainment, hobby, leisure activity, or pleasant pastime.

In the book of Ecclesiastes, Solomon describes emptiness of a life given exclusively to strenuous labor and unrelenting toil; how much better that we take time to enjoy life's blessings and benefits (Eccl. 2:18-26)!

As a form of preliminary training, Jesus sent the twelve out on the limited commission (Mark 6:7-13). Afterwards, they met with the Lord and reported upon all that they had done and taught. He said to them, "Come away by yourselves to a secluded place and rest a while." (For there were many people coming and going, and they did not even have time to eat.) They went away in the boat to a secluded place by themselves (Mark 6:30-32).

From time to time, we need a break. Sometimes, an exhausted mother may say, "Dear, you need some quality-time with your son. I need some quiet time by myself, to regain some semblance of sanity." We all need time to "chill," regain balance and equilibrium. Sometimes we need quiet periods of reflection. Sometimes we just need to burn off energy.

I enjoy running early in the morning. At 5:30 a.m. it is quiet; the Alvin Community College (ACC) running track is mostly deserted. Depending upon the cycle of the moon, I start my run either in pitch darkness, or by the silvery radiance of a full moon. Depending upon the time of the year, I finish my run at the breaking of dawn. Some mornings, the sky is overcast and

rainy. Some mornings, fog shrouds the landscape, its tendrils encroaching on the pathway, wrapping around me in hushed silence. Some mornings the day dawns crystal clear and vivid blue. On other mornings, the clouds billowing upwards over the gulf are pink and golden hued, bathed in the first rays of the rising sun. Such scenes revive my spirit, and empower me to face the challenges of a new day (Psa. 19:1-6).

For Duty

Why do I run? I run for the sake of duty. Sometimes we perform one lowly and humble task for the sake of another, more exalted and noble task. In this regard, consider the following three examples.

Tabitha/Dorcas

As long as we keep our priorities straight, the lowly and the noble blend and complement one another. Remember the disciple from Joppa named Tabitha (which translated in Greek is called Dorcas)? Luke records, “This woman was abounding with deeds of kindness and charity which she continually did.” Tragically, she fell sick and died. The disciples sent to Lydda, and summoned Peter. When he arrived, “they brought him into the upper room; and all the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing all the tunics and garments that Dorcas used to make while she was with them.” Here was a beloved disciple who faithfully served the Lord. Somewhere along the line, she developed talents as a seamstress (Acts 9:32-43). Like the worthy woman of Proverbs 31, Tabitha/Dorcas worked with her hands. Through application and industry, she developed a talent and skill-set that she employed in serving God and her fellow-Christians (Prov. 31:19-27).

Martha and Mary

In contrast, consider the example of Martha and Mary. As Jesus and His

disciples were travelling, He entered a certain village (i.e., Bethany) and was welcomed into the home of Martha (sister of Lazarus and Mary). Although Martha was performing a noble service, providing a meal to a large group of guests, she was distracted with all her preparation (Luke 10:38-42).

Showing hospitality was counted as an honor and a sacred privilege in the Bible (Gen. 18:1-8). It remains an important aspect of our social interaction (Rom. 12:9-13). Although potentially demanding, this duty must not be neglected (Heb. 13:1-2), and should be performed without complaint (1 Pet. 4:9-11).

Being hospitable involves substantial work, and not just cleaning and cooking—purchases, preparation, provision, etc. What Martha did was important; however, the text says, “Martha was distracted with all her preparations.” Frustrated and upset, she came to Jesus, lashing out at her sister, and also at her guest, saying, “Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to do all the serving alone? Then tell her to help me.” Jesus gently answered: “Martha, Martha, you are worried and bothered about so many things; but only one thing is necessary, for Mary has chosen the good part, which shall not be taken away from her.” Martha was doing something needed and noble, but she lost perspective.

Yes, I love running, but I must not become so wrapped up in a secondary activity that I forget my primary responsibility. Some folks become so involved in recreational activities, that the secondary becomes primary, and they neglect the assembly of the saints and other spiritual responsibilities.

Under the best of circumstances, proper exercise and a good diet have some value; under the worst of circumstances, they have no value; in

contrast, godliness is profitable for all things (Col. 2:20-23; 1 Tim. 4:6-10).

My Friend Ron

Why do I run? I run so that I will have the physical strength and stamina to achieve other, more important duties. Ron Halbrook has repeatedly impressed me with this lesson. Although Ron is now over 70 years old, he continues to travel overseas to preach in the Philippines, Australia, and New Zealand. These trips frequently last 3-4 weeks, sometimes longer, involving long hours, challenging travel conditions, multiple preaching opportunities each day, often in remote locations, and during multiple, extended sessions. Despite his busy schedule, Ron saves time for daily exercise, rapidly walking outside for 45 minutes to an hour, or using an exercise bike or elliptical training-machine, if outside exercise is not suitable because of security concerns. He and I have walked/run along the sandy beach of the South China sea, along the dimly lit streets of Tuguegarao or Tacloban City, sometimes as late as 10 or 11 p.m. Why? To gain renewed strength, in order to perform the work that we came to accomplish.

As long as we keep proper perspective, recreational activities can benefit and complement our spiritual endeavors. However, we must remember to keep first things first: “But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you” (Matt. 6:33). In the final analysis, “One thing is needful...” Are we choosing the good part that shall not be taken away? **T**



Mark Mayberry
Editor

Mark and Sherelyn have labored with the Adoue Street church of Christ in Alvin, TX since 1998, where he serves as the evangelist and an elder. His website is <http://markmayberry.net/> and his email is mark@truthpublications.com.

The Close of the O.T. Canon

by Kyle Pope

Religious books were written between the Old and New Testaments, they were uninspired and should not be considered Scripture.

When my kids were little, a series of children's videos came out known as *Veggie Tales*. These computer-generated animated films told moral and biblical stories featuring talking vegetables singing silly songs and acting out biblical accounts like David and Goliath and the battle of Jericho. I was never a big fan of *Veggie Tales*, because I feared that the liberties they took in adding dialogue not found in Scripture and talking vegetables might lead children to remember the silly versions of these stories and not what is actually recorded in the Bible. As the years went on, although my children occasionally watched these videos, to my knowledge they never struggled to distinguish the facts of biblical accounts from the “veggied-down” versions of these stories.

Imagine that hundreds of years from now, a researcher found these videos and began to consider them a part of the biblical record. What chaos would that cause? As unlikely as that might seem, there have actually been times when people faced similar challenges in determining how to distinguish fictional literature featuring biblical characters from the inspired accounts of real people in the Bible. In the time between the Old and New Testaments, some literature of this nature began to be produced. It may not have featured talking vegetables, but it portrayed imagined stories aimed at tickling the ears of the curious. These works were not inspired by God, but long afterwards, some struggle with how to distinguish them from genuine Scripture.

The Old Testament Canon

To understand this situation, we must first discuss what constitutes the canon or “measuring line” of the Old Testament Scriptures. The collection of books that formed the complete Hebrew Bible (or Old Testament) was closed well before the New Testament period, and was composed of the 39 books we now have in our Bibles. Ancient Jews counted them a little different than we do, considering some books we count as two volumes to be a single text. For example, the historical books of Samuel, Kings, and Chronicles were considered one volume each. The twelve books of prophecy we call the “Minor Prophets” were grouped together as one. The content was the same—the difference was how they were arranged and counted. While we number them at 39 books, they considered them either 24, or (if Judges and Ruth, and Jeremiah and Lamentations were counted together) 22 books. Again, the content was the same.

We know this because of another difference in how the Old Testament was originally arranged. Christians usually divide the Old Testament into four groups based on subject matter: Law, History, Poetry, and Prophecy. This was how it was arranged in the first Greek translation of the Old Testament, completed before the time of Jesus, known as the Septuagint. Since Greek was the common language of the Roman Empire when Christianity was born, most people read Greek and the Old Testament they used was the

Greek Old Testament. Familiarity with that arrangement of books became the accepted tradition among Christians and that continues even today. Yet, Ancient Jews (and even modern Jews) divided the same books into three parts: the Torah (or “Law”), the Nevi'im (or “Prophets”), and the Ketubim (or “Writings”). This three-part division allows us to see how early the 39 books of the Old Testament were considered the full canon of the Hebrew Scriptures.

Witnesses to a Closed Canon

An important example of this comes in the words of Jesus. The gospel of Luke quotes Jesus as saying, “These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the LAW, the PROPHETS and the PSALMS concerning Me” (Luke 24:44; emphasis KP). Here He used two of the designations employed by Jews to identify two divisions of the Hebrew Bible. We might imagine that His third reference to “the Psalms” meant only the book of Psalms, but in the Jewish arrangement of the Hebrew Bible Psalms was the first book of the third division called the Ketubim (or “Writings”). In this statement, Jesus affirms His acceptance of the full Old Testament canon.

A Jewish text written around 190 BC known as *The Wisdom of Ben Sirach* claimed, “Many and great things have been given to us by the LAW and the PROPHETS and by OTHERS...” claiming his grandfather, “gave himself to the reading of the LAW and the PROPHETS

and OTHER books of our fathers,” later referring to “...the LAW itself, and the PROPHETS and the REST of the books” (Prologue; emphasis KP). Nearly two centuries before Jesus, this Jewish writer referred to the three-part division of Hebrew Scriptures that is still used by Jews today!

In the first century, two other Jewish writers expressed this even more directly. Around AD 30, an Alexandrian Jew named Philo wrote of some Jews, “...studying in that place the LAWS and the sacred oracles of God enunciated by the HOLY PROPHETS and HYMNS and PSALMS...” (*On the Contemplative Life*, 25; emphasis KP). Around AD 80-90, the Jewish historian Josephus claimed, “We have... 22 books which contain the records of all the past times; which are justly believed to be Divine,” explaining, “...five belong to MOSES... the PROPHETS wrote down what was done in thirteen books...the remaining four contain HYMNS to God and precepts for the conduct of life” (*Against Apion*, 1.8.1; emphasis KP). This not only utilizes the three-part Jewish division, but also identifies their number. As discussed above, these 22 books contain the same content as the 39 books found in our Bibles today.

Skeptical Theories

While this evidence makes it clear that the Old Testament canon was closed well before the first century, skeptical scholars have disputed this. Some used to argue that it was not until the end of the first century that Jewish scholars in the city of Jamnia decided for themselves what should and should not be considered Scripture. After the destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70, Jewish teachers settled in Jamnia and established rabbinical schools there. While Jewish teachers in Jamnia clearly discussed Scripture, there is no evidence that they presumed to determine for themselves what constituted Scripture. Robert Newman,

in his study “The Council of Jamnia and the Old Testament Canon,” analyzes the evidence concerning Jewish discussions at Jamnia and concludes, “it appears that a general consensus already existed regarding the extent of the category called Scripture” (348). Jamnia didn’t determine the canon of the Old Testament; it simply reflected what was already understood. Fewer and fewer scholars now accept this false theory that a “council” at Jamnia created the Old Testament canon.

Non-Canonical Books

Additional religious literature was produced following the revelation of the last book of the Old Testament, but not all of it was of the same nature. We can divide it into two groups: Apocrypha and Pseudepigrapha.

Apocrypha. The Apocrypha consists of fourteen Jewish historical and religious texts written from 300 BC–AD 70. The Jews did not view these books as inspired. They were supplementary readings that held no authority. We can see this in the fact that Jesus and New Testament writers don’t quote from apocryphal books, although they quote extensively from the canonical books. Josephus, in his work *Against Apion* claimed that books written after the canonical books “have not been esteemed with the same authority as the former by our forefathers, because there has not been an exact succession of prophets from that time” (1.8.1). Although many copies of the Greek Old Testament included some of these books, they were likely included only as supplementary material, like notes in modern study Bibles. Unfortunately, over time this led some to view them as a part of inspired Scripture. Roman Catholics consider them a part of Scripture even though Jerome, the ancient scholar who translated the Latin Bible used by Catholics for centuries, did not consider them to

be inspired. The Apocrypha has some historical value, but it is not inspired.

Pseudepigrapha. A book written under a pseudonym is a text whose author assumes a false name under which to write. The author Samuel Clemens, for example, wrote under the pseudonym Mark Twain. In biblical study, Pseudepigrapha is literature written from about 200 BC–AD 200 whose authors wrote under the names of ancient biblical characters. Works such as the *Life of Adam and Eve*, the *Testaments of the Twelve Patriarchs*, the *Book of Enoch*, and others played on the curiosity of those familiar with biblical characters. In some cases these were little more than moralistic religious fiction set in biblical times. In other cases they were texts penned by members of heretical religious groups aimed at altering scriptural accounts and promoting false doctrine. Jerome called some of them “...the crazy wanderings of a man whose senses have taken leave of him” (Epistle 57.9). Many of these works were well-known among the Jews (and later among Christians), but, like the Apocrypha, they were not viewed as inspired and held no authority. Some pseudepigraphic texts were found among the many scriptural and secular texts found in the library of manuscripts known as the Dead Sea Scrolls. Does that mean we should consider them inspired? No more than the presence of *Veggie Tales* in a religious bookstore would mean they are inspired. **■**

Source

Newman, Robert C. *Westminster Theological Journal* 38.4 (Spring 1976) 319-348.



Kyle Pope

Kyle Pope preaches for the Olsen Park church of Christ in Amarillo, Texas. He has written several books published by Truth Publications including *How We Got the Bible*. He can be reached at kmpope@att.net.

Teaching Our Children: The Principle of the Learner (II)

by Aleta Samford

Even at young ages, children can learn to listen, process information, understand the benefit of heeding parental instructions, and begin developing a system of values.

Learning (obtaining knowledge, understanding, and wisdom), will not occur if our students are not interested listeners. Previously, we identified God's principle for addressing this problem: The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, wisdom and understanding (Prov. 1:7; 9:10).

"Come, you children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the Lord" (Ps. 34:11). Instructors (parents and teachers) can help their students develop good listening skills. Follow me now in an analysis of a simple illustration that shows the process that our children go through when we teach them to fear and obey us.

When my daughter was 6 months old, the world of things was becoming very interesting to her. I remember the day we were in someone's home, and she was about to grab a potted plant sitting on the floor. There were two things I didn't do: I did not ask my friend to remove the plant, nor did I yell at my daughter from across the room. I got down on the floor, face to face with my little one, and gave her information that was filled with expectation: "Katie, do not touch the plant." Katie looked puzzled, because she had never heard that tone of voice from me, so she reached for the plant again.

It was not surprising that my words did not stop Katie. She heard me, but she had no reason to be interested in the information, so it was time to move from the information to the motivation. I needed her to obey my voice, and the

obedience needed to come from within. I picked her up, sternly repeated the information, then peaked her interest with a certain amount of pain applied to her little chubby legs. Reassuring her of my love, I repeated the information, and placed her in front of the plant, where she reached out again.

With an abrupt, "Katie!" her reaction changed: "It's a fearful thing to fall into the hands of my Mom!" My heart rejoiced: "When wisdom enters your heart, and knowledge is pleasant to your soul, discretion will preserve you; understanding will keep you, to deliver you from the way of evil" (Prov. 2:10-12).

The fear of inflicted pain not only motivated Katie to be interested in my words, but it also helped her engage all three aspects of the learning process involved in transforming her from an infant into a full grown human being: knowledge, understanding and wisdom. Of course, the love between us was another major motivational factor; its influence, in fact, increased greatly in this sense-exercising moment.

When Katie continued to reach for the plant, I had to give her a reason to (1) listen, and did so with a God-approved solution of motivation. The spanking rattled her comfort zone and created conflict in her mind, engaging the ability to (2) think. Placing her back in front of the plant helped her (3) clarify whether I really meant the information and the consequences.

Finally, using her newly acquired thinking-skills, Katie chose obedience over pain. She began to (4) understand the value of listening to instruction, and by wisely controlling herself, she (5) established a system of values. Katie figured out the difference between right and wrong and acted on it by herself. An unskilled babe, a partaker of milk, has the potential for solid food, but it means challenging them—exercising the senses in ways they will understand (Heb. 5:13-14).

"It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God" (Heb. 10:31). Avoiding this begins with the relationship between parent and child. This is where we train our children toward godliness and spiritual mindedness; where we teach them that they must not oppose us, because eventually, they must not oppose God.

It wasn't about the plant; it was about the opportunity to get into Katie's mind and teach her a spiritual survival tool called fear. It was about protecting her soul and teaching her that she would one day oversee that herself. **T**



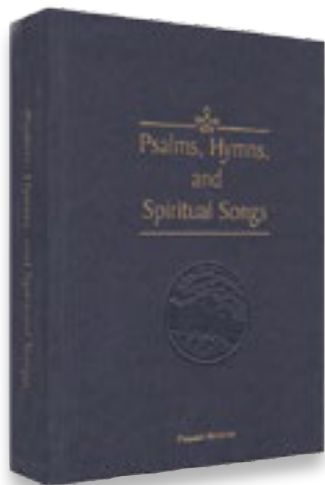
Aleta Samford

Aleta is the wife of Gene Samford who preaches for the church in Kemp, TX. She has taught Bible classes for 42 years and, to help other women join the ranks, presents a series of lessons based on her experiences and *The Seven Laws of Teaching*. She

may be reached at aletas10@sbcglobal.net.

Psalms, Hymns, and Spiritual Songs

THE HYMNAL CREATED BY THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE LIKE YOU.



Discover the difference by ordering
Psalms, Hymns, and Spiritual Songs today.

LARGE VOLUME ORDER? NO PROBLEM. Fill out your info online at: <http://www.sumphoniahymnal.com/sumphonia-hymnal> or call us at: 888-615-0888 and your personal representative will help sort out the details (and find the best offer possible for you.)

For single hymnal orders, click here to purchase directly through our publisher at:
<http://www.CEIbooks.com/phass-hymnal>

OVER 100,000 HAVE VIEWED OUR VIDEOS AT
<https://www.CEIbooks.com/phass-hymnal>

HERE'S THE REST OF THE STORY: A four-minute, behind-the-scenes music video explored the recording of the new Sumphonia CD *I Was Glad* by almost a hundred voices. All of those songs came from a one-of-a-kind hymnal.

Here are a few of the reasons it's unique ...

- 850 hymns, most chosen through a 12-month online poll of Christians.
- Many genres, from many countries, spanning hundreds of years.
- "Phrased notation," which avoids breaking up lyrical thought.
- Lost verses restored, bringing back the composer's original intent.
- Chronological, sequential Biography of Christ section.
- A variety of different back-of-the-book references to aid songleaders.
- Compact and lightweight, milled on special paper for easy reading.
- Intuitive PowerPoint available offering rapid keyword searches.



Psalms, Hymns, and Spiritual Songs is a great addition to any home. But it's even better in a congregation - where songleaders will immediately see (and appreciate) the benefits. Discover the difference by ordering today.

Psalms, Hymns, and Spiritual Songs

Biblical Teaching: Sovereignty vs Free Will

by David Flatt

The sovereignty of God establishes the free will of man; moreover, He holds us accountable for how we exercise our free will.

As we continue to explore various doctrinal subjects of the Bible, we turn our attention to another subject related to salvation: the sovereignty of God and the free will of man. Like the doctrines of grace and faith, the sovereignty of God and the free will of man are often pitted against each other. We will examine the meaning of each concept and seek to reconcile them together.

Sovereignty of God

What is sovereignty? The term “sovereign” means supreme power or authority. The word can be used to describe an individual who possesses power. A king could be described as being sovereign. As this term relates to God, God is sovereign in the sense that power and authority belong to Him. He is the source of all power and authority. There are many pieces of evidence which reveal the sovereignty of God. The greatest evidence of God’s sovereignty is His plan of human redemption. Consider how the second Psalm describes the power of God to redeem humanity.

Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, saying, Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us. He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them

in derision. Then shall he speak unto them in his wrath, and vex them in his sore displeasure. Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion. I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee. Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession. Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter’s vessel. Be wise now therefore, O ye kings: be instructed, ye judges of the earth. Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling. Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish from the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all they that put their trust in him (Ps. 2).

This psalm describes the futility of the kings of the earth conspiring against the Lord’s Anointed. Neither Herod, Caiaphas, nor Pilate could prevent God from redeeming humanity through Jesus of Nazareth. Like a strong rod of iron crushing a clay pot, God would easily destroy the kings of the earth. The only hope the kings of the earth would have would be to kiss the very Son they had murdered. By raising His Son from the dead, God demonstrated He was the only sovereign this world has ever known.

Jesus and Sovereignty

There were certain consequences of the resurrection and ascension of Jesus. Mainly, God gave Jesus all authority over Heaven and earth. This was affirmed by Jesus after He was raised from the dead (Matt. 28:18). The apostle Paul described how God’s power was demonstrated through the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. After a heavenly coronation, Jesus was given sovereignty.

The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all (Eph. 1:18–23).

The consequences of God’s sovereign will are exceedingly great.

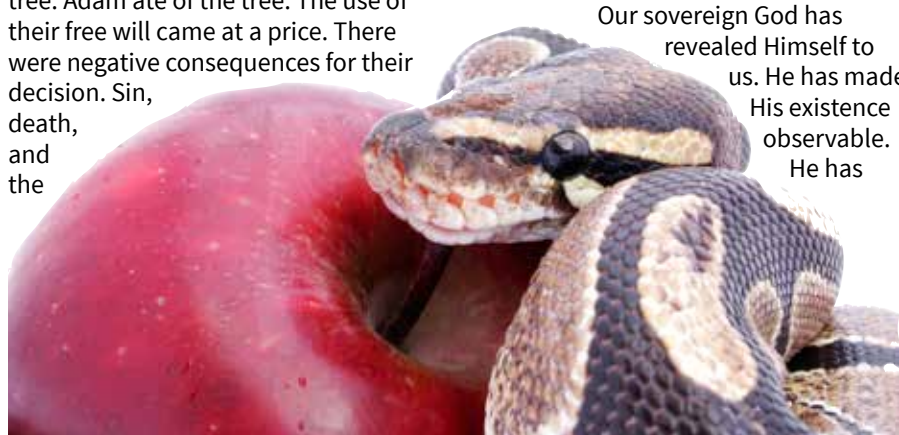
His sovereignty initiated the universe into existence (Gen. 1). By the breath of God, He gave life to man (Gen. 2:7). God revealed redemption through His Son (Heb. 1:1-4). God has determined the difference between good and evil. He commanded acts of consecration whereby we can become holy. He holds humanity accountable. The sovereign rule of God remains unthreatened by the forces of evil (Rev. 11:19).

The Free Will of Man

As a product of God's sovereignty, He has given man free will. God's sovereignty and man's free will may appear to be contradictory concepts. For example, if God is sovereign, how can man have free will? God's sovereignty should force man into submission without his choice. In reality, if God is sovereign, He can permit man to either obey or reject His commands. Consider the history of God's sovereignty permitting man's free will.

Garden of Eden.

Of course, this is the first time where man's free will was exercised. God used His sovereign right to legislate in the Garden of Eden. He prohibited Adam and Eve of eating of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. For a time, they chose to abide by God's law. After being tempted by Satan, Eve transgressed this law. She ate of the tree. Adam ate of the tree. The use of their free will came at a price. There were negative consequences for their decision. Sin, death, and the



need for redemption became part of the human experience.

The Flood

As time continued, humanity increasingly used their free will to sin. Ten generations after Adam and Eve, Noah's generation was far from God. The Bible says of this generation, "GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually" (Gen. 6:5). God used His sovereignty to destroy the earth with a flood. Before this divine reckoning, God used Noah to preach repentance to the people. However, mankind used their free will to reject Noah's calls of repentance. In the end, those who chose to reject Noah's pleading drowned.

The Nation of Israel

God's people serve as a powerful example of man's free will. God established a covenant with the family of Abraham. God would bless this family. If this family chose to reject God, God would punish them. Israel chose to reject God many times over the course of their history. In rejecting God, the nation was punished. There were always consequences for Israel's defiant free will.

Reconciling God's Sovereignty and Man's Free Will

Our sovereign God has revealed Himself to us. He has made His existence observable. He has

clearly and understandably communicated His sovereign will to mankind. God's sovereignty has established man's free will (Ezek. 18). He permits us to choose to serve Him (Josh. 24:15). Our free will comes with great responsibility.

Paul explained, "Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling" (Phil. 2:9-12). We are to use our free will to obey our sovereign God.

Our sovereign God has determined to save mankind through the blood of His resurrected Son, Jesus Christ. God has determined to make mankind aware of this salvation through Gospel preaching (1 Cor. 1:17-31). God has determined to allow mankind to decide how to respond to the Gospel. We can obey the Gospel or we can reject the Gospel. The choice is ours. However, our choices are not without consequence. The sovereignty of God holds us accountable for the exercise of our free will (Rom. 14:12; 2 Cor. 5:10).



Sources

Unless otherwise noted, all Bible quotations come from *The Holy Bible: King James Version* (KJV).



David Flatt

David Flatt and his family have labored with the Thayer Street congregation in Akron, Ohio since 2008. He can be reached at dflatt85@yahoo.com.

Parents, Hold Fast!

by Ron Halbrook

Parents must lovingly lead their children, teaching them obedience, knowing this is good and pleasing to the Lord.

When God ordained the home, He established the husband and wife relationship, and the authority of parents over children. This arrangement is based on the true meaning of love and is designed by God to bless the husband, the wife, and child, and all humanity.

Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honor thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise; that it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth. And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord (Eph. 6:1-4).

Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them. Children, obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord. Fathers, provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged (Col. 3:18-21).

Parents should hold fast in asserting the authority that God has given them for the good of the child. God did not ordain children to rule the household nor command parents to obey their children. Children do not have the “right” to defy their parents, nor do parents have the right to ignore rebellion. Asserting parental

authority does not require abuse but does demand appropriate discipline. Liberal-minded psychologists are wrong and the Bible is right. Consider the inspired wisdom of Proverbs:

He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes (13:24).

Chasten thy son while there is hope, and let not thy soul spare for his crying (19:18).

Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him (22:15).

Withhold not correction from the child: for if thou beatest him with the rod, he shall not die. Thou shalt beat him with the rod, and shalt deliver his soul from hell (23:13-14).

The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame (29:15).

Correct thy son, and he shall give thee rest; yea, he shall give delight unto thy soul (29:17).

When children disobey and defy their parents, parents need to hold fast by teaching their children that such conduct has very unpleasant consequences. When parents fail to exercise proper leadership over their children, they sow to the wind and reap the whirlwind. By giving in to a child’s stubborn demands, a parent curses both himself and his child. “Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily,



therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil" (Eccl. 8:11). Each time a child gets his way in defiance of parental authority, he will encroach more and more upon that authority.

The child who is allowed to pursue such a course eventually becomes a curse not only to himself and his parents but also to everyone around him. The church suffers from the example of young people who rebel against both God and man. Society at large suffers from the effects of such



behavior. A young person who persists in this path will ultimately destroy himself. "The eye that mocketh at his father, and despiseth to obey his mother, the ravens of the valley shall pick it out, and the young eagles shall eat it" (Prov. 30:17).

Parents who hold fast in exercising their God-given authority are a blessing to the home, the church, and the nation. Deep in their souls, young people learn from the leadership that only their parents can give. Proper

leadership is shown by having Bible reading and prayer in the home, and by being faithful participants in the work and worship of the local church. Leadership is shown by parents making themselves available to their children, spending time with them, and being interested in their activities. Parents show leadership by insisting that their children prepare their lessons not only for school but also for Bible classes. Parents can show leadership by opening their homes to their children and their friends for social and recreational activities of the right kind. Parents need to hold fast in exerting the power of leadership with reference to moral standards and decisions in the home. Parents need to say "no" to hard drugs, alcohol, fornication, abortion, pornography, profanity, temper tantrums, gambling (including the lottery and raffle tickets), immodest dress, dancing (including the prom), and all forms of disrespectful language and conduct. Say "no" and mean it! Say "no" and back it up with consequences!

Parents, not children, should decide on appropriate TV programs, yes, even if the child has a TV in his own room. The parent and not the child should have the final say on what kind of music is played. Parents, not children, should have the final say on standards of modest dress, and nothing should be allowed above the knees when standing or sitting. Parents, not young people, should set curfews for nighttime activities.

Where appropriate and possible, we should be flexible in matters of judgment, but the parent, not the child, is to have the final say. We explain our standards and decisions when possible, but train our children to respect us even when they do not fully understand all the whys and wherefores of our decisions. We should be patient, but also firm. We may certainly yield to our children's preferences in certain matters, and even change our minds on

certain occasions, but there can be no negotiations where principles of right and wrong are involved.

Asserting this kind of leadership and authority is easier said than done, but it must be done no matter how hard it gets. Someone named Patsy Lovell told about a conflict with her daughter over whether she would be allowed to buy a miniskirt. Her daughter insisted on having one but the mother said "no." The daughter protested several times and in several ways, but Mrs. Lovell held fast and said "no." Later the daughter apologized and said, "I was scared that you were going to let me win!"

When I taught high school, I required a certain class to bring parental permission slips for a field trip. One young man who had a gruff, macho, independent air said that there was no need for him to get one. "My parents don't care where I go, when I leave, or when I get back," he said with a sad look. That was forty years ago, but I have never forgotten it. In spite of his independent air, he was crying out for loving leadership.

Parents, may we hold fast to God and to the role He has given us! If we are lost from God, we can come to him through Christ by faith, repentance, and baptism (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38). If we have done that and fallen away, we can return by repentance and prayer (Acts 8:22). If we will hold fast to God, He will hold fast to us, and He will help us to hold fast as parents. 📖



Ron Halbrook

Ron Halbrook has shared preaching duties at the Hebron Lane church of Christ in Shepherdsville, KY since August of 1997. David Dann and Ron have worked together there since April 2016. He has made 63 trips to the Philippines. He can

be reached at ronhalbrook@gmail.com.



Bobby L. Graham

Bobby L. Graham preaches & is an elder for the Old Moulton Rd church of Christ. He & his wife, Karen, have three children: Richard, Mary Katherine Winland (Darren), & Laura Paschall (Jeremy). His email is bobbylgraham@pclnet.net.

QUESTION:

Why are we hearing about so many preachers being unfaithful to their wives?

I wish I knew the answer to this question, but I can only suggest possible reasons for such dreadful occurrences. Without consulting any records or statistics, it does seem that the last few decades have brought us many instances of such unfaithful conduct on the part of preachers, though some wives have also been included in this dubious class. It is also a fact that preachers are not alone in marital unfaithfulness, but sometimes they have definitely led in the wrong direction.

Potential contributing factors for unfaithfulness to a marriage partner include unwise meetings with those of the opposite sex, perhaps for teaching or encouraging (often called “counseling”), careless use of the internet, unrealistic view of one’s importance to a congregation, unmet sexual needs in one’s marriage, a high degree of conflict with one’s spouse, or an emotionally distant husband/wife. Certainly these reasons do not exhaust the list, but they are fairly common in modern society. One can argue, of course, that these are symptomatic of other underlying causes.

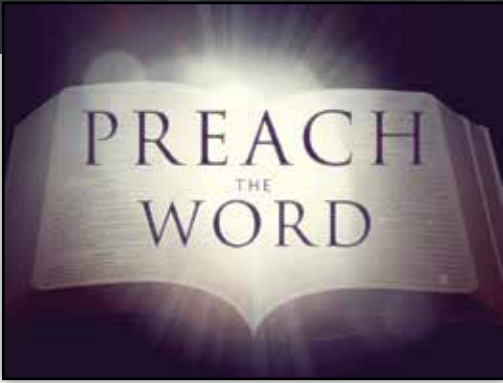
The one underlying cause that I want us to consider is selfishness. Generally speaking, our society is consumed with satisfaction of self. From the earliest age, children learn by experience that they can have whatever they want.

Increased wealth has enabled most to enjoy more because they can afford more. People have become fixated on pleasure. Secularism or materialism has dramatically diminished the role of God and the significance of the spiritual in our lives and relationships. The moral code of the Scriptures has lost its attractiveness to many. All these factors encourage selfishness. Selfishness lies at the center of all sin, because sin occurs when one decides to please self, not God.

Because selfishness prevails in human hearts (Jer. 17:9), there is less inclination to exercise care regarding one’s heart (mind), to bridle one’s tongue, to guard one’s eyes, and to restrain one’s actions. In answering the question heading this article, I have sometimes responded, “We are not taking heed lest we fall” (Job 31:1-4; Prov. 4:23; 1 Cor. 10:12; James 1:26-27; 1 Pet. 3:10-12). In too many instances, we have thrown caution to the wind. Many no longer teach or practice such caution regarding our music, entertainment (television, sports coverage, movies, reading, dancing, internet use), attire, habits, speech, participation in athletic events, business/work relationships, and dating practices. Local churches have capitalized on numerical growth at the expense of spiritual discernment. Local elders have failed to exert courageous

leadership, parents have succumbed to worldly pressures, preachers have stressed their popularity over preaching the whole counsel of God, older women have timidly refused to show the better way to the younger women, and many saints have given up on godly fear and yielded to the unholy allurements of this world (Titus 2:3-5; 1 Pet. 1:14-17; 1 John 2:15-17). The immoralities of society have seeped into the church without much attempt to stop their flow in some quarters!

While our culture has been rapidly applying its foot to the accelerator, the Lord’s people have failed to put the foot on the brake. The result is the spiritual wreckage often witnessed in the lives of preachers, elders, deacons, long-time Christians, and others once thought of as spiritual leaders. As I write these works, I know that I must “take my own medicine” to be sure that I do not drift from the Lord. Each of us must crucify selfish desires and inclinations on a daily basis, sacrificing them to the service of Christ (Luke 9:23-26). When the Lord Jesus occupies first place in our lives, “self” is sublimated; but let us beware, lest it later “arise from the dead.” Thus, we recognize the call for daily action. Selfishness must be replaced with self-control! These suggestions should help each one to remain faithful to God in the midst of a worldly society. 📖



3 Opportunities for Preacher Training Programs in Tennessee and Florida

TRAINING MEN TO
"DO THE WORK OF AN EVANGELIST"

(2 TIMOTHY 4:5)

If you are serious about wanting to "do the work of an evangelist," whether you are new to preaching or are seasoned in the work, do not miss this opportunity! You will go home edified, encouraged, and better prepared to do the work of an evangelist. It will be one of the best weeks of your life!

IN THESE CLASSES, WE WILL STUDY:

Preaching In Today's World – How To Find And Put Sermons Together – The Work Of A Gospel Preacher – Effectively Presenting Sermons – New Testament Conversions – Overcoming Stage Fright – Authority – Paul's Letters To Timothy And Titus – Outlining – Working With A Local Church – Conducting Weddings And Funerals – Giving A Defense – Teaching Home Bible Studies – Publishing A Bulletin – Writing Articles – Putting Together Class Material – Radio Preaching – Building A Good Library – Using Reference Books – Staying Organized – Reading Well – Conducting Gospel Meetings – In addition to these, we will study many other subjects related to the work of preaching and teaching God's word!

July 9-14, 2017

WHERE:

Samaria church of Christ
2950 Burgess Falls Road
Cookeville, TN 38506

**WHO ARE THE
TEACHERS:**

**Johnie Edwards &
David Eldridge**

HOW TO REGISTER:

Phone: 931.432.4465, or
davidceldridge@gmail.com

July 24-30, 2017

WHERE:

Eau Gallie church of Christ
1079 Sarno Road
Melbourne, FL 32935

**WHO ARE THE
TEACHERS:**

**John Isaac Edwards,
David Eldridge, & Larry R. Ping II**

HOW TO REGISTER:

Phone: 317.308.8288,
larrypingii@gmail.com, or
eaugalliechurchofchrist.com/training

Aug. 6-11, 2017

WHERE:

North Boulevard church of Christ
14901 North Blvd.
Tampa, FL 33613

**WHO ARE THE
TEACHERS:**

**Johnie Edwards,
David Eldridge, & Ken Fields**

HOW TO REGISTER:

David Eldridge: 931.644.4744
davidceldridge@gmail.com
Ken Fields: 210.393.0048
ken.fields@sbcglobal.net

SPACE IS LIMITED, SO REGISTER EARLY! DO NOT MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY!

You can also register for the class by filling out the form below and mailing it to the location(s) of your choice.

Name: _____ Email: _____ July 9-14, 2017
 Address: _____ Church Membership: _____ July 24-30, 2017
 _____ Age: _____ Will you have a vehicle? _____ Aug. 6-11, 2017
 Phone: _____ Will you need a place to stay? _____

Babel: The Story of God's Presence Among Us

by Luke Chandler

The Tower of Babel is more than just a history of language. It is a chapter in God's plan for our redemption. Archaeology provides a clue on how to understand Babel in context, and how we may ourselves relate to this story.

The Tower of Babel seems like an interruption in the story of our redemption. The Bible accounts of Eden and Noah, Abraham and Moses, David, the prophets, and the Messiah, flow together to show the grand plan for restoring humanity's relationship with God. Paul emphasizes this continuity when he describes the Law as a "tutor to lead us to Christ" (Gal. 3:24). New Testament authors connect texts from Genesis through Malachi to our salvation through Jesus.

So why is the Tower of Babel story (recorded in Genesis 11:1-9) inserted into the narrative of God's plan to redeem us? At first glance, it seems merely a historical piece on the physical division of peoples and languages rather than a chapter in the salvation story. What does Babel have to do with the Messiah?

Archaeology provides a clue. Ancient Mesopotamia, where the Babel story takes place, is peppered with large, stepped, ancient temples called ziggurats. Like the Tower of Babel,

they are made of mudbrick with bitumen-based mortar. Some ziggurats date before Abraham's time and were the tallest buildings of their age. These ziggurats show us the architecture of the region and, knowing the limitations of mudbrick construction, give us an idea of the Tower's likely appearance.

Is a ziggurat compatible with the description of the Tower of Babel? The biblical tower was intended to have "its top in the heavens," yet some of the largest surviving ziggurats are only around 100 feet tall. We resolve this issue with perspective. Mesopotamian cities before Abraham's time consisted almost entirely of short buildings. A 100-foot ziggurat would have seemed enormous. By way of comparison, the first "skyscrapers" in our culture were no more than 20 stories high, a size considered modest by today's standards.

The archaeological clue for understanding Babel lies at the top of a typical ziggurat, in a single room filled with furniture and food for the use of a deity. The




builders were seeking the presence of a god and enticed him with a special room. Their god's presence in the city would naturally bring blessings and protection.

Were the builders of Babel likewise seeking to bring God to their tower, to dwell in the midst of their city? Most likely, yes. The Bible notes their motive: "Let us build a city and a tower... and let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be dispersed" (vv. 3-4, ESV). They were seeking, at least in part, the benefits and greatness from having Deity in their midst. God indeed "came down" to the Tower (v. 11) but did not inhabit it. It must be noted that the later ziggurat builders descended from the Babel culture, so it is no surprise they inherited a similar concept of god-dwelling.

With this understanding, the Tower of Babel fits perfectly into the biblical narrative. It is not a separate story, but a tragic chapter in humanity's desire to repair the loss of God's presence. Just as many went astray trying to bring "god" to their midst in the form of idols, humanity also tried to regain God's presence with the Tower. Their rejection of the true problem—the separation brought by sin—coupled with prideful motives doomed their effort to failure.

Seeing Babel in this light helps us appreciate the blessing of God dwelling in us. Jesus built a Temple, made not of mudbrick, but of "living stones"—His followers (1 Pet. 2:4-5). We enjoy the blessing humanity has sought since the separation in Eden. As Paul wrote, "We are the temple of the living God; as God

said, 'I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people'" (2 Cor. 6:16, [citing Lev. 26 and Exod. 29]). 



Luke Chandler

Luke preaches for the North Terrace congregation in the Tampa area. Luke and his wife Melanie have five children. He holds an M.A. in Ancient History and has excavated in Israel for numerous archaeological seasons. He can be reached at lukechandler@verizon.net.



For More Study on

ENTERTAINMENT & RECREATION:



Truth
Books

Teenage Challenges

by NEED AUTHOR

ITEM WH113

\$7.99



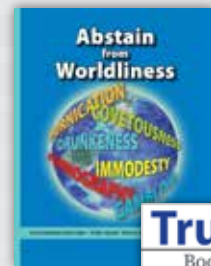
Truth
Books

Because We Love You

by Mike Willis

ITEM 158427123X

\$8.99



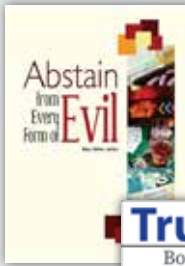
Truth
Books

Abstain From Worldliness

by Phil Robertson

ITEM DGWTA33

\$7.95



Truth
Books

Abstain From Every Form of Evil (Revised)

edited by Mike Willis

ITEM 1584273984

\$8.99



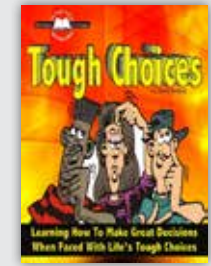
Truth
Books

Can Christianity Survive in America

edited by Mike Willis

ITEM 9781584273608

\$14.95

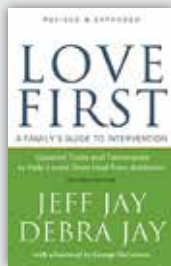


Tough Choices

by David Banning

ITEM BAN201

\$6.99



Love First: A Family's Guide to Intervention

by Jeff and Debra Jay

ITEM 9781592856619

\$15.95

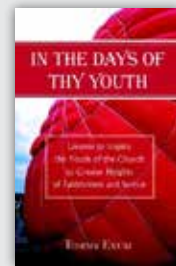


Co-Parenting With God: Equipping Your Kids for Life

by Wilson Adams

ITEM CLS06

\$6.95



In the Days of Thy Youth

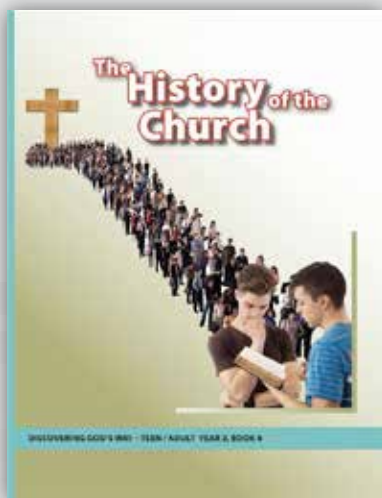
by Tommy Exum

ITEM 9780890982907

\$4.99

For more info or to order, call 855.492.6657 or visit CEIbooks.com

ANNOUNCING TWO **NEW BOOKS!**



The History of the Church

by Earl Robertson & Earl Kimbrough

DISCOVERING GOD'S WAY Series

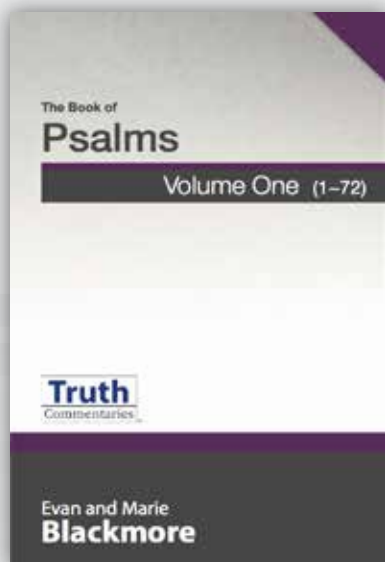
ISBN DGWTA24

\$7.95

If the statement is true (and it is) that “history has a way of repeating itself,” then every wise person will examine history. This workbook is written by two men whose knowledge of God’s Word and how it has been received and applied over two millennia will be an invaluable asset to all who read. Every Christian and every church needs to study this material!



For more info, call us at 855.492.6657 or visit CEIbooks.com/discovering-gods-way



The Book of Psalms, VOLUME ONE (1-72)

TRUTH COMMENTARIES

ISBN 1932698183

\$49.97 [Subject to change]

The book of Psalms is like no other Bible book. It is not only for reading, but for singing (Col. 3:16). It is also the largest collection of God-given prayer material. This commentary, designed for practical use, gives special attention to psalm singing and the use of psalm material in prayer. Each psalm is introduced by a simple summary. Detailed questions of interest to readers or singers are then considered, as well as issues particularly relevant for song leaders and songbook compilers.



For more info, call us at 855.492.6657 or visit CEIbooks.com/tc-psalms-1

Sports & Exercise: The Athlete & the Christian

by Jake Locklear

Athletes and disciples of Christ share dedication and discipline, and a mutual commitment to achieving their respective goals.

You get up early, before the dawn. Resisting the fun times in the night, you choose an early rest. You deny the pleasure of many foods, sweet to the mouth but also bad for the body. You train for years, pushing your body and mind beyond where it wants to go. You do all this to prepare for one competition every four years, in confident hope that you will be victorious. Such is the life of a dedicated Olympic athlete. And such a life is the example that Paul uses for us to describe the competitiveness, discipline, passion, purpose, and vision we should have as Christians. He thus writes:

Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win. Everyone who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things. They then do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. Therefore I run in such a way, as not without aim; I box in such a way, as not beating the air; but I discipline my body and make it my slave, so that, after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified (1 Cor. 9:24–27).

Lessons from Athletics

There are many lessons an athlete learns that are beneficial to a Christian.

An athlete learns passion for his skill and a thirst for victory – to compete as if only one person wins. As Christians, we also hone our skills (2 Tim. 2:15) with the confident expectation of winning the crown. An athlete learns to embrace the challenge of competition. We too as Christians learn to persevere under trial, with joy approaching the test, knowing the test will produce a stronger servant for Christ (James 1:2). An athlete learns discipline to deny the body for a higher purpose. We also, as Christians, learn to deny the lusts of the flesh and eyes (1 John 2:15-17), pressing toward the goal of our higher calling (Phil 3:14). An athlete learns how to act with purpose—to set, keep, and exceed goals as motivation for the discipline. We too as Christians learn to lay aside whatever may hinder our run so that we endure with heart, looking ahead to the joy of our victory (Heb. 12:1-3).

It is this last point that Paul uses most often to parallel the athlete and the Christian. In the long, hot, exhausting dog days of summer, we had a saying: “keep your eyes on the prize.” For us it was the ring that champions were awarded for winning a conference, state, or national title. For the Christian it is the crown of righteousness (2 Tim. 4:8), glory (1 Pet. 5:4), and life (James 1:12; Rev. 2:10; 3:11). In each of these scriptures, the context is an exhortation for endurance, perseverance, and steadfastness. Keep

fighting and finish the race strong, keeping your eyes on the prize!

Lessons from Christianity

We could write many more pages about the benefits of being an athlete, and the life lessons an athlete learns that are a beneficial parallel for the Christian. For the remainder of this article, however, let us focus on life lessons the athlete needs to know if he is to be a Christian and win the imperishable crown (1 Cor. 9:25).

For the athlete, our skill, our team, and our game can be all consuming. We breathe, eat, sleep, and live our sport. We learn to deny anything that conflicts with our best performance, our team identity, and our thirst for victory. As we have studied 1 Corinthians 9:24-27, there is benefit in this mentality, but there is also danger. Allow me to share a few points from the writings of Paul to the Christian who is also an athlete.

“...discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness; for bodily discipline is only of little profit, but godliness is profitable for all things, since it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come. It is a trustworthy statement deserving full acceptance. For it is for this we labor and strive, because we have fixed our hope on the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of believers (1 Tim. 4:7–10).

Any exercise or entertainment (or even work, or any other activity) has little value when compared to the profit of godliness. Keep your sport in perspective. You cannot serve two masters (Matt. 6:24). Know and live your priorities.

Only conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or remain absent, I will hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel; in no way alarmed by your opponents—which is a sign of destruction for them, but of salvation for you, and that too, from God (Phil. 1:27–28).

You are a member of the body of Christ, His church. There is a greater

team to which you belong, to which you have a united identity (Eph. 4:3-6) and share the faith (Jude 3). Strive together with your fellow Christians.

When I was a child, I used to speak like a child, think like a child, reason like a child; when I became a man, I did away with childish things (1 Cor. 13:11).

One day, your skill will fade and you will hang up the pads and cleats and sneakers for the last time. Any medals or trophies you have amassed will collect dust and eventually fall into ruin (Matt. 6:19-21). However, there is one competition you will enter that promises an eternal crown to the victors. Fight the good fight of faith to the end and receive that crown (1 Tim. 6:12; 2 Tim. 4:7-8).

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith; in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing (2 Tim. 4:7–8). 🏈



Jake Locklear

Jake Locklear is a deacon for the Adoue Street church of Christ in Alvin, TX. He and his wife, Missy, have three children. He has enjoyed sports his entire life, having played football and track and field in high school and at Stephen F. Austin State

University in Nacogdoches, TX. He continues to exercise regularly, as a means to battle the stress of a demanding job and busy lifestyle. He can be reached at jakelocklear@att.net.



Indoor Activities: Television, Movies & Music

by Bruce Reeves

Despite the diversity of choices we face relating to media consumption, basic Bible principles provide needed spiritual guidance.

Technology is most influential when we do not realize its effect on us. Our alarm wakes us up, our shower provides us with warm water, our phones notify us of worthwhile news, we watch the most recent developments in the world in a few seconds, microwave ovens prepare our food, our GPS directs us, and on and on we could go. Accordingly, we are comfortable, and often have a sense of self-sufficiency. We did not need anyone's help to make this happen or so we would like to think. Our faith in technology is impatient and does not tolerate delays. But it is not all bad, is it? Technology, after all, has connected us to lost friends, aided in the education of our children, and in many ways has made the world a smaller place. There seem to be

so many advantages and no doubt there are many benefits from such technology. Among those benefits is a world of information and accessibility of entertainment. However, along with these advantages have come significant dangers to our faith as children of God. The solution is not to isolate ourselves, but to use discernment as we seek to serve God (Phil. 1:9-11).

More Information than Ever

There was a time when the major networks were our only source of news and information, but now we have a wide array of perspectives at our fingertips with our technological devices. Similarly, entertainment previously came to us through limited sources, but now we can consume such entertainment through *Hulu* or

Netflix for example. Yet, such saturation and information overload presents us with some problematic challenges as Christians on a variety of fronts. It is crucial that our faith in Christ, Kingdom values and priorities, and fellowship with God's people not succumb to the temptation to be so immersed in what is going on around us that we forget about the spiritual discipline of our identity as children of God. Teaching enduring and eternal values to our children must be intentional and deliberate in the time in which we live.

New Technology, Old Issues

The apostle Paul encourages us to lead transformed lives, "Therefore, I urge you, brethren by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect" (Rom. 12:1-2). What we feed our minds leads to what is produced in our lives. Peter writes, "Therefore, prepare your minds for action, keep sober in spirit... As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts which were yours in ignorance, but be like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior; because it is written,



“You shall be holy, for I am holy” (1 Pet. 1:13-16). It must be our diligent desire to maintain a pure heart, good conscience, and a sincere faith (1 Tim. 1:5). In order to engage in the spiritual battle for our faith and conscience, we must put on the whole armor of God. By His grace, we can quench the fiery darts of the wicked one (Eph. 6:10-17).

Do Not Underestimate the Power of the Influence of Entertainment

I hear Christians downplay the influence of ungodly entertainment in considering movies, music or television programming in general. While it is true that we will be exposed to ungodly influences in our lives, and must filter such influences in a wise and discerning manner, it is also true that it is foolish to invite those influences into our homes and families. The attack on the family, marriage, parental respect,



sexual purity, etc., should not be something to which we unnecessarily expose ourselves simply because it has been made available at the touch of a screen. As parents we must not yield to the notion that somehow it is a violation of the rights of our children for us to draw boundary lines and offer loving accountability regarding the access to a variety of influences

on the minds of our children. Specific and definitive measures must be put in place that offer transparency for the benefit of our homes. Knowledge of passwords, internet activity being in open view, and honest conversations regarding entertainment are all part of upholding Christ’s will in our lives. God can be glorified even with technology and entertainment, but we must commit ourselves to serving God in our generation. Let us use the benefits of the time in which we live to live for Christ in discernment and wisdom. **IT**



Bruce Reeves

Bruce Reeves has preached for the Highway 65 congregation in Conway, Arkansas for 17 years. He and his wife, Rachel, have one child, Connor. The church website is <http://hwy65churchofchrist.org/>. He may be reached at brochuck1@aol.com.

NOW published by
Truth Publications!

DISCOVERING GOD’S WAY

Textual and topical Bible class curriculum for **ALL ages!**

Want to know more? Call **855.492.6657**, or visit
CEIbooks.com/discovering-gods-way

Indoor Activities: Playing Video Games

by Ryan Mayberry

Video games are a popular pastime, especially with the young. Christians, and especially parents, should be mindful of the need for caution and discernment.

As Paul said in 2 Corinthians 11:1, I ask you to “Bear with me in a little foolishness” (NASB). Imagine for a moment with me, and think back to 1 Samuel 3. In this chapter, we see that Samuel was called by God. He mistakenly assumes that it is Eli that is calling him. Samuel heard someone calling his name in the night. We know that he rushed to Eli and answered, “Here I am, for you called me” (1 Sam. 3:6). For the purpose of this foolishness, imagine that Samuel heard someone calling his name, and instead of rushing to see what Eli needed, he shouted back, “Just a second, I have one more level before I beat the final boss! I only have one more life left!” This is obviously a silly, made-up situation. I warned you that it was foolish. The Bible is silent on the subject of video games. Video games started to become popular in the mainstream in the 1970’s, approximately two millennia after the last book of the Bible was written. However, that doesn’t mean God’s Word doesn’t have rules for our entertainment. Let’s look at how a Christian should approach playing video games.

I have played video games for most of my life. They have been a part of my childhood and upbringing. We started off with a Nintendo Entertainment System (NES) in our house. My grandma, Ruth Mayberry, had a Super NES for her kids and grandkids when they came over. On my seventh birthday, I was given a Playstation. My brother and I were ecstatic, and we

spent countless hours playing with each other. Moving through the years, I’ve had Gameboys, a GameCube, an Xbox, and a Wii U. So, as you can see, I’ve grown up playing video games.

How did my family make sure that video games did not interfere with our Christian values? Quite simply, we didn’t play every video game. My parents made sure that my brother and I were protected from the evils that could so easily slip in. They would be sure that they were comfortable with what games we were playing. This was especially important whenever we were younger. A young mind is like a piece of clay, moldable and pliable. The United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund (UNICEF) states that your formative years start from the moment you are born and continue until your 8th birthday.

Early Influences

Those early years can shape your life. Do you think it would affect your child if they spent those years constantly being exposed to sex, nudity, vulgar language, and such like? Obviously, such would have a negative impact. Those years should instead be filled with innocence and righteous influences. Jesus stated, “Truly I say to you, unless you are converted and become like children, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven” (Matt. 18:3). Children should embody the spirit of purity, but for

that to happen, their minds have to be filled with pure thoughts.

Video games have changed through the years. They are no longer simply two lines bouncing a ball back and forth. They create entire virtual worlds. They now provide a theatrical experience, and you are at the center of the action. Whenever that welcome screen pops up on your television screen or computer monitor, you are the master of that artificial world. You control that character on your screen. You have a hand in whatever happens around you. You might think, “It’s not actually me doing those things. It’s just a game! I’m just pressing buttons.”

However, do you think God looks at it the same way? Speaking by inspiration, the apostle John, said “Beloved, do not imitate what is evil, but what is good. The one who does good is of God; the one who does evil has not seen God” (3 John 11). We see here that Christians should not imitate evil. It doesn’t matter if it is in a virtual world made of pixels. Whenever you choose to play a game that surrounds your character with all sorts of evil, are you not imitating and condoning that evil? What is your mind filled with whenever you play a video game filled with sex, violence, and coarse language? It’s an obvious answer. Your mind will inevitably be filled with sex, violence, and coarse language. Whenever we fill our minds and hearts with sin, it will eventually



come out. If we have an evil heart, we will do evil things. “For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, slanders” (Matt. 15:19). The Bible leaves no doubt about the effects of surrounding yourself with sin or sinners. Constant exposure to sin *will* affect our lives. Perhaps it will start in our mind. Perhaps something bad or unexpected will happen, and a filthy word will pop into our mind. Perhaps in a moment of anger or stress, we will have violent thoughts. Perhaps when exposed to an attractive member of the opposite sex, we will think immoral thoughts. We may not have meant for that to be the effect whenever we played that game with evil content in it, but constant exposure to those sins can make it more likely for us to fall victim to them.

Rating Guidelines

Parents, please permit me to address you for a moment. Would you allow your child to go to an R-rated movie? Would you allow them to look at scantily clad or nude women? Would you allow them to go to a movie with dozens, if not hundreds, of curse words? Would you allow them to view a movie that is a constant bloodbath, promoting gratuitous violence? I hope that the answer to all of those questions would be an emphatic “NO!” You may not know it, but they might be exposed to that every time they pick up their controller.

The Entertainment Software Rating Board (ESRB) assigns ratings to games ranging from Early Childhood (eC) to Adults only (Ao). The most common ratings you will see in your local game store range from Everyone (E) to Mature (M). This is virtually the equivalent of the movie rating system of General audiences (G) to Restricted audiences (R). Let’s look at the Xbox 360. Of the console’s “Top Ten” best-selling games, eight of them are rated M for Mature.

Recall and Reminder

Recall your answer to the question earlier about letting your child see an R-Rated movie. The same things that are found in an R-rated movie can be found in an M-rated video game. In those games, you can find graphic sex, vulgar language, intense violence, and much more. As Christians, we must not partake in entertainment that glorifies sin.

You may be asking yourself right now, “How can a Christian participate in these things?” or “How can I justify exposing my child to these evils?” The simple answer is, “You can’t.” There is no justification for purposely exposing ourselves to rank evil or causing little ones to stumble. We should carefully consider what we are filling our minds with.

It may seem as though I’ve painted a bleak picture of video games, and I suppose I have. Now I’d like to switch gears and talk about the good. There is nothing inherently wrong with video games. As I stated at the beginning of this article, I have played video games most of my life. With proper care and thoughtfulness, we can choose games to play that do not promote sin. There are games that are completely innocent. There are games that are enjoyable for all ages. There are games that are devoid of immorality.

You’re careful about what you watch on TV and listen to on the radio. The

same principle applies to video games. You simply have to be careful about the games you choose to play. My parents instilled that principle in me at a young age, and I have continued to practice that same approach. Do your research before you become engrossed in an immoral universe where you’re the hero. Read the ratings on the backs of the case. Use sites that provide reviews of the content in those games. Utilize the resources that you have access to before you decide to play those games.

Before unwittingly exposing yourself or others to sin, consider what Paul said to the Philippians: “Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things” (4:8). 📖

Sources

- “Early Childhood.” *UNICEF*. March 1, 2016. Accessed March 29, 2017. https://www.unicef.org/earlychildhood/index_40745.html.
- “ESRB Ratings Guide.” *Rating categories, content descriptors, and interactive elements from ESRB*. Accessed March 29, 2017. https://www.esrb.org/ratings/ratings_guide.aspx.
- “List of best-selling Xbox 360 video games.” *Wikipedia*. March 27, 2017. Accessed March 29, 2017. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_best-selling_Xbox_360_video_games.
- NASB = *New American Standard Bible: 1995 Update*. (La Habra, CA: The Lockman Foundation, 1995).



Ryan Mayberry

Ryan and Emilee Mayberry live in the Houston area, and worship with the Adoue Street congregation in Alvin. He works for Farmer’s Insurance, and enjoys both indoor and outdoor activities, especially cycling. He can be reached at ryanmayberry@live.com.

The Lure of the Lottery

By Richie Thetford

Gambling has gone mainstream, being broadly accepted in modern society; yet, it violates many principles of righteous behavior.

Oscar Wilde once said, “Horse sense is what keeps horses from betting on what people will do.” It is difficult for me, as a Christian, to understand why anyone who has “put on Christ” and has determined to live for Him first and foremost (Mark 12:30; 1 Pet. 2:21), would even consider playing the lottery or engaging in any other form of “gambling.” However, before discussing the various Biblical principles that teach against a child of God engaging in all the various forms of gambling, let’s first look at what gambling is and note attitudes concerning it.

What is Gambling and the Lottery?

Gambling is defined by *Webster’s New World Dictionary* as 1) to play games of chance for money or some other stake, or 2) to take a risk in order to gain some advantage. Therefore, we see that gambling is the wagering of money, or something of material value on an event with an uncertain outcome with the primary intent of winning additional money and/or material goods.

A lottery is a form of gambling which involves the drawing of lots for a prize. Lotteries are sometimes described as a regressive tax, albeit a voluntary one. The astronomically high odds against winning the larger prizes have also led to the epithets of a “tax on people who are bad at math” or a “tax on stupidity.” These descriptions are



intended to suggest that lotteries are government-sanctioned operations which will attract only those people who fail to understand that buying a lottery ticket is a poor economic decision. Often times, people who buy the tickets are the people who can least afford to buy them. Sciencebuzz.org states that the odds of winning the top prize in the Mega Millions Lottery is more than 600 times worse than your odds of getting hit by lightning. Yet people continue to play. Why? Professor Lloyd Cohen suggests that people aren’t paying for the chance so much as they are paying for the dream. They enjoy fantasizing about winning.

As of today, 44 states out of 50 have approved lotteries. In the most recent Pew Research Center report on gambling, it was stated that 70% of Americans say that legalized gambling encourages people to gamble more

than they can afford. Public support for other forms of gambling, such as the casino, off-track betting on horse racing, and pro sports betting, has been stable since 1989. There are various forms of gambling and/or lotteries which include bingo, casinos, horse racing, state lottery tickets, playing cards, professional and college sports, slot machines, dog racing, boxing, office pools, video poker machines, and internet gambling, which is quickly becoming one of the most popular ways to gamble today.

Attitudes about Gambling

I’ve heard it said that, over the past 50 years, “gambling has gone from sin to vice to guilty pleasure and has come, finally, to be simply another point of interest on the entertainment map.” A majority of people approve of most forms of legalized gambling. About 65% of adults think that gambling is not morally wrong, while 28% disagree. The Pew Research study also stated that those who attend religious services more frequently, regardless of religious tradition, are more likely than less frequent church-goers to say that gambling is morally wrong.

Biblical Principles for the Christian

While the Scriptures do not specifically address the subject of “gambling” and/or the “lottery,” it provides us with various principles

that should guide us on this issue. The Bible teaches us that while we might be free to do many things, all things are not profitable and we should never be brought under the control or power of anything other than Jesus Christ in our lives (1 Cor. 10:23; 6:12). Gambling, like many other things, can become addictive.

The essential motive for gambling is covetousness (greed). To covet is “to fix passion upon.” Covetousness is eagerness to have more, especially that which belongs to another. A greedy person is an idolater (Eph. 5:5). The apostle Paul wrote, “Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry” (Col. 3:5). Christians should strive to have the character that Paul extols: “Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things” (Phil. 4:8). Gambling is absolutely contrary to each and every one of these things. To anyone who is honest and sincere, these scriptures show that gambling is worldly and sinful in nature.

The love of money is at the root of all forms of gambling. The love of money has ruined many people. Paul wrote, “For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows” (1 Tim. 6:10). Solomon stated in Ecclesiastes 5:10 that “He who loves silver will not be satisfied with silver...” Since the love of money is the foundation of all kinds of evil, notice the major side effects associated with gambling: alcoholism, smoking, prostitution, theft, lying, appeals to the flesh, wrecked homes and lives. Gambling

has also become an addiction in many people’s lives. The bottom line is that all kinds of gambling is a result of the “love of money.”

Gambling violates the principle of honest labor. One is supposed to earn his income from his own work (1 Thess. 4:11-12; 2 Thess. 3:10-12). Gambling accepts laziness over productive work. It perpetuates the “get something for nothing” mentality. One may gamble away his money and evade responsibility to provide for his family (Matt. 7:12).

Gambling does not promote godliness. In addition to Philippians 4:8, I encourage you to read the following passages of Sacred Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 5:21-22; Matthew 5:16; James 4:4; 1 Timothy 6:17-19. After reading these verses, can it truly be said that gambling promotes a godly mind and habits?

Gambling is deceptive. Paul warns, “Do not be deceived: Evil company corrupts good habits” (1 Cor. 15:33). There is nothing good that can come for the Christian from gambling and/or playing the lottery. It consumes the innocent, creates an appeal to raw greed, promotes the fantasy of getting rich quick, makes one believe that winning is easy, and can likely lead to an addiction (Prov. 22:16; 2 Pet. 2:19).

Thinking honestly, I don’t believe any Christian could picture Jesus running out to get His lottery ticket. May we all strive to be content with our lives while looking forward to being with our Lord in eternity (Heb. 13:5; Phil. 3:12). That is an investment we all can afford to make with a guaranteed payoff not dictated by chance! **T**



Richie Thetford

Richie Thetford preaches for the Poudre Valley church of Christ in Loveland, CO. Their website is www.poudrevalleychurchofchrist.org. Richie’s website is www.thetfordcountry.com. He can be reached at richiethetford@gmail.com.

For more on Gambling, check out this best-selling book:



**Gambling:
Don't Bet On It**

by Rex M. Rogers

ITEM 9780825436468

\$14.99

Presenting a clear and biblical analysis of gambling, Rogers also discusses moral and economic arguments, charity gambling, and gambling addictions. This book will open your eyes to a demonic force that is destroying lives and is eating away at the value system of the nation. This book is a call to action!

Find this book & more at CEIbooks.com, or call us at 855.492.6657

Escapism through Alcohol and Drugs

by Steve Wallace

Substance abuse is at epidemic levels in contemporary culture. What does Sacred Scripture have to say about this problem?

Someone has called escapism the sin of missing life. Herein we consider two ways some use to escape from reality. We start by looking at realities from which some flee. Boredom, unproductive lives, feeling left out, or a lack of self-confidence tempt some to turn to alcohol or drugs. For others the problem is financial strain, the pain of a broken heart, family problems, or occupational, social or academic pressures. Such unpleasant realities are felt to be intolerable.

Rather than face them, many in our society opt to escape such realities. Some do so via the use of alcohol, either for the feeling of confidence it gives them, or for its tranquilizing or deadening effects. Others flee to the mind altering or sedating effects of drugs. The decision to seek such escapes is generally short-sighted and irrational, based on emotions, pains or pressure rather than careful thought. Let us stop and consider each of these escapes.

The Life of the Drinker

In the long run alcohol consumption is a commitment to a way of life—centered around the need for the effects it produces. Those around the drinker must either also be drinkers or tolerate him in the artificial, alcohol-affected world in which he lives. Because alcohol becomes a way of escape, his companions can never include those who would talk to him

about giving up alcohol or the things from which he is trying to escape. His is a carefully constructed fantasy world that cannot deal with the realities from which he is fleeing. Words of “truth and soberness” have no place with him (Acts 26:24, 25). A couple years ago we attended the viewing of a deceased man who had been a drinker. He had left behind words to the effect that “somewhere out there” a bottle of his favorite intoxicant was waiting for him. How complete was his fantasy world – and how far from reality (Prov. 20:1; 2 Cor. 5:10; Gal. 5:19-21)!

The Life of the Druggie

A druggie can be anything from a pothead (marijuana smoker) to a junkie (an addict to narcotics, often heroin). The spate of slang is intentional. The drug world is, of necessity, one of euphemisms, street names or code words. Entering it demands dishonesty, clandestine activity, disobeying the law (and parents, if you are still at home), companying with scofflaws and otherwise immoral people. One *must sin* to enter the drug world (Rev. 21:8; Rom. 15:1; 1 Pet. 2:13, 14; Eph. 6:1; 1 Cor. 15:33; 2 Cor. 6:17-18). In the world of drugs, one comes in contact with those who sell illegal drugs, some who steal to maintain their habit, people who routinely deceive those around them who do not use drugs, those who exalt in a recent or memorable high they experienced as if it was the greatest thing possible in

life (indeed, it seemed, to me at least, that some would not do drugs if they could not talk about their experiences), the necessary paraphernalia, and a common belief that no one outside of the drug world is “cool.” If one goes far enough into this world, he may end up accomplishing little in his life of a worthwhile nature. However, *it offers escape* into a dream-world or sedated state. As we consider this way of escape, careful thought should be given to all that is involved in such a life. *Would it not be better to face reality and deal with it? Real life exists outside of the drug world* (Rom. 1:17; John 10:10; 20:31)!

Looking at Such Lives from the Outside

Both alcohol and drug usage can lead to a life which revolves around escape—*living* to either get high or become inebriated. Further, in a drunken or mind-altered state one is liable to do anything – rape, steal, vandalize and in other ways break the law of the land, commit adultery or fornication, use God’s name in vain, offend or harm someone (including your spouse), etc.—making one’s reality yet harder to bear (Prov. 23:34-35). The “escape” thus becomes a cause of further chaos in life (Prov. 23:29-30). Amazingly, many people think that this is the only way to live.

In 1 Thessalonians 5:6-8 the word “sober” is used as the opposite of

“drunken.” In that passage Paul admonishes his readers to be sober (vv. 6, 8) which is the opposite state of those under the influence of alcohol and drugs. Peter writes, “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour” (1 Pet. 5:8). Furthermore, he says that such indulgence is something that one should leave behind (1 Pet. 4:3). As we consider the sins in the previous paragraph that do result from the escapes under review, it is clear that such states are the devil’s playground. It does one no good to flee from reality! You are only putting yourself under the power of temporal substances which hide you from the realities that have to do with real life. Moreover, it is a sin to allow yourself to be brought under the power of such things (1 Cor. 6:12).

Dealing with Reality

Jesus, the Son of God, beckons all men to come to Him (Matt. 11:28-30; Luke 5:32; 1 Cor. 6:9-11).

Jesus is the help of the helpless. Mark 4:35-5:43 includes the account of Jesus calming the sea to save His apostles, some of whom were experienced fishermen, from a deadly storm. It also tells of His casting the demons out of the man possessed with many demons—one whom no one had been able to help (5:3-4). After this it records the healing of the woman with the issue of blood, one “who had spent all that she had and was no better, but rather grew worse” (5:26). It closes with Jesus raising the daughter of Jairus from the dead. All of these accounts tell of people who were *helpless* before Jesus acted on their behalf. McGarvey comments:

The argument of this section... proves the divine power of Jesus by showing that he could control by a word the winds and the waves of the sea; could

direct and compel movements of demons; could by his touch remove incurable diseases; and could instantly raise the dead. In other words, it proves the sufficiency of his power to save to the uttermost all who come to him, by proving that all the dangers to which we are exposed, whether from the forces of the physical world, the malice of evil spirits, the power of disease, or the hand of death, may be averted at his command, and that they will be in behalf of all who put themselves under his protection (J.W. McGarvey, *Commentary on Matthew-Mark* 297).


Rather than seeking to escape from your reality, why not let Jesus help you to change it? Your situation is not beyond His abilities (Matt. 11:28-30).

Jesus teaches us how to deal with our sins. He “commands all men everywhere to repent” (Acts 17:30; Luke 24:47). Repentance is a mind change followed by a change of life (2 Cor. 7:10-11; Rev. 9:20). When the prodigal son spent all his inheritance on riotous living and had hit bottom, he left his sinful life, repenting and returning to his father and started a new life (Luke 15:13-24; cf. vv. 7, 10). Saul of Tarsus, the future apostle Paul, became well known for persecuting Christians unto death (Acts 22:4; 26:10; 9:13-14, 26). After his conversion he wrote, “This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief” (1 Tim 1:15).

Think of what repentance meant for Paul. After Christ appeared to him on the road to Damascus, he spent three days without food or drink, and he was also praying (Acts 9:9, 11). He was then baptized in accordance with Christ’s teaching (Mark 16:15, 16; Acts 2:38; 22:16). After his baptism he

began preaching Jesus, the very one whom he had been publicly denying and whose disciples he had been persecuting – *and his former long-time associates knew it* (Acts 8:3; 9:1-2, 18, 30). He changed his life to serve Christ (Phil. 3:5-7). The point of all this is that repentance is not easy. It calls for one to stop practicing things that are sinful in his life and serve Christ. Jesus endorsed the work of physicians (Luke 5:31). You may have to enlist the help of one in order to overcome your addiction. Repentance for you may include the time, stress and pain of withdrawal. However, it will help you to put off your old life and start living a new one (Eph. 4:22-24).

Brethren in Christ will help and encourage you. They will show the love of Christ to you and encourage you in His ways (1 Thess. 2:11-12). You can join them in doing things in the service of Christ (Eph. 4:16; Heb. 10:24-25). You will have help with the challenges of changing your life (Acts 9:26-28; 1 Thess. 5:14). If you sin, your brethren will help you in turning from it and continuing your walk with Christ (Gal. 6:1).

In the early 1970s I can remember often sneering at the radio commercial which said, “You can’t change the world with drugs. Nothing really changes but you.” At length, I finally admitted the emptiness and pointlessness of that life and left the drug world in the fall of ’74. I later finally stopped drinking. *There is nothing in those lives!* Please, face up to the problems in your life and put them behind you. Christianity, as found in the Bible, is not escapism. It is involvement in life as God would have it (Rom. 12:1-21)! 



Steve Wallace

Steve has been working with the Lord’s church in Round Lake Beach, IL for 2 years. He and his wife, Mary, have been married 31 years. He can be reached at alvincar1@att.net.

The Sin of Seductiveness

by David Halbrook

Christianity enjoins a sense of decorum and modesty that should be seen in our dress and demeanor at work, play, and worship.

Paul ends his list of the sinful desires of the worldly mind (the lusts of the flesh) with the phrase “and the like,” indicating that he had not composed a complete list of all forbidden thoughts and deeds (Gal. 5:19-21). Those final words warn us not to think that something is acceptable to God simply because it is not specifically forbidden. Sometimes we must reach unstated, but necessary, conclusions to identify sinful activities. God does not always spoon-feed truth to us, so we must be diligent workmen to identify sin and gain His approval (2 Tim. 2:15). We must do this in every entertainment decision we make because some things, though entertaining (bringing joy or pleasure), are sinful (Heb. 11:25).

We have many entertainment options today due to widespread wealth and luxury. “Luxury is not for fools” (nor entertainment) because fools do not learn to keep their treasures in heaven (Prov. 19:10; Matt. 6:19). As seductiveness is increasingly viewed as entertainment, we must ask, “Have I learned to avoid every form of seductiveness in my entertainment?”

The Sin of Seductiveness

Like gambling, abortion, and pornography, the word “seductiveness” is not in Scripture¹, so we must patiently study to understand the will of the Lord. Seductiveness is the equivalent of lasciviousness (KJV),

¹ “Seductress” is found seven times in the book of Proverbs, in the *New King James Version*.

lewdness (NKJV), sensuality (NASB, ESV), and debauchery (NIV), and “those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God” (Gal. 5:19-21). All such activities involve thoughts or deeds that borrow some element of sexual activity, without committing sexual immorality. Sexually-related words or images (photo or video) are seductive. Drawing the attention of others to the sexual parts of the body by movement, display, or touch is seductive. Which parts of our body does this include? At a minimum, it includes the thighs, the chest, and everything in-between, which God identifies as “nakedness” and shameful to be publicly displayed (Rev. 3:18; Exod. 28:42; Prov. 5:19). Beyond the “bare minimum,” saints should also consider what parts of the body their culture considers seductive and avoid stirring sinful desire in others in the name of “liberty” (1 Cor. 10:23-33).

We must abstain from every form of lewdness, and repent if we have been guilty of practicing such (1 Thess. 5:22; 2 Cor. 12:19-21). Remember, the wages of seductiveness is death (Rom. 6:23). Accordingly, to make application of this point, think of someone in Scripture who practiced seduction. Study and meditate upon that person’s life to learn how such behavior affected them and others.

Entertainment that is Seductive by Nature

Some forms of entertainment are by nature seductive and thus always

sinful. The “entertainment value” never justifies pornography (whether soft or hard core), strip clubs, or nudist beaches. The history, observation of, or participation in typical, modern male-female dancing (outside of marriage) helps us to understand that it is also a form of lewdness. Modern couples-dancing is designed to initiate or deepen sexual thoughts and desires by drawing attention to the sexual parts of the body through movement, touch, and/or display. Every occurrence of adultery or fornication begins with some form of seduction. To avoid dying the death of the simple, reflect upon the strategies of the seductress of Proverbs Seven.

Ask yourself... Though most of the forms of entertainment mentioned above have always been present in our country (and in human history), why is the number of participants growing?

Entertainment that May or May Not Include Seductive Elements

Some decisions we face are not simple. Our process of making such decisions reveals whether or not we have added and are abounding in virtue, self-control, and love which always leads us away from seductiveness (2 Pet. 1:5-10).

How would you respond to these questions: “Do you want to go to the movies with us?” “Are you attending John’s birthday party (or bachelor party)?” or “Will you meet us at the city

pool on Saturday?” These activities may be innocent or may be sinful; so how does God expect us to answer? Learn in advance whether they will revolve around sensuality. What movie are you considering? Many websites identify a movie’s content, also, filtering tools allow some movies viewed at home to be adjusted according to the viewer’s values. Ask who is hosting the party. Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers; in other words, do not commit yourself to participate in activities chosen by someone in the world without knowing what you will be doing. If you go, be ready to “come out from among them and be separate” if necessary (2 Cor. 6:14-18). Or, is the city pool being privately rented so as to allow friends of the same gender to swim or will the community be present with their nakedness in view? Your decision determines whether you are the distinctive salt of the earth or a lampstand hidden under a bushel (Matt. 5:13-16).

Social media is often a source for entertainment (Facebook, Snapchat, Instagram, Twitter, Tumblr.). What do you do with pictures or posts that are filthy, foolish, or coarse jesting, and thus unfitting (Eph. 5:4)? Do you pass them on to others, or quickly avert your eyes and mind, hating every false way (Ps. 119:104)? Parents must teach and train, chaste and model godliness in determining the need, wisdom, and boundaries of these oft-abused tools of communication. Starting in their youth, according to their maturity level, and consistent with their exposure to these things, talk to your children about the dangers they will encounter. If this seems awkward (perhaps because your parents never talked to you about sexually-sensitive subjects), read Proverbs 1-7 with your children, and within the text you will find opportunities to make applications to your children’s lives. *You must be their primary teacher* and not depend on

school teachers, Bible class teachers, elders, evangelists, or any others to lead them in learning God’s plan for the gift of nakedness and sexual pleasure. And to the unmarried, before you marry or have children, prepare yourself for those roles by abstaining from every form of seductiveness (1 Thess. 5:22). Make a covenant with your eyes, ears, and hands (Job 31:1-4).

Ask yourself... Can you remember an occasion when you tried to justify some form of entertainment, though deep down you knew there was a sinful element to it?

Entertainment that is Free from Seduction

The boundaries that Jesus Christ set are not to suppress the enjoyment of entertainment. In His wisdom, His boundaries are not grievous but for our good always (1 John 5:3; Deut. 6:24). Sex within marriage is a form of entertainment that refreshes the mind, body, and marriage relationship again and again. That’s why Solomon uses water as a figure of sexual pleasure (Prov. 5:15-20). When sex is separated from the sin of seduction, it is among the most profitable and pure forms of entertainment, but it is not alone.

Hospitality and other ways of serving all men, and especially those of the household of faith, redeems our time and builds relationships that are productive in a variety of ways (Gal. 6:10). Jesus and the saints in Jerusalem often participated in such forms of entertainment and used them to the benefit of all (Matt. 15:32-39; Mark 2:15-17; Luke 7:36-50; 11:37; 19:5-10; Acts 2:46).

Exploring nature, either by reading books or through direct observation and interaction, brings pleasure along with the thoughts and realizations expressed in many psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs. The next time you view the stars or go hiking, pause a moment

and sing “How Great Thou Art,” “Lord, I Believe,” or “This is My Father’s World.” Also pray and see if the satisfaction, benefit, and pleasure of praising God “in the moment” exceeds the adrenaline rush of a roller coaster ride or the roar of a crowd of sports fanatics.

Ask yourself... What forms of entertainment provide benefits that last beyond the activity itself, instead of merely “killing time”? How can you apply Ephesians 5:17 to entertainment decisions for you or your children?

Conclusion

Are the lives of Christians monotonous and boring because they abstain from all seductive entertainment? No. To the contrary, when we are not conformed to this world we are transformed by the renewing of our minds. By presenting our bodies as a living sacrifice, we prove (better understand, appreciate, and enjoy by experience) the good, acceptable, and perfect will of God (Rom. 12:2). The abundant life Christ came to bring us frees us from the bondage and yoke of all sin, including seductiveness (John 10:10). 📖

Sources

Unless otherwise noted, all Bible quotations come from *The New King James Version* (NKJV).

For further study, see “Dance Time is Decision Time” (*Truth Magazine*, March 2011, p. 20-24). The material in this supplemental article is also available for purchase as a Truth Tract at <http://www.ceibooks.com/church-supplies/dance-time-is-decision-time/>



David Halbrook

David has labored with the 160th Avenue church of Christ in Gresham, Oregon since 2016, having regularly preached the gospel since 2003. He and his wife, Starla, have two children. The church website is <http://www.160thavechurch.com/>. He

can be reached at davidhalbrook@hotmail.com

Parental Responsibilities for their Children's Recreation

by David Dann

Parents must teach their children God's precepts, and help them to establish proper priorities in all areas of life.

Parents must direct their children toward what is best for them. Fathers and mothers are to provide proper instruction for their children, and that instruction should guide them in life. As the wise man of old said concerning the guidance of his children, "My son, hear the instruction of your father, and do not forsake the law of your mother; for they will be a graceful ornament on your head, and chains about your neck" (Prov. 1:8-9). Once the children have grown up and are out of their parents' house, then they will need to make the right decisions for themselves. However, while they are young, and while they are under their parents' roof, it is the God-given responsibility of their parents to direct them and to instruct them.

Parents are responsible for their children's recreation. Webster defines "recreation" as "pleasurable occupation of leisure time; an amusement or sport." Recreation is what we do during our free time, what we do for fun or relaxation, or the kinds of activities we engage in with our friends. Recreation is part of life. However, who gets to decide what kinds of activities children should be involved in when it comes to recreation? Consider some familiar scenarios: Suzy is in high school, she's just turned fifteen years old, and is trying to decide whether to try out for the cheerleader squad, or join the swim team. Jason is sixteen years old, some of his friends are going to make a

road-trip to the beach for spring break and stay in a hotel for a week, and he's trying to figure out a way to go with them. Stacy is looking forward to going to the Homecoming Dance. She hasn't been asked yet, but she's pretty sure she will be soon, and is hoping she'll be able to go. John and Amy have a friend who is going to have a huge party at his house while his parents are out of town for the weekend. They're kind of excited about the possibility of going, but what would their parents say? All of the above scenarios are happening everyday in the lives of real kids. Parents, how will you handle these kinds of situations when the children in question are your own?

What is involved in the responsibilities that parents have for their children's recreation? As Christians, what are our parental responsibilities when it comes to our children and the social and recreational activities in which they may be involved? Many parents simply allow their children to make their own choices and decisions in these matters.

Think: Is that God's plan? Remember, the Bible says "a child left to himself brings shame to his mother" (Prov. 29:15). What responsibilities do parents have in their children's recreation?

Parents are Responsible for Bringing Up Their Children

Parents must provide for their children. Parents are responsible

for providing their children with the things that they need in life as long as they are not capable of providing for themselves (1 Tim. 5:8). Parents who love their children recognize that this provision extends beyond merely providing food, clothing, and shelter for their children, though those things are absolute necessities. As Christians, we recognize that parents are responsible for providing a wholesome environment for their children and wholesome activities in which to involve themselves.

Parents must teach their children the difference between right and wrong behavior. The wise man instructed his children, saying, "My son, do not forget my law, but let your heart keep my commands; for length of days and long life and peace they will add to you. Let not mercy and truth forsake you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart, and so find favor and high esteem in the sight of God and man" (Prov. 3:1-4). Parents are responsible for imparting wisdom and instruction to their children so that they will be able to make the right decisions in life, once they are on their own. Parents are given the task of teaching their children to do what is right and to turn away from that which is wrong.

Parents must set the right example for their children to follow. Parents who are following the example of Jesus will set the right example for their

own children to follow in every area of their lives (1 Pet. 2:21-22). If your kids know that you watch television shows and movies that are filled with scenes of fornication and foul language, then they will probably follow your example when it comes to their own recreation. If your kids know that you occasionally have a beer or a glass of wine with your friends, then they will probably think it's not a big deal to go to a party where there is drinking or drug use going on. If your kids see you wearing nothing but a bathing suit at the pool in mixed company, then they will probably do the same thing at the beach, the lake, or the pool with their friends. If your kids know that you sometimes skip worship in order to go to the big game, then they'll get the idea that it's okay to miss worship for sports when the time comes. Parents, what kind of example are you setting for your children when it comes to recreation? Whether you like it or not, they will likely follow your example.

Parents must train, guide, and discipline their children. With regard to training children in godliness, the Bible says, "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it" (Prov. 22:6).



Parents, the training you provide for your children in the home today will be carried with them for the rest of their lives. Along these lines, the apostle Paul writes, "And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord" (Eph. 6:4). Parents need to love their children enough to guide them in godliness to the best of their ability, and that includes making the right choices when it comes to recreation.

Don't Allow the World to Choose Your Children's Recreation

The pressure is on for families to conform to the world. Satan's assault on the family is relentless and one of the greatest tools at his disposal is the following mantra: "Everyone else is doing it, so why can't we?" Too many Christians are content to let the devil have his way with their families as they join in with whatever happens to be popular at the time. We need to be reminded often that our lives and our behavior are to be set apart to God and consecrated to His service, rather than being shaped by what everyone else is doing. As the apostle Paul puts it, "And

Subscribe Today!

JOIN THE THOUSANDS OF HAPPY SUBSCRIBERS, OR SUBSCRIBE FOR A FRIEND!

SUBSCRIPTION	PRICE
1-Year Sub.	\$24.00
2-Year Sub.	\$40.00
3-Year Sub.	\$60.00
1-Year Foreign Sub.	\$27.00
Kindle Edition	\$0.99/mo
PDF Edition	\$10.00/yr



Call: 855.492.6657
Click: TruthMagazine.com

do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God” (Rom. 12:2). Parents, don’t let the world be your guide in what you allow your children to be involved in when it comes to recreation.

The world’s idea of recreation is often sinful. While there are such things as harmless fun and wholesome recreational activities, for many in our culture, recreation has to be sinful to be fun. Too often, recreation is associated with drinking intoxicants, using mind-altering drugs, watching movies filled with filth and immorality, viewing pornography on the internet, gambling, playing video games that glorify foul language, illicit sex, and criminal activity, engaging in lascivious dancing, or hanging out at a beach while wearing next to nothing in public. In other words, the world’s idea of recreation basically fits the description of what the Bible refers to as “the works of the flesh” (Gal. 5:19-21). Parents, don’t let the world choose the kinds of recreation in which your children will be involved.

The world will place recreation above serving God. Even when the form of recreation is not sinful in and of itself, the world places such an emphasis on it that it becomes more important than serving God. There is little time left for focusing on spiritual things when there is so much fun to be had. There are games, recitals, concerts, and practices that need to be attended and everything else can be pushed aside in order to make sure that all recreational needs are met. Parents, don’t let the world influence your list of priorities when it comes to your children’s choices of recreation (Matt. 6:33).

Godly Advice for Parents

Provide recreation for your children. There is such a thing as

wholesome and harmless recreation. On at least one occasion, Jesus told His apostles to, “Come aside by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while” (Mark 6:31). The apostle Paul often used athletics in order to illustrate certain principles concerning godly living (1 Cor. 9:24-27; 2 Tim. 2:5). The world would like for your children to believe the life of a Christian is a dull and boring life in which everything fun and enjoyable is kept from them. Don’t give them a reason to believe that lie. Parents need to see to it that their children have the opportunity to engage in recreational activities.

Make sure your children’s recreation is not sinful. Choices and decisions have to be made as to what your children will be allowed to engage in when it comes to recreation.

Don’t let them persuade you that it’s alright to do something questionable or sinful. Don’t give in to the pressure to let your kids engage in something just because everybody else’s kids are doing it. You’re the parents! Do your job! Find out where they’re going, what kinds of movies they’re watching, what kinds of video games they’re playing, which websites they’re looking at and give them the loving guidance and instruction they so desperately need (Eph. 6:4). Find out who your children are involved with in their recreation. The activities your children are involved in may be fine in and of themselves, but who is influencing them during these activities? “Do not be deceived: ‘Evil company corrupts good habits’” (1 Cor. 15:33). Parents, don’t let some harmful fun lead to a tragic ending because your children got mixed up with the wrong crowd. Provide opportunities for your children to be around those who will have a godly influence on them.

Keep recreation in its proper place. One of the greatest problems facing Christians, when it comes to recreation, lies in the matter of

priorities. Many parents seem to think nothing of allowing their children to neglect the worship periods and Bible class periods of the church in order to attend a sports practice, or game, or some other extra-curricular activity. Parents, you need to clearly send the message to your children that God is first in your life, and that you expect God to come first in their lives as well (Matt. 6:33; 22:37-39; Heb. 10:24-25). It is a shame that some parents will seek to justify their mixed up priorities when it comes to their children’s recreation by saying, “He might miss out on being a starter in little league, or she might miss out on making the team, or she might miss out on developing her talent.” Forgotten in all of this is that he or she might also miss heaven, and so might you, parents, if you teach your children that recreation is more important than serving the Lord. Parents, it is up to you to put recreation in its proper place and keep it there.

Conclusion

Parents, the Lord has given you a great privilege and a great responsibility when it comes to guiding and instructing your children, even in the matter of recreation. Don’t forget that Jesus said, “But whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to sin, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were drowned in the depth of the sea” (Matt. 18:6). Make sure you make the right choices for your children, because those choices will have an impact that lasts for all eternity. ■



David Dann

David Dann has been working with the Hebron Lane church of Christ in Shepherdsville, KY since April 2016. He and his wife, Cynthia, have been blessed with six children. The church website is <http://www.hebronlane.com/>. He may be reached at ddann1@hotmail.com.

CHURCHDirectory

The following congregations have paid for advertising in *Truth Magazine*. Inclusion of churches in this list is not an attempt by *Truth Magazine* to certify their faithfulness to God. We do believe the vast majority are striving to uphold the Word in faith and practice.

To make changes to your ad, contact:
mark@truthpublications.com

ALASKA

ANCHORAGE

Rose Street church of Christ
3124 Rose Street
Bible Study 9 A.M., Worship 10 A.M.
Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.
Evangelist: David Webb (907) 350-8358

ALABAMA

BIRMINGHAM

Pine Lane church of Christ
3955 Pine Lane Bessemer, AL
(N. side of Exit #6 at I459)
Bible Study 9:15 A.M., Worship 10 A.M.
Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.
Evangelist: David Deason (205) 425-2352

BIRMINGHAM

Vestavia Hills church of Christ
2325 Old Columbiana Rd. (near I-65 & Hwy. 31)
Bible Study 9 A.M., Worship 10 A.M.
Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.
Evangelists: David Banning and Doy Moyer
(205) 822-0018 or 822-0082

FLORENCE

College View church of Christ
851 N. Pine St. (Next to University Campus)
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:15 A.M.,
Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.
Evangelist: Kenny Moorer (256) 766-0403

HUNTSVILLE

Chapman Acres church of Christ
2137 Penhall Dr., NE (I-565, Exit 21, right on
Maysville Road left on Chapman Avenue,
right on Penhall Drive)
Bible Study 9 A.M., Worship 10 A.M.
Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.
Evangelist: Isaac Muñoz, www.chapmanacres.org

MOBILE

West Mobile church of Christ
129 Hillcrest Road
Worship 9-9:30 A.M., Bible Study 9:30-10:30 A.M.
Worship 10:30-11:30 A.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.
(251) 342-4144 or 342-2041
Ken Sils - Minister (765) 307-8048

MONTGOMERY

Ashburton Drive church of Christ
(formerly Southeast)
70 Ashburton Drive
Sunday Bible Study 9 A.M.,
Sunday Worship 10 A.M. & 5 P.M.
Wednesday Bible Study 7:00 P.M.
Contacts: Kirk Moore (334) 546-3788
John Humphries (334) 306-4172

MONTGOMERY

Eastbrook church of Christ
650 Coliseum Blvd.
Bible Study 9 A.M., Worship 10 A.M.
Wednesday 6 P.M.
Contacts: Brian Moore: (334) 279-1077
Charles Martin: (334) 283-2983

PARRISH

McArthur Heights
church of Christ, 5082 Hwy. 269
Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 11 A.M.
Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 6:30 P.M.
(205) 686-5978 or 686-5620

SCOTTSBORO

Eastside church of Christ
John T. Reid Pkwy., (Hwy. 72, 2 mi. E. of Hwy. 35)
Worship 9 A.M., Bible Study 9:30 A.M.
Worship 10:30 P.M., Wednesday Summer 7 P.M.
Wednesday Winter 6 P.M.
Evangelist: Aaron Andrews
(256) 574-1603 or 575-2664

ARKANSAS

CONWAY

Hwy. 65 church of Christ
271 Highway 65N
Bible Study 9 A.M., Worship 10 A.M.
Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.
Evangelist: Bruce Reeves, Bldg: (501) 336-0052

CONWAY

Eastside church of Christ
1540 E. Oak Street 72302
Sunday Bible Classes 9:30 A.M.
Sunday Worship 10:30 A.M.,
Wednesday Bible Classes 7 P.M.
www.conwaychurchofchrist.org

CONWAY

Prince Street church of Christ
2655 Prince St., (Hwy. 60)
Bible Study 9 A.M., Worship 10 A.M.
Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.
(501) 339-6917

FORT SMITH

South 46th St. church of Christ
2323 South 46th Street
Bible Study 9:45 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.
Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.
Evangelist: John Hagenbuch
Bldg: (479) 782-0588

HARRISON

Capps Rd. Church of Christ
407 Bella Vista Dr.
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:15 A.M.
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.
Evangelist: Norman E. Sewell
www.cappsroad.org
870-741-9104 or 870-741-5151

JACKSONVILLE

church of Christ
1807 McArthur Drive
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.
Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.
(501) 982-6413 - church bldg
(501) 533-8801 - Jason Lankford
www.mcarthurdrccoc.com

JONESBORO

StoneRidge church of Christ
514 Airport Road
Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 11 A.M.
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.
Evangelist: Dick Blackford (870) 933-9134
rlb612@aol.com

LITTLE ROCK

church of Christ
7115 West 65th Street
Bible Study 9 A.M., Worship 10 A.M.
Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.
Evangelist: Don McClain, Res. (501) 847-6677
Study (501) 568-1062

MARVELL

Marvell church of Christ
Highway 49 • Marvell, AR 72366
Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 11 A.M.
Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 6 P.M.
(870) 714-1452 or (870) 338-1833

PINE BLUFF

Highway 79 South church of Christ
4341 S Camden Road
Bible Study 9:45 A.M., Worship 10:45 A.M.
Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.
Evangelist: Clarence W. Sell (870) 879-2079

POCAHONTAS

Westside church of Christ
3644 Hwy 90 West • P.O. Box 43
Bible Study 9 A.M., Worship 9:45 A.M.
Afternoon 1 P.M., Wednesday 6:30 P.M.

TEXARKANA

church of Christ
2301 Franklin Drive
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:15 A.M.
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.
Evangelist: Bryan Garlock

ARIZONA

GLENDALE

church of Christ
6801 N. 60th Avenue
Bible Study 9 A.M., Worship 9:40 A.M.
Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 7:30 P.M.
Evangelist: Chance Ruffino

TUCSON

church of Christ
145 N. Country Club Road
Bible Study 9 A.M., Worship 10 A.M.
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.
Evangelist: Hugh Delong
(520) 326-3634 or 722-3179

CALIFORNIA

BELLFLOWER

Rose Ave. church of Christ
17903 Ibbetson Ave.
Bible Study 9:45 A.M., Worship 10:50 A.M.
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7:30 P.M.
(562) 866-5615, <http://www.roseavenue.org>

CANOGA PARK

(San Fernando Valley)
church of Christ
7054 Winnetka Ave.
Bible Study 9:45 A.M., Worship 10:45 A.M.
Afternoon 2:30 P.M., Wednesday 7:30 P.M.
Minister: Bruce Evans (818) 795-5566
Spanish congregation (818) 701-0112

FOLSOM

church of Christ
900 E. Natomas St. • P.O. Box 492
Sunday Bible Study 9:30 A.M.,
Sunday Worship 10:30 A.M.,
Sunday Bible Study 4 P.M.,
Wednesday Bible Study 7:30 P.M.
Evangelist: David Posey
(530) 676-9514 or (916) 608-4866
www.folsomchurch.com

LONG BEACH

church of Christ
3433 Studebaker Road
Bible Study 9:50 A.M., Worship 10:45 A.M.
Evening 5:30 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.
JP Flores (562) 420-2363
Mark Reeves (562) 377-1674
www.JustChristians.org

OCEANSIDE-VISTA

church of Christ
2020 Sunset Dr.
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.
Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.
(760) 940-8003

COLORADO

GRAND JUNCTION

church of Christ Western Slope
2923 North Ave., Unit 3
Grand Junction, CO 81504
Worship 10:30 A.M., Evening 5 P.M.
Wednesday Bible Study 6 P.M.
www.churchofchristwesternslope.com

LOVELAND

Poudre Valley church of Christ
4202 North Garfield Avenue
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.
Afternoon 1:30 P.M.
Evangelist: Richard Thetford (970) 667-0469
www.poudrevalleychurchofchrist.org

MONTROSE

San Juan church of Christ
1414 Hawk Parkway, Unit C
Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 11 A.M.
Evening 1:30 P.M., (970) 249-8116

DELAWARE

MILTON

Lighthouse church of Christ
14574 Coastal Hwy. Rt. 1
Worship 9:30 A.M., Sunday School 10:45 A.M.
Wednesday 7 P.M., (302) 644-7379

FLORIDA

DESTIN

South Walton church of Christ
64 Casting Lake Road
Bible Study 9 A.M., Worship 10 A.M.
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.
(850) 622-3817
www.southwaltonchurchofchrist.com

FORT LAUDERDALE

Northside church of Christ
912 NW 19th St.
Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 11 A.M.
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7:30 P.M.
(954) 763-1404

FORT MYERS

Southside church of Christ
13641 Learning Court
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.
Evangelist: David P. Schmidt
(239) 433-2838 or 482-2158

FROSTPROOF

Frostproof church of Christ
40 W. "A" St., Frostproof, FL 33483
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.
Wednesday 7 P.M., (863) 635-2607 or 635-4278

GENEVA

church of Christ
Ave. C and 2nd St.
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:45 A.M.
(407) 349-9998

JACKSONVILLE

Marietta church of Christ
8150 Driggers Street
Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 11 A.M.
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.
Evangelist: Jamie Rhoden, (904) 781-5704
or 693-0432, www.mariettacoc.com

KEY LARGO

Key Largo church of Christ
100695 N. Overseas Hwy.
33037 m.m. 100.7 on US 1
Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 11 A.M.
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.
Evangelist: William LeDent (305) 451-1194

MARY ESTHER

church of Christ
6 Lane Drive
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.
Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.
Evangelist: Joey Rankin (850) 244-9222

MIAMI

church of Christ
Eglise du Christ de Miami
8343 NE 3rd Court
Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 11 A.M.
Wednesday 7 P.M.
Minister: Junot Joseph (305) 244-8295

MIAMI

Flagler Grove church of Christ
(Nearest to Airport), 500 N.W. 53rd Ave.
Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 11 A.M.
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7:30 P.M.
Evangelist: John Buttrick (305) 634-5924

MIAMI

church of Christ
12780 Quail Roost Dr.
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.
Evangelist: Clark Pace
(305) 233-9590 or (954) 430-1437

OCALA

Anthony church of Christ
9778 N.E. Jacksonville Rd., Anthony, FL 32617
Bible Study 9 A.M., Worship 10 A.M.
Wednesday 6:30 P.M.
Evangelist: Greg Cruz (352) 629-5505
www.anthonycoc.com

ORLANDO

Azalea Park church of Christ
6800 Lake Underhill Rd.
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.
Wednesday 7:30 P.M.
(407) 277-7931

ORLANDO

church of Christ at S. Bumby
3940 S. Bumby Ave.
Sunday Worship 9 A.M., Bible Study 10 A.M.
Worship w/ communion 10:55 A.M. (No Evening Service), Wednesday 7 P.M.
Evangelist: Adam Willingham
Office: (407) 851-8031

ORLANDO

Pine Hills Church of Christ
890 Hastings Street
Sun. Bible Study 10 A.M., Sun. Worship: 11 A.M.
Sun. Evening Worship: 6 P.M.
Wednesday Bible Study: 7:30 P.M.
(407) 293-2851 or (407) 290-8650

PALMETTO

Palmetto church of Christ
1575 14th Avenue W.
Bible Study 9 A.M., Worship 10 A.M.
Wednesday 7 P.M.
www.palmettochurchofchrist.com
(941) 722-1307

PANAMA CITY BEACH

Beach church of Christ
8910 Front Beach Rd.
Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 11 A.M.
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.
(850) 234-2521

PENSACOLA

East Hill church of Christ
2078 E. Nine Mile Rd. at Camberwell Rd.
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.
Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.
Evangelist: Hal Hammons
(850) 479-2130 or (850) 602-8420

SEFFNER

church of Christ
621 E. Wheeler Rd.
Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 10:50 A.M.
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7:30 P.M.
Evangelist: Bobby Witherington (813) 684-1297
www.seffnercoc.org

GEORGIA

CENTERVILLE

Centerville church of Christ
250 Collins Ave. (Near Robins AFB)
Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 11 A.M.
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7:30 P.M.
Evangelist: J. Wiley Adams (478) 922-1158

COLUMBUS

River City Church of Christ
3900 River Road, Columbus GA 31904
Bible Class 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.
Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.
Evangelists Jeff McCrary & Bo Couchman
(205) 451-9028, rivercitychurchofchrist.com
backtothebible@rivercitychurchofchrist.com

CONYERS

Rockdale church of Christ
East Metro Atlanta, 705 Smyrna Road
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.
Evening 5:30 P.M., Wednesday 7:30 P.M.
Building (770) 929-3973

PINE MTN. VALLEY

church of Christ
Route 116 (near Callaway Gardens)
Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 11 A.M.
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7:30 P.M.
Evangelist: Tommy W. Thomas
(706) 628-5117 or 628-5229
www.pmvchurch.com

SAVANNAH

Coastal church of Christ
Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 11 A.M.
(912) 344-1687
coastalchurchofchrist@outlook.com

VALDOSTA

church Of Christ
4313 North Valdosta Rd.
(Located 1 mile E. of Exit 22 off I-75)
Worship 9 A.M., Bible Study 10 P.M.
Communion 11 A.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.
(229) 244-8630, www.northvaldostacoc.com

IOWA

GRINNELL

church of Christ
1402 Third Ave.
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.
Wednesday 7 P.M.
(641) 521-6485, (641) 236-3883
www.grinnellcoc.com

DES MOINES

church of Christ
1310 N.E. 54th Ave.
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:40 A.M.
Wednesday 7 P.M., (515) 262-6799

IDAHO

BLACKFOOT

church of Christ
370 N. Shilling • P.O. Box 158-83221
Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 11 A.M.
Wednesday 7:30 P.M.
(208) 785-6168 or 681-1552

ILLINOIS

CHICAGO

church of Christ
1514 West 74th Street
Bible Study 9 A.M., Worship 10 A.M.
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.
Evangelist: James E. Scott
Bldg. (773) 224-9279, (708) 339-6126

DOWNERS GROVE

church of Christ
1236 63rd St., (1 and 1/2 mile E. of I355)
Bible Study 9 A.M., Worship 9:55 A.M.
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7:30 P.M.
(630) 968-0760 • www.dgccc.org

GLENN ELLYN

Glen Ellyn Church of Christ
796 Prairie Ave.
Glen Ellyn, IL. 60137
Sunday Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.
Sunday Evening 5 P.M.
Evangelist: Keith E. Brown
(630) 858-2290, (630) 377-3990

MATTOON

Southside church of Christ
1100 S. 17th Street
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.
(217) 234-3702

SOUTH HOLLAND

Southeast church of Christ
16224 S Vincennes Ave.
Bible Study 9 A.M., Worship 10 A.M.
Evening 4 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.
Evangelist: Donald Hawkins, (708) 339-1008
www.southeastchurchofchrist.com

INDIANA

CLARKSVILLE

Clarksville church of Christ
407 W. Lewis & Clark Parkway, 47129
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7:30 P.M.
Evangelist: Brian Anderson (812) 944-2305
or (812) 948-9917
www.clarksvillechurchofchrist.org

GREENWOOD

Greenwood church of Christ
371 W. Main Street
Sun. Bible Study 9 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.
Evening 4:30 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.
Evangelists: Neil Tremblett
(317) 888-8288
www.churchofchristatgreenwood.org

HOBART

church of Christ
300 N. Liberty Street
Bible Study 9:45 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.
Evangelist: Jerry Cleek (219) 942-2663

INDIANAPOLIS

Castleton church of Christ
7701 East 86th Street, 46256
Sun. Worship 11 A.M., Sun. Bible Study 10 A.M.
Wed. Worship 11:15 A.M., Wed. Bible Study 7 P.M.
(317) 710-1204

JAMESTOWN

church of Christ
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:25 A.M.
Evening 4 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.
Evangelist: David McPherson
(765) 676-6404 or (270) 994-4397
www.jamestowncoc.com

MARION

South Marion church of Christ
3629 S. Washington St.
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.
Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.
Evangelist: Alan Jones (765) 922-7602
www.southmarionchurchofchrist.org

OOITIC

church of Christ
400 Lafayette Ave. • P.O. Box 34
Bible Study 9:45 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.
Evening 6 P.M. Wednesday 7 P.M.
(812) 279-4332

PEKIN

church of Christ
(First St. & Karnes Ct.)
Bible Study 9:45 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.
Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.
Evangelist: Jeremy Goen
(812) 967-3437 or 967-3520
www.pekinchurchofchrist.com

PLAINFIELD

church of Christ West
2028 Stafford Rd., Ste. C., (Marsh Shopping Cntr.)
Bible Study 9 A.M., Worship 9:50 A.M.
Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.
Evangelist: Johnie Edwards
(317) 964-9404 or (317) 839-1769
www.churchofchristwest.org

SAINT LEON, IN

Church of Christ
7140 Hyland Rd., Guildford, IN 47022
I74 exit 164 1 mile south on SR 1
Bible study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.
Evening 6:00 P.M., Wednesday 7:30 P.M.
812-637-1252 or 513-367-7871

SALEM

Westside church of Christ
2000 West State Rd. 56
Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 10:45 A.M.
Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.
(812) 883-2033, www.westsidechurchofchrist.net

TRAFALGAR

Spearsville Rd. church of Christ, 6244 S. 500W.
(1.2 mi. S. of Hwy. 135)
Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 11 A.M.
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.
Evangelist: Ed Rangel. (317) 878-5969
www.trafalgarchurch.com

KANSAS

TOPEKA

17th Street church of Christ
5600 SW 17th St.
Bible Study 9:15 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.
Wednesday 7 P.M.
(785) 235-8687 or 273-7977
www.17thstreetchurchofchrist.org

KENTUCKY

AUSTIN

Peter's Creek church of Christ
856 Thomerson Park Rd.
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.
Evening 6 P.M.
Evangelist: David Cox (270) 579-8074 or
(270) 646-0498, www.peterscreekcoc.com

BEAVER DAM

church of Christ
1235 Williams St.
Worship 10 A.M., Bible Study After Worship
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.
Evangelist: Mike Thomas
(270) 274-4451 or 274-4486

BRANDENBURG

Brandenburg church of Christ
612 Broadway
Bible Study 9:45 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.
Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 6:30 P.M.
Evangelist: Charles J. White (270) 422-3878

CAMPBELLSVILLE

Sunny Hill Dr. church of Christ
A.M. Worship 9:30 A.M., A.M. Bible Study 10:30 A.M.
A.M. Worship 11:30 A.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.
Evangelist: Steve Lee (270) 789-1651
stevelee4510@windstream.net
www.sunnyhillcoc.com

CANEYVILLE

Caneyville church of Christ
103 N. Main St. • P.O. Box 233
Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 10:45 A.M.
Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.
Evangelist: Jarrod Jacobs (270) 589-4167,
(270) 274-3065 or (502) 724-2231

DANVILLE

church of Christ
385 E. Lexington Ave.
Worship 10 A.M., Bible Study 11:15 A.M.
Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.
Evangelist: Scott Vifuquin (859) 236-4204

FRANKLIN

31-W North church of Christ
1733 Bowling Green Road
Bible Study 9 A.M., Worship 10 A.M.
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.
Evangelist: Steve Monts, (270) 586-3978
www.31wchurchofchrist.com

HODGENVILLE

Hodgenville church of Christ
613 S Lincoln Blvd.
Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 11 A.M.
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.
Evangelist: Don Brady (270) 358-6053
Dbrady1295@aol.com

LEITCHFIELD

Mill St. church of Christ
733 Mill Street, Highway 62 E.
Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 10:55 A.M.
Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.
Evangelist: Michael Hardin
(270) 259-4968 or (270) 300-3239
www.millstreetchurchofchrist.org

LOUISVILLE

Valley Station church of Christ
1803 Dixie Garden Drive
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7:30 P.M.
Evangelist: Dudley Ross Spears (502) 937-2822

LOUISIANA**GONZALES**

Southside church of Christ
405 Orice Roth Road, 70737, (Baton Rouge area)
Bible Class 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.
Evangelist: R.J. Evans (225) 622-4587
rjevans@eatel.net

MANY

Lakeside church of Christ
12095 Texas Hwy. (Hwy. 6 W.)
12 miles west of Many
Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 11 A.M.
Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.
(318) 256-9396

STONEWALL

N. DeSoto church of Christ
2071 Highway 171 (South of Shreveport)
Bible Study 9 A.M., Worship 10 A.M.
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.
(318) 925-2733

MARYLAND**SEVERN**

Southwest church of Christ
805 Meadow Rd.
Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 11 A.M.
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7:30 P.M.
Evangelist: Brandon Trout
(410) 969-1420 or (410) 551-6549
www.swcofchrist.com

MAINE**PORTLAND**

church of Christ • 856 Brighton Ave.
Leave Maine Turnpike at Exit 48
(Breakwater School)
Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 11 A.M.
Second service immediately following morning
worship. Mid-week Bible Study. Please call for
times & places. (207) 839-3075 or 839-8409

MICHIGAN**CEDAR SPRINGS**

W. Michigan church of Christ
Sr. Citizen Center, 44 Park Street
(Grand Rapids Area)
Worship 11 A.M., Bible Study 12:30 P.M.
Wednesday 7 P.M.
Evangelist: Joseph Gladwell, (616) 975-2778
westmichcof10@yahoo.com

MINNESOTA**DULUTH**

church of Christ
4401 Glenwood St.
Bible Study 9 A.M., Worship 10 A.M.
Bible Study 5:30 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.
Evangelist: Taylor Ladd (218) 728-3233

ST. CHARLES

church of Christ
636 Whitewater Ave.
Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 11 A.M.
Bible Study 2:15 P.M.
Wednesday 7 P.M., call for location
FREE Bible correspondence studies
Evangelist: Robert Lehnertz (507) 534-2905

MISSISSIPPI**BOONEVILLE**

Oakleigh Dr. church of Christ
101 Oakleigh Dr.
Bible Study 9:45 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.
Evening 4 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.
Building: (662) 728-1942

CLINTON

McRaven Rd. church of Christ
301 McRaven Rd. (I20, exit 36)
Bible Study 9 A.M., Worship 10 A.M.
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.
Evangelist: Leonard White
(601) 925-9757 or 924-2645

MERIDIAN

Grandview church of Christ
2820 Grandview Ave.
Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 11 A.M.
Sun. Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 6:30 P.M.
(601) 482-0543, (601) 479-3394 or (601) 934-3675
Contacts: Ron Cooper & Jim Young
youngins@comcast.net

MERIDIAN

7th St. church of Christ
2914 7th Street
Bible Study 9 A.M., Worship 10 A.M.
(601) 483-3101

SOUTHAVEN

church of Christ
2110 E State Line Rd. (Exit I-55), (Memphis area)
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.
Wednesday 7 P.M.
Evangelist: James A. Brown
(662) 342-1132 - church Building

MISSOURI**BLUE SPRINGS**

Southside church of Christ
4000 SW Christiansen
Worship 9 A.M., Bible Study 10 A.M.
Worship 11 A.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.
Evangelist: Brett Hogland (816) 228-9262

CAPE GIRARDEAU

North Cape church of Christ
121 S. Broadview St. Suite 2,
Cape Girardeau, MO 63703
Sunday Bible Study 9:15 & 10 A.M.,
Worship 11 A.M., No Evening Service
Wednesday 6 P.M./CST, 7 P.M./DST
Evangelist: Jerry Lee Westbrook (573) 334-9673

DONIPHAN

Southside church of Christ
Hwy. 142 E. ½ mile (P.O. Box 220)
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.
(573) 996-3251 or 996-3513

FAIR GROVE

church of Christ
217 N. Orchard Blvd.
Bible Study 9 A.M., Bible Study 10 A.M.
Worship 11 A.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.
Evangelist: Walter Myers (417) 830-8972 or
(417) 736-2663

KENNETT

church of Christ
703 Harrison St.
Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 11 A.M.
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.
(573) 888-6778 or (870) 650-1648
Nolan Glover, Preacher
www.westsidechurchofchrist.us

LILBOURN

church of Christ
P.O. Box 270 • 211 Benton St.
Bible Study 9:45 A.M., Worship 10:45 A.M.
Evening 5:30 P.M., Wednesday 7:30 P.M.
Evangelist: Shane Williams, (573) 688-2234
or 748-5204

RAYTOWN

Sterling Ave. church of Christ
5825 Sterling Ave. (Near Sports Complex)
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.
Evangelist: Jerid Gunter
(816) 356-3096 or (270) 585-4331
www.sterlingavechurchofchrist.org

ST. JAMES

church of Christ
685 Sidney St.
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:15 A.M.
Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.
Evangelist: Lynn Huggins (573) 265-8628

ST. JOSEPH

County Line church of Christ
2727 County Line Rd.
Bible Study 9 A.M., Worship 9:50 A.M.
Evening 3 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.
(816) 279-4737
www.countylinechurchofchrist.com

NEBRASKA**BEATRICE**

church of Christ • 7th and Bell
Bible Study 9 A.M., Worship 10 A.M.
Evening 6:30 P.M., 233-4102 or 228-3827
www.churchofchrist7bell.com

NEW JERSEY**VAUXHALL**

church of Christ
Milbourn Mall Suite 6., 2933 Vauxhall Rd.
Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 11 A.M.
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7:30 P.M.
Contact: Harry Persaud
phone: (908) 964-6356 • cell: (908) 964-8570

NEW MEXICO**ALBUQUERQUE**

Heights church of Christ
7801 Zuni Road, S.E.
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.
Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.
Evanagelist: Darrel Yontz (505) 266-7577
www.heightschurchofchrist.com

NEVADA**RENO**

Central church of Christ
2450 Wrondel Way, Suite A
Bible Study 9 A.M., Worship 10 A.M.
Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.
(775) 786-2888

NORTH CAROLINA**CHARLOTTE**

Charlotte church of Christ
5327 S. Tyron Street
Worship 9 A.M., Bible Study 10: A.M.
Worship 11 A.M., Wednesday 7:30 P.M.
(704) 525-5655

OHIO**BEAVERCREEK**

Knollwood Creek church of Christ
1031 Welford Drive
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:20 A.M.
Afternoon 3 P.M., Wednesday Afternoon 1 P.M.
Wednesday Evening 7 P.M.
(937) 426-1422
www.knollwoodchurch.org

CINCINNATI

Blue Ash church of Christ
4667 Cooper Road
Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 10:45 A.M.
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.
Evangelist: Russell Dunaway, Jr. (513) 891-3174
www.blueashchurchofchrist.com

CLEVELAND

Lorain Ave. church of Christ
13501 Lorain Ave.
Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 11 A.M.
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7:30 P.M.
(330) 723-0111 or (330) 590-0227
or (216) 322-9392
www.lorainave-churchofchrist.com

COLUMBUS

Laurel Canyon church of Christ
409 McNaughton Road
Bible Study 9:45 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.
(614) 868-1375, www.lccc.org

DAYTON

West Carrollton
28 W. Main Street, 45449
Early Worship 9 A.M., Bible Study 9:30 A.M.
Worship 10:25 A.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.
Evangelist: Michael Grushon (937) 866-5162
or 848-3779, www.wc-coc.org

FRANKLIN

Franklin church of Christ
6417 Franklin-Lebanon Rd. 45005
Sun. Bible Study 10 A.M.
Sun Worship 10:45 A.M.
Tues. Bible Study 6:30 P.M.
Evangelist: Josh Lee (937) 789-8055
or (937) 746-1249, www.franklin-church.org

FREMONT

church of Christ
3361 W. State Street, 1 mi. W. of Fremont
on U.S. Rt. 20
Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 10:45 A.M.
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.
(419) 849-3340 or 849-2980
www.fremontchurchofchrist.com

HAMILTON

Westview church of Christ
1040 Azel Ave.
Bible Study 9 A.M., Worship 9:45 A.M.
Evening 6:30 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.
Evangelist: Eugene Ford (513) 856-9288

HILLIARD

church of Christ
4840 Cemetery Rd.
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7:30 P.M.
(614) 876-4089

MANSFIELD

Southside church of Christ
687 Mansfield-Lucas Road
Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 10:45 A.M.
Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 5 P.M.
James Bond: (419) 526-2868
Leon Bond: (419) 525-3684
church: (419) 522-8982

NEW LEBANON

New Lebanon church of Christ
1973 W Main Street
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.,
Evening 6:30 P.M., Wed. Bible Study 7 P.M.
Evangelist: Bruce Hastings (937) 687-7150
or (937) 478-0367

MARIETTA-RENO

Marietta-Reno church of Christ
80 Sandhill Road
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.
Evening 6:30 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.
Daniel Ruegg: (740) 222-9160 or
Steve Foutty: (740) 473-9028

NORTHWOOD

Frey Road church of Christ
4110 Frey Rd. (Toledo Area)
Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 11 A.M.
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.
Evangelist: Donald Jarabek
(419) 893-3566, (567) 694-5062

UHRICHSVILLE

church of Christ
638 Parrish Street
Bible Study 9:45 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.
Evening 6:30 P.M., Mid-week 6:30 P.M.

OKLAHOMA

MCALISTER

North A St. church of Christ
2120 No. A Street
Bible Study 9:45 A.M., Worship 10:45 A.M.
Evening 5:30 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.
Evangelist: Rob Lungstrum, Cell: (918) 931-1362
Office: (918) 423-3445

OKLAHOMA CITY

Seminole Pointe church of Christ
16300 N. May Avenue
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.
Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.
Evangelist: John M. Duvall (405) 340-3189
or (405) 513-6691, www.seminolepointe.church

OREGON

SWEET HOME

Church of Christ
3702 E. Long Street, Sweet Home, OR
Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 11 A.M.
Evening 7 P.M., Wednesday 7:30 P.M.
Building: (541) 367-1599

PENNSYLVANIA

PHILADELPHIA

church of Christ
7222 Germantown Ave., 19119
Bible Study 10:15 A.M., Worship 11:15 A.M.
Tuesday night 7 P.M.
Evangelist: James H. Baker, Jr. (215) 248-2026
www.mtairychurchofchrist.org

SOUTH CAROLINA

COLUMBIA

Lower Richland church of Christ
3000 Trotter Rd. (Hopkins, SC)
Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 11 A.M.
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.
(803) 730-0452, <http://lowerrichlandchurch.org>

SUMTER

Woodland church of Christ
3370 Broad St. Extension
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.
Evening 5:30 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.
Evangelist: A.A. Granke, Jr. (803) 499-6023

WEST COLUMBIA

Airport church of Christ
4013 Edmund Hwy. (Hwy. 302)
**OUR WEB SITE DISPLAYS OUR
CURRENT ASSEMBLY SCHEDULE.**
Evangelist: Seth Mauldin, Bldg. (803) 834-6978
<http://airport-church-of-christ.com>

TENNESSEE

COLUMBIA

Mooresville Pike church of Christ
417 Mooresville Pike
(.8 mi. N. of Hwy. 50/Jas. Campbell)
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.
Evening 3:30 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.
(931) 388-5828 or (931) 381-7898
www.moorevillpikecoc.com

COSBY

Cosby church of Christ
489 Hooper Hwy., 37722
(15 mi. E. of Gatlinburg on Hwy. 321)
Bible Study 10A.M., Worship 11 A.M.
Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday Bible Study 6:00 P.M.
Evangelist: Olie Williamson
(423) 487-5540 or (423) 748-0844

JACKSON

Sunset View church of Christ
3618 Hwy 70 East
(Exit 87 off I-40, 7mi. @ Spring Creek)
Bible Study 9 A.M., Worship 10 A.M.
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.
Evangelist: Steve Wilkerson (731) 967-0590
or 968-9851

JOHNSON CITY

Brookmead church of Christ
2428 Lakeview Drive
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.
Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.
Evangelist: Kevin Kay (423) 282-6251 or 426-1836

JONESBOROUGH

11-E church of Christ
240 Headtown Road
Bible Study 10:30 A.M., Worship 11 A.M.
Evening 5 P.M., Evangelist: David Wheeler
(423) 557-9119 or (423) 948-6464
www.christianadmonisher.jigsy.com

KINGSTON SPRINGS

Kingston Springs church of Christ
350 North Main Street
Bible Study 9 A.M., Worship 10 A.M.
Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.
Evangelist: Steve Walker, www.kscoc.com

MT. PLEASANT

Locust St. Church of Christ
108 Locust Street • Mt. Pleasant, TN 38474
931-379-3704 or 931-964-3924
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.
Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.
Evangelist: Daniel H. King, Sr.
www.lscoc.com

KINGSPOUR

Kingsport church of Christ
4938 Fort Henry Dr. • P.O. Box 554
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.
Evening 5:00 P.M., Wednesday 7:00 P.M.
Evangelist: Tom Kinzel, Bldg.# (423) 239-3979
or (423) 579-2002 • www.kptcoc.org

MARYVILLE

Smokey Mt. church of Christ
2206 Montvale Road
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.
Harold Tabor (865) 977-4230
Lon Spurgeon (865) 388-8749
<http://tinyurl.com/smchurch>

MEMPHIS

Rocky Pt. Road church of Christ
516 E. Rocky Point Rd., Cordova
Bible Study 9 A.M., Worship 10A.M.
Wednesday 7 P.M.
rockypointchurch@gmail.com
www.rockypointchurch.org

MURFREESBORO

Cason Lane church of Christ
1110 Cason Lane
Bible Study 9 A.M., Worship 10 A.M.
Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.
(615) 896-0090 (Building)
www.casonlanechurch.org

MURFREESBORO, TN

Northfield Blvd. church of Christ
2091 Pitts Ln. at Northfield Blvd.
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.
Evangelist: David Bunting (615) 893-1200

NASHVILLE

Hillview church of Christ
7471 Charlotte Pike
Bible Study 9 A.M., Worship 10 A.M.
Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.
(615) 952-5458 or (615) 356-7318
Evangelist: Lee Wildman

NASHVILLE

Perry Heights church of Christ
423 Donelson Pike
Bible Study 9 A.M., Worship 9:55 A.M.
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.
Evangelist: Johnny Felker (615) 883-3118
<http://perryheights.faithweb.com>

PIGEON FORGE

King Branch Road church of Christ
560 King Branch Road
Worship 10 A.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.
Facilities available for Sunday evening services
upon request.
Evangelist: Roger Williams (865) 430-5980
www.KingBranchRoadchurchOfChrist.org

SHELBYVILLE

El Bethel church of Christ
1801 Hwy. 41-A North
Bible Study 9 A.M., Worship 9:50 A.M.
Evening 5:30 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.
Evangelist: Donnie V. Rader (931) 607-9099
dvrader@live.com

SHELBYVILLE

Shelbyville Mills church of Christ
1222 W. Jackson St.
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.
Evangelist: Jeff Curtis (931) 607-9118
djcurtis1963@hotmail.com

TEXAS

ALLEN

West Allen church of Christ
1414 W. Exchange Blvd. (2 miles west of Hwy. 75)
Bible Study 9 A.M., Worship 9:50 A.M.
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7:30 P.M.
Evangelist: Jerry King (214) 504-0443
Building phone (972) 727-5355

ALVARADO

I-35 church of Christ
E. Service Rd. off I-35, N. of Alvarado
Bible Study 10:00 A.M., Worship 11 A.M.
Evening 6:00 P.M., Wednesday 7:00 P.M.
(817) 295-7277 or 790-7253

ALVIN

Adoue St. church of Christ
605 E. Adoue Street
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7:30 P.M.
Evangelist: Mark Mayberry (281) 331-4953
or (832) 837-9038

AUSTIN

Schultz Lane church of Christ
Faber Rd. & Schultz Ln., Pflugerville, TX 78660
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.
Evening 2 P.M., Wednesday 7:30 P.M.
Evangelist: Ron Lehde

BAYTOWN

church of Christ at Pruett & Lobit
701 North Pruett Street
Bible Study 9:45 A.M., Worship 10:40 A.M.
Evening 6:30 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.
Evangelist: Jesse Flowers (281) 515-8939
Building: (281) 422-5926, Weldon: (713) 818-1321

BEAUMONT

Dowlen Rd. church of Christ
3060 Dowlen Road
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.
Evangelists: Max Dawson & Benjamin Lee
(409) 866-1996

CONROE

Woodland Hills church of Christ
410 Woodland Hills Dr., 77303
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.
phone: (936) 756-9322
www.conroechurch.com

CLEVELAND

church of Christ
310 E. Houston Street
Bible Study 9 A.M., Worship 10 A.M.
Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 7:30 P.M.
Evangelist: Robert Davis (281) 592-5676
www.clevelandchurchofchrist.org

CORPUS CHRISTI

Hwy. 9 church of Christ
Worship 10 A.M., Bible Study 11 A.M.
Worship 12 P.M., Wednesday 7:30 P.M.
Call for location: Keith Kalies (361) 776-2304
or Patrick Frazier (361) 235-1990

DICKINSON

church of Christ
2919 FM 517 Road E.
Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 10:50 A.M.
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 9:45 A.M.
Wednesday 7 P.M., (281) 534-4870
www.dickinsonchurchofchrist.org

DALLAS

Methodist Street church of Christ
211 Methodist St. • Red Oak TX, 75154
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.
Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.
Evangelist: D. LeRoy Klice
(972) 576-3119 or 363-7672
www.methodiststreetchurchofchrist.com

DUNCANVILLE

Whispering Hills church of Christ
2126 S. Main (South Dallas)
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.
Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.
(214) 874-5701, info@whchurchofchrist.net

EDNA

church of Christ
301 Robison Street
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.
(361) 782-5506 or 782-2844
Elders: J. Mercer & S. Mercer

EL PASO

Eastridge church of Christ
3277 Pendleton Road
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.
Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.
(915) 855-1524

FORT WORTH

West Side church of Christ
6110 White Settlement Rd. 76114
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7:30 P.M.
(817) 738-7269

GRANBURY

church of Christ
4313 Old Granbury Road
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.
817-913-4209 or 817-279-3351

HOUSTON

Fry Rd. church of Christ
2510 Fry Road (77084)
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:20 A.M.
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7:30 P.M.
Bob Pulliam: (281) 832-4633, www.fryroad.org

HOUSTON

Spring Woods church of Christ
9955 Neuens Rd. at Witte Road
Worship 9 A.M., Bible Study 10 A.M.
Worship 11 A.M., Evening 6 P.M.
Wednesday 7 P.M.
Evangelist (713) 419-1750
www.springwoodschurchofchrist.com

IRVING

Westside church of Christ
2320 Imperial Dr. (closest to DFW Airport)
Bible Study 9 A.M., Worship 9:50 A.M.
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7:30 P.M.
Evangelist: Mark Roberts (972) 986-9131
www.JustChristians.com

LANCASTER

Pleasant Run church of Christ
831 W. Pleasant Run Road
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:20 A.M.
Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 7:30 P.M.
(972) 227-1708 or 227-2598

LIBBONA

Indiana Avenue church of Christ
6111 Indiana Avenue
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.
Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.
(806) 795-3377
www.libbonachurch.com

LUFKIN

Timberland Dr. church of Christ
912 S. Timberland Drive
Bible Study 9 A.M., Worship 9:50 A.M.
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.
Evangelists: Harold Hancock & Reagan McClenny
(936) 634-7110 or 632-7070

MANSFIELD

Northside church of Christ
1820 Mansfield-Webb Road
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:20 A.M.
Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 5:30 P.M.
www.northsidecoc.us
Evangelist: Tom Roberts (817) 466-3160

NACOGDOCHES

Stallings Dr. church of Christ
3831 N.E. Stallings Drive
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:20 A.M.
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.
Evangelists: Randy Harshbarger & Jay Taylor

PLANO

Spring Creek church of Christ
2100 W. Spring Creek Pkwy., (North Dallas Suburb)
Bible Study 9 A.M., Worship 10 A.M.
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7:30 P.M.
(972) 517-5582, www.planochurch.org

SAN ANTONIO

Grissom Rd. church of Christ
5470 Lost Lane at Grissom Rd.
San Antonio, TX 78238-2700
Bible Classes 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.
Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday (Ladies Class) 10 A.M.,
Wednesday (Bible Class) 7:30 P.M.
Terry Starling, Evangelist
www.grissomroadcoc.org

SAN ANTONIO

Pecan Valley church of Christ
268 Utopia Avenue, (I-37 S.E. Exit Pecan Valley)
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.
Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.
Evangelist: Clyde W. Carter (210) 337-6143

SHERMAN

Westwood Village church of Christ
314 N. Tolbert
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.
Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.
Evangelist: Jim Smelser

TEMPLE

Leon Valley church of Christ
4404 Twin City Blvd.
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7:30 P.M.
Evangelist: Jason Garcia
yourfriendjgar@gmail.com
www.biblemoments.org

WACO

Sun Valley church of Christ
340 E. Warren St. (In Hewitt, a suburb of Waco)
Bible Class 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.
Wednesday 7 P.M.
Evangelist: Marc Smith
(254) 666-1020 or 420-1484

THE WOODLANDS

Woodlands church of Christ
1500 Wellman Road • P.O. Box 7664 (77380)
Bible Class 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:20 A.M.
Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 7:30 P.M.
(281) 367-2099
www.woodlandschurchofchrist.org

VIRGINIA

CHESAPEAKE

Tidewater church of Christ
217 Taxus Street
Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 11 A.M.
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.
Evangelist: Steve Schlosser (757) 436-6900

CHESTER

Chester church of Christ
12100 Winfree St., (Central to Richmond,
Hopewell, Petersburg, & Colonial Heights)
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.
Evening 5:30 P.M., Wednesday 7:30 P.M.
church Building: (804) 796-2374, (804) 385-2725
or (804) 271-0877

NEWPORT NEWS

Harpersville Rd. church of Christ
315 Harpersville Road
Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 11 A.M.
Wednesday 7:00 P.M.

RICHMOND (METRO)

Courthouse church of Christ
Courthouse Rd. at Double Creek Ct.
(2.2 miles S of Rt. 288)
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.
Evangelist: Gene Tope (804) 790-1629
www.courthousechurchofchrist.com

RICHMOND

Forest Hill church of Christ
1208 W. 41st Street
Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 11 A.M.
Evening 6:00 P.M., Wednesday 7:00 P.M.
Evangelist: Jack Bise, Jr. (804) 233-5959

RIDGEWAY

church of Christ
2970 Old Leaksville Road
Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 11 A.M.
Evening 5:30 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.
(276) 956-6049
www.churchofchristatridgeway.com

ROANOKE

Blue Ridge church of Christ
929 Indiana Avenue N.E. (5 min. from Roanoke
Convention Center)
1st Lesson 9:15 A.M., Bible Study 10 A.M.
Worship 11 A.M., Wednesday 7:30 P.M.
(540) 344-2755

VIRGINIA BEACH

Southside church of Christ
5652 Haden Road
Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 11 A.M.
Robert Mallard (757) 464-4574

WASHINGTON

BELLINGHAM

Mt. Baker church of Christ
1860 Mt. Baker Hwy.
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.
Evangelist: Joe Price (360) 752-2692 or 380-2960
www.bibleanswer.com/mtbaker

WEST VIRGINIA

CHARLESTON

Oakwood Road church of Christ
873 Oakwood Road
Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 10:50 A.M.
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7:30 P.M.
Evangelist: Jonathan Chaffin (304) 342-5637
oakwoodrdcoc@suddenlinkmail.com
www.oakwoodroadchurchofchrist.com

CLARKSBURG

Westside church of Christ
Davisson Run Road
Sunday Morning 9:30 A.M.
(304) 622-5433
www.westsidechurchofchristwv.net

FAIRMONT

Eastside church of Christ
1929 Morgantown Avenue
Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 10:45 A.M.
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.
(304) 363-8696 or (304)844-2437

GLADESVILLE

Gladesville church of Christ
2906 Gladesville Rd., Independence, WV 26374
Sunday Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 10:45 A.M.
Sunday 7 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.
(304) 864-3078

MOUNDSVILLE

Moundsville church of Christ
210 Cedar Street
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.
Evening 6:30 P.M., Mid-week 7:30 P.M.
Evangelist: Tony Huntsman (304) 845-4940

PARKERSBURG

Marrtown church of Christ
825 Marrtown Road
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10 A.M.
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7:30 P.M.
(304) 422-7458 or 893-5227

WYOMING

RANCHESTER

Ranchester church of Christ
Hwy. 14 West, Ranch Mart Mall
Bible Study 9 A.M., Worship 10 A.M.
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 6:30 P.M.
Contact: Bob Reich (307) 655-2563

CANADA

CALGARY, AB

Northside church of Christ
803 20A Avenue NE
Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 11 A.M.
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday Bible Study 7 P.M.
+1 (403) 452-5116
www.churchofchristcalgary.com

ADVERTISING RATES

ON CHURCH AD PAGES

Rates are \$25 per
quarter or \$95 per year.
(when paid in advance).

The ads are run once
each month—12 times
a year.

Help travelers find your
place of worship!

Toll-free: 855-492-6657



SAVE THE DATE

Theme: When We Meet in Sweet Communion

for the

2017 TRUTH LECTURES

JUNE 19TH - 22ND