

The Better Way

Volume XXXIX, Issue 1

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SPRING CHURCH OF CHRIST

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SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

SUNDAY

Bible Study.....9:00 a.m.
Worship.....10:00 a.m.
Afternoon Worship.....1:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study.....7:30 p.m.
(via Zoom Meetings)

ELDERS

David P. Brown
Ken Cohn
John West

DEACONS

Bret Bailey
J. D. Gunter
Eric Paluka

EVANGELIST

David P. Brown

SECRETARY

Sonya West

“SIN WILL FIND YOU OUT” (Numbers 32:23)

Fred House

When we give our sincere attention to the Bible, and having a hunger and thirst after righteousness (Mat. 5:6), we will not only see that God loves us, that He shows mercy, and forgives, but we will clearly see that He hates sin. We will not that God knows all about us, whether good or bad. There can be no hiding from God! This message is declared in both the Old and New Testaments.

O Lord, though hast searched me, and known me. Thou knowest my downsitteing and mine uprising, thou understandest my thought afar off. Thou compasses my path and my lying down, and art acquainted with all my ways. For there is not a word in my tongue, but, lo, O Lord, thou knowest it altogether (Psa. 139:1-4).

What some have not realized yet, is that God does know, and that sin is the only thing that will cause us to be lost. In the New Testament it is stated, **“And Jesus knowing their thoughts said, Wherefore think ye evil in your hearts?”** (Mat. 9:4). Ye, with full knowledge of this truth, man still tries to hide from God.

By their disobedience to God’s commandments Adam and Eve tried to hide from God, and were soon to find out they could not. Their sins were found out. No commandment of God can be forsaken without it being found out, and having its consequences. Adam and Eve had to pay the price. The happiness they knew with no quilt of wrong was now gone. The beautiful garden God prepared for them was now gone. Pain, hardship, trouble, sorrow, and death were now upon them. It was an eternal truth even before Moses wrote it, but it is stated in Numbers 32:23 that **“ye have sinned against the Lord: and be sure you sin will find you out.”** We may desire to be wise as Eve thought she could be and in our attempt to have such remove ourselves from the straight and narrow way. To rise to the top, no doubt enters the mind of all, but leave God out of it and you can be sure “your sins will find you out.”

Just because a large crowd is involved, where we think that everybody is doing it, offers no comfort. God’s word still reads, **“Thou shalt not follow a multitude to do evil”** (Exo. 23:2). Is it still man’s thinking that if he can gather a multitude around him for support, that God does not matter, will overlook it, or let up on His punishment? No better example could be cited than the people of Noah’s time. Not only did God see their wickedness, but he knew their thoughts. **“And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually”** (Gen. 6:5). They were in sin, and giving no thought to the consequences. With ungodliness at an all time high, Noah came forth preaching! Would you think Noah preached for them to repent because their sins will find them

out, or some mushy type of love? Do you think he took a study course in "missionology" and found from his professor that he need not try to change the customs of a nation; therefore, since they have for so long been entrenched in their way of living, refuse to tell them they are in sin, lost, and their sins will find them out?

Adam and Eve could not escape to keep their sins from finding them out. The people of Noah's time could not escape from their sins finding them out. David was to find out that power will not cover sin, and keep it from being found out. Many may carry a big stick in this world. As a result of such power, they may evade many of the hurts that would come to the common people, or those without such recognition. David got a man drunk, and that would not work, then used his power to have him killed. But sin was not overlooked! Power, or no power, David had to repent. **"The thing David had done displeased the Lord"** (2 Sam. 11:27). **"Nathan said to David, Thou art the man"** (2 Sam. 12:7). **"Wherefore hast thou displeased the commandment of the Lord to do evil in his sight?"** (2 Sam. 12:9). David had sinned and it found him out, and it will find us out today.

All of this was in the Old Testament, and today we live under a better law, carrying with it better hope, some argue. We often hear how, God loves us, and His grace is extended to us. Therefore, under the heading of doing good, which is a commandment of God (Gal 6:10), we proceed in the same self-centered, sinful way! Ananias and his wife, Sapphira, is one example. God had commanded that we give of our means. Did they give? Yes. What is the problem then? They lied. They wanted people to think they were giving or doing more than they really were. Peter did not reason, "it is none of my business what they give, and I will say nothing." Peter was not interested in the power of positive thinking, but rather the power of the living God. He said to Ananias:

Why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land? Why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God (Acts 5:3, 4).

Did his sin find him out? God said it would, and it did. Just by attending the worship services, singing loud, praying long, and giving a large sum of money does not do away with the bad heart. When our hearts are not right, even

though we are at worship, such displeases the Lord. Jesus dealt with this, saying, **"they that worship him, must worship him in spirit and in truth"** (John 4:24). We are reminded again, **"be sure your sin will find you out."**

Being rich and asking important and right questions does not put a cover over sin that it cannot be found out. One came to Jesus and asked, **"Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may, have eternal life?"** (Mat. 19:16). When Christ revealed to him that his heart was known he went away sorrowful (Mat. 19:22). By now we ought to know that **"He needed not that any should testify of man; for he knew what was in man"** (John 2:25). He was **"a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."** It does not make any difference how deep within the heart an intent may be held, it will be known.

Our time is one of permissiveness and an indulgent age. It is one that is emphasizing no controls, no restraints and no limitations. The matter of fellowship is a battle that is being fought within our own camp. Arms of welcome are open to all that come to some, not caring with whom they were affiliated, error they were taught, and of which they espoused. If they have been immersed, they are told, that is all that is needed. The scriptures do not teach that; and those that do, can be sure their sins will find them out. One has written in his bulletin, declaring that those in the Christian Church denomination are our brethren, and called them "the Christian Church brethren." We wonder, would he do the same with the Baptists, the Mormons, the United Pentecostal Church, and others? They all are in error. No, they are not our brethren, and you can be sure that their sins will find them out (Num. 32:23)! In no way do I find that statement unloving, arrogant, wrong, self-righteous, nor sectarian. To such a statement I am not embarrassed, or ashamed, I do not repent of it, nor am I trying to outgrow it.

We must not look at Numbers 32:23 and conclude that only God can detect sin in a person's life. Yes, it is only God that knows of the hidden sin of one's heart, but we can know, and point out sin, even in another's life. This point is backed by the Bible, and the church must be at work letting the members know that their sins will find them out. Paul wrote two passages that come to light just now.

"Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them [that others may find them out] which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doc-



JAMES: Practical Christianity (Part I)

January 27th

Fish Hatchery Road Church Of Christ

These timely lessons will be presented at the church of Christ
Located at 1380 Fish Hatchery Road, Huntsville, Texas
Phone: 936-581-4346 Email: bruces_l@netzero.com

The book of James is so practical that some have called it “the gospel of common sense.” Because the Christian faith is not just an organization to join or a few abstract doctrines to hold, a letter like James’ is immediately relevant to every Christian. The Christian faith requires each believer to bring every thought and action into conformity to the Word of God. It proclaims a Christian philosophy of life in stark contrast to the self-seeking, unfocused, and often tumultuous existence that frequently characterizes those outside the faith. A matter worth pondering is the fact that the very first topic James discussed involved the difficulties encountered in the Christian life. Totally foreign to him was the curious modern notion that becoming a Christian will make life easier, that all problems will disappear.

9:00 AM: Jose Gamez - *Count It All Joy* (Jam. 1:2-11)

10:00 AM: Eric Paluka - *The Christian & Temptations* (Jam. 1:12-15)

11:00 AM: David Brown - *The Source Of Every Good & Perfect Gift* (Jam. 1:16-20)

LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED

1:30 PM: Jack Stephens - *Receiving The Engrafted Word* (Jam.1:21-25)

2:30 PM: John West - *Pure & undefiled Religion* (Jam. 1:26-27)

3:30 PM: *Question & Answer Session*

trine which ye have learned; and avoid them” (Rom. 16:17)

“Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us” (2 The. 3:6).

Those who willfully forsake worshipping God are sinning and they can be sure that their sin will find them out. The person who refuses to attend all the services has a warped heart, little knowledge of God’s word, and it will never get better until they change. They are a discouragement to the faithful, and a bad example to the weak in faith. Nobody in the church holds them up as good examples of Christianity. Not attending is an open sin, and you can be sure your sin will find you out (Num. 32:23).

Brethren, let us stand up for Jesus!

*The strife will not be long;
This day the noise of battle,
The next the victor’s song.
To him that overcometh,
A crown of life shall be;
He with the King of glory shall live eternally.*

It is true, and always has been, that we need people that are kind and loving, but we also need people who will stand and fight as soldiers of the cross, for “every one of us shall give account of himself to God” (Rom. 14:12).~

Deceased

**VOLUNTEERS
FOR
DUTIES IN
2024**

**Sign-up sheets
are in the foyer**

TEST YOUR BIBLE KNOWLEDGE
How many days did Israel mourn for Moses & Aaron?
Answer to last week’s question:
Mt Hor and Mt. Nebo; Num. 20:28; Deu. 34:1

THOSE TO SERVE

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2023

Announcements	John West
Scripture Reading	James Arline Rev. 5:1-14
Song Leader	Gary Blasingame
Prayer	J.D. Gunter/Stephen Cohn (A.M.) Zack Nero/Steven Johnson (P.M.)
Speaker	Eric Paluka
Lord’s Table (A.M.) (Mat. 27:45-50)	
Andrew Paluka	James Arline
Jonathan West	Joshua West
Lord’s Table (P.M.)	
Stephen Cohn	Ben Gunter
Audio/Video Monitor	Joshua West
Camera/Door Monitor	Jonathan West
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3, 2024 (via Zoom Meetings)	
Announcements	David Brown
Speaker	Andrew Paluka
Bible Class Teacher	David Brown
FOR JANUARY	
Prepare Communion	Z. Nero
Lock Buildings	Blasingame
Prepare Bulletin Board	TBA

IN NEED OF PRAYERS

Woodrow Nero, Gayle Barnett, Cynthia Jackson, Elnora Oxendine, Edith Young, Bernice Hastings, Charles & Ann Nero, Nathaniel Rimmer, Chuck & Nancy Verkist, Freda Smith, Noah & Glenda Hackworth, Orlinda Chumbley, Carmen Hardy, and Roelf & Janice Ruffner.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- Sunday, January 7th: Special contribution
- Saturday, January 27th: Lectureship at Fish Hatchery Road.
- Sunday, January 28th: Monthly meal
- Saturday, February 24, 2024: Spring CFTF Lectureship.