

The Better Way

Volume XXXIX, Issue 5

January 28, 2024

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

CHURCH DISCIPLINE EQUALS SAVING SOULS

David P. Brown

Since the first Pentecost following the resurrection of Christ, God recognizes only faithful members of the church of Christ as the saved of the earth (Acts 2:47). These persons who heard the Word of God, had faith in Christ formed in them by their correct understanding of the Word (the Gospel; Mark 16:15-16; Rom. 1:16), repented of their sins, confessed their faith in Christ, and were baptized (immersed) in water by the authority of Christ into the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit in order to obtain the remission (forgiveness) of sins (Rom. 10:17; Acts 17:30; Rom. 10:10; Mat. 28:19-20; Acts 2:38; Rom. 6:3-4; 1 Pet. 3:21; Acts 22:16). This is God's plan of salvation. It is obligatory upon man. **Less** than these steps in God's plan, one cannot do and be saved from his sins. **More** than what this plan of salvation requires, God does not demand of one in order for him to be saved from sin. Only persons who have complied with the preceding plan of salvation are authorized to be fellowshipped by other children of God (Acts 2:41; Eph. 5:23).

In order to remain in fellowship with God, church members must continue to live according to the New Testament teaching regarding Christian living (Acts 2:42; 1 John 1:7). Since space does not allow for a detailed discussion of obligatory matters in Christian living, suffice it to say that obligatory matters relating to faithfulness pertain to what Christians must do to remain saved. A child of God who ceases to submit to any or all of God's obligatory laws (New Testament principles that one must abide by in order to remain saved or faithful) must have any relationship between himself and faithful members of the Lord's church terminated.

Christians must understand that all the processes or means by which the church teaches and trains its members to "**walk in the light**" is disciplinary in nature. However, I am emphasizing the responsibility of faithful members to restore wayward members and to keep the church pure by withdrawing fellowship from those who are determined to live disorderly lives (lives not in submission to the obligatory matters of the Gospel of Christ or those who create factions by making laws for God and splitting the church by striving to make other Christians submit to them as if they were obligatory in nature). *The design of all church discipline is to save erring brethren and to keep the church pure in life and teaching.*

When the church fails to discipline her members, she is not doing all God demands her to do and be. It is a sin of omission (Jam. 4:17). God intends for the church of Christ to be His influence for good on the

earth. When church members are allowed to be impure, it is impossible for the mission of the church to be accomplished as God intended. Hence, when members of the church persist in sin, faithful brethren must labor to get the unfaithful to repent. However, if in time a church member adamantly refuses to repent, the church is to withdraw itself from the rebellious member. This means that this person is not to enjoy the fraternal association that exists between and among faithful members of the church of Christ (Rom. 16:17-18; 1 Cor. 5; 2 The. 3:6, 14-15; Gal. 6:1-2). Sins that have their beginning in private between two brethren are taught by Christ to be handled according to Matthew 18:15-17. Furthermore, elders who will not demand that such be routinely preached and practiced are themselves sinning and need to repent. If they refuse to amend their ways, they become subjects for corrective church discipline themselves.~

JUDGING RIGHTEOUS JUDGMENT

Tim Smith

“Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment” (John 7:24). Have you ever tried to convince someone that the particular religious position he/she held was incorrect? If so, you most probably received an answer somewhat like this: You are judging me and that is wrong. While we are never to presume to judge one’s motives, a certain amount of judging is absolutely necessary to pleasing God. We cannot judge what is beyond our ability to perceive, but that which is before us and regulated by His Word we must judge. We are not, according to our text, to judge **“according to appearance,”** or only based on externals when the matter pertains to the inner man. I cannot see whether your secret thoughts are right with God unless you manifest your motive incontrovertibly by your actions. I cannot perform a cursory review based on my own preferences or rules. These things are strictly forbidden. But notice that in our text there is a judging that we are compelled to engage in and it is called **“righteous judgment.”** We consider the works of an individual and compare them with the standard of righteousness (God’s Word—cf., John 12:48) and arrive at a conclusion as to the propriety of those works or deeds. It is not wrong to engage in this kind of

judgment, and in fact, it is wrong not to engage in this kind of judging! How can we oppose a man like Hitler without judging righteous judgment? How can we say that Saddam Hussein or the devil himself is wrong without comparing their deeds with the Bible? And is not such a comparison judging? Indeed. It is judging righteous judgment. Someone who says, “You are wrong for judging” has engaged in the very activity they condemn. They have judged you for judging. They condemn you for condemning. Where is the consistency? To judge righteous judgment is to preach the Truth. To judge righteous judgment is to determine what is required of God on a given matter and to then pronounce His requirements to one in danger of hell-fire. Heed His Word: **“Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment”** (John 7:24). ~

“BEWARE OF THE LEAVEN”

B. C. Goodpasture

In the New Testament, leaven is usually, though not always, used to represent the workings of that which is evil. It is used to describe the pervasive influence of the gospel (Mat. 13:33); otherwise it is employed to describe that which is evil in teaching or conduct (1 Cor. 5 :7-9; Gal. 5:9).

Jesus spoke of the teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees as the **“leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees”** (Mat.16:6); “which,” Luke adds, “is hypocrisy” (Luke 12:1). Jesus did not subscribe to the idea of “preaching the truth and letting others alone.” His teaching and preaching were “positive,” but not wholly “positive.” He did what is called “negative” preaching. He condemned sin wherever He found it. Preaching the truth will not let error alone. From the very nature of truth and error, it is impossible to preach truth without opposing error. Jesus preached the truth and specifically condemned false teachers and their heretical doctrines. He told the people what to do, and He also told them what not to do. When he condemned the teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees, He thereby warned His disciples not to follow their instructions. After He condemned the traditions of the Pharisees, His disciples reported that the “Pharisees were offended” (Mat. 15:12). This report did not restrain Him from warning His disciples: **“Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees”** (Mat. 16:6.) Our Lord had

Spring Church Of Christ

Contending For The Faith Lectureship



Lessons On Christian Living

February 24, 2024

9:00 AM: *Teach Us To Pray* – Weldon Blake

10:00 AM: *Exercising Your Christian Influence* – J. D. Gunter

11:00 AM: *Are You Being Fashioned According To This World?* – Jonathan West

LUNCH PROVIDED BY THE SPRING CONGREGATION

1:30 PM: *The Importance of Bible Study* – Bruce Stulting

2:30 PM: *Into Our Hands The Gospel Is Given* – Jack Stephens

3:30 PM: *Examine Yourself* – Jose Gamez

LECTURESHIP DIRECTOR: David P. Brown

ELDERS: David P. Brown, Kenneth D. Cohn, John West

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more respect for the salvation of the people and the word of God than He had for the self-righteous Pharisees and Sadducees. He always sought to please God rather than men. The preacher who does not follow His example is not worthy of an audience. He is a moral coward and timeserver.

Imagine some of the fainthearted, convictionless, nominal followers of Jesus suggesting to Him that the Pharisees and Sadducees were His brethren in Abraham and fellow worshipers of the true God, and that He should not condemn them so harshly, especially by name. Further, imagine someone complaining that Jesus would make a bad impression on the Gentiles by condemning the false teaching of His brethren in the old covenant, the Pharisees and Sadducees. The New Testament is a virile and vigorous volume. Those who try to fellowship truth and error at the same time will find much in the examples of Jesus and Paul to shock their delicate sensibilities.

When false teachers taught that it was necessary for the Gentile Christians to be circumcised in order to be saved, Paul condemned them as "false brethren" (Gal. 2:4). In doing this, he, along with Barnabas, was involved in no "small dissension and disputation" (Acts 15:2.) The "false brethren," false teachers, not Paul and Barnabas, were responsible for the "dissension and disputation." It is ever so with the purveyors of false teaching and compromise. Of course, those who were in sympathy with the Judaizers thought Paul and Barnabas were narrow and unreasonable. "It is the hit dog that howls."

*No rogue e'er felt the halter draw
With good opinion of the law.*

If you want to find out if the devil is in a congregation, or some other group of people, preach the gospel, fearlessly condemning all sin and defending all truth, then listen for a "howl." If you hear the howl, the devil is there.

"Beware of the leaven" of all false teachers!~
Deceased

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- Today, January 28th: Monthly meal
- Saturday, February 24th: Spring CFTF Lectureship.

THOSE TO SERVE

SUNDAY, JANUARY 28, 2024

Announcements	John West
Scripture Reading	Andrew Paluka Rev. 7:1-8
Song Leader	Bret Bailey
Prayer	David Brown/John West (A.M.) James Arline/David Brown (P.M.)
Speakers	Eric Paluka
	Lord's Table (A.M.) (Mark 15:6-15)
Zack Nero	Bret Bailey
Stephen Cohn	Eric Paluka
	Lord's Table (P.M.)
J.D Gunter	Ben Gunter
Audio/Video Monitor	Joshua West
Camera/Door Monitor	Bret Bailey

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31, 2024

(via Zoom Meetings)

Announcements	Eric Paluka
Speaker	Bret Bailey
Bible Class Teacher	David Brown

FOR JANUARY

Prepare Communion	Z. Nero
Lock Buildings	Blasingame
Prepare Bulletin Board	TBA

IN NEED OF PRAYERS

Peggy West, David & Lynne Humphrey, David Brown, Zack 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.

TEST YOUR BIBLE KNOWLEDGE

Who sinned in betraying innocent blood?

Answer to last week's question:
Stephen's; Acts 6:15