

THE BEACON OF TRUTH

July 28, 2019

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

Absentee Christians

R. W. McAlister

It's common to look at the attendance record of most congregations and find the Sunday and Wednesday night attendance to be greatly below that for the service on Sunday morning. Sometimes the total attending on Wednesday is one-half the Sunday morning figure.

Those who cause this difference by deliberately forsaking Sunday and Wednesday evening Bible classes are sounding forth a message to God and others. Here's what we're saying when we forsake Sunday and Wednesday night Bible study:

1) I don't need spiritual food. The Bible contains the necessary ingredients for one's spiritual growth (I Peter 2:2). Every Sunday and Wednesday night, a portion of spiritual food is set out for those hungering for righteousness. Those who remain at home during this spiritual feast act as though they don't need this nutrition for their souls.

2) Those who forsake the Sunday and Wednesday night services are saying that there are some things more important than gathering with God's people for study and worship. Some of these "more important" things are television programs, the newspaper, housework, the garden, or a nap. "Study to show thyself approved unto God; a workman that needeth not to be ashamed; rightly dividing the word of truth." (II Tim. 2:15). Those who forsake these assemblies are missing a great opportunity to do this very thing.

3) Those who remain at home on Sunday and/or Wednesday nights are also saying that a study of the Bible is boring. It totally amazes me that anyone could call something more precious than gold (Psalm 19:10) dull or boring. It's beyond comprehension that the Book containing God's mind (I Cor. 2:9-13) could be thought of as dry or uninteresting.

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By the Numbers:

Week of 7/21/19

Contribution – \$2742

Attendance:

Sunday Bible Classes – 32

Sunday Worship* – 46

Wednesday Night – 28

*Total for the day

Bible Trivia Question



Last Week's Answer: Charity out of a pure heart, & of a good conscience, & of faith unfeigned (1 Tim. 1:5).

Q: To what did some turn after swerving from the faith?

Answer to be given next week!

SERMON SPOTLIGHT:

AM — Daily Duties

1. What are some daily Christian duties?
2. Can you think of any others?

PM — The Parable of the Secret Seed

1. Is the power of the Gospel in the speaker, or the Word itself?
2. Notice the progression of Christian growth that is emphasized in the parable.

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
Marion Retana - Panama
Brad Harrub - Focus Press

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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, Virginia Wainwright, Melba Tippen Creech, Dewey Young, Andrew Brown (away at internship in College Station, TX), Stetson Ortega, Mike Jones, Kenneth Hendrix, Tim Green, Mildred Allhands, Anthony Ortega, Debbie Grice, Bill Schooley & Family & Jarrod Schooley & Family (Traveling in TN and KY this week)

OTHER THINGS & UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- 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: Today in between services.

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4) Those who forsake evening services are saying with certainty that obeying God's commands is not important. Hebrews 10:25 commands that one not forsake the assembling of the saints. Those who forsake the Sunday night and mid-week assembly must think this command is meaningless. The Holy Spirit instructs differently "Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they might have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city" (Rev. 22:14).

Dear Reader, everything that has been said about Sunday evening worship and Wednesday night Bible study applies equally to Gospel meetings or lectures your congregation may be hosting. Why do we not love God enough to assemble with the saints whenever possible? (cr. Heb. 10:25; Mt. 6:33; Ps. 122:1)

Without doubt, there are reasons, and there are excuses for not being present on Sunday & Wednesday nights. Friend, God knows the difference.

James 2:14-20
Chase Green

Verse 14: "What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him?" This is the first of a long section of verses that proves that faith without action is not enough to save. By "action," I mean "obedience," or as James states, "works."

This is by no means a contradiction of passages like Eph. 2:8-9, which says, "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast." Paul is referring to salvation by "grace ... through faith" as the Gospel system as a whole. That is, we can only be saved through the Gospel of Christ, oftentimes referred to as "THE faith" (i.e. Acts 6:7; Gal. 2:20; Jude 3; etc.) and often described as "grace" (i.e. Acts 11:23; 13:43; Acts 15:11; etc.). Interestingly, the term "the faith" is also connected to "obedience" in Romans 1:5 and other places. I wonder why?

Verse 15-16: "If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, And one of you (Christians, TCG) say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit?" Herein lies an example of Christians (those who have already obeyed the gospel) neglecting the daily physical needs of their brethren, thus being disobedient. Their faith is worthless, bringing about no profit. They have LEFT the faith, as proven by their disobedience.

Verse 17: "Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone." The type of faith described here is "dead" and "alone." Those who say that we are saved by faith (belief) alone represent a grave misunderstanding of the meaning of true faith. True faith leads to OBEDIENCE. Examine all of the people described in the "Hall of Fame" of faith in Hebrews chapter 11, and the common denominator is that their faith always propelled them to OBEY God. If a person claims to have saving faith in God, but then goes about his merry way, living as he pleases, perhaps even living a "mostly good" life, but uninvolved in the work of the church, and not demonstrating any real change in his life, his "faith" is dead and alone, and it cannot save him!

Verse 18: "Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works." In other words, faith and works are not mutually exclusive. They go hand in hand! You cannot separate true Biblical faith from works!

Verse 19: "Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble." James is really tearing apart the doctrine of "faith only." Surely one can conclude that these demons are not saved. They believe in the one true God. They KNOW He exists, for He has condemned them to everlasting torment! You better believe that they believe in Him! But they TREMBLE! And they are not saved!

Verse 20: "But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?" Again, faith and works go hand in hand. To separate religious works of obedience from faith would make those works dead, and to separate faith from religious works of obedience (both in our initial conversion and in continued obedience, by the way) would render our faith dead! It's that simple, but sadly many people continue to teach the erroneous doctrine of "faith only."

We will continue to examine James' thoughts on the subject of faith and works, Lord willing, next week.

With love, Chase

THIS WEEK'S MEMORY VERSE

"Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin."
James 4:7

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