

Light and Life

Blasphemy Among Gentiles

“I don’t go to church because it is just full of hypocrites!” This thinking is increasingly common. A wise preacher once told me that if I let a hypocrite come between me and God, I am just allowing the hypocrite to be closer to God than I am. Still, this is a real problem facing the church of today.

Paul addressed a similar issue in the attitudes of the Jews. “You rest on the law, and make your boast in God, and now His will, and approve the things that are excellent, being instructed out of the law, and are confident that you yourself are a guide to the blind, a light to those who are in darkness, an instructor to the foolish, a teacher of babes, having the form of knowledge and truth in the law” (Rm. 2:17-20).

It sounds like these Jews were doing pretty good when this text is isolated! However, their judgmental attitudes and self-righteous pride in their own abilities caused great damage not only to themselves, but to those outside of a relationship with God.

To those who were so proud of their knowledge and ability to teach, Paul asked “You who teach another, do you not also teach yourself?” (2:21). They failed to uphold what they boasted in, fulfilling the quoted text, “God is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you” (2:24).

The reason for blasphemy wasn’t sin — everyone sins! It was that the Jews acted as if they were better than other sinners, failing to see that the only difference between the saved and unsaved is forgiveness.

Don’t give the world the excuse to blaspheme the name of God! Let’s be honest with ourselves and others about who we are: beggars who have found the bread of life!

- *Sam Bunyard*

Just My Thoughts

Hopeless to Hopeful

“Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain” (1 Co 15:58).

Our walk as Christians can sometimes seem hopeless. I have days where I look out at the world and wonder if I’m actually making a difference in my life. I look back at the course of my life and wonder what I have gained by giving up the pleasures of the world. In these times of hopelessness, the tempter often tries to trick us into believing that we have gained nothing by giving up our sinful ways and that we are making no difference in the world through our spread of the Gospel.

However, Paul makes it clear to the Christians in Corinth, and by extension to us, that those who labor for the Lord will never be laboring in vain. We have given up much to be children of God, and have sacrificed pleasure, worldly success, worldly renown, and acceptance, all for the cause of Christ. Yet, at the end of the day, no matter what the devil may whisper in our ear on hopeless days, all these things are worth losing if the prize we stand to gain is rest with our Lord.

And so, we must stand firm in the Lord, with confidence in Him, and with confidence in the prize that we are striving to achieve. Let us be immovable and unshakable in our labor for the Lord and our pursuit of a dwelling place with Him.

- *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

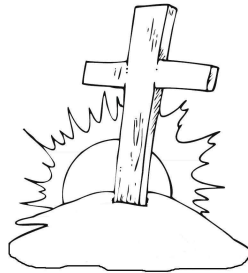
The Bible Speaks



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

Downtown Church of Christ

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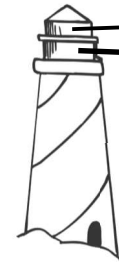
**The search for God
ends with Jesus.**

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
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Randy Shell



DOWNTOWN GOSPEL BEACON

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Failure: Not an Option

If we get all the ‘doctrinal issues’ right, and fail to be kind and tender-hearted to one another, we have failed utterly (Ep 4:32).

If we draw a hard line on moral issues, such as homosexuality, transgenderism, divorce and remarriage, and more, yet are unwilling to forgive a penitent sinner, we have come very short of what our Savior expects of us (Mt 6:14-15).

If we insist on ‘book, chapter, and verse’ for our organizational structure, our worship, and our mission statement as a local congregation, and yet fail to serve one another, we

have fallen short of the example that Jesus gave us (Jn 13:15, Ga 5:13).

If we are quick to condemn others for their shortcomings, or for some slight we have suffered at their hands, and yet fail to pray for them — then we have yet to put on the mind of Christ (Ja 5:16).

If our religion is more about the talk or the rituals or the social connections than it is about our love for God and our love for one other, then we have miserably failed at the religion of Jesus Christ. And with your soul on the line, failure here is not an option.

- *WKing*

FAMILY NEWS

PRAYER LIST –

Preachers we support: Japan, Philippines, Vietnam, Canada, Mexico, Peru, & U.S.

Sick: G&K Fletcher, Tony Tolbert, Diane Willis, J&M Swim, Jean Marshall

Shut-ins: Betty Jo Young, Billie Pennington, Shirley Cole, Mary Lou Lewis

Military: Kyler Sullins, Sean Potter

CONGRATULATIONS! – We rejoice with Jeremiah Jones in his recent decision to be baptized into Christ! Let’s do all we can to encourage him!

SENTENCE SERMON – “The Gentiles didn’t blaspheme God because the Jews were sinning, but for pretending they were not.” – Sam B., in a class.