

THE BEACON OF TRUTH

May 6, 2018

“Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.” John 17:17

Three Key Differences Between What a Successful Church Is, And What it Is Not

Jack Wilkie

Note: This article by Brother Wilkie is *not* an exhaustive list, but does provide several important insights into this topic. — Chase

As a minister, I’m constantly looking for materials (books, blogs, videos, etc.) that deal with church growth and helping build a “successful” church. Unfortunately, much of the material available today views churches just like businesses. In fact, if you stripped them of their religious language, many books and blogs could be just as easily applied to a restaurant or a clothing store.

But the church isn’t a business. Its success is not defined by what man sees as success. Instead, each congregation’s success is defined by her faithfulness to the missions God has given in His Word. Here are three ways to get past the world’s pervasive definitions of success by going back to the Bible to find what God considers to be success and faithfulness.

A church is not successful just because it has a large number of people. That’s not to say that a small church is automatically successful, either. The size of a church has no bearing on whether or not that church is being faithful to its mission. Instead, a church is successful when it is helping every member grow to maturity as a contributing part of the body (Ephesians 4:14-16). Whether there are 10 people or 10,000, what matters is that each one is being shown how to use their gifts to help build up the church.

A church is not successful because of the size, location, or beauty of its building. Though there’s nothing wrong with having buildings, and it only makes sense to try to make the building look nice, the building is simply a meeting place. It is not the church’s primary tool for evangelism. Jesus said “Go,” not “Get them to come to you” (Matthew 28:19). Instead, the building should be a launching point for the mission of the church, where we all gather together and then walk out with the purpose of spreading the Gospel message with our friends, neighbors, and co-workers. In other words, what matters isn’t the building that brings people in, but what happens in the building that sends people out.

A church is not successful simply because it has a calendar full of events. Once again, events aren’t necessarily good or bad in themselves. They can hinder true growth, though, when busyness is used as a substitute for growth. It’s good for the church to spend time (cntd. on pg. 2)

By the Numbers:

Week of 4/29/18

Contribution – \$2064

Attendance:

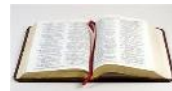
Sunday School – 21

Sunday Worship* – 46

Wednesday Night – 29

*Total for the day

Bible Trivia Question



Last Week’s Answer: Naaman (2 Kings ch. 5).

Q: Which congregation left their first love?

Answer to be given next week!

Sermon Spotlight

AM: THE CHURCH AT EPHESUS

- 1) What were some things that the church at Ephesus was doing right?
- 2) What were they doing wrong?

PM: BABIES IN CHRIST

- 1) What is expected of those who are babies in Christ?
- 2) How can we help those who are babies in Christ grow into spiritual adulthood?

Schedule Of Services

Sunday
Bible Study 9:45 A.M.
Worship 10:30 A.M. & 2:00 P.M.
Wednesday Bible study 7:00 P.M.

Website

Beaconcofc.com (under construction)

Preacher

Chase Green
318-608-7418

Elders

Bill Schooley 318-396-7296
Tim Green 318-547-4026

Missions Supported

Ronnie Gootam - India
Marlon Relana - Panama
Brad Harrub - Focus Press

BEACON CHURCH OF CHRIST
2326 JONESBORO ROAD
MAIL: P.O. BOX 3057
WEST MONROE, LA 71294

WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED

1. Hear the Gospel (Jn. 20:30-31; Rom. 10:17).
2. Believe (Rom. 1:16; Acts 18:8; Heb. 11:6).
3. Repent (Lk. 13:3; 24:47; Acts 3:19; 17:30).
4. Confess Christ (Matt. 10:32, 33).
5. Be baptized (immersed) (Matt. 28:18-20; Mk. 16:16; Acts 2:38; 22:16).
6. Continue faithful unto death (Rev. 2:10).

Mailing Address

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

NEWS AND NOTES
TO OUR GUESTS—A WARM WELCOME

Thank you for coming today and please come back soon and often. If you have questions about the church of Christ, what is taught here, or the way we do anything please feel free to ask. Please fill out the Guest Register on the table in the foyer so we may have a record of your visit.

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Dewey Young — Margie Tippen — Pete Varner — Buster Keeton — Ruth Coston — L. C. Lewis — Regina Simmons — Wendy Traweek — Lisa Morris — Mildred Allhands — Marcia Green — Judy May — Tim & Tricia Green (Out of town) — Dewey & Bettie Young (Out of town)

OTHER THINGS & UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- Monthly Fellowship Meal — Every 4th Sunday
- Crawfish Festival Outreach Event — A big thank you to all who have been helping with our outreach at the Crawfish Festival! Your work is greatly appreciated!
- A Game night will be held on Friday night for ALL AGES! See Chase for more details!
- Chase would like to thank those who have been checking out and reading books from both his and the church libraries — If you are not currently taking advantage of these resources, please consider doing so — Please note that there is a sign-out sheet in the church library (on the table) so that we can keep track of what items are being checked out
- Youth & Young Adults — Be on the lookout for monthly get-togethers! (If you would like to host or help with an event, please let Chase know)

(Continued from page 1)

together... but not at the exclusion of a community focus. It's good for the church to have fun together... but not at the expense of service and evangelism. Instead, what matters is that the time spent together is used to build up the spiritual lives of the members (Acts 2:42-47), serve the needy (Matthew 25:31-46), and evangelize the community (Mark 16:15-16).

The question has often been asked, "If your church were to close its doors tomorrow, would anybody outside of it notice?" It's a fair question, and it's a challenging question. Many ideas of what makes a church successful in terms of numbers and what goes on inside the doors can still leave the church invisible to the community. Truly successful churches will constantly be looking to strengthen their members so they can shine God's light of love and truth to the people around them.

The Need to Get Away

Chase Green

Have you ever felt the need to run to the mountains? To escape to the beach? To enjoy a week "away from it all?" If so, you are not alone!

Over the past few weeks, Lindsey and I have been planning our vacation for our upcoming fifth anniversary. While it may not seem like much to some, a trip to Hot Springs, AR is just what we need to celebrate! We love traveling, and we are excited that Andrew is going to get to ride a roller coaster for the first time! I bet you could tell me similar exciting stories about planning your vacations!

But did you ever consider the fact that the need to get away to rest and recreate is a Biblical concept? So much so that God commanded a day of rest in the Old Testament (the Sabbath Day). Although this commandment was not reinstated in the New Testament, one would be wise still to take some time regularly to rest and recreate. God knew when He designed us that we would need time to let our bodies recuperate from the daily grind of life!

Here's something else to consider — Even Jesus Himself took special time away from the crowds that thronged Him from time to time. "And it came to pass in those days, that he went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God." (Luke 6:12). "And it came to pass about an eight days after these sayings, he took Peter and John and James, and went up into a mountain to pray" (Luke 9:28). "And when he had sent them away, he departed into a mountain to pray" (Mark 6:46).

Yes, brethren, sometimes Jesus had to "get away from it all." But there's something else I want you to notice. Go back up and read those verses again. Did you notice that **every time**, Jesus had a spiritual purpose? He went up into the mountains **to pray!** One thing that we absolutely must realize is, that when we go on vacation, we mustn't forget that we are Christians!

To conclude this article, let me give a few tips for maintaining your spiritual focus while on vacation: 1) Find a local body of Christians to worship with, even if it means you may have to drive a little out of the way! 2) Put a lot of planning into where you will worship! While it is true that you won't find a perfect congregation, you can do your due diligence to ensure that you will be worshipping with a group that is doing their best to be pleasing to God. Search the congregation's website. Call the preacher. Ask your Christian friends for recommendations for sound congregations! 3) If you absolutely cannot find a group to worship with, plan to hold your own worship service at the hotel. Remember that YOU are the church wherever you go! 4) Regarding giving, it is a good idea to give some to the congregation you visit, but don't forget that your first responsibility is to give to your congregation back home. Lay by in store and ensure you give the same amount you normally give for that Sunday. 5) Do not forget to pray and study your Bible, just like you should be doing at home. 6) Remember to act like a Christian, speak like a Christian, and dress like a Christian. Just because you will be on vacation doesn't mean that God's not watching. He is!

With love, Chase

THIS WEEK'S MEMORY VERSE

"Thus did Noah; according to all that God commanded him, so did he."
Genesis 6:22

BE SURE TO TUNE INTO OUR RADIO STATION!
FM 102.5 KCXB-LP - The Beacon of Truth
Available 24/7 on FM radio and at Beaconcofc.com