

Volume 2, No. 1

July 5, 2020



WESTSIDE CHURCH OF CHRIST

# Drawing Near to God

James 4:8

## Being an Authentic Thomas

by Chuck Durham

The world of Hollywood and politics operate by the motto: "Image is everything." When it comes to Christianity, the exact opposite is so: "Substance is everything." When the non-Christian watches us, we can be certain they have their nose in the air to catch the least whiff of a phony. They're looking for an excuse to throw the whole idea of Christianity on the ash heap. All the reason they need is to see us play the hypocrite.

Lee Strobel, a former atheist, writes of his coming to church with his "hypocrisy antenna" scanning the horizon for any signs that people were just playing church. "I felt that if I could find an excuse for rejecting the church on grounds of hypocrisy, I could feel

free to reject Christianity as well."

If we are not authentically, true Christians through and through—the world will have no use for us. They can smell a phony a mile away. We become the salt without savor, fit for nothing but to


**"They tie up heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on people's shoulders, but they themselves are not willing to move them with their finger."  
(Matthew 23:4)**

be thrown out and trodden underfoot. So, how do we become authentic Christians?

Don't ever let someone say of us: "I hate it when someone says one thing and does another." "They're just putting on a show, I know what they really are inside." Jesus

reserved His most scathing rebukes for hypocrisy: men who were white-washed tombs full of dead men's bones. Men who were like cups, outwardly clean as a whistle, but inwardly full of filth and degradation. (Matt. 23:25-28).

Authenticity is born of the fear of God. We cannot hide who we are from Him. "All things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account" (Hebrews 4:13). And if we live in the holy fear of His Presence, we will always be "real, true, authentic" Christians in our lives before others. And they will see it and know the difference.

"Image is everything" —only to shallow politicians and shallower voters. You'll never fool an authentic Thomas. 

**AM Sermon: In Search of a Church— Acts 9:26-28**

**PM Sermon: PM Service Cancelled Until Further Notice**

# Quotables



## WESTSIDE CHURCH OF CHRIST

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### Times of Services

Sunday Bible Classes 9:00 a.m.  
Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m. & 5:00 p.m.

[www.springdalechurchofchrist.com](http://www.springdalechurchofchrist.com)

**“He who will not reason is a bigot; he who cannot is a fool; and he who dares not is a slave.” —William Drummond**

**“It is useless to attempt to reason a man out of a thing he was never reasoned into.” —Jonathan Swift**

**“A reputation once broken may possibly be repaired, but the world will always keep their eyes on the spot where the crack was.” —Joseph Hall**

## Westside Family News... (send news to [durhamchuk@aol.com](mailto:durhamchuk@aol.com))

### Prayer List:

**Parker Family** (family issues); **Kat Deuster and boys** (continued stability); **Kellye Hardin** (for improvement)

**Shut-Ins:** **Bill Lundy; Nadine Poteete; Darl and Betty Feagin; Virginia McElhaney**

### General Family Info:

**Tabitha Hudspeth's** neurosurgeon's appointment is July 9. Please pray fervently for her. **Marc Parker's** brother, **Robert Parker**, is still struggling with the Covid19 virus. Pray ardently for **JR Hart**, the nephew of **Ryan Davis**. He's on radia-

tion for six weeks. We give our love to the Davis family. **Kat Deuster** had out-patient surgery this past week and is home doing better.

**Due to Covid19 outbreak:** **Sunday AM Worship services** are at **9 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.** We Live-stream the 9 a.m. service on our Facebook page. **Chuck** has begun a new video study for the **Wednesday Adult Class** on the **“History of the Church (A.D. 70—A.D. 350)**. This is available on Westside's website, Facebook page and YouTube each Wednesday. Due to the nature of the material, there will be no Questions sent to your email. The **Wednesday Study of the**

**Book of James (July-Sept.)** has been cancelled due to our inability to meet together because of Covid.

**New Quarter Bible Classes** began on, **Sun., June 28.** **Q3** is when students promote based on the grade they will enter in the fall. If you were unable to pick up your child's class workbook, please let **Chris A., Chris L., or Jake** know.

Keep our members in prayer who are travelling this Holiday weekend. **Chuck & Wilna** will be gone to Texas this week to move a final load to “Home in Arkansas”! **Ross Fink** will preach on Sunday, **July 12.**