

THE BEACON OF TRUTH

January 20, 2020

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

Marks of a Strong Church

Garland Elkins

A Strong Church Has a Converted Membership

A congregation of unconverted sinners may be mistaken by some as a church of the Lord. However, they will act like sinners, and will still be sinners (Mat. 13:15). Christians are a converted, or changed, people as passages such as Matthew 18:1-3 and Acts 3:19 clearly teach.

A Strong Church Believes And Obeys the Word of God Implicitly

It believes that God's converting power is in the gospel (Rom. 1:16). It believes that there is transforming power in the truth (Rom. 12:12; Col. 3:1-4). It believes that God will make all things work out for the good of the righteous (Jam. 5:16; Rom. 8:28). In short, a strong church is "rich in faith" (Jam. 2:5).

A Strong Church is a Studious Church

It continues in the apostle's doctrine (Mat. 28:18-20; Acts 2:42; II Tim. 2:2). It has the word of God preached and taught in its services (Acts 11:26; II Tim. 4:2; Acts 20:7). Its members read the Bible and other good literature (John 5:39; II Tim. 2:15; I Tim. 4:13).

A Strong Church Worships As It Is Written

It conducts a truly scriptural and spiritual worship (John 4:24). It abides in the doctrine of Christ concerning matters of worship, as well as in everything else (Mat. 15:9; II John 9-11).

A Strong Church Keeps Unspotted from the World

Its members love righteousness and holiness (Heb. 12:14). They keep themselves pure, and separate from the contamination of the world (Mat. 5:8; I Tim. 5:22; Jam. 1:27; Titus 2:11-12). They hate sin; even their own sins, and they seriously seek to live above sin (Heb. 6:1; 1 Pet. 2:2; II Pet. 3:18). They recognize their imperfections, and that they sometimes commit sins. However, they do not live a life of sin. When they sin, they correct their wrongs in the sight of God and men (Acts 8:18-24; I John 1:9; Jam. 5:16).

A Strong Church Will Edify Itself

The church has a great mission: to "edify itself in love" (Eph. 4:12-16). Hence the church is to build itself up in love (Acts 20:32; Jude 20-21). The members of a strong church will follow after "things whereby we may edify one another" (Rom. 14:19).

A Strong Church Will Do Good Unto All Men

The Galatian letter was written to "churches of Galatia" (Gal. 1:2). The Holy Spirit inspired Paul to teach those congregations, "As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith" (Gal. 6:10). A strong church will care for its own members, assist saints elsewhere who are in need, and (continued on page 2)

By the Numbers:

Week of 1/12/20

Contribution – \$2370

Attendance:

Sunday Bible Classes – 25

Sunday Worship* – 52

Wednesday Night – 38

*Total for the day

WORKS SUPPORTED:

Marlon Retana - Panama
Brad Harrub - Focus Press

The Gospel of Christ TV Program
Sundays:
6:30am - Ch. 8.3 (CW) 7:00am - Ch. 39.1

Listen to our radio station!
FM 102.5 KCXB-LP - The Beacon of Truth
Available online 24/7
at beaconcofc.com

Sermon Spotlight:

AM — Was it Worth It?

1. No earthly pleasure is worth the amount of pain inflicted in Hell after the Judgment.
2. What is your most valuable possession?

PM — Hebrews Chapter 3

1. Notice the comparison and contrasts between Christ and Moses.
2. Why might this be emphasized?

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

Preacher

Chase Green
318-608-7418

Elders

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

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

Margie Tippen, Regina Simmons, Joy Skipper, Kaitlyn Wilson, Tim Green, Debbie Grice, Virginia Wainwright, Stetson Ortega, Bettie Young, Wendy Traweek, Dewey Young, Scarlet Schooley, Judy May, Martin Hattaway, Marcia Green

OTHER THINGS & UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- Youth & Young Adults: Be on the lookout for monthly get-togethers. If you would like to help host an event in the future, please let Chase know!
- Monthly Fellowship Meal: 4th Sunday each month unless otherwise noted.

(Continued from page 1)

as opportunity arises and ability permits, will assist those who are in need who are not Christians (I Cor. 16:1-2; Gal. 6:10). As Galatians 6:10 teaches, special attention will be directed toward the household of faith. Through this good work, its light is made to shine in the community, and this will lead many to glorify God (Mat. 5:13-16).

A Strong Church Practices Love

It will practice the love that characterizes those of the same family (I John 3:11; I Pet. 2:17). It will have a special love for members of the congregation, and for the church everywhere. It will: speak the truth in love (Eph. 4:15), be fervent in love among itself (I Pet. 4:8), and will do everything in love (I Cor. 16:14).

A Strong Church Is a United Church

It has that unity for which Jesus prayed (John 17:20-21), "giving diligence to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" (Eph. 4:3). Its members speak the same thing, and there are no divisions among them (I Cor. 1:10). They are of one accord, having one mind, practicing the same love for each other (Phi. 2:2). They follow the New Testament in all things therein revealed (II Cor. 5:7; Rom. 10:17). They follow the leadership of the elders in matters of expediency, and in all matters left to human wisdom and judgment (Heb. 13:17; Acts 20:28, I Cor. 10:23). Thus, they are able to have fellowship one with another (Acts 2:42; I John 1:7).

A Strong Church Has a Scriptural and Efficient Eldership

It will have a faithful, able leadership who love God and His work, and are "examples unto the flock" (I Pet. 5:3). They will not compromise with the enemies of righteousness. They will demonstrate their qualifications by, "holding to the faithful word which is according to the teaching, that he may be able to exhort in the sound doctrine, and to convict the gainsayers" (Titus 1:9).

A Strong Church Will Preach The Gospel in Order To Save the Lost

The church is to carry out the Great Commission that the lost may be saved (Mark 16:15-16; II Tim. 2:2; Luke 19:10). Christ healed the sick and fed the hungry thousands. His church is to practice benevolence to saints and sinners (II Cor. 9:13; Jam. 1:27). However, we must never forget that all of this, and preaching the gospel, must be to save the lost (Luke 19:10; I Tim, 3:15).

Blessed are the Meek

Chase Green

Matthew 5:5 - "Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth."

Continuing the Beatitudes, Jesus turns His attention to the meek. The virtue of meekness has almost become the subject of derision today. It is often confused with timidity or weakness. In actuality, the virtue of meekness is characterized by quiet strength, or patience, in times of adversity or persecution, and has oftentimes been called "strength under control."

Jesus was the perfect embodiment of meekness (Matt. 11:29; 21:5). Before Him, Moses was also an excellent example of meekness (Num. 12:3). Surely no one would challenge the greatness of these two. And yet, they would never exalt themselves above others. (Note: Jesus IS highly exalted, but notice that it was the FATHER Who highly exalted Him — Php. 2:9 — He wasn't about exalting HIMSELF). Thus, meekness is closely connected to humility.

Those who are meek are naturally grateful: "The meek shall eat and be satisfied ..." (Psa. 22:26). The meek are teachable: "The meek will he guide in judgment: and the meek will he teach his way" (Psa. 25:9). It is the meek who will be lifted up and BEAUTIFIED by the Lord (Psa. 147:6; 149:4). Meekness is a prerequisite to salvation (Psa. 76:9).

Thus, when we read in Matt. 5:5 that it is the meek that shall inherit the earth, it makes perfect sense. Many commentators believe that "the earth" here is in reference to "the land," paralleling with the Promised Land of Canaan in the Old Testament. In other words, it is the meek (and subsequently obedient) who will inherit the land that God has promised to the faithful — HEAVEN!

With this in view, we must ask ourselves, are we meek, or arrogant? Do we display quiet strength, or loud obstinance? Are we humble and patient, or prideful and quick to react in a sinful way? Do we follow the example of our Savior, or do we follow in the footsteps of the world?

We must examine ourselves and ensure that we could be described as meek by all of those around us — admirably by those who strive to be faithful Christians, like us, and derogatorily by those who despise Christianity. But let us remember that it doesn't matter what people think about us; as long as we are pleasing in the sight of GOD, what MEN think doesn't matter. So let us seek to be meek, so that we can inherit the promise of everlasting life!

With love, Chase

THIS WEEK'S MEMORY VERSE

"Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth."

Matt. 5:5