

Faith and Works

An illustration of the balance between faith and works lies hidden within any tree, vine, or plant. Leaves use up the nutrients in the process of photosynthesis. As the leaves consume nutrients in the sap, suction is formed, which draws more sap from the roots. Without the sap, the leaves and branches would die, but the continual flow of this sap comes only as it is used up by the work of the leaves. Likewise, we work, keep the Lord's commandments, in order to abide in His love. (John 15:4-10).

A Christian worked each day transporting tourists across a lake. On occasions he would present the Gospel and its implications for life in an unusual way. He had painted the word "Faith" on one of the oars of his rowboat and "Works" on the other. When they got rather far from shore, he would stop, and beginning to row with only the one oar marked "Faith," he would cause the boat to go in circles to the left. Reversing the process, he would pull on the other oar marked "Works," and they would circle in the opposite direction. By this time the bewildered passengers were waiting for an explanation. This afforded him an opportunity to give the truth concerning discipleship. He always concluded by saying, "You see, neither faith nor works can stand alone. They are twins that cannot be separated!" (James 2:14-26).



The Worker

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How far is it to church?

The story is told of a minister who went to visit a family that rarely attended services after a recent move.

When asked what had happened, the father of the family explained that they now lived a number of miles further away from the church building and that the distance had made things far more difficult in attending.

The preacher pointed out that the distance had not affected his attendance at his job, which quickly exposed his weak excuse. It brings to mind an important question that we will answer in today's article.

HOW FAR IS IT TO CHURCH? It will always be a long way for the person whose heart is not into worshipping God. But it is a short distance to church for those who have made their lives a spiritual sacrifice for the Lord during the week (Rom. 12:1). They truly understand the privilege they have in being a child of God and when the time comes for assembling with the saints, they depict the attitude expressed in Psalms 122:1, "I was glad when they said to me, let us go to the house of the Lord."

HOW FAR IS IT TO CHURCH? It's always a long way for those who don't enjoy and appreciate the fellowship of Christians. The fellowship that comes from worldly-minded people is more desirable. But it's a short distance to church for those who seek the fellowship of those whose faith has weathered the storms of life and have truly come to know God.

HOW FAR IS IT TO CHURCH? It's always a long way for those who seek as many of the material things the world has to offer. Long hours of weary service are given so that a larger house, a nicer car, better clothes, and wonderful vacations to faraway places can be obtained under the guise, "I just want to provide for my family." But it's a short distance to church for those who have learned the value of the spiritual over the physical. They truly understand the admonition given by Paul in the Colossian letter, "If then you have been raised with Christ, keep seeking those things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God" (Col. 3:1-3).

HOW FAR IS IT TO CHURCH? It's always a long way for those who feel the study of the Bible is dull and boring. An hour or two is just too long to keep one's attention on one subject unless, of course, it might be a concert or a ball game where three hours passes by in a flash (even on a cold, hard bench). But it's a short distance to church for those who truly hunger and thirst after righteousness. They know the study of God's Word provides the spiritual food that their soul silently craves. They seek the godly truths that others share in their Bible classes and sermons.

HOW FAR IS IT TO CHURCH? The distance is not measured by how far you live from the church building, but how far you live from God.

Bryant, Wooddale Church of Christ

Leadership

Elders Hayward Blanton, Jerry Casey

Deacons Clint Smith Sr, Clint Smith Jr,
Robby Stocksdales, Joe Sweeney

Pulpit Minister Eric Welch

Associate Minister Irvin F. Williams

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: "To Live is Christ" Philippians 1:19-26

Sunday Evening: "Better than Sacrifice"

Those Privileged to Serve

AM Service

Song Leader Michael Hawkins
Opening Prayer Hayward Blanton
Scripture Nathaniel Welch
Sermon Eric Welch
Lord's Supper Matt 27:57-28:10
Message Hank Tincher
Attendant Rudy Ayala
Attendant Greg Blanton
Closing Prayer Joe Sweeney

PM Service

Song Leader Matt Johnson
Bible Reading John Keaton
Selection 3
Prayer Leon Stocksdales
Sermon Eric Welch
Closing Prayer Robby Stocksdales
*If you are unable to serve, please
call Art Patrick 502-819-9481
or Harold Tincher 502-409-3511*

AM & PM Services

Announcements Harold Tincher
Lord's Supper Jerry Casey
Offering Clint Smith Jr
Usher Ernie Marshall
Count Offering Hank Tincher
Assist Count Harold Tincher

Hidden Treasure

Eric Welch

In 2012, Karl Kissner found a cardboard box containing baseball cards in his grandfather's attic. The cards were in near-mint condition. The collection included such hall-of-famers as Ty Cobb and Cy Young. The August issue of World said the cards were worth about \$3 million. When Kissner's aunt took over the house, she did not know that she had millions of dollars hidden away in the attic.

Every person you pass on the street is like that hidden treasure in the attic. Each is valuable to God, regardless of race gender or socio-economic status. Jesus died for every person (1Jn 2:2 He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.).

In Mark 5, a demon-possessed man was a raving mad. He cut himself, screamed and lashed out at people. He had superhuman strength. He ran around naked too, that is, until he met Jesus.

After Jesus cast out the evil spirit, the man wanted to follow Jesus wherever He went. Who wouldn't? However, Jesus told him, "Go home to your friends and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you." (Mark 5:19). Jesus turned the beggar into a giver of good news. Jesus saw something inside that man that others did not see.

May God help us to look beyond the masks so many people wear. Despite what is covering up the inside, God has a treasure inside that He deems worth the price of His Son. Let us look at others through Jesus' eyes and see their potential and share Jesus with them to reach it.

We all fall under the influence of Satan when we give into temptation and sin. We, therefore, become spiritual beggars and need God's mercy. Someone once said "Christianity is one beggar telling another beggar where he found bread." Jesus said "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven" (Mat 5:3). May we tell someone today what great things the Lord has done for us.

How to Live for Christ

- Do good to all people no matter what they do to you (Galatians 6:10). Christ is our example of doing good (Acts 10:38). We must follow in His steps (1 Peter 2:21).
- Bless and love your enemies (Matthew 5:44). Christ was hated, mocked, spat upon, beaten...yet He prayed, "Father, forgive them" (Luke 23:34). When we do this, we have the mind of Christ (Philippians 2:5).
- Feed the hungry, clothe the naked, visit the sick (Matthew 25:34-36). Christ went about helping the downhearted (Matthew 9:35). By us doing this (especially to the brethren), it is the same as us doing it to Christ (Matthew 25:40).
- Count others better than yourself (Philippians 2:3). This is truly being Christ-like. When we do this, we are serving as Christ did selflessly (John 13:4-5).
- Put the kingdom (church) first in all things (Matthew 6:33). Jesus died for the church (Acts 20:28); we need to live for it. Put Christ's body above all earthly things.

This is Christianity. Do these things with all your might (Ecclesiastes 9:10). Be steadfast, always abounding in the work of the Lord (1 Corinthians 15:58).

- Robert H. Martin (adapted) - Broadway Church of Christ in Campbellsville, KY.

Hamburg Pike Happenings

The Monday Night for the Master group will meet Monday March 21st, the meal theme is sandwiches and chips.

The Ladies Bible class is scheduled for Saturday March 26th, 10:00 – 11:00 am.

Fellowship group meetings for March:

- The Tincher Group March 20th after the morning worship service
- The Smith Group March 20th after the evening worship service

Men of the congregation; the Elders invite and encourage your participation in leading the Wednesday evening devotional. On the bulletin board is a sign-up sheet for the Spring Quarter.

A Ladies Day is scheduled at the Elizabethtown church of Christ on Saturday March 19th. Breakfast is at 9:00 am with registration at 9:30 am.

A Direct Influence

If from the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks, and one can be known by the quality of the fruit produced, then it is reasonable to conclude that both the words spoken and the deeds done are indicative of the person's heart. People are able to see this and judge. People of maturity can understand this, but people full of sin (or self) are quick to point out that one—especially one guilty of sinful behavior. It is interesting that these are the same people who look upon the Lord and faithfully proclaim they would NEVER deny Him, but their lives have denial written all over them. The deeds we do, the words we speak, and the thoughts we think reflect correctly on (or against) the Lord's influence on our lives.

- Ron Thomas Highway Church of Christ, Sullivan, IL <http://www.highwaycofc.com>