

## A Dumbed Down Gospel Will Not Change Our Society

There are those today who are calling for a "Make me feel good, I am OK, you are OK, Jesus died for my sins, so don't bother me with the facts, tickle my ears gospel." They cry, "Just preach Jesus crucified, the rest is not as important." The problem with their position is that in order to preach Christ crucified one must also preach self-crucifixion (Gal. 2:20). The message of self-crucifixion requires a person to live righteously (make changes) as they begin life anew in Christ Jesus (Rom. 6:1-13; Ti. 2:11-12). Only the righteous (those who make changes) will inherit eternal life (Mat. 25:46). To be righteous one must practice righteousness (make changes) (1 Jo. 3:7). To practice righteousness one must know all the truth that sets us free from sin (Jo. 8:32). Anything short of teaching the whole truth will fall short of helping the lost to make the changes that are required to live a righteous life (Mat. 7:21).

To preach Christ crucified is to identify the church which Jesus purchased with his blood that was shed on the cross (Acts 20:28). In identifying the one church, true worship must be practiced (John 4:24), and the one faith must be taught (Eph. 4:5).

Tim Kidwell – Branson church of Christ - Branson, MO

### 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

### Panama Mission

Pablo Sanchez

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### Sermon Titles

Sunday Morning: "Hell is Not Worth It" Mark 9:42-50

Sunday Evening: "God's Preacher" Ezekiel 3:1-21

### Those Privileged to Serve

#### AM Service

#### PM Service

#### AM & PM Services

Song Leader Michael Hawkins

Song Leader Matt Johnson

Announcements Robby Stocksdale

Opening Prayer John Keaton

Bible Reading Jerry Casey

Lord's Supper Hayward Blanton

Scripture Clint Smith Sr

Selection 41

Offering Ethan Welch

Sermon Eric Welch

Prayer Ernie Marshall

Usher Greg Blanton

Lord's Supper

Sermon Eric Welch

Count Offering Art Patrick

Message Rick Martin

Closing Prayer Clint Smith Jr

Assist Count Harold Tincher

Attendant Jeremy Montgomery

If you are unable to serve, please call Art Patrick 502-819-9481

Last Sunday Contribution Attendance

Attendant Art Patrick

or Harold Tincher 502-409-3511

Closing Prayer Eric Welch



# The Worker

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Volume 4 Issue 42

[www.hamburgpikecofc.org](http://www.hamburgpikecofc.org)

October 18, 2015

### Enthusiasm Fuels the Christian

Our span of existence upon this earth is so brief, but so full. We are greatly blessed by having been exposed to so many joys, experiences and personal relationships. It would appear, though, that if life is worth living, it is also worth giving our best. The great advisor, Solomon, wrote long ago, "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might" (Ecc. 9:10).

It also stands to reason that if we are motivated by love for God, we will serve Him with enthusiasm. The Lord responded, when asked about the first and great commandment, by saying: "Love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength" (Mk. 12:30). To do this demands enthusiasm! Jesus addressed letters to the seven churches of Asia through the inspired John in Revelation 2 and 3. To the seventh, He said, "I know thy works, that thou are neither cold nor hot: I would thou were cold or hot. So because thou art lukewarm, and neither hot or cold, I will spew thee out of my mouth" (Rev. 3:15-16).

If you can't be the pine on the top of the hill, Be a bush in the valley, but be the best little bush by the side of the rill; Be a bush, if you can't be a tree.

In Christianity we have enthusiastic members and sluggards as well. In Christianity, the enthusiastic will be the effective ones every time. They are the ones who make the church strong and help define the mission and the spirit necessary to fulfill it. Whether an athlete, salesman, businessman, politician, schoolteacher, coach, etc., we look for the element of enthusiasm in them. Just this very day, my wife and I had lunch together and the personnel's disposition convinced us there are other and better places to have lunch. Those who show a passion for life and the doing of good impress us. They are the ones who make us say, "I wish I were more like them;" "They are so refreshing to be around," or "Their attitude about life makes me feel so ashamed of myself."

We may be "drinking from the wrong springs" in hopes of finding something that can lift our spirits and chart our attitudinal course in this life. "Servants, obey in all things them that are your masters according to the flesh; not with eye-service, as men-pleasers, but in singleness of heart, fearing the Lord: whatsoever ye do, work heartily, as unto the Lord, and not unto men" (Col. 3:22-23). It is so vital that in the Lord's church there is an air of enthusiasm for godly and spiritual things. There should be a quest to be around people of quality and enthusiasm as we strive to exemplify the fact that Christ has made a difference in us. Never should it be artificial, but generated from a heart of love and commitment.

Mike King <http://lakesidechurchofchrist.com/lakesidecoc>

## **What God Has NOT Given Us**

"For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind" (2 Timothy 1:7)

We talk a lot about what God has given us in Christ, but we don't think as much about what God has not given us. We might wonder what the point would be since God hasn't given it. So we don't have it; so what? However, the point is that we are to accept, embrace, and live what God has given--so the converse is also true; we are not to accept, embrace, and live what God has not given!

In the context of 2 Timothy 1:7, Paul is reminding Timothy to "stir up the gift of God which is in you" (1:6). "Be all you can be" and "Serve God with your all" is what he's writing.

What could stifle that? Fear! God Has NOT Given Us a Spirit of Fear.

Yassar Arafat was a leader of several Islamic nationalist groups which influenced Arab countries from the 1960s to about 2000. He was accused of masterminding Middle East violence and terrorism. A man tells of meeting Arafat and talking about Jesus. He was surrounded by heavily armed men at an undisclosed location. He said he didn't know if he would live or die. Some present tried to stop him, yet he continued. Arafat silenced those who interrupted. Arafat was kind and appreciative and continued contact afterward. When asked about being scared, the man said he wasn't afraid. He said, "If I died, what better way to go to the Lord?"

What would fear have done to the above story? Sometimes what we call "political correctness," "tact," and "taking it slowly" is really just fear on our part. In order to "stir up the gift of God which is in you," we are going to have to stop being afraid. Fear causes reluctance. It causes us to hide our lights.

"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:16)

Our spirit is the thinking, reasoning, choosing part of us. It's that part of us that makes us what we are: "For as he thinks in his heart, so is he" (Prov. 23:7).

That inner part of us is not afraid because God has re-created our spirit to not contain fear--fear is contrary to its nature. God has not simply emptied our spirit of fear, He has replaced it with a spirit that doesn't contain fear. He has crowded fear out by giving us a spirit "of power and of love and of a sound mind" (2 Tim. 1:7).

God has given us Power -- We aren't afraid like other people because God has given us not a spirit of fear but a spirit "of power." Thayer's Lexicon tells us that this word has the idea of "strength, ability, power"; and then he says, "power residing in a thing by virtue of its nature." When we plug this into 2 Timothy 1:7, we see that the power to overcome fear doesn't reside in our own abilities. We don't fear because God changes our inner person and the inner person He creates in us is not by nature fearful. It is by nature strong, able, and powerful!

Do we open ourselves up enough in faith for God to change us at this level? What, that God asks of us, can we not do if our spirit is 100% of God and for God?

"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" Philippians 4:13

God has given us Love -- It's easy to welcome the spirit of love God gives us, but we may fail to recognize how it removes fear and motivates action. Having a spirit of love means more than not hating. It moves us to do positive acts of love. We love God and others because who we are has changed and there is now no place for hatred in us. When our spirit is given us of God and is "of love," our thoughts and actions will follow!

"By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another" John 13:35

God has given us a Sound Mind -- Disciples of Christ aren't crazy. We haven't abandoned reason. We are clear thinking and self-controlled. We don't live in fear, not because we avoid all fearful situations, but because we remain clearheaded even in intense situations; and we know something that fearful-spirited people don't know. We know that we don't live for this life. We know our hope is based on infallible truth and the guaranteed promises of God. Nothing can shake our spirit to divert attention from the Author of our faith or separate us from His love. What fear could intimidate a spirit like this?

## **Hamburg Pike Happenings**

The Monday Night for the Master group will meet October 19<sup>th</sup>.

Mark Your Calendars! Our annual Trunk or Treat is scheduled for October 30<sup>th</sup> at the building. Please join us if you can.

A group will be going to Cornucopia Farm in Scottsburg, IN on Saturday October 17<sup>th</sup>. The group plans to meet at the farm at 11:00 a.m., directions and a signup sheet are available in the foyer.

Mark your calendar for our Fall Gospel meeting scheduled for October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> with speaker Eddie Boggess.

Volunteers are needed to prepare the communion trays. Please check the volunteer sign-up list on the bulletin board for the schedule.

*"Always do right. This will surprise some people and astonish the rest."* - Mark Twain

*"What the caterpillar calls the end, the rest of the world calls a butterfly."* - Lao Tsu

*"Improve relationships with others by assuming that they can hear everything you say about them."* - Stephen R. Covey