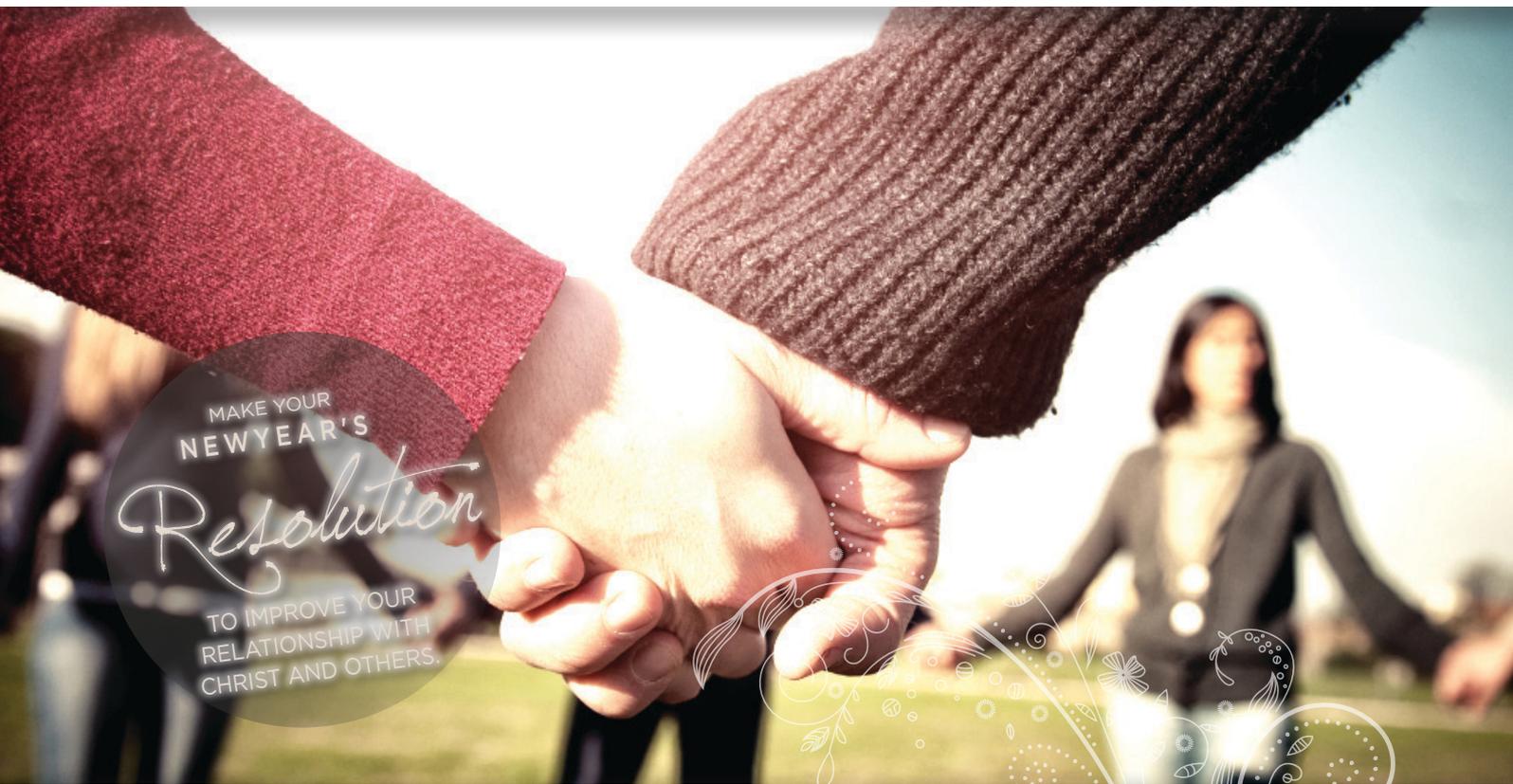


VOLUME 57 - NUMBER 1 - JANUARY 2013

SPECIAL ISSUE
I Am Resolved...



Truth **Magazine**



MAKE YOUR
NEWYEAR'S

Resolution

TO IMPROVE YOUR
RELATIONSHIP WITH
CHRIST AND OTHERS.

Introducing our "Book of the Month Club"

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I AM RESOLVED

MIKE WILLIS

In Jesus' parable of the Unrighteous Steward, the steward was called to account for his conduct. Knowing that he had no defense for his conduct, he began to make plans for what he would do when he was no longer able to serve as steward for his master. He said, "***I have resolved what to do***, that when I am put out of the stewardship, they may receive me into their houses" (Luke 16:4). Jesus commended this unrighteous steward, not for his unrighteousness, but because of his wisdom in planning for that time when he was no longer allowed to serve as steward.

The beginning of the New Year is usually a time when men make resolutions. The practice of making New Year's Resolutions may not be as common as it used to be, but many of us quietly resolve, even if we do not publicly state, our resolutions that during the coming year we are going to make some changes in our lives. I made a resolution last year to lose some weight. I had no choice. I had to decide either to buy my clothes from Omar, the Tent Maker, or to lose some weight. Since I did not like the color choices at Omar's, I decided to lose some weight. A year has now passed. I have worked on watching what I eat and, more importantly, to invest the time at the fitness center exercising. Sometimes we do keep our resolutions.

But, my resolution to lose weight is so much less important than the resolutions we have pulled together in this special issue because my losing weight resolution pertained only to the physical body whereas these resolutions are aimed at higher goals – spiritual growth and development, family relationships, more intimate fellowship with God, etc. I would like to encourage each of us to take a few moments and think about what we can do to improve our service to God in 2013.

A WORD ABOUT RESOLUTIONS

Sometimes the goals that we set in our resolutions are so high that it is practically impossible to meet them. Even realistic goals do not always take into consideration the unexpected events that change daily schedules

at the last minute. Many of us have resolved to read the Bible every day of the calendar year. We get off to a good start, reading every day for two or three weeks. Then something unexpected comes up which causes us to miss a day or maybe two. The first time it happens, we work hard to "catch up." If we can't catch up that day, we fall further behind and catching up becomes even harder to do. Soon we are so far behind that we just throw up our hands and quit.

Can I give you a different perspective? I think this perspective is more realistic and does not make one feel so driven by his noble aspiration of reading the Bible through in 2013. When you have that first interruption in your schedule, stop and look at what you have already accomplished. You read the Bible every day for two and one-half weeks! How long has it been since you last did that? What difference does it make if you have fallen three chapters behind an arbitrarily set schedule? Suppose it takes you thirteen months (or even two years) to read through the Bible instead of twelve. What difference does that make? Look at the tremendous gains you have made by making this year's resolution.

We will never achieve perfection, so quit trying. Accept the fact that you and I are imperfect creatures trying to serve God to the best of our ability. Factor into your plans time for these interruptions in your schedule and quit beating yourself over the head because of them. Missing reading for two or three days is no good reason for throwing out your noble aspiration to read the Bible every day!

CONCLUSION

This special issue is designed to help us focus on some spiritual goals that we can improve on during the coming year. The goals listed may be areas in which you can do better and, perhaps, we have left some out that you need to include. This is a good time to assess where you are spiritually. Paul exhorted, "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).

I know some are wondering how my last year's resolution to lose weight worked out. Let me put it this way: I am not quite "half the man I used to be," but I am two-thirds and that is quite an improvement for me.



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I Am Resolved...

TO MAKE MY RELATIONSHIP TO GOD MY HIGHEST PRIORITY

AARON VEYON

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W have chosen to be faithful; I have determined to live by your laws" (Psa. 119:30).

The term "resolution" (as is meant in this context) basically means "firm determination to take a course of action." With each new year people all around the globe make what is commonly called "New Year's resolutions" in an effort to better their lives in some way. With some it is to quit smoking. With others it is to pay down debt. With some it is to go on a diet or to get more exercise (etc.). Intentions are usually good starting out, but for many it seems that their determination loses steam shortly thereafter. This can be very frustrating, and even depressing. Truly, there is little good in desiring to better our lives if we will not continually employ those things which are necessary to get the intended results.

This same kind of frustration can be seen in our spiritual lives. There is little good in desiring to become a Christian, to be closer to God, or to be more holy if we will not put into continual practice those things that are necessary to get the intended results. It's not good enough to talk the talk; we must also walk the walk. By example, God shows that He was not only a determined God; He also did what it took to bring about His divine purpose. On one occasion He said, ". . . Indeed I have spoken it; I will also bring it to pass. I have purposed it; I will also do it" (Isa. 46:11).

The problem with so many of us is that we are not as dedicated to our goals as God is to His. And there are a number of reasons why we continually fail in this area. Perhaps we have a lack of conviction starting out. (Maybe our heart is not in it. We are only doing it because we have to, but we really don't want to go to the trouble.) Perhaps we have very little perseverance to meet our goals. (If we don't see immediate results we throw in the towel.) Perhaps we are simply lazy. Sin is like gravity. You don't have to do anything to sin (just give up). Let go of the ladder rung and you will fall to your death. But to be righteous requires us to continually climb that ladder toward God – rung after rung. This is continual work. It takes a lot of

effort to keep climbing and never stop. You may get tired and weak, but Christ has an answer for that (2 Cor. 12:7-10). You may get discouraged, but Christ has an answer for that too (Heb. 12:1-4).

All too often our failure is due to the fact that we allow ourselves to get distracted. Imagine that life is like a minefield (wherein each mine represents sin, which leads to death, Jas. 1:14-15; Rom. 6:23). Throughout human history no one has been able to navigate this minefield without stepping on a mine and dying because of it (Rom. 3:23; 5:12). However, in due time God sent His Son, and He successfully navigated that minefield, reaching the salvation that is beyond it. And now He appeals to us with these words: "Follow Me." Peter tells us that Jesus left us His footsteps that we should walk in them (1 Pet. 2:21). So as long as we step where He stepped, we likewise will be saved. But what often happens is that we get distracted. Something to the left of us or to the right of us or behind us catches our attention, and so we take our eyes off of our Lord and then BOOM – we set off a mine (i.e., we fall into sin again). We have been warned about this. "No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God" (Luke 9:62). "Remember Lot's wife" (Luke 17:32).

Because we have allowed so many distractions in our lives, we have convinced ourselves that it is too hard to be a Christian. It is too difficult to be godly. It is impossible to be holy. What then shall we do with 2 Corinthians 7:1? "Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God." This a command. That God says that we must do it tells us that we can do it. This is not about inability; it's about a lack of determination and focus to see it through.

I once read an interesting story about a pilot who, during a flight, heard the sickening sound of gnawing. Fearful that it was a rat his heart began to pound as he visualized the unwelcomed guest chewing through the wires of the fragile mechanism that controlled the plane. Suddenly he remembered hearing that rodents could not survive at high altitudes, so he pulled back

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on the stick and the plane climbed higher and higher. The move paid off. The gnawing sound had stopped. When he landed, sure enough, he found a rat lying dead behind the cockpit. It strikes me that oftentimes Christians have a similar experience. We are plagued by sin that gnaws at our lives simply because we are living at too low of a spiritual altitude (where the influence of the world is strongly upon us). Brethren and friends, to see sin defeated in our lives and to become holy requires that we move up away from the world to a higher altitude of spiritual existence with God where sin cannot survive. "Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. . ." (Jas. 4:7-8).

Someone may say, "This may be what we have to do, but how do we develop the desire to do it?" That's a good question – and the answer to that depends on just how important God is in your life. Many of us have been so well blessed that we have gotten used to being spoiled by our abundance. We have concentrated so much on our comforts and pleasures that we have made life all about us. And the moment we have shifted our focus from what is pleasing to God to what is pleasing to us is the moment when we have gone from God-centered living to self-centered living. So how do we make God the centerpiece of our lives again (or maybe for the first time)?

“. . . for all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them" (Heb. 8:11).

I believe this is the basis of the Christian's relationship with God – that we will know the Lord. In this context the word "know" is the same term that's used regarding marriage describing the physically intimate relationship between a husband and wife (Matt. 1:25; cf. Gen. 4:1). Hebrews 8:11 refers to a spiritually intimate relationship with God that is so deep, personal, and close that the Lord called it a marriage (Eph. 5:22-33) in His relationship with the church (Eph. 5:22-33).

But how do we have that kind of relationship with God – and on a daily basis? Where in the world do we find time throughout the day to meditate on God? These are good questions, but again the answer comes back to just how important God is in our lives. The fact is, we can work on our relationship with God morning, noon, and night.

We make time for everything else we want to do. "At night my soul longs for You, yes, by my spirit within me I will seek You early" (Isa. 26:9). "In the morning, O Lord, You will hear my voice; in the morning I will order my prayer to You and eagerly watch" (Ps. 5:3). "Lead me in Your truth and teach me, for You are the God of my salvation; on You I wait all the day" (Ps. 25:5). If you can walk and chew gum at the same time, you can function and meditate on God at the same time.

When a person is on a diet, the thought of food is very important to him, and he usually thinks about it all day long. Hungering and thirsting for God is very much like that. The idea is that our mind is consumed with God. It's not that we cannot function or carry out our normal daily activities, it's that even though we are busy with the pursuits of the day, our mind continually goes back to those things that have become important to us (in this case, our relationship with God). When we are doing the normal activities of the day, instead of thinking of other things, why not use the events and the visual images that we see to draw our minds back to what is most important in our lives (i.e., our relationship with God).

Dallas Willard once wrote: "Does our mind spontaneously return to God when not intensely occupied, as the needle of the compass turns to the North Pole when removed from nearer magnetic sources?" This is what the Christian's life should be like (every day, not just the first few weeks of a new year). We need to be like that compass needle toward God. Friends, let us resolve to make our relationship to God our highest priority, and let us run and never stop in pursuit of this goal (cf. 1 Cor. 9:24).

As the deer pants for the water brooks, so pants my soul for You, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and appear before God? (Ps. 42:1-2).

Since 2005, Aaron Veyon has labored with the church in Fredricktown, Ohio. Aaron is married to Rebecca (Conrad) and has five children (Kyle, Megan, Silas, Maddie, and Luke).



I Am Resolved... To Pray More Regularly

DAVE MATLOCK

This is the season to set goals. The purpose of this article is to exhort each of us to perhaps focus on all elements of life indirectly, by directly improving our interaction with the Almighty. There is no doubt in my mind that through drawing nigh to God, every aspect of our lives can and will improve; as Paul told Timothy, “but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come” (1 Tim. 4:8). In fact, it may be absolutely appropriate to conclude that improving spiritual matters with God will allow us to get to the very root of all other problems that need attention in our lives. There may be many worries that we are considering to set goals toward, but Peter told us to cast “all your cares upon Him; for He careth for you” (1 Pet. 5:7). To take a large solid step in the direction of self-improvement, before we take a step at all, let us talk to God about it. Let us pray more regularly.

Routine prayer is easily pushed off to the side for lack of time...

ROUTINE PRAYER

Every day is a new day. However, every day there are routine things we must do for basic survival and lifestyle maintenance. For survival, there are necessary routines, such as food, sleep, and work. In these matters we do not have a choice if we are going to live. Within this realm of survival, we have choices to make that determine the quality of our lives. Our physical health is dependent upon healthy routines. Some of us neglect a healthful routine until we get sick, then we focus on routines that would hopefully contribute to a healthy state. It seems this kind of living carries over into our prayer life. Routine prayer is easily pushed off to the side for lack of time, but when we face intense tribulation then we want to talk to God. I could suggest, based on

my personal opinion, that prayer *should* be more routine than many of the other things that we do; but rather, it would be of greater service to simply quote what Paul told the Christians who resided in Thessalonica; “Pray without ceasing” (1 Thess. 5:17). The need to be in constant contact with God never ceases; why then should our prayer ever cease?

Let us examine the context of this time-consuming instruction to reveal why Paul would have the nerve to tell these busy people why they should dedicate so much of their conscious thought to communicating with someone they could not even see. In 1 Thessalonians 5:2-3, Paul reminded them of something they already knew, but maybe “conveniently” forgot. He says, “For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. For when they shall say, ‘Peace and safety’; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.” Many are going to lose urgency in their disposition. The thoughts will be “Peace and safety.” While we are on this earth, there is never to be a moment that our guard and preparation are neglected. Paul immediately follows it up in verses 4-6 by saying, “But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober.” The mentality of “Peace and safety” (carelessness in this context), would put them in a position where they would be overtaken by a thief. His message to them is to be alert and aware at all times. In other words, he tells them to be prepared *without ceasing*.

There are several similar texts I am reminded of on this subject. In Matthew 26, while awaiting the moment in which our Lord would be betrayed, His disciples were a little reckless with their behavior. They slept while our Savior prayed, and in Matthew 26:41 He said, “Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

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How appropriate are these two commands to those of us waiting for the coming of the Lord, in direct application to Paul's words, "pray without ceasing"? There is a very intimate relationship between watching and praying. God will give strength and endurance to the sincere, prayerful watcher (Isa. 40:31). In Luke 18, after teaching a lesson specifically for the purpose of constant prayer, Jesus asked the question, "When the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?" There is no doubt that Jesus directly tied the conclusion of this rhetorical question to how much and how often we pray. In the morning, each of us awakes and moves on with our everyday routine; how many of us awake without the discretion and help of God Almighty? Every day, one might comb his hair in preparation for the day, yet, every morning the same person ought to pray in preparation for the day of the coming of the Lord.

SUBSTANCE IN FREQUENT PRAYER

Many of the thoughts expressed so far have been in reference to the frequency of our prayer, but shall we also be mindful of the substance of our frequent prayer life? It is not to be concluded by any, that praying "without ceasing" is to be done in vanity, and simply to punch a clock. Jesus teaches about this in the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 6. In verse 7, He warns us not to use vain repetitions and expect that this will count as frequent prayer in the eyes of God. There is to be substance and conscious brain activity actually happening. This means do not pray when you are half asleep, nice and cozy to the point that you cannot finish the prayer until the morning when you wake up and realize, "Oh, my mistake, sorry God. . . AAAAA-men." Prayer is communication. Whether the prayer be for the purpose of thanksgiving or supplication, it is a moment of expressing ourselves to God. It seems that all too often, people think of prayer as an abstract idea that requires a certain code of access. Perhaps it is difficult to talk to Him because we cannot see Him. Faith is certainly an element that will validate an individual's prayer, as the writer of the Epistle of Hebrews stated, faith is the "evidence of things not seen" (Heb. 11:1). Jesus teaches us, "Your Father knows

what things ye have need of, before ye ask Him" (Matt. 6:8). There is no mystery; we just need to talk to our Father.

Jesus sheds more light on the subject when He says in verse 6, ". . . enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret." Prayer is one-on-one time with God. There may be some people reading this who are resolving to spend more one-on-one time with a spouse, or son/daughter, etc. There is a reason for such time with a special person; it increases your relationship . . . it draws you closer to that person. The same is true with God.

CONCLUSION

Do not be mistaken, praying more regularly is important; but praying more with substance will change your life, nay, it will give you life. God wants to hear our prayers, but it is up to us to instigate that one-on-one relationship. As a wise man once told me, "an enemy is someone we avoid talking to." Let us not avoid talking to God.

Prayer Poem

White knuckles, bruised chest, sore knees
Remember your manners and say "please."
Peaceful, faithful, and true
Don't forget to say to "thank you."
Cleansed and forgiven
Promises of Heaven

Dave Matlock is married to Laura (Simpson) Matlock. They are expecting their first child.





I Am Resolved... To Read God's Word Daily

NATHAN L. MORRISON

How often do you read the word of God? Daily? Weekly? Occasionally? There are many "Read-the-Bible-in-a-year" plans out there that help guide one through a daily reading program. If you've never used one, do you make your own plan? If you have, do you stick with it through the year? In the coming year let us resolve (that is to determine to do) to set aside time in our busy schedules to read God's word daily!

Luke, the Physician, in writing the book of Acts under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, made a comparison of attitudes between two groups of people. He said of the Bereans in Acts 17:10-11, "*Now these were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so.*" Reading and understanding the Scriptures (the word of God) is essential to the Christian's walk in Christ. Paul later described the word of God as the "sword of the Spirit" (Eph. 6:17). The Hebrews writer expounded on that by stating it is more powerful than "any two-edged sword," capable of judging the "thoughts and intentions of the heart" (Heb. 4:12). As "soldiers of Christ" (2 Tim. 2:3), saints need to know how to use their weapon, the word of God. Can you imagine a soldier going into battle without his weapon? Can you imagine a soldier going into battle with a weapon he has not trained with? The outcomes are not favorable! The sword of the Spirit Paul talked about is the saint's offensive, as well as defensive, weapon, and is "sharper than any two-edged sword." Christians ought to be training with it daily to be proficient with it!

The visual the apostle Paul would have had when comparing the word of God to a sword would have been the Roman *gladius*, a short two-edged sword. Though not as long as swords of other nations or other periods, it was the most feared weapon in its day. With it the Roman Empire conquered and subdued the world. The Hebrews writer said the word of God was even more powerful than that! To give us a glimpse into the training life of a Roman soldier, let us

look into the insight of General Flavius Josephus, the famed historian of the first century. He said the following concerning the proficiency of the Roman Soldiers with their weapons:

Every soldier is every day exercised, and that with great diligence, as if it were in time of war, which is the reason why they bear the fatigues of battle so easily. This vast empire of theirs has come to them as the prize of valor, and not as a gift of fortune. For their nation does not wait for the outbreak of war to give men their first lesson in arms. They do not sit with folded hands in peacetime only to put them in motion in the hour of need. On the contrary, as though they had been born with weapons in hand, they never have a truce from training, never wait for emergencies to arise. Moreover their peace maneuvers are no less strenuous than veritable warfare. Each soldier daily throws all his energy into his drill, as though he were in action. Hence that perfect ease with which they sustain the shock of battle. No confusion breaks their customary formation, no panic paralyses, no fatigue exhausts them. And as their opponents cannot match these qualities, victory is the invariable and certain consequence. . . . This perfect discipline makes the army an ornament of peace-time and in war welds the whole into a single body — so compact are their ranks, so alert their movements in wheeling to right or left, so quick their ears for orders, their eyes for signals, their hands to act upon them (Josephus, *The Jewish War, Book III, Chap. 5*).

The Romans trained every day, and as vigorously in peace-time as in times of war so as to be ready for when the time came. Sounds familiar, doesn't it? Paul told Timothy to be "ready in season and out of season" in the fight against false teaching (2 Tim. 4:2). Christians are "soldiers of Christ, therefore we must be ready at all times *to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you*" (1 Pet. 3:15). We can't do this if we do not know the word of God! We can't be ready "in season and out of season" if we are not practicing with our "sword"!

Just as we can look to the lessons of Rome to see how their soldiers trained in the first

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century and see the benefits from it, we can also look to the lessons of Rome in its later years and see the devastation that soldiers out of practice brought about:

It is the just and important observation of Vegetius, that the infantry was invariably covered with defensive armor, from the foundation of the city to the reign of the emperor Gratian. The relaxation of discipline, and the disuse of exercise, rendered the soldiers less able, and less willing, to support the fatigues of the service; they complained of the weight of the armor, which they seldom wore: and they successively obtained the permission of laying aside both their cuirasses and their helmets. The heavy weapons of their ancestors, the short sword, and the formidable pilum, which had subdued the world, insensibly dropped from their feeble hands. . . . The loss of armies, the destruction of cities, and the dishonor of the Roman name, ineffectually solicited the successors of Gratian to restore the helmets and cuirasses of the infantry. The enervated soldiers abandoned their own, and the public defense; and the unanimous indolence may be considered as the immediate cause of the downfall of the empire (Edward Gibbon, *History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*, III: 271-272).

The picture we get of the Roman soldiers during the reign of Gratian (375-383 A.D.) is a far cry from the well-disciplined soldiers of the first century. What a difference that took place over the course of about 200 years! The soldiers became lax in their discipline, complained that their armor was too heavy, and had forsaken training with their weapons, and failure was the outcome, with the fall of Rome being the ultimate consequence of their laziness!

When saints grow weak in the word of God and that "moment" comes, that opportunity to "make a defense," their "disuse of exercise" will be evident and their answer will be ineffective. It is with practice and proficiency that the child of God will overcome the schemes of the adversary. With the word of God, Christ fought Satan in the wilderness and drove him off (Matt. 4:1-11). Saints are to learn from the example of Jesus, and be "diligent" in "accurately handling the word of God" (2 Tim. 2:15). This takes practice! The

Hebrews writer said the mature by practice are able to "discern good and evil" (Heb. 5:14). There are those who, like Satan, use the Scriptures to their own end and twist the context and meanings and can be quite convincing and deceive many. How will you know the difference if you do not read and apply the word of God to your life? Has the gospel armor and weapons become too heavy for you? Do you lay them aside to take your ease in this life? Remember the lessons of Rome! Armies fail when they become complacent and lazy, and forsake training.

Daily reading of the word of God will sharpen our sword proficiency, so to speak. The Psalmist wrote of the righteous, "*His delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night*" (Psa. 1:2). It is a "noble-minded" endeavor to read and study the Scriptures daily, so that we will become ready for any and every opportunity to spread the gospel. As the religious world around us teaches baptism is unnecessary for salvation and is optional, a quick parry and thrust of the sword of the Spirit quenches their argument (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; 22:16; 1 Pet. 3:21). Those that teach Premillennial doctrines are cut to the quick with the parry, parry, thrust combo of Acts 1:11; 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18; and Hebrews 9:27. As you encounter false teachings of varying natures, study of God's word prepares you where to parry, when to thrust, and how to hold your ground! Practice with the weapon of our spiritual warfare is essential to being a "good soldier of Christ Jesus" (2 Tim. 2:3). We will give an account of our time on earth one day. As Rome fell for lack of training, so too our souls could be in jeopardy for lack of reading and study of God's word! We need to practice (read daily) so that we do not grow weak and fall away!

How often do you read the word of God? If not daily, won't you reconsider your priorities in life and set aside time for meditation in the Scriptures? Whatever the answer, let us be able to say, "I am resolved to read God's word daily!"

Nathan L. Morrison is an evangelist at the Funny River Rd. church of Christ, husband to Becky Morrison, and father of two children, a daughter (age 7) and son (age 5).



I Am Resolved... To CLEAN UP My ACT

STEVE WALLACE

Unhappy? Blaming others for it? Having problems sleeping? Does your conscience repeatedly bother you about the same things? Are these “same things” things that *you* are thinking, doing, or saying? It’s time to clean up your act.

Our title speaks of one’s need to do much better than he’s/she’s been doing, to improve behavior by accepting certain standards. For the Christian this means you must stop letting your own passions, lusts, vanity, selfishness, self-importance, etc., control you; stop committing sins associated with certain familiar situations, or resist similar pitfalls. You are aware of the

... to improve behavior by accepting certain standards.

problem. You need to conform to God’s standard of authority, the law of Christ (Jas. 1:21-25). It is the very lack of this conformity that makes your “act” so bad. How does one go about doing this? The following suggestions are intended to answer this question. Inasmuch as our outward man’s words and deeds come from within, almost all of the following points deal with cleaning up the inward man (Prov. 4:23; Luke 6:45; Matt. 23:25, 26).

1. Acknowledge your sin(s) before God (2 Sam. 12:13; 24:10, 17). Admitting sin against others is part of the remedial process but sin is primarily against God (Ps. 51:4). Sin will often cause us to look out (to others) but it should above all cause us to look up. The prodigal son said to his father, “Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight” (Luke 15:21). The order is significant. Sin is mainly against heaven.

2. Pray to God for forgiveness and help (Ps. 51:1-19). It would be a challenge to improve upon David’s example in this and other Psalms.

Further, it would be difficult to find one needing to clean up his act more than did David after his actions in 2 Samuel 11. The God of the covenant gave great hope to sinners who would come to Him (Exod. 34:6, 7). Jesus offers even more hope (Heb. 2:17, 18; 4:14-16; 7:25).

3. Genuinely be sorry for your sin(s) before God (2 Cor. 7:9, 10; Luke 22:60-62). This is not hard if you will just think about how bad sin is – and then think about how bad it is in the life of one who professes to be a child of God (Rom. 2:17-24)!

4. Accept your need for repentance and all that it entails. By definition, repentance means “to change one’s mind” (Thayer, 405). Scriptural repentance also brings a change of life (2 Cor 7:10, 11; Rev. 9:20, 21). Realize that this is done to have a right relationship with God (2 Cor. 7:10; 2 Pet. 3:9, 14, 15). Having prayed for forgiveness from our Father, resolve to clear your life of known sinful thought(s), word(s), or deed(s) (Acts 8:22; 2 Cor. 7:11; Ezek. 33:14-16).

5. Do not forget your sin(s). In confessing his transgression before God, David wrote, “My sin is ever before me” (Ps. 51:3). Paul’s words show that the same was true with him (Acts 22:4, 19, 20; 26:10, 11; 1 Cor. 15:9; Gal. 1:13, *et al*). Clearly, keeping our sin(s) before us is an aid in keeping from repeating them.

6. Memorize verses which rebuke your sin(s) as well as those which teach proper conduct. The Psalmist wrote, “Thy word have I laid up in my heart, that I might not sin against thee” (119:11). This will allow you to hear the very words of God in your head when you are tempted to sin. The gospel is God’s power unto salvation in this sense, too (Rom. 1:16)! It has the power to directly influence your conduct.

7. Purpose in your heart to do what you need to do or not do to clean up your act. In doing so you will be following worthy examples of men of faith like David, Solomon, Ezra, and Daniel who persevered in a course they had determined to pursue (Ps. 17:3; 1 Kings 5:5; Ezra 7:10; Daniel 1:8). *You will not succeed without purposing*

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to do so! This includes mentally preparing yourself before entering situations wherein you are tempted to act badly.

8. *Do not harden your heart against God's word when under pressure to sin!* "Even as the Holy Spirit saith, Today if ye shall hear his voice, harden not your hearts" (Heb. 3:7, 8). *When you hear the voice of God in those verses you have memorized (point 6) do not resist their teaching!* Remember Pharaoh's fatal flaw. The right way was before him and clear for all to see. However, he resisted it to his own eventual destruction (Exod. 5-14). He is a negative example for every person who knows better than to do as he/she is doing. Those who held to their purpose in the face of temptations (point 7) are positive examples.

9. *Take drastic action.* (Prov. 23:1-3; Matt. 18:7-9; Col. 3:5). If cleaning up your act means giving up a favorite place, activity, etc., do so. Break relationships if it is necessary (1 Cor. 15:33). Do not concern yourself with what those around you think if you are convinced you are doing the right thing. Remember the 3,000 souls on the day of Pentecost who stepped out from

among their Jewish brethren and cleaned up their act by repenting and being baptized (Acts 2:37-41). Change may mean upheaval in your life. Accept it.

10. *The goal.* Simply put, the goal of cleaning up your act is to be a better Christian. It will result in progress in one's sanctification and growth in Christ (John 17:17; Col. 1:9-12). It may result in one's further withdrawal from the world and, consequently, being a better example (Tit. 2:11, 12). It may improve relationships with family or brethren (Gal. 5:16-26). In short, cleaning up your act is an important step in the way that leads to eternal life (Matt. 7:13, 14; Phil. 3:12-14).

The path you have been following, whatever it may have been, has led you to where you are, *and you admit that you are not happy where you are.* If you let our Lord guide you, He will give you the peace that only He can give (Rom. 5:1; Phil. 4:6, 7). Get this year started out on the right foot. Clean up your act!

After spending over twenty years in Germany, Steve Wallace presently preaches in Saint Leon, IN, where he lives with his wife, Mary. He continues to be active in foreign works.



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I Am Resolved...

TO TALK TO MY FRIENDS ABOUT JESUS

DOUG ROUSH
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The nineteenth chapter of the gospel of Luke reveals that, just before His crucifixion, Jesus traveled through Jericho while on His way to Jerusalem. It's interesting to notice the things He emphasized while He was in Jericho.

First, He entered the house of Zacchaeus, who was considered by the people to be a sinner because he was chief among the tax collectors. Nevertheless, Zacchaeus "sought to see Jesus," even to the extent that he climbed up into a sycamore tree. After they entered his house, Zacchaeus seems to say, "I'm not the sinner everybody says I am. I give half my income to the poor. If I should happen to make a mistake on someone's taxes, I restore it to him fourfold." With everyone listening, Jesus responded, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he also is a son of Abraham; for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost" (Luke 19:9-10). Regardless of how the people of Jericho viewed Zacchaeus, he was "a son of Abraham." As such he could inherit the promise that would be fulfilled in Christ, "the seed" of Abraham (cf. Gal. 3:14-29). Whether viewed as a sinner by the townspeople or perhaps, "not so bad," by himself, Jesus saw Zacchaeus as someone who was lost and needed to see Jesus as his Savior.

Next, because the people thought that He was going to immediately establish His kingdom, Jesus spoke a parable about a nobleman who went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom, but would return (Luke 19:11-27). He called his ten servants and gave to each of them an amount of money that was equal to a three-month wage to use on his behalf to make a profit for him. When the nobleman returned from his journey, having received his kingdom, he found one of his servants had increased his portion ten fold. Another servant had increased his portion five fold. Another servant stated that he had been afraid that he would make a mistake with his portion, so he had kept it safely so that he could return it to his master. The nobleman was pleased with what the first two servants had

done with what he had entrusted to them, but he was not pleased with the servant who had saved his portion, and had it taken away from him. He ordered that the other seven servants be put to death, because they had resented his rule, rebelled against his orders, and proved to be his enemies.

Of course, the nobleman in this parable is Jesus. He went away into the "far country" of Heaven. There, while seated at the right hand of God, He adds to His kingdom those who are being saved (Acts 2:34, 47). Those who are saved, in Christ, are changed from being servants of sin to being servants of righteousness (Rom. 6:16-18), abiding in His word (John 8:31). We are to let His light be seen in us so that God is glorified by our practice of His righteousness (Matt. 5:14-16). As such, we are entrusted with His mission "to seek and to save that which was lost." Before He departed this earth, He instructed His disciples, "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age" (Matt. 28:19-20). No one can be saved without hearing and obeying, "the gospel of Christ . . . the power of God unto salvation unto every one that believes" (Rom. 1:16). As the first-century disciples were charged with this mission, every generation of the saved are charged with the same mission, "to seek and to save that which was lost."

While all Christians know this, we often find ourselves among the servants who are afraid to talk to others about Jesus. We know we should, but we don't. Why is that? Perhaps, we are afraid of rejection. Perhaps, we are afraid that we will make a mistake as we try to teach someone about Jesus. Or, perhaps, as when Jesus told a similar parable, we are lazy and/or refuse to obey this commandment (cf. Matt. 25:25-26). Although we may be able to identify the reasons why we are not talking to our friends about Jesus, the problem remains – we still are not talking to our friends about Jesus. How do we change that? ►

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The first thing we need to do is to take ourselves out of the way. We need to take the focus off of *us* and focus on Jesus and those whom we need to talk about Jesus. We need to join with the apostle Paul and say, "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). Jesus came to seek and to save that which was lost; we must maintain His mission.

Second, we need to see ourselves as God sees us. "God is light" (1 John 1:5). While Jesus was on earth, He said, "I am the light of the world" (John 8:12; 9:5). One of the first things Jesus taught those who followed Him was, "You are the light of the world" (Matt. 5:14-16). We are created in the image of God so that the light of His glory will be seen in us! Although we have all sinned and come short of the glory of God (Rom. 3:23), Jesus purchased our redemption so that we can be restored to our created intention. We are the redeemed of God in Christ Jesus to rejoice in His blessings and to invite others to join us in Christ. Jesus told the apostles, ". . . you shall be witnesses to Me . . . to the end of the earth" (Acts 1:8). Jesus did not say, "you will go out and witness for Me," He said, "you shall be witnesses." Although we are not eye witnesses of Jesus, we believe (John 20:29) and we are the ones who are sent to tell our friends about Jesus (cf. Rom. 10:13-15). We are the "sowers of the seed of the gospel of Christ" (cf. Matt. 13; Mark 4; Luke 8; 1 Pet. 1:23). We are not "soil testers" – the seed of God's word will prove the type of soil/heart it fell upon. Stop thinking that talking to your friends about Jesus is one of several things that you are do. Start thinking, "I am a sower of the seed. I need to talk to my friends about Jesus, because if they don't hear from me, they may never hear."

Next, if we are going to talk to our friends about Jesus, we must be a friend (Prov. 18:24). Talking to our friends about Jesus is not about us first determining who our friends are. Talking to our friends about Jesus is about us being determined to be a friend. Think about Jesus and the different people He talked to – from the Samaritan woman at the well to the thief on the

cross – although they were strangers He talked to each one as if he were His friend. His encounter with Zacchaeus is another good example. When you talk to your friends about Jesus, be empathetic, put yourself in their place, and talk to them as you would want to be talked to, if you were in their place (Gal. 5:14; James 2:8). A judgmental, sarcastic, and/or competitive spirit will not serve us well when we are talking to our friends about Jesus (cf. 2 Tim. 2:24-26). Realize that talking to your "friends" about Jesus includes strangers, enemies, friends, and family; we are to "keep The Light on for Him" with whomever and wherever we may be.

Realize, there's never a bad time to talk to our friends about Jesus. Just as we often make the mistake of trying to "test the soil" of the one we are considering to talk to, we also make the mistake of "waiting for just the right time" to talk to them. That's not what God has taught His seed sowers. Ecclesiastes 11:4-6 reads, "*He who observes the wind will not sow, And he who regards the clouds will not reap. As you do not know what is the way of the wind, Or how the bones grow in the womb of her who is with child, So you do not know the works of God who makes everything. In the morning sow your seed, And in the evening do not withhold your hand; For you do not know which will prosper, Either this or that, Or whether both alike will be good.*" In other words, God is telling us, "You are a seed sower. Sow the seed!" May God forgive us for all the times we limited the power of His word by our judgment and squandered an opportunity to talk to someone about Jesus and His beloved word.

Finally, the seed has the power to do what God wants it to do. God is depending on us to talk to our friends about Jesus, but let us never forget that the power is in His word, not us. The word of God may reprove, rebuke, warn, or encourage (2 Tim. 4:2). It is always profitable for reproof, correction, and instruction in righteousness (2 Tim. 3:16). His word will always accomplish what it is designed to do (cf. Isa. 55:1-13), if we just speak His word (1 Pet. 4:11).

What were those reasons that we don't talk to our friends about Jesus?



I Am Resolved... To Grow Closer to My Husband

DEBORAH WILLIAMS

She does him good and not evil all the days of her life (Prov. 31:12).
Growing closer to my husband begins in my mind with a desire first to please God and consequently with a desire to please my husband. If I force these actions without the right attitude behind them, my husband will see that, and we will be no closer than before. Starting today, I resolve to grow closer to my husband spiritually, physically, emotionally, and mentally.

“Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth” (Col. 3:2).

SPIRITUALLY

I will pray with my husband and pray for him. I will thank God for him. I will ask God to help me lovingly and gently encourage him to be who God wants him to be (not who I want him to be) as a Christian, a husband, a father, a worker, and a friend. “The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much” (Jas. 5:16).

I will study the Bible with him. “Study to show thyself approved unto God. . .” (2 Tim. 2:15).

To complement our study, I will display scriptures around the house to encourage us to think on God’s word often. The latter is especially important if my husband is an unbeliever who is unwilling to study with me. “Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth” (Col. 3:2).

I will tell him, instead of assuming he knows, how much he encourages me when he takes part in leading the worship service, participates in it from his seat, makes sure our family is always there, and any other way he does the Lord’s work. If my husband is an unbeliever, I will still be sure to compliment him on his strengths when he takes time to play with our children or helps me around the house.

PHYSICALLY

I will prove to him with my attitudes and actions that no matter how many years we have been married or how busy our lives have become, I will always enjoy sex with him.

Let the husband render to his wife the affection due her, and likewise also the wife to her husband. The wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband *does*. And likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife *does* (1 Cor. 7:3-4).

I will kiss him good morning, welcome home from work, and good night. I will hold his hand or massage his back any time I have the chance. I will tell him how attractive he is to me. He is “the chiefest among ten thousand” (Song of Sol. 5:10).

EMOTIONALLY

I will be sure he arrives home after a long day at work to a smile on my face. I will be genuinely cheerful and encouraging. I will leave past disagreements in the past. “Better to dwell in the wilderness, than with a contentious and angry woman” (Prov. 21:19). “The wise woman builds her house, but the foolish pulls it down with her hands” (Prov. 14:1).

I will express my love for my husband and compliment him. I will not dwell on what I think are his weaknesses. I will focus on his strengths and appreciate our differences. I will do all this in private and in public. This helps me to fulfill the admonition of Titus 2:3-4, “The older women likewise . . . that they admonish the young women to love their husbands.” It would be impossible to do if I were constantly putting my husband down in my own mind or in front of others.

MENTALLY

I will never entertain the thought of being with another man. “When I found the one I love, I held him and would not let him go” (Song of Sol. 3:4).

I will discontinue my input as soon as he wants me to, which may be before I give any at all, as soon as he has made a decision, or anytime in ►

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between. I will realize that I may not agree with or understand his reasoning, but I must respect and appreciate his God-given role. I will not inhibit his ability to lead by refusing to submit to him, which would undermine the self-confidence that every leader needs. Instead, I will strengthen the good ego of my husband as a leader. I will obey Ephesians 5:24, "Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing".

Above all, I want to remember that if I draw closer to God, and help my husband draw closer to God, my husband and I will definitely be closer to each other. Therefore, I will do my best to help him spiritually first, and then also physically, emotionally, and mentally.

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TRUTH MAGAZINE SPECIAL • PRICES GOOD THROUGH JANUARY 31

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- We are afraid of rejection. God told Samuel, ". . .they have not rejected you, but they have rejected Me, that I should not reign over them" (1 Sam. 8:7). Like Samuel, we may feel rejected (cf. 1 Cor. 3:15), but how do you feel knowing that your friends are lost, unless you talk to them about Jesus?
- We are afraid of making a mistake. Since the power is in the word of God, the only real

mistake we can make is if we do not "speak the truth in love" (Eph. 4:15).

Indeed, regardless of how we view them or how they view themselves, for their sake and to God's glory, let us resolve to talk to our friends about Jesus, lest they, and we, be judged unworthy of eternal life.





I Am Resolved... To Grow Closer To My Wife

SCOTT WILLIS

The relationship we have with our wives is to be second only to God, even closer than that of our parents or children.

Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh (Gen. 2:24).

The two should be best friends, confidants, partners in all that life has to offer. For that to happen, the man must leave his father and mother, he must leave friends, and he must leave his career. To be "one flesh" with her requires the man to forsake all other relationships and place that one as most precious in his heart. If it is that precious, a man will cultivate it to be as strong and close as possible. If the marriage falls somewhere down the list of priorities, his marriage will show it.

There are too many situations in our society where couples grow apart emotionally because they do not fulfill their God-given responsibility to be one flesh. Rather than growing closer to their wife, some men seek to build relationships elsewhere, destroying the one with his wife. Sometimes this occurs with other women leading to adultery. Sometimes this occurs with male friends when they are drawn by the desire to "play" too much rather than spending time with his wife. It can also occur with our careers. Men

The marriage vows are not taken seriously in our society but they are by God.

can get caught up in the notion that, as the bread winner, we need to be successful in our careers so we work too much, spend too much time at the office or traveling rather than at home with our wives. These are all leading reasons why so many see their marriage end in divorce. If we felt about our wife like we often do about our play or work time, we would not have to resolve to draw closer to them, it would have already happened.

Most of us made a vow to love our wife above all others when we were married and we should work diligently to fulfill that vow. The marriage vows are not taken seriously in our society but they are by God.

When you make a vow to God, do not delay to pay it; For He has no pleasure in fools. Pay what you have vowed. Better not to vow than to vow and not pay (Eccl. 5:4-5).

God is the creator of the home and He is the one, along with our wives, that we made the vow to in the first place. We need to understand the seriousness of that commitment. Our relationship with God depends on our relationship with our wives.

One who turns away his ear from hearing the law, Even his prayer is an abomination (Prov. 28:9).

It is God's law for the home that husbands and wives be close (Gen. 2:24) and that they love one another. Doing so will provide a stable environment in which service to God can flourish for the two of them and any children they are blessed with having. Without the close relationship between husband and wife, the children of that marriage will see a flawed picture of how God intended us to live and the husband and wife will be miserable.

God provides us effective ways by which we can accomplish this. In the days of the divided kingdom of Israel, God longed for a closer relationship with Israel. In the book of Hosea, a broken marriage relationship was used as the metaphor for how God felt about the sin of the people. In spite of Israel's sin God still extended to them His love. The prophet wrote of God's commitment to Israel:

And I will betroth thee unto me forever; yea, I will betroth thee unto me in righteousness, and in judgment, and in lovingkindness, and in mercies. I will even betroth thee unto me in faithfulness: and thou shalt know the LORD (Hos. 2:19-10).

I believe these following five words offer an effective plan for drawing close to our wives

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today. If it was a good plan for God, it is a good plan for us.

The relationship with our wife should include **righteousness**. Don't think it strange that this word is used here. Our relationship with God will be strengthened if we are righteous but it will also strengthen the relationship with our wives and draw us closer. A wife needs a husband who is righteous, one that can be trusted to behave in a morally upright and trustworthy fashion. She wants to know that your combined commitment to God and her will keep you from sin and devoted to righteousness. She also wants to be treated right by her husband. The Apostle Paul stated that the right way to treat our wives is with the love Jesus had for the church (Eph. 5:25). The passage calls for us to put her needs above our own, to sacrifice for her. The husband who resolves to draw closer to his wife in righteousness will love her as God commands.

The relationship with our wives should include **justice**. The idea is closely related to righteousness but extends in our application to how we treat her. We need to be fair and equitable toward her. We cannot expect more from her than we do from our selves. We should not set unreasonable expectations of her. Jesus instructed us to treat others the way we want them to treat us (Matt. 7:12). This works in all human relationships especially in marriage. Even worldly people recognize that a double standard is unjust. Christian husbands must not be guilty of violating this fundamental teaching.

The relationship with our wives should include **lovingkindness**. To most, the loving part of this word is obvious. Of course I love my wife. However, to draw closer to her like God wanted to be closer to Israel requires that we seek her best interests. We should extend her *agape* love, seeking her best interest as God did for Israel. This love is to be combined with kindness. We need to be kind to one another. Speak lovingly and kindly to her. Treat her lovingly and kindly. Peter's instruction that a husband is to live with his wife with understanding, honoring her and cherishing her as a precious possession (1 Pet. 3:7). Paul points out that a husband should be concerned about pleasing his wife (1 Cor. 7:33).

Doing these things will draw you closer.

The relationship with one's wife should include **mercy**. A common definition of mercy is "receiving what we don't deserve." Jesus said, "Blessed are the merciful" (Matt. 5:7). When Christians display this godly characteristic, the world is a better place and a marriage will be strengthened. However, in most relationships there is occasional turmoil and difficulty. Husbands need to be ready to extend mercy toward their wives as God has toward them. This is closely akin to the justice we spoke of earlier. What husband has been without fault? We need the mercy of our wives when we make mistakes, so we should be ready and willing to offer it to them as well. Mercy in this sense is the process of forgiving. Christians are commanded to be tenderhearted and forgiving of one another (Eph. 4:32; Col. 3:13) and, of course, this is needed and expected in marriage especially if the couple wishes to grow closer together.

The relationship with one's wife should include **faithfulness**. This, of course, was the element missing in Israel's relationship with God, and it led to great harm. Our faithfulness needs to start with God. If we will be faithful to Him we will also be to our wives. God's will demands it. We cannot be unfaithful to our wives and be faithful to God. We are to have one wife and be faithful to her for life. To be otherwise is sinful (Matt. 19:4-6).

Men, let's resolve to love our wife like God did Israel. It will draw us closer!

Scott Willis and his wife, Michelle, have three children. He serves as an elder in the church in Lewisville, TX. Their three children are faithful Christians. He is the son of Lewis Willis.





I Am Resolved... To Be A BETTER MOM

CYNTHIA DANN

I am resolved to be a better mom. This role does not come as easily as we might hope when we bring our first child home. However, the Bible clearly defines the role of the mother. I am commanded to love my children and to manage my home (Tit. 2:4-5; Prov. 31:27). I am instructed to assist my husband in training our children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord (Prov. 22:6; Eph. 6:4). I am charged with caring for their physical needs (Prov. 31:21). I am responsible for training them to obey and respect my authority as their mother when Dad is not at home (Prov. 22:15). I am expected to study the Scriptures, to impart wisdom, and to be kind to my children (Prov. 31:26).

Those of us who enter motherhood have either spent years dreaming of this event, or it comes unexpectedly. However it happens, we are all responsible for carrying out this role according to God's plan. We are all beginners with our first child and face challenges as we increase our family size and/or as our children grow older. I've learned that no matter how hard and challenging motherhood can be, you can't quit and go find another job! Many books have been written with the intention of helping us navigate the challenges of parenting and motherhood. I was advised not to read a lot of parenting books, but to read the Bible a lot and pray fervently for guidance and wisdom. Motherhood can and should be a means to draw us closer to God. It is only when we learn to trust Him completely that we will have peace and confidence in this honorable role in which He has placed us. In this article, I hope to share the following lessons concerning motherhood that I have learned from God's word and from godly women whom I love and respect.

1. To be a better mom I need to read God's word every day. This requires setting aside time each day to study and pray. If yesterday was a hard day, I know that, "His compassions fail not. They are new every morning" (Lam. 3:22-23). Reading the Bible first thing in the morning provides me with the opportunity to weed out

negative thoughts and anxieties before my day even begins (1 Pet. 5:7; 2 Cor. 10:5; Prov. 12:25). It is vital that I have time to fill my heart and mind with His Word (2 Tim. 3:16-17), to pray (Phil. 4:6-7; Matt. 6:6), to prepare for the day by asking for wisdom (Rom. 12:2; James 1:5), to confess my sins and start anew (1 John 1:9), and to prepare my heart to do His will and not mine.

2. To be a better mom I need to recognize and accept my God-given role. The world is constantly telling us that God's role for mothers is tedious and unfulfilling. We are told that being around our children too much will drive us batty and that we need a break from them. While it is sometimes helpful to have a break, we need to be careful. As mothers, God has given us this role to fulfill and it is up to us to carry it out without complaining (Phil. 2:14). Through His word, God has given us all the instruction needed to perform our task. A major part of this role involves teaching our children the will of God. Just as was expected of the Israelites, we also must teach His word diligently to our children (Deut. 6:4-9). Our role is not an easy one, but we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us (Phil. 4:13).

3. To be a better mom I need to work on having a meek and quiet spirit (Psa. 27:14; Col. 3:12). "Do not let your beauty be that outward adorning of arranging the hair, of wearing gold, or of putting on fine apparel; but let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible ornament of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God" (1 Pet. 3:3-4). We all have our difficult days because our job can feel relentless at times, but God's word assures us that we can have peace even during these times (Phil. 4:6-7). When we feel we are at our lowest, we need to resist the devil's lies and strive to be "swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath" (James 1:19). Learning to listen is not an easy skill, especially when our lives are so busy. But we need to realize that when we do stop and listen, opportunities arise allowing us to teach and guide our children with God's word. If we don't listen to our children, then our children

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may end up turning to those who will.

4. *To be a better mom I need to love my children.* Older women are commanded to teach the younger women to love their children (Tit. 2:3-4). They should not be intimidated by the younger women who think they already know it all! Younger women need guidance and help in this area and I am so thankful for the older women in my life who have lovingly corrected me, prayed for me, and turned me to the pages of Scripture to help me in my role as a mother. Instead of treasuring up the negative in our children we need to look for the good in our children as we work on those areas needing improvement. Just as Mary pondered in her heart the things concerning her Son (Luke 2:19), so we need to keep and ponder in our hearts all these things we see in our children. Part of showing our children love is putting forth the effort to train them to obey (Prov. 19:18). We need to have patience with our children and realize that it will probably take years for them to reach the goals we have set for them. Filling their hearts with God's word requires love, encouragement, and consistent discipline. One day they will choose whether or not they will obey the Lord. It is our job to prepare them to make the right choice (Prov. 22:6).

5. *To be a better mom I need to put my husband above my children.* Being a mother can be all-consuming at times. There is always the temptation to "let myself go," especially since I am home alone with the children some days. Moms need to care about the way they

look because our husbands care! Taking a few minutes each morning to get dressed in real clothes and to fix our hair and face will go a long way toward having a happy husband leave the house in the morning. He will look forward to coming home to his one and only! Don't give your children the burden of living in a home where "mom doesn't care what dad thinks" or in which their mother is a domineering woman, as these approaches will lead to many problems down the road (Prov. 14:1; 21:19; 25:24). Teach your children by showing affection to your husband, by showing him respect in all things, and by making sure they understand that he is the leader of the family (Eph. 5:33). By displaying the proper attitude we will help our husbands to fulfill their role, we will help our daughters to find husbands who are leaders, and we will help our sons to be the leaders of their own families.

CONCLUSION

Above all, we need to trust in God's plan for the family and follow His plan even if it seems like it's just not working and the world is shouting at us to doubt and ignore it in favor of something different. "TRUST IN THE LORD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND LEAN NOT ON YOUR OWN UNDERSTANDING; IN ALL YOUR WAYS ACKNOWLEDGE HIM, AND HE SHALL DIRECT YOUR PATHS" (PROV. 3:5-6).

Cynthia Dann is a devoted wife to David Dann, is the mother of four young children and is currently expecting her fifth. She homeschools all her children and enjoys teaching Bible classes.





I Am Resolved... TO BE A BETTER DAD

HEATH ROBERTSON
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Within a day or two of being asked to write this article, my wife and I found out that, Lord willing, our second child will be born in June of 2013. Whether it was providence that brother Willis asked me to write this or not, I know God wants me to consider how I can improve as a father. Being a father is an awesome blessing that, as all blessings do, comes with great responsibility (Ps. 127). In fact, there is probably nothing the Lord gives us that requires more diligent stewardship than the way we care for and train our children. However, with as much joy as our children provide us, who wouldn't want to be a better dad?

I want to love my children as deeply as God loves me. I believe we sometimes allow the intensity of God's love to become cliché. For instance, we say things like, "God watches over us" and talk of His omnipresence and omniscience. Does God's ability to be everywhere at all times and see and hear everything that happens *force Him* to take a special interest in each one of us?

O Lord, You have searched me and known me. You know when I sit down and when I rise up; You understand my thought from afar. You scrutinize my path and my lying down, And are intimately acquainted with all my ways. Even before there is a word on my tongue, Behold, O Lord, You know it all. You have enclosed me behind and before, And laid Your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; It is too high, I cannot attain to it (Psa. 139:1-6)

No, there is nothing forced about God's love. He desires to spend time with me and be "intimately acquainted" with me. Likewise, we should want to spend time with our kids. One of the best ways to express our love to anyone is to show we enjoy spending time with him. I don't always want to get in the floor and play but I do want to be with my daughter. The joy on her face always makes it worth it! I am trying to do better at making time to play doctor, have tea parties, and read *Moonbeam Bear*®.

"He who withholds his rod hates his son, but he who loves him disciplines him diligently" (Prov. 13:24).

Love isn't always fun but requires us to do hard things too. "He who withholds his rod *hates* his son, but he who *loves* him disciplines him diligently" (Prov. 13:24). "For whom the Lord *loves* He *reproves*, Even as a father corrects the son in whom he delights" (Prov. 3:12). Many people today don't associate love and reproof, but God does! He "disciplines us for our good" and we should do the same with our children (Heb. 12:10). Discipline is never "joyful" for us or our children in that "moment." However, any father who properly disciplined his children who are now adults will tell you that it prepared his kids for life and saved him and his wife from numerous heartaches parents around them are experiencing (Heb. 12:11). We must realize, though, that an important aspect of loving discipline involves wisdom and patience. "Or do you think lightly of the riches of his kindness and tolerance and patience, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance?" (Rom. 2:4). God does not punish us for every little thing we do wrong but He sometimes chooses to patiently work in other ways to help us grow. I, too, need to carefully determine when discipline or patience is necessary. Humility is a helpful friend to fathers. I try to remember I still don't always "get it" the first time either!

Jesus said "only one thing is necessary" and He was talking about Himself (Luke 10:42). Part of loving my children is providing for their needs (cf. 1 Tim. 5:8). I cannot be a good father if I am not providing my children with the one thing necessary for them. Paul, by inspiration, plainly commanded fathers to bring up their children "in the discipline and instruction of the Lord" (Eph. 6:4). "I've got that covered," you might say, "I take them to Bible class every week." First

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of all, God wants “Fathers” to train their children. On top of that, God does not consider we are “diligently” teaching our children until spiritual instruction is a daily activity (Deut. 6:7-9). Recently, we began having family Bible studies every day. It’s not always convenient and we’ve allowed things to get in the way but we’re trying. I want my children to know – really know – Jesus and value their relationship with him as the “one thing . . . necessary” for them!

Is my home a refuge from the world? Our kids are bombarded with so much evil in the world, even at places they should be safe (like school). But what kind of environment are they faced with at home? A goodhearted young Christian once asked me, “How can I get my dad to stop watching TV shows filled with sex and bad language?” Before you say, “they need to get rid of HBO,” I want you to know he was talking about *Two and A Half Men*, a prime-time regular cable program. Many Christians, including myself, have allowed *garbage* to come in our homes in the forms of movies, TV programs, music, magazines, etc. and even tried to justify it! It is no wonder that before God gave Israel the command to daily train their children, He said the parents must “love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might” (Deut. 6:5). Here are some things God wants every Christian to do or avoid, and it is a good pattern for making our homes a refuge from evil:

Therefore be *imitators of God*, as beloved children; and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma. But immorality or any impurity or greed *must not even be named among you*, as is proper among saints; and there must be no filthiness and silly talk, or coarse jesting, which are not fitting, *but rather giving of thanks* (Eph. 5:1-4).

This will probably require some changes around your house as it did mine. In the last couple of years we have thrown away some movies and music, been more cautious of what movies we see, and we even opted out of cable (we do use Netflix). This not only led to a

purser home atmosphere but saved money and opened up more time for Bible study and quality family time as well as opportunities to be more hospitable. You might also have to take away some movies, music, or books from your kids. A good dad’s decisions are not always popular. Just remember, they might “hate you” for a few days but they will love you for eternity. I want to provide my children with a refuge from evil.

I want to teach my children to be servants. We know very little about Stephanas, but the little we do know impresses me. He was a servant of the church who helped “in the work and labors” (1 Cor. 16:16) and he led his “household” to devote “themselves for ministry to the saints” (16:15). He and his family were service-minded. It was Eve’s selfishness that brought sin into the world (Gen. 3:5-6) and my selfishness that brings it into my life and family (Rom. 3:23). On the other hand, it was God’s Son’s *selfless* service that opened the door to freedom from sin (Phil. 2:5-8) and my conformation to that selfless image and training my children to do the same that will eliminate it from our lives altogether (cf. Rom. 8:29)! One of the most valuable things I could ever teach my children is to “do nothing from selfishness . . . but regard one another as more important than yourselves” (Phil. 2:3). I can’t begin to teach them until they see a heart of service in me first!

I’ve set my heart to be the kind of father God wants me to be and my children desperately need me to be. I am asking you to join me.

Heath Robertson is married to Renee Bunting. They have a three-year-old daughter named Hanna. Heath and Renee moved to Bergen, Norway where Renee was born and raised while her father and grandfather preached the gospel there. Their work there was short-lived because of a change in immigration laws. They returned to the States in May, 2010. They currently live in Cullman, Alabama where Heath works with the Highway 157 congregation.



I Am Resolved... To Look for Opportunities to Help Others

ANDREW ROBERTS

How would you explain Jesus Christ to people who know little or nothing about Him? The apostle Peter was summoned to do just that for the Gentile household of Cornelius (Acts 10). Peter unequivocally proclaimed the lordship of Jesus (Acts 10:36, 42); he taught them about the cross and the resurrection (Acts 10:39-41). He shared the good news of “remission of sins” and commanded them to be baptized (Acts 10:43, 47-48). Yet, Peter first explained, “how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him” (Acts 10:38).

What was Jesus like *before* He died and rose again? Jesus *went about doing good*. He healed the oppressed. Jesus helped others. I am resolved to look for opportunities to help others because Jesus is my lord and He helped others. A disciple’s goal is always to be like his master (Matt. 10:24-25).

Circumstances can arise that would compel most people to help others. For instance, in recent years, hurricane Katrina, tornadoes in Tuscaloosa, super-storm Sandy (and other catastrophes) prompted national outcries for help. Concerned neighbors and citizens rushed to meet the desperate needs created by billions of dollars of property damage, lost jobs, displaced families, and untimely deaths. Certainly individual Christians helped through the proper channels by donating clothing, food, money, and even blood. I’ve personally known brethren who packed their pick-up trucks with bottled water and chainsaws and drove to devastated areas to help clean up debris and bring relief.

Such efforts are helpful and certainly commendable. It is inspiring to watch communities and even the nation come together to help their neighbors and fellow citizens in dire straits. Yet, will a disciple garner the reputation of *going about doing good* for lending a hand in extreme circumstances? Clearly such calls for help cannot be ignored, but is that really *going about*

doing good? Surely there is more. Peter’s words about Jesus speak to a lifestyle – a way – of helpfulness and service for others. Far from occasions requiring the American Red Cross or National Guard, disciples will be found *going about doing good*. After all, Jesus explained that service was His way and the path of true greatness. “. . . whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant. And whoever of you desires to be first shall be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many” (Mark 10:43-45).

There is a difference in responding to a call for help and looking for an opportunity to help. Helpful Christians will answer the call, but they are not always waiting to be called. They are *going about doing good*. Thank God, natural disasters only happen sporadically. Yet the people of God are helpful consistently.

When the apostle Paul wrote to Titus on the island of Crete, he emphasized the need for Christians to maintain good works. If they *went about doing good*, they would certainly stand out from their society. Ancient Cretans had a terrible reputation. “One of them, a prophet of their own, said, ‘Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons’” (Titus 1:12). Today, America’s current signs of hubris, affluence, and decadence paint a picture similar to Crete. Yet Christians can still stand out in the same positive way – by doing good works (Titus 1:16; 2:7, 14; 3:1, 8, 14).

No more lazy gluttons! Rather, the church is to be filled with workers – workers of good. In fact, Christians will be fruitful through good works (Titus 3:1, 14). It pleases the Lord to see Christians *going about doing good*. Furthermore, such steady character and ongoing helpfulness is atypical of many in our society. It shines like light in the darkness. The Christian’s good works can lead men to glorify God (Matt. 5:16).

Would you describe yourself as *going about doing good*? Are you zealous for good works? Are you maintaining them and setting a pattern for other believers to follow? It does not happen accidentally. *Work, aid, assistance,*

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help are not accidental. Christians resolve to look for opportunities to help others.

While this article is not exhaustive, several Bible passages show Christians where to look for opportunities to help others. There will be occasions to help the poor (Mark 14:7), the needy (Eph. 4:28), widows and orphans (Jas. 1:27). At times, prisoners and strangers will need your help (Heb. 13:1-3). Brethren look for help with their burdens (Gal. 6:2) and sinners need help returning to the Lord (Jas. 5:19-20). The ignorant need wisdom (Eph. 5:15-17), the youth need mentoring (Titus 2:1-8; 2 Tim. 2:2), aged saints need respect and relief (1 Tim. 5:1-16). Preachers need support (1 Cor. 9:3-14; Col. 4:2-6), elders need love (1 Thess. 5:12-13), and the hearts of the saints need to be refreshed (Phile. 7). The authorities need prayers (1 Tim. 2:1-4), and the local church body needs what you, uniquely, can supply (Eph. 4:15-16; 1 Cor. 12:12-27).

You may dispense with any doubts about, “Can I help?” and come to the resolve, “I can help.” So where do we begin? What first steps can be taken down the path – the lifestyle – of *going about doing good*? Here are three suggestions.

First, get close enough to others to be helpful. There is plenty of mass-media notification about a disaster. Folks are clearly told how they may choose to help (online donations; addresses for supplies; etc.). Yet to be *going about doing good*, means offering help and meeting needs that likely are not publicized. To be helpful, you have to get beyond your own bubble and build relationships with brethren and neighbors.

For instance, there has to be a certain rapport between you and a young couple you’d like to help with free babysitting on a Friday night. You have to learn that their relatives live far away and they rarely have a “date night.” They have to trust you with their kids. Similarly, an elderly saint must think highly of you before they will accept your offer of transportation. Often Christians feel bad when they find out – after the fact – of some hardship that a saint has suffered alone. They would have helped, if only they had known. While

some people are very private (and that is OK) others lack the rapport to share their struggles. One good way to get to know folks, discern needs, and build rapport is hospitality (1 Pet. 4:9).

Second, no help or service is too small. The sheer scope of certain problems discourages some saints from even beginning to help. We reason that, if we cannot make a big difference, we need not do anything. That is the wrong perspective. Jesus blessed the humblest acts of aid – even a cup of cold water (Mark 9:41; Matt. 10:42). So, be practical and do whatever you can do to help a person or a situation. The Lord does not expect any more, or less, than what you can do (2 Cor. 8:12). Furthermore, little things really mean a lot. A short, handwritten note of encouragement, a twenty-minute visit with a hospital patient, or your presence to sit and listen with a shut-in is significant help and does immeasurable good.

Third, let the right hand and the left hand do good. In Matthew 6:1-4, Jesus teaches His disciples that charitable deeds are not to be done for show – “do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing.” Do not promote yourself as the servant, rather be a servant. But do not insist that all the Christians you know help the same causes you desire to help or meet the same needs you are trying to meet. Do not judge your brother as lazy or selfish because you do not see him helping in the same fashion or places that you do. That does not mean he is not helpful; it means you do not know what good works he may be doing. Self-righteousness flourishes when we despise brethren and decide their help and good works aren’t up to our own. Always think best about others and give folks the benefit of the doubt unless they prove otherwise. You may be surprised to learn of the good some of your brethren quietly accomplish.

Christians do not need to hide their good works from others nor do they need to parade their charitable deeds. Honestly, they just need to be doing good works! As people see your good works, some will be inspired to join the same efforts, while others will be grateful that you are meeting a need that

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I Am Resolved... To Love My Brothers

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The truth is – families fight. Like a polished mirror the Bible portrays people just as they are. It never glosses over the ugly scenes in even its heroes' lives. Noah the drunkard. David the adulterer. Peter the coward. Similarly God shows families just as they are.

From the very beginning brethren have hated one another. "Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him" (Gen. 4:8). Sarah grew resentful and drove Hagar and her son from the house. "She said to Abraham, "Drive out this maid and her son, for the son of this maid shall not be an heir with my son Isaac" (Gen. 21:10). Isaac's son Esau likewise hated his brother Jacob and wished to kill him. Someone could argue that Jacob had it coming. He was a deceitful liar and a thief. Yet he is driven away from home because of jealous favoritism. "Now Isaac loved Esau . . . but Rebekah loved Jacob" (Gen. 25:28). Jacob's sons, too, are plagued with the same favoritism and jealousy. Joseph's brothers plot to murder him but settle instead to profit from his pain. Joseph, like his father, was not completely innocent in this bitterness. He had stoked his brothers' hatred with arrogant boasts. Even though he spoke the truth, his words only served to cut and hurt his brothers. Generations later, Obadiah, the prophet, pronounces God's wrath on the children of Esau, who, filled with arrogance, gloat when their brethren the children of Israel suffer (Obad. 1:3, 12).

These were God's people. They were the children and grandchildren of God's people, and yet such hate festered. Should we think that church members now are immune? The New Testament writers often warn similarly. There was quarreling at Corinth (1 Cor. 1:11). The Galatian churches were in danger of consuming one another with their biting ways (Gal. 5:15). Sisters at the good church of Philippi were living in disharmony (Phil. 4:1). Even the twelve often had argued over which of them was the greatest (Matt. 18:1; Mark 9:34; Luke 9:46; 22:24).

What may be done to foster love when bitterness and hate so easily finds their way

into God's family? Paul offers some help at the end of his epic letter to the Romans. The new life of faith he stresses is a living sacrifice, and as such our entire being changes. Every action and interaction now passes through the sieve of conformity to Christ. Throughout chapter twelve the apostle discusses interactions with brethren.

"Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil; cling to what is good" (Rom. 12:9). That is a fascinating choice of words – hypocrisy, really? Love may be empty. It may be empty words, nothing more than sugar sprinkling the ears, but deceptive hypocrisy? Yes, well, how often in action do we reverse our profession? Do we not in fact cling to what is evil and abhor what is good? A young man has turned back to the world and the church should withdraw from him. Instead, he is coddled, because he is part of a prominent family. If any suggest that God's way be followed, he himself is turned out as mean-spirited and impatient. I am resolved to uphold what is good. More, I want to hold up the arms of those who are doing good and repel those who are evil.

"Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor" (Rom. 12:10). Brotherly love may be difficult for some to identify with, because often families are the very source of strife in our lives. Yet even those who have only known torment from family can imagine what family should be. It should be a place of safety, not with locked doors, but amid people who protect. People who watch out for us and "have our backs" as the saying goes. We all need a place of repose where we can let our defenses down for a time. We want a place where no one is out to get us, or seeking a chink in our armor so as to take advantage of us. I am resolved to be that place of safety. I will have a sympathetic ear for my brothers. They will be able to vent their frustrations and enjoy their victories without fear.

"Bless those who persecute you; bless and curse not" (Rom. 12:14). Generally persecution brings to mind the torture and suffering Christians endured at the hands



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of Jews and the Roman government. For instance after Stephen was stoned to death “a great persecution arose against the church in Jerusalem” (Acts 8:1). While Paul may have this kind of suffering in mind he does make this comment amid a larger discussion on our treatment of brethren. We should consider then that our greatest troubles sometimes come from those with whom we sing and pray. Rather than seeking some way to “pay back evil for evil... as far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men” (Rom. 12:17-18). A bit of forgiveness would certainly go a long way in making for peace. I am resolved then to bless my brothers with forgiveness as often as forgiveness is needed.

“Do not be haughty in mind” (Rom. 12:16). A forgiving spirit is not the only attitude that would make for peace. A humble mindset would also help greatly. It is rather high-minded of us to expect our brethren to constantly forgive us while

we make no effort to change. A particular brother went about stomping all over the feelings of his family, causing a great deal of hurt. When he was confronted about his thoughtlessness, he simply responded, “Other people like me.” That may be but he was still behaving like a jerk. I am resolved to tread carefully where the family I love is concerned.

It is true families do fight. Even among God's people, family and the church can be a tremendous source of hurt. As I reflect now perhaps I, too, have fertilized bitterness and participated in needless quarreling. Today though, I am resolved to “let brotherly love continue” (Heb. 13:1).

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they cannot. Still others will thank God for you and your help. Whether men care or not, whether they assist you or not, whether they even know or not, should not determine if you are *going about doing good*.

A hallmark of Jesus' life was that He *went about doing good*. Will this be a hallmark of your life? We make plenty of resolutions (annually) that bring immediate benefit to ourselves. This resolution is different. When I am resolved to look for opportunities to help others, I want to benefit someone else – immediately. I may or may not receive any immediate benefit in return. But if my goal is to be more like Jesus this year than

last, this is the resolution to make and keep. He helped others, so I want to help others, too.

Andrew Roberts lives with his wife and children in Columbia, TN where he has preached with the Jackson Heights church of Christ since 2002. Andrew has written several articles and Bible class workbooks including, Night and Day: A Comparative Study of Christianity and Islam and the upcoming Truth Tract, Christianity and Islam: Common Misconceptions Explained.





I Am Resolved... TO HANDLE CONFLICT IN A BIBLICAL WAY

RON TURNBOW

Conflict is defined as a struggle resulting from incompatible or opposing needs, drives, opinions, viewpoints, or demands. Wherever a relationship exists, conflict will happen from time to time. Conflict occurs in all facets of life – in the workplace, within the family, between friends, and among brethren in the church. Handled correctly, resolving conflict will strengthen the relationship between people. Handled improperly, it can result in severed relationships and a lifetime of bitterness. Conflict is one of the certainties that each person is faced with, to one degree or another, many times during life.

Throughout biblical history, we read of all kinds of conflict between people. Some handled the conflict admirably while others were simply shameful in their response to it. In Old Testament times, disagreements and dissensions often arose between individuals. Fueled by jealousy and envy, Cain had a conflict with his brother Abel. The result of this violent conflict was Cain's murder of Abel (Gen. 4:1-8). Dissension arose between Abram and Lot over the lack of resources for their livestock and families. Abram took the initiative and resolved the conflict by giving Lot his choice of where to live (Gen. 13:8). As a result of Esau despising his birthright and the trickery foisted on Isaac by Jacob and Rebekah, conflict existed between the brothers. Esau came to hate his brother and sought to kill him (Gen. 27:41). The conflict between Saul and David was caused by Saul's declining spiritual condition and David growing more popular than Saul. In his jealousy and rage, Saul sought to kill David on multiple occasions. Yet, David aligned his heart with the Lord and refused to destroy the man who sought his life (1 Sam. 18:1-12; Acts 13:22). In New Testament times, the Lord Himself faced conflict with the religious elite. This was not just a difference of opinions. The Scribes and Pharisees prosecuted a bitter conflict against the Lord and actively sought to destroy Jesus (Matt. 12:47). A violent conflict exploded when Stephen preached the Gospel. The people Stephen preached to became enraged and stoned the

preacher to His death (Acts 7:54-60). A sharp conflict arose between Paul and Barnabas over how to proceed in spreading the gospel (Acts 15:36-41). Conflict was dividing the church at Corinth. The Corinthian brethren were at odds over a number of things, and the Apostle Paul took them to task on resolving these dissensions and conflicts (1 Cor. 1:10-17). Conflict existed between Peter and Paul. Paul confronted Peter because of his hypocrisy and his bias against the Gentile Christians (Gal. 2:11-21). These men worked admirably through the conflict and the Lord was glorified.

Conflict has existed from the beginning, and will continue until the Lord returns. When was the last time that you faced conflict in your life? Relationships are built and destroyed over how we respond to conflict. God has clear expectations for how His children should interact with each other and handle conflict in their lives. He has given us "all things that pertain to life and godliness" (2 Pet. 1:3). So, how should a Christian handle conflict when it arises?

First, love is absolutely essential in handling conflict in a godly way. In the midst of battling through a conflict, we can easily get caught up in pursuing justice, settling the score, and failing to love one another. In addressing the conflicts that existed in the church at Corinth, Paul expounded on what it meant to love (1 Cor 13). The love Paul describes in this great chapter is *agape*, or to selflessly seek the best interest of another. Paul admonished the brethren at Ephesus to "walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" (Eph. 4:2-3). Love is the key enabler for the worthy walk and keeping the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. Bearing with one another implies a spirit of patience and willingness to suffer long with each other. Take love out of the equation, and the walk is no longer worthwhile (1 Cor. 13:1-3), nor will there be peace among the brethren. Consider how Paul and Peter both acted when conflict

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existed between them. Paul confronted Peter in a loving yet direct way (Gal. 2:11-21). The conflict did not displace or dampen the love between these brothers. To the contrary, their handling of the conflict resulted in Peter later referring to Paul as “his beloved brother” (2 Pet. 3:15). To properly handle conflict, you must do so with a loving heart!

Second, cultivation of a spirit of forgiveness and kindness is essential in handling conflict in a godly way. Peter asked the Lord if it was sufficient for him to forgive someone up to seven times (Matt. 18:21-22). The Lord responded that His disciples must be willing to forgive not seven times, but seventy times seven. In other words, we must extend forgiveness without exhaustion or count. Forgiveness is a beautiful and sometimes difficult thing to do. Yet, it is a requirement to forgive those who violate you in order to receive God’s forgiveness of your sin (Mark 11:26). Sometimes we violate one another when conflict exists between us. Handling conflict often requires forgiveness of one party by the other. Having a spirit of forgiveness is a cultivated attribute of a disciple. It is something that you must constantly work on.

What is your reaction to one who has sinned against you and refuses to repent? Jesus taught that one should not seek revenge, but should bless those who curse you and pray for those who have spitefully used you (Matt. 5:38-42). There is no room for holding grudges or allowing a spirit of bitterness to dwell in one’s heart. Closely connected with forgiveness and praying for one’s enemies is the spirit of kindness. Kindness is one of the fruits of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22). Kindness is something that we “put on” (Col 3:12) and “add to” our lives as Christians (2 Pet. 1:5-7). It is through kindness that we can dismantle and resolve conflicts. As a Christian, you must never hold grudges or withhold kindness when handling conflict. At the same time, you must never sacrifice truth and adopt error in an effort to resolve conflict (Acts 5:29).

Third, resolving conflict in a godly way requires taking the initiative. With love in your heart and a spirit of forgiveness about you, take the initiative and personal responsibility to resolve differences

you may have with another. Jesus commanded that His disciples must first resolve the conflicts with others before offering worship (Matt. 5:23-24). Furthermore, when conflict erupts as a result of sin against you, the responsibility is yours to try to resolve (Matt. 18:15-17). Paul took the initiative to confront his brother and fellow apostle over a matter of mistreatment of the Gentile Christians. Paul followed the procedure outlined by the Lord and the conflict with Peter was resolved. Don’t make the mistake of waiting for or demanding your brother make the first move. Whether you have caused the conflict or are the recipient of it, take the initiative to resolve it.

Fourth, conflict resolution and avoidance involves a circumspect walk to guard against the causes of unnecessary conflict. Over and over in Scripture, the alert is sounded to “be on guard,” “watch,” and “be sober.” Pride is one of the common causes of conflict. This is the same pride that is soundly condemned in Scripture (Prov. 6:16, 16:18; Mark 7:22, 1 John 2:16). It is through pride that we elevate our own self worth and opinions above others. We must also guard against using hurtful and poisonous words, which will result in conflict. James explained what happens when we fail to control our tongue (James 3). If your heart is in a right relationship with the Lord, you will be able to control your tongue (Prov. 4:23-24) and not express hurtful and divisive words. Conflict can happen wherever relationships exist. If we are walking circumspectly, we can avoid unnecessary conflict with others and resolve it where it exists.

Conflicts are inevitable. The evil one uses conflict to inflict as much damage on Christian relationships as possible. Where we should build one another up, conflict can tear us down. How you respond to conflict directly reflects your relationship with the Lord. Are you resolved to handle the conflicts in a way that is pleasing to God?

Ron Turnbow is married to Angie Willis, daughter of Lewis Willis. Ron serves as an elder in the Lewisville, TX church. Their two daughters are faithful Christians.



I Am Resolved...

TO KEEP THE UNITY OF THE SPIRIT IN THE BOND OF PEACE

KENNETH D. SILS

The joy of a new year dawning upon a Christian! It is a time of celebration to praise God for every good and perfect gift that He has provided through 2012, but it is also a great time to seriously reflect on the state of our relationship with Him. This special series of articles encourages us to consider the power of Jesus' statement in John 3:5, "*Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.*" We, who are born again, have set our passions to live by the Spirit and thus, the articles within this special edition provoke our heart to continuously re-evaluate and make appropriate spiritual course corrections. Paul told the Christians in Rome, "*The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God*" (Rom. 8:16). Have I prayed daily? Have I been reading the Scriptures with regularity? Have I been seeking to develop and deepen my relationships with God, family, community, and brethren in comport with the instructions from the Holy Spirit as taught in the New Testament? Have I been seeking opportunities to spread the gospel of Jesus? Let's use 2013 to challenge our hearts: a new beginning, based on the power of the Scriptures to prod, rebuke, and correct our daily path towards righteous living.

The task of this article is to consider our need to strengthen our resolve to *Keep the Unity of the Spirit in the Bond of Peace*. You will find this expression, word for word, from the quill of Paul towards the Christians in Ephesus in Ephesians 4:3. Brethren, if you want to be immediately uplifted, let me encourage you to read this great letter as it begins by enumerating so many wonderful, spiritual blessings that God has graciously bestowed upon us because we are *in Christ* (Eph. 1:3). Paul continues to emphasize that we belong to Jesus through the power of His blood. Jesus has made peace – real peace, through the sacrifice of His flesh on the cross and through Him, we have access by one Spirit to the Father (Eph. 2:18). As we read the third chapter, we can easily feel the affection of God towards men as He has planned before the dawn

of time that He would have a special "called out" group to call His own – they would be His family, wearing His holy name and reflecting His glory throughout the ages. As Paul begins the fourth chapter, he challenges us (as many of these articles are doing) to serious "self" reflection, deep within, as our words and deeds are based upon the desires of our heart. Paul has given his life to have a walk that is worthy of his calling, and, based on everything he has written, this should be our desire as well!

This expression in Ephesians 4:3 begins with the concept of *endeavoring to keep*. Keeping this simple, Paul is challenging them to "endeavor": "to exert one's self, to give diligence, to be eager to; zealous." To "endeavor to keep" means "to hold firmly, not to leave." When you put both terms together, you get: "exert yourself with genuine zeal to hold firm." That reminds me of the spiritual song proclaiming that principle often made within the Psalms, "I shall not be, I shall not be moved." This principle inspires us to "firm up" our resolve: not go wobbly or be shaken from the foundation of the church. As Paul finished up the last chapter, every generation has this challenge before it: be firm, do not leave! I shall not be, I shall not be moved!

As we continue to learn from this Biblical passage, we are challenged to be firm with the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. Paul has been pressing the idea of peace throughout this letter as he spoke about the peace that Jesus brought in chapter two. He has made peace by bringing all divergent groups of men together through His broken body and shed blood in one blessed place – His church. He powerfully presents this message in Ephesians 2:19-22 as he reminded these Christians that they are members of the household of God, the holy temple of God, the dwelling place of God in the Spirit. It is in this place that God's children will find unity, bonding, and peace! It is this place that God foreordained before the foundation of the world where men would be able to find true unity and peace with God. It is this place that God has chosen to build up a holy priesthood, a

I Am Resolved...

TO KEEP THE UNITY OF THE SPIRIT IN THE BOND OF PEACE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 28

chosen nation, God's own special people who will think, speak, and act like pilgrims on a journey to an eternal kingdom that is far better than this world! This is what the Hebrew writer was writing about in Hebrews 12:28, *"Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear."*

Our mindset in the midst of this great spiritual kingdom is: unity, peace, and fellowship as the Holy Spirit directs. This is not some pseudo-unity or a "unity in our diversities" – this is unity and peace as the Holy Spirit explains.

As we continue to read from Paul, the challenge is heightened in Ephesians 4:4-6, *"There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all."* The Holy Spirit has spoken: unity, peace, "oneness" – we shall not be moved from these very clear, identifying marks of "oneness" He has set before us as Christians. What we read from these seven markers bear two specific areas we must "be firm" or unified in. The first speaks to the nature of God Himself: one Father, one Lord, one Spirit. As Christians, we must be firm in understanding who Peter referred to as the Divine Nature of which we have become partakers (2 Pet. 1:3). As we are composed of soul, body, and spirit and these three are one; there is God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit and these three are *one*. With a careful examination of passages like Genesis 1:26, John 1:1-3, John 10:30-31, Colossians 1:13-17, 1 John 5:7-8, and Revelation 5:6, it is obvious to see that the Father, Son, and Spirit are the Godhead or Godhood: all three are unique individuals, yet all three are the true God of all creation. We are required by the Holy Spirit to understand and uphold these Biblical truths.

The second challenge is far more daunting and many "believers" in our generation have failed miserably to accept the truths that Paul is insisting on through the Holy Spirit. He stated that there is *one body, one faith, one baptism and one hope* in Ephesians 4:4-6. We are "to be firm" in these things, we shall not be moved from these unifying principles. Only those who accept what

the Holy Spirit has taught about these things can correctly claim to have "the unity of the Spirit in the body of peace." The way in which we react to these four "ones" is critical to our walk with God and if we are moved away from the Spirit's application of these "ones," the unity and peace that Paul insists on will fall away in the darkness of man-made religion.

These four "ones" simply speak to the church that Jesus built and purchased, the church that Paul was speaking about throughout this letter. He said that Jesus *"reconcile(d) them both to God in one body..."* (Eph. 2:16). What is that one body Paul is speaking about? It is the church as he taught in Ephesians 1:22-23, *"... gave Him (Jesus) to be head over all things to the church which is His body. . . ."* Jesus is the head of only one body – His church. For His one body, Jesus has delivered only "one faith" through the Holy Spirit. That faith refers to a system delivered by the Holy Spirit known as the New Covenant or Testament. As Christians did in the first century, we today have this same challenge, *"contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints"* (Jude 3). At the center piece of the faith is saving men from sin and that brings us to the third area: one baptism. Jesus commanded that the faith be spread to save men and told His disciples in Mark 16:15-16, *"Go into the all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved."* Yes, there is one baptism that saves men from sin. This baptism is absolutely necessary and must be firmly held by those of faith if we would claim to be saved and be members of the one body of Christ.

Thus far, if we've been firm in all six of these unifying marks, we arrive to at one hope. This is our driving force in life – the hope of eternal life (Titus 1:2). Jesus is coming again and He is going to eternally save those who are in His body, focused on His New Testament law system, helping others "be born of water and the Spirit." Resolve this: be firm in the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace in 2013! What better time than a new year – this day, to personally begin endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace!

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MIKE WILLIS, EDITOR
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AUGUST

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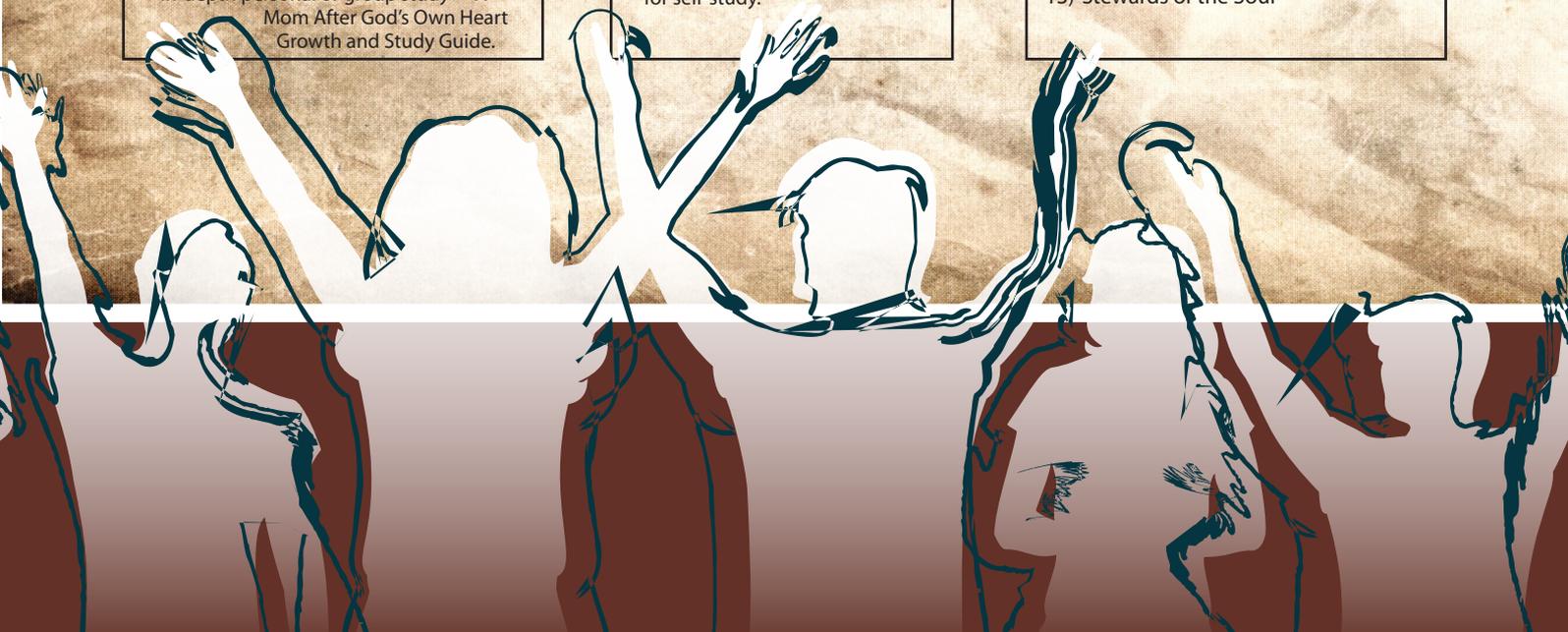
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<p>LOVELAND, CO Poudre Valley church of Christ 4202 North Garfield Avenue Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Afternoon 2:00 P.M. Evangelist: Richard Thetford (970)443-5358 www.poudrevalleychurchofchrist.org</p>	<p>DESTIN, FL South Walton Church 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>JACKSONVILLE, FL 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 & Steve Frazier (904) 781-5704 or 693-0432 www.mariettacoc.com</p>	<p>PALATKA, FL 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>TAMPA, FL 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</p>	<p>BLACKFOOT, ID Church of Christ 370 N. Shilling P.O. Box 158-83221 Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. (208) 785-6168 or 681-1552</p>
<p>MONTROSE, CO San Juan Church of Christ 1414 Hawk Parkway, Unit C Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 2:00 P.M. (970) 249-8116</p>	<p>FORT LAUDERDALE, FL 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. (954) 763-1404</p>	<p>KEY LARGO, FL Key Largo Church of Christ 100695 N. Overseas Hwy. 33037 m.m. 100.7 on US 1 Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: William LeDent (305) 451-1194</p>	<p>PALMETTO, FL Palmetto Church of Christ 1575 14th Avenue W. Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. www.palmettochurchofchrist.com (941) 722-1307</p>	<p>www. truthbooks.net</p>	<p>ABINGDON, IL Abingdon Church of Christ 209 N. Main Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evangelist: John B. Wilson (309) 462-5368</p>
<p>AD SPACE AVAILABLE PLACE YOURS TODAY! tmnikewillis@gmail.com</p>	<p>FORT MYERS, FL 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>To make changes to your ad, contact us at tmnikewillis@gmail.com</p>			<p>CENTERVILLE, GA 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) 922-1158</p>
<p>MILTON, DE Lighthouse Church of Christ 14574 Coastal Hwy. Rt. 1 Worship 9:30 A.M. Sunday School 10:45 A.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (302) 644-7379</p>	<p>FORT MYERS, FL 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>AD SPACE AVAILABLE PLACE YOURS TODAY! tmnikewillis@gmail.com</p>	<p>PANAMA CITY BEACH, FL 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 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Ben Ligin (850) 234-2521 or 234-1368</p>	<p>CONYERS, GA 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; Building (770) 929-3973</p>	<p>CHICAGO, IL 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>MIAMI, FL Church of Christ Eglise du Christ de Miami 8343 NE 3rd Ct. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Minister: Junot Joseph (305) 244-8295</p>	<p>FT. WALTON BEACH, FL 6 Lane Dr. Mary Esther, FL Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Joey Rankin (850) 244-9222</p>	<p>MIAMI, FL 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 Butttrick (305) 634-5924</p>	<p>PANAMA CITY, FL Church of Christ 3339 Florida Ave. (Between Baldwin Rd. & 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) 265-6539</p>	<p>PINE MTN. VALLEY, GA 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>DOWNERS GROVE, IL 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.dgccc.org</p>
<p>SHOP online @ truthbooks.net</p>	<p>FROSTPROOF, FL 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. Jimmy Ford, preacher (863) 635-2607 or 635-4278</p>	<p>MIAMI, FL 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>PENSACOLA, FL 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 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Hal Hammons (850) 479-2130 and (850) 602-8420</p>	<p>SAVANNAH, GA 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 ronaldnelson1@gmail.com (912) 306-4631 www.coastalchurchofchrist.com</p>	<p>GLENN ELLYN, IL 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>BROOKSVILLE, FL 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>GENEVA, FL Church of Christ Ave. C and 2nd St. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:45 A.M. (407) 349-9998</p>	<p>ORLANDO, FL 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>SEFFNER, FL 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>VALDOSTA, GA 4030 Mulligan Rd. (4 mi. S. of Moody) Next to Fred's Store on Bemiss Rd. Valdosta, GA 31605 Sunday Bible Class 10 A.M. Sunday Morn. Worship 11 A.M. Sunday Eve. Worship 6 P.M. Wed. Eve. Bible Class 7 P.M. (229) 219-8449 or (229) 300-3739 agospelpreacher@gmail.com</p>	<p>MATTOON, IL 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> www.truthbooks.net</p>	<p>HOLLYWOOD, FL 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>ORLANDO, FL Azalea Park Church of Christ 6800 Lake Underhill Rd. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 4:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: James P. Needham (407) 277-7931 or 628-2995</p>	<p>SUBSCRIBE Today! TRUTH MAGAZINE 855-49-BOOKS 855-492-6657</p>		<p>PALATINE, IL 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>DELAND, FL 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>Subscribe Today! Truth Magazine 855-49-BOOKS 855-492-6657</p>		<p>ORLANDO, FL S. Bumby Church of Christ 3940 S. Bumby 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>HI - ISLAND OF OAHU Leeward Church of Christ 94-1233 Waipahu St. Waipahu, HI 96797 (15 mi. from Honolulu; 18 mi. from Waikiki) Bible Study 9 am Worship 10 am Evening 6 pm Wednesday 7 pm www.leewardchurchofchrist.org Anthony Genton: (808) 671-0239</p>	<p>CLARKSVILLE, IN Clarksville Church of Christ 407 W. Lewis & Clark Pkwy. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Kipp Campbell (502) 593-6868 or (812) 944-2305 www.cvccfc.org 948-9917</p>

Directory of Churches

<p>ELLETTSVILLE, IN 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: Paul Adams (812) 876-2285</p>	<p>AD RATES ON CHURCH AD PAGES</p> <p>Rates are \$25 per quarter or \$95.00 per year (when paid in advance). The ads are run once each month – 12 times a year. Help travelers find your place of worship!</p> <p>TOLL FREE: 855 49 BOOKS 855 492 6657</p>	<p>EL DORADO, KS 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) 250-7123</p>	<p>DANVILLE, KY 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. Evangelist: Scott Vifuquin (859) 236-4204</p>	<p>BOSSIER CITY, LA 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>CEDAR SPRINGS, MI Grand Rapids Area W. Michigan church of Christ Sr. Citizen Center, 44 Park St. Worship 11:00 A.M. Bible Study 12:30 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Joseph Gladwell (616) 975-2778 westmichcof10@yahoo.com</p>
<p>GREENWOOD, IN Greenwood Church of Christ 371 W. Main St. Sun. Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 4:30 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelists: Dan Barker & Steve Niemeier (317) 888-8288 www.churchofchristatgreenwood.org</p>	<p>SALEM, IN 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>AUSTIN, KY Peter's Creek Church of Christ 856 Thomerson Park Rd. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening (Nov-Mar) 5:00 P.M. Evening (Apr-Oct) 6:00 P.M. Evangelist: Justin Monts (270) 404-2171 or 646-0498 www.peterscreekcoc.com</p>	<p>FRANKLIN, KY 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>LEESVILLE, LA 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>DULUTH, MN Church of Christ 4401 Glennwood St. 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>HOBART, IN 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: Jerry Cleek (219) 942-2663</p>	<p>TRAFALGAR, IN 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: Ed Rangel (317) 878-5969 www.trafalgarchurch.com</p>	<p>BEAVER DAM, KY 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>LEITCHFIELD, KY Mill St. Church of Christ Highway 62 E. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 10:55 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (270) 259-4968</p>	<p>STONEWALL, LA 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. (318) 925-2733</p>	<p>AD SPACE AVAILABLE PLACE YOURS TODAY! tmmikewillis@gmail.com</p>
<p>PLAINFIELD, IN Church of Christ West 2028 Stafford Rd., Suite C (Marsh Shopping Center) Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 9:50 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Johnie Edwards (317) 964-9404 or (317) 839-1769 www.churchofchristwest.org</p>	<p>INDIANAPOLIS, IN Castleton Church of Christ 7701 East 86th St., 46256 SUNDAY Worship 9:30 A.M. Bible Study 10:25 A.M. Worship 11:15 A.M. WEDNESDAY Bible Study 7:00 P.M. (317) 710-1204</p>	<p>LOUISVILLE, KY Valley Station Church of Christ 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>PORTLAND, ME 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 & places (207) 839-3075 or 839-8409</p>	<p>ST. CHARLES, MN Church of Christ 636 Whitewater Ave. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Wednesday 7PM, call for location Bible Study 2:15 P.M. FREE Bible correspondence studies Evangelist: Robert Lehnertz (507) 534-2905</p>	<p>HELP VACATIONING CHRISTIANS FIND YOUR PLACE OF WORSHIP</p>
<p>JAMESTOWN, IN Church of Christ Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:25 A.M. Evening 4:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Greg King (765) 676-6404 or (765) 891-9443 www.jamestowncoc.com</p>	<p>DES MOINES, IA Church of Christ 1310 N.E. 54th Ave. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:40 A.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (515) 262-6799</p>	<p>Subscribe Today! Truth Magazine 855-49-BOOKS 855-492-6657</p>	<p>LOUISVILLE, KY Valley Station Church of Christ 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>PORTLAND, ME 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 & places (207) 839-3075 or 839-8409</p>	<p>BOONEVILLE, MS 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>MARION, IN 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. Evangelist: Alan Jones (765) 922-7602 www.southmarionchurchofchrist.org</p>	<p>TOPEKA, KS 17th Street Church of Christ 5600 SW 17th St. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 4:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (785) 235-8687 or 273-7977 www.17thstreetchurchofchrist.org</p>	<p>BRANDENBURG, KY 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>OWENSBORO, KY Southside Church of Christ 2920 New Hartford Rd. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:20 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (270) 683-5386</p>	<p>ARBUTUS, MD 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, (410) 590-2852</p>	<p>CLINTON, MS McRaven Rd. Church of Christ 301 McRaven Rd. (I20, exit 36) Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Leonard White (601) 925-9757 or 924-2645</p>
<p>OOLITIC, IN 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>WICHITA, KS Westside Church of Christ 2626 W. 47th St. South 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>CAMPBELLVILLE, KY Sunny Hill Dr. Church of Christ (near the Dairy Queen) AM Worship 9:30 A.M. AM Bible Study 10:30 A.M. AM Worship 11:30 A.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Steve Lee stevelee4510@windstream.net (270) 789-1651 WWW.SUNNYHILL.COC.COM</p>	<p>REGINA, KY Road Creek Church of Christ 7 miles west of Elkhorn City on Route 460 & 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>SEVERN, MD 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 www.swcofchrist.com</p>	<p>COLUMBUS, MS 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>PEKIN, IN Church of Christ (First St. & Karnes Ct.) Bible Study 9:45 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Jeremy Goen (812) 967-3437 or 967-3520 www.pekinchurchofchrist.com</p>	<p>GRINNELL, IA Church of Christ 1402 Third Ave. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (641) 236-1955 (641) 521-6485 (641) 236-3883</p>	<p>CANEYVILLE, KY 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: Jarrod Jacobs (270) 589-4167, (270) 274-3065 or (502) 724-2231</p>	<p>BATON ROUGE, LA Park Forest Church of Christ 9923 Sunny Cine 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>RIVERDALE, MD (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: Antoine Holloway (301) 474-7460 or (301) 741-0012</p>	<p>GULFPORT, MS Morris Rd. Church of Christ 1 blk. N. of Dedeaux Rd. & 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: Steven Carmack (228) 832-5529</p>



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<p>MERIDIAN, MS Grandview Church of Christ 2820 Grandview Ave. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Wednesday 6:30 P.M. (601) 482-0543 or (601) 679-8542 Contacts: Ron Cooper and Jim Young youngins@comcast.net</p>	<p>HALLSVILLE, MO Hallsville Church of Christ 5855 E Hwy 124 Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Raymond Breuer (573) 696-0003 Kenneth Shern (573) 442-8475</p>	<p>BEATRICE, NE 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 www.churchofchrist7bell.com</p>	<p>HELP VACATIONING CHRISTIANS FIND YOUR PLACE OF WORSHIP</p>	<p>DAYTON, OH West Carrollton 28 W. Main Street, 45449 Early Worship 9:00 A.M. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:25 A.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Michael Grushon (937) 866-5162, 434-3090 or 848-3779 E-mail: www.wc-coc.org</p>	<p>NEW CARLISLE, OH 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>MERIDIAN, MS 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>Shop online @ truthbooks.net</p>	<p>LAS VEGAS, NV Vegas Dr. Church of Christ 3816 Vegas Drive Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (702) 648-4827</p>	<p>CHARLOTTE, NC Charlotte Church of Christ 5327 S. Tyron 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>FREMONT, OH 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 849-2980 www.fremontchurchofchrist.com</p>	<p>NEW LEBANON, OH Church of Christ 1973 W. Main St. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Marvin L. Eads (937) 236-6521 or 546-8828</p>
<p>SOUTHAVEN, MS (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: James A. Brown (662) 342-1132 - Church Building</p>	<p>KENNETT, MO 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 or (870) 650-1648 Nolan Glover, Preacher www.westsidechurchofchrist.us</p>	<p>RESERVE YOUR CHURCHES AD SPACE TODAY! tmmikewillis@gmail.com</p>			<p>NEW RICHMOND, OH 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>BLUE SPRINGS, MO Southside Church of Christ 4000 SW Christiansen Worship 9:00 A.M. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Brett Hogland (816) 228-9262</p>	<p>LILBOURN, MO 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>RENO, NV Central Church of Christ 2450 Wronold 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>HOPE MILLS, NC Gray's Creek Church of Christ Gray's Community Bldg. School Road Worship 10 am Bible Study 11am (910) 321-9023 (910) 424-2372</p>	<p>HAMILTON, OH 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>NORTHWOOD, OH (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>CAPE GIRARDEAU, MO 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>RAYTOWN, MO 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 554-0836 www.sterlingavechurchofchrist.org</p>	<p>VAUXHALL, NJ 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 Home: (908) 964-8570 Church: (908) 964-6356</p>	<p>BEAVERCREEK, OH Knollwood Church of Christ 1031 Welford Dr. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:20 A.M. Afternoon 3:00 P.M. Wed. Afternoon 1:00 P.M. Wed. Evening 7:30 P.M. (937) 426-1422 www.knollwoodchurch.org</p>	<p>HILLIARD, OH 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>UHRICHSVILLE, OH 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>
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<p>COLUMBIA, MO 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>ST. JAMES, MO 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>Shop online @ truthbooks.net</p>	<p>CINCINNATI, OH 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>MANSFIELD, OH Eastside Church of Christ 326 Grace Street Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 10:45 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 6:30 P.M. Evangelist: James Bond (419) 526-2868</p>	<p>OKLAHOMA CITY, OK 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.seminolepointecocf.org</p>
<p>DONIPHAN, MO 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>ST. JOSEPH, MO County Line Church of Christ 2727 County Line Rd. Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 9:50 A.M. Evening 3:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (816) 279-4737 www.countylinechurchofchrist.com</p>	<p>ALBUQUERQUE, NM 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 www.heightschurchofchrist.com</p>	<p>CLEVELAND, OH 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 or (330) 725-3960, 723-0111</p>	<p>MANSFIELD, OH 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 6:30 P.M. Leon Bond: 525-3684 Church: 522-8982</p>	<p>TULSA, OK 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>FAIR GROVE, MO 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>ST. JOSEPH, MO Prairie Hills Church of Christ 14273 County Rd. 307 (.7 mi. E of Intersection I-29 & 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>BUFFALO, NY 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>COLUMBUS, OH 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 www.lccoc.net</p>	<p>MARIETTA-RENO, OH Marietta-Reno Church of Christ 80 Sandhill Road Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:30 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (740) 222-9160 (Daniel Ruegg) or 473-9028 (Steve Foutty)</p>	<p>MEDFORD, OR 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>

Directory of Churches

<p>SWEET HOME, OR 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>WEST COLUMBIA, SC Airport Church of Christ 4013 Edmund Hwy. (Hwy. 302) Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 5:30 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. 803-894-3973; 803-429-4009; or 402-419-9228 http://airport-church-of-christ.com</p>	<p>KINGSPORT, TN Kingsport Church of Christ 4938 Fort Henry Drive P.O. Box 554 Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 5:00 P.M. Evangelist: Tom Kinzel Bldg.# 423-239-3979 or 423-579-2002 www.kptcoc.org</p>	<p>PIGEON FORGE, TN 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.KingBranchRoadChurchOfChrist.org</p>	<p>AUSTIN, TX Colonade Center Church of Christ 9025 Research Blvd. - Unit 175 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>DICKINSON, TX 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 7:00 P.M. (281) 534-4870</p>
<p>To make changes to your ad, contact us at tmmikewillis@gmail.com</p>		<p>MARYVILLE, TN Smokey Mt. Church of Christ 2206 Montvale Rd. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Harold Tabor (865) 977-4230 Lon Spurgeon (865) 388-8749 http://tinyurl.com/smchurch</p>	<p> www.truthbooks.net</p>	<p>BAYTOWN, TX Church of Christ at Pruett & Lobit 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) 515-8939 Building (281) 422-5926 Weldon (713) 818-1321</p>	<p>HELP VACATIONING CHRISTIANS FIND YOUR PLACE OF WORSHIP</p>
<p>AVONDALE, PA Avondale Church of Christ 1606 Glenn Willow Rd. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (610) 268-2088 Randy Frame (610) 869-4146</p>	<p>COLUMBIA, TN Jackson Hts. Church of Christ 1200 Nashville Hwy., Hwy. 31N Bible Study 9:15 A.M. Worship 10:15 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Mid-week 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Andrew Roberts (931) 388-6811 WWW.THEBIBLEWAY.ORG</p>	<p>MEMPHIS, TN Rocky Pt. Road Church of Christ 516 E. Rocky Point Rd., Cordova Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Contact: 758-4006 WWW.ROCKYPOINTCHURCH.ORG</p>	<p>Shop online @ truthbooks.net</p>	<p>BAYTOWN, TX 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>DUNCANVILLE, TX Whispering Hills Church of Christ 2126 S Main Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (972) 298-2522 info@whchurchofchrist.net</p>
<p>PHILADELPHIA, PA Church of Christ 7222 Germantown Ave., 19119 Bible Study 10:15 A.M. Worship 11:15 A.M. Tues. night 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: James H. Baker, Jr. (215) 248-2026 www.mfairychurchofchrist.org</p>	<p>COLUMBIA, TN 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>MURFREESBORO, TN 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) www.casonianechurch.org</p>	<p>SHELBYVILLE, TN Shelbyville Mills Church of Christ 1222 W Jackson St. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Jeff Curtis Phone: 931-607-9118 djcurtis1963@hotmail.com</p>	<p>BEAUMONT, TX 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 & David Banning (409) 866-1996</p>	<p>EDNA, TX 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: R. Dunham, J. Mercer S. Mercer & G. Nordin</p>
<p>BEAUFORT, SC Church of Christ 2107 King Street Parris Island: Call for times, services for recruits only. Sunday Morning 10:00 A.M. Sunday Evening 6:30 P.M. Wed. Bible Study 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Bryan Nash (843) 524-4400</p>	<p>DAYTON, TN Rhea Church of Christ 1367 Market Street, Suite 2 Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (423) 413-7675 or 332-4604 www.rheachurchofchrist.org www.jesusismonlyth.com</p>	<p>MURFREESBORO, TN Northfield Blvd. Church of Christ 2091 Pitts Ln. at Northfield Blvd. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: David Bunting (615) 893-1200</p>	<p>TULLAHOMA, TN 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>Shop online @ truthbooks.net</p>	
<p>COLUMBIA, SC Lower Richland Church of Christ 3000 Trotter Rd. (Hopkins, SC) Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (803) 776-0754 http://lowerrichlandchurch.org</p>	<p>JACKSON, TN 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) 967-0590 or 968-9851</p>	<p>MURFREESBORO, TN South Ridge Church of Christ 488 Barfield-Crescent Rd. • PO 2257 (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) 425-6300 www.southernridgechurchofchrist.com</p>	<p>ALLEN, TX 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>CLEVELAND, TX 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>FORT WORTH, TX 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>ORANGEBURG, SC 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>JOHNSON CITY, TN 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>NASHVILLE, TN Bell Road Church of Christ 1608 Bell Road Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Chris Pace (615) 833-4444</p>	<p>ALVARADO, TX 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>CLUTE, TX 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>FORT WORTH, TX 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>SUMTER, SC 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>JONESBOROUGH, TN 11-E Church of Christ 240 Headtown Rd. Bible Study 10:30 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Evangelist: David Wheeler 423-557-9119 or 423-948-6464 www.christianadmonisher.jigsy.com</p>	<p>NASHVILLE, TN 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. (615) 952-5458 or (615) 356-7318 Evangelist: Lee Wildman</p>	<p>ALVIN, TX 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>AD SPACE AVAILABLE PLACE YOURS TODAY! tmmikewillis@gmail.com</p>	
<p>TAYLORS, SC (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: Luther Pratt (864) 268-5224 or 877-2728 www.taylorschurchofchrist.com</p>	<p>KINGSTON SPRINGS, TN Kingston Springs Church of Christ 350 North Main St. Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Dan King, Sr. (615) 952-5720 or 797-2280</p>	<p>NASHVILLE, TN 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.faithweb.com</p>	<p> www.truthbooks.net</p>	<p>CORPUS CHRISTI, TX Hwy. 9 church of Christ Worship 10:00 am Bible Study 11:00 am Worship 12:00 noon Wednesday 7:30 Call for location: Keith Kallef (361) 776-2304 or Patrick Frazier (361) 235-1990</p>	<p>GRANBURY, TX 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>

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<p>HOUSTON, TX 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. Bob Pulliam (281) 832-4633</p>	<p>MESQUITE, TX (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> www.truthbooks.net</p>	<p>NEWPORT NEWS, VA 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>	<p>BELLINGHAM, WA 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>WELLSBURG, WV Charles St. Church of Christ 836 Charles Street Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:20 A.M. Evening 6:30 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Jessie Daniels (304) 527-4438 or 737-3124</p>
<p>HOUSTON, TX (Southwest) Murphy Rd. Church of Christ 2025 Murphy Rd., Missouri City Worship 9:00 A.M. Bible Study 10:45 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Gene Mabry (281) 265-8071 or 261-5216</p>	<p>MIDLAND, TX Woodcrest Drive Church of Christ 1401 Woodcrest Drive Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 4:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Jay Martin (432) 689-0955 or (432) 620-0762</p>	<p>TEMPLE, TX 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>RICHMOND (Metro), VA 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 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Gene Tope (804) 790-1629 www.courthousechurchofchrist.com</p>	<p>SUNNYSIDE, WA 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>AD SPACE AVAILABLE PLACE YOURS TODAY! tmnikewillis@gmail.com</p>
<p>HOUSTON, TX Spring Woods Church of Christ 9955 Neuens Rd. at Witte Rd. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist (713) 419-1750 WWW.SPRINGWOODCHURCHOFCHRIST.COM</p>	<p>NACOGDOCHES, TX 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. Evangelists: Randy Harshbarger & Jay Taylor</p>	<p>TEMPLE, TX 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>RICHMOND, VA 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>CHARLESTON, WV 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. Kent Clark (304) 342-0237 mansuper1965@hotmail.com</p>	<p>RANCHESTER, WY Church of Christ Hwy. 14 West Ranch Mart Mall Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M. Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 6:30 P.M. Contact: Bob Reich (307) 655-2563</p>
<p>IRVING, TX 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>ODESSA, TX 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: Kristofer Gordana (432) 366-5071</p>	<p>Subscribe Today! Truth Magazine 855-49-BOOKS 855-492-6657</p>	<p>RICHMOND, VA West End 4909 Patterson Ave. Bible Study 10:00 A.M. Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening 4:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Evangelist: Stacy Crim (804) 358-7933</p>	<p>CHARLESTON, WV 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. Evangelist: Jonathan Chaffin (304) 342-5637 www.oakwoodroadchurchofchrist.com</p>	<p>CANADA 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) 452-5116</p>
<p>LANCASTER, TX Pleasant Run Church of Christ 831 W. Pleasant Run Rd. Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:20 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. (972) 227-1708 or 227-2598</p>	<p>PLANO, TX (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 www.planochurch.org</p>	<p>WACO, TX 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>RIDGEWAY, VA 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: Robert Byrd (276) 956-6049</p>	<p>CLARKSBURG, WV Westside Church of Christ Davison Run Road Sunday Morning 9:30 A.M. (304) 622-5433</p>	<p>ADVERTISING RATES ON CHURCH AD PAGES</p>
<p>LUBBOCK, TX 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. (806) 795-3377</p>	<p>DALLAS, TX Methodist Street Church of Christ 211 Methodist St. • Red Oak TX, 75154 Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. (972) 576-3119 or 363-7672 www.methodiststreetchurchofchrist.com Evangelist: D. LeRoy Klice</p>	<p>THE WOODLANDS, TX Woodlands Church of Christ P.O. Box 7684-77380 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>ROANOKE, VA 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>FAIRMONT, WV 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) 363-8054</p>	<p>Rates are \$25 per quarter or \$95.00 per year (when paid in advance).</p>
<p>LUFKIN, TX 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 Reagan McClenny 634-7110 or 632-7070</p>	<p>SAN ANGELO, TX 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 or (325) 944-8147</p>	<p>CHESAPEAKE, VA 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 Schlosser (757) 436-6900</p>	<p>VIRGINIA BEACH, VA Southside Church of Christ 5652 Haden Rd. Worship 11:00 A.M. Robert Mallard (757) 464-4574</p>	<p>MOUNDSVILLE, WV 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: Devin Roush (304) 845-2820, 845-4940</p>	<p>The ads are run once each month – 12 times a year. Help travelers find your place of worship!</p>
<p>MANSFIELD, TX Northside Church of Christ 1820 Mansfield-Webb Road Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:20 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 6:30 P.M. Evangelists: Tom Roberts (817) 466-3160</p>	<p>SAN ANTONIO, TX Pecan Valley Church of Christ 268 Utopia (I-37 S.E. Exit Pecan Valley) Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M. Evangelist: Clyde W. Carter (210) 337-6143</p>	<p>CHESTER, VA Chester Church of Christ 12100 Winfree St. (Central to Richmond, Hopewell, Petersburg, & Colonial Heights) Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Evening 5:30 P.M. Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Church Building: (804) 796-2374 (804) 385-2725 or (804) 271-0877</p>	<p>AD SPACE AVAILABLE PLACE YOURS TODAY tmnikewillis@gmail.com</p>	<p>PARKERSBURG, WV Martown 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>TOLL FREE:</p>
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