

Are You Reclining, Whining, or Shining?

It seems to me that there are three kinds of church members. Let's briefly examine each and, as we do so, please honestly examine your part in the church and see which you are:

There are those who recline. They just sit back and watch everything going on around them. They are never more involved than just "warming the pew" from time to time. God wants us involved with the church because, "He who is slothful in his work is a brother to him who is a great destroyer" (Pro. 18:9).

There are those who whine. Sadly, other church members may be active, but they are involved with other members' business. They seem to spend the majority of their time and resources complaining. God wants us to focus on harmony and make sure we "do not grumble against one another, brethren, lest you be condemned" (Jas. 5:9).

There are those who shine. Gladly, there are church members who possess a great attitude and are working heartily for the Lord. They are busy doing the Lord's will and singing along the way. They are shimmering example of faithfulness and fruitfulness. "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven" (Matt. 5:16).

Paul had instructions concerning all of these in Phil. 2:14-15, "Do all things (that's the opposite of reclining) without complaining or disputing (that's the opposite of whining), that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world (that's being a shining example)."

So, Christian, are you reclining, whining, or shining?

- Edd Sterchi preaches for the Broadway Church of Christ in Campbellsville, KY.



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Morning Clouds and Early Dew

By Joe Slater

Commitments are easy to keep – for a while. Long-term faithfulness is another matter entirely. We see the difference in marriages. Few would even think of cheating on a spouse shortly after the wedding; but years later, infidelity damages or destroys a shocking percentage of marriages. In time, about one in five husbands will cheat, and about one in six wives will too.

Aside from adultery, somewhere between ¼ and ½ of marriages end in divorce, for whatever reason (depending on how you skew the statistics). "Until death parts us" holds less and less meaning among people who reason that "God wants me to be happy, and I'm not happy any more married to this person!" Long-term commitment gives way to live-for-the-moment pleasure-seeking.

Marriage is not the only area where we need to revive long-term faithfulness. What about our commitment to God? (That would include marriage, for it is God who joins spouses together; but it also encompasses other factors.) To ancient Israel God said, "Your faithfulness is like a morning cloud, and like the early dew it goes away" (Hosea 6:4). As soon as the sun rises, the thin morning clouds disappear and the dew dries up. Then they're back the next morning. Israel's faithfulness to God was that way – nice while it lasted, but generally it didn't last very long.

What about you and me? We commit ourselves to attend services regularly – all of them – even Bible classes. We're going to read our Bibles every day. We're going to pray frequently. And so we do – for a few days, or maybe a few weeks. Then the old habits creep back in. Something comes up. Before long, we're back to the way we used to be. Then we re-commit ourselves, and the cycle continues.

Brethren, let's break the cycle! Let our commitment to God be permanent! We are to put the old man of sin to death, not just put him to sleep temporarily (see Romans 6:6). When we come forth from baptism as Jesus came forth from the tomb, we are to "walk in newness of life" (6:4).

Long-term commitment is not easy, but it certainly is possible; and it is what the Lord requires of us.

- Joe Slater serves as minister of the Church of Christ in Justin, TX.

Leadership

Elders Hayward Blanton, Jerry Casey
Deacons Clint Smith Sr, Clint Smith Jr,
 Robby Stocksdale, Joe Sweeney
Pulpit Minister Eric Welch
Associate Minister Irvin F. Williams

Schedule of Services

Sunday
 Bible Class 10:00 AM
 Morning Worship 11:00 AM
 Evening Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday

Bible Class 7:00 PM

Panama Mission

Pablo Sanchez

We Offer Free Personal Bible Studies and Bible Correspondence Courses - Phone (812) 284-3125

Visit Our Website: www.hamburgpikecofc.org

Email: church@hamburgpikecofc.org

Sermon Titles

Sunday Morning:

Sunday Evening:

Those Privileged to Serve

AM Service

Song Leader Michael Hawkins
 Opening Prayer Bill Cravens
 Scripture John Keaton
 Sermon Eric Welch
 Lord's Supper
 Message Irvin Williams
 Attendant Greg Blanton
 Attendant Harold Tincher
 Closing Prayer Hayward Blanton

PM Service

Song Leader Clint Smith Jr
 Bible Reading Jerry Casey
 Selection 23
 Prayer Ryan Irwin
 Sermon Eric Welch
 Closing Prayer Doug McArthur
*If you are unable to serve, please
 call Art Patrick 502-819-9481
 or Harold Tincher 502-409-3511*

AM & PM Services

Announcements Joe Sweeney
 Lord's Supper Grover Blanton
 Offering Leon Stocksdale
 Usher Fin Burton
 Count Offering Hank Tincher
 Assist Count Art Patrick

Last Sunday

Offering \$5,267
 Attendance 79

Earthly vs. Spiritual Greatness

Eric Welch

In the adult Bible class on Sunday morning, we looked briefly at the genealogy of Esau in Genesis 36. Edom had taken three wives from the Canaanites and one daughter of Ishmael causing his parents grief. This fact would be one clue why we read nothing in the Bible about Esau having a relationship with God. From his wives, Esau had five sons. The descendants of Esau, the Edomites, settled in the Mt. Seir region, southeast of the Dead Sea.

An interesting statement pops up in verse 31 these are the kings who reigned in the land of Edom, before any king reigned over the Israelites. Not very far down the genealogical line we learn that the descendants of Esau are reaching great heights. He has begun to have kings coming from him. God had told Abraham that he would be the father of many nations and that kings would come from him (Genesis 17:6)

Verse 31 notes especially that Esau has kings before Israel ever had its first king. Esau's family tree proves that **earthly greatness often comes faster than spiritual greatness**. God's people are not going to be the honored of the earth. Esau is seeing greatness before Jacob does. In fact, Jacob's descendants will see 400 years of slavery before they ever become a nation.

Whenever we look at all the pleasure, prosperity, prestige, popularity and power that those outside Christ have, are we tempted to be jealous or to doubt God? Why do good people suffer so much and the wicked often not at all? The first half of Psalm 73 asks the same question.

Let us answer these questions this way. **The lost of the earth are seeing all the heaven that they are ever going to see. True disciples of Jesus are seeing all the hell that they ever have to see.** How can we envy the lost of the pleasure, the power, and the prosperity that they have now if they will be tormented forever from the presence of God?

Greatness comes only by way of surrender to God (James 4:10). Jesus told his competing disciples, "Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven." The Lord God exalts His people in ways that the wicked will never know. If you are a Christian, you have a possession and a position with Christ "in the heavenliest" (Ephesians 1:3; 2:6). You are popular among the angels of God (Matthew 18:10; Luke 15:10). These riches will never fail, fade or default. I love the way Psalm 73:25 renders it: "Whom have I in heaven but you? And there is nothing on earth that I desire beside you."

Therefore, instead of envying the prosperous wicked, share with them the gospel so that they too may have the spiritual riches of Christ and His kingdom.

It Is Enough

It seems we always want more. No matter the subject, and no matter how much we already have, we seem to always want more. But when is enough, enough? Can we be content with "enough?"

Is it enough to have a car, or must we have the latest model? Is it enough to have a house, or must we have a "nice" house? Is it enough to clothe ourselves and our children, or must we have a certain brand of clothing? Is it enough to meet our financial obligations or must we have additional money to "play" with? Is it enough to be a servant of God, or must we be in the spotlight?

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It's really this last point I want you to consider. Have you ever heard of Quartus? He's probably unknown to you by name, but he's mentioned in the Bible. What the Bible records about him is remarkable. He had no particular fame. He didn't slay a giant or survive a fiery furnace. In fact I know of nothing that this man did that would cause him to be remembered. But here's what the Bible says about him:

"Gaius, my host and the host of the whole church greets you. Erastus, the treasurer of the city greets you, and Quartus, a brother" (Romans 16:23).

Did you catch that? "Quartus, a brother." Nothing more; just a brother. But that's enough, isn't it? Whatever else I may or may not be able to achieve in life, if I can just be remembered as "a brother in Christ," it will be enough!

- Steve Higginbotham Karns church of Christ in Knoxville, TN.

Hamburg Pike Happenings

"In God We Trust" This past Saturday July 30th marked 60 years since President Eisenhower signed legislation establishing "In God We Trust" as America's national motto. This was a time which involved the Soviet Union and our people and our leaders looked to God for strength. We need that strength in our country even more today; we know a trust in God makes us stronger as individuals and as a country. Many want to whitewash our history moving America closer to a secular society that places its faith in government rather than God. 60 years ago, a nation in danger looked to God for strength and guidance, which is our history; let us pray that it will be our future as well.

Adapted from an article by Ben Carson at My Faith Votes

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