

# Truth

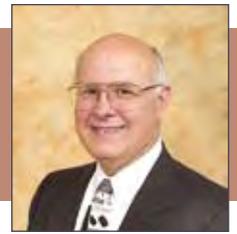
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# Magazine



*“With ALL  
Thy Heart”*

# editor's page



MIKE WILLIS

## Introduction: Why This Study?

In congregations all over the United States, churches are facing the problem of a significant portion of their members not attending gospel meetings, Sunday A.M. Bible classes, evening services, and mid-week services.

Every kind of activity is given priority over the worship assemblies—sporting events, extra-curricular school activities, unnecessary work (either overtime or a second job), family reunions, watching one's favorite TV show or going to a movie, etc. The list can be extended, but in fact, the individual Christian allows the things important to him to take precedence over spiritual service to God and every person's list is different.

One sometimes sees things in the assembly that reflects how committed to Christ an individual is. While I acknowledge that there are times when a person may fall asleep because of unique circumstances (he is reacting to medication, old age, lack of sleep for uncontrolled reasons, etc.), nevertheless there are some who have no interest in what is being preached and make little or no effort to pay attention to the sermon. Although there are times when someone needs to go to the restroom during services, unfortunately there are others who make a habit of making a trip to the restroom during nearly every service; it is a way of killing time while the sermon is

being preached. In some congregations there is a steady stream of people making their way to the restroom during services because they have no interest in what is going on in the assembly.

***The issue of whole-hearted love for God needs to be addressed by elders, preachers, and Bible class teachers in local churches.***

There are far too many families with children who show little evidences of having any spiritual interests. When the children are old enough to be independent, they quit coming to church. Parents may have prepared their child to be a good worker, one who is responsible in paying his bills, a good citizen, a good student, etc., but they have not prepared one who has whole-hearted devotion to the Lord. Apathy and indifference are widespread.

The issue of whole-hearted love for God needs to be addressed by elders, preachers, and Bible class teachers in local churches. This series of lessons is designed to provide material that might direct our thoughts toward making a whole-hearted commitment to the Lord. Its title is drawn from Jesus' statement: "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment" (Matt. 22:37-38). It is our desire that this material might encourage us to renew our first love (Rev. 2:4-5), to encourage a fervent spirit (Rom. 12:11) in serving the Lord.

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1 Thessalonians 3:2



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# Thou Shalt Love the Lord Thy God With All Thy Heart

MIKE WILLIS

But when the Pharisees had heard that he had put the Sadducees to silence, they were gathered together. Then one of them, which was a lawyer, asked him a question, tempting him, and saying, Master, which is the great commandment in the law? Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets (Matt. 22:34-40).

On the Tuesday before his crucifixion on Thursday, Jesus was peppered with questions by those who sought an occasion to bring charges against him. Among those who approached Jesus was a lawyer who asked him a question. He asked what is the greatest commandment of the law. Jesus replied by referring him to Deuteronomy 6:5. Moses wrote,

Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord: And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might (Deut. 6:4-5).

This section of Scripture was called the *Shema* because the first Hebrew word in v. 4 is the imperative form of *shama*, "to hear." This section was chosen by the Jews long after Moses for recitation by every Israelite twice daily (S.R. Driver, *A Critical and Exegetical Commentary on Deuteronomy*, 92). The first tractate of the Mishna begins with a discussion about when to recite the *Shema*. When Jesus said that this was the greatest commandment, he was expressing a truth generally recognized.

## THE *SHEMA*

The *Shema* begins with the expression of an important concept: "The Lord our God is one Lord." One of

the unique statements of the Old Testament revelation is the oneness of God. In a society which worshipped many gods, Moses wrote that there is only one God and all other deities are false gods and idols. Despite how plain a statement this revelation is, Israel did not fully eliminate the worth of other gods and the sin of idolatry until after the captivity. Between the giving of the revelation at Mt. Sinai and the captivity, Israel consistently had problems with the worship of other gods. Prophets such as Isaiah (700 B.C.) preached strongly against the idolatry of his day saying, "Thus saith the Lord the King of Israel, and his redeemer the Lord of hosts; I am the first, and I am the last; and beside me there is no God" (44:6). The psalmist wrote,

The idols of the heathen are silver and gold, the work of men's hands.  
They have mouths, but they speak not;  
eyes have they, but they see not;  
They have ears, but they hear not;  
neither is there any breath in their mouths.  
They that make them are like unto them:  
so is every one that trusteth in them (135:15-18).

This simple truth that there is only one God can only be known from revelation of God to mankind. Hermann Olshausen wrote, "The unity of God, which involves the fact that he is incomparable, contains the decisive reason why he is to be loved unreservedly—because everything worthy of love is in him" (*Biblical Commentary on the New Testament*, II: 190-191). In an age when tolerance is being expressed for every kind of religion, from Buddhism to Islam, that we not neglect this basic tenet of God's revelation to man is important. There is but one God.

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# Thou Shalt Love the Lord Thy God With All Thy Heart

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## THE KIND OF COMMITMENT THAT THE LORD REQUIRES

**The Lord wants us to love him.** “Thou shalt love the Lord thy God.” God could have created automatons who responded to every button He pushed, but in this case man would be but a robot. He has given to mankind whom he created free will—the ability to choose either to obey or disobey Him. He, therefore, wishes that mankind love Him as a response to His conduct toward mankind.

There are so many reasons why one should love the Lord. Our very existence depends upon God. He is the one who made us (Gen. 1:26-27; 2:7). Of all of his creation, only man is made in the image of God (Gen. 1:26-27). Being in the image of God, man exercises dominion over God’s creation (Gen. 1:28-30). David was awed by man’s place in God’s creation—a little lower than the angels, crowned with glory and honor and having dominion over the works of God’s hand (Psa. 8:3-9). God also sustains His creation, giving sunshine and rain through every harvest season (Acts 14:17); indeed, it is in Him that we live, and move, and have our being (Acts 17:28). God has provided every physical need for mankind.

But God also has provided mankind revelation to meet his spiritual needs. By giving a Law to Israel, God defined sin, showing the path of righteousness and life. He has shown mankind how to live to enjoy life on earth to its fullest. Because of man’s sin, God also provided a Savior for mankind. His propitiation for sin was a great sacrifice to Him—His own Son. “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life” (John 3:16). “We love him, because he first loved us” (1 John 4:19).

God does not make an unrealistic demand when He requires that mankind love Him. Love is the only reasonable response to Him who has done so much for us.

**The Lord wants us to love him with our whole being.** In the statements that mankind should love the Lord, the verse enumerates how one should love him: “with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.” The essence of the statement is that we should love the Lord with every aspect of our being. Our lives should not

be compartmentalized so that we manifest a love for the Lord on Sunday morning from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. but during the rest of our week we live as though God means nothing to us. Some manifest this conduct. At the church building they manifest a show of piety but watch any and every kind of filthy movie, participate in filthy jokes, drink intoxicating beverages, dress immodestly and participate in lascivious conduct (from dancing to sexual foreplay), commit fornication, gamble, etc. Jesus labeled such conduct as hypocrisy (Matt. 23:25-28).

Man’s being is divided into three categories in this verse, each of which emphasizes a different aspect of man’s nature: heart, soul, and mind. W. J. Deane said, “The expression means generally that God is to be loved with all our powers and faculties, and that nothing is to

be preferred to him. It is difficult to define with any precision the signification of each term used, and much unprofitable labour has been expended in the endeavor to limit their exact sense. . . . It is usual to explain thus: *Heart*; which among the Hebrews was considered to be the seat of the understanding, is here considered as the home of the affections and the seat of the will. *Soul*; the living powers, the animal life. *Mind*; *dianoia*, the intellectual powers. These are to be the seat and abode of the love enjoined” (*Pulpit Commentary: Matthew*, 364). R. Tuck, in the same volume, says, “the heart, the centre of our being; the soul, the seat of the affections and desires; the mind, the home of thought and reason” (375).

H. A. W. Meyer describes the *heart* as the entire sphere in which all the workings of the personal consciousness originate, the whole *soul*, the whole faculty of feeling and desire, and the whole *understanding*, all the power of thought and will, and must determine their operation (*Critical and Exegetical Hand-book to the Gospel of Matthew*, 384).

Let us distinguish these aspects of one’s love. The **heart** is the inner being of man’s consciousness. To love God with “all” of one’s heart indicates that the heart is not divided (as James speaks of one being double-minded, 1:8). It is wholly given in all of its being to God. When one makes a commitment to become Jesus’ dis-

**Love is the only reasonable response to Him who has done so much for us.**

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# Thou Shalt Love the Lord Thy God

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ciple, he is not making a half-hearted commitment. He is making a commitment to love God with all of his heart. Nothing in his life means so much to him as loving God. The three Hebrew children, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, had this aspect of devotion in love to God correctly analyzed when they spoke to King Nebuchadnezzar saying, "If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king. But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up" (Dan. 3:16-18). They were devoted to serve God regardless of what the costs to them were, even if that meant the loss of their own life. *It was better to die in service to God than to live in disobedience!* They indeed loved God with all of their heart.

According to the various authors, the **soul** is "the living powers, the animal life"; "the seat of the affections and desires"; "the whole faculty of feeling and desires." The religion of Christ involves my affections. It is not a dead, lifeless religion in which we go through the motions of mechanical rituals. One's affections and feelings are involved in his commitment to God. How could one sit at the foot of the cross and watch the soldiers drive spikes in the hand of Jesus without a tear coming to his eye? How could one hear the mockery of the Jewish leaders without his spirit burning within him? How could one witness Jesus' last breath of air depart from his body and not feel the loss of his closest friend? If one loves God with all of his heart, how can one's response to him be cold ritual? Paul said that one's sin causes the Holy Spirit to grieve (Eph. 4:30). Just as I care when I have hurt the feelings of my closest friend, my children, and my mate, so also do I care when I hurt the Holy Spirit. My sin tramples under foot the Son of God and counts the blood Jesus shed on Calvary as if it were common, ordinary blood. How could I treat one who died for me in this manner. I love the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit with all of my soul. Because I care about the feelings of God, Christ, and the Holy Spirit, how can I sin against them?

The **mind** is the intellectual powers of man. Christianity is not an unreasonable religion, a religion in which one

must set aside his brain to be a devoted disciple. Rather, Christianity requires that one love the Lord with all of his mind. This involves the commitment to learn more about God and his revelation of his will to us. The psalmist expressed his devotion to learning God's will when he said that the statutes of God are "more to be desired... than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb" (19:10). In the 119<sup>th</sup> Psalm, he expressed his devotion to the study of God's word:

And I will delight myself in thy commandments, which I have loved (119:47).

Thy statutes have been my songs in the house of my pilgrimage (119:54).

The law of thy mouth is better unto me than thousands of gold and silver (119:72).

Unless thy law had been my delights, I should then have perished in mine affliction (119:92).

O how love I thy law! It is my meditation all the day (119:97).

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path (119:105).

Therefore I love thy commandments above gold; yea, above fine gold (119:127).

Loving God with all my mind requires that one devote himself to learning God's word and will. How can I truly love God with all my mind and never find time to read what He has written for me? When I fill my mind with every kind of learning except the learning of His word, how can I truly say that I love Him with all my mind?

Jesus will accept nothing less than this kind of love. The course of this series will emphasize how one manifests in his life the kind of love that Jesus requires of His disciples. You will be challenged to look at your life to see whether or not you have made that kind of commitment to the Lord. One's love is seen by what he does, whether that love is directed toward a mate or potential mate or toward the Lord. If you find that your love has not been whole-hearted, for the sake of your own soul, do the soul searching required to empty yourself of every distracting item so that you can bring total devotion to God. He will accept no less.

***Loving God with all my mind requires that one devote himself to learning God's word and will.***

# Seek Ye First

JOHN SMITH

*“But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you” (Matt. 6:33).*

Jesus sets forth in simple terms the right state of the heart with reference to heavenly and earthly things. This grand truth is set forth in the form of a brief general command that grasps the whole subject of this special issue. The kingdom and his righteousness are to be the supreme pursuit of life around which all others things must revolve. The precise sense of every word in this golden verse should be carefully weighed by the earnest disciple.

The sum and substance of our commitment to God is to seek first his kingdom and righteousness. What does to “seek” mean? It literally means to look for, search after or pursue. Webster defines it as: “to go in search or quest of; to look for; to search for by going from place to place.” I might search for something like a little boy searches for his socks or search with the zeal of the woman who lost a coin (Luke 15:8-9). Obviously, Jesus wants us to seek after the kingdom with zealously resulting from our having placed a priority upon the kingdom of God.

Jesus chooses to use the present imperative mood when he speaks of seeking the kingdom of God. Verse 33 might be translated “keep on seeking.” Seeking the kingdom and his righteousness is not a one-time activity, but a continual activity. Each day the Christian must keep on seeking and keep on putting a priority on striving for the kingdom of God. The Christian is expected to make his “search” for the kingdom of God a top and on-going priority.

When Jesus told us to seek “first” the kingdom of God, he used the Greek word *proton*. The ISBE states that “proton is used of that which is first in order; but also of that which is first or chief in importance.” He has been discussing some important items—food and shelter. Yet, the Lord makes it plain that we must seek as the most important and most pressing of things in life the kingdom of God. *The*

*Theological Dictionary of New Testament* states that this “word means first, at first, in the first instance. . . . In certain demands of Jesus proton indicates priority” or “above all.”

Isn't it interesting that Jesus says nothing about what we are to seek second? He knows he has nothing to worry about with the person who seeks first the kingdom of God. Whatever comes second will be governed by the righteousness of God and his kingdom. Marshall notes that “this word of Jesus is a call to moral heroism; to a higher resolve to that which is right in the sight of God whether it brings gain or loss, prosperity or adversity. Whatever happens, moral claims come first.”

***If we really obey this command, it will be manifest in all the arrangements of our life.***

We are commanded to let all the concerns of this life be made subordinate to those of the life to come. We must seek the things of God more than our own things. If the things of this life should come in competition with spiritual matters, we must remember what is to be given the preference. In the context of Matthew 6:19-33, Jesus associates two great blessings with seeking first the kingdom of God. There are material blessings that God promises to provide his child, and there are spiritual blessings of even greater value. The child of God who seeks first the kingdom of God can enjoy freedom from fear and anxiety. How do I know that I can depend on God to provide these physical as well as spiritual blessings? He has taken care of the flowers

of the field and the birds of the air that are of lesser value than the child of God. God has proven himself trustworthy and reliable with the “small things,” surely he can be trusted in the “greater matters.” Jesus hits hard at our dependence on “things” to give us a firm foundation for our lives. Later Jesus reiterates the need to trust God and exhorts the disciple to place the priority on depending on God (Matt. 7:7-11). We are not to seek first the things of this life, but the things relating to God.

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# Seek Ye First

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If we really obey this command, it will be manifest in all the arrangements of our life. The business man who obeys this command never takes upon himself any business which must crowd out a proper attention to his devotion to God. You will see in all his arrangements, that he makes provision for religious duties as much as he makes provision to eat his daily meals. What business man would make provisions for his business, but make no provisions for his daily food and nightly sleep? Go into any house and you see provision made for sleeping and eating. You will see perhaps articles of food and means of cooking it. This enters into their priorities. So is every man who seeks first God's kingdom and his righteousness. Whatever his principle business is, you will see his arrangements made accordingly. If his principal business is to seek the kingdom of God, everything will be prioritized accordingly. He will no sooner fail to do this than fail to make his family arrangements for eating and sleeping.

The promise is made that, if we seek the kingdom first, all earthly needs will be supplied. The promise demands that we seek the kingdom first in point of time and first in terms of importance. Everything else must come no more than second and give way before the demands of the kingdom. The kingdom must be first in our affections. We must "love the Lord our God with the whole heart" (Matt. 22:37).

## PRACTICAL APPLICATION

What is the child of God to do with this passage by way of translating it into practical application? To be a disciple who needs not be ashamed (2 Tim. 2:15), we must take this verse off the page and put it into our daily lives. It must manifest itself in practical ways in each of our lives.

- **What do I do when choosing an occupation?** If I am seeking first the kingdom, I will choose a career that will compliment the exercise of my faith not compete with it.
- **What do I consider when choosing a mate?** If I am a kingdom first seeker, I will give greater consideration to my prospective mate's heart than his/her appearance. Will they make it easier or more difficult to seek the kingdom?
- **What will I consider of greatest importance in choosing a place to live?** The number of bedrooms,

size of the yard, or color of the brick will not be as important as, "Will this make attending services easier or more difficult?" "Is it a home that will make it possible for me to be hospitable?"

- **What do I consider when choosing my clothing?** My clothing must reflect a kingdom first attitude. I will give heed to God's definition of modesty and little regard for the whims of fashion designers.
- **What do I do when an athletic event conflicts with church services?** Kingdom first seekers readily know where to place their priority and have little difficulty in making a kingdom first choice. The kingdom first seeker serves the Lord and not a coach (Acts 5:29). They seek the applause of God and not the applause of men (Matt. 6:19-21).
- **What do I do when family events or get-togethers interfere with serving the Lord?** For the kingdom first disciple this is a rather easy choice. We love and serve the Lord even if it results in the rejection of our family (Luke 6:22; 14:21).
- **When my local church has a gospel meeting, where will I be?** For sure I won't be home resting, attending athletic events or pursuing other activities. If my priority is the kingdom of God, I will not think of skipping even one night of a gospel meeting where the Word of my God will be shared.
- **Where will I go on vacation?** If the kingdom and righteousness are the priorities in my life, I will choose a vacation where my morals and values will not be attacked. I will pick a place that will make it possible for me to worship with a group of saints. I will not pick a place or activities that will tempt me to compromise virtue and modesty.
- **Where will I be Sunday evening or when the church meets for mid-week Bible study?** Do I need to answer that question? Isn't it obvious by now where the kingdom first disciple places their priority and how it manifests itself in their decisions?

**"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you" (Matt. 6:33).**

# Let Him Deny Himself

HEATH ROGERS

After Peter made the good confession in Caesarea Philippi, Jesus began to reveal to his disciples that he must suffer and die. Peter took the Lord aside and rebuked him, insisting that this would never happen to him. The Lord, in turn, rebuked Peter for not minding the things of God (Matt. 16:13-23).

Being the Master Teacher, Jesus made use of this opportunity to emphasize a primary aspect of discipleship. “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me” (v. 24). Disciples are followers. Peter had just shown that he was not minding the will of God. He was acting upon his own impulses, and was actually opposing the Father’s will. In going to the cross, Jesus was denying Himself and suffering for the will of the Father. If anyone will be the Lord’s disciple, he must likewise deny himself, take up his cross, and then he can follow Him.

## DENY SELF

The word “deny” is translated from the Greek word *aparneomai*. This is a compound word: *arenomai*, which means “to deny” is joined with the prefix *apo*, which serves to intensify the meaning. The idea is to deny utterly or fully. This is the same Greek word used to describe Peter’s denial of the Lord (Matt. 26:75). When Peter said, “I do not know the man,” he was completely disowning the Lord. In our text, Jesus is calling for this same action to be applied to self.

Although they are related, denying self is not the same as self-denial. We practice self-denial or self-control when we give up things or activities for a particular cause or benefit (we diet to lose weight, cut back on spending to save money, etc.). Although this action has application to the life of a Christian (which we will explore later), this is not what Jesus is calling for in our passage. He is calling for us to deny self—totally and completely; to surrender our entire being to him.

**Not Limited.** Denying self is not something that can be compartmentalized and applied to various aspects of our life as we see fit. This instruction needs to be understood and observed in its fullest extent. Matthew Henry gave the following comment regarding the application of this requirement: “We must deny ourselves absolutely, we must not admire our own shadow, nor gratify our own humour; we must not lean to our own understanding, nor seek our own things, nor be our own end” (192).

**Not Optional.** Denying self is not a characteristic of a “super” Christian or an extremely devoted disciple. It is not an optional path to a closer walk with Christ, or a means of taking one’s relationship with God to a higher level. Denying self is, in fact, the first and most basic step of discipleship. It is universal in its application. Anyone who would become a disciple of Christ must first deny self, otherwise he cannot be a disciple. Yet, this essential element is sorely lacking among many who see themselves as Christians today.

**Not A Secret.** This requirement is not an obscure statement that is hidden away in the vast annals of God’s Word. It was a re-occurring theme in the teaching of both the Lord and his apostles. Jesus did not spring “denying self” upon disciples once he had roped them in. He was up front about the cost of discipleship. On one occasion, when

Jesus noticed that great multitudes were following him, he turned and told them that they needed to stop and count the cost of discipleship. They needed to realize what was required of them before they committed themselves to following him. This cost consisted of hating “father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also,” bearing one’s cross and following Him, as well as forsaking all that one has (Luke 14:25-33).

**Not Easy.** The first step of discipleship is the hardest because it involves a price that few are willing to pay. It

*The first step of discipleship is the hardest because it involves a price that few are willing to pay.*

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# Let Him Deny Himself

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requires the surrender of self. Paul described it as crucifying self. “I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me” (Gal. 2:20). We must acknowledge that we are not our own (1 Cor. 6:19-20), and admit that we need help and guidance from someone higher than ourselves (Jer. 10:23). Such is a steep price for many in today’s world. We are taught that our ideas matter, our voice deserves to be heard, and our dreams deserve to be fulfilled. Some simply are not willing to give that up and allow God complete control over their lives.

Denying self shifts the focus of one’s entire life. It is no longer about me, my desires, my affections or defending my honor. This old self must be denied and disowned. God is to become the center of my life, which is accomplished only when I center my life around Him. He is in the driver’s seat. His will animates my activities. His desires provide my direction. Attacks upon His honor will summon my strongest protest and most zealous defense. The implications of Jesus’ demand to deny self are life changing and far reaching, but they are not easy.

## **DENYING SELF REQUIRES SELF-DENIAL**

The daily application of denying self will require the exercise of self-denial and self-control. “But why do you call Me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do the things which I say?” (Luke 6:46). To call Jesus “Lord” means that we have made him our master. That is, we have denied self and surrendered our will to Him. Yet, being free moral agents, there will always be challenges and temptations to assert our own will over His. When our will conflicts with the will of God and the cause of Christ, we must learn to tell ourselves “No!” Consider the following areas where self-denial must be applied.

**1. Ungodliness.** “For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, deny-

ing ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age” (Titus 2:11-12). Ungodliness is defined as wickedness, impiety, a lack of reverence for God, which could be extended to the things of God and the will of God. W.E. Vine defines godliness as “a Godward attitude, does that which is well-pleasing to Him” (272). Thus, ungodliness would be an attitude that leans away from God, does that which angers God, and ultimately brings his wrath (Rom. 1:18). We are to deny ourselves of an attitude that neglects God, and of those things that can lead to such an attitude (2 Tim. 2:16).

**2. Worldly Lusts (Tit. 2:12).** These are the lusts that are aroused by the sinful pleasures of the world (drunkenness, lasciviousness, anger, revenge, covetousness, etc). We must say “no” to the temptation to fulfill the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes (1 John 2:15-17), knowing that worldly lusts war against and will destroy the soul (1 Pet. 2:11).

The works of the flesh are off limits to the Christian (Gal. 5:19-21), and we are to make no provision for them (Rom. 13:14). This means that we will have to deny ourselves of certain activities that arouse the lust of the flesh. We will miss a good number of movies and television programs that promote sin. Our children will not be attending the dances or visiting the popular water parks in the summer where one is exposed to immodesty and lasciviousness. We will not play the lottery or take part in office raffles, as such appeals to covetousness. We will not fight with neighbors across the backyard fence, as such promotes anger and vengeance.

**3. Self Promotion.** Along with lusts of the flesh and eyes, John also said that the “pride of life” was a thing of the world that we are not to love (1 John 2:16). A child of God can and should seek to better himself, but only as it will make him a more capable servant of Christ. Self-promotion for the sake of receiving the praises of men is

***Denying self shifts the focus of one’s entire life. It is no longer about me, my desires, my affections or defending my honor.***

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# Let Him Deny Himself

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10)

an act of self-centeredness, which is the opposite of denying self. The highest position in the kingdom is that of the most humble and selfless servant (Mark 10:42-45).

**4. Liberties and Hindrances.** Self-denial does not apply exclusively to things that are sinful. There are many wholesome and innocent things that a Christian can enjoy, but the Bible makes it clear that such things are to be denied when they come between a Christian and his Lord. When the enjoyment of a liberty causes a weak brother to sin, we are to deny ourselves of that liberty for the sake of our brother. “But beware lest somehow this liberty of yours become a stumbling block to those who are weak. . . . Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never again eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble” (1 Cor. 8:9, 13; c.f. When the enjoyment of an innocent pleasure or pastime hinders us from seeking first the kingdom of God, we must deny ourselves of such things. We are to lay aside every weight and run the race set before us (Heb. 12:1). Jesus leads us through the narrow and difficult way (Matt. 7:13-14). Anything (regardless of how innocent) that keeps us from following him down this path must be denied.

**5. Friends and Family.** It is only natural for one to love his family, and to prefer to spend time with his friends. However, when one becomes a Christian, he places Christ above all others, including family and friends. “He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me” (Matt. 10:37).

In Luke chapter nine, Jesus called a man to follow him. The man replied, “‘Lord, let me first go and bury my father.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and preach the kingdom of God’” (vv. 59-60). Why did the Lord give such a calloused answer to this man? Why wouldn’t the Lord allow him to bury his father? Is it wrong for a disciple to do such? No. The language of the man’s response revealed the fact that his father came before his Lord. As long as this was the case, he could not follow Jesus.

Another man said, “‘Lord, I will follow You, but let me first go and bid them farewell who are at my house.’” Again, he indicated that his family came first. Jesus said to him, “‘No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God’” (vv. 61-62).

There may be occasions when friends and family have expectations of us or make demands of us that conflict with our allegiance to Christ. Refusal to participate in sinful activities, or to join them in gatherings that conflict with times of worship, may draw their criticism. Such pressures may even come from our own home, as a spouse or child does not appreciate the fact that they can not do things that others are doing.

Reunions, family outings, hunting trips, or other activities that are scheduled for the weekend will have to be cut short or missed altogether in order to assemble with the saints on the Lord’s Day (Heb. 10:25). Activities like little league, band, club meetings, working overtime, etc. will be skipped so the family can support the local church’s gospel meeting. Such decisions will make us unpopular, and may have unpleasant consequences, but

a disciple knows that denying self often leads to bearing a cross.

## CONCLUSION

Much has been said about the cost of denying self, but Jesus also made us aware of the price that will be paid by the one who refuses to deny self. “For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?” (Matt. 16:25-26). Any pleasure, honor or comfort gained by refusing to deny self will cause one to lose his eternal soul. The price of denying self may appear to be too high for many today, but there is coming a day in which everyone will be willing to pay it—only then it will be too late.

***“But why do you call Me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do the things which I say?”  
(Luke 6:46)***

# They All Began to Make Excuse

STEVE NIEMEIER

Have you ever sat down at a dinner concentrating on what physical food you were going to be able to consume and come away with “food for the soul” that you did not expect? So it was a dinner served on a Sabbath Day many years ago. In Luke 14 we find Jesus teaching at a dinner which was not an unusual thing for Him. While it seems there may be two separate lessons He is teaching, it seems they are related to address one issue Jesus recognizes is a problem. Let’s take a journey back to that dinner and the events and see what Jesus was teaching and how the lesson still applies to man today.

He was in the house of one of the rulers of the Pharisees to eat bread on the Sabbath. This in itself is somewhat unusual for one who had so much difficulty with many Pharisees. Yet, it is Jesus and He did not limit Himself to where He would go to tell about His purpose. While there a man with dropsy (an issue of water retention in the body that resulted in swollen limbs) was before Him. Jesus deals with the subject of the Sabbath Day and healing. In so doing He silences the audience on any challenges of what He was going to do in healing this man with dropsy being unlawful. Jesus then heals the man. Here is the beginning of an evening of a spiritual feast for those in attendance.

Next, He noted how the guests were choosing the best places at this dinner; He took the opportunity to tell them a parable. The parable was about a wedding feast and how one should not take the seat of high honor. He stated that if you took that seat and you were not supposed to be in that high of a position, you could be asked to move to a lower place. He states that you would then move to the lower seat shamefully. However, if you took the lower seat to start with then, you could be honored by being asked to move to the highest place if that is where you were supposed to be.

It would seem that these two issues would be enough for one to experience at one dinner wouldn’t it? However, this was the Son of God and in only a way that Jesus could do, He then began to talk about who to invite to a dinner or supper. He stated they should not invite their closest

family or rich friends but should invite those that are poor, maimed, and blind. Why? The poor, maimed, and blind could not repay you and your family, friends, and rich neighbors could. Can you imagine this? You should not invite those who could return the favor? If you did not invite your friends and family and invited all those that could not repay you then who would ever invite you? Well, Jesus answers that question by saying you will be repaid at the resurrection of the just. This is an important point for those at the dinner to remember and for us today as well.

***Here we have Jesus at a dinner teaching and every one of His lessons so far has one central theme—humility!***

Here we have Jesus at a dinner teaching and every one of His lessons so far has one central theme—humility! He thought enough about humility to help someone on the Sabbath Day when many may think it unlawful to do so, to sit in the lowest seat so others can be in the higher places, and to invite and serve dinner to those that are poor, maimed, lame, and blind. It seems that Jesus is having a one tracked mind at this dinner doesn’t it? He has humility on His mind and so far all around him are hearing about it!

There is one in every crowd isn’t there? You know who I am talking about—I am talking about the one who always has something to say about whatever is going on. Jesus it seems has controlled the conversation with His teaching on

humility and many may have thought enough is enough. Yet, after hearing Jesus say these things about humility one speaks up and says, “Blessed is he who shall eat bread in the kingdom of God!” This seems like an innocent and profound statement to us doesn’t it? After all, who wouldn’t want to eat bread in the kingdom of God? We all talk about heaven don’t we? It would seem to all of us that we would say a hearty “amen” to this statement and pat the brother on the back who said it, have our closing prayer and move on about our business.

It seems that Jesus had another idea about this statement. It would seem that Jesus thought this statement needed some clarification and an explanation. He proceeds to

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# They All Began to Make Excuse

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12)

teach them another parable. While it may seem that Jesus has switched His theme from humility to excuse making a closer look ties these two together. He is teaching on humility and includes excuse making as a way one fails to humble himself to the Lord and others.

This time (in the words of Leroy Brownlow) He stopped teaching and started “meddling” in peoples business. Jesus gave examples of excuses that people give as reasons they do not fulfill their words of commitment. He tells them a parable about a man who gave a great supper and invited many to participate. It was a custom that the invitations to a great dinner such as this would be sent out well in advance. Then on the appointed day of the dinner and at a time the host determined, he would send his servant to notify those who had been invited that the dinner was ready to be served. This is when the folks started making their excuses. Something else they wanted to do had come in between them and their words of commitment that they would be at that feast when it was time. Do you remember the days when one’s word was as good as his signature? A hand shake was the seal of “it will be done” and it was! Yet, Jesus is teaching in this parable way back before our “good old days” that people were trying to make excuses into reasons for not adhering to their “hand shake.” Now, over 2,000 years later we are still dealing with “Excuse Making Christians” trying to make reasons out of excuses.

Webster gives several definitions of the word excuse. One in particular stands out that really fits what Jesus is teaching in this parable. That definition is “a pretended reason for conduct.” Webster also gives several definitions for the word reason. Two of them together really bring out the meaning “a cause or motive,” “sound thought or judgment; good sense.” This also fits well with what Jesus taught in Luke 14. Jesus states in these three examples that each of them gave a “pretended reason” for their conduct and that none of them gave sound thought or judgment to their motive of declining the invitation. In other words they did not use “good sense” and their cause or motive was to avoid fulfilling their words of commitment.

David J. Riggs (deceased) stated in a lesson entitled “Excuses! Excuses!” that excuse making is very old and common. He brings out how Adam and Eve, the first man and woman made excuses (Genesis 3:9-13). Moses was giving excuses to God about how he would not be a good leader (Exodus 4:1, 10). King Saul (I Samuel 15) gave the excuse that “it’s the people’s fault” and he was the king that all were to be in submission to! None of these “pretended reasons” was given a passing grade by our God in Heaven.

In this parable of the great supper in Luke 14:15-24

Jesus is giving a stern warning to all at the table eating bread with Him and to us centuries later. The lesson is clear, it is just as powerful today as it was then and we all need to heed the warning today as they needed to heed it back then. Unless we humble ourselves to the Lord we will not eat bread in the kingdom of God. Our humility is not shown in our ability to make “pretended reasons” for not doing His will. Our humility is shown by “sitting at the lowest place” and recognizing our duty to serve Him and others in His kingdom and even outside of His kingdom (Gal. 6:10).

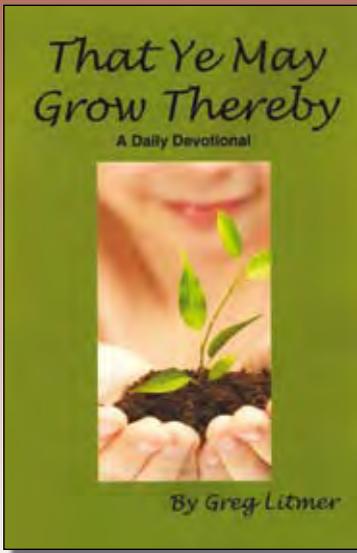
There are over 300 prophecies in the Old Testament that God was going to prepare a special feast by giving His Son as the sacrifice. John 6 contains a message of great importance to us about Jesus and how we are to partake of His blood and body. John 14:6 states that we cannot get to God except through His Son Jesus. Jesus states in John 12:44-50 the importance of listening to the words that God gave Him to speak.

How can we miss the point that God has extended grace (Eph. 2:8-9) to all and invited all (Rev. 22:17) to come and participate in the great feast of salvation that has now come (John 3:16-17; 2 Cor. 6:1-2)?

When one states that he believes Jesus Christ is the Son of God (John 14:11) and makes a commitment to Him by repenting of his sins (Luke 13:3) and meets Him in the watery grave of baptism (Rom. 6:1-14), he has accepted His invitation. This carries with it the responsibility of serving Him with humility (Luke 14:25-35) and giving up the ways

***How many  
“pretended  
reasons”  
of not  
fulfilling our  
commitment  
to the  
Lord have  
we come  
up with  
through the  
years?***

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## They All Began to Make Excuse

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13)

of the past life. We are to constantly be prepared for His return (Matt. 25:13). Our lives may be full of “pretended reasons” when we are walking with Satan but when we walk with the Lord our lives need to be full of “good sense” decisions of readiness for His cause.

How many “pretended reasons” of not fulfilling our commitment to the Lord have we come up with through the years? Surely we do not need to mention all of them as the limitations of space would prohibit us from doing so. If the greatest commandment is to love God and keep His commandments and the second is to love your neighbor as yourself (Matthew 22:37-40) then we should humble ourselves to the will of God and let our words be as solid as the strongest rock (Matthew 5:33-37) and our faith as the mustard seed (Matthew 17:20). If we would follow the instruction of Paul in Philippians 4:8 and spend our time meditating on the proper things then we would not spend our time in vain struggling with what “pretended reason” to come up with next for not living up to our commitment to Christ. It is amazing that when we fail to put God first and our neighbors second how we think we need to make excuses to our brethren for our actions. We fail to realize that our brethren can be blinded by our hypocrisy but our God in heaven is not. Our excuse making abilities, no matter how great they may be do not pass with God in heaven who gave His Son for the sacrifice for the great feast of salvation. Our God knows all and sees all. Have we forgotten the words of Jesus in Matthew 7:21-23?

One closing thought about our “pretended reasons” not to serve the Lord with humility. In today's society we have mastered the ability to twist things to our benefit. When one is guilty of making “excuses” for not serving the Lord and he is confronted with this by a concerned brother or sister in Christ, it seems he likes to “twist” this to attack the good brother or sister who cares about him. He states that this one who cares is “meddling.” In fact, many state that this is a “Pharisaical” attitude. Maybe they missed the lessons given from James 5:19-20 or the lessons on the parable of the lost sheep or lost coin. It could be that he was too busy participating in one of their “pretended reasons” for missing studying and worshipping with his brothers and sisters. It is sad because he will also be left out, like the five foolish virgins (Matt. 25:1-10) when it is time for the final feast in heaven.

So there we have it, Jesus teaching at a dinner and combining the thought that our excuse making is really a lack of humbling our selves to the will of God (Jas. 4:10). Now, just as it was up to those at that dinner it is up to us today to learn from His teaching and apply it to our lives. The invitations have been sent. He is going to come and get us when it is time for the event. He will not back out of His invitation or the event of judgment. Where will we be when He comes? Will we need to come up with a “pretended reason” why we are doing what we are doing? Or, will we be able to say “we are ready” because we are doing what He would have us to do?

# Some Who Made Wrong Choices

DAVID DANN

The Lord expects true devotion from those who would follow him. Numerous passages of Scripture make clear the fact that God will accept nothing less than whole-hearted love and commitment from his children. When questioned as to the greatest commandment in the law, Jesus replied, “You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind” (Matt. 22:37). In order to emphasize the depth of love and commitment he expects of his followers, Jesus said, “If anyone comes to me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple” (Luke 14:26). With regard to the need to devote oneself to the Lord rather than to material things, Jesus said, “So likewise, whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be my disciple” (Luke 14:33). And, with regard to the need to place spiritual matters consistently above physical matters, Jesus said, “No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God” (Luke 9:62). It is obvious that, rather than superficial commitment, the Lord is seeking true, unwavering devotion from the heart on the part of those who would follow him.

The choices one makes often reveal the heart. Our lives are made up of a continuous series of choices that we make each day. While many of our choices may seem small and insignificant, other choices we make have far-reaching consequences and serve to demonstrate our level of commitment to the Lord. It has always been the case that man has been faced the choice to either serve God wholeheartedly or to serve someone or something else. When Israel was presented with the Law of God, Moses instructed them, saying, “I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live” (Deut. 30:19). When Israel took possession of the land of Canaan, Joshua instructed them to “choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve” (Josh. 24:15). The choices we make serve to demonstrate before God and the world just exactly where our devotion lies.

The Scriptures furnish us with examples of those who made decisions which revealed that their devotion to God was something less than it should have been. Furthermore, their wrong choices carried major consequences. What can we learn from the examples of some who made wrong choices? Consider the following individuals:

## Lot

1. Lot pitched his tent toward Sodom. When it becomes obvious that the land cannot support the livestock of both Abraham and his nephew Lot, Abraham gives his nephew the opportunity to make the first choice as to where he would like to dwell (Gen. 13:5-9). Lot sees the well watered areas to the east and decides to choose those areas for himself (Gen. 13:10-11). However, Lot eventually moves into the city of Sodom, whose inhabitants are exceptionally wicked (Gen. 13:12-13). As a result of their wickedness, God decides to destroy the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah, but first warns Lot to take his family and escape to the mountains (Gen. 19:12-13).

In the process of escaping, Lot loses his married daughters and sons-in-law, who don't take the warning seriously (Gen. 19:14), he loses his wife, who looks back at the city instead of obeying the angel's command (19:17, 26), he loses all that he possessed as the city is destroyed by fire and brimstone (19:24-25), and he becomes the center of an immoral scheme devised by his younger daughters (19:30-36). All of this resulted from the wrong choice Lot made in pitching his tent even as far as Sodom.

2. Lot's decision was based on physical, rather than spiritual matters. While the Bible generally refers to Lot as a “righteous man” (2 Pet. 2:8), his decision to move toward Sodom was based upon the appeal of the well watered plain, rather than on righteousness (Gen. 13:10). How many have chosen a mate based upon physical attraction without consideration of spiritual things only to suffer the heartbreak of a failed marriage that will carry lasting negative consequences for all involved? How many

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# Some Who Made Wrong Choices

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15)

of God's children have made career moves based upon the salary and prestige involved and have ended up moving their families to areas where there are no sound churches and few good influences? Any decision that is made without careful consideration as to its spiritual implications is a bad decision.

## SAUL

1. Saul rebelled against the Lord. Shortly after being anointed king of Israel, Saul embarks on a series of wrong choices that eventually lead to his own downfall. When threatened by the Philistines, he chooses to go ahead and offer a sacrifice without waiting for Samuel as he had been instructed (1 Sam. 13:5-14), he fails completely to carry out the will of God when he spares Agag, king of the Amalekites and the best of the plunder (15:1-23), he seeks to destroy David who has been chosen by God to replace him as king (19:10-11), he has the priests of God murdered because he believes they are harboring David (22:16-19), and he even consults a witch in order to learn about his own future (28:3-20). As a result of his constant rebellion God not only takes the kingdom away from Saul, but also causes Saul to be killed in battle with the Philistines (1 Sam. 15:23; 31:1-6). Saul's downfall came as a direct result of his wrong choice to rebel against the God of heaven.

2. Saul's decision was based on a love of self rather than a love of God. Saul rebelled against God simply because he loved himself and chose to serve his own selfish desires rather than to serve God. The Bible instructs the righteous to turn away from those who love themselves to the

exclusion of God and others (2 Tim. 3:1-5). How many churches, families, and individual lives have been wrecked by the impulsive actions of those who have chosen selfishly to do whatever they feel like doing instead of doing the will of the Lord? Any decision that is made out of an effort primarily to please oneself rather than God is sure to be a bad decision.

## SOLOMON

1. Solomon's heart was turned away from God. Solomon's reign as king of Israel begins in promising fashion as he requests wisdom from God (1 Kings 3:1-15) and devotes himself to building the temple of God in Jerusalem (5:1-9:5). But in direct violation of God's law, Solomon marries many foreign women, even amassing for himself a total of seven hundred wives and three hundred concubines (1 Kings 11:1-3). These foreign women, who bring with them foreign gods, turn Solomon's heart away from the true God and turn him to idols, even to the extent that he builds idolatrous shrines for the gods of his wives (1 Kings 11:4-8). As a result of his failure to remain loyal to God, Solomon is informed that the kingdom would be divided and torn away from him and his family (1 Kings 11:9-13). These disastrous results came about as a direct consequence of Solomon's wrong choice in allowing his heart to be turned away from God by foreign women.

2. Solomon's decisions placed earthly pleasure ahead of service to God. Solomon's heart was turned away from God because he clung to his foreign wives rather than clinging to the Lord.

One cannot be a lover of pleasure and a lover of God at the same time (2 Tim. 3:4). How many have become



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# Some Who Made Wrong Choices

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16)

addicted to alcohol, drugs, or pornography out of a desire for temporary, earthly pleasure? How many have been unfaithful to their spouses due to an uncontrolled pursuit of earthly pleasure? Any decision that is made out of a desire for earthly pleasure rather than a desire to please the Lord is a bad decision.

## THE RICH YOUNG RULER

1. The rich young ruler walked away from Jesus. An unnamed young Jewish man of considerable wealth approaches Christ in order to inquire as to what he may do in order to receive eternal life (Matt. 19:16). After being advised by the Lord to keep the commandments of the law, the young man claims to have done so and asks whether there is yet anything else that might be required of him (Matt. 19:17-20). Jesus then informs him that he must sell what he has, give his money to the poor in view of the greater treasure he can expect to have in heaven, and follow him (Matt. 19:21). The Bible then says, "But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions" (Matt. 19:22). This sad result came about as a direct result of the young man choosing to walk away rather than do what Jesus commanded.

2. The rich young ruler's decision placed material things above spiritual things. While the young man's interest in eternal life is commendable, it is unfortunate that he proved to be much more interested in the material things of this life. The Bible warns of the folly of attempting to serve the Lord while also trying to serve material things (Matt. 6:24). Yet, how many Christians have been willing to sit by and offer half-hearted service to the Lord while offering the excuse that their careers demand all of their attention, or that they've got to focus on some great business opportunity? How many parents are teaching their children that secular education, careers, and money are the really important things in life while the Lord's church is secondary? Any decision that emphasizes the importance of material things over spiritual things is a bad decision.

## JUDAS

1. Judas betrayed Jesus. After being handpicked by the Lord himself to serve as one of the twelve apostles of Christ, Judas Iscariot made a series of wrong choices. Judas' covetous ways come to light as it is reported that he held the money box for the Lord and his apostles and was in the habit of stealing the money that was contributed to it (John 12:3-6). He then goes to the Jewish leaders, who are looking for a quiet and convenient way to arrest Jesus, accepts their offer to betray the Lord for thirty pieces of silver (Matt. 26:14-16), and leads a mob to arrest Jesus in the garden in the middle of the night (26:47-50). Once Judas sees that Jesus has been condemned to die his feelings of guilt motivate him to return the money to the chief priests and commit suicide (Matt. 27:3-5). This horrible series of events came about as a result of Judas' wrong choice in allowing greed to motivate him to betray the Lord.

2. Judas' decision was made because he loved money more than he loved the Lord. Though Judas had been in the presence of Christ's power, perfection, and love during the entire course of the Lord's earthly ministry, he chose to turn against him for money. The Bible warns of the disastrous consequences that result from the love of money (1 Tim. 6:9-10). Yet, how many of God's people have fallen prey to the silent sin of covetousness? How many saints have been so busy pursuing the "almighty dollar" that no time or energy is left to pursue Almighty God? Any decision made on the basis of greed is a bad decision.

*How many saints have been so busy pursuing the "almighty dollar" that no time or energy is left to pursue Almighty God?*

## DEMAS

1. Demas forsook the apostle Paul. Though little is known about Demas, it is known that he was a preacher of the gospel, who was considered a "fellow laborer" of the apostle Paul (Phile. 24). It is obvious that Demas, like Luke, traveled with Paul and was with the apostle when he wrote his letters to the Colossians and to Philemon (Col. 4:14). But, sadly, the apostle Paul would later write that, "Demas has forsaken me, having loved

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# Some Who Made Wrong Choices

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17)

this present world, and has departed for Thessalonica” (2 Tim. 4:10). This sad, final mention of Demas in the New Testament came about as a result of his wrong choice in allowing the allure of the world to take him away from the work of the Lord.

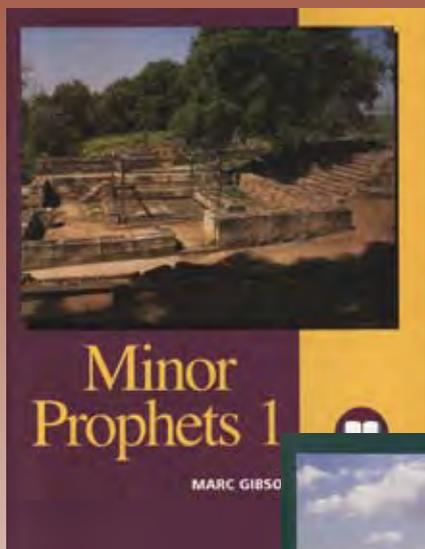
2. Demas’ decision placed his love for the world above his love for God. By choosing the things of the world over the things of the Lord Demas demonstrated that he loved the world more than the Lord. The Bible directly warns against loving the temporary things of the world which would distract one from serving God (1 John 2:15-17). And yet, how many of us constantly immerse ourselves in the fashion, entertainment, and ungodly influences of the world? How many of God’s children fail to act like Chris-

tians because they are too busy trying to look, talk, dress, and act like the world? Any decision that is made out of a love for the temporary things of this world is sure to be a bad decision.

## CONCLUSION

Those who have made wrong choices in the past serve as examples to learn from in view of the choices we all must make now and in the future. One cannot faithfully serve the Lord while making decisions based on some other motive besides a desire to please him. Remember, Christ will accept nothing less than true, wholehearted devotion from those who would follow him.

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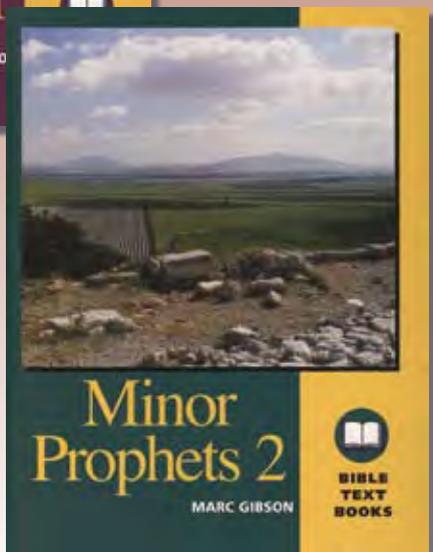
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# “Now I Know That Thou Fearest God”

RON HALBROOK

When God called upon Abraham to sacrifice his only son, Abraham's faith was severely tested, greatly strengthened, and openly demonstrated. The faith of Abraham was tested in two ways throughout his lifetime. God tested his faith in a way designed to strengthen it. Satan tested his faith in a way designed to destroy it. Our faith is tested in the same two ways today.

## **GOD'S COMMAND OR CHALLENGE: A MAJOR TURNING POINT**

The commands and challenges given by God are always designed to purify and strengthen our faith, and to draw us closer to Him. There are times when God's command or challenge marks a major turning point in our lives, demonstrating both to Him and to ourselves our unwavering commitment to serve Him and our firm fidelity to this commitment. When God commanded Abraham to sacrifice Isaac, it was such a watershed occasion.

Fidelity in common daily duties reflects the follow-up decisions or follow-through steps resulting from such momentous occasions. This experience includes fulfilling the smallest or most common duties of each day: being kind and patient with a mate, being honest in making a living even in minor details, and treating other people with courtesy and respect.

Abraham is introduced from the first as a man of obedient faith in God. When God told him to leave his homeland and to journey to an unspecified promised land, “Abram departed, as the Lord had spoken unto him” (Gen. 12:1-4). God promised to form a great nation from Abraham's seed, but when he had no children after several years he proposed to adopt his servant Eliezer. God rejected this plan and renewed his promise to Abraham. “And he believed in the Lord; and he counted it to him for righteousness” (Gen. 15:6). When he still had no son years later, he had Ishmael by his wife's slave, but God rejected this substitution and eventually gave Abraham and Sarah a son, Isaac (Gen. 16; 21). Abraham demonstrated that he lived by obedient faith when at God's command he “offered Isaac his son upon the altar” (Jas. 2:21-23).

## **ABRAHAM'S OBEDIENT FAITH: OFFER HIS ONLY SON TO GOD**

God commanded Abraham to take “thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest” and sacrifice him on a mountain which God would identify in the region of Moriah (Gen. 22:1-2). Without delay, early the next morning Abraham made all necessary preparations and started his journey with Isaac. On the third day God identified the mountain in the distance, and Abraham left his servants behind and took Isaac and the wood necessary for an offering on the last lonely leg of the journey. Isaac innocently asked where was the lamb which was to be offered, and his father answered, “My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering” (Gen. 22:8). He would explain shortly that Isaac was the lamb, but he rationalized that God would raise his son from the dead (Heb. 11:19).

Isaac was a young man who shared his father's faith. When Abraham told him he would be the lamb, he did not deny or defy the divine plan but submitted, lying upon the wood atop the altar. At the last moment, as Abraham readied the knife to strike his son, the angel of the Lord called out and stopped him, explaining, “For now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son from me” (Gen. 22:12). This test proved that “God was Abraham's dearest treasure; God's will, his chief concern” (H.C. Leupold, Exposition of Genesis, II: 628).

By God's providence, in a nearby thicket a lamb was entangled which Abraham offered “for a burnt offering in the stead of his son” (Gen. 22:13). Then he named this mount Jehovah-jireh, “The Lord Will Provide” (Gen. 22:14, NIV). Abraham's obedient faith demonstrated that he “could resign Isaac and yet cling to the promise” of God (Thomas Whitelaw, Genesis: 286 in The Pulpit Commentary, I). Therefore, God repeated and confirmed with an oath what He had promised in Genesis 12:1-3, that He would give Abraham a chosen land, make of him a chosen nation, and “in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed.” When God said this was done “because thou hast obeyed my voice,” this is equivalent to the earlier statement, “And

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he believed in the Lord; and he counted it to him for righteousness” (Gen. 22:18; 15:6; Jas. 2:21-23).

Abraham served God by obedient faith, trusting that God provides all our needs as we submit ourselves to His will. He was determined to obey God at all costs and he named the mount of sacrifice to commemorate God’s providential power in fulfilling His own purposes in our lives as we serve Him. “This was as much to say, When men come to a particular test that God imposes, God helps them in His gracious providence according to their needs” (Leupold, 631).

## **TURNING POINTS IN OUR LIFE OF OBEDIENT FAITH**

God sets before us today commands and challenges which will mark major turning points in our lives. As we make the right choices, we learn to live by obedient faith. Our faith grows through such experiences. Learning to trust in God’s providence, we continue on the path of daily service to God as a result of the watershed decisions which set us in the right direction. If we turn in the wrong direction at crucial crossroads of life, our faith gradually fails us and our daily course takes us further and further away from God.

As we stand at crucial crossroads and major turning points, our choices and conduct demonstrate a life of reverential fear of God, or a failure of our faith in God. God does not accept professed faith without obedience, or outward obedience devoid of genuine trust in Him. God is looking for true, genuine, obedient faith in His Word, in His Son, and in His promises. The Bible records that Abraham’s faith was imputed to him for righteousness because the very same principle applies to us also (Rom. 4:23-25).

## **FEAR GOD: OBEY THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST**

God knows that we fear Him when we obey the gospel of Christ. Our sins demonstrate unbelief, selfishness, and rejection of God. Our sins insult and assault God. They challenge His rule in the moral order of the universe. They are an utter abomination to His holiness and justice. No

wonder the Bible says, “Your iniquities have separated between you and your God” (Isa. 59:2). Our sins declare war on God and make us enemies of God.

The mercy of God provided a sacrifice for our sins as the basis of atonement or reconciliation. “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life” (John 3:16). God offered His Son, his only begotten Son, the Son whom he loved, as a perfect sacrifice on a mountain in the region of Moriah. The Lamb of God willingly submitted to the divine plan and laid down his life for our sins.

Peter confronted the people on the Day of Pentecost with the fact that they “by wicked hands” had crucified the Savior (Acts 2:23). He presented evidence proving that Jesus Christ was risen from the grave and ascended to heaven as “both Lord and Christ” (Acts 2:36). Many of them cried out, “What shall we do?” Peter commanded them, “Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins.” Repent, turn around, make a momentous change! Three thousand people submitted their lives to Christ in baptism (Acts 2:37-41). This was a major turning point in their lives and they would never be the same again.

We too face a crossroads decision in life: Will we obey or reject our Savior?

## **FEAR GOD: YIELD OUR TALENTS TO HIM**

As we become conscious of our talents and opportunities in life, we yield them to God or deny them from God’s use. Some common men learn to do uncommon things in serving God, and some highly talented men waste their lives in selfish sinful pursuits.

When Jesus began to choose men to train as his Apostles, he did not walk the halls of a university graduate school, but he walked the shores of the Sea of Galilee and called four fishermen from their smelly nets: Peter,

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Andrew, James, and John. The words describing their decisions are concise, but the implications for their future lives speak volumes: “they straightway left their nets, and followed him,” “they immediately left the ship. . . , and followed him” (Matt. 4:18-22). Not fully knowing their talents or potential, they simply yielded themselves to the Master Teacher and left the rest to God.

Saul of Tarsus was trained by the best Jewish scholars of his day including the renowned Rabbi Gamaliel, grandson of Hillel the Elder (Acts 22:3). Saul’s future in rabbinic Judaism could not have been brighter. Once he learned the truth of the gospel of Christ, he obeyed it. This once champion of anti-Christ zealotry now yielded every fiber of his being to proclaiming Jesus Christ as the Son of God and Savior of the world (Acts 9:20-22). He counted all his attainments, honors, and prospects as a leader of rabbinic Judaism “but dung, that I may win Christ, and be found in him” and to “share in the fellowship of his sufferings” (Phil. 3:7-11). As he yielded his great talents to Christ, he became in the eyes of many people the scum of the earth “and the off-scouring of all things” (1 Cor. 4:11-13).

Timothy grew up at the feet of a godly mother and grandmother who gave their maternal abilities to the task of teaching this young man “from a child” God’s Word (2 Tim. 3:15). These women made decisions not recorded which were momentous to the spread of the gospel. Paul, who baptized Timothy, saw the potential in this young man and took him as a travel companion to train him as an evangelist (Acts 16:1-3). Timothy was later reminded not to neglect his talents, “the gift that is in thee,” and his opportunities to serve in this great work (1 Tim. 4:12-16). His unrecorded decision steered him in the direction of constant growth, labor, and sacrifice for the cause of Christ. Years later as Paul finished his work, he urged Timothy to do likewise and receive the “crown of righteousness” (2 Tim. 4:1-8).

Through the gospel Christ is calling all of us to yield our talents to his service. He needs godly parents and grand-

parents devoted to teaching their children God’s Word. He needs men and women to teach Bible classes in local churches. He needs men to serve as elders and deacons, and godly wives to hold up their hands. He needs men who will lead songs, lead prayers, and lead at the Lord’s table.

He needs people to scatter the precious seed of his kingdom in a thousand places as our lives come into contact with other people. He needs evangelists to preach among saints and sinners, in local churches and in faraway places. He needs saints to confront sin among his people, to lift up the weary and encourage the discouraged, and “to visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction” (Jas. 1:27). He needs young and old to shine as lights in a world of sin (Matt. 5:14-16).

We today face crucial decisions about the use of our talents: Will we give them to God or waste them in selfish sinful conduct?

## **FEAR GOD: SET PROPER PRIORITIES**

Even before Isaac was born, God saw Abraham’s character, “that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the Lord, to do justice and judgment” (Gen. 18:19). This character was shown from the moment God told him to leave his homeland and relatives to go to “a land that I will show thee. . . . So Abram departed, as the Lord had spoken unto him” (Gen. 12:1-4). The command to sacrifice Isaac was a new and difficult

test, but Abraham had set proper priorities long years before which prepared him to meet this new test successfully by faith in God.

Though Lot maintained his own personal righteousness, he did not have the same priorities as Abraham. When the two men parted ways, the Bible simply says Abraham set his tents at Hebron “and built there an altar unto the Lord,” whereas Lot was attracted to the lush lands of Sodom and Gomorah. “But the men of Sodom were wicked and sinners

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before the Lord exceedingly” (Gen. 13:10-18). Lot did not prosper by dishonesty, but his love of prosperity exposed his family to corrupt influences which had disastrous effects on their lives: His daughters married unbelievers, his wife could not bear to leave Sodom, and his daughters connived to get Lot drunk in order to practice incest (Gen. 19:12-14, 26, 30-38).

Setting proper priorities means God must be first above material prosperity, carnal pleasures, and even family members. Yes, we have material needs, but Christ taught, “But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you” (Matt. 6:33). Yes, we may rightfully enjoy the blessings and pleasures God provides in this life, but first we must love the Lord with every fiber of our being and love our neighbor as ourselves (Matt. 22:37-39). Yes, we must love our families, but when family members resist the truth our love for Christ must be stronger than our love for them (Matt. 10:36-37).

Other than our decision to obey the gospel, the decision which has the greatest impact on our priorities is the selection of a mate. If we marry a faithful Christian, our mate will constantly reinforce our determination to have a Christian home and to make God first in every way. If we marry a person who is not a faithful Christian, try as we may we will struggle constantly in an effort to keep our priorities straight. Even a good moral mate who is not a Christian will have standards, desires, and habits contrary to God’s Word which will influence the family circle, putting the Christian under pressure to yield again and again.

Such decisions as selecting a job and a place to live impact our priorities. Will our decision allow or deny us time to spend with our family? Will our choice accommodate or prevent faithful attendance at worship? Is the community, workplace, or school so exceedingly wicked that it is almost inevitable that it will affect our faith or other family members?

If we truly make the Lord first, this decision transforms our lives from a carnal to a spiritual focus so that we can live in the world without conforming to it (Rom. 12:1-2). This is how we resist and defeat Satan when tempted to drink, gamble, curse, dance, lie, steal, or dress immodestly. If God is first in our home, we will not tolerate such conduct in our teenage children but will lead them in paths

of righteousness. When they ask about attending dances including the prom, the answer will be a firm, “No,” and we will help them find proper alternatives.

As Jesus said, “Ye cannot serve God and mammon,” even so we cannot serve God and sports (Matt. 6:24). God cannot be a “close second” to sports. If God is first in our homes, we will not allow our children to participate in sports to the extent that they cannot prepare lessons for Bible classes, or that they will miss worship services for sports events. When our teenagers insist on wearing immodest dress for sports, the answer must be, “No,” and we will consult the coach to permit proper dress or take them out of the activity. If God is first in our homes, cheerleading with its immodest dress and vulgar dance routines will be out of the question.

When churches hold regular services and gospel meetings, God knows which families are led by men of Abraham’s faith and which are led by men of Lot’s false sense of priority. Lot and his children are often at the ball game “and couldn’t make it” to worship God. There are playoff games and tournaments on the lush fields of Sodom and we do not want our kids “to miss out.”

We make decisions about our priorities which mark major turning points in our lives: Will we make God first in every way or will our love for material things, carnal pleasures, or even family members encroach on our commitment to God?

## “NOW I KNOW THAT THOU FEAREST GOD”

Like Abraham we face commands and challenges given by God which test our faith in Him. These tests are designed by God to strengthen and fortify our faith, and to make us better servants to Him. The command to sacrifice Isaac was such a test. Abraham’s response was immediate. He put his trust in God and prepared to offer his son, his only son, whom he loved. Then God said, “Now I know that thou fearest God.”

God Himself demonstrated such great love for us when He gave His only begotten Son to die on the cross for our sins.

How do we respond when our faith and love for God are tested? Can He say of each of us, “Now I know that thou fearest God”?

# Using My Time For God

MATT ALLEN

We are a busy society. So busy in fact, that there are a growing number of businesses that provide services to individuals and small business owners to help them with their mundane chores. Need to walk your dog, but short on time? Have clothes that need to be delivered to and picked up from the dry cleaner? Maybe your yard needs to be mowed, or you need some dinner plans to be arranged at your favorite restaurant. Perhaps you need to write thank you notes for some gifts you recently received, or sit on hold with the credit card company to discuss problems with your account. You can now hire someone to do all these chores for you. That's right; personal assistants are no longer just for the wealthy and privileged. One expert has calculated that such services are affordable to anyone who makes over \$30,000 per year. On June 25, an Associated Press article quoted Andrea Forker, 28, who has used a virtual assistant for several years now: "These are the little nagging things that really (take) up your time. For what I consider my time is worth per hour, what they save adds up to hundreds or even thousands of dollars in the long run. I can give my undivided attention to my job." The article goes on to say that the cost is affordable and a small price to pay to free up time, "even in a sputtering economy" (Conroy, 2008).

Go inside any bookstore these days and take a look at the self-help section. A large section of space will feature books that contain strategies for improved time management. Franklin Covey, Day Planner, and other companies make millions on providing tips for prioritizing and scheduling. Their revenues will only continue to grow, as Americans are obsessed with making the most of their time. Many feel their lives are out of balance. Others are burned out, full of anxiety and worry. The stress can be

likened to a giant vice that continually presses us from all sides. We seem to have so many priorities in life that it is almost impossible to juggle them all. We pride ourselves on multi-tasking. We even multitask while on vacation. Instead of using precious time to rest, relax, and recharge, we jam pack activity after activity; and when we return home we complain that we need a vacation from our vacation!



What is the cure? How do we get hold of one of our most precious nonrenewable resources? God's self help book, the Bible, contains some practical answers—answers that New Testament Christians need to not only read and meditate on, but apply. Paul wrote, "Be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, making the most of your time, because the days are evil" (Eph. 5:15-16, NASU). What must we realize if we are to redeem the time in a way that glorifies God?

Time is a precious gift from God and must be used wisely. In his sermon in Athens Paul preached, "(God) is not far from each one of us, for in Him we live and move and exist" (Acts 17:27b-28). God is the giver of life, therefore the years we have are a gift from Him. Time is an element that is

intricately associated with everything we do in this life. We cannot create it. We cannot get it back once it has been spent. Therefore we must take it to heart and exhibit wisdom. "Teach us to number our days, that we may present to You a heart of wisdom" (Ps. 90:12).

In Genesis 5 the divine record states that Methuselah lived 969 years. Wow! Imagine what you would do with 969 years! Think of the free time you would have! We

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may think that having so many years might allow us to stretch out all the important tasks we need to accomplish. It is interesting to note, however, that every Scripture, which contains information on Methuselah, leaves out the details of how he spent those years. Now, compare Methuselah's 969 years to the thirty-three that Jesus lived. Who accomplished the most? Someone has said, "We live in deeds, not years; in thoughts, not breaths; in feelings, not figures on a dial."

How do we exercise wisdom with the time we have? The key lies in proper prioritizing and planning. Just as the faithful steward of financial resources lives by powerful principles and laid out plans, so must we if we wish to get a handle on how our time goes by. For example, I know of some families who are constantly worried about their finances. There is never enough money to go around. When talking to them, I usually hear, "I just don't know where it all goes." "I can't seem to get a handle on it." "I need more income to meet all the expenses I have." When you ask if they have a budget the answer is usually "no." But, when budgeting principles are applied and families start to manage their money around important priorities, the transformation is amazing. I have heard some remark that they feel as if they received a raise, simply because they now have control over their money. They know where the money goes and plan how every dollar is spent. The answer is not always more income. The same principles are applicable to time management. How many haphazardly live each day, with little forethought and planning? And, then say, "I just don't know where it all goes." "I can't seem to get a handle on it." "I need more time to meet all the responsibilities I have." The answer is not always more time.

Sit down and make a list of the top priorities in your life. Which one should be first? Jesus has placed the spiritual at the top. "Seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you" (Matt. 6:33). Family, career, and other priorities must come after the spiritual. Once you have your priorities in place, take a few moments at the beginning of each week and plan around these priorities. Make a daily "to do" list that lays out tasks one by one. You can choose how much detail to place on the daily list. Place some small tasks

on the list, and as you go through the day, mark them off as they are completed. You will be amazed at how much better you feel when you are able to look at what you have accomplished.

We must take a serious look at the amount of time we spend on the spiritual. Many of us will agree that the top priorities in life should center on our spiritual life and family. Some just have a hard time in application. And, their spiritual life is slowly being choked out. In the parable of the sower, Jesus spoke of disciples who allow the cares of this world to carry them away. He said, "Others fell among the thorns, and the thorns came up and choked them out" (Matt. 13:7). In explaining the parable, Jesus teaches, "the one on whom seed was sown among the thorns, this is the man who hears the word, and the worry of the world and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word and it becomes unfruitful" (Matt. 13:22). Is your spiritual life being choked out by worldly concerns? Today, families regularly struggle with how to fit everything in. Worldly demands can be intense. We must learn to say "no." If "no" is not possible, then we must find a way to work the urgent items around the top priorities in life. Spiritual and family priorities must be nonnegotiable. Some things in life, no matter how urgent, amount to little in the overall scheme of things.

The things one spends his time doing reflects what he loves the most. Whether it is the desire to play golf on a beautiful Sunday morning, to entertain visitors who come in over the weekend, consistently taking the overtime our employer offers on Sunday, or even our children's involvement in school activities, we must not let these things take precedent over our relationship with God. What we do is a reflection of our heart. Solomon said, "Watch over your heart with all diligence, for from it flow the springs of life" (Prov. 4:23).

One area where I have personally experienced godly principles come in conflict with the world is with parents who allow their children to miss services in order to participate in sports. Playing sports is a good thing. It teaches kids the value of teamwork, hard work, and

*The things one spends his time doing reflects what he loves the most.*

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sacrifice. It is great to share in the thrill of victory and the agony of defeat with your kids. Watching kids play football, basketball, soccer, etc. can be a wonderful way to provide lasting memories for your family. Both of my children are involved in sports. My daughter (a seventh grader) is involved in two school sports and plays with a local soccer club that travels to play teams across Indiana and the Midwest. My son (a third grader) plays football and soccer. Sometimes, my wife and I feel completely swamped when running both kids to practice and games at different locations on the same day. Add in training sessions during the week, and things can get really hectic. For the last two years I have served as team manager for my daughter's soccer team. Each fall and spring our league schedules a number of games on Sunday. At league meetings, I have voiced objections to this and at the start of every season see promises of change go unfulfilled. As team manager, I have an opportunity to reschedule or change the time of Sunday games. In my experience, I have yet to find an opponent balk at changing a game time on Sunday to allow families to attend worship services. I have never had a parent on our team object to not playing a soccer game on a Sunday morning. Most people do not like playing on Sunday. But, no one says anything about it. The point? Christians need to stand up and voice objections to games being played during times of worship. Too often, we feel powerless and say nothing. What would happen if more of us spoke up? Going along with this is another important matter to consider. At the beginning of every season, parents need to be upfront with coaches in letting them know that there are blocks of time on Sunday and Wednesday when their child will be unavailable for practice and/or games. Explain to your coach that the spiritual is the first priority and assure them that you will do your best to be present at all the practices/games that do not conflict with worship services or Bible class. Most coaches will appreciate your honesty and work with you. You just have to speak up. If you are worried about the situation, pray about it. Seek God's help. If your team will not work with you, then it may be best that you not be involved with them.

Parents, we only get our kids once. We teach our children through our actions. Are we allowing the spiritual to be choked out by the physical? What are we teaching our children about what is most important? Sports or God? Homework or doing Bible class lessons? Time in prayer, meditation, spiritual devotion, or watching television/

playing video games? In a few short years, some parents may find themselves crying tears of grief when their children could care less about God and there is nothing to blame but mixed up priorities and an inconsistent message.

When taking a serious look at the spiritual, we realize the need for discipline. Paul wrote, "Discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness; for bodily discipline is only of little profit, but godliness is profitable for all things, since it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come" (1 Tim. 4:7b-8). He then speaks of the need to be an example in "speech, conduct, love, faith and purity" (4:12). "Take pains with these things, be absorbed in them . . . pay close attention to yourself . . . persevere in these things" (4:15-16). Later, in his last written epistle, Paul wrote the following to Timothy: "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth" (2 Tim. 2:15). Following through on these expectations will involve proper time management. It means that we commit ourselves to limiting wasteful expanses of time watching television and surfing the Internet. There is no spiritual growth in these!

I would like to close by taking a look at the story of the rich man in Luke 12:13-21. The crops of the rich man were plentiful and yielded so much that his barns could not contain them all. He decides to build more so that in time he will be able to "take (my) ease, eat, drink, and be merry" (Luke 12:19). That night, God required his soul and Jesus summarizes an important lesson in verse 21: "so is the man who stores up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God." The rich man let the urgent cause him to neglect the important. Those crops were plentiful. He needed larger barns. He had to get that done, now! If he didn't get his barns enlarged, his crops would spoil. He desired many goods, to eat, and to relax. The urgent crowded out that which was important: his soul and serving God. Isn't it interesting that just after this Jesus talks about worry (12:22-34)? What are we often worried about in life? We must not neglect the important things!

Make time to be holy! Build some time in your life where you concentrate on the spiritual. "Be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, making the most of your time, because the days are evil" (Ephesians 5:15-16).

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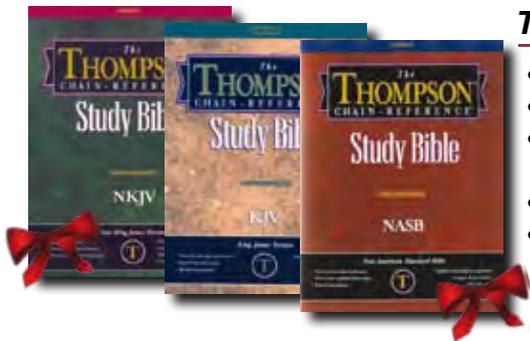
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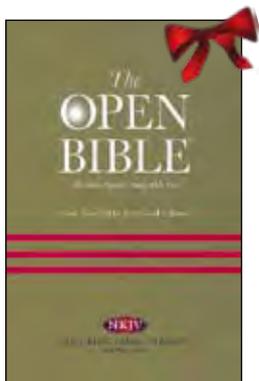
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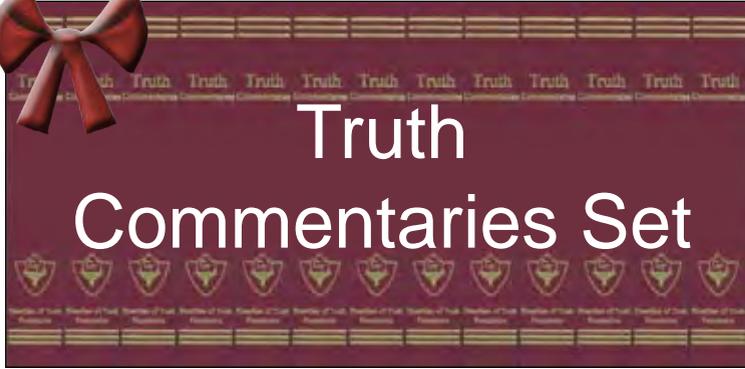
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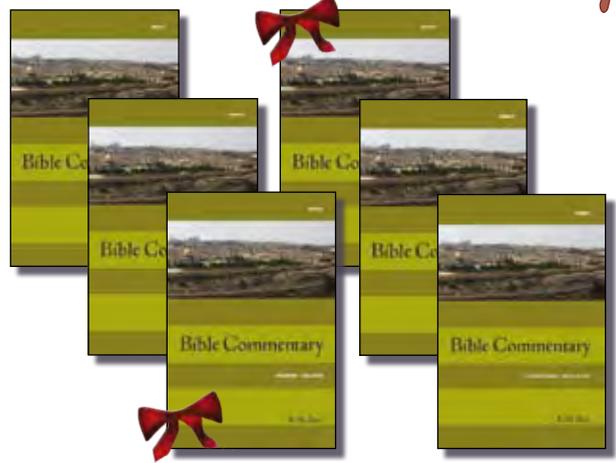
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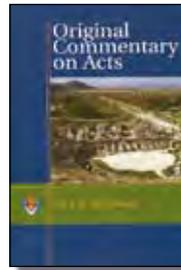
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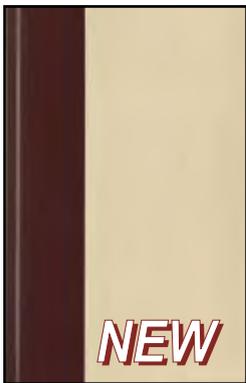
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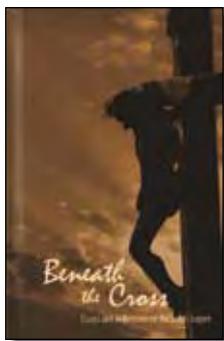


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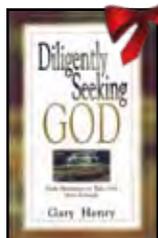


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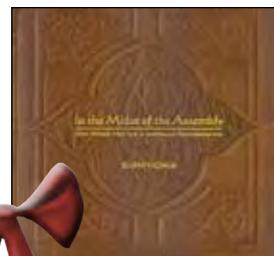
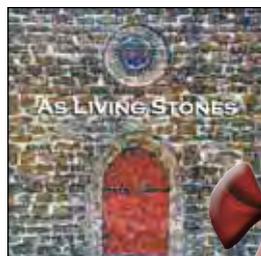
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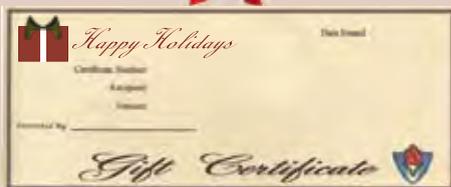
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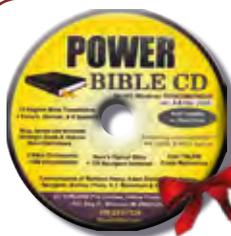


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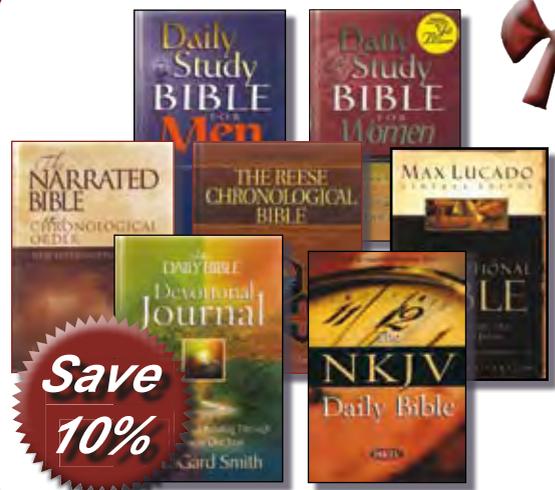


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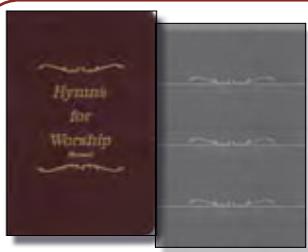
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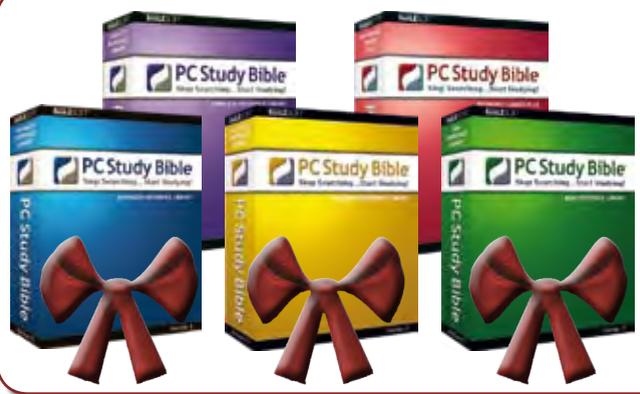
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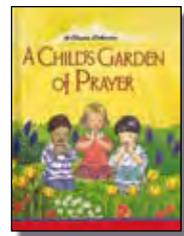
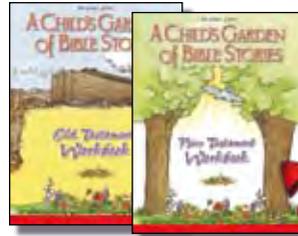
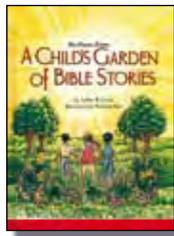
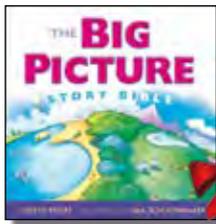
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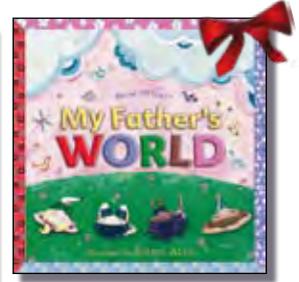
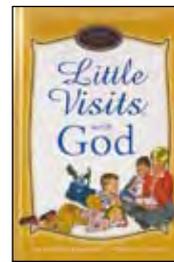
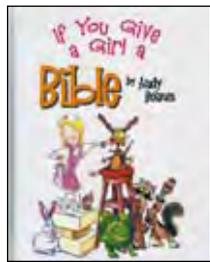
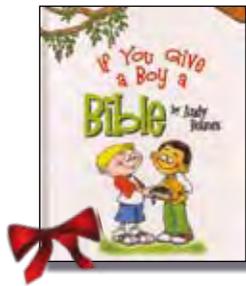
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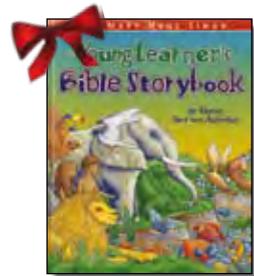
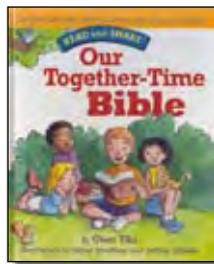
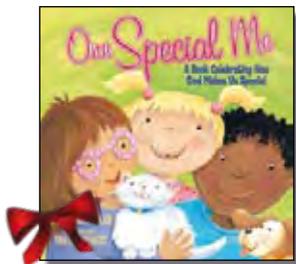
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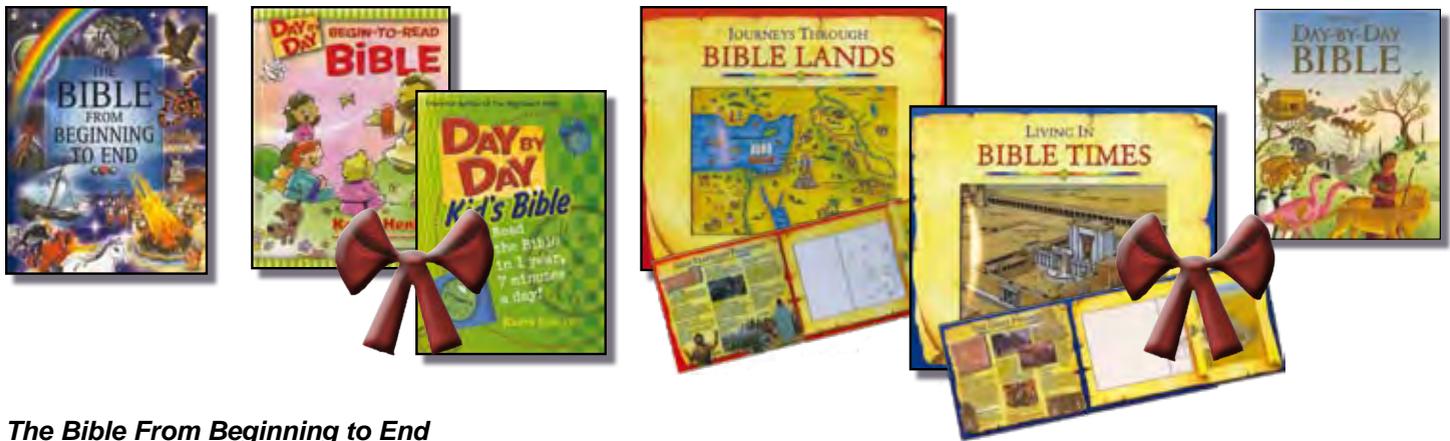
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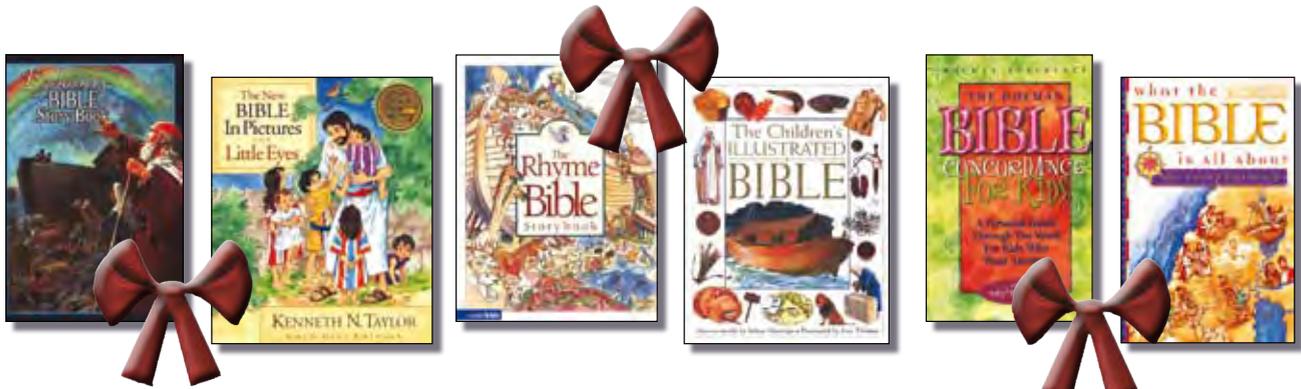
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# Serving God With Our Wallets

STAN ADAMS

God has always required His people to honor Him with their earthly goods. Soon after Adam and Eve sinned in the garden we read of Cain and Abel offering sacrifice to God. God did not accept just any sacrifice. He wanted the best. Any attempt man has made to offer God seconds has met with God's displeasure. It is no less true today.

As part of Adam's punishment for sin in the garden God told him that no longer would the earth bring forth freely but that he would have to work hard to bring forth food for his family and himself (Gen. 3:17-19). God wants man to work to sustain his life while on this earth. In fact Paul states in 2 Thessalonians 3:10, "When we were with you we gave you this command that if any would not work neither should he eat."

The principle of working for what we have is a part of God's divine wisdom for us. We all know that we always seem to appreciate more those things we have labored for than we do those things that were given to us. There is a certain satisfaction in working for what we have.

It also helps us to understand that we did not create what we have and that all we are fortunate enough to possess while in this life is a blessing from God, not from our own hands.

There are many other uses God has given us for our money and goods that we accumulate. Let's consider them

**1. Taxes.** Jesus stated in Matthew 22:21, "Render to Caesar the things which are Caesar's and unto God the things that are God's." According to this verse I am to willingly pay my taxes. It does not matter whether or not

I agree with how "Caesar" spends them. I am to support the government in which I live and abide by the laws of it. To refuse to do so is to violate God's will and sin. If Jesus could command paying taxes to Caesar during the period of the Roman Empire (as decadent a society and government as it was), then we must also "render to Caesar" as we are commanded by God.

**2. Making a Living and Helping Others.** We are commanded in Ephesians 4:28, "Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labor, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needs." Galatians 6:10 and James 1:27 also command the individual to take care of the needs of others as he has opportunity and as he is able. This is to be in addition to what a Christian gives to the Lord on the first day of the week.

As Christians make out their budgets they should never forget to budget for benevolent help for those who may have needs on a daily basis. This is part of being a good steward. In addition many congregations do not have collective funds to support every gospel preacher that sends a letter of support, but nothing precludes us as individuals from supporting individual preachers or from contributing part of our personal funds to other struggling congregations. Of course, this should be in addition to giving as we prosper to support the local congregation where we worship. This individual evangelism is thoroughly authorized by the passages above.

**3. Give of Our Means on the First Day of the Week.** All Christians are commanded by God in 1 Corinthians 16:1, 2 to give on the first day of the week as God has



CONTINUED ON PAGE 34

# Serving God With Our Wallets

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 33)

prospered them: “Now concerning the collection for the saints as I have given order to the churches of Galatia even so I do to you. Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store as God has prospered him that there be no gatherings when I come.” In 2 Corinthians 9:6-8 we read, “...he who sows sparingly shall reap sparingly: and he which sows bountifully shall reap also bountifully. Every man according as he has purposed in his heart, so let him give, not grudgingly or of necessity: for God loves a cheerful giver and God is able to make all grace abound to you; that you always having all sufficiency in all things may abound to every good work.” The work of the local church, being threefold (evangelism, edification, and limited benevolence) relies on the free will offerings of the brethren for the carrying out of its mission. When we give our funds to God into the treasury of the local church we do not have the right to earmark our giving. The monies collected are to be used for the three works of the local church and nothing else. It is up to the elders to distribute those funds and once we give those funds to the local church they belong to God and His work. We relinquish all rights to such funds. In the Old Testament, tabernacle worship as well as the sustaining of the tribe of Levi, was accomplished through the tithing of the other tribes. Our attitude when giving on the first day of the week must be how much can I do and not how little can I get by with. When we first give ourselves to the Lord we will have this attitude. God wants the first fruits of our giving.

**4. Take Care of Parents.** 1 Timothy 5:4 teaches that children are charged by God with “requiting” their parents if need be. The text says, “But if any widow has children or nephews, let them learn first to show piety at home and to requite their parents for that is good and acceptable before God.”

The Greek word for “requite” is amoibe which means “to repay of recompense.” Our parents sacrificed much for our raising and if they need our help as they get older we are to be ready and willing to step up and care for

them. They are also to be willing to submit to such action, because it is commanded of God for children to do this. So many times parents who need the help of their children grow fiercely independent and view any offer of help as an affront to their independence. Submission to the authority of God dictates that those needing help submit to God’s plan for such help.

**5. If Possible Leave Something Behind for Children.** 2 Corinthians 12:14 says, “Behold the third time I am ready to come to you; and I will not be burdensome

***Our parents sacrificed much for our raising and if they need our help as they get older we are to be ready and willing to step up and care for them.***

to you: for I seek not yours, but you: for the children ought not to lay up for the parents, but the parents for the children.” Paul considered the Corinthian brethren his “children.” He feels that he should be laying up for them instead of them continuing to help him. He states this truism “the parents should lay up for the children,” to illustrate how he feels. After we have labored on this earth we accrue an inheritance that generally we will leave to our children. We call this an “estate.” It is proper that children benefit from these things, but it is not proper that children argue, fuss, and divide the family over things that they did not labor to have. Parents should teach their children not to be covetous of any earthly possessions. Hard feelings and strife can be the result of covetous children demanding that for which they did not labor. It would be better for parents to will everything they have to others rather than have their

children create rifts that will last for generations over “things.”

**6. Provide for Our Retirement Years.** Practically, under the umbrella command of providing for our own, we must all realize that retirement years are coming and so we can to put aside a little to take care of ourselves as we get older. In the United States we pay what is called Social Security which has been the sole source of support for many in former years as they have aged. With the present economy, future generations will be lucky if they

CONTINUED ON PAGE 35

# Serving God With Our Wallets

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 34)

ever see a dime of the funds they have in Social Security. It is responsible stewardship to do what we can to save for our golden years. However, we must not become misers to accomplish such. We must not hold back from these other obligations we have in order to hoard up great fortunes to ourselves that we may die before ever realizing any benefit from (Luke 12:16-21). Laying up for yourself and cheating God is a sin. How much good could be done in the Lord's church if brethren with the funds would release some of those monies to support preachers or for individuals to pay off the small balances on the buildings of struggling brethren? Gospel preachers can be supported by individuals. Why let your money perish with you when there is so much good that can be done with it?

We have seen that virtually every use of our funds is for two purposes: (1) to sustain us while we live here and (2) so we can have to give to God and to others. Herein lies the servant aspect of how we possess our wallets. Christians are to be wise givers. We will never achieve a higher calling in the kingdom of the Lord than the position of servant.

A word of caution to churches is in order. Brethren, there is no authority for any church to accrue massive bank balances for no purpose. Certainly if there is some project that is being planned then perhaps there can be some saving up, but holding big balances in our bank accounts does not please the Lord. Preachers are lacking support everywhere. The gospel needs to be preached and there are men willing to do it, but many brethren are more concerned with how much they can save for the Lord than they are over leaving undone the vital works for which those funds are collected. The Lord will not be pleased nor will He honor brethren who hoard money seemingly with the idea that the Lord holds them accountable for how big their balance is!

Let us all take heed to these passages that address the dangers the misuse of money provides.

1 Timothy 6:6-10—"... but godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world and it is certain that we will carry nothing out. And having food and raiment let us therewith be content. But they who are minded to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in

destruction and perdition. For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows."

1 Timothy 6:17-19—"Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not high-minded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy; that they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate; laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life."

Matthew 13:22—"He that receives seed among the thorns is he that hears the word and the care of this world and the deceitful of riches, choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful."

Luke 12:22-30—"... take no thought for your life what you shall eat of for your body what you will put on. The life is more than meat and the body is more than clothes. Consider the ravens: for they neither sow nor reap... and God feeds them how much more are ye better than the fowls? And which of you by taking thought can add to his stature one cubit? If you are unable to do that which is least, why take thought for the rest? Consider the lilies of the field, they toil not, nor spin and yet Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. If then God so clothes the grass... how much more will He clothe you, O you of little faith? And seek not what you will eat or drink, neither be of a doubtful mind. For all these things

do worldly nations seek after and your Father knows you have need of these things."

Let us all heed the wise words of Psalms 37:16; 39:6; 49:16-20; 52:7; 62:10; Proverbs 11:4; 13:7-8; 23:4-5; 28:11; Proverbs 30:8, 9—"Remove far from me vanity and lies; give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with the food convenient for me: lest I be full, and deny Thee and say, Who is the Lord? Or lest I be poor and steal and take the name of my God in vain."

Ecclesiastes 5:13-20—"There is a sore evil I have seen under the sun namely, riches kept for the owners hurt. But those riches perish by the evil travail and he begets a son, and there is nothing in his hand. As he came from the womb, so shall he return as he came, and shall take nothing of his labor, which he may carry away in his

***Why let  
your money  
perish with  
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# Serving God With Our Wallets

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hand. And this is a sore evil that in all points as he came so shall he go and what profit has he that has labored for the wind? All his days he eats in darkness, and he has much sorrow, and wrath with his sickness. I have seen that it is good and comely for a man to eat and drink and enjoy the food of all his labor that he takes under the sun all the days of his life, which God gives him for it is his portion. Every man also to whom God gives riches and wealth and has given him power to eat thereof and to take his portion and rejoice in his labor; this is the gift of God. For he shall not much remember the day of his life; because God answers him in the joy of his heart.”

## CONCLUSION

Let us all remember that every good and perfect gift comes from above (Jas. 1:17). If we are fortunate enough to have riches, let us use them to the glory of God and not be miserly and covetous with the blessings of God. Let us maintain the servant spirit and do good with all that we have while we are on this earth.

Let us also remember that when we serve God as He commanded (even with our riches), we will always have

the things necessary to sustain our lives. We may not have abundance but we will have enough and like Paul we must be content in whatever state we may find ourselves in (Phil. 4:12). Let us all “seek the kingdom of God and His righteousness first, and all these things will be added to us” (Matt. 6:33).

My father related to me a story about a man who moved up in position in his company but never moved from his neighborhood. He was asked why he didn't “keep up with the Jones's” and he replied, “Why should I? In my neighborhood I am Jones.” We should never make the accruing of riches and the pride that it can bring our goal in life. We need to keep our feet on the ground no matter what our position in life.

Reflect on what the Psalmist said as we seek to be servants with our wallets, “I have been young and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread” (Psa. 37:25).

Work to sustain yourself, your family and have enough to give to God and to others. This is true service to God with our wallets.

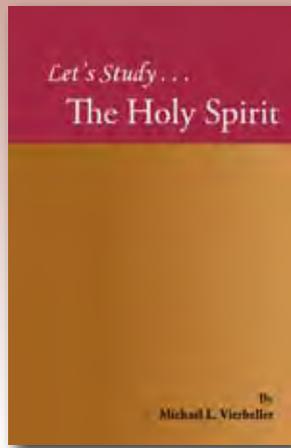
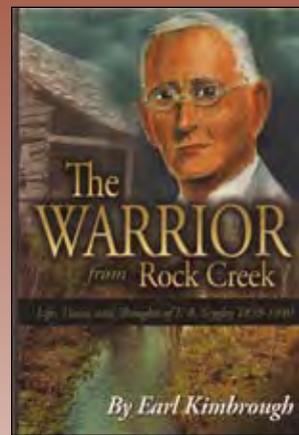
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# Teaching One's Children to Love God

MARK MAYBERRY

In Deuteronomy 6:4-5, Moses said, "Hear, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord is one! You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might." Quoting these words, Jesus Christ declared that loving God is the greatest commandment (Matt. 22:34-40; Mark 12:28-34; Luke 10:25-29).

Many parents are not raising godly children. They may be raising good athletes, good students, good workers, good neighbors, good citizens, but not children who are spiritually-minded. How do we teach our children to love God? How do we communicate spiritual values from one generation to the next? The answer is found through considering the context of Moses' original commandment, and also in reflecting upon the subsequent admonitions of Jesus Christ.

## ADMONITIONS OF MOSES

**Teach.** Fulfilling the Great Commandment requires teaching (Deut. 6:7-9). Such was the duty of Moses (Deut. 5:22-33), the priests (Deut. 33:8-11; cf. Ezek. 44:23), and also the parents (Deut. 11:18-21; cf. Eph. 6:4; 2 Tim. 1:5; 3:14-17).

**Remember.** Fulfilling the Great Commandment requires remembering (Deut. 6:10-12). The people of God must not forget (Deut. 4:9, 23; 8:11-14), but remember God's power and provision (Deut. 7:17-19; 8:2, 18), and also their former servile and sinful condition (Deut. 5:15; 15:15; 24:18; 9:7-8; 24:8-9).

**Fear.** Fulfilling the Great Commandment requires fearing (Deut. 6:13-16; cf. Eccl. 12:13-14). Reverential fear is characteristic of the righteous (Gen. 22:9-13; 2 Cor. 6:14-7:1), but not of the wicked (Deut. 25:17-19; Ps. 36:1-4). Fearing God is the duty of commoners (Deut. 10:12-13, 20-21) and kings (Deut. 17:14-20). It is communicated through precepts (Deut. 6:1-2, 24), sacrifices (Deut. 14:22-27), and feasts (Deut. 31:9-13).

**Obey.** Fulfilling the Great Commandment requires obeying (Deut. 6:17-19). The necessity of obedience is repeatedly affirmed in the Mosaic Dispensation (Deut. 4:1-2; 7:11; 8:6; 11:1, 13-14, 22-23) and also in the Gospel Age (John 14:15, 21, 23; 15:10; 1 John 5:3; 2 John 6).

**Repeat.** Fulfilling the Great Commandment requires repeating (Deut. 6:20-25). God's mighty works and word must be continually retold (Exod. 12:23-27; 13:14-16; Josh. 4:1-7; 1 Sam. 7:12-13). Negligence yields disastrous and fatal consequences (Judg. 2:6-10; 1 Sam. 2:12-17, 22-25; Jer. 9:1-3).

## ADMONITIONS OF JESUS

Holy Scripture demands that we love God with our entire being (Matt. 22:34-40; Mark 12:28-34; Luke 10:25-28). This involves the whole of man's four powers: his heart, mind, soul, and strength. While there is some overlap, each word has a distinct meaning.

### HEART

Are we teaching our children to love the Lord with all their heart? The Greek word translated "heart" conveys several meanings. Literally, it refers to the blood pump of the body, and is thus regarded as the seat of physical life. Figuratively speaking, it also represents the center of one's spiritual life.

Faith devoid of emotion is not true faith. Our Lord will not accept hearts that are dull (Matt. 13:13-15) and distant (Matt. 15:7-9). Empty, ritualistic service will not suffice (Matt. 6:7). While all things must be done decently and in order (1 Cor. 14:40, 33), true worship is a heart-felt experience (Ps. 42:1-2; 84:2; 143:6; John 4:23-24). Old Testament prophecy repeatedly foreshadowed the joy of the Messianic age (Isa. 42:10-11; 54:1; 61:7, 10; Jer. 31:12; Zeph. 3:14-15; Zech. 2:10-11; 9:9).

Are the eyes of your heart enlightened, so that you know the hope of your calling (Eph. 1:18-21)? Does Christ dwell in your heart by faith, and are you rooted and grounded in love (Eph. 3:14-19)? In worshipping God in song, do you make melody with your heart to the Lord (Eph. 5:18-21)? Engaged in your daily affairs, do you offer faithful service, doing the will of God from the heart (Eph. 6:5-8)? Interacting with fellow-disciples, do you comfort the hearts of your brethren (Eph. 6:21-24)?

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# Teaching One's Children to Love God (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 37)

## MIND

Are we teaching our children to love the Lord with all their mind? The Greek word translated “mind” refers to one’s intellect, disposition, or thought. It includes the faculty of reasoning and reflection, comprehension, and understanding.

Faith devoid of a solid intellectual foundation is not true faith. A lack of knowledge has always been an occasion of stumbling for the people of God (Isa. 1:1-3; 5:13-14; Hos. 4:6). Ignorance is no excuse (Acts 17:30-31; Eph. 4:17-19; 1 Pet. 1:14-16).

Christ’s Covenant is a religion of the mind (John 6:44-45; Heb. 8:10; 10:15-17). Peter sought to stimulate his readers to wholesome thinking (1 Pet. 1:13; 2 Pet. 3:1-2). John said, “We know that the Son of God has come, and has given us understanding so that we may know Him who is true” (1 John 5:20).

Do you examine the Scriptures daily to prove the things that you have been taught (Acts 17:11)? Are you prepared to give account of the hope that is in you (1 Pet. 3:15), effectively answering each person (Col. 4:6)? Are you able to handle aright the word of truth (2 Tim. 2:15-18), gently correcting those who are in error (2 Tim. 2:24-26)?

## SOUL

Are we teaching our children to love the Lord with all their soul? The Greek word translated “soul” refers to one’s breath, life, or soul. Depending upon the context, different meanings are conveyed. Sometimes, it simply refers to a person, with no distinction made between the inner and outer man. However, in recognition that man—composed of flesh and spirit, body and soul—enjoys a dual nature, the word also refers to the inner spiritual man. Here the meaning appears general.

Faith that does not encompass all of life is not true faith. Loving God and obeying his voice is the essence of life itself (Deut. 30:19-20; 32:44-47; Eccl. 12:13-14). Through

obedience to the gospel, we die to the old man of sin and self, and are raised to walk in newness of life (Rom. 6:3-7; 2 Cor. 5:17). After conversion, our life should be one of selfless service (Gal. 2:20), and reoriented focus (Col. 3:1-4).

## STRENGTH

Are we teaching our children to love the Lord with all their strength? The Greek word translated “strength” refers to one’s power or might. How are we using our God-given talents and abilities?



Faith devoid of energy is not true faith. As king Josiah served God with all his might (2 Kings 23:24-25; 2 Chron. 34:29-33), we must do the same (Eccl. 9:10; Rom. 12:9-13; Col. 3:22-25). Non-committal, wavering, half-heartedness is wholly unacceptable (Josh. 24:14-28; 1 Kings 18:20-21; Rev. 3:15-19). Divine power is evidenced in the heavenly realm (2 Thess. 1:6-10; Rev. 5:11-14; 7:9-12), and may also be observed in the human realm, as we faithfully serve the Lord (Eph. 1:18-21; 6:10-17; 1 Pet. 4:10-11). Nevertheless, humility is demanded. Though we serve God with all our strength, we must not

depend upon our own might (Eccl. 9:10-12; 1 Cor. 1:26-31). God provides renewed strength to those who faithfully wait upon Him (Isa. 40:27-31).

Children learn through verbal instruction and visual observation. Is the love of God reflected in our words and deeds? Are we teaching our children on a daily basis? Do we remind them of the wondrous ways of God? Do we manifest reverential fear? Are we obedient to his Holy Word? Is God’s love seen in our emotions and attitudes, intellect and beliefs, life and personality, might and ability? May our love for God grow with each passing day. May God bless us as we instill such love in the hearts of our children.

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# If the Salt Has Lost Its Savor

JOHN HUMPHRIES

“Salt is good; but if the salt has lost its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is neither fit for the land nor for the dunghill, but men throw it out. He who has ears to hear let him hear” (Luke 14:34-35)!

Jesus often used very familiar images and illustrations to convey extraordinary lessons. In these verses, our Lord used the ordinary, but valuable, commodity of salt to emphasize his teaching concerning committed discipleship. Salt can teach us important lessons concerning the importance of the Christian’s influence and its impact upon those around us.

Salt served a useful, even critical, purpose in the hot climate of the Middle East long before the discovery of electricity and the invention of refrigeration. Even in modern times, salt is still useful for curing and preserving food. Salt is not only useful for preserving food, but it also gives good flavor for taste as well (Job 6:6). The ancients used salt on newborn babies to clean them after birth (Ezek. 16:4). Sacrifices were “salted with salt” for emphasis upon the personal, enduring commitment in the offerings made unto the Lord (Lev. 2:13). A “covenant of salt” was a permanent agreement that was not to be renege upon (Num. 18:19). Even in more modern times, some in the Middle East will bond a guest under their protection by sharing salt in a meal together. Ezra speaks of a “salt” (ASV) “obligation” of loyalty to the king (cf. NIV). The oxen were fed “cured fodder” that may have been seasoned with salt (Isa. 30:24). Thus salt was, and continues to be, an important item in the human experience. “Salt is good” and useful, therefore, in purifying, preserving, bonding, and penetrating for flavor.

The Lord also warned of salt losing its flavor and thus being discarded. Salt was sometimes used in ovens to intensify the heat. When the salt was “burned off” and, therefore, no longer useful, it was thrown out on the roadways, where it would be trodden under the feet of travelers.

One of the great lessons of the salt illustration of Jesus looks to the importance of being a good influence upon those around about us. Families are under great pressure to compromise and yield to the influences of a worldly society and fun-seeking culture that is all about us. Those in the family who are Christians need to rise to the occa-

sion and set the right example of full commitment to the Lord. But when Christians allow various and sundry secular and social activities to crowd out the spiritual in their lives, the salt has lost its savor. Indeed, when parents who claim to be Christians neglect Bible study with the family in the home, as well as fail to attend Bible study with the church, the salt has lost its savor. The children quickly learn what is important and also what takes second place in the family. As they observe half-committed Christian (in name only) parents that forsake the assemblies of the saints in order to “enjoy Sunday” at the lake, or wherever, the salt has lost its savor. As parents and guardians of our children, we have a sacred obligation to teach our children the word of the Lord by regular Bible reading and study with them. But we, as parents or guardians, also teach our children by faithfully and consistently living the word of the Lord before them, day in and day out. It is vital to demonstrate a full commitment to the Lord, in word and in deed, before our loved ones. A half-committed Christian (if there is such) is really a major stumbling block before his fellow family members. The salt has lost its savor.

As Christians, we also have a responsibility to influence and motivate other Christians to fervently love and diligently serve the Lord (Heb. 10:24-25). When the church comes together for Bible study and worship of the Lord, brethren who love the Lord and one another surely would want to be there and participate. When the songs of praise to God and admonition of one another are sung, the truly faithful will desire to blend their voices with that of the others. When brethren begin to allow other activities to crowd out the assemblies of the church, the salt is beginning to lose its savor. It is a discouragement to other brethren when one’s seat is vacant week after week.

If the church is active (and it should be) in trying to reach the lost, the half-committed disciple will, sadly, only succeed in assisting the devil in his diabolical work of hindering or even preventing the success of the work. When brethren are slackers, indifferent, or complainers, it makes it harder for the others, who are trying to accomplish something for the Lord, to maintain a sufficient level of enthusiasm to keep going. With far too many,

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# If the Salt Has Lost Its Savor

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 39)

when it comes to getting involved with efforts to pass out invitations to the lost to hear the gospel proclaimed, for example, or any of the other means of trying to interest people with the gospel, the salt has lost its savor.

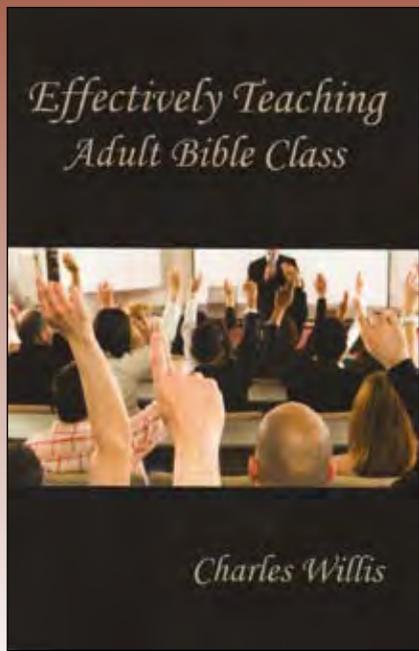
Another area, where the salt illustration certainly fits, concerns the Christian's influence upon the people of the world (Matt. 5:13; Col. 4:6). The disciples of the Lord are to maintain a positive, spiritual presence in the society around about them. This is done by "holding forth the word of life" in teaching and in living the word of God consistently on a daily basis before others (Phil. 2:14-16). In the Colossians passage cited above, Paul makes the point that we are to season our words with salt to interest and draw people to the Lord. Someone has observed, in answer to the old saw, "You can lead a horse to water, but you can't make him drink" with the retort, "That's right, you can't make him drink; but you can put salt in his oats!" And, it is indeed true that the disciple of the Lord cannot (and won't even try) to force folks to obey the gospel. But the child of God can "put salt in their oats" by a godly and righteous example before the unbeliever. This is that gracious speech "seasoned with salt" that draws people to the Lord, rather than driving them away from Christ.

When one, who is supposed to be a Christian, talks like the world, dresses like the world, and acts like the

world, the salt has lost its savor—and the turned off observer of such a half-committed disciple has lost the Savior! When the Christian has compromised his spirituality, being corrupted by the thinking and the conduct of the world,

he is as worthless, spiritually, as the salt that has lost its saltiness, and faces eternal rejection by the Lord.

When a child of God drifts into apathy and indifference concerning their responsibilities towards their family's spiritual well-being, the various assemblies of the church, and those who are lost and need the Lord, then the salt has lost its savor. Heed the Lord's admonition and "have salt in yourselves" to the glory of God and the salvation of precious souls—including you own!



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# Having a Form of Godliness, But Denying the Power Thereof

JESSE FLOWERS

“But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!” (2 Tim. 3:1-5).

The inspired apostle tells us that one sign of the perilous times that we live in is that some will possess a form of godliness, but deny its power.

## OUTWARDLY VERSUS INWARDLY

We may automatically connect such a statement to members of denominational churches. But let us not be so naive as to think that this is not a problem among members of the Lord’s church today. How many saints belonging to non-institutional churches are simply going through the motions, giving the appearance of faithful service to God? How many Christians are attempting to keep one foot in the world and one foot in the church as they futilely try to serve two masters (Matt. 6:24)? Could it be said of some brethren as Jesus said long ago of some very religious men that He encountered—“Even so you also outwardly appear righteous to men, but inside you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness” (Matt. 23:28)? And so what we may appear to be to others outwardly, may be a complete farce of what we truly look like on the inside.

Our passage, 2 Timothy 3:5, teaches us that a person can seem like a godly individual without really being so. Webster’s Dictionary defines “form” as to mean: “show without substance; resembling.” How many baptized believers merely “resemble” a Christian? Strictly from outward appearances they basically seem like your average Christian, but inwardly they lack the substance of a true follower of the Lord (Rom. 2:28-29). They may be visibly present, but their heart is not in it. They merely go through the motions. It is an outward religion rather than an inward faith that manifests itself outwardly to the glory of God.

If Paul’s statement of 2 Timothy 3:5 accurately describes many Christians, and therefore a number of churches today, then how weak and inept our influence will be on the world around us. Local churches will become lukewarm and increasingly worldly. More pre-

cious souls will remain lost in sin. And some saints will be stunned on the Day of Judgment when the Lord announces: “I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!” (Matt. 7:23)

## VAIN WORSHIP

If brethren only have “a form of godliness” when they assemble to worship, then their worship is consequently rendered useless. We find a poignant example of this very thing going on among the post-exilic Jews in the last book of the Old Testament.

The people of God that lived in the days of the prophet Malachi had a form of godliness, but that’s about as far as it went for them. They attended worship services. They offered their sacrifices to Jehovah. But they did not really enjoy attending (1:13). Their attitude about that was “Oh, what a weariness!” It was more of a nuisance and inconvenience than anything else. And what they did bring to sacrifice on the table of the Lord was inferior at best. They kept the better animals from their flocks for themselves and gave the Lord God “the stolen, the lame, and the sick” (v. 13). They were “religious,” yet in both attitude and actions they demonstrated a total lack of honor and reverence for Almighty God (1:6)! When such is the case, the worshiper is told to not even bother traveling to the house of the Lord, but to just stay at home (1:10). Because to come and do the things they were doing was vanity in the eyes of a righteous and holy God (1:11; Lev. 10:3).

Do you ever get the feeling or indication (i.e., “by their fruits you will know them,” Matt. 7:20) that some of God’s



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# Having a Form of Godliness, But Denying the Power Thereof

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people today are guilty of the very same things the Jews were during the time of Malachi? “They profess to know God, but in works they deny Him, being abominable, disobedient, and disqualified for every good work” (Tit. 1:16). (1) Lack of honor and reverence shown towards God as we assemble to worship Him. (2) Often feel put out to come to every service, and annoyed if we have to sit longer when the preacher goes over. Dread gospel meeting time and Vacation Bible School. (3) Offer God our leftovers. Don’t give willingly and cheerfully. Barely open our mouths in praise to Him. Allow our minds to constantly drift during the prayers. Callously and ritualistically observe the Lord’s Supper. Show up late to services, but quite punctual to leave.

I’m convinced that many members of the Lord’s body need to listen closely to the same rebukes that God gave His people of old. Just having a form of godliness simply won’t cut it.

## “I KNOW YOUR WORKS”

To the seven churches of Asia that Christ addresses in the Book of Revelation, He says to them all, “I know your works” (2:2, 9, 13, 19; 3:1, 8, 15). Whether those works were good or bad within those respective congregations, the Lord was fully aware.

Christ declares a very sobering thought in Revelation 2:23 as He rebukes the immorality that existed in the church at Thyatira. The Lord said, “and all the churches shall know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts. And I will give to each one of you according to your works.” What does Christ see when He searches the minds and hearts of the local church where you are a member? What does He find when He looks directly into your heart and mind? Does He find an individual that professes to be a Christian, when in reality is far from being such? Does He discover one that merely professes godliness, or one that truly lives godly (Tit. 2:12)?

***“They profess to know God, but in works they deny Him, being abominable, disobedient, and disqualified for every good work” (Tit. 1:16).***

How many Christians today could be accurately described like those at the church at Laodicea? Jesus said they were “neither cold nor hot” but “lukewarm” (Rev. 3:15-16). They had convinced themselves that they were doing great spiritually (v. 17), however, they were spiritually bankrupt! They were empty on zeal, but full of self-deception as to their true spiritual condition.

How many churches today could sadly, but rightly be described like the church in Sardis? Christ said of them: “I know your works, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead” (Rev. 3:1). Yes, they had a “few” (v. 4) that were faithful to the Lord, but overall the general makeup of this congregation was dead!

Likewise, it is just as true today that Jesus knows exactly what is going on in the churches of Christ. He knows whether or not if we’re just “playing church” or seriously and faithfully serving Him in all that we say and do (Col. 3:17). Those who have “a form of godliness, but deny its power” are those that are merely acting. They are actors and actresses when it comes to Christianity. They are fake. They keep up appearances to be sure, but they are really nothing more than hypocrites. Beware though. Any one of us is susceptible to this sin (Rom. 2:17-24; Gal. 2:11-13). What good does it do us, others, and especially the cause of Christ when we fail to practice what we

preach?!

Christians and churches may pull the wool over the eye of others, but never the Lord. He knows full well whether or not we have the form or the substance of godliness.

## INDICATORS THAT ONE HAS A FORM OF GODLINESS

When there is a mere form of godliness in a person’s life, what is the real story going on behind the scenes?

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# Having a Form of Godliness, But Denying the Power Thereof

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What are the signs and indicators that suggest that one's faith is not what it seems?

**1. Worldliness.** This can often times be seen in the clothing that is worn (1 Tim. 2:9-10). Immodesty is a problem, but not realized, and if confronted often denied. The young people of these parents are allowed (and even encouraged) to attend the school dances, such as the Prom. Such families are fine with viewing TV shows and movies that are filled with wickedness and ungodly filth, convinced it doesn't affect them.

**2. Materialism.** A lot of emphasis is placed upon the "things of this world" (1 John 2:15). The accumulation of wealth and the nice things that money can buy becomes a major focus for the members of the family. The latest fashions and fads of society are of great interest to such individuals. They lack contentment (1 Tim. 6:6), always craving more.

**3. Recreation.** Recreation and social activities have a place in the life of every Christian. But like anything else in one's life, there must be balance. Too many children of God today have their schedules crammed absolutely full with sports and social obligations. This leaves little to no time for the family to have real quality or quantity time together. Whether that is at the dinner table, or in the living room studying and discussing the Word of God with each other (Matt. 4:4). We must "take time to be holy."

**4. Relationship with God.** Rarely speak with our heavenly Father individually or as a family (1 Thess. 5:17), except in times of emergency. Seldom come to Bible class prepared. Consistent failure to concentrate during the worship assemblies. Hardly crack open our Bibles outside of services. Never mention Jesus and His gospel to non-Christians (Mark 16:15).

**5. Relationship with brethren.** After years of attending the same congregation, one still does not know the faces and names of fellow members. The extent of the relationship doesn't go much further than a mere "hello" and "goodbye." Outside of the assembly one's time is mostly spent with friends and acquaintances of the world (Prov. 12:26) than brothers and sisters in Christ (Ps. 119:63). And they prefer it that way.

These indicators are replete with failure to "put off the old man and his deeds, and have put on the new man who

is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him" (Col. 3:9-10).

This is what Marshall Patton had to say about the passage under consideration: "The gospel of Christ is powerful enough to change any man's life (Rom. 1:16), but in the final analysis, he must yield to it. Those of our text outwardly professed godliness, but they denied its power in their heart and life" (Truth Commentaries: 1-2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon).

## CONCLUSION

To have a form of godliness, only to deny its power is to deceive ourselves. The name "Christian" is not to be worn like some special title, but it is a descriptive term of who we are. That we belong to Christ—that we wear His name—that we follow His example—obey His teachings. Some of us would do well to wake up (Eph. 5:14) spiritually, and take our faith much more seriously than we presently do. And realize that being a Christian is our profession 24/7!

To those maintaining a hollow shell of godliness in their lives, your great need is repentance. The guilty Christians who comprised the churches in Asia were all told to repent (Rev. 2:4-5, 16, 22; 3:3, 19). Even if we are demonstrating "a form of godliness" in just one area of our Christian walk, then that must change. Perhaps, the majority of God's children living in the twenty-first century need to "repent and do the first works" once again (Rev. 2:5).

The consequences of "having a form of godliness but denying its power" are great. Paul instructed Timothy "from such people turn away" (2 Tim. 3:5). If such members of the church refuse to repent, then local church discipline must be administered (1 Cor. 5:13; 2 Thess. 3:6) in the hopes of saving their soul in the end.

"Do not be deceived. God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life" (Gal. 6:7-8). As Paul instructed the saints in Corinth, "Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you are disqualified" (2 Cor. 13:5).

# Our Choices and the Local Church

BILL CAVENDAR

“Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it” (1 Cor. 12:27, ESV).

The church (*ekklesia*—“the called out”) which Jesus said He would build (Matt. 16:18-19), embodies and encompasses all the forgiven, saved and redeemed souls of the world, those who have been called to salvation from sin by and through the gospel of Christ (Acts 2:37-41, 47; 2 Thess. 2:13-14; 1 Cor. 15:1-4). This church, this body of saved people, existing in this sinful world, ever stands as the continuing evidence and testimony that the eternal purpose(s) of Almighty God, and His manifold wisdom in redeeming lost souls through His beloved Son, Jesus, have been and are being accomplished (Eph. 3:7-12).

Jesus is “the head of the body” of saved souls, the church. “And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of him that filleth all in all” (Eph. 1:22-23). “And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence . . . for his body’s sake, which is the church . . . there is one body . . . and that he might reconcile both (i.e., Jews and Gentiles) unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby . . . for to make in himself of twain (i.e., Jews and Gentiles) one new man, so making peace” (Col. 1:18, 24; Eph. 4:4; 2, 16, 15).

This “body of Christ,” which is the “church of Christ,” includes all who have been “baptized into Christ” (Rom. 6:1-7, 16-18), and, therefore, who, by faith, are the children and heirs of God (Gal. 3:26-27). Such ones have been “born again,” “born of water and the Spirit,” having undergone the “washing of regeneration and the renewing of the Holy Spirit,” and are thus purified and cleansed, born into and translated into the kingdom of heaven, the kingdom of God’s dear Son—into the church, the body of Christ (1 Pet. 1:22-25; John 3:1-8; Tit. 3:4-7; Matt. 16:18-19; Col. 1:13-14; 1 Cor. 12:13; Acts 2:47).

The “body of Christ, the church” is inclusive of all of God’s children in all the world. This “universal church,” the “kingdom of God,” is world-wide in scope and citizenship, has no earthly organization, no headquarters

(except in heaven where Jesus rules as King), no treasury, no human officials, and no programs of work and/or worship. The “universal church” is a relationship only, between God and each one of His children through Jesus Christ, the “head of the body, the church,” and the “King of his kingdom” (John 18:33-38; 3:1-8; Eph. 5:5; 1 Tim. 6:13-16). Each individual child of God has access to the Father in heaven through Jesus, our King, Saviour and High Priest (Heb. 10:19-22).

A “local church” is a body of such penitent, immersed believers, God’s children in a locality, identified by a public lifestyle and personal conduct dictated by Scripture, by a voluntary association together, by public worship together, by various scriptural activities together, submitting to a recognized leadership amongst themselves, and by legal entity bearing a legal name and/or designation, mailing address, property ownership, etc. A “local church” is a visible, identifiable body of people. The children of God in such a community and/or location bind themselves together as brethren (Acts 9:26-28). In this united relationship, each one learns “how one ought to behave in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, a pillar and buttress of truth” (1 Tim. 3:15, ESV).

In the local church, as a member of this household—family—body of God’s children, we learn our obligations and assume our responsibilities as a member of the body (1 Cor. 12:12-27). All the while, as we each are personally “working out our own salvation with fear and trembling” (Phil. 2:12), we are understanding and developing, in our hearts and minds and lives, the concept and principle that God comes first in our lives (Matt. 22:34-38); that we love and obey our Master, Jesus, in all precepts (Acts 5:29; Heb. 5:8-9); and that the “kingdom of God and his righteousness” (Matt. 6:33), are always the priorities of our lives. When these principles and articles of faith become our settled and guiding convictions, then we will always be found faithful and doing our best for our Lord and for the church, our brethren, regardless of what others do or don’t do.

In many instances, the local church(es) will decrease:  
(1) God will gather His sheaves in to the heavenly garner,

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# Our Choices and the Local Church

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the blessed dead will go home to be with the Lord (Rev. 14:13). The Saviour prayed, "Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world" (John 17:24). We are happy when beloved, weary brothers and sisters can cease from labour and go into their rest (Heb. 4:9). (2) People will move about from one place to another. "Many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase" (Dan. 12:4). Spiritual and numerical growth results when consecrated brethren move about, perhaps providentially being sent by God to places and churches of need. On the whole it is gain to the local churches when dedicated men and women are scattered abroad amongst the churches. One preacher said that "there are still as many good fishes in the sea as have come out of it, so try to catch more." Because our brethren depart to other spheres of service for our Lord, is not a matter to weep about. (3) Many brethren backslide, depart from the faith, go back into the world. In times of trials, oppositions and conflict, they fall away. With many such it is impossible to renew them to repentance (Mark 4:16-17; Heb. 3:12; 6:4-6; 1 John 2:19; John 6:66). The chaff is removed from the wheat, and hereafter and finally at the judgment seat of Christ (Matt. 25:31-46).

In many instances the local church(es) will increase: (1) Sinners will be converted. No church can be healthy without the infusion of new blood. Babes in Christ will be begotten and born by the word of God (1 Pet. 2:1-2; Jas. 1:18, 21; Luke 8:11; 1 Cor. 4:15). Souls will be saved only as every member of the body is busy in teaching and preaching the gospel. We still need to go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature (Mark 16:15-16; Matt. 28:18-20; Acts 8:1-4). He that winneth souls is still wise in the sight of God (Dan. 12:3; Prov. 11:30). Lazy brethren—preachers, elders, deacons, all members of the body—will convert no lost souls and the church will not increase when we are not teaching the word! (2) Churches should make preparations for new babes in Christ, new converts, just as we make preparations in anticipation of new arrivals in our own families. In God's family there are older men and older women, younger women and younger men—fathers, mothers, sisters and brothers (Tit. 2:1-8; 1 Tim. 5:1-2). We should prepare ourselves by study, prayer, zeal and a righteous life to teach others how to be God's children, in all sincerity and humility. There is room in God's family, the

church, the kingdom of God, for all. "And yet there is room" (Luke 14:22) is the message and plea of all true brethren to the sinful world about us. There is abundant love, grace, and mercy of God; there is cleansing in the blood of Jesus' sacrifice on Calvary's cross; there is power in the living gospel of Christ (Heb. 4:12; Rom. 1:16); there is empowering faith cultivated by knowledge of the truth of the gospel; and there is forgiveness, redemption, and salvation through the obedience of faith (Rom. 1:5; 16:26).

"Yet there is room," is our urgent cry to the lost (Luke 14:22). What a sad, heartbreaking message it would be if we had to say to lost souls about us that "There is no more room, heaven is filled, and the body of Christ has no need of any more members. There is no more room in the kingdom of God." We don't make preparation for new babes in Christ by ornate buildings, budgets, programs, social activities, famous people and preachers, and by trying to impress people with who we are in talents and personality. We prepare for new babes in Christ by serious and sober-minded trust in God, love of our Saviour, a godly and sincere life in Christ, a knowledge of His will, and a love of our fellow man by teaching him the truth and setting an example of godliness before him.

Every scriptural activity of a local church, if successful and profitable to saving of souls and preparing such ones for death and eternity, is dependent upon each and every member of the body "bearing his/her own burden," using his own talents, and showing his faith by his works (Gal. 6:3-8; Matt. 25:14-30; Jas. 2:14-26). Not one of us can obey for someone else, even though we might want to do so or even attempt such. Every one will give account of himself to God (2 Cor. 5:10). God will bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether good or evil (Ecc. 12:13-14). Our lives, our talents, our time, our income and material goods, our opportunities, our associations, our thoughts and words and deeds—our entire existence—must be given in sacrificial selflessness in personal service to our Lord. "They gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us" (2 Cor. 8:5, ESV). Primary consideration and first place in our hearts and lives must be for the glory of our God and Father, to our Saviour Jesus Christ, to the blood-bought church of the Lord, and to the welfare of others. "Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it."

# “Be Ye Steadfast”

DAVID HALBROOK

Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord (1 Cor. 15:58, NKJ).

What made this admonition to the Corinthians necessary? Did Paul have any reason to believe that they might not be steadfast, immovable, and abounding in the Lord's work? Did Paul suspect that some might believe that their labor for the Lord was vain? A study of 1 Corinthians affirms that these were valid concerns. The very life of the Lord's work at Corinth was in danger

due to blatant immorality, the lack of proper discipline, the influence of worldly conduct, marital conflicts, behavior that gave little thought to its effect on the church or the lost, and the false teaching of “some among you.”

But, we don't live in Corinth or worship with those brethren, so of what concern is this to us? Examine your life (2 Cor. 13:5). Is there any reason to believe that you might not continue being steadfast, immovable, and abounding in the Lord's work? Might you some day believe that your labor for the Lord is a waste of time (vain)? Maybe you already show signs of spiritual instability and inactivity. If any of this is, or could be, true then this is a necessary study.

Next, with righteous judgment, examine the church of which you are a member (John 8:24). Is there any



reason to believe that anyone there might not continue to be steadfast, immovable, and abounding in the Lord's work? Could anyone be led to believe that his labor for the Lord is a waste of time (vain)? Maybe some are already showing signs of spiritual instability and inactivity. If any of this is, or could be, true then this is a necessary study.

What is the importance of being steadfast, immovable, and abounding in the Lord's work? As we study, we'll see that God, your soul, your family, the local church, and the lost are all counting on

you to remain steadfast and strong.

## I. BE STEADFAST, IMMOVEABLE

**For God's sake.** Above all, this is the purpose of your life (Eccl. 12:13-14)—God is counting on you to keep your focus. With the gift of life, comes responsibility—fear God and keep His commandments. While Satan uses many methods to distract us from this duty, God has provided all that we need to be defended. Scripture provides every piece of armor that pertains to life and godliness (2 Tim. 3:16-17; Eph. 6:10-18; 2 Pet. 1:3-11). God has given us these things for a reason—so that we will be steadfast, immovable in His service.

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# “Be Ye Steadfast” (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 46)

**For your own sake.** Paul began 1 Corinthians 15 by reminding the Corinthians that their salvation depended on standing and holding fast to the word of the gospel which he had preached and they had received. He urged the Colossian Christians to be steadfast and not moved because “of the hope of the gospel which you heard” (Col. 1:23). Everlasting, eternal punishment or life will be yours based on your reaction to the admonition “be steadfast, immovable” (Matt. 25:46).

**For your family’s sake.** Your spouse, children, siblings, etc. need encouragement to be steadfast, immovable. Who will be an example of that and help them along the way? Will your wife spend her married life shouldering alone the load of bringing children up in the Lord’s nurture and admonition? Will your children have to overcome the influence and example of their parent(s) in order to faithfully serve God? Young people—consider your younger siblings when the appeal of PROM, alcohol, and cursing seem so strong. By faith, you can enjoy the days of youth without these things and help your siblings to be steadfast, immovable when they face the same decisions you face (Eccl. 11:9-10).

**For the local church’s sake.** God intended that the local church be equipped with evangelists, pastors, deacons, and teachers (Eph. 4:11; 1 Tim. 3; Heb. 5:12-14). Who else but Christians with the determination of being steadfast, immovable will serve the church in these, and other, ways? If you’ve been a part of a spiritually thriving church, no doubt a part of that success was attributable to the steadfast, immovable work of evangelists, elders, deacons, teachers, and saints. Likewise, spiritually dwindling congregations often lack these things.

**For the lost’s sake.** As Jesus was introducing the gospel of the kingdom, He taught that men would glorify God by seeing the good works of those in the kingdom (Matt. 5:16). How many conversions occur as a result of the evangelistic efforts of “Sunday morning-only Christians”? God needs laborers who will be steadfast, immovable “until evening” (Matt. 9:37-38; 20:8).

## II. ALWAYS ABOUNDING IN THE WORK OF THE LORD

**For God’s sake.** Read, or sing, the song The World’s Bible. It poetically expresses God’s “dependence” upon us to do His work. Certainly, if we don’t do our job, God can raise up someone to stand in the gap we have left. When Eli failed God, He used Samuel. When Saul failed God, He used David. When Judas failed God, He used Matthias. Are you a “gap-maker” or a “gap-filler” (Ezek. 22:30)? There are already enough gaps in this world—“let us rise up and build” (Neh. 2:18). God is depending on you.

**For your own sake.** I don’t know of any Bible text which describes a Christian with whom God is pleased who is “just getting by.” If “just getting by” was the problem of Laodicea, Jesus said He would spew them out of His mouth (Rev. 3:16). Paul assures those who are always abounding in the Lord’s work that their labor is not in vain. But what then is the outcome of the labor of those who are “just getting by”? While the one-talent servant did some work (worrying, digging, waiting), he failed his master by not abounding in the duty he was given (Matt. 25:26, 30).

**For your family’s sake.** Your family is learning that some type of labor is worthwhile. A child’s labor that is poured into athletic, academic, musical, or theatrical performances often gains the genuine approval of proud parents. But how does this attention and praise compare to what is given to spiritual matters?

In his youth, David was a skillful harp player (1 Sam. 16:18). Do you think that Jesse would have allowed David to neglect the worship of God in order to attend a harp concert? Did David deserve greater attention and praise for his stone-slinging abilities or for being a man after God’s own heart? How would David have been raised if he were your son?

**For the local church’s sake.** When a family puts its commitment to the work of their spiritual “team” (the local church) ahead of the recreational obligations in which the family chooses to involve itself, both the

*Paul assures those who are always abounding in the Lord’s work that their labor is not in vain.*

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# “Be Ye Steadfast” (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 47)

home and church will benefit as they abound in the work of the Lord. When every part does its share, the body is strengthened and grows (Eph. 4:16).

**For the lost’s sake.** Is the harvest still plentiful (Matt. 9:37)? It may not seem like it, since we don’t see multitudes of sinners in America flocking to hear Jesus’ words like they did during His earthly ministry. But whatever our perception may be of the potential harvest in the area where we live, in reality our work is the same. If we have constantly to scratch and scrape to find “just one grain of wheat” in the harvest, is that one soul not worth the effort? How will we find them without always abounding in the work of the Lord?

### III. KNOWING THAT YOUR LABOR IS NOT IN VAIN IN THE LORD

**For God.** Here is our greatest satisfaction—as long as we are steadfast, immoveable, and abounding in the Lord’s work with all of our heart, then God does not view our labor as fruitless.

“So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it” (Isa. 55:11). We may wonder if this is true because of the small number of conversions we see, but we always know it is true by faith (2 Cor. 5:7). Always know that your labor is never in vain, in the Lord. He will reward His servants who labor for Him.

**For yourself.** When we do what God has said is right, our labor in that is never in vain. Did the Old Testament prophets fail in their labor since the Jews rarely repented at their preaching? At times, they themselves even wondered about their effectiveness, and just as often, God reminded them that their labor in Him was not in vain. This confidence breeds endurance and we all have need of endurance, so that after we have done the work of God, we may receive the promise of salvation (Heb. 10:36).

**For your family.** No sacrifice that you make “in the Lord” for your family will be in vain. No sacrifice that you ask your family to make “in the Lord” will be in vain. When homes are filled with fathers willing to sacrifice their time and hobbies in order to love, nourish, and cherish their wives, such labor will not be in vain (Eph. 5:28-29). When wives labor tirelessly in the labor of a homemaker, such labor is not in vain (Prov. 31:10-31). When children learn to work with their hands in order to contribute to the functioning of the home, such labor is not in vain (Prov. 10:5).

**For the local church.** Paul labored diligently with the church in Ephesus yet within a few decades Jesus warned them that their lampstand was in danger of being removed (Rev. 2:5). Whose labor was in vain there? Only those whose labor contributed to the demise of this congregation for in the end, their opposition to the truth will be defeated. Those who stood for the truth, even if they were outnumbered and “run off” by the unfaithful, will “eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God” (Rev. 2:7). Their labor was not in vain.

**For the lost.** Have you ever tried to talk to someone about spiritual matters and left feeling like it was a waste of time? Next time, leave that discussion knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord. Will the seed you planted bear fruit years later? Will that discussion better prepare you for other occasions? Will others be encouraged that you made this effort? Keep on doing this work—steadfast, immoveable, always abounding!

***This confidence breeds endurance and we all have need of endurance, so that after we have done the work of God, we may receive the promise of salvation (Heb. 10:36).***

### CONCLUSION

Did you realize so much is at stake? Did you realize that so many people are relying on you to begin and continue in the work of the Lord? If at the end of your life, you’ve fulfilled your duties to each of these people, your life will have been a success! However, if you have failed them as your eyes close at death—vanity of vanities, all is vanity.

# directory of churches

ALABAMA  
THROUGH  
CALIFORNIA

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

<p>BIRMINGHAM, AL Pine Lane Church of Christ 3955 Pine Lane • Bessemer, AL (N. side of Exit #6 at I459) Bible Study 9:15 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Terry W. Benton (205) 425-2352 or 978-8342</p>	<p><b>Shop online at truthbooks.net</b></p>	<p>OWENS CROSS ROADS, AL Church of Christ at Elon In Elon Community 4021 Hobbs Island Rd. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:20 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Charles Maples 256-539-0772</p>	<p>TUCSON, AZ Tucson Church of Christ 2020 N Forbes Blvd., Suite 107 Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. 520-622-8986 www.tucsonchurchofchrist.com</p>	<p>HARRISON, AR Capps Rd. Church of Christ 407 Bella Vista Dr. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:15 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Norman E. Sewell 741-9104 or 741-5151</p>	<p>TEXARKANA, AR Church of Christ 2301 Franklin Dr. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:15 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Marc R. Hinds</p>
<p>BIRMINGHAM, AL Pinson Church of Christ 4233 Glen Brook Rd. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Ken Chapman (205) 681-6231 or 680-5770</p>		<p>HUNTSVILLE, AL Weatherly Heights Church of Christ 930 Weatherly Rd. SE Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (256) 881-9535 www.weatherlychurch.com</p>	<p>PARRISH, AL McArthur Heights Church of Christ 5082 Hwy. 269 Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 6:30 P.M. (205) 686-5978 or 686-5620</p>	<p>YUMA, AZ Valley Church of Christ 2375 W. 8th St. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 10:50 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Bob Lovelace (928) 539-7089 www.yumavalleychurchofchrist.com</p>	<p>JACKSONVILLE, AR Church of Christ 1807 McArthur Dr. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 5:30 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Dennis Adams (501) 982-6413, 982-6776 or 985-5159</p>
<p>BIRMINGHAM, AL Vestavia Hills Church of Christ 2325 Old Columbiana Rd. (near I-65 &amp; Hwy. 31) Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Harold Comer and Jason Cicero (205) 822-0018 or 822-0082</p>	<p>MADISON, AL Hughes Road at Gooch Lane Church of Christ 1550 Hughes Rd. Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Frank Walton (256) 830-1654 www.teachingtruth.org</p>	<p>RED BAY, AL Eastside Church of Christ Meadow Dr. &amp; Hwy. 24 East Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Danny Fuller (256) 356-2723, 356-4513, 627-1763 or (662) 728-8088</p>	<p>BATESVILLE, AR Church of Christ Quail Valley 4104 E. Harrison St. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 10:45 A.M. Evening 5:30 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Leonard Westbrook (870) 612-8409 or 698-0542 and Alan Jones (870) 793-0954</p>	<p>LITTLE ROCK, AR Church of Christ 7115 West 65th St. Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Don McClain Res. (501)847-6677 Study (501) 568-1062</p>	<p>ALAMEDA, CA Alameda Church of Christ 2167 Santa Clara Ave. Bible Study 9:45 A.M. Worship 10:50 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Olen Holderby (510) 523-0547 www.alamedacc.org</p>
<p>BRUNDIDGE, AL Church of Christ 437 Clayton St (at US 231) Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Paul Carter (334) 397-4684 Billy Carter: (334) 566-3205 pcarter@graceba.net bilycc@troycable.net</p>	<p>MOBILE, AL West Mobile Church of Christ 129 Hillcrest Rd. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (251) 342-4144 or 342-2041</p>	<p>SCOTTSBORO, AL Eastside Church of Christ John T. Reid Pkwy. (Hwy. 72, 2 mi. E. of Hwy. 35) Worship 9:00 A.M. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Wayne Chappell, Sr. (256) 574-1603 or 575-2664</p>	<p>CLINTON, AR Mt. Zion Church of Christ 1202 Hwy. 16 West Clinton, AR 72031 (1.2 miles W of US 65) Worship 10:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Bill Dodd Bldg: (501) 745-2572</p>	<p>MARSHALL, AR Marshall Church of Christ (North Central, AR) Hwy. 27 N, 1 Mi. from 65 Jct. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Randy Seairight (870) 448-2055</p>	<p>BELLFLOWER, CA Rose Ave. Church of Christ 17903 Ibbetson Ave. Bible Study 9:45 A.M. Worship 10:50 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. (562) 866-5615</p>
<p><b>HELP VACATIONING CHRISTIANS FIND YOUR PLACE OF WORSHIP</b></p>	<p>MONTGOMERY, AL Church of Christ 800 Perry Hill Rd. Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Jeff Henderson 244-1675, 277-9155, 271-4679</p>	<p>FAIRBANKS, AK Chena Small Tracts Road Church of Christ 5033 Chena Small Tracts Rd. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 5:30 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. (907) 479-8918</p>	<p>CONWAY, AR Hwy. 65 Church of Christ 217 Highway 65 Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Bruce Reeves Bldg: (501) 336-0052</p>	<p>PINE BLUFF, AR Church of Christ 4700 W. 28th St. Bible Study 9:45 A.M. Worship 10:35 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Clarence W. Fell (870) 879-2097</p>	<p>CANOGA PARK, CA (San Fernando Valley) Church of Christ 7054 Winnetka Ave. Bible Study 9:45 A.M. Worship 10:45 A.M. Afternoon 2:30 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Minister: Bruce Evans (818)348-2193 Spanish congregation (818)701-0112</p>
<p>FLORENCE, AL College View Church of Christ 851 N. Pine St. (Next to University Campus) Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:15 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelists: Mark White</p>	<p>MONTGOMERY, AL Eastbrook Church of Christ 650 Coliseum Blvd. Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 6:00 P.M. Bldg: (334) 272-4232 Evangelist: Brian Moore 279-1077 Carroll Puckett 288-1461; Charles Martin 283-2983; Bob Smith 334-277-1904</p>	<p>GLENDALE, AZ Church of Christ 6801 N. 60th Ave. Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 9:40 A.M. Bible Study 5:00 P.M. Evening 5:40 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Steven Harper</p>	<p>CONWAY, AR Prince Street Church of Christ 2655 Prince St. (Hwy. 60) Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (501) 339-6917</p>	<p>ROGERS, AR Central Church of Christ P.O. Box 763 Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 5:30 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Ricky Manes (479) 636-7484 (479) 631-0288</p>	<p>DUBLIN, CA Tri-Valley Church of Christ 11873 Dublin Blvd. Dublin, CA 94568 Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Joshua Higgins (925) 828-8747</p>
<p>HUNTSVILLE, AL Chapman Acres Church of Christ 2137 Penhall Dr., NE (I-565, Exit 21, left on Maysville Rd., left on Chapman Ave., right on Penhall Dr.) Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Roger Blackwelder (256) 536-5296 or 617-2848</p>	<p>NORTHPORT, AL Northwood Church of Christ 4601 Northwood Estates Dr. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:20 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: David Hartselle</p>	<p>TUCSON, AZ Church of Christ 145 N. Country Club Rd. Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Hugh Delong 326-3634 or 722-3179</p>	<p>FT. SMITH, AR South 46th St. Church of Christ 2323 South 46th St. Bible Study 9:45 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: John Hagenbuch (479) 478-6108 or 782-0588</p>	<p>To make changes to your ad, contact us at andyalex@bellsouth.net</p>	<p>FOLSOM, CA Church of Christ 900 E. Natomas St. P.O. Box 492 Worship 9:30 A.M. Bible Study 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: David Posey (530) 676-9514 or (916) 608-4866 www.folsomchurch.com</p>

<p><b>FREMONT, CA</b> Church of Christ in the Centerville area 38069 Martha Ave. Ste 100 Fremont, CA 94536 Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. (510) 794-7659</p>	<p><b>IGNACIO, CO</b> Church of Christ 295 Burns Ave. Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M. Bible Study 1:00 P.M. (970) 563-9418</p>	<p><b>DESTIN, FL</b> South Walton Church of Christ 64 Casting Lake Rd. Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M.  (850) 622-3817 www.southwaltonchurchofchrist.com</p>	<p><b>JACKSONVILLE, FL</b> Marietta Church of Christ 8150 Driggers St. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Jamie Rhoden Elders: Jamie Rhoden &amp; Steve Frazier (904) 781-5704 or 693-0432 www.mariettacoc.com</p>	<p><b>ORLANDO, FL</b> Azalea Park Church of Christ 6800 Lake Underhill Rd. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: James P. Needham (407) 277-7931 or 628-2995</p>	<p><b>SEFFNER, FL</b> Church of Christ 621 E. Wheeler Rd. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 10:50 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Bobby Witherington (813) 684-1297 www.seffnercoc.org</p>
<p><b>HEMET, CA</b> Church of Christ 203 W. Acacia Ave. Bible Study 9:45 A.M. Worship 10:50 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (951)925-1991</p>	<p><b>MONTRROSE, CO</b> San Juan church of Christ 1414 Hawk Parkway, Unit C Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Wednesday 6:30 P.M. Evangelist: Richard Thetford (970) 626-5558 or (970) 249-8116 www.sanjuanchurchofchrist.org</p>	<p><b>FORT LAUDERDALE, FL</b> Northside Church of Christ 912 NW 19th St. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. (305) 763-1404</p>	<p><b>KEY LARGO, FL</b> Key Largo Church of Christ 100695 N. Overseas Hwy. 33037 m.m. 100.5 on U.S. 1 Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Roland Fritz (305) 451-1194</p>	<p><b>ORLANDO, FL</b> S. Bumbo Church of Christ 3940 S. Bumbo Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Joshua C. Creel (407) 851-8031 or (321) 235-3307</p>	<p><b>TAMPA, FL</b> Central Church of Christ 2701 E. Fowler Ave (in the Clarion) Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 9:50 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. John Lockaby (813) 833-5786 John Trimble (813) 914-0546 Tom O'Neal (813) 625-5651</p>
<p><b>LONG BEACH, CA</b> Church of Christ 3433 Studebaker Rd. Bible Study 9:50 A.M. Worship 10:45 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Lonnie Fritz (562) 420-2363 Mark Reeves (562) 420-9577</p>	<p><b>PAGOSA SPRINGS, CO</b> Church of Christ Community Center 451 Hot Springs Blvd. Worship 10:00 A.M. Bible Study 11:00 A.M. No Evening Worship No Wednesday Bible Study Evangelist: Eddie Campbell (970) 264-4236</p>	<p><b>FORT MYERS, FL</b> Church of Christ 200 Pine Island Rd. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:15 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Vernon E. Ford (239) 567-0819</p>	<p><b>KISSIMMEE, FL</b> Church of Christ 2431 Fortune Rd. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Mark Copeland (407) 931-1725 or 348-0300</p>	<p><b>PALATKA, FL</b> Palatka Church of Christ 505 Third Ave. (Third Ave. intersects Hwy. 19 one block south of Hwy. 20) Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Robert Skomp (386) 326-3952 or 546-5689</p>	<p><b>ZEPHYRHILLS, FL</b> Church of Christ 5444 4th St. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Assembly 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. (813) 788-9587</p>
<p><b>OCEANSIDE-VISTA, CA</b> Church of Christ 2020 Sunset Dr. Bible Study 9:45 A.M. Worship 10:45 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Lowell C. Bell (760) 940-8003</p>	<p><b>DOVER, DE</b> Kent-Sussex Church of Christ 2041 South DuPont Hwy Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (302) 672-7087 www.delawarebiblestudies.com</p>	<p><b>FORT MYERS, FL</b> Southside Church of Christ 13641 Learning Ct. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: David P. Schmidt 433-2838 or 482-2158</p>	<p><b>LAKE LAND, FL</b> Lakeland Hills Blvd. Church of Christ 2510 Lakeland Hills Blvd. Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 9:50 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelists: Marc W. Gibson Don Hastings (863) 688-4336</p>	<p><b>PANAMA CITY BEACH, FL</b> Beach Church of Christ 8910 Front Beach Rd. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Ben Liggins (850) 234-2521 or 234-1368</p>	<p><b>CENTERVILLE, GA</b> Centerville Church of Christ 250 Collins Ave. (Near Robins AFB) Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: J. Wiley Adams (478) 922-1128</p>
<p><b>ARVADA, CO</b> (Denver) Northgate Church of Christ (Lincoln Academy Charter School) 6980 Pierce Street Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Afternoon Class/ Worship 1:30 P.M. (303) 456-4895</p>	<p><b>ALACHUA, FL</b> Santa Fe Hills Church of Christ Hwy. 441, 1/2 mile west of I-75 (Exit 78) Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: James L. Yopp (386) 462-4325 or (352) 333-7003 www.geocities.com/jameslyopp</p>	<p><b>FT. WALTON BEACH, FL</b> 6 Lane Dr. Mary Esther, FL Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Joey Rankin (850) 244-9222</p>	<p><b>MERRITT ISLAND, FL</b> Church of Christ 512 Plumosa St. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. (321) 453-3320</p>	<p><b>PANAMA CITY, FL</b> Church of Christ 3339 Florida Ave. (Between Baldwin Rd. &amp; Hwy. 390) Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Marvin Hudson (850) 266-6539</p>	<p><b>CONYERS, GA</b> Rockdale Church of Christ East Metro Atlanta, 705 Smyrna Rd. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 5:30 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Forrest Bacon, elder (770) 918-1932; Wendell Holland, elder (770) 761-6987; Bob Tuten, elder (678) 475-7212; Building (770) 929-3973</p>
<p><b>AURORA, CO</b> (Denver) Boston St. Church of Christ 1297 Boston St. Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Preacher: Sam Csonka (303) 366-5283</p>	<p><b>BRONSON, FL</b> Church of Christ 894 E. Hathaway (Hwy. 27A) Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Thursday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: John Zellner (352) 528-3058</p>	<p><b>FROSTPROOF, FL</b> Church of Christ 40 W. "A" St. Frostproof, FL 33483 Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Mike Freese (863) 635-2607 or 635-4278</p>	<p><b>MIAMI, FL</b> Flagler Grove Church of Christ (Nearest to Airport) 500 N.W. 53rd Ave. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: John Buttrick (305) 634-5924</p>	<p><b>PENSACOLA, FL</b> East Hill Church of Christ 2078 E. Nine Mile Rd. at Camberwell Rd. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Stan Adams 479-2130 or 994-7749</p>	<p><b>CORDELE, GA</b> Crisp County Church of Christ 120 Emmaus Road Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Jimmy Tuten Call for directions: (229) 271-1964 (229) 382-8722 (229) 402-4101</p>
<p><b>COLORADO SPRINGS, CO</b> Northeast Church of Christ 6660 Galley Rd. Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. (719) 597-6661</p>	<p><b>BROOKSVILLE, FL</b> Church of Christ 604 W. Fort Dade Ave. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 10:50 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: V.C. McCormick (352) 796-9803</p>	<p><b>GENEVA, FL</b> Geneva Church of Christ Ave. C and 2nd St. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. (407) 349-9998</p>	<p><b>MIAMI, FL</b> Church of Christ 12780 Quail Roost Dr. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Clark Pace (305) 233-9590 or (954) 430-1437</p>	<p><b>PENSACOLA, FL</b> Northside Church of Christ 4001 N. Ninth Ave. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Joseph R. Mazter (850) 432-0736</p>	<p><b>PINE MTN. VALLEY, GA</b> Church of Christ Route 116 (near Callaway Gardens) Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Tommy W. Thomas (706) 628-5117 or 628-5229</p>
<p><b>Subscribe Today! Truth Magazine 1-800-428-0121</b></p>	<p><b>CHIPLEY, FL</b> Church of Christ 1295 Brickyard Rd. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M.  (850) 638-4942</p>	<p><b>HOLLYWOOD, FL</b> Harding St. Church of Christ 5828 Harding St. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. (954) 961-4112</p>	<p><b>OCALA, FL</b> Church of Christ 3900 S. Pine (441, 301 &amp; 27 S.) Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Al Sandlin 352-351-5188</p>	<p><b>ST. PETERSBURG, FL</b> Church of Christ 901 49th St. South Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Doug Barlar (813) 321-2721</p>	<p><b>SAVANNAH, GA</b> Coastal Church of Christ 7201 Johnny Mercer Blvd Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Wednesday 6:30 P.M. Evangelist: Ron Nelson ronnelson@embarqmail.com (912) 306-4631 www.coastalchurchofchrist.com</p>
<p><b>GRAND JUNCTION, CO</b> Valley Church of Christ 491 Sparrn Road P.O. Box 40531 Bible Study 9:45 A.M. Worship 10:45 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Bill Bohannon www.ValleyChurchofChrist.net</p>	<p><b>DELAND, FL</b> North Blvd. Church of Christ 823 N. Woodland Blvd. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 5:30 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Jack Owen (386) 734-6907 or 734-4311</p>	<p><b>JACKSONVILLE, FL</b> Julington Creek Church of Christ 1630 State Rd 13N Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (904) 230-3332 (Bldg.) or 268-9638 (Wendell Bowman) jimbell007@netzero.net www.jccoc.com</p>	<p><b>ORLANDO, FL</b> Pine Hills Church of Christ 890 Hastings St. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Ray West (407) 293-2851 or 290-8650</p>	<p><b>PLANT CITY, FL</b> Plant City Church of Christ 315 N. Wilder Rd. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Gary M. Ogden (813) 752-2227 or 752-2771</p>	<p><b>VALDOSTA, GA</b> Church of Christ 4313 North Valdosta Rd. (Located 1 mile E. of Exit 22 off I-75) Worship 9:00 A.M. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. (No evening worship) Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (229) 244-8630</p>

# directory of churches

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MARYLAND

<p><b>BLACKFOOT, ID</b> Church of Christ 370 N. Shilling P.O. Box 158-83221 Bible Study 1:30 P.M. Worship 2:30 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. (208) 785-6168 or 681-1552</p>	<p><b>CLARKSVILLE, IN</b> Clarksville Church of Christ 407 Lewis and Clark Pkw. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Kipp Campbell (812) 941-0747 or 944-2305 KCcampbell@earthlink.net Elders: 944-1878 or 948-9917</p>	<p><b>OOLITIC, IN</b> Church of Christ 400 Lafayette Ave. P.O. Box 34 Bible Study 9:45 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (812) 279-4332</p>	<p><b>LENEXA, KS</b> Lenexa Church of Christ 7845 Cottonwood Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:20 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Jim Stauffer (913) 631-6519 or 764-9170</p>	<p><b>CANEYVILLE, KY</b> Caneyville Church of Christ 103 N. Main St. (near the 4 way stop) Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 10:45 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Dale Barnes (270) 879-6152 or 274-3065</p>	<p><b>BATON ROUGE, LA</b> Park Forest Church of Christ 9923 Sunny Cline Dr. Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Bill Crews 275-4684 or 273-1105</p>
<p><b>ABINGDON, IL</b> Abingdon Church of Christ 209 N. Main Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 4:00 P.M. Evangelist: John B. Wilson (309) 462-5368</p>	<p><b>ELLETTSVILLE, IN</b> Church of Christ 303 W. Temperance St. Bible Study 9:45 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Johnnie Edwards Evangelist: John Isaac Edwards (812) 876-2285 or 336-4630</p>	<p><b>PEKIN, IN</b> Church of Christ (First St. &amp; Karnes Ct.) Bible Study 9:45 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: John Henry 967-3437 or 967-3520</p>	<p><b>TOPEKA, KS</b> 17th Street Church of Christ 5600 SW 17th St. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (785) 235-8687 or 273-7977 www.17thstreetchurchofchrist.org</p>	<p><b>DANVILLE, KY</b> 385 E. Lexington Ave. Worship 10:00 A.M. Bible Study 11:15 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelists: Steve Wolfgang &amp; Scott Viquain 236-4204, 236-8506 or 238-0860</p>	<p><b>BOSSIER CITY, LA</b> Bossier Church of Christ 2917 Foster Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (318) 747-4308 or 742-4557</p>
<p><b>BENTON, IL</b> Church of Christ 203 N. Central St. P.O. Box 12 (west of Wal-Mart) Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Greg King (618) 438-2911 or 435-2981</p>	<p><b>HAMMOND, IN</b> Woodmar Church of Christ 2133 169th St. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (219) 845-8942</p>	<p align="center"><b>Subscribe Today! Truth Magazine 1-800-428-0121</b></p>	<p><b>WICHITA, KS</b> Ridge Road Church of Christ 7001 W. 21st St., North Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. (316) 722-6622 or 744-1841</p>	<p><b>FRANKLIN, KY</b> 31-W North Church of Christ 1733 Bowling Green Road Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Steve Monts (270) 586-3978 www.franklinchurch.com</p>	<p><b>LAKE CHARLES, LA</b> Southside Church of Christ 3919 Auburn St. Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (337) 474-9122 or 436-0477</p>
<p><b>CHICAGO, IL</b> Northside Church of Christ 2543 W. Division St. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: James R. Davis, Jr. (312) 961-2150</p>	<p><b>HOBART, IN</b> Church of Christ 300 N. Liberty St. Bible Study 9:45 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Keith Welch (219) 942-2663</p>	<p><b>RICHMOND, IN</b> Gaar Road Church of Christ 1835 Gaar Rd. (1 mi. S. of I-70 off Hwy. 227) Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Douglas R. Clark (765) 935-2911</p>	<p><b>WICHITA, KS</b> Westside Church of Christ 3500 S. Meridian Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Mike O'Neal (316) 729-9302 or 942-1649 www.cocwestside.com</p>	<p><b>GLASGOW, KY</b> East Main St. Church of Christ 106 Carnation Dr. (across from Gorin Park) Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 6:30 P.M. Evangelist: Doug Lancaster (270) 678-2847 or 651-7141</p>	<p><b>LEESVILLE, LA</b> White Park Church of Christ 17801 Nolan Trace; 20 mi. from Fort Polk (5 mi. W. of Leesville) Bible Study 9:45 A.M. Worship 10:35 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (337) 239-4614 www.whiteparkchurchofchrist.org</p>
<p><b>CHICAGO, IL</b> Church of Christ 1514 West 74th Street Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: James E. Scott Bldg. (773) 224-9279 (708) 339-6126</p>	<p><b>INDIANAPOLIS, IN</b> Castleton Church of Christ 7701 East 86th St., 46256 Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (317) 842-3613 Eric Spencer (317) 750-5939</p>	<p><b>SALEM, IN</b> Westside Church of Christ 2000 West State Rd. 56 Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 10:45 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Evan Casey (812) 883-2033 www.westsidechurchofchrist.info</p>	<p><b>BEAVER DAM, KY</b> Church of Christ 1235 Williams St. Worship 10:00 A.M. Bible Study After Worship Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Mike Thomas (270) 274-4451 or 274-4486</p>	<p><b>LEITCHFIELD, KY</b> Mill St. Church of Christ Highway 62 E. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 10:55 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Joey Cooper (270) 259-4968</p>	<p><b>MANY, LA</b> Lakeside Church of Christ 12095 Texas Hwy. (Hwy. 6 W.) 12 miles west of Many Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (318) 256-9396</p>
<p><b>DOWNERS GROVE, IL</b> Church of Christ 1236 63rd St. (1 and 1/2 mile E. of I355) Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 9:55 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. (630) 968-0760 • www.dgcoc.org</p>	<p><b>JAMESTOWN, IN</b> Church of Christ (1 Mi. south of I-74) Cor. Darlington &amp; Mill Sts. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:25 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Denver Niemeier (765) 676-6404 or (317) 892-6285</p>	<p><b>TRAFALGAR, IN</b> Spearsville Rd. Church of Christ, 6244 S. 500W. (1.2 mi. S. of Hwy. 135) Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: David R. Dodd (317) 878-5969 or (317) 439-3252 spearsvilleroadmessenger@gmail.com</p>	<p><b>BOWLING GREEN, KY</b> Eastside Church of Christ 1706 Smallhouse Rd Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:25 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 10:00 A.M. Wed. Evening 7:00 P.M. Phone: 270-843-9925 www.mightytishlord.com</p>	<p><b>LOUISVILLE, KY</b> Valley Station Church of Christ 2071 Dixie Garden Dr. 1803 Dixie Garden Dr. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Dudley Ross Spears (502) 937-2822</p>	<p><b>STONEWALL, LA</b> N. DeSoto Church of Christ 2071 Highway 171 (South of Shreveport) Worship 9:00 A.M. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Steve Bobbitt (318) 925-2733</p>
<p><b>GLEN ELLYN, IL</b> Church of Christ 796 Prairie, 60137 Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Joseph T. Novak (630) 529-2149 (630) 858-2290</p>	<p><b>KOKOMO, IN</b> Church of Christ 1217 S. Courtland Ave. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 10:30 A.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Joshua Welch (765) 453-2356</p>	<p><b>DES MOINES, IA</b> Church of Christ 1310 N.E. 54th Ave. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:40 A.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. 262-6799</p>	<p><b>BOWLING GREEN, KY</b> West End Church of Christ 300 Blue Level Rd., 42101 Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelists: Todd Chandler &amp; Lowell Sallee (270) 842-7880 www.westendchurch.com</p>	<p><b>LOUISVILLE, KY</b> Church of Christ 4401 West Broad St. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Donald Wright, Jr. (502) 772-3026 or 491-9372</p>	<p><b>WEBSTER, MA</b> Church of Christ Webster 168 Main St. Sunday Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Sunday Worship 10:30 A.M. Wed Bible Study Call for details (508) 765-6067 Preacher: Peter Capoccia</p>
<p><b>MATTOON, IL</b> Southside Church of Christ 1100 S. 17th St. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (217) 234-3702</p>	<p><b>MARION, IN</b> South Marion Church of Christ 3629 S. Washington St. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (765) 998-7134 or (765) 384-7540</p>	<p><b>GRINNELL, IA</b> Church of Christ 1402 Third Ave. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:45 A.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Brian Chapman (641) 236-1955 or 793-2989</p>	<p><b>BRANDENBURG, KY</b> Brandenburg Church of Christ 612 Broadway Bible Study 9:45 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 6:30 P.M. Evangelist: Charles J. White (270) 422-3878</p>	<p><b>OWENSBORO, KY</b> Southside Church of Christ 2920 New Hartford Rd. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:20 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Jarrod Jacobs (270) 683-5386 or 264-7869</p>	<p><b>PORTLAND, ME</b> Church of Christ 856 Brighton Ave. (Breakwater School) Leave Maine Turnpike at Exit 48 Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Second service immediately following morning worship. Mid-week Bible Study—Please call for times &amp; places (207) 839-3075 or 839-8409</p>
<p><b>PALATINE, IL</b> Church of Christ (N.W. Chicago Suburb) 1050 N. Deer Ave. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (847) 967-9667</p>	<p><b>MUNCIE, IN</b> Church of Christ 301 N. Calvert Ave. Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Kevin Sulc (765) 284-5299 or 286-5488</p>	<p><b>EL DORADO, KS</b> Emporia St. Church of Christ 1154 S. Emporia Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (316) 321-1025</p>	<p><b>CAMPBELLSVILLE, KY</b> Sunny Hill Dr. Church of Christ (near the Dairy Queen) Bible Study 9:45 A.M. Worship 10:45 A.M. Evening 6:30 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Steve Lee stevelee451@windstream.net (270) 789-1651</p>	<p><b>REGINA, KY</b> Road Creek Church of Christ 7 miles west of Elkhorn City on Route 460 &amp; Route 80 Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 10:50 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (606) 754-9883, 754-8642 or 754-5398</p>	<p><b>ARBUTUS, MD</b> Arbutus Church of Christ 5205 East Dr., Suite D (East Drive Shopping Center) Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Church phone: (410) 247-1396, 590-2852 or 551-8274</p>

<p><b>To make changes to your ad, contact us at <a href="mailto:andyalex@bellsouth.net">andyalex@bellsouth.net</a></b></p>	<p><b>CLINTON, MS</b> McRaven Rd. Church of Christ 301 McRaven Rd. (120, exit 36) Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 10:55 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Leonard White (601) 925-9757 or 924-2645</p>	<p><b>DONIPHAN, MO</b> 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 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (573) 996-3251 or 996-3513</p>	<p><b>ST. JAMES, MO</b> Church of Christ 685 Sidney St. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:15 A.M. Evening 6:30 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Lynn Huggins (573) 265-8628</p>	<p><b>ALAMOGORDO, NM</b> 25th &amp; Hawaii Church of Christ P.O. Box 2065 Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 6:30 P.M. (505) 434-5834</p>	<p><b>FRANKLIN, NC</b> Westside Church of Christ 2302 Old Murphy Rd. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: John Gurtler (828) 349-0159 (evangelist) (828) 369-5186 (building) <a href="http://nc-churchofchrist.org">http://nc-churchofchrist.org</a></p>
<p><b>SEVERN, MD</b> Southwest Church of Christ 805 Meadow Rd. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Brandon Trout (410) 969-1420 or (410) 551-6549 <a href="http://www.swcofchrist.com">www.swcofchrist.com</a></p>	<p><b>COLUMBUS, MS</b> Woodlawn Church of Christ 359 Sanders Mills Rd. Steen Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 9:45 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Willis Logan (601) 356-6629</p>	<p><b>FAIR GROVE, MO</b> Church of Christ 217 N. Orchard Blvd. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Walter Myers (417) 830-8972 or (417) 736-2663</p>	<p><b>ST. JOSEPH, MO</b> County Line Church of Christ 2727 County Line Rd. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:20 A.M. Evening 4:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (816) 279-4737 <a href="http://www.countylinechurchofchrist.com">www.countylinechurchofchrist.com</a></p>	<p><b>ALBUQUERQUE, NM</b> Albuquerque Church of Christ 1908 Sunshine Terrace SE Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (call to confirm time) 764-9277</p>	<p><b>HOPE MILLS, NC</b> Gray's Creek Church of Christ 1391 Sand Hill Road Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. 910-423-8719 910-424-2372</p>
<p><b>RIVERDALE, MD</b> (Washington, D.C. area) Wildercroft Church of Christ 6330 Auburn Ave. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Mike Thomley (301) 474-7460 or 446-1912</p>	<p><b>GULFPORT, MS</b> Morris Rd. Church of Christ 1 blk. N. of Dedeaux Rd. &amp; 3 Rivers Rd. on Morris Rd. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Don Davis (228) 832-5529</p>	<p><b>KANSAS CITY, MO</b> Nashua Church of Christ 11425 N. Main St. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:20 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Mark Broyles (816) 532-4270 or 734-4142</p>	<p><b>ST. JOSEPH, MO</b> Prairie Hills Church of Christ 14273 County Rd. 307 (.7 mi. E of Intersection I-29 &amp; Hwy. 169) Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 10:50 A.M. Evening 6:30 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (816) 233-6485 Evangelist: Erik Smith</p>	<p><b>ALBUQUERQUE, NM</b> Heights Church of Christ 7801 Zuni Road, S.E. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Darrel Yontz (505) 266-7577 <a href="http://www.heightschurchofchrist.com">www.heightschurchofchrist.com</a></p>	<p><b>MARION, NC</b> Hwy. 70 Church of Christ 18 Peachtree St. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 4:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: T.J. Elliott (828) 652-7504 or 652-2584</p>
<p><b>CEDAR SPRINGS, MI</b> Grand Rapids Area W. Michigan Church of Christ Sr. Citizen Center, 44 Park St. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. David Waldron (231) 832-2189 Michael Sewell (616) 361-8795</p>	<p><b>MERIDIAN, MS</b> Grandview Church of Christ 2820 Grandview Ave. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 6:30 P.M. Evangelist: Danny Gardner (601) 681-4505 or 482-9543 <a href="mailto:dg1969@bellsouth.net">dg1969@bellsouth.net</a></p>	<p><b>KANSAS CITY, MO</b> Vivion Road Church of Christ 2026 N.E. Vivion Rd. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:15 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Tom Kinzel (816) 453-6157</p>	<p><b>BEATRICE, NE</b> Church of Christ 7th and Bell Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M. Evening 6:30 P.M. 233-4102 or 228-3827 <a href="http://www.churchofchrist7bell.com">www.churchofchrist7bell.com</a></p>	<p><b>ALBUQUERQUE, NM</b> Sandia Church of Christ 3939 San Pedro N.E., Building D-2 Bible Study 9:45 A.M. Worship 10:45 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Derek Chambers (505) 830-2086 <a href="http://www.sandiachurchofchrist.com">www.sandiachurchofchrist.com</a></p>	<p><b>BEAVERCREEK, OH</b> Knollwood Church of Christ 1031 Welford Dr. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:15 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Keith Greer (937) 426-1422</p>
<p><b>DULUTH, MN</b> Church of Christ 318 N. 18th Ave. E. Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M. Bible Study 5:30 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Nick Krumrei (218) 728-3233</p>	<p><b>MERIDIAN, MS</b> 7th St. Church of Christ 2914 7th St. Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 6:30 P.M. (601) 483-3101</p>	<p><b>KENNETT, MO</b> Church of Christ 703 Harrison St. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (573) 888-6778</p>	<p><b>LAS VEGAS, NV</b> Vegas Dr. Church of Christ 3816 Vegas Drive Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M. Evening 4:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (702) 648-4827</p>	<p><b>BUFFALO, NY</b> Greater Buffalo Church of Christ 3578 Walden Ave. Lancaster, NY 14086 Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:15 A.M. Tuesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Daniel Bailey (716) 870-3259</p>	<p><b>CINCINNATI, OH</b> Blue Ash Church of Christ Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 10:45 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Russell Dunaway, Jr. 891-3174</p>
<p><b>Shop online at <a href="http://truthbooks.net">truthbooks.net</a></b></p>	<p><b>SOUTHAVEN, MS</b> (Memphis area) Church of Christ 2110 E State Line Rd. (Exit I-55) Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Landon Hope (662) 342-1132 - Church Building</p>	<p><b>LILBOURN, MO</b> 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</p>	<p><b>RENO, NV</b> Central Church of Christ 2450 Wrondel Way, Ste. A Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (775) 786-2888</p>	<p><b>CARY, NC</b> Walnut St. Church of Christ (Raleigh) 217 Walnut St. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Rick Billingsly (919) 467-0012 (919) 372-1497</p>	<p><b>CLEVELAND, OH</b> Lorain Ave. Church of Christ 13501 Lorain Ave. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. (216) 476-0660, 651-1689 or (330) 725-3960, 723-0111</p>
<p><b>ROCHESTER, MN</b> N. Broadway Church of Christ 2002 Second St., SW Bible Study 10:30 A.M. Worship 11:30 A.M. Evening 7:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Luvimino D. Samaniego (501) 289-8906</p>	<p><b>BLUE SPRINGS, MO</b> Southside Church of Christ 4000 SW Christiansen Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:20 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Jim Bailey (816) 228-9262</p>	<p><b>RAYMORE, MO</b> Raymore Church of Christ 107 N. Woodson St. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Bill Johnston (816) 322-0042 or 318-3642</p>	<p><b>SPARKS, NV</b> Sierra Nevada Church of Christ 2425 Pyramid Way Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Monday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Ross Triplett, Sr. (775) 972-4911 <a href="http://retriplett@triplettweb.com">retriplett@triplettweb.com</a></p>	<p><b>CHARLOTTE, NC</b> Harris Blvd. Church of Christ 5424 E.W.T. Harris Blvd. Worship 8:30 A.M. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelists: Various members of local congregations Don Moeller (704) 532-9242</p>	<p><b>COLUMBUS, OH</b> Laurel Canyon Church of Christ 409 McNaughton Rd. Bible Study 9:45 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (614) 868-1375 <a href="http://www.lccoc.net">www.lccoc.net</a></p>
<p><b>ST. CHARLES, MN</b> Church of Christ 636 Whitewater Ave. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Bible Study 2:45 P.M. Evangelist: Robert Lehnertz (507) 534-2905 or 932-3521</p>	<p><b>CAPE GIRARDEAU, MO</b> North Cape Church of Christ 121 S. Broadview St. Suite 2 Cape Girardeau, MO 63703 Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Jerry Lee Westbrook (573) 334-9673</p>	<p><b>RAYTOWN, MO</b> Sterling Ave. Church of Christ 5825 Sterling Ave. (Near Sports Complex) Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Norman E. Fultz (816) 358-3096 or 792-2040 <a href="http://www.sterlingavechurchofchrist.org">www.sterlingavechurchofchrist.org</a></p>	<p><b>PISCATAWAY, NJ</b> 258 Highland Ave. Bible Study 9:15 A.M. Bible Classes 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Gary P. Eubanks (732) 463-1323</p>	<p><b>CHARLOTTE, NC</b> Charlotte Church of Christ 5327 S. Tyrton St. Worship 9:00 A.M. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Wendell Powell (704) 525-5655 or 522-9971</p>	<p><b>DAYTON, OH</b> West Carrollton 28 W. Main Street Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:25 A.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Michael Grushon (937) 866-5162 or 434-3090 E-mail: <a href="mailto:www.wc-coc.org">www.wc-coc.org</a></p>
<p><b>BOONEVILLE, MS</b> Oakleigh Dr. Church of Christ 101 Oakleigh Dr. Bible Study 9:45 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 4:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Building: (662) 728-1942</p>	<p><b>COLUMBIA, MO</b> Eastside Church of Christ 5051 Ponderosa Columbia, MO 65201 Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. 445-5497 or 636-0224</p>	<p><b>Subscribe Today! Truth Magazine 1-800-428-0121</b></p>	<p><b>VAUXHALL, NJ</b> Church of Christ Milbourn Mall Suite 6 2933 Vauxhall Rd. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Harry A. Persaud (908) 964-8570</p>	<p><b>DALLAS, NC</b> Deepwood Forest Church of Christ 2002 Lineburg Rd., Hwy. 275 (Between Dallas &amp; Stanley) Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Louis Woollums (704) 922-8985</p>	<p><b>FRANKLIN, OH</b> Church of Christ 6417 Franklin/Lebanon Rd. State Route 123 Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 10:45 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Eston Vandever (937) 746-1249 or (513) 422-2466</p>

# directory of churches

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<p><b>FREMONT, OH</b> Church of Christ 3361 W. State St. 1 mi. W. of Fremont on U.S. Rt. 20 Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 10:45 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (419) 849-3340 or 849-3686 www.amplex.net/churchofchrist</p>	<p><b>NORTHWOOD, OH</b> (Toledo Area) Church of Christ 4110 Frey Rd. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Donald Jarabek 893-3566 or 691-0688</p>	<p><b>PHILADELPHIA, PA</b> Church of Christ 7222 Germantown Ave. Bible Study 10:15 A.M. Worship 11:15 A.M. Tues. night 8:00 P.M. Evangelist: James H. Baker, Jr. (215) 248-2026 www.mtairychurchofchrist.org</p>	<p><b>COLUMBIA, TN</b> Jackson Hts. Church of Christ 1200 Nashville Hwy., Hwy. 31N Bible Study 9:15 A.M. Worship 10:15 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Mid-week 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Andrew Roberts (931) 388-6811</p>	<p><b>MURFREESBORO, TN</b> Cason Lane Church of Christ 1110 Cason Lane Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (615) 896-0090 (Building) (615) 653-1828 (Wilson Adams) (615) 895-3484 (Phil Cavender) www.casonlanechurch.org</p>	<p><b>SAVANNAH, TN</b> Savannah Heights Church of Christ 230 Harrison St. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Jonathan Ellis</p>
<p><b>HAMILTON, OH</b> Westview Church of Christ 1040 Azel Ave. Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 9:45 A.M. Evening 6:30 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: David A. Stansberry (513) 868-9988</p>	<p><b>UHRICHSVILLE, OH</b> 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.</p>	<p><b>To make changes to your ad, contact us at andyalex@bellsouth.net</b></p>	<p><b>COLUMBIA, TN</b> Mooreville Pike Church of Christ 417 Mooreville Pike (.8 mi. N. of Hwy. 50/Jas. Campbell) Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (931) 388-5828; 381-7898; 380-1226 www.moorevillepikecoc.com</p>	<p><b>MURFREESBORO, TN</b> Compton Rd. Church 663 Compton Rd. Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Assembly 10:00 A.M. Assembly 6:30 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. David Arnold (615) 896-6550 or 896-9474</p>	<p><b>SHELBYVILLE, TN</b> El Bethel Church of Christ 1801 Hwy. 41-A North Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 9:50 A.M. Evening 5:30 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Donnie V. Rader (931) 685-1113 or 931-607-9099 dvrader@hughes.net</p>
<p><b>HILLIARD, OH</b> Church of Christ 4840 Cemetery Rd. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. (614) 876-4089</p>	<p><b>WAVERLY, OH</b> Church of Christ 209 Mullins St. Church of Christ Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 5:30 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. (740) 947-7122 or 289-3401</p>	<p><b>BEAUFORT, SC</b> Church of Christ 2107 King St., P.O. Box 4 Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 6:30 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Parris Island, 8:00 A.M., Sunday Evangelist: Ronald Nelson (843) 524-4400 or 524-4652</p>	<p><b>DAYTON, TN</b> Main Street Church of Christ 250 Main St. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 2:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Contact: (423) 618-6250 or 332-4604</p>	<p><b>MURFREESBORO, TN</b> Northfield Blvd. Church of Christ 2091 Pitts Ln. at Northfield Blvd. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelists: David Bunting (615) 893-1200</p>	<p><b>TULLAHOMA, TN</b> Church of Christ 1625 W. Lincoln St. Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Jim Mickells (931) 455-0273 or 563-7312</p>
<p><b>MANSFIELD, OH</b> Eastside Church of Christ 326 Grace Street Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 10:45 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 6:00 P.M. Evangelist: James Bond 526-2868 or 526-4739</p>	<p><b>OKLAHOMA CITY, OK</b> Seminole Pointe Church of Christ 16300 N. May Ave. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: John M. Duvall (405) 340-3189 or 513-6691 www.seminolepointecofc.org</p>	<p><b>HOPKINS, SC</b> Lower Richland Church of Christ 3000 Trotter Rd. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Wayne Seaton (803) 776-0754</p>	<p><b>JACKSON, TN</b> Sunset View Church of Christ 3618 Hwy 70 East (Exit 87 off I-40, 7mi. @ Spring Creek) Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Steve Wilkerson (731) 987-2200 or 968-9851</p>	<p><b>MURFREESBORO, TN</b> South Ridge Church of Christ 488 Barfield-Crescent Rd. PO Box 2257, Zip 37133 (I-24, Exit 81, South 1.5 miles on Hwy 231, turn right) Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M. Evening 5:30 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (615) 494-9686</p>	<p><b>ABILENE, TX</b> North Park Church of Christ 2958 Grape St. (3 blocks south of I-20) Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Wayne Goforth (325) 677-6934 or 672-8026 E-mail: wgofoorth@sbcglobal.net</p>
<p><b>MANSFIELD, OH</b> Southside Church of Christ 687 Mansfield-Lucas Road Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 10:45 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 6:00 P.M. Building: (419) 522-8982 Leon Bond: 525-3684 Glenn Bond: 522-1965</p>	<p><b>TULSA, OK</b> Woodland Hills Church of Christ 9119 E. 61 St. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Ross Oldenkamp (918) 252-1220</p>	<p><b>NORTH CHARLESTON, SC</b> Ashley Heights Church of Christ 2605 S. Oakridge Cir. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (843) 553-4970 www.findthechurch.com</p>	<p><b>JOHNSON CITY, TN</b> Brookmead Church of Christ 2428 Lakeview Drive Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Kevin Kay 423-282-6251 or 426-1836</p>	<p><b>NASHVILLE, TN</b> Bell Road Church of Christ 1608 Bell Road Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Robert Davenport (615) 833-4444 or 331-7377</p>	<p><b>ALLEN, TX</b> West Allen Church of Christ 1414 W. Exchange Blvd. (2 miles w. of Hwy. 75) Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 9:50 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Jerry King (214) 504-0443 (972) 727-5355 (bldg)</p>
<p><b>MARIETTA/RENO, OH</b> Jct. St. Rt. 7 &amp; County Rd. 20 Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:30 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. (740) 373-0064 (Joe Schof) or 473-9028 (Steve Foutty)</p>	<p><b>MEDFORD, OR</b> Church of Christ 1850 Spring St. (Roxy Ann Grange Hall) Corner of Spring/Valley View Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Thursday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Dean Blackwell (541) 773-2649</p>	<p><b>ORANGEBURG, SC</b> Southside Church of Christ 1502 Binnicker Bridge Rd. (Grange Building - Hwy 70) Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evangelist: Fred England (803) 939-0672 www.southside-church.org</p>	<p><b>KINGSTON SPRINGS, TN</b> Kingston Springs Church of Christ 350 North Main St. Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Dan King, Sr. (615) 952-5720 or 662-7626</p>	<p><b>NASHVILLE, TN</b> Hillview Church of Christ 7471 Charlotte Pike Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Jerry Sayre (615) 797-1114</p>	<p><b>Subscribe Today! Truth Magazine 1-800-428-0121</b></p>
<p><b>NEW CARLISLE, OH</b> Church of Christ 235 Funston Ave. (Near Wright-Patterson AFB) Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Randy Blackaby (937) 849-1643 or 845-8467 (bldg.)</p>	<p><b>SWEET HOME, OR</b> Church of Christ 3702 E. Long St. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 6:30 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Building: (541) 367-1599</p>	<p><b>SUMTER, SC</b> 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 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: A.A. Granke, Jr. (803) 499-6023</p>	<p><b>KNOXVILLE, TN</b> Chapman Hwy. Church of Christ 7604 Chapman Hwy. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Jack Wise, Jr. (865) 573-6638</p>	<p><b>NASHVILLE, TN</b> Perry Heights Church of Christ 423 Donelson Pike Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 9:55 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Johnny Felker (615) 883-3118 http://perryheights.faihtweb.com</p>	<p><b>ALVARADO, TX</b> I-35 Church of Christ (E. Service Rd. of I-35. N. of Alvarado) Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (817) 295-7277 or 790-7253</p>
<p><b>NEW LEBANON, OH</b> Church of Christ 1973 W. Main St. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:30 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Glen Murphy, Jr. 687-2985</p>	<p><b>AVONDALE, PA</b> Avondale Church of Christ 1606 Glen Willow Rd. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (302) 733-7920 or (610) 268-2088 Randy Farme (610) 869-4146</p>	<p><b>TAYLORS, SC</b> (Greenville Area) Taylors Church of Christ 400 E. Main St. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 10:50 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Bill Mosely (864) 268-5224 or 877-2728 www.taylorschurchofchrist.com</p>	<p><b>MARYVILLE, TN</b> Smokey Mt. Church of Christ 2206 Montvale Rd. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:30 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Harold Tabor (865) 977-4230 Robert Lawson (865) 681-7995</p>	<p><b>PIGEON FORGE, TN</b> King Branch Road Church of Christ 560 King Branch Road Worship 10:00 A.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Facilities available for Sunday evening services upon request. Evangelist: Roger Williams (865) 430-5980 www.KingBranchRoadChurchOf- Christ.org</p>	<p><b>ALVIN, TX</b> Adoue St. Church of Christ 605 E. Adoue St. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Mark Mayberry (281) 331-4953 or (832) 837-9038</p>
<p><b>NEW RICHMOND, OH</b> Church of Christ 550 Washington St. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:20 A.M. Evening 6:30 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Contact: Dave Wylie (513) 553-6414 www.nrchurchofchrist.com</p>	<p><b>EXTON, PA</b> Exton Church of Christ 217 N. Whitford Rd. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. 363-8042</p>	<p><b>WEST COLUMBIA, SC</b> Airport Church of Christ 4013 Edmund Hwy. (Hwy. 302) Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Brad McCleary (803) 783-0079 Steven Hutchinson (803) 604-6011</p>	<p><b>MEMPHIS, TN</b> Rocky Pt. Road Church of Christ 516 E. Rocky Point Rd., Cordova Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Contact: Mitch Stevens (901) 372-5580 or 758-4006</p>	<p><b>ROCKWOOD, TN</b> Church of Christ Highway 70 East 5080 Roane State Hwy. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Cecil Belcher (865) 717-3654</p>	<p><b>ANGELTON, TX</b> Kiber St. Church of Christ P.O. Box 1162 Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:20 A.M. Evening 5:30 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Zeke Flores (979) 849-8376</p>

<p><b>AUSTIN, TX</b> Wonsley Dr. Church of Christ 507 E. Wonsley Dr. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 2:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Ron Lehde</p>	<p><b>EDNA, TX</b> 301 Robison Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. (361) 782-5506 or 782-2844 Elders: S.A. Mercer &amp; S. Wilson Evangelist: Heath Rogers</p>	<p><b>HOUSTON, TX</b> Oak Forest Church of Christ 1333 Judway Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Mid-week 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Jay Taylor (281) 970-2976 elysian39@juno.com</p>	<p><b>MANSFIELD, TX</b> Northside Church of Christ 1820 Mansfield-Webb Road Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:20 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelists: Tom Roberts (817) 466-3160</p>	<p><b>SAN ANGELO, TX</b> Green Meadow Church of Christ (Off Loop 306, sw part of the city) 3438 Green Meadow Dr. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Boyd Jennings (325) 224-2848 (325)944-8147 or (325)896-2038</p>	<p><b>COLONIAL HEIGHTS/ PETERSBURG, VA</b> Appomattox church of Christ 117 Orange Avenue (Ft. Lee Area) Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 5:30 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Lenny Chapman (804) 526-6464 or (804) 675-0216</p>	
<p><b>BAYTOWN, TX</b> Pruett and Lobit Church of Christ 701 North Pruett St. Bible Study 9:45 A.M. Worship 10:40 A.M. Evening 6:30 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Jesse Flowers (281) 422-5926; (281) 515-8939; (713) 818-1321</p>	<p><b>EL PASO, TX</b> Eastridge Church of Christ 3277 Pendleton Road Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:30 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (915) 855-1524</p>	<p><b>HOUSTON, TX</b> (Southwest) Murphy Rd. Church of Christ 2025 Murphy Rd., Missouri City Worship 9:30 A.M. Bible Study 10:45 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Gene Mabry (281) 265-8071 or 261-5216</p>	<p><b>McKINNEY, TX</b> Central Church of Christ 1805 White Ave. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Jack Howard III (214) 544-3035</p>	<p><b>SAN ANTONIO, TX</b> Pecan Valley Church of Christ 268 Utopia (1-37 S.E. Exit Pecan Valley) Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Clyde W. Carter (210) 337-6143</p>	<p><b>NEWPORT NEWS, VA</b> Harpersville Rd. Church of Christ 315 Harpersville Rd. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M.  (757) 595-9564</p>	
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<p><b>BAYTOWN, TX</b> East Side Church of Christ 3107 N. Highway 146 Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Kris Emerson (281) 427-8729; 837-9259 422-8800; 573-1940</p>	<p><b>FORT WORTH, TX</b> Woodmont Church of Christ 6417 Landview (at Altamesa) Worship 9:30 A.M. Bible Study 11:00 A.M. Afternoon 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Jeff S. Smith (817) 292-4908 or 426-2242 woodmontchurch.org</p>	<p><b>HOUSTON, TX</b> Spring Woods Church of Christ 9955 Neuens Rd. at Witte Rd. Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M.  Evangelist (281) 794-0837</p>	<p><b>MESQUITE, TX</b> (East Dallas) Westlake Church of Christ 427 Gross Rd., 75149 Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Ashley Sharkey (972) 285-1610</p>	<p><b>SHERMAN, TX</b> Westwood Village Church of Christ 314 N. Tolbert Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Fred Watkins</p>	<p><b>RICHMOND (Metro), VA</b> 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 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Gene Tope (804) 790-1629 www.courthousechurchofchrist.com</p>	
<p><b>BAYTOWN, TX</b> East Side Church of Christ 3107 N. Highway 146 Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Kris Emerson (281) 427-8729; 837-9259 422-8800; 573-1940</p>	<p><b>FORT WORTH, TX</b> West Side Church of Christ 6110 White Settlement Rd. 76114 Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. (817) 738-7269</p>	<p><b>HUNTINGTON, TX</b> Church of Christ P.O. Box 858 One block north of U.S. 69 Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:15 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (936) 422-4640</p>	<p><b>MIDLAND, TX</b> Woodcrest Drive Church of Christ 1401 Woodcrest Drive Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Danny Hooper (432) 689-0955 (432) 694-3482</p>	<p><b>TEMPLE, TX</b> Leon Valley Church of Christ 4404 Twin City Blvd. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Warren King (254) 939-0682 or 228-5038 www.biblemoments.org</p>	<p><b>RICHMOND, VA</b> Forest Hill Church of Christ 1208 W. 41st St. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 6:30 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Jack Bise, Jr. (804) 233-5959</p>	
<p><b>BEAUMONT, TX</b> Dowlen Rd. Church of Christ 3060 Dowlen Road Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelists: Max Dawson &amp; David Banning (409) 866-1996</p>	<p><b>FRISCO, TX</b> (North Dallas-Plano) 4220 Preston Rd. (Holiday Inn) Call for times of services. Glenn Henderson (972) 378-3621 Rex Payne (972) 740-1486 Al Payne (972) 712-9274</p>	<p><b>IRVING, TX</b> Westside Church of Christ 2320 Imperial Dr. (closest to D/FW Airport) Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 9:50 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Mark Roberts (972) 986-9131 www.justChristians.com</p>	<p align="center"><b>Subscribe Today! Truth Magazine 1-800-428-0121</b></p>		<p><b>TEMPLE, TX</b> Southside Church of Christ 2003 S. 5th Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M.  (254) 773-0931</p>	<p><b>RICHMOND, VA</b> West End 4909 Patterson Ave. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 5:30 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Stacy Crim (804) 358-7933</p>
<p><b>CLEVELAND, TX</b> Church of Christ 310 E. Houston Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Robert Davis (281) 592-5676</p>	<p><b>GRANBURY, TX</b> Old Granbury Rd. Church of Christ 4313 Old Granbury Rd. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (817) 573-6878</p>	<p><b>LANCASTER, TX</b> Dallas Avenue Church of Christ 601 N. Dallas Ave. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:25 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (972) 227-1119 or (817) 371-5776 lklice@sbcbglobal.net www.dallasavenuechurchofchrist.org</p>	<p><b>NACOGDOCHES, TX</b> Stallings Dr. Church of Christ 3831 N.E. Stallings Dr. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:20 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Randy Harshbarger</p>	<p><b>WACO, TX</b> Sun Valley Church of Christ 340 E. Warren St. (In Hewitt, a suburb of Waco) Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Marc Smith (254) 666-1020 or 420-1484</p>	<p><b>RIDGEWAY, VA</b> Church of Christ 2970 Old Leaksville Rd. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 6:30 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Ken Sills (276) 956-1150 or 956-6049</p>	
<p><b>CLUTE, TX</b> Church of Christ 343 S. Main Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:20 A.M. Evening 6:30 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (979) 265-5283 or 265-2933</p>	<p align="center"><b>Shop online at <a href="http://truthbooks.net">truthbooks.net</a></b></p>		<p><b>LANCASTER, TX</b> Pleasant Run Church of Christ 831 W. Pleasant Run Rd. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:20 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. (972) 227-1758 or 227-2598</p>	<p><b>ODESSA, TX</b> Crescent Park Church of Christ 1415 Royalty Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Dale Garrison (432) 366-5071 or 413-7759</p>	<p><b>THE WOODLANDS, TX</b> Woodlands Church of Christ P.O. Box 7664-77380 3987 Wellman Road Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:15 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. (281) 367-2099 www.simplychristians.net</p>	<p><b>ROANOKE, VA</b> Blue Ridge Church of Christ 929 Indiana Ave. N.E. 5 min. from Roanoke Convention Center 1st Lesson 9:15 A.M. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. (540) 344-2755</p>
<p><b>CORPUS CHRISTI, TX</b> Hwy. 9 Church of Christ 5853 Leopard St. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. (361) 289-1559, 225-4792 or 289-1439</p>	<p><b>HOUSTON, TX</b> Fry Rd. Church of Christ 2510 Fry Road (77084) Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:20 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Michael McLemore (281) 578-1897</p>	<p><b>LUBBOCK, TX</b> Indiana Ave. Church of Christ 6111 Indiana Ave. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Brett Hogland (806) 795-3377 or 928-9262</p>	<p><b>PLANO, TX</b> (North Dallas Suburb) Spring Creek Church of Christ 2100 W. Spring Creek Pkwy. Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. (972) 517-5582 or 231-3748 www.planochurch.org</p>	<p><b>CHESAPEAKE, VA</b> Tidewater Church of Christ 217 Taxus St. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Steve Schlos (757) 436-6900</p>	<p><b>STAFFORD, VA</b> Stafford Church of Christ 767 Jefferson Davis Hwy. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Mark McNabb (540) 891-1215</p>	
<p><b>DICKINSON, TX</b> Church of Christ 2919 FM 517 Rd. E. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 10:50 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 9:45 A.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Craig Meyer (281) 534-4870</p>	<p><b>HOUSTON, TX</b> Bellaire Church of Christ 8001 South Rice Ave. Worship 9:30 A.M. Bible Study 10:45 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. www.bellairechurchofchrist.org (713) 668-4810</p>	<p><b>LUFKIN, TX</b> Timberland Dr. Church of Christ 912 S. Timberland Dr. Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 9:50 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelists: Harold Hancock James W. Adams 634-7110 or 632-7070</p>	<p><b>ROSENBERG, TX</b> Church of Christ 908 Frost St. Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Jason Trick Bldg: (281) 232-4425 Cell: (832) 228-8973</p>	<p><b>CHESTER, VA</b> Chester Church of Christ 12100 Winfree St. (Central to Richmond, Hopewell, Petersburg, &amp; 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 Also: (804) 497-3638 or (804) 271-0877</p>	<p><b>VIRGINIA BEACH, VA</b> Southside Church of Christ 5652 Haden Rd. Worship 11:00 A.M.  Robert Mallard (757) 464-4574</p>	

# directory of churches

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<p><b>VIRGINIA BEACH, VA</b> Virginia Beach Church of Christ Pembroke Manor Recreation Building 4452 Hinsdale St. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (757) 486-6639</p>	<p><b>CHARLESTON, WV</b> Church of Christ 873 Oakwood Rd. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 10:50 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. (304) 727-1794</p>	<p><b>RAVENSWOOD, WV</b> Church of Christ 1101 Gallatin St. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:30 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Rick Christian 273-0261 or 273-3267</p>
<p><b>BELLINGHAM, WA</b> Mt. Baker Church of Christ 1860 Mt. Baker Hwy. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Joe Price (360) 752-2692 or 380-2960 www.bibleanswer.com/mtbaker</p>	<p><b>CLARKSBURG, WV</b> Westside Church of Christ Davison Run Road Sunday Morning 9:30 A.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (304) 622-5433</p>	<p><b>WELLSBURG, WV</b> Charles St. Church of Christ 836 Charles Street Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:30 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (304) 527-4438 or 737-3124</p>
<p><b>SEQUIM, WA</b> Church of Christ American Legion Hall Corner of Sequim Ave. &amp; Prairie St. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Call for Wednesday meeting place (360) 683-2152</p>	<p><b>FAIRMONT, WV</b> Eastside Church of Christ 1929 Morgantown Ave. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 10:45 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (304) 366-4523</p>	<p><b>MILWAUKEE, WI</b> Metropolitan Church of Christ 1029 S. 58th St. West Allis Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: David Girardot (414) 257-3035 Church: 258-8520</p>
<p><b>SUNNYSIDE, WA</b> Sunnyside Church of Christ (sound) 1312 East Edison Bible Study 2:00 P.M. Worship 3:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Steven J. Wallace (509) 837-2813 www.sunnysidechurchofchrist.com</p>	<p><b>MORGANTOWN, WV</b> Glen Oaks Church of Christ Greenbag Road Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:20 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (304) 296-9793</p>	<p><b>CANADA</b> Calgary, Alberta Northside Church of Christ 803 - 20 A Ave. N.E. Calgary, Alberta T2E 1S1 Sunday 10, 11, 6 Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (403) 276-8088</p>
<p><b>TACOMA, WA</b> Manitou Church of Christ 4806 So. 66th St. (P.O. Box 7523, 98407) Sunday 10:00 A.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. (253) 759-7875 (425) 557-9242 Voice Mail: (253) 752-5616</p>	<p><b>MOUNDSVILLE, WV</b> Church of Christ 210 Cedar St. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:30 P.M. Mid-week 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Brian Price (304) 845-2820, 845-4940</p>	<p><b>CANADA</b> Jordan, Ontario Jordan Church of Christ 2861 Regional Road 81 (Highway #8) Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Preacher - Chad Comfort (905) 562-4739</p>
<p><b>YAKIMA, WA</b> W. Washington Ave. Church of Christ 902 W. Washington Ave. Conservative Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 10:50 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. (509) 248-8190 or 248-5614</p>	<p><b>MOUNDSVILLE, WV</b> Roberts Ridge Church of Christ Bible Study 9:45 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:30 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Don Terrill: (304) 845-2344 Mail to: Sam Wood (304) 845-2202 406 Jefferson Ave. Glen Dale, WV 26038</p>	<p><b>CANADA</b> Hamilton, Ontario 126 Ottawa St. N. Mailing Address: 33 Highcliffe Ave. L9A 3L3 Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Monday 7:00 P.M. Tuesday 7:00 P.M. Steve Rudd, Evangelist (905) 575-8437</p>
<p><b>CHARLESTON, WV</b> Church of Christ 522 Daugherty St. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 10:50 A.M. Evening 5:30 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. (304) 346-2112 or Kent Clark (304) 342-0237 mansuper1965@hotmail.com</p>	<p><b>PARKERSBURG, WV</b> Marttown Church of Christ 825 Marttown Road Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:15 A.M. Evening 7:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. (304) 861-0342 or 422-7458</p>	<p><b>CANADA</b> Peterborough, Ontario The Board Rm., Parkway Place Mall, Lansdowne St. W. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 10:50 A.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Peter McPherson Other meetings: phone (705) 742-5349</p>

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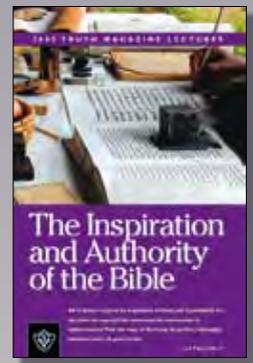
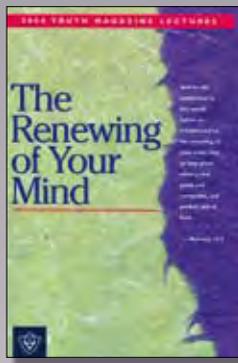
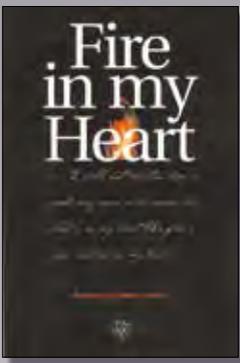
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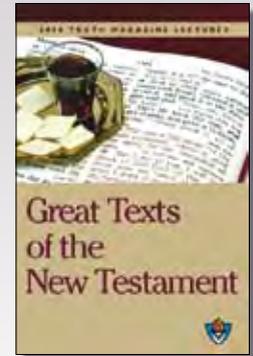
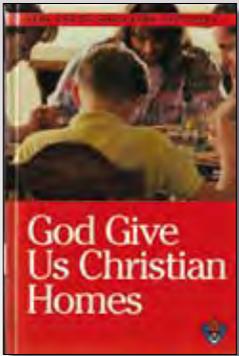
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