

Light and Life

You Follow Me

I tend to worry. Sometimes I catch myself worrying that other people are not doing what I think they should be doing. Often, I am quickly humbled when I realize that there are plenty of reasons for that worry to be directed at myself.

There is a story in John 21:15-22 that helps me when I find myself in this situation. After appearing to His disciples a third time following His resurrection and enjoying breakfast by the sea, Jesus asked Peter three times if he loved Him. Increasingly grieved with each answer Peter replied each time, “You know that I love You.” Jesus then told Peter that he would be martyred for the glory of God. He then followed this heavy and difficult news with a simple, yet difficult, command: “Follow Me.” As Peter took in all that had just been revealed and commanded to him, he turned to see John following behind them. “But Lord, what about this man?” Peter asked. “What is that to you?” Jesus replied. “You follow Me.”

Like Peter, we as Christians are bound by the command, “Follow Me” (Mt 10:38, 16:34; Mk 8:34; Lk 9:23, 14:27). It is difficult to walk in a straight line behind the Savior when our heads are on a swivel, looking behind us and side to side as we constantly ask, “But Lord, what about this man?” It’s good to be concerned for others, but we need to keep in mind our directive: “You follow Me.”

- *Sam Bunyard*



Just My Thoughts

Dining with the Enemy

Luke 11:37 tells us of a time when Jesus was invited to eat with a Pharisee. This verse isn’t long or complex. It doesn’t reveal anything complicated to the reader. Rather, it reveals something about the character of Jesus that I hope I can emulate.

In this verse, a Pharisee invited Jesus to dinner. He was a man who belonged to the group that despised Jesus and His teachings regularly — a man who belonged to the group of people who ultimately would bring about Jesus’ death. One would expect Jesus to scoff at this man’s request, or perhaps even to embarrass him in front of the people around them. But rather than doing this, Jesus graciously accepted the Pharisees’ invitation. Jesus reclined at table with this man who likely hated Him — who likely wished Him dead — all without argument or complaint.

In our lives, it is often easy to view people of the world as the enemy, as outsiders, as dangerous foes to be avoided at all costs. But here Jesus shows us how we should react to those whom we would deem enemies. Rather than despise those who despised Him, rather than treat His enemies as such, Christ shared a meal with them. In doing so, He showed that He cared for these people. He showed love and respect for them as creatures made in the image of God. In sharing a meal with these people, He demonstrated a love for all His creation.

It is my sincere hope that we demonstrate the same love for our enemies that Christ did.

- *Hayden Cathey*

ASSEMBLY TIMES

Sunday

Bible Class 9:30
Morning Assembly 10:30
Evening Assembly 5:00

Wednesday

Evening Bible Class 6:30

RADIO PROGRAM

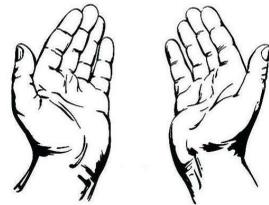
The Bible Speaks



Sunday 9:00-9:30a.m.
KURM 790AM

Downtown Church of Christ

P.O. Box 447
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479-636-3575
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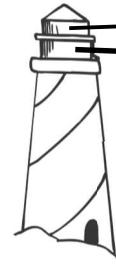
The best 'get-rich-quick'
scheme: count your
blessings.

ELDERS:

Otis Hardin
Perry Johnson
Ken Parker
Alan Revier
GW Walsh

DEACONS:

TJ Burleson
Scott Hale
Joel Heiligenthal
Jason Hill
Chris Johnson
Brock McKeel
Randy Potter
Tim Roberts
Randy Shell



DOWNTOWN GOSPEL BEACON

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FAMILY NEWS

PRAYER LIST –

Preachers we support: Japan, Philippines, Vietnam, Canada, Mexico, Peru, & U.S.
Sick: Gary Fletcher, Tony Tolbert, Rai Starr, Diane Willis, Js Swim, Tricia Deen
Shut-ins: Betty Jo Young, Billie Pennington, Shirley Cole, Mary Lou Lewis
Military: Kyler Sullins, Sean Potter

DATES TO REMEMBER – Our Vacation Bible School with Bubba Garner will be July 24-28. Our Youth Lectures with Phillip Shumake will be Aug 5-6.

SENTENCE SERMON – Part-time Christianity, like a part-time job, will not get you very far.

Singing Our Best

Most members of the church are aware of the command to “sing” (Ep 5, Col 3); so that’s what we do. It’s not complicated.

And most members are aware that worship is not about entertainment – true, even with acapella worship.

And yes, God has blessed each of us with various talents – and singing may not be yours.

Now that we’ve acknowledged the caveats, can we agree that we must offer our best in worship to Him? One need only to read the first chapter of Malachi to appreciate that fact.

And when it comes to singing in worship, what does our ‘best’ look like? Lyrics need to be scriptural, of course. Technical aspects of singing need to be close enough to avoid distracting from the message. So yes, pitch, volume, tempo to match the message – all of these matter if we are to sing our best.

But singing is not simply preaching with a beat. Singing is designed by God to touch the **emotions**; and when it is done well, it does just that. Let’s work **together** to make our singing the edifying, worshipful experience God intends. Let’s work **together** to sing our **best!** - *WKing*