



West Side Window

Volume 31, Issue 1

January 8, 2023

The Way Paul Preached

Soon after Paul had established the cause of Christ in Galatia, Judaising teachers appeared and began their work of destruction. They insisted that Gentiles must be circumcised, must come to Christ via a Jewish route of law; and in their effort to overcome the truth Paul had taught they questioned his apostleship. Paul defended his apostleship to establish the divine source of his message. We here note only the variety and nature of his appeal -- the way Paul preached. There was absolutely no toleration of "another gospel," even if an angel should preach it (1:8-9). Nor could its principles be compromised, even by another apostle (2:11-14). But strong, hard preaching and emotional appeals were not incompatible. He compared his early work with them to a woman in birth pains, suffering much to bring them to Christ. Now, "I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you" (4:19). He reminded them of their appreciation for his early effort, saying, "If it had been possible ye would have plucked out your eyes, and have given them to me" (4:15). That is a heart wringer! He could become upset with them: "O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you" (3:1); but it is concern for their spiritual well-being that disturbed him. "Ye observe days, and months, and times, and years" (as religious ceremonies); so he says, "I am afraid of you" (4:11) and "I stand in doubt of you" (4:20). This was the concern of genuine love. But for those who brazenly contradicted the principles of the gospel Paul had some strong words. He said they were proselyting for the sake of numbers, and their own glory (6:12-f). They "desire to have you circumcised that they may glory in your flesh." Perhaps his sharpest criticism is the irony of Gal. 5:12, "I would they were even cut off which trouble you." They preach a little cutting; I wish they were completely cut off. Here is love, warning, concern, exasperation, tender appeal, fear and trembling, harshness, prayer, blood and thunder. Here is a genuine soldier of the cross; a man of flesh whose heart's desire was to serve the Christ; an example for us all. - by Robert Turner

The End is Better Than the Beginning

"The end of a matter is better than its beginning; patience of spirit is better haughtiness of spirit." (Eccl.7:8) As we end this year, will you do anything differently this coming year? Same routines? Same schedules? Same habits? Same financial picture? Same spiritual picture? Same type of books read? Same friends to hang out with? Or, will you put a stake in the ground and determine that this coming year will be different? More spirituality? More involvement with my church family? More reaching out? More faith? More time for family? Better saving financially? Better spiritual habits? Better care of your body? A better year? We often call such things, "resolutions" meaning we have "resolved" to do things. But often, our first of the year resolutions last about a month and they are gone. Back to the old ways, old habits and old thoughts. Eventually these add up to a lifetime and that defines our life. I have found that the best diet in the world is the mirror. When a person is tired of the way they look, they will do something. The best financial plan is your bank statement. When you are tired of living paycheck to paycheck, you will do something. The best spiritual plan is Sunday - when you are tired of giving lip service to the God that loves you so much, you'll start making changes. The motivation is I want to do better. I want to be better. **The end is better than the beginning...Let's make it so, by living for Jesus every day.**

Roger Shouse

Services

**Sunday Morning
Class, 9:30a**

Worship: 10:30a
(Also
livestreamed)

**No Sunday
Evening Service**

**Wednesday Bible
Study, 7p**

Elders

Michael Gors

Gary Reynolds

Todd Stults

Preacher

Michael Gors

Deacons

**Don Allison
Fellowship**

**Jim Clark
Visitation**

**Lowell Huffman
Media**

Leaders in Worship

January 8, 2023

Announcements: Gary Reynolds

Song Leader: Don Allison

Opening Prayer: Danny Odle

Scripture: Steve Gors

Lord's Table

West Side: Jacob Clark
Case Reynolds

East Side: Jay Kellow
Bill Winemiller

Sermon: Mike Gors

Closing Prayer: Jimmy Clark

Sound Room: Lowell Huffman

Bible Study, Jan. 11th

Song Leader:

Devo:

Closing Prayer:

Looking Ahead

—January 3rd, Tuesday Men's Class resumes at 6p

—January 21, Games and Fun. All ages invited. Bring your favorite game. 12-4p. See Jimmy on what else to bring.

Giving Our Best To God

Some people seem to be content to give God their leftovers. They give Him their leftover time, their leftover money, their leftover talents. When their own wants and wishes have been fully and completely gratified, anything left (if it is convenient), is presented to our heavenly Father. How would you like it if you never had anything served on the table but leftovers? How would you like it if your boss paid you only if he had any profits left after taking all he wanted from the company? How would you like it if your children gave you what little affection they had left over from their friends, pursuits, etc.? David refused to offer in sacrifice to God "that which cost me nothing." And this should be our attitude. We should give to God a service that is meaningful and sacrificial. Romans 12:1 states it in clear terms: "Present your bodies as a living sacrifice..." In our singing, giving, praying, study, all worship and living, we should give to God the best we can offer. Nothing but the best should be offered. Remember, the nature of the gift reflects the attitude you have toward the one given the gift. Does your service to God reflect that you love and appreciate Him? -

Tom Roberts

"Anyone can hold the helm when the sea is calm."

Publilius Syrus

He Preached Right at Me!

I have heard this statement made many times by individuals who have just heard a sermon presented which exposed some wrong in their lives. Did you ever wonder why anyone would feel that the preacher had "preached right at" him? Suppose the preacher has just preached against lying. Who in the audience will feel that he has preached right at him? It could only be one who is guilty of lying. The same would hold true on any other subject. What we need to do is examine the things taught in the light of God's word. If we find them to be true we should accept them. If they expose some wrong in our life we need to change and thank God that there is someone concerned enough about our soul to teach us what we need to hear.

James Hahn

Gavin Burch--Jan. 3

Rick Cox--Jan 11

Debbie Perry--Jan 11

Charlene Huffman--Jan 14

Andy Daunhauer--Jan 16

Dennis Griffey--Jan 16

Joe Odle--Jan 27

Pat Lee--Jan 30

Jack Qualkenbush--Jan 31

Happy Birthday



Remember in Prayer

Barbara Owens, Liver cancer, Skylar's Grandmother

Billy Wright, Recuperating from surgery

Delores Huffman, Surgery re-scheduled for Feb. 3rd

Dennis and Gina Murphy, Friends of the Nicks'

Marla Curry-Shelley, Recuperating from surgery

Myra Corkill, Age three; Myra's parents are friends of Janet and Richard. Myra is hospitalized with bowel issues

Pat Lee, Covid

Randy Goad, Friend of the Nicks in Coldwater, Michigan. Skull fracture and brain bleed

Susan Cloninger, Treatment ongoing. Doing well

Sylvia Carroll, Facial and wrist surgery pending

Tina Stanley, Bill Smith's son's mother-in-law. Stomach cancer

Volker Jaromin, Due to have gone home last Friday as of this printing

Chuckle: "Life is like a dog-sled team. If you ain't the lead dog, the scenery never changes." Lewis Grizzard

Remember Our Shut-ins

Norma Perry
Norma Haffner
Jim Smith
Sui Holloman
Pat Lee
Linda Horning

A Swarm of Gospel "B's"



Have you observed how powerful little words in the Bible are? Take the word "if" for example. Jesus said, "If ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins" (John 8:24). If our mother Eve had been wise regarding what the little three-letter word "not" meant, the old devil would not have deceived her (Gen. 3:4). The little word "be" is used frequently in the Bible, and the thoughts connected to it contribute to our salvation. Here is a swarm of gospel "be's." **Be Wise.** "Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves" (Matt. 10:16). Thus the Lord warned the twelve as He sent them on their mission. **Be Faithful.** "...be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life" (Rev. 2:10). The circumstances in which the beloved apostle John was at the time were not very favorable. He was exiled on the lonely isle of Patmos. The incentive held out was "be faithful -- the crown of life." That was all John needed to deepen his faith. **Be Ready.** The Lord says, "Therefore be ye also ready; for in an hour that ye think not, the Son of man cometh" (Matt. 24:44). The Lord could come again at any time. We could pass away and all opportunities to get ready for judgment (John 5:28-29) would be gone. **Be Unmovable.** In our present day this admonition is just as pertinent to every member of the body of Christ as when Paul wrote it by inspiration of the Holy Spirit. "Therefore, my beloved brethren, **be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord,** forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord" (1 Cor. 15:58). **Be Ye Doers.** "But **be ye doers of the word,** and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves" (James 1:22). It is not enough to hear the word of God, but those who are blessed put it into practice every day. **Be Baptized.** "And now why tarriest thou? Arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord" (Acts 22:16). To be baptized into Christ (Gal. 3:27) is to be obedient from the heart to that form of teaching (Rom. 6:3-4, 17-18). One is then delivered from the power of darkness into the kingdom of God's dear Son (Col. 1:13). If you have not obeyed the Lord and Master in the primary principles of the gospel, I pray that you will attend to that immediately. If you have obeyed him, **Be Faithful, Be Doers, Be Wise, Be Unmovable and you will Be Ready.**

Austin Mobley