

Truth

Magazine

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LEAVING A SPIRITUAL LEGACY

"A good man leaves an inheritance to his children's children, and the wealth of the sinner is stored up for the righteous" (Prov. 13:22).



Truth Magazine

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To leave a spiritual legacy, Aaron affirms that we must first build up our faith. If we get married and eventually have children, we will then be able to lead our families in the ways of the Lord.

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Leaving a Spiritual Legacy

by Mark Mayberry

What will be the legacy of our life? What are we leaving behind for those whom we love? Is it merely accumulated property and possessions, or the precedent of a principled life?

In October 2017, the Adoue Street congregation in Alvin, TX held a lectureship on the importance of “Leaving a Spiritual Legacy.”

Lessons were presented by members of the Adoue Street church of Christ. My fellow-elders each spoke, along with other men of the congregation. These lessons were so rich and rewarding, I thought that readers of *Truth Magazine* would also benefit, especially as they consider the “Back Story” that is related herein. Accordingly, I have spent the last several weeks listening to the audio/video recordings of these lessons, transcribing the message of each speaker, and polishing them into a format suitable for this journal.

What are you planning to leave behind for those you love? Is it your accumulated property, possessions, or wealth, or is it something more? Sacred Scripture speaks of our legacy but emphasizes spiritual concerns above all others (Ps. 102:25-28; Prov. 13:20-22; Eccl. 7:1, 8).

Let us look at this subject from a high-level perspective. Reflecting upon the example of ancient Israel, both positively and negatively (Rom. 15:4-6; 1 Cor. 10:6-13), may we resolve to do whatever is necessary to make faith our own (Rom. 1:16-17).

The Problem

Looking to the Old Testament for encouragement and exhortation, consider the positive example of

Israel immediately after the conquest of Canaan. “Israel served the Lord all the days of Joshua and all the days of the elders who survived Joshua, and had known all the deeds of the Lord which He had done for Israel” (Josh. 24:31-33, esp. v. 31).

Eventually, that faithful generation passed away, and “there arose another generation after them who did not know the Lord, nor yet the work which He had done for Israel” (Judg. 2:6-10, esp. v. 10). During the days of the judges, a dark time in Israel’s history, the people forsook the Lord and served idols. Apostasy brought inevitable ill effects: a severance of fellowship with God, and a subsequent loss of freedom (Jud. 2:11-23; cf. Isa. 59:1-2).

The defining attitude of the age is captured in the reoccurring statement, “In those days there was no king in Israel; every man did what was right in his own eyes” (Judg. 17:6; 21:25). Consider the cultural setting. There was no permanent political power, i.e., a dynastic family of rulers or related bureaucracy. Instead, God provided Israel with a simple organization that served her civil and religious needs. The priesthood was more important than politics, and purity was more important than power. God raised up deliverers as the need arose. Wayward Israel was not satisfied with God’s simple pattern but wanted to be like the surrounding nations (1 Sam. 8:4-9).

Even after being warned about the consequences that would follow, the

people insisted upon pursuing their rebellious path. “No, but there shall be a king over us, that we also may be like all the nations, that our king may judge us and go out before us and fight our battles” (1 Sam. 8:19-22).

What does it mean, “Every man did what was right in his own eyes?” It suggests a spiritual role reversal—the rejection of divine authority and exaltation of human wisdom (Rom. 10:1-3). It also is evidence of overweening pride—the clay exalting itself over the Potter (Isa. 29:15-16; 45:9).

By exalting folly and debasing wisdom (Prov. 12:15), man chooses the way of death (Prov. 14:12; 16:25). Why? Man is not capable of charting his path: “I know, O Lord, that a man’s way is not in himself, Nor is it in a man who walks to direct his steps” (Jer. 10:23).

During the time of the judges, even heroes of faith did not consistently or completely follow God’s pattern: Eli failed to correct his sons effectively; Samson chose worldly wives; Gideon raised a dysfunctional family; Jephthah swore rashly; etc.

The Solution

What is the solution to the problem? What is the divine corrective? God’s plan has been in place from before the foundation of the world (Eph. 1:3-4). Speaking to Isaiah, the Lord God said, “Have you not heard? Long ago I did it; from ancient times

I planned it. Now I have brought it to pass..." (2 Kings 19:25; Isa. 37:26).

The solution to the problem of self-will remains the same. Moses said, "You shall not do at all what we are doing here today, every man doing whatever is right in his own eyes; for you have not as yet come to the resting place and the inheritance which the Lord your God is giving you..." (Deut. 12:8-12).

What is the path to spiritual security? How do we leave a spiritual legacy? Hear the words of Moses and Joshua.

The Importance of Reverence

Worship and serve the Lord: "It shall come about that the place in which the LORD your God will choose for His name to dwell, there you shall bring all that I command you." As Israel was to worship God in the place that He commanded and in the manner that He specified, we must do the same (John 4:23-24; Phil. 3:2-3).

The Importance of Rejoicing

Rejoice in the Lord: "You shall rejoice before the LORD your God, you and your sons and daughters, your male and female servants, and the Levite who is within your gates." As Israel was to rejoice before the Lord their God, we must do the same (Ps. 35:9-10; Phil. 3:1; 4:4).

The Importance of Resolve

Remember the seriousness of Joshua's charge to Israel: "Now, therefore, fear the Lord and serve Him in sincerity and truth; and put away the gods which your fathers served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord" (Josh. 24:14-28).

Do you want to leave a spiritual legacy? Don't make half-hearted promises. Don't make vows that you have no intention of keeping. Have you vowed to serve the Lord? You had better mean it! Otherwise, you are just playing

games, pretending and preening in a vain effort to impress others. However, God is not mocked (Gal. 6:7-9).

The Back Story

Why did we plan this lectureship? Because in an elders-deacons meeting a few months earlier, one of our deacons opened his heart, and said, "Brethren, I need help." As President and CEO of a large company, Jake Locklear frequently travels; yet, one day, these burdens pressed down, HARD. Hear and heed his words:

The day began like any other in recent weeks. I drove to the airport, checked in quickly, and headed to the gate. Yet, as I settled into the seat outside the gate, my heart began to race, my stomach began to pit. Another week on the road, away from the family. Another week of early mornings and late evenings, coming home exhausted when the family was ready for me to be strong. Another week of making decisions that affected a lot of people, their families and their futures. The weight was heavy.

So, I paced the floors up and down the terminal, speaking to God in prayer as I tried to calm myself. I would not call home—I knew the burden my wife had again that week, and I knew the disappointed hearts of the kids. I must be strong for them, not the other way. I would not call the office—we all felt the burden, and I was to be the calm, poised leader guiding us through this storm of churn and uncertainty. Sadly, I didn't think to call a brother—I did not feel I had that relationship with any of them. Sure, we had talked in the foyer before and after services about various issues, sharing stories of how we handled certain situations, but we had never really opened up to vulnerably share our anxieties, our doubts, our fears.

So, at our next meeting with the elders, I shared this experience and a desire to start a study among men to help us be strong in the

Lord while leading our families, our peers, our brethren, and ourselves. We began with a smaller study aimed at considering the legacy we were leaving as men. When that proved successful, we broadened the discussion to all the men. Thus, was born the idea for the men to grow stronger together, as "iron to sharpen iron."

In planning this lectureship, those who were chosen came together for a common purpose, considering the needs of the congregation, and coordinating our efforts to achieve our goals. It was an uplifting experience for all who were involved in the planning, preparation, and presentation of this material. The congregation was edified and exhorted. The participants were drawn closer together. Iron, does indeed, sharpen iron.

We continue invite evangelists to hold gospel meetings in Alvin and have greatly benefited from hearing well-known and respected preachers. However, over the past twenty years, there have been numerous times where we used local talent. Sometimes, we have asked one of our deacons to present a week-long series of lessons; on other occasions, we have had lectureships with different men of the congregation speaking at each service. Both have been beneficial, bringing blessings to the hearers and speakers. I highly recommend this approach to other churches. It has certainly benefited the brethren here. The series on "Leaving a Spiritual Legacy" is herein offered, for its own sake, and as a way of showing what can be done locally. **📖**



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Editor

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“As We Forgive Our Debtors”

by Kyle Pope

Concentrating on Christ’s teaching on forgiveness, Kyle challenges us to move past the bitterness and resentment that may arise in our hearts when we are mistreated.

No one likes to be wronged. Given a choice, all of us prefer to be treated with love, honor, and respect at all times. This makes us feel secure, confident, and valued by those around us. When we are treated badly, our self-image is threatened, our confidence is shaken, and there wells up within us a desire to defend ourselves and lash out in retaliation for the wrong we have suffered. When we as Christians are wronged, if God’s word dwells within us, we are confronted with a difficult duty: the obligation to forgive. God’s word makes it clear, “If you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses” (Matt. 6:15, NKJV). We are told to pray, “Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors” (Matt. 6:12). So, if we seek forgiveness, we must clearly be forgiving people. Let’s consider some questions about forgiveness.



person does not realize his or her own sinfulness before God, neither will he recognize his own unworthiness in the face of God’s offer of forgiveness through Jesus Christ. He or she will possess a “debased mind” (Rom. 1:28) that is “unforgiving” and “unmerciful” (Rom. 1:31). As Christians, we must forgive, because we have been forgiven. Anything less is a demonstration of how little we value God’s mercy toward us.

“thin-skinned” that we are upset at the slightest word or deed that is done to us. The Bible instructs us to be, “swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath” (James 1:19) with a love that, “bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things” (1 Cor. 13:7). We must not allow someone’s tone of voice, hasty word, or tactless comment to bring to our hearts bitterness and resentment. When we feel wronged, our first thoughts as Christians should be, “maybe I misunderstood,” or “perhaps they intended it this way...” By assuming this frame of mind, we are in a more objective position to analyze the situation free from self-defensive emotion.

What If Repentance Doesn’t Occur?

There will be those times when we are wronged, and yet the other person does not repent of the wrong. Does that mean we don’t have to forgive? Does that mean we are justified in harboring resentment

against them until they repent? Not at all! Mark 11:25 teaches, “And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses” (Mark 11:25). In this text, nothing is said about the other person’s repentance. Instead, what is clear is that the person who has been

Why Should We Forgive?

Men and women in the world view the forgiveness of others as something that yields no satisfactory outcome. The world finds satisfaction only in retaliation. Their thinking is that of the “carnal mind” (Rom. 8:7) possessed by those who “set their minds on the things of the flesh” (Rom. 8:5). When a

When Should We Forgive?

Luke 17:3 tells us, “If your brother sins against you, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him” (Luke 17:3). A key thought here is repentance. In our dealings with others, we must never be so passive that we come across as if we are tolerant or willing to ignore sin. At the same time, neither must we be so

wronged must put the matter behind him or her within his own mind and forgive the person who has done the wrong. This is the same character shown in the examples of Jesus (Luke 23:34) and Stephen (Acts 7:60) when both forgave their offenders of their offense towards them. This doesn't mean that the person is necessarily right with God because of our forgiveness, nor does it mean that the one who has done wrong doesn't have an obligation to God to repent. What it shows is that spiritually-minded souls settle such matters within their own mind long before the offender returns to them in repentance (if they ever do).

What Good Does It Do?

Harboring feelings of resentment in our hearts demands great emotional labor and mental energy. We must continually “fuel the fire” to keep resentment burning within us. It becomes harder and harder to “set your mind on things above” (Col. 3:2) when we must continually fill our thoughts with the refuse of resentment. Forgiveness accomplishes great good in that it benefits both the recipient and the one who extends it. It frees us in much the same way as repentance does, which is said to allow “times of refreshing” to “come from the presence of the Lord” (Acts 3:19). The Israelites were warned, “You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the children of your people...” (Lev. 19:18). Christians are warned that “judgment is without mercy to the one who has shown no mercy...” (James 2:13). If we want to be forgiven, we cannot withhold forgiveness from others. **T**



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Lessons from the Light

by Deborah Towles

Deborah encourages mothers to teach their children the spiritual significance and symbolism of light and darkness.

God is light, the Father of lights, in whom is no darkness (James 1:17; 1 John 1:5). Jesus is the light of this world and the next (John 8:12; Rev. 21:22-24). God illuminated darkness at creation by and through His Word (Gen. 1:1-3; John 1:1-4). So too, the Word of Christ enlightens the hearts of those newly created in Him (2 Cor. 4:4-6; 5:17). Disciples of Christ become lights, reflecting His glory to the world (Matt. 5:14; Col. 1:27).

Natural light reveals essential and profound spiritual truths about the character of God. Light is good—essential to life, yet powerfully dangerous. To look directly on the sun or approach too closely is hazardous or deadly without protection. The glory of God's holiness is most often expressed in terms of light, unapproachable by man (1 Tim. 6:16). God protected Moses by hiding him in a cleft of rock where he beheld the fringe of God's glory (Exod. 33:18-23). Our mortal, sinful bodies cannot stand before His glory, goodness, and power. For now, we must rely on our sinless Lord, who alone is qualified to enter God's presence for us (Heb. 9:24). At His coming, our bodies will be transformed from lowly to heavenly and so dwell in His presence (Phil. 3:20-21).

Light illuminates darkness—most men seek and are drawn to it. At the coming of Christ, those sitting in darkness saw a great light and followed Him (Matt. 4:16, 25). Like Saul, those in darkness may be temporarily blinded by a dazzling light (Acts 22:11). The Lord is an everlasting light to His disciples (Isa. 60:19). He transforms them into children of light. They become His instrument to bring others to the light (Eph. 5:8; 2 Cor. 3:12-18). Even after the death of a star, its light is still visible in the darkness of space. So too, the example and influence of godliness continues to bless the living even after death (1 Tim. 5:24-25). The influence of Jesus is evident as He continues to dwell in His disciples who illuminate the world (John 9:5; Phil. 2:15).

Light does not change what is hidden in darkness. Instead, it casts out fear of the unknown because it reveals what is both good and evil (Eph. 5:8-15; 1 Cor. 4:5), illuminating paths of safety and also hidden dangers

(John 8:12; Prov. 4:18). The blind stumble in darkness; not so, the one who walks in light (2 Pet 1:9-11; 1 John 1:7) for the Word of God reveals the right path (Ps. 119:105).

A shadow is a dark area or shape made by an object blocking rays of light. Light exposes the form of what is real but not reality itself. The old Law was a shadow cast by the reality of Jesus (Col. 2:17). The dawning of true Light dispelled the shadow of death (Matt. 4:16) because the power of Light overcame darkness (John 1:5; 1 John 4:4). Neither death nor the old Law has power over God's people. Instead, they dwell in joyful safety in the shadow of His wings for His presence and protection are real (Ps. 4:6-8; 57:1).

Your sun shall be no more your light by day, nor for brightness shall the moon give you light; but the Lord will be your everlasting light, and your God will be your glory (Isaiah 60:19, ESV).

Lack of light causes one to stumble, to wander from the safe path, to be blind to lurking dangers. Some love darkness and its deeds, hating and avoiding light (John 3:19-21; Isa. 2:10,19). Surrounded by darkness, it reigns within their hearts, because the god of this world has blinded them (Matt. 6:22-23; 2 Cor. 4:4). Those who remain in darkness will be cast away from the only true source of light into the despair of complete, eternal darkness (Matt. 8:12; 2 Thess. 1:9).

God's wisdom can be seen all around us. Explore and rejoice in the lessons of light. The next time you give your child a flashlight, provide him with something more valuable. By understanding the lessons of light, we grow in our understanding of God. 📖



Deborah Towles

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The Sermon on the Mount: The Beatitudes

by David Flatt

As he guides us in a study of Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount, David explains the meaning of “blessedness” and the purpose of the Beatitudes.

The first minute of a speech is said to be the most crucial part of a presentation. The presenter will either gain or lose his audience. As Jesus began to preach to the crowd gathered on a hillside in Galilee, he captured their attention by declaring certain characteristics which would bring blessedness and advance the mission of the kingdom.

Most refer to the introduction to Jesus’ sermon as the Beatitudes—qualities which will bring happiness. After all, isn’t the faith Jesus authored designed to bring our lives happiness? If Jesus intended to make our lives happy, some of the traits He identified seem counterproductive. How can we find happiness through poverty, grief, hunger, and persecution?

Blessedness or Happiness?

Before individually considering these traits, we need to understand what Jesus meant by “*blessed*.” Many have explained blessedness as simply happiness. Some translations even use the word “*happy*” in the place of the Greek word *makarios*. While this term could be used to identify happiness, Jesus is describing something deeper than mere happiness. Happiness is momentary and fleeting. It is dependent on something good occurring to us.

Such a shallow understanding of blessedness has many negative unintended consequences. Many people seek Jesus to make them happy, hoping that He will give them health and wealth. Of course, Jesus never once promised health and/

or wealth in exchange for following Him. Others who seek Jesus under the misguided preconception of happiness are often led to reject Jesus when they become unhappy when facing difficult circumstances. On one occasion, when Jesus was teaching, He refused to feed the assembled multitude; as a result, many left Him, never to return (John 6:66). Understanding blessedness as happiness will only lead to disappointment at best, and total rejection at worst.

The blessedness Jesus indicated in this sermon, as well as in other teachings, has to do with peace and contentment. Blessedness comes through faith in Jesus Christ. The tranquility He promises is not dependent on our circumstances in life, but comes through the knowledge of our sins being forgiven. The joy of salvation is a sustaining state of mind even when life is difficult. We will not likely be happy when others mistreat us, a loved one dies, or a saint rejects Jesus; however, we can experience blessedness even during such sad and unpleasant times. Despite what may happen in life, citizens of God’s kingdom retain the hope of eternal life. This is the value and beauty of what Jesus offers through the Beatitudes.

The Design of the Beatitudes

The Beatitudes have been explained countless times. Each generation that seeks to become part of God’s kingdom

“The Mount of Beatitudes,” the traditional site of the Sermon on the Mount.



must learn what these traits are and how they are to be practiced in life. What can be said about them as a whole? Their purpose is indicated by what Jesus says next (Matt. 5:13-16). What is the design of the Beatitudes? Why did Jesus select these traits? While this was briefly referenced in last month's article, we need to look closer at their purpose. Jesus is describing how citizens of His kingdom are to think and behave. More fundamentally, He is teaching us what it means to be human, and what it looks like when we live according to divine principles.

In the beginning, God made mankind as the pinnacle of His creation. Genesis records,

God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth (Gen. 1:26-28).

God distinguished humans from the rest of creation by giving them His image and endowing them with a soul. We bear the image of our Creator. Additionally, as His image bearers, God made us stewards of His creation. As opposite compliments of one another, male and female, Adam and Eve were to multiply and replenish the earth through marriage (Gen. 2:2-24). They were to subdue God's creation. As they obeyed God and brought harmonious order to the earth, creation would glorify the Creator.

Adam and Eve brought glory to God as His image bearers and stewards

of creation for a time. However, both rebelled against the Creator. Satan planted evil desire into the heart of Eve by appealing to lust and pride. The first couple sinned against God. When the fall occurred, life in this world forever changed. Sin, decay, and death would now become part of the human experience. God would begin humanity's redemption through the seed of woman (Gen. 3:15).

Ever since, Satan has continued to promote evil in the world through the gods of lust and pride. Generation after generation has rebelled against their Creator and turned to the idols of money, sex, and power with devastating results. Such idolaters have yearned to find happiness, meaning, and fulfillment, but have only found delusion, misery, and emptiness.

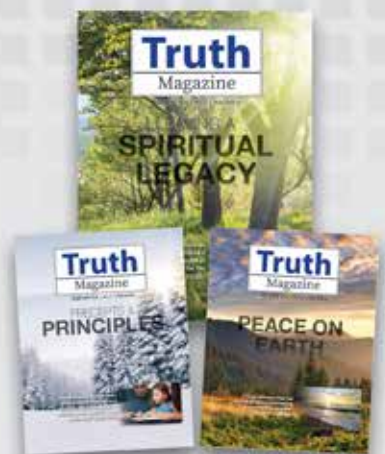
In this sermon, Jesus begins to tell us how to find satisfaction and contentment by giving up our idols. Being human is not about worshipping ourselves. Being human is not about living to gratify our every sensual impulse. Being human is not about acquiring power through oppression. Rather, being human is about reflecting the image of God to bring Him glory. Now, consider how all this works through the Beatitudes.

The Beatitudes

Poor in Spirit, Grief, and Meekness

Jesus teaches that blessedness can begin to be experienced by those who are poor in spirit. When we give up our false sense of moral superiority and acknowledge our sinfulness, we can begin to know blessedness. When we realize we cannot save ourselves by ourselves, we can begin to know blessedness. When we humbly admit that our wisdom is weak and inadequate to guide us through life, we can begin to know blessedness. Such acknowledgments of poverty will cause us to mourn and grieve.

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Recognizing our idolatry and its proof demonstrated by specific acts of sin must cause deep sorrow. We must feel a sense of shame and regret in how we have rebelled against our Creator and hurt other people in the process. We must be willing to name our sins and own their disastrous consequences. Such lowliness produces a meek spirit. While we have been resisting God by our pride, we now are willing to humbly yield all we are and all we have to Him and His Son.

Hunger and Thirst for Righteousness and Mercy

The Greek word *dikaioisunē* is difficult to translate into English. Most commonly, the term is translated as “righteousness.” We typically consider the term to carry a moral definition. While this is true, the word comes to life when thinking of it as “justice.” We will consider righteousness in more detail later in this lesson, but for now, this definition will suffice (Matt. 5:20). The Jews most certainly hungered and thirsted for justice. They were an oppressed people. The Egyptians, Assyrians, Babylonians, and Romans all had oppressed the Jews. Over the years, they had hoped justice would come through a political revolution. Justice would bring liberation.

In Paul’s letter to the Romans, he explains how the righteousness, or justice of God, was revealed by what He did for humanity through Jesus the Messiah (Rom. 1:1-4, 16-17). No, the Messiah did not offer legal justice which led to the political freedom for Israel as a nation. The justice and liberation Jesus offered were greater than those which were political. He offered deliverance from the powers of darkness, sin, decay, and death. Those who hungered and thirsted for this righteousness would be filled.

Additionally, the justice that Jesus brought to the world was an act of

divine mercy. Rather than condemning humanity for its rebellion, God sought to save humanity through the sacrifice of His Son. God offers us what we do not deserve: mercy. He offers pardon from a sentence of eternal death. The cross of Jesus is the place of mercy (Rom. 3:25). Those who expect to receive God’s mercy are expected to become ministers of His mercy. We are to lovingly extend what we ourselves have received from God in Christ: mercy.

Pure in Heart and Peacemakers

For the first time in the sermon, Jesus mentions the heart. He seeks to purify our hearts. While this quality does involve a moral element, Jesus emphasizes more than just being morally clean. Jesus wants our hearts to be completely open and reserved for God. He wants God to fill every compartment of our heart.

As the Shema sought to convey (i.e., the liturgical prayer consisting of three Scriptural passages recited twice daily by observant Jews [Deut. 6:4-9, 11:13-21; Num. 15:37-41]), God wanted the children of Israel (and by extension, also us) to love Him with all our heart, soul, and strength (Deut. 6:4-5). *As long as we keep pieces of our hearts for ourselves, we will never see God.*

We would expect peaceful people to be blessed people. Peace is rarely known today. For us to have peace with others, we first must make peace with God. The Preacher of this sermon is the Agent through whom we make peace with God (Eph. 2:13-18). We make peace with God by fully surrendering ourselves to Jesus. Afterwards, we are to help others do the same through the Gospel.

The Persecuted

How could anyone experience blessedness through persecution? This certainly does not fit the

preconceptions many have about Jesus making people happy. Perhaps this Beatitude, more than any other, most powerfully makes the point about the greatness of what Jesus offers.

Becoming part of God’s kingdom may cause our lives hardships. Suffering gives us opportunities to share in the suffering of Jesus. It creates opportunities to endure and forge character. If we allow endurance to have her perfect work in us, we will not be disappointed in the outcome. We will experience hope (Rom. 5:1-5; James 1:2-4).

Conclusion

The Beatitudes were an attention-getting introduction to the Sermon on the Mount and continue to be deeply challenging. They are surprising qualities which cannot be understood through worldly philosophy or modern conventions. None of these qualities will be found among those who establish world empires. Seldom are they observed among political leaders. Certainly, they are not perceived as good for business. Those displaying such attitudes and behavior would not be considered valuable by someone trying to start a revolution.

The Beatitudes are staggering ways of thinking and behaving. They represent how God, as Creator, intended humanity to live, bring Him glory, and advance His kingdom on earth. However, we cannot become part of God’s kingdom, nor useful in advancing its borders, nor able to reflect His glory to the world until we are willing to bring our lives into harmony with the Beatitudes. 📖

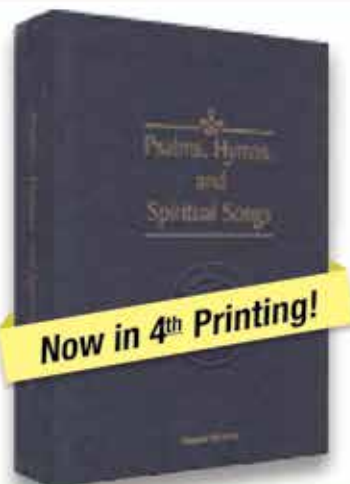


David Flatt

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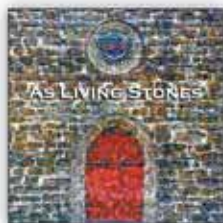
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Running to Win

by Jake Reeves

Sports are often a significant part of family activities. Jake offers insights into the spiritual lessons associated with running: “Do you know that in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way to obtain it” (1 Cor. 9:24).

If you think about it, running is really a strange thing. Maybe you’ve seen the ole T-shirt saying, “Our sport is your sport’s punishment.” I get tired of seeing those shirts at cross-country races, but it is true. Runners choose to participate in an activity that most people find repulsive. Often, there are times that I question why even I am out there sweating away on the track. I would much rather be inside drinking coffee and watching television.

In this article, I want to take you through three key themes that runners and Christians need to consider.

Why do we run? Why do so many wake up at 5 a.m. and hit the road, treadmill, track, or trails? Why do we do that 12-mile long run on Saturday mornings? Why do we deliberately inflict so much pain on ourselves?

During a heavy training season, I get out of bed and spend the first hour of the day looking like a 90-year-old man, limping with a bad back. Why do we choose to hurt like that? Well, there are many answers.

For some, running is just fun. Imagine that! Although some are shocked to hear this, I will be the first to admit that I do not find running fun.

While some do love running, others love the physical benefits they receive from running, such as weight loss, lowered resting heart rate, toned leg muscles, increased Vo2 max (Maximum amount of Oxygen your body can use during exercise), etc.

Some run for the community or association by making friends while training or racing.

The reason I run is simple: I am addicted to competition and *love* racing. More specifically, I love *winning*. I’ve always been super competitive. I imagine that, when I stop winning, I’ll be putting in fewer and fewer miles each week. Running fulfills that desire to compete and struggle for victory.

Another significant aspect of running is that it is the sport that the apostle Paul used so often to describe how Christians are to approach their lives.

People who know me well know that my favorite verse is 1 Corinthians 9:24, which says, “Do you know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So, run that you may obtain it” (ESV).

How cliché is that? The runner’s favorite passage is 1 Corinthians 9:24. Very original. How could it not be my favorite? Running career aside, that is a particularly encouraging verse! Every day as a Christian, we should be running to win.

When I am preparing to win a big race, I must keep three key themes in mind. I think there are spiritual applications for these three keys as well.

As a competitive runner, you have to stay focused on your training, your fuel, and your plan. I would love to tell you how these three things can make you a better runner, and more importantly, a complete Christian.

Your Training

For the longest time, I thought the key to becoming a better runner was pure repetition. So, in high school, I simply ran four miles a day, every day. Unfortunately, that will only get you to a certain level and then you plateau. Becoming a better runner requires specificity training. Distance running is a combination of speed and endurance, and you have to work very hard at training your body to become better at both of those. Bottom line: it’s a ton of hard work.

Preparing for the Christian race is the same way. If you are running and your training is easy, then you are probably doing something wrong. Similarly, if you think being a Christian is easy, there is likely room for improvement. I must remind myself of that often. In Romans 12:2 we are told to, “not be conformed to this world...” Conforming is the easy path. That’s the light training that does not make you any better.

Being a Christian takes training, it takes hard work. Start by continually praying (1 Thess. 5:17). Constant communication with God is essential to running the Christian race.

Next, read up! I am a student of the sport when it comes to running. I continually read/watch what elite runners and coaches are doing. I do this to grow and learn. How much more important is that as a Christian? Be like the Bereans who searched the scriptures daily (Acts 17:11). Always remember that the first key is training.

Your Fuel

Second, stay focused on your fuel. A top runner fuels correctly. This is where I can improve the most as an athlete.

I do some things right. For example, I have hydration down. When I took an 8th-grade sports physical for basketball, I found out that I was drinking way too much soda (Thanks, Dr. Paul Douthitt). I stopped drinking sodas that day. I'll have maybe one a month, but most people have more like two a day.

Most professionals suggest drinking roughly half of your body weight in ounces of water per day. You also must know when your body needs to replace electrolytes and food.

During training, there are times when your body needs proteins, and times when it needs carbohydrates. Also, spoiler alert, artificial sugar is “*No Bueno!*” for runners! A runner needs to put the right things in his body.

What are you fueling with as a Christian? When I decided I was going to make this point, the first verse I thought of was Philippians 4:8-9 which reads, “Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.” Christians should be taking in what is pure. Again, I ask, with what are you fueling: pure things?—Or junk?

Your Plan

Third, stay focused on your plan. A good runner who knows his race, the course, and the competition will have a winning plan in place. I want to take you through two different race plans that I had. One went great, the other, not so much.

In college cross-country, we ran eight kilometers (4.9 miles). All I wanted out of my college career was to run that distance in under 27:00 minutes at least

one time. That's five consecutive 5:25 miles. While I ran many races between 27:05 and 27:45, it felt like breaking that barrier was never going to happen.

Finally, I decided that at the Union Invitational my senior year, I was going to make it happen. Mind you, the week before I ran that distance in 27:50, but I was still confident.

Here was the race plan: Union had two guys that ran low 26s every week. The idea was to run with them for four miles, then hang on that last mile, give it everything I've got, and break 27:00!

I executed this plan to perfection. The two guys from Union carried me to a 26:36 that day, and I was ecstatic!

However, plans do not always go that well. On December 2, 2017, I made my debut to the marathon. The plan was to run each mile in 6:10s (minutes per mile). Simple enough. Right? The problem was, I did not train enough to reach that goal. I executed my plan for seventeen miles, but at mile eighteen, every major muscle in my legs started to cramp. I had to stop and walk/jog the remaining distance. Apparently, you can't “wing” the marathon. Who knew?

Christians need a race plan. I do not think that we should run our spiritual race without a plan or goal in mind. There are many ways to go about this.

First of all, let's plan on having the right guide through our race. Psalm 119:105, “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.” God's word should be helping us run. Have it in your heart at all times as you struggle through this race. Christians should also have a goal in mind as they run. It should be our goal that when we finish our race, we can proclaim as Paul did, “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith” (2 Tim. 4:7).

Overcoming Obstacles

Lastly, have a plan in place for dealing with adversity as you run. Satan is going to be there telling you



Jake during the Union Invitational in October 2013 trying to break 27:00

to stop. He will be trying to convince you to give up, quit. How will you deal with that? If Christians have put on the whole armor of God, they can finish the race without giving in to Satan's traps. Sometimes during a race, the pain is overwhelming. Giving up is so much easier than continuing to fight through the pain. Christians cannot give up. Let's go back to my favorite verse from 1 Corinthians 9. Winners don't quit! Run to win!

I hope to have shed a little insight into what it's like to run at a high level. I love racing, and I hope to be able to compete for years to come. I especially love all the references to running and endurance found in God's word.

Please read God's word every day and look for ways to improve your Christian race. I'd like to leave you with one of my favorite quotes from a runner named Steve Prefontaine: “*To give anything less than your best is to sacrifice the gift.*” I wonder if you can think of any Biblical passages that relay a similar message? **TL**



Jake Reeves

Jacob is a 5th and 6th grade teacher in Memphis, TN. The son of Chris and Cheri Reeves, he was raised in Cedar Hill, TN, and began running at Jo Byrns High School in the 9th grade. Jacob received an athletic scholarship to run for Bethel University in McKenzie, TN where he qualified for two National Championships. He can be reached at jreeves@saa-sds.org



Bobby L. Graham

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QUESTION:

Why Do So Many in Alabama Oppose Same-Sex Marriage?

Answer:

When I read the above question heading in an article on AL.com on January 12, I decided to read the article. I learned that more Alabamians oppose this practice than the residents of any other state. I also learned that the leading advocates and opponents of the practice agree concerning the reason for such widespread opposition.

It's because there is more biblical literacy in Alabama than most other places," said Dr. Joe Godfrey, Executive Director of the Alabama Citizens Action Program, a religious lobbying group based in Birmingham. "The Bible clearly teaches us that marriage is between one man and woman for life. Everyone teaches that. People grow up believing that. No one is willing to change the Bible around here. Society and culture need to adjust to fit in with what the Bible teaches, not vice versa."

LGBTQ organizer Mario Burton agrees. "The issue of same-sex marriage is absolutely rooted in religion," said the Huntsville based activist, who is part of the Rocket City pride group.

Imagine such an anachronism in the 21st Century! This old-fashioned idea that marrying a person of your own sex should be a matter of religious belief is so archaic that you better believe that Burton and his tribe will be gunning for it. They aim to shoot it down, but they better be well equipped for the shooting match! Biblical literacy is on their enemies' list.

It is true that the Scriptures unanimously speak against same-sex relationships, whether in so-called marriages or not. Not one word of approval can be found for them. It also must be understood that this resounding opposition is found in both the Old and New Testaments and extends to every dispensation (i.e., plan, arrangement) which God ever enacted with humans (Patriarchal, Mosaic, and Christian).

While I am thankful for people who have been well taught from the Bible about this fundamental issue, I fear that we have also failed to educate them on other important issues. After all, they generally believe that denominationalism is an acceptable practice; and on that issue, they are finding increasing agreement among some of our people, who say that the church of the Lord is just

another big, sick denomination. The issue of woman preachers is another where there has not been enough teaching, because many in our state agree with the practice of women preaching or serving as elders. Though many give lip service to the idea that the Gospel of Christ is the power of God unto salvation, most of them do not truly believe it, because they employ other means and lures to “gain people for Christ.” They resort to carnal offers like food, fun, and frolic, hoping to learn the latest successful gimmick which they can press into service. Many also accept the idea of faith-alone salvation, while the Bible so clearly discards the notion (James 2:24).

Why do so many oppose one practice which fails to receive God’s approval but embrace these other practices equally lacking in divine approval? The same Bible, given by the same Lord, is our source in both areas. Why are some willing to “change the Bible around here”? Perhaps Hebrews 4:2 provides an answer: “For indeed the gospel was preached to us as well as to them; but the word which they heard did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in those who heard it.” Notice that a lack of faith in hearing the gospel hinders it from profiting hearers.

Is it possible that people accept Biblical teaching on one point but reject it on others? Yes, it is—when personal preference takes the place of faith. If such happens, then personal preference becomes one’s standard, not the Bible. Faith is then swallowed up and becomes useless. Without faith, it is impossible to please God, even when we personally prefer what the Bible teaches (Heb. 11:6). What a sad situation! **T**

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Your Neighbor's Landmark

by Leon Mauldin

Leon discusses certain ancient boundary stones which have been excavated and which illustrate the Old Testament prohibition, "Do not move the ancient boundary or go into the fields of the fatherless" (Prov. 23:10).

On a recent trip to London, undertaken in January of 2018, for the purpose of photographing biblically-related artifacts in the British Museum, I came across this ancient Babylonian boundary stone, which dates to the reign of Nebuchadnezzar I, 1125-1104 BC (not to be confused with the biblical Nebuchadnezzar II of Daniel's day, who reigned from 605-562 BC). The accompanying placard states:

Boundary stones, or *kudurru* monuments, are records of land ownership and privileges such as tax exemption. They were made in southern Mesopotamia from the Kassite period onwards. Writing on this *dudurru* describes the military service of the chariot commander Ritt-Marduk, who campaigned in Elam (south Iran) for King Nebuchadnezzar I... Curses protect the stone from interference. The sun, moon, and star symbolize the gods Shamash, Sin, and Ishtar who guarantee the permanence of the king's reward. (SEE IMAGE 1)

Seeing this 3,000-year-old boundary stone put me in mind of Deut. 19:14, "Thou shalt not remove thy neighbour's landmark, which they of old time have set in thine inheritance, which thou shalt inherit in the land that the Lord thy God giveth thee to possess it" (KJV). Other versions



IMAGE 1—Babylonian Boundary Stone

say, "Your neighbor's boundary mark" (NASB), "boundary marker" (CSB), and "boundary stone" (NIV).

Later, in Deuteronomy 27, Moses anticipated Israel's arrival in the land of Canaan under Joshua. They were instructed to assemble, six tribes on

Mt. Ebal (mount of cursing), and six tribes on Mt. Gerizim (mount of blessing). It should not be overlooked that this (Shechem) is where childless Abraham was when YHWH gave him the land promise (Gen. 12:6-7). All the people were to agree to the terms stated in the law. Significantly, among the twelve "curses" specified pertaining to this matter of removing landmarks, the Law said, "Cursed is the one who moves his neighbor's boundary marker. And all the people will say, 'Amen!'" (Deut. 27:17, CSB).

There are currently thirteen boundary stones discovered that mark the biblical city of Tel Gezer (an amazing number for one city!). Gezer was one of Solomon's fortified cities, mentioned along with other building projects in 1 Kings 9:15: "Now this is the account of the forced labor which King Solomon levied to build the house of the LORD, his own house, the Millo, the wall of Jerusalem, Hazor, Megiddo, and Gezer." This Gezer landmark stone is displayed

in the Archaeological Museum in Istanbul, Turkey. (SEE IMAGE 2)

The Proverbs also include references to boundary stones. "Remove not the ancient landmark, which thy fathers have set" (Prov. 22:28, KJV);



IMAGE 2—Gezer Boundry Stone

“Remove not the old landmark; and enter not into the fields of the fatherless” (Prov. 23:10, KJV). Both of these texts are rendered “ancient boundary stone” by the NET and NIV.

Hosea, the 8th century BC prophet, showed how judgment was coming

IMAGE 3—Eastern Turkey



upon the leadership of Israel, both priest and king (5:1). Interestingly one of the reasons for this coming punishment related to our topic: “The princes of Judah are like those who move boundary markers; I will pour out My fury on them like water” (5:10, CSB). The term water (Heb. mayim) “often refers to literal flood waters (Gen. 7:7, 10; 8:3, 7-9; Isa. 54:9) and figuratively describes the LORD’s judgment that totally destroys the wicked” (NET notes). Cf. the NLT, “like a waterfall.”

While traveling in eastern Turkey in 2007 (en route to Mt. Ararat), I saw fields which were marked by boundary stones. (SEE IMAGE 3)

Lessons: God has placed numerous spiritual landmarks, or boundary stones, in His word. This is true of the plan of salvation, the doctrine that is to be taught, what is acceptable worship, that which is the work and organization of the church. Don’t move the ancient landmark! **T**



Leon Mauldin

Leon has worked with the Hanceville church of Christ in Hanceville, AL for 29 years. He and his wife, Linda, have three children and eight grandchildren (one deceased). The church’s website is hancevillechurchofchrist.com.

Leon’s Message Board, devoted to Bible History and Geography, is at bleon1.wordpress.com. To learn about his biblical tours, please visit mauldinbiblelandtours.com. He can be reached at leon.mauldin@gmail.com.

Focus on the Big Picture

by Paul Linden

Recognizing that devoted disciples of Christ will endeavor to leave a spiritual legacy, Paul focuses on the big picture, and offers practical admonitions on how to achieve this noble goal.

These lessons emphasize the importance of making faith our own and leaving a spiritual legacy. What could be more important?

Have you ever been to a cemetery and looked at a tombstone?

Typically, you see a name and two dates separated by a dash. Our life is a dash—short but significant.

In the US, the average lifespan is 78.7 years. While this represents a small increase from previous decades, it remains amazingly close to the average lifespan given in Psalm 90:10, which says, “As for the days of our life, they contain seventy years, or if due to strength, eighty years, yet their pride is but labor and sorrow; for soon it is gone and we fly away.” By some measures, a lifespan of 70-90 years may seem long, yet, it is a passing vapor when compared to the One who inhabits eternity (Isa. 57:15; cf. Ps. 39:5; James 4:13-15).

So, you have a dash—you have a life. What are you going to do with it? Are you leaving a spiritual legacy? What is a legacy? If you look up the word in a dictionary, a legacy may refer to a bequest or gift (*She left us a legacy of a million dollars*), something received by an ancestor (*Our civilization is built on the legacy of the Greeks and Romans*), or the lingering effects of some past event (*The war left a legacy of pain and suffering*).

Many are concerned with the legacy we may leave at work, in contemplating retirement, or with estate planning. In these lessons, we focus on something different. Are you leaving a spiritual legacy?

If you have not yet become a Christian, how can you even seriously ponder the question? Each one of us comes to a point where we have to make a decision. Some of us have already made that decision; others have not. To leave a spiritual legacy, you must first be a Christian. You have a choice to make.

Apart from obeying God’s word, you will not leave a positive spiritual legacy. Therefore, you need to hear the word, believe in Jesus Christ, repent of your sins, and be baptized for the remission of sins. Afterwards, you need to live a faithful life.

Yogi Berra once said, “If you don’t know where you are going, you will end up someplace else.” In our lives, we have to make a choice. We are given a gift: the ability to decide. You need to become a Christian.

Carefully Examine Yourself

You are responsible for yourself. In life, we make a continuous stream of decisions. Every day, you should reflectively say, “I’m getting ready to make a decision: will it be helpful or harmful?” Will

it help me get to where I need to go, or will it hinder my progress?

Some decisions are small and inconsequential: What will I eat for lunch? Others are huge: Where will I live? Whom shall I marry? Others may seem small, but are really momentous. Am I going to attend every night of this gospel meeting? Am I going to do what is right when no one is looking? We should honestly examine ourselves (2 Cor. 13:5), and personally work out our own salvation with fear and trembling (Phil. 2:12).

Spread the Gospel

Once you become a Christian, you should spread the gospel: “How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how will they hear without a preacher? How will they preach unless they are sent? Just as it is written, ‘How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news of good things!’” (Rom. 10:14-15). Note that this passage should describe, not only “the preacher,” but every faithful Christian. It is a beautiful thing to spread the gospel.

Admonish Each Other

We can have a positive influence on others in various ways. Are you helping people be saved? Are you helping people stay saved? The gospel

message is not only one of peace and glad tidings; it also involves reproof and rebuking. We should have the conviction and courage to admonish one another. If such warnings are administered out of love, you may help the weak to grow stronger, snatching them out of the fire, saving a soul from death and hiding a multitude of sins (James 5:20; Jude 21-23).

View Trials Properly

Don't see a crisis as an insurmountable problem. Abraham was told, "Leave home!" After 25 years, he is given a son; afterward, God instructed, "Sacrifice your son!" If someone tells me to do that, I am in crisis mode! What did Abraham do? He arose early and obeyed. What is amazing is that Isaac asks the question, "Father, where is the sacrifice?" Abraham answered, "God will provide." Abraham followed through to the point of raising his knife. Abraham faced a crisis, but it was not insurmountable because he was empowered by God.

Change and Grow

When you become a Christian, you are going to undergo constant and continuing change. If you are doing it right, you will keep growing and learning. People with whom you once associated may see the changes wrought by Christ and may speak evil of you (1 Pet. 2:11-12). That's okay. Keep changing, because that change glorifies God. No matter what sin we may have committed, no matter what false path we may have followed, God will receive us.

Note the moral depravity of the Gentile world of the first century: Paul said, "Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers,

nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God." After describing corrupt and despicable behavior, the apostle continued, "*Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God*" (1 Cor. 6:9-11). In other words, the Corinthians had changed—putting off the old man and putting on the new man.

Be Realistic

You are not perfect; neither am I. While all have sinned and come short of the glory of God, we all can be justified through the grace of Jesus Christ (Rom. 3:22-23).

Be Optimistic

Maintain a hopeful outlook. Why? You are promised heaven! Think of how heaven is described in the Bible: it's going to be phenomenal!

Remember, you are not alone. Great servants of God needed this reminder. So also do we. When Elijah said, "I alone am left, and they seek my life," God comforted the demoralized prophet, revealing Himself "in the sound of a gentle blowing" (1 Kings 19:12), and affirming, "Yet I will leave 7,000 in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal and every mouth that has not kissed him" (1 Kings 19:18). Paul needed this reminder. When persecution cut short his Macedonian ministry, he arrived in Corinth dejected and depressed. Appearing to the apostle in a night vision, the Lord said, "Do not be afraid any longer, but go on speaking and do not be silent; for I am with you, and no man will attack you in order to harm you, for I have many people in this city" (Acts 18:9-10).

Conclusion

As you stand in the fork of the road, what legacy can you leave? Did you do bad things in your past? Despite having previously lived an unrighteous life,

Rahab cast her lot with the people of God, and left a good legacy. Through God's pardon and plan, you can rise above the sinful choices of your past.

Have you had a difficult life? Are you bitter? In her life, Naomi experienced trials and turmoil, sadness and death. Call me not Naomi, but Mari, because God has dealt bitterly with me." Yet, in the end, she goes from "Bitter" to the blessed grandmother of King David (Ruth 4:13-17).

Romans 16 contains many great examples. Could you be like Phoebe (v. 1) or Mary (v. 6)? What about Ampliatus, Urbanus, and Stachys (vv. 8-9)? Paul said, "Greet Apelles, the approved in Christ" (v. 10). What more needs to be said? He was "approved in Christ." That is sufficient. Note Narcissus, whose household was "in the Lord" (v. 11). Isn't this what we desire for our own families?

We live 2,000 years after the first century, and the Scriptural canon is complete. We might not be included in the hall of heroes (Heb. 11), but our names can be written in the book of life (Phil. 4:3; Rev. 3:5; 21:27). If we properly apply the text of Romans 12:9-17, Paul's concise exhortation of 124 words could be our "Dash," our spiritual legacy. **TL**



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Focus on the Church

by Darin Henry

Individual Christians leave a spiritual legacy. So also do local congregations. Does the church where I worship have a reputation for soundness or softness? Is it standing for the truth or has it lost its candlestick?

In this lesson, we consider how local congregations may leave a lasting spiritual legacy.

A heritage is something you inherit, something into which you are born—such as wealth or fame. In contrast, a legacy is something you leave behind. It continues to exist after someone has retired or passed away.

Over the course of our lives, we leave an impression upon others. If all these impressions are compiled, you would have your reputation, your legacy. So long as someone remembers Darin Henry, my reputation will continue. The same is true of local congregations.

The term “church” is used in two senses in the Bible: universal and local. From a comprehensive standpoint, it includes all baptized believers down through time, from Acts 2 (when the church was established) until the hour when the Lord returns. From a local standpoint, it refers to individual congregations: the church of God at Corinth, or the Adoue Street congregation in Alvin, Texas, etc.

From a universal standpoint, the church will never be defeated by any attacks by Satan or his supporters. Down through the ages, kingdoms of men have risen and fallen, despite their strength and power. However, the kingdom of God (that was established in the days of the Roman empire) would never perish (Dan. 2:44-45).

Jesus said, “I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it” (Matt. 16:18). It is comforting to know that we can be part of something that will stand forever! Yet, it will not happen automatically or by accident. From a local standpoint, individual congregations may be strong or weak, thriving or declining.

We should recognize the great inheritance that we have received through our Savior, but the Lord also wishes that we leave behind a legacy of strength and devotion. As the people of God, we must not just hand off the steering wheel to the next generation, and bail into the back seat, but we should continue watching and working, teaching, edifying, and stabilizing souls in the church.

How is this possible? Through a genuine commitment to the Savior, Jesus Christ, and dedication to His cause. Is your faith built upon the Rock? “And all drank the same spiritual drink, for they were drinking from a spiritual rock which followed them; and the rock was Christ” (1 Cor. 10:4)?

Every church leaves a legacy. The question is, “What kind of legacy will we leave as a local congregation?” A reputation can be destroyed in a moment, but a legacy is built over a lifetime. Therefore, let us consider ways in which the church can leave a spiritual legacy.

Let Us Pray

Praying for the church is a part of building its legacy (2 Thess. 1:11-12). Specifically, let us pray that unity in truth prevails (Ps. 133). We should pray for faithful elders (1 Pet. 5:1-4). We should pray that God’s pure doctrine is faithfully proclaimed and practiced (Phil. 1:27), and that individuals will continue to hunger and thirst after righteousness (Matt. 5:6) and continue studying the Scriptures (2 Tim. 3:16-17). We should pray that parents raise their children to believe in God (Eph. 1:4) and that children will learn to be respectful and obedient (Eph. 6:1-3). We should pray that members grow and maintain their distinctiveness from the world, being holy and pure (Rom. 12:2; Heb. 12:14), and that they will be prepared for persecution and persevere when it comes (Eph. 6:18).

Let Us Preach

Preaching with courage and conviction is also essential (2 John 9-10). Preachers, do not be afraid—be bold. Members, encourage your local evangelists to be bold. Paul exhorted Timothy, “Preach the word!” You bring a message of good news. Do not shy away from performing your duty! Reprove, rebuke and exhort with all longsuffering. Avoid the path of compromise; do the work of an evangelist and fulfill your ministry (2 Tim. 4:1-5).

While the context is addressed to Timothy, you could almost extract verses 3-4 and apply them to the local congregation. Local churches must also be committed to the truth, and not allow soft sermons to be taught from the pulpit.

How do you want to be remembered? Speaking to the Ephesian elders, Paul said, “Therefore, I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all men” (Acts 20:26). Why, Paul? “For I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole purpose of God” (v. 27).

Let Us Serve

Let us faithfully serve the Lord’s church. 1 Peter 4:10 reads, “As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.” Am I using the gifts with which God has blessed me? Are there talents that I am not using, or potential abilities that I am not developing?

If the church is going to be healthy and whole, each member must function together (Rom. 12:4-5), being devoted to one another in love (Rom. 12:10-13).

We fondly remember those with whom we once served but have now passed to their reward. It has been said, “You don’t know what you have until it is gone.” The truth is, you knew what you had—you just never thought you would lose it!

Devoted Christians who labor long years in a local congregation are lovingly remembered for their past service. Many have gone on to their eternal reward, leaving behind wonderful memories, and noble examples. If they were sitting here in the pews today, they would not want praise or honor. Their service was not performed for men’s honor, but for God’s glory.

The longevity of the Alvin congregation, or any church, is rooted in the faithfulness of those who came before. It is presently dependent upon our continued devotion. Its future is contingent upon our continued commitment to the same enduring principles. Will we continue to faithfully labor and serve?

Let Us Contribute

The cause must be supported. Our lasting legacy is also dependent upon the financial support we provide to the church, for its present labors and future preservation. May the accusation that Malachi made against ancient Israel never be leveled against us: “Will a man rob God? Yet you are robbing Me! But you say, ‘How have we robbed You?’ In tithes and offerings” (Mal. 3:8). Their priorities had been turned upside down, ignored and forgotten. They were in danger of divine judgment (Mal. 2:11).

The preservation of the Lord’s church in this locale depends upon our continued financial commitment. Its ability to continue to perform its work and meet its budget—expenses relating to upkeep, teaching supplies, benevolence for needy saints, supporting the local evangelist and preachers who labor elsewhere that depend upon outside support—requires the continued liberal contribution of its members.

God honors those who are generous. Contributing to the Lord will benefit each of us. The survival of a local congregation is dependent upon the continued generous support of its members.

Let Us Grow

For the church to leave a legacy, we must continually grow (Col. 1:9-10). All plants need water and sunlight. When a seed germinates, roots will extend downward, in the

direction of moisture, while the stem grows upward, in the direction of sunlight. Spiritually speaking, we must do both—being deeply rooted in the truth, reaching ever upward toward the Father of Lights.

Satan would exploit us in times of vulnerability, when we are downcast, demoralized, or discouraged. He wants us to “Throw in the towel!” We will face momentary setbacks. Like Peter, we also stumble and fall (Luke 22:31-32). Did Peter fail? Yes, he fell hard. Was he restored to faithful service? Yes. In 2 Peter 1:5-8, the inspired apostle reveals how we boost and strengthen our faith: giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness, and charity.

Conclusion

The solution isn’t that difficult, but straightforward. Man makes it complicated, but God has made it simple. We have five acts of worship: preaching, praying, singing, contributing of our means, and partaking of the Lord’s supper. Three of these five contribute to the building of the legacy of the church. We need to pray for the church, preach the truth, support its efforts financially, and fully participate in its spiritual life, heartily praising God, and remembering the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross.

The legacy that a church leaves is the path that they follow down through the years. Christians cannot sit idle in their faith, but must make every effort to draw near to God. ■



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Focus on Our Children

by John Partain

While being raised in a Christian home is a beautiful blessing, young people must cultivate their very own faith. The faith must become my faith. Moreover, it must be active and enduring.

Young people, this lesson is for you. Kids, think of some things that you wish you had all to yourself: your own bedroom, bike, or car. In the movie, *Home Alone*, one of the first things young Kevin did when he was left behind was to order his own cheese pizza: “A lovely cheese pizza, just for me!”

What about having your own faith? Many of our young people are raised in Christian homes by parents who are devoted disciples, who want you to have your faith. In writing to Timothy, Paul said, “For I am mindful of the sincere faith within you, which first dwelt in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am sure that it is in you as well” (2 Tim. 1:5). No reference is given to his father. The spiritual role models in Timothy’s life were his mother and grandmother. While that may not have been ideal, it was sufficient.

Hebrews 11 says, “Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen” (v. 1). Faith involves a firm belief in God—an individual conviction that He exists, and that His promises are trustworthy. In talking about a legacy, we are talking about the end of our life. For young people, this seems like a distant possibility; yet, we do not know how long life will last. I am 38 years old, but I am not guaranteed 39. Something might happen with my

health. A friend of mine was recently killed in an auto accident. Reality is scary. Part of the reason for becoming a Christian is that it gives us hope in the face of life’s uncertainty. Hebrews 11:2 continues, “For by it the men of old gained approval.” This great chapter records the lives of many heroes of faith that serve as examples to us.

God wants us to have our very own faith. Looking at the world around us, we observe His creation. Looking into the Bible, we read and reflect upon His word. Both powerfully testify to God’s existence. We can develop our very own faith. We can be confident that God is, and that His promises are sure.

The Faith & My Faith

The Bible refers to faith in another sense, namely “the faith.” What is “the faith”? It is the gospel, the good news of Jesus Christ, revealed by inspiration, once delivered to the saints, for which we must earnestly contend (Jude 3). So, how do you make faith your very own? You must take “the faith,” God’s word, study it diligently, and put it in your heart, thus making it your faith.

Consider Romans 1:16-17, which says, “For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, ‘But the righteous

man shall live by faith.’” Notice the language, “from faith to faith.” Each of us must take the objective standard of God’s word and make it our personal standard of living.

An Active Faith

The implanted word can save our souls, but we must put faith to work. Be doers of “the faith,” not deluded and forgetful hearers. Remember, “one who looks intently at the perfect law, the law of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man will be blessed in what he does” (James 1:25).

As we reflect upon leaving a spiritual legacy, consider the life of Paul. Before obeying the gospel, Saul murdered and persecuted believers. He calls himself the chief of sinners (1 Tim. 1:15). In other words, “No one was a greater sinner than was I.” After Paul was converted, he faithfully served God the remainder of his life. In the end, he said, “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith” (2 Tim. 4:7). What a wonderful spiritual legacy! That’s what I want to say at the end of my life; isn’t that what you want to say at the end of yours?

Keeping the Faith

Making Good Choices

To keep the faith, it is essential that we make good choices. Frequently,

we stand in a fork of a road and are faced with the choice of making the right decision or the wrong decision. Our integrity is often tested: Will I lie or tell the truth? The truth may hurt; it may be uncomfortable; it may result in punishment. Telling the truth is always the right decision.

You might be faced with a situation with your friends where they encourage you to do something that you believe to be wrong. Perhaps it involves sneaking on private property that has a big “No Trespassing” sign. Will you stand up to your friends, saying, “No, I can’t do that. It’s wrong”? Making right choices starts when you are young.

How do you respond to your parents? God’s word says that children must obey their parents. Will you obey even if you think their prohibitions are unfair, or that your way is better? Jesus wants you to respect authority and show a spirit of obedience. If you learn this lesson as a child, it will help you when you are grown. I work for a judge as a court reporter. If I show a spirit of disobedience, I will lose my job! More importantly, the Lord expects the same spirit of respectful submission from His children.

We face moral choices every day. Will we choose right or wrong? From the beginning, Satan has been tempting mankind to disobey God. He encourages us to compromise, to take the easy path, the dishonest, disrespectful, and disobedient path.

Doing Good Things

To keep the faith, we must have an active faith. God wants us to believe the right things and do things that are good and right. The heroes of Hebrews 11 were obedient to God. If we see a brother or sister in need of daily food, it is not enough to say, “I hope it works out for you.” We must help such people, putting our faith into action (James 2:14-18).

Having an active faith demands that we present our bodies as a living and holy sacrifice (Rom. 12:1). In the Old Testament, the people of God were required to offer animal sacrifices. I am so glad that we are not required to do that today. However, we must present our bodies as a sacrifice to God, not literally, but symbolically.

First, we must do good things for God. This includes being active in worship. Many of you are learning to sing, learning about different aspects of Christian worship. You need to start giving it your all. When we assemble, God is present.

If we are here to please God, we must be active in service. In many denominations, you sit in the audience and watch the entertainers. That is not what God wants. Every one of us must be active in worship. We all need to sing, and pray, and listen, and remember the sacrifice of Jesus, and give back to God.

Reflect upon the sacrifices of Cain and Abel. Why was God pleased with Abel? Abel’s attitude was, “What can I do to make God happy?” He did what God commanded. As a result, his offering pleased the Lord. What about his brother, Cain? Yes, he offered a sacrifice, but God was not pleased. Cain did not think about what God desired. Therefore, in our worship, let’s determine to devote our full heart and mind to worship. Let’s learn to do what God wants, not just do what we want.

In the Golden Rule, Jesus taught us to treat others as we want to be treated: “In everything, therefore, treat people the same way you want them to treat you, for this is the Law and the Prophets” (Matt. 7:12). The Lord manifested this spirit, and so also should we. Jesus is the perfect example, and our goal is to emulate Him (Phil. 2:3-5). How do you treat your friends and family? The natural thing for all of us is to think and act selfishly.

You have got to stop yourself, and ask, “What is best for the other person?”

The parable of the good Samaritan tells the experiences of a man who was robbed on the road. He was stripped, nearly beaten to death. While the priest and Levite passed by on the other side, a Samaritan stopped, and assisted the man, binding his wounds, putting him on his donkey, bringing him to an inn, and caring for his needs. He did good to someone in need. We should do the same.

Being a Good Influence

To keep the faith, we must be a good influence. Are you serving as salt and light (Matt. 5:14-16)? Be a good influence on those who are around you, even though worldly people may sometimes mock you. They may come to a point in life where they reassess their lives, remember your good example, and turn their life around. Let us, therefore, avoid grumbling and complaining, and be lights in this dark world (Phil. 2:14-16). Although Christians are few, we must be lights. It is amazing how much light one candle emits in dark spaces.

Conclusion

You must have your faith, and not rely on your mom’s faith or your dad’s faith. We must live our lives based on that faith. Make good choices. Do good things that will please God. Be a good influence. Discipleship starts with belief, but we must act upon our convictions. Obedience is required, both in initial conversion and in living the life of a Christian. **■**



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Focus on Our Families

by Jake Locklear

Considering the command given to Adam, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it” (Gen. 1:28), Jake shows that God designed the home to produce children who bear His image and whom He can claim as His own.

In preparing this lesson, I kept coming back to one word: “Home.” Everything centers around the home. It is the building block of society, divinely designed as the foundation of how the earth may be filled with His children. From the beginning, God had a plan for the family—a purpose for the home and marriage (Gen. 2:18-25; 1:28; 9:1; 17:6). He instituted the family unit as a means of populating the earth: “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it” (Gen. 1:28). His design for the home is for it to produce children who bear His image, and whom He can claim as His own. Unfortunately, while the descendants of Adam rapidly multiplied, and filled the earth, they turned aside from God’s pattern and failed to raise children who walked in His ways.

Later, when God established a covenant relationship with Israel, He gave them an instruction manual on how to fulfill His mandate of raising children who walk in His pathways (Deut. 6:1-9). Note the figurative language: Build your home on God’s word. Write His commands on the door of your house. When you sit at the table or lie down in bed, when you leave your house and when you return home, God’s word should be ever before you. If the Israelites followed this manual, they would fill the earth with children of God.

Psalms 127 and 128 describe the blessings that come when we build our homes according to the pattern established by God. If your house is not built upon God’s commandments, ordinances, and word, it is empty and vain. Do you want a real home? Build it upon the foundation that God established, and you will be gifted with domestic happiness. You, your wife, and your children will be blessed.

How serious is God about the necessity of men following His pattern for the home? Consider what was required of the wayward Israelites in Ezra 10 who had marriages that were not according to God’s design. They were to put away their foreign wives and the resulting children. I cannot imagine how awful it must have been to rip families apart. However, if a marriage is not established upon a scriptural foundation, it is broken and will be unfruitful.

The family only works if it is based on God’s design. If it is built upon a foundation that is unscriptural, the resulting structure will be weak and will crumble. It will not accomplish its intended purpose, i.e., allowing us to be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth with additional children of God.

This is a hard, hard lesson to understand. Some might say, “That’s just the Old Testament; the God of love is not so harsh in the gospel age.” Consider what Jesus said

when He was questioned about marriage (Matt. 19:3-9). If a man cannot put away his wife, except for adultery, then we understand that Christianity reestablishes a very strict standard. Jesus went back to the beginning and emphasized essentials that are unchanging.

Like the Israelites in Deuteronomy 6, we have divine instruction for how we build our homes (Eph. 6:1-4). Fathers, do not provoke your children in a negative sense, being a heavy-handed dictator; instead, stir them up, excite them, stimulate them to love and good works. Raise your children in the discipline and admonition of the Lord, with proper chastening and correction, teaching and training.

Who doesn’t want order, peace, and tranquility in their homes? We all do! If husbands love their wives, there will be domestic harmony; if children obey their parents, they will have peace; if each of us follows God’s pattern, all will have courage and conviction (Col. 3:18-21).

God does not want the church to be disorderly; neither does He want such for the home. We find our place, and we know peace by following God’s will. Our homes should be a place of safety and security, where children learn to obey God. When they make mistakes, they are disciplined in love, instructed in God’s word, trained in the way of righteousness.

I am reminded of a quote by Harmon Killebrew, a Hall of Famer who played baseball for the Minnesota Twins. He was raised in a family enthusiastic about sports. On one occasion, his mother expressed concern about the condition of the lawn, which was trampled down by the boys who regularly played pickup sporting games with neighborhood friends. Killebrew's father responded, "We are not raising grass here; we are raising boys."

Homes are places where we raise godly children. How do we do that? We have a perfect example in how our heavenly Father raises us. God's household is built on the foundation of love. In sending His Son, God gave the very best He had to offer. The home requires love that is founded on sacrifice, service, and submission, which we see exemplified by every member of the Godhead (1 John 3:1; 4:10).

Our heavenly Father knows what we need. He has made provision of all that is good and necessary (Matt. 7:7-11; 6:9). So also, with our homes. Husbands, wives, and children have needs. Godly families are where many of those needs are fulfilled.

God knows how to discipline. I love the word "discipline." In our culture, many react negatively to the concept of discipline, equating it with punishment and retribution. Discipline is love. If you care enough about somebody that you are willing to step in, and through correction and instruction, get them back on the right path, you are demonstrating genuine concern for their well-being. God does this for His children. Discipline is training, instruction, correction, administered in love (Heb. 12:5-11).

Our heavenly Father also shows us a love that endures. Consider the example of the prodigal son, who acted selfishly, sinfully, etc. (Luke 15:11-32, esp. v. 20). Having sown to the wind,

the wayward son faced disaster. Coming to himself, he determined to return home, and beg for restoration to the household, not as a son but as a servant. When the son returned, his father showed compassion—embracing his son and kissing him, evidencing a love that endures.

Noah, a righteous man, and a righteous preacher preserved his family in a world of wickedness. In contrast, Lot, also called a righteous man, tormented by the sins of a depraved society, lost his family to the surrounding wickedness (2 Pet. 2:5-8). Note the similarities and differences. Both are described as righteous men; both lived in an evil environment. One saved his family; the other lost everything.

What is the difference? By faith, Noah built an ark to protect and save his family. Lot followed the path of materialism, moving his family ever closer to Sodom. When judgment fell upon the cities of the plain, Lot offered his daughters to the wicked men of Sodom to protect the guests under his roof. He lost his wife. He lost his daughters to immorality.

Consider Joshua's challenge: "Choose this day whom you will serve!" (Josh. 24:15). We can be righteous men in a corrupt world, and still lose our family, if we are not careful. We live in a wicked world—a world like the one described in Romans chapter 1. Yet, in a Romans 1 world, there were righteous men who saved their family.

Consider Cornelius, who ensured the salvation of his family (Acts 10). Note the house of Stephanas (1 Cor. 1:16; 16:15-16). Contemplate the conversion of the households of Lydia and the Philippian jailer—both are saved with their households (Acts 16:14-15, 33-34).

We can save our families. Here at Adoue Street, we have lots of young families. We can do it! Yes,

we will do it, if we follow the pattern that God has provided. Learn from our heavenly Father and how He raises us. Use His word to build our homes—apply, believe, and obey it.

What legacy are you going to leave in your home? Leave your family an inheritance of faith and obedience: "A good man leaves an inheritance to his children's children, and the wealth of the sinner is stored up for the righteous" (Prov. 13:22).

In 1 Peter 3, Peter describes a wife who is submissive, who loves her husband, and, through her devotion to God, can potentially save her husband. In like manner, the godly husband honors his wife and exalts her on a pedestal. Together, they are described as heirs of the grace of life.

1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1 discuss the qualifications of elders and deacons, part of which involve how we conduct ourselves in the home. The future of the church depends upon young Christian families training future leaders: preachers, deacons, and elders.

We are described in Revelation as kings and priests (Rev. 1:6, NKJV). I submit to you that we are raising kings and queens to our God. Read again Proverbs 31, which preserve "The words of King Lemuel, the oracle which his mother taught him" (v. 1). Reflect upon the wisdom of a mother, whose young son is to become king. Note the instruction she offers on how to find a wife—one worthy of serving at his side as queen. We are raising kings and queens to our God. That is why this is such an important and serious discussion, and why our focus should be on our families. **II**



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Focus on Young Singles

by Aaron Linden

To leave a spiritual legacy, Aaron affirms that we must first build up our faith. If we get married and eventually have children, we will then be able to lead our families in the ways of the Lord.

This lesson focuses on the importance of young single Christians developing their own faith. Early choices that we make are formative, affecting the direction of our future lives. Everything we need can be found in the Bible, so we must be devoted to learning God's word, and living according to its principles.

Many of these comments reflect lessons that I learned while away at college, living by myself, away from family. In some ways, I succeeded; in other ways, I struggled. So, how can young single adults find success in strengthening their personal convictions?

If we wish to leave a spiritual legacy, we must first build up our faith, so that when we get married and eventually have children, we will be able to lead our families with continued success.

The Importance of Prayer

Prayer is essential to our faith, but too many times in my life, if I was not careful, it was placed off to the side, and forgotten for a time.

At times, it would seem presumptuous for me to think that the Creator of heaven and earth would be interested in my prayers. Yet, that is just what He has promised!

Psalm 34:15 affirms that the eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, and His ears are open to their cry. Our

ability to communicate with God in prayer is based, not on human merit, but on God's great compassion (Dan. 9:18). It is not just the holiest among us who can communicate with God; rather, He promises to hear the prayers of all his children. To forfeit this blessing, or not take full advantage of it, would be foolish indeed.

What does prayer accomplish? It keeps us connected, not only with the Lord but also with others around us (1 Chron. 16:11; Eph. 6:18). Having a regular prayer life makes us more attuned to the blessings we have personally received, and more mindful of those around us who need our prayers. We should really connect with our local church, being attentive to the needs of our brethren. The church functions best when we interact with and help one another.

Additionally, prayer keeps us focused. When we experience hard times, we might be tempted to buckle. When we are busy, we adopt the wrong priorities. However, a consistent prayer life helps strength us (James 5:13-15). At times, we may have creeping doubts, but prayer helps bolster our faith. Facing great trials, Jesus instructed the disciples, "Keep watching and praying that you may not enter into temptation; the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak" (Matt. 26:41).

On another occasion, Jesus encountered a man whose son was

sorely afflicted with a demon. Jesus asked his father, "How long has this been happening to him?" He replied, "From childhood. It has often thrown him both into the fire and into the water to destroy him. But if You can do anything, take pity on us and help us!" Jesus said to him, "If You can?" All things are possible to him who believes." Immediately the boy's father cried out, saying, "I do believe; help my unbelief" (Mark 9:21-24). There are times in our lives when we have creeping doubts, despite having been taught and wanting to believe. Prayer is part of the strength that we have to bolster ourselves through such times.

The Importance of Growth

In the development of knowledge and skills, it is often said, "If you don't use it, you'll lose it." We often forget information that we do not regularly use.

In my college experience, after the final exams ended, and as summer break began, I could almost feel the knowledge that I had accumulated over the past semester flowing out of my ears.

If I worked on a job that continually used the things taught in that class, or if I reviewed the information regularly enough, the specifics of the college course could be retained in my memory.

Not only is it necessary that we remember what we have learned of God's word, but continued spiritual growth is also essential. While we are not expected to know everything, we must pursue a fuller knowledge of God and grow in spiritual understanding. "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied" (Matt. 5:6). If you are not going forward, you are sliding backward; we are either growing or dying (Heb. 5:12).

The Importance of Unity

Christians are also called to unity, based on their understanding of the Bible. God's word is not subject to private interpretation, i.e., its meaning is determined by my subjective opinion—how I want it, or how I like it. Instead, the truth is objective. There is a proper way that it can and must be understood (Eph. 4:1-6). Spiritual growth and maturity lead God's people to stand united, both in supporting the truth and also in opposing error (Eph. 4:13-16).

Sometimes we encounter those who, intentionally or unintentionally, are teaching and practicing error. How can we identify falsehood if we are still children in understanding? The ignorant are in danger of being tossed like waves of the sea, and are susceptible to promoters of error, especially when they are eloquent, or seemingly intelligent. This danger is especially pronounced when young people go away to college and face an environment where they find their faith under assault. Those who challenge our convictions may not be malicious but misinformed. Nevertheless, they may still pose a threat to our faith.

Honest students and teachers of the Scriptures will want to be measured by the standard of God's word. In fact, this is how we can distinguish truth from error. False prophets may be identified by their fruit (Matt. 7:15-20).

Growth also helps us see the deficiencies in our own lives. Self-examination is necessary, enabling us to make needed personal adjustments on a regular basis, so that we may continue bringing honor and glory to God and Jesus Christ (1 Cor. 11:28-30).

Are you connected with other Christians? We are strengthened when we are part of a larger spiritual family (John 17:20-23; 1 Pet. 3:8-9). Being an active, faithful member of a local church sets you up for success. You are surrounded by those who love you, want you to grow, hold you accountable, and will help you succeed.

The Importance of Courage

We must stand up for our faith. There comes a time when we transition from students to teachers. Trials bring potential blessings: "the testing of your faith produces endurance," potentially leading to a state where we are "perfect and complete, lacking nothing" (James 1:2-4). Looking toward the goal of heaven helps us endure momentary afflictions (Phil. 3:20-21).

Conclusion

We must be examples to others, serving as salt and light. In so doing, we will fulfill the command of Christ: "Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven" (Matt. 5:13-16).

By setting the right example, and living faithfully, we may lead others to the Lord. How wonderful would that be? Therefore, let us develop our faith, demonstrate a commitment to Christ, and leave a lasting spiritual legacy. **T**



Aaron Linden

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Focus on Young Married Couples

by Ryan Mayberry

Asking, “How can we ensure that our families are following God’s pattern?” Ryan focuses on the importance of establishing a proper hierarchy, maintaining a proper attitude, and keeping a proper focus.

Understanding that we can accomplish good and glorify God at all points in our lives has been a theme in this series of lessons. Little ones can shine their innocence to the world. Those who are young and single can be faithful examples. Young married couples can do so as well.

Whenever you’re young and single, you don’t have as many responsibilities, but when you take your wedding vows, everything changes. All of the sudden, a young man has responsibility for his wife, and in time, children also.

As has been noted in other lessons, a legacy is something that you leave behind. I like how Paul Linden expressed it: “The spiritual achievements in your life.” How do we instill genuine faith in our hearts? How do we leave a lasting spiritual legacy in our homes? How do we ensure that our families are following God’s pattern? This lesson focuses on three points: maintaining a proper hierarchy, a proper attitude, and a proper focus.

Proper Hierarchy

According to God’s pattern, the husband is the head of his household. Ephesians 5:22-23 says, “Wives, be subject to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself being the Savior of the body. But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives ought to be to their husbands, in

everything.” As the Lord has authority over the church, the husband has authority over his wife. The Greek word, *hypotasso*, here rendered “subject,” is the combination of two words, *hupo* (under) and *tasso* (to set or arrange). So literally, this means “to set under,” or to be in subjection.

Husbands should not have to earn the respect of their wives. Likewise, wives should not have to earn the love of their husbands. Looking for shortcomings in our spouse does not give us an excuse to neglect our duty. I am commanded to love my wife. Period. My wife is commanded to be submissive to me. Period. Both are unconditional. The husband may fall short in certain areas, as may also the wife. Being human, we all make mistakes. Instead of seeking an excuse to avoid obeying God’s word, we should look for ways to succeed every day.

Proper Attitude

Whenever you’re told that you’re in charge of something, it can be easy to let that power go to your head. However, that isn’t the way that men should look at being the head of a house. It isn’t just raw power; rather, it is a serious responsibility. We must live with our wives in an understanding manner, honoring her as a fellow heir of the grace of life (1 Pet. 3:7).

Yes, the wife must submit to the husband; yet, that does not mean that he is the final authority. He must submit to the Lord. In running

our household, I must not allow the power that God has given me to go to my head. This role is not about me. I am merely to fulfill the daunting responsibilities that are assigned by God (Eph. 5:25).

John 15:13 says, “Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends.” One truly steps into his role as a husband only when he realizes that protecting and serving his wife and children is more important than fulfilling personal desires. This does not mean that we will necessarily be called to die for our families, although we should be ready to do so if such is required. Instead, it means that we must put aside selfishness, and realize that their needs come before ours.

We rule our households, not with a tyrannical spirit, but with understanding and love, treating our wives and children with respect—leading in the way that God intended (Eph. 6:4; Col. 3:21).

Proper Focus

So how do we care for those lives? How do we guide them on their path to heaven? Having been married for only three years, I’m a novice. I don’t have any kids yet, so I don’t know what it’s like to have that love sweep over me when I look at a soul that I helped bring into this world. I don’t have all the answers, but I know where to find the answers.

What does Scripture say about the need for proper focus? God's word should be at the center of our hearts and homes. Our heavenly Father sets us up for success. By providing His word, He has revealed the path to earthly happiness and eternal glory.

If I am supposed to be the head of my house as Christ is the head of the church, shouldn't I set up my family for success? I start by following Christ myself. I cannot ask others to do something that I will not do myself. "Do as I say, not as I do" does not work. Instead, we should say, "Do as I say, and do as I do." May I mirror the glory of God in all my actions.

We enjoy many material blessings, but sometimes they become distractions. Phones, computers, TVs, etc. can all interfere with keeping the focus on Christ. How much time do we spend with our electronics? Do you check your email the first thing in the morning? While at work, do you look at social media during your breaks? During the evenings, how much time do you spend watching TV or surfing the internet? As a follow-up question, ask yourself, how much time do I devote to the study of God's word? How does that compare to the time you spend on social media? For good or ill, the minutes and hours add up, and just like that, your day is done. If we regularly used some of that time in delving deeper into God's word, we would share a closer relationship with our heavenly Father.

Laying aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, we must run the Christian race with endurance (Heb. 12:1-2). Encumbrances and sins are not necessarily the same. Nothing is inherently wrong with social media, our phones, etc. Yet, if they keep us from focusing on God's word, they become an encumbrance. Let's distinguish between what truly matters and what is inconsequential.

Additionally, we should be cautious regarding the content of our entertainment. What do we watch, listen to, and read? Are our choices governed by the will of God, or are we allowing evil to creep into our homes? Surround yourself and your family with the spiritually uplifting things of God, not the sinfully debasing things of man (Phil. 4:8).

Faithful attendance at Bible study and worship services are also essential. Christians regularly assemble a few times a week. Why not take advantage of every opportunity to be with our brethren and worship God? Do we count it as a blessing or a burden? Yes, faithful attendance is an obligation, but it is also a privilege to assemble with the saints (Heb. 10:23-25).

Conclusion

Please permit me to brag on my parents for a minute. They were very careful in our home to make sure that we maintained proper focus. They brought us to church and area gospel meetings. They were careful about what we watched on TV. Nathan and I read a lot growing up. Many of the books we read were classics with which my parents were familiar, or we would stick to authors that we trusted. Occasionally, if we wanted to try a book or a series with which they were unfamiliar, they would read it first to make sure that it was suitable. They spent a lot of time protecting us from the immorality and sin that permeates the world in which we live.

They also were careful that we had a proper balance. Since Nathan and I were homeschooled, we had a special opportunity since Dad was a preacher who worked from home. Every morning we would wake up around 7:30 to prepare for our first class: Biblical Greek, which we studied from 8:00–8:30. After breakfast, it was Bible class, that lasted from 9:00–9:30. Regular school followed

afterward. Mom and Dad were careful that our school curriculum did not contradict God's word so that the good that was done in that first hour and a half was not undone over the remainder of the day. We prayed at every meal and all prayed together at night. That was my childhood. I am thankful to Mom and Dad for their constant dedication and devotion to the truth, and the countless hours that they spent training us to follow God's word. I am truly blessed (Prov. 22:6).

My parents are the reason I stand before you today. They had the proper focus and attitude. They had the proper hierarchy in their marriage and in our home. I want to give my future children the same thing.

There is nothing more important in this life than perfecting our faith and passing it down to future generations. What are we leaving behind for our children?

I need to live in such a manner that Ecclesiastes 7:1 can be fulfilled in my life: "A good name is better than a good ointment, and the day of one's death is better than the day of one's birth."

I challenge you to do the same. Live in such a manner that you can leave a good name for yourself and your family. Will our children be proud that they bear our name? Will they be thankful for the way they were raised? Will they be able to say that their lives were better because of our leadership?

May we lead our families so that we are preparing the next generation to carry on our legacy of faith. May we reflect the glory of God in our daily lives, and may our children learn to do the same. 🙏



Ryan Mayberry

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Focus on Specifics

by Craig Lawrence

Acknowledging that we have long-term and short-term goals in life, Craig asks, “Do you view heaven as a real goal? Are you taking daily steps in that direction?” He provides useful pointers to help us achieve that end.

This lesson focuses on the need to leave a daily spiritual legacy. The apostle Paul emphasized the need to press toward the goal (Phi. 3:7-16). Before his conversion, Paul occupied a powerful, prestigious and privileged position in Hebrew culture; yet, he laid it aside for the cause of Christ. In like manner, if some accomplishment or success stands between us and achieving the goal of heaven, it should be viewed as rubbish. Ask yourself the question, “Will this activity help me get to heaven?” Ask yourself, “What did I do today that is not rubbish? What did I do today that will help me press toward the goal?”

What is your goal? There are plenty of challenges in life. There are many mountains that we must climb. However, which ones are most important? There are many long-term and short-term goals in life. Do you view heaven as a real goal? Are you taking daily steps toward that goal? Today, did I draw nearer or drift further from that goal?

Long-Term Goals

Am I striving to become a stronger Christian? Am I focused on raising my children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord (Eph. 6:4)? Husbands and fathers, you have the same commitment as Joshua, who said, “As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord” (Josh. 24:15). Wives and mothers, are you striving to be a worthy woman (Prov. 31:10-31)? Both of these are high callings!

Perhaps your goal is to become a preacher, an elder, or a deacon. Sometimes, we look at Bible characters like Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Sarah, etc. and ask, “How can I be one of those? Can I be like them? Could I ever be counted by God as a hero of faith? That would be tough!” Well, yes. It was not easy for them; neither will it be for us.

Some of those who are listed in Hebrews 11 did great things, and some did small things. Living by faith involves big choices and little choices. Those small things combine to help us achieve those long-term goals. We should all have that upward calling of reaching heaven, but the smaller goals, impacting daily life, keep us accountable to our larger, long-term goals.

“Be like Christ!” is one of those big goals. Jesus Christ, our Savior, is the perfect example. In one sense, this goal is one that we can never fully attain, but one we can reach toward. We are all sinners; He never sinned; yet, we can endeavor daily to be like Jesus.

Let’s talk about what not to do. The following declaration appeared in a cartoon comic that I once read: “My goal is to be a failure. If I reach my goal, I will feel successful; if I don’t, I will feel successful, too!” Either way, that guy (theoretically) has got it made. Don’t be that guy! Instead, pick a goal that is challenging but achievable. Perform the incremental

steps (daily faithfulness) that make the long-term goal (heaven) possible.

“If you can see it, you can reach it” is a popular saying used by many businesses in their promotional materials. However, perils may stand between us and attaining our goal. I once saw a funny motivational picture of the African savanna. There was a lion laying in a field, and a large tree stood on the distant horizon. The caption, “GOALS: *If You Can See It, You Can Reach It*,” was prominently displayed. Underneath, in smaller print, it added, “*Except for that tree over there. There is a lion in the way.*”

Don’t let things in your life become that lion: fear, worry, doubt, uncertainty. Yes, you can see the mountain or the tree—it lies within our reach, but danger stands in the way. Self-destructive attitudes and actions may keep us from achieving our goal.

Short-Term Goals

Long-term goals provide the vision; however, daily actions help fulfill the vision. What are some good short-term goals?

I should regularly study my Bible, and be like the noble-minded Bereans: “They received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so” (Acts 17:11; cf. 2 Tim. 2:15). I should endeavor to strengthen my faith through study (Rom. 10:17) and prayer (Matt. 17:20-21).

Continued on page 34

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I should encourage my fellow Christians and attend worship services regularly. I need to be an active part of a local congregation, faithful in attendance, continually giving and receiving encouragement (Heb. 10:23-25).

I should be active in the church, using my talents, stepping outside my comfort zone: teach a class, lead a prayer, present a lesson, etc. Discover where my talents lay and cultivate them to God's glory (Eph. 4:11-12, 16).

I should help someone in need. Paul said, "...through love serve one another" (Gal. 5:13). If I see a struggling brother, I should not manifest a holier-than-thou attitude, but have genuine concern for others

I should pray daily. "Pray without ceasing" (1 Thess. 5:17). Excuses come easily: "I'm too busy... I'm too tired..." Excuses equal taking a step backward. Go forward, don't slide backward. Devote yourself to prayer and you will be blessed (Col. 4:2; Phil. 4:6-7).

If I am still in the home, I should obey my parents: "Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right" (Eph. 6:1; cf. Col. 3:20).

I should spread the gospel. Make personal application of the great commission: Go! Even if it is only to the coffee shop to have a religious discussion with a friend. "Tell of His glory among the nations, His wonderful deeds among all the peoples" (Ps. 96:3).

If I am not yet a Christian, I should obey the gospel plan of salvation: Hear, believe, repent, confess, and be baptized.

Focus on Today

What you do today has a long-term impact: "Commit your works to the Lord And your plans will be established" (Prov. 16:3).

At first, we are simply trying to get through the day. Yet, days become weeks, months, and years. Short-term decisions affect our legacy, creating our character, establishing patterns and forming habits.

Positive Examples

Eunice raised a faithful son (with the assistance of her mother, Lois) despite the absence of having a husband who provided spiritual leadership in the home (Acts 16:1-2; 2 Tim. 1:5). From childhood, Timothy had been taught God's word that led to salvation (2 Tim. 3:15).

Shiphrah and Puah, two Hebrew midwives in the Egyptian captivity, defied Pharaoh's command to kill all the male babies: "The midwives feared God, and did not do as the king of Egypt had commanded them, but let the boys live" (Exod. 1:15-17). As a result, they were blessed, and their households were established (Exod. 1:20-21).

Negative Examples

Rehoboam, son and successor of Solomon, responded harshly to the people when they requested relief from the hard service and heavy burdens imposed by Solomon. Rejecting the sage advice of the elders, and heeding the foolish advice of his peers, Rehoboam refused to relent; as a result, the kingdom was divided—all because of a decision made over the course of three days (1 Kings 12:13-16).

Judas betrayed the Lord for a mere 30 pieces of silver, and afterward hanged himself. Previously, he pilfered from the money box entrusted to his care (John 12:6). Although Judas undoubtedly believed in Jesus, he let greed get the best of him because he looked at life from a short-term perspective. A moment of petty personal weakness became his eternal legacy (Matt. 26:14-16; 27:3-5).

Conclusion

Moments matter. So also do small decisions. Character is simply a reflection of a lifetime of successive, individual choices. Destiny is often decided by daily decisions.

It takes many steps to successfully run the Christian race with patience (1 Cor. 9:25-27; Heb. 12:1). If you are taking a step forward each day, you are getting closer to your goal. One step does not take you far, but with 2,000 steps, you will cover a mile. Therefore, you should take life one step at a time. Allow God to establish your steps (Psa. 37:23-27); let His word illuminate your path and direct your steps (Ps. 119:105; Prov. 16:9).

Create your daily spiritual legacy. Set your sights on Jesus. Keep heaven as your ultimate goal. We need long-term spiritual goals, and also make daily progress. Forget the past. Press on to the goal!

Think about the impact that you have on other people. Our legacy is what people say about us when we are gone. What do others think of us? What is our daily legacy? How do others perceive our daily walk and work? Do they see the love of God in my life?

When people see your good works, they will glorify your heavenly Father (Matt 5:16). Do you produce good or bad fruit (Matt 7:16-20)? Do you show your faith by your works (James 2:18)? Just like Paul focus on your goal and lay aside worldly passing pleasures. Focus on spiritual good fruits rather than physical bad fruits. Do not let the "rubbish" of life get in the way of your heaven bound goal. **II**



Craig Lawrence

Craig Lawrence serves as a deacon at the Adoue St. church of Christ in Alvin, TX. He works as Sales Manager at Fastenal in Houston. He can be reached at craigandlaura05@yahoo.com.

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John Humphries (334) 306-4172

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Charles Martin: (334) 283-2983

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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

FORT COLLINS

Poudre Valley church of Christ
2926 E. Mulberry St., Unit B
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.
Afternoon 1:30 P.M.
Evangelist: Richie Thetford (970) 215-5797
www.poudrevalleychurchofchrist.org

GRAND JUNCTION

Western Slope church of Christ
2923 North Ave., Unit 3
Grand Junction, CO 81504
Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M.
Evening 5 P.M.
www.churchofchristwesternslope.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

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

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 A.M.
Communion 11 A.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.
(229) 244-8630, www.northvaldostacoc.com

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

IOWA

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

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

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

GLEN 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

OLITIC

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: Johnnie Edwards
(317) 964-9404 or (317) 839-1769
www.churchofchristwest.org

SAINT LEON, IN

Church of Christ
7140 Hyland Rd., Guildford, IN 47022
174 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 or
(270) 274-3065

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 Vifquain (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
939 Whitewater Avenue
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

BRANSON

Eagle Rock Road church of Christ
432 Eagle Rock Road
Sun. Worship 9:30 A.M., Bible Study 10:30 A.M.
Sun. Evening Worship 2 P.M., Wednesday 6 P.M.
Minister: Philip North (417) 239-1036
Email: primrosenor@suddenink.net
www.eaglerockroadchurchofchrist.org

CAPE GIRARDEAU

North Cape church of Christ
121 S. Broadview St. Suite 2,
Cape Girardeau, MO 63703
Sunday Bible Study 9:15 A.M. & 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.
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.
Evangelist: 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. Tryon Street
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Sun. Worship 10:30 A.M.
Wednesday 7:30 P.M.
(704) 525-5655
www.charlottechurchofchrist.org

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.lccoc.net

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 5 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.moorevillepikecoc.com

COSBY

Cosby church of Christ
4894 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

KINGSPOURT

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

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.faiithweb.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 St
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7:30 P.M.
Evangelist: Mark Mayberry (346) 216-1707
www.ascoc.org & www.markmayberry.net

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

Eastringe 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

LUBBOCK

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.lubbockchurch.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

TACOMA

Manitou Park church of Christ
(meets at Gray Middle School)
6229 S Tyler Street
Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 11 A.M.
Wednesday 7 P.M.
(253) 242-3098
tacomachurch@gmail.com
www.tacomachurch.com

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.orcoc.org

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

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**SCHEDULE
CHANGE**

2018
TRUTH LECTURES

now re-scheduled for

JUNE 25TH - 28TH

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in Athens, Alabama. The theme is
“In the Beginning... (Studies from Genesis).”