

THE BEACON OF TRUTH

June 30, 2019

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

How Are You Spending Your Days?

Charles Box

Time passes so quickly. James 4:14 (NKJV) describes the brevity of our time on earth. "Whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away." Job 7:6 says, "My days are swifter than a weaver's shuttle." Another description of how quickly time passes is, "Our days upon earth are a shadow" (Job 8:9). Solomon spoke of the passing of times in these somber words, "One generation passeth away, and another generation cometh" (Ecclesiastes 1:4) Recognizing the brevity of time causes me to ask, "How are you spending your days?"

WE SHOULD MAKE UP OUR MINDS TO SPEND WHATEVER TIME WE HAVE LEFT WISELY. Paul wrote that Christians should be, "Redeeming the time, because the days are evil" (Ephesians 5:16). Time should be redeemed as we sincerely repent of sins and busy ourselves with the work of God's kingdom. Avoid wasting your time in Satan's service. Eternal consequence will result from the use made of time, either wise use or foolish use!

WE SHOULD MAKE UP OUR MINDS TO SPEND WHATEVER TIME WE HAVE LEFT DOING GOOD TO OTHERS. Jesus did good and so must we. Luke wrote, "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, NKJV). Jesus' business was simple; He went about doing good. His was in the business of blessing others. Satan goes about seeking whom he may devour. Christians go about seeking opportunities to do good. Jesus did good because He was good. Those who are good will do good! Barnabas was a good man and he did good. "Then tidings of these things came unto the ears of the church which was in Jerusalem: and they sent forth Barnabas, that he should go as far as Antioch. Who, when he came, and had seen the grace of God, was glad, and exhorted them all, that with purpose of heart they would cleave unto the Lord. For he was a good man, and full of the Holy Ghost and of faith: and much people was added unto the Lord. Then departed Barnabas to Tarsus, for to seek Saul: And when he had found him, he brought him unto Antioch. And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the church, and taught much people. And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch" (Acts 11:22-26).

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By the Numbers:

Week of 6/23/19

Contribution – \$2252

Attendance:

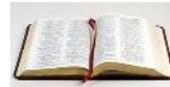
Sunday Bible Classes – 32

Sunday Worship* – 46

Wednesday Night – 26

*Total for the day

Bible Trivia Question



Last Week's Answer: The household of Stephanus (1 Cor. 16:15).

Q: To whom did Paul refer as his own son in the faith?

Answer to be given next week!

SERMON SPOTLIGHT:

AM — Grace Towards Others

1. What is the Biblical way to be gracious towards others?
2. What are un-Biblical ways that people sometimes show "grace" to others?

PM — The Parable of the Drag Net

1. What will happen when the wicked are severed from among the just?

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 Retana - Panama
Brad Harrub - Focus Press

BEACON CHURCH OF CHRIST
2326 JONESBORO ROAD
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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

Margie Tippen, Regina Simmons, Marcia Green, Kevin Green, Jerry Tippen, Wendy Traweek, Harold Myers, Joy Skipper, Ruth Coston, Lindy Brown, Kaitlyn Wilson, Kathy Lawrence, Debbie Grice, Virginia Wainwright, Melba Tippen Creech, Dewey Young, Andrew Brown (away at internship in College Station, TX), Stetson Ortega, Mike Jones

OTHER THINGS & UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- Food Pantry: We have been blessed with opportunities to help several families with food recently. Consequently, we are in need of food for restocking (all items currently needed, including canned meats, canned fruit, canned vegetables, canned soups/chili, pasta noodles, etc.)
- Youth & Young Adults: Be on the lookout for monthly events! See Chase if you would like to help with food or in other ways.
- Monthly Fellowship Meal: 4th Sunday each month unless otherwise noted.

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WE SHOULD MAKE UP OUR MINDS TO SPEND WHATEVER TIME WE HAVE LEFT BEING THANKFUL AND NOT COMPLAINING. Paul wrote, "Do all things without murmurings and disputings." (Philippians 2:14) Christians are not to complain, be discontent or murmur. How can we shine as light if our spirit is that of a complainer (Philippians 2:15)? Our attitude reflects which master we serve.

WE SHOULD MAKE UP OUR MINDS TO SPEND WHATEVER TIME WE HAVE LEFT GOING THE SECOND MILE. Do more than is expected of you. "And whosoever shall compel you to go a mile, go with him twain (two)" (Matthew 5:41). Christians must serve, bear, forebear and accept injury without seeking vengeance. Make the best of whatever life brings and be a Christian in every circumstance. Always shine for Jesus.

Ask God to help you use your time wisely and yield to Paul's admonition to, "Redeem the time." To be saved you must hear the gospel (Romans 10:17), believe in Jesus (Mark 16:16), repent of sins (Acts 2:38), confess Jesus as Lord and Christ (Romans 10:9-10), and be baptized for remission of sins (Acts 2:38). As Christians, we must focus on going to heaven daily. "The days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away. Who knoweth the power of thine anger? even according to thy fear, so is thy wrath. So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom" (Psalm 90:10-12).

James 1:22-25 ***Chase Green***

Verse 22: "But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves." The most cruel of deceptions is the one that befalls a Christian who is a ready hearer of the Word, but not a doer of it. It is most cruel because said hearer assumes he is saved by mere ACKNOWLEDGEMENT of Truth, not realizing that, in order to be saved, he must be willing to FOLLOW THROUGH with obedience to the Truth.

Acknowledging the veracity of God's Word is wonderful. It's vital. But if I acknowledge Truth without actually letting Truth SHAPE MY LIFE, it does me little good. Yes, I must hear the Word of God (Rom. 10:17), but the kind of hearing that saves is the kind of hearing that results in a RESPONSE — obedience to the Gospel and continued faithfulness. If I smile and nod upon hearing the Word of God, but do little beyond that, not allowing it to shape my life, I'm deceived, and in just as bad of shape as the one who outright REJECTS the Word!

Verses 23-24: "For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was." Isn't it sad that many Christians seem to think that they can attend worship services, sing a song or two, bow their heads during prayer, try not to nod off during the sermon, partake of the emblems during communion, and give a few dollars in the collection plate, then be on their merry way, having checked all of that off their list for the week, not to have a single spiritual thought or spiritual action take place until the following Sunday when they then again repeat the process?

Christianity is not a "one-day-a-week sacrifice and the rest of the week we can do as we please" religion. Christianity is a lifestyle! The Christian with the above-described nonchalant attitude toward worship *has* that kind of attitude as a symptom of a bigger problem — he's looking at Christianity as a part-time vocation. He's taking bits and pieces of Christianity like vitamins, when his Christianity should be at the forefront of his spiritual "diet!" He's looking in His Christian "mirror," haphazardly approaching his spiritual preparation, then walks away completely disheveled, life in shambles, because he's only practicing Christianity one day (or perhaps two) a week. His Christianity is a farce, and he's deceiving himself.

Verse 25: "But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed." This describes a true, FAITHFUL Christian. No, he's not perfect. He does fall short from time to time, but this person is LIVING OUT his religion. (James 5:15b-16 shows how confession and prayer [repentance implied] can heal such a Christian who has fallen short).

This Christian doesn't look into the mirror of deceit of verses 23-24. Rather, he looks to the Law of God of which he is under today, the perfect Law of Liberty (the faith/the gospel/the new covenant), and he CONTINUES in it! He's not a forgetful hearer; he's a DOER! In other words, he's an ACTIVE Christian, not one day or two days a week, but 24/7, 365 days a year (no sick days or holidays or vacations off)!

With love, Chase

THIS WEEK'S MEMORY VERSE

"Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world."

James 1:27

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