

The Bulletin

Meeks St. Church of Christ

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June 23, 2024

“The Lack Of Seriousness”

By Michael R. Baggett

In everything set them an example by doing what is good. In your teaching show integrity, seriousness (Titus 2:7, NIV).

While watching the old episodes of The Highway Patrol I noticed how serious the officers were about doing their jobs and solving cases. This got me to think about how much the world has changed even in my lifetime.

We live in a world that is not serious about many things, or at least the right things. A laid back come-what-may approach is observed in everything from the fast-food window to the pulpit. The doctrine of Christ must be taught and practiced in all seriousness.

People are serious about who will win the football game or basketball tournament. It is sad to see adult men and women argue over whether a 9-year-old baseball player touched home base or not. People are profoundly serious about getting to their destination in a vehicle, so much so they will practically run you over if you get in their way.

Where is the seriousness about doing your job? Where is the seriousness about being on time, keeping one's word, dressing appropriately for company, a date, the workplace, or worship? It used to be that a worker in a fast-food window would greet you with a smile, be attentive to your food requests and look on the job.

Today, you might observe the person in the fast-food window sitting with their face away from you or to the side and they might be texting or talking on their cell phone. Do I have to mention the lack of seriousness in getting your order right? Hey, where is my ketchup? Some twenty years ago causal Friday found its way into the picture. Causal Friday has become everyday casual. The attitude of many people is they are starring in their own version of Saturday Night Live. Everything from doing your job, paying your bills or the way to dress to go grocery shopping is so laid-back people just do not seem to care anymore. What has happened to common decency and pride in how we do things and present ourselves to others?

I certainly do not mean to hurt anyone's feelings, but wives used to pride themselves in keeping a nice house, cooking a tasty meal, and taking care of their children. Are we instructing young wives about what the Bible says to them about housekeeping, responsibility to husbands and to children? (See 1 Timothy 5:14; Titus 2: 3-5). This teaching depends on older experienced wives instructing younger women. The duty must be preached from the pulpits as well.

Many young men do not seem to know their place in the family as head, provider, protector, and spiritual leader. Confusion is obvious. I find myself asking Who is the father in that family? It is incredibly sad to see how roles are being swapped in the modern family. I am not knocking the husband who helps with housework or even with the children here and there, but seriously, it is not his job to take over his wife's duties. Let us not forget the seriousness of our God given roles. Home is not a democracy! While a good leader listens to his wife and children to weigh matters in arriving at a decision, it is the husband's duty to make the final decisions (Genesis 3:16; Ephesians 5:22-33). He is a husband and father, not a wife or mother!

It is also disturbing to observe much of the preaching around the Country replaced with silly antics and an over emphasis on cartoon pictures in power point. I am not saying that power point is wrong, but it can become overly used. Some preachers have traded quoting scriptures for telling jokes. Now, I am not against light-hearted remarks

now and then, but let us not forget the seriousness of preaching. Titus 2:7 says ...In your teaching show integrity, seriousness (NIV). Bible matters are serious matters. We need to go back to preaching sermons in the seriousness and urgency the subject warrants! Paul, an apostle, was certainly in no joking mood when he saw the whole city of Athen given to idolatry! (Acts 17:16-17). Peter certainly did not come across as a Jay Leno when he warned Simon of the danger of going to hell! (Acts 8:18-24).

A friend of mine had been out of worship since he was a young adult. Some 40 years later, he started looking for a faithful church. His first observation was that preaching had changed. He sampled one congregation after another and told me of his disappointment. It really hurts me to hear reports like this, but it confirms what I am talking about today. The pulpits are changing across the Country.

The pulpit needs to be a place for some serious talks. I realize that audiences today do not want a lot of seriousness, but it is God who demands seriousness in the teaching and preaching of His word. The word must be preached in season and out of season, whether people like it or not! (2 Timothy 4:2-5). The gospel is the power of God to salvation (Romans 1:16). We must preach it in all seriousness because heaven and hell are serious matters.

There are still faithful preachers, husbands, wives, fathers, mothers, and employees. Life is not always about taking your ease. Training children is a serious business (Ephesians 6:4). Worship is serious business (Matthew 15:9-13; John 4:23-24; 1 Corinthians 14:40).

Preaching and teaching God's words is serious business (Titus 2:7). If we do not get more serious about these matters, we will face Judgment Day someday that will be no joking occasion.

"Parents and Learning The Faith"

By Mark W. White

If You Ask A Child Where People Learn, They Will Likely Say, "At School." But if you ask a 60-year old where people learn, you will get a different response. Adults know that most of life's most important lessons were not learned in a formal setting. What a child learns from his parents, outside a classroom, can shape his lifelong attitude toward learning.

Parents can teach that learning is a part of everyday life. Do you reach for the Dictionary when you hear an unfamiliar word? When an intriguing question arises, do you Google up an encyclopedia? Now, nowhere is the principle of purposeful learning more important than in Bible study. Never let something slip by you without investigating it when it comes to Bible teaching. Berean Christians were purposeful learners (Acts 17:11). Read, ponder, and discuss God's word everyday with your children. Use what you learn to be a better disciple of Jesus.

Parents must teach their children how to think. The last thing we want is for our children to just accept everything they hear without evaluation. Much of what passes as either wisdom or knowledge today, even in schools, actually contradicts God's truths. Our children encounter an endless stream of false theories, misguided religious beliefs and distorted moralities (which are often "immoralities"). Train your children to critically examine what is heard in school, read online, or viewed on television. Does it make any sense? Is it considered true because it is accepted by the majority? Does it mesh at all with Scripture? We must show our kids that the only way to surely know whether or not something is true is if God has said so.

If they are to resist error and stand for truth, we must train them to think logically. Faith in Christ is not simply an emotional response, it involves the intellect, the mind. Faith results when the word of God is encountered, accepted and obeyed (Romans 10:17). Our children are no exception to this rule. Faith is propagated no other way, except through "learning Christ" (Ephesians 4:20).

Parents can help children develop a good attitude toward learning. Babies arrive thirsty for knowledge. God made them that way. They absorb visual clues, sounds and words at an amazing rate! Some children, however, eventually develop an aversion to learning. They dislike reading. They hate listening to a teacher. What can parents do? If addiction to empty entertainment is the root of a child's poor attitude, the first step is obvious. Eliminate or severely restrict the amount of time spent on these distractions. Countless hours of television or video games take their toll. Bible classes must be stimulating learning sessions, but that usually does not involve a joystick. Listening to exhorting, informational sermons requires a degree of listening skill. Good sermons are not, however, simply entertaining. We come to enjoy good preaching in much the same way that we enjoy eating a nourishing, tasty meal.

The teaching we do at home and the learning that takes place there will favorably improve learning at the church-house. For this necessity, we are dependent on parents, not preachers.

Those Who Need Our Prayers & Encouragement:

Tim Harris Sr, Tim Harris Jr, Daniel Holloway, Debbie Keplinger, Robbie, Sheila, Sherry Doles, Sandi Poole, Sandra Oliver, Chad Harris, Eli Johnson, Jamie Jones, Mary Ann Holley, LuAnne Parrish, Billy Grisham, Burt Ward, Wesley Trimble, Nathan Cox, Anita Harris, Fred Johnson, & Bill Hall.

Karen Kennemur and Sherry Johnson both had strep last week.

Sherry F. Doles had a biopsy done last week.

Those Who Serve:

Sunday Morning 9:00 A.M. Service:

Opening Prayer: Doug George
Preaching: Brian Meade
Sermon #1: "When Troubles Come Our Way"

Auditorium Bible Class: 9:35am:

Workbook: Jerry Kennemur
Author: Hebrews
Daniel H. King, Sr
Starting Page & Question: Page 24, Question #10

Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service:

Announcements: Blake Briggs
Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading: Tim Harris Jr.
Scripture Reading: Psalm 10:10-18
Song Leader: Paul Busby
Lord's Supper: Danny Sheffield
Assisting: — —
Singing Service: Men Of The Congregation Lead Songs
Invitation: Brian Meade
Closing Prayer: Nathan Meade

Wednesday Evening: 7:00 P.M.

June 26, 2024

Auditorium Bible Class: Paul Busby
Workbook: The Minor Prophets
Author: By Marc Gibson
Starting Page & Question: Page — Question —
Invitation: Russell Briggs
Song Leader: Paul Busby
Closing Prayer: Jerry Kennemur

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“When Troubles Come Our Way”

Lesson Text: **Job 14:1.**

I. Recognize The Source Of Our Troubles.

- The Sources Of Trouble:
 - **Satan**- The Real cause Of Job’s troubles! **Job 1-2.**
 - **God**- Who Only Troubles Us For Our Good **Psalm 107:10-15.**
 - **Self**- When We Bring Troubles On Ourselves.
 - **Others**- When Other People Cause Us Trouble.
- Some Are Unavoidable, Yet Must Be Endured- **Job 5:6-7; Matthew 6:34.**
- Some Of Our Troubles Are “Self-Inflicted.”
 - By Being Cruel To Others- **Proverbs 11:17.**
 - Troubling Our Family- **11:29.**
 - By Not Controlling Our Tongue- **Proverbs 21:23.**
 - By Bad Judgment- **Proverbs 26:17.**
- Some Are Accidental, And No Fault Of Own- **Ecclesiastes 9:11-12.**
- Many Are The Results Of Sin’s Consequences- **Job 4:8; Joshua 7:25.**

II. What Do We Do With Our Troubles?

- If It Is Because Of Sin— Harden Our Heart Or Repent? **1 Kings 18:17-18.**
- We Can Become Discouraged & Give Up?
 - **Hebrews 12:3; 1 Thessalonians 5:14.**
- We Can Become Bitter, Mean-Spirited, & Angry? **Colossians 3:8.**
- We Can Learn From Them? **Proverbs 29:11 (ESV).**
- We Can Be An Example Of Strength & Courage? **James 5:11.**

III. Finding The Good In Our Troubles.

- Good Can Result From Troubles, Just Have To Look. **Genesis 50:20.**
 - When Life Gives You Lemons....
- Troubles Can Show Us That Sin Is Undesirable- **Psalm 119:71.**
- Troubles Can Turn Us Back To God:
 - Take Delight In God’s Word- **Psalm 119:143; 119:92.**
 - Can Improve Your Prayer Life- **Psalm 142:1-2; 122:1-9....**
Attendance, & Sincerity of Worship.
- Troubles Can Develop Patience, Courage, & Strength Of Character.
 - **James 1:2-4.**

Conclusion: **Psalm 37:39.** God Is Bigger Than Our Troubles!