



Volume 27, Issue 37

West Side Window

September 13, 2020

From the Elders

Welcome to West Side Church of Christ. We are thankful for your presence today and are happy that we can provide a safe place for worship of our Lord.

We ask that you please adhere to the guidelines of our governor who advises that we wear masks and distance ourselves from close contact with each other while at services. Communion packets and baskets for the contribution are at the double doors. Thank you for protecting yourself and each other while we are together.

Update on Events

--Cancelled: Ladies Day on Sept. 26th at East Allen County COC

--The Men's class is ongoing at 6p each Tuesday

--Back to the Building:

**Sunday morning worship (also livestreamed)

**Sunday morning classes for adults and teens

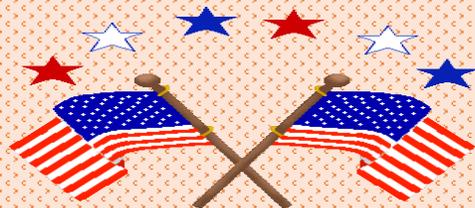
**Wednesday Bible study (also live streamed)

Prayers for our Servicemen and Women

Devyn Riggs, Cherry Pointe Air Station in NC.

Alex Odle, US Marines in NC

Michelle Bess, Air Force, Deployed to Middle East



Lessons for Life

“Take firm hold of instruction, do not let go; Keep her, for she is your life” (Proverbs 4:13).

I won't forget that day on the mountain. It was our first time for snow skiing, so lessons were suggested. Not me, I had been on water skis many times. I could do this. We got skis and boots and we were ready for the mountain. Everything started off fine. I moved around a little bit then got on the lift. Alright, we were going up the mountain. This is great...that is until I saw the people ahead getting off their seats. Reality began to sink in. I had never done that before. Did somebody say to lean? Which way? My instinct kicked in and I leaned back, only to plop right on my backside. Yes, it hurt. I thought, “I am a quick learner and that won't happen again.” But it did. Every time I tried to get off, I fell. I could hear the lift assistants mocking me, “Here he comes again.”

By day's end, my backside was sore. I talked to my friend and told him that I had leaned just like he had said. He asked me to show him and I did. “There is your problem,” he exclaimed. “You are supposed to lean *forward*.” Those lessons began to look a little better.

Too many people try to approach life in the same way that I began snow skiing. They do not want to take the lessons but complain when they get hurt. God's holy Word is instruction for life (Proverbs 4:22).

One buys a new car and sets down with the Owner's manual to familiarize himself with the car. He does the same with devices and tutorials. But they do not have time to read the Word of God. Can other books offer this: “the years of thy life shall be many” (Proverbs 4:10)? We all have too many bumps and bruises because we were not willing to get the lessons.

Jesse Tubbs

Madison, AL

Services

Sunday Bible Study

9:30am

Worship: 10:30 am
& 6:00pm

Wed. Bible Study
7p

Preacher

Michael Gors

Elders

Michael Gors

Gary Reynolds

Todd Stults

Deacons

Don Allison
Fellowship

Jim Clark
Visitation

Lowell Huffman
Media

Those Whom

We Support

MSOP

Cannon Taylor

INDIA

Bible Correspondence
Course/ Bibles

Leaders in Worship

September 13, 2020

Morning Worship

Announcements: Don Allison

Song Leader: Lowell Huffman

Opening Prayer: Jimmy Clark

Scripture: Steve Gors

Ephesians 4: 1-3

Sermon: Mike Gors

"A Wall Worthy of the Name Christian"

Lord's Table: Gary Reynolds

Closing Prayer: Rex Harper

Sound Room: Jacob Clark

Wednesday Evening Bible Study

September 16th

Song Leader: Jacob Clark

Prayer: Jimmy Clark

I Will Fear No Evil



Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil" (Psalm 23:4).

We live in a fearful age: Covid-19, quarantines, economic uncertainty, riots, and Chinese communist belligerence. Many are incapacitated with uncertainty and fear.

But Paul declares: "God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind! (2 Timothy 1:7). The word for "fear" here basically means "cowardice." The Amplified Bible has "craven, cringing, fawning fear." Paul tells us why we should fear no evil:

Because God Has Given Us Power! The power of God is an awesome thing: It created the world; slew 185,000 warriors of Assyria in a single night; raised Christ from the dead; and one day, it will dissolve this world in fervent heat! What is there to fear linked to power like that?

Because God Has Given Us Love! We are secure in God's love forever. "For He Himself has said, 'I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you.'" (Hebrews 13:5). "But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 8:37-39).

Because God Has Given Us Sound Thinking! One translation has "a calm and well-balanced mind." God teaches us to put things in proper perspective...to see clearly and think rationally...to rise above ignorance and superstition (John 8:32). "Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, And though the mountains slip into the heart of the sea...God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble" (Psalm 46:2,1).

*Bobby Dockery
Fayetteville, AR*

–See note from Nancy Bateman concerning her latest health issues.

–See latest issue of "Seek the Old Paths" on the table

–"May God help me to strive for attainable things."

Pindar

–"It is not well for a man to pray cream and live skim milk."

Henry Ward Beecher

Remember Calls and Cards to Our Shut-ins

Joyce Popplewell --
Heritage in Yorktown

Anna Funk--Westminster
Linda Horning-- Westminster

Carl Gilstrap--Albany
Health Care

Pam Smith--Waters of Yorktown
Nursing Home

In the past, West Side has helped to provide emergency clothing needs for the elementary youngsters. The school has once again reached out to us for donations of :

Boys and Girls Athletic shorts--size 8-12

Girls underwear--size 8-10

Boys and girls' t shirts--small and medium

Most needed: leggings or sweat pants for boys and girls, Size 6-14

The dollar stores have excellent prices for these items or if you would rather give a monetary gift, see Genny. Any donation would help the school to meet these emergency situations that come up day to day with these very young children...

Especially in these times of joblessness and angst

In the Name of the Lord



Happy Birthday

Moissa Hummel--Sept. 13

Mark Stewart--Sept. 16

Don Gilstrap--Sept. 17

Martha Gilstrap--Sept. 17

Maria Hoyt--Sept. 18

Greg Qualkenbush--Sept. 21

Melinda Sheffield--Sept. 24

Elayna Reynolds--Sept. 25

Don Allison--Sept. 25

Sylvia Carroll--Sept. 25

Kay Wall--Sept. 26

Cliff Nicks--Sept. 26

Virginia Southard--Sept. 28

In Need of Prayer

Adam Huffman, Kidney dialysis 3x's week. Amyloidosis has returned with heart and kidneys affected

Alex Odle, Cancer

Angie Reed, MS

Bill and Pam Smith, Pam is now a resident of Waters of Yorktown. Bill is awaiting diagnostic tests with surgery pending

Bob Owens, Cancer. Kathy's cousin

Dan Proctor, Health issues. Lela's son

Delores Huffman, Cellulitis

Howard Goodman

Kathy Harper, Cellulitis, respiratory difficulties

Kenny Idle, Janet's uncle diagnosed with sepsis. Age 85 and lives in Bryant, OH. Doing better

Kim Hamm, Cancer. Taking chemo treatments

Larry Reynolds, Heart surgery on Oct. 26th

Martha Gilstrap

Mitch Kinder, Cancer. Sally's neighbor

Ryan Dobbs, Skylar's cousin, cancer treatment

Sally Anderson, Health issues

Steve Higginbotham, Cancer.

Susie Long, Degenerative arthritis in back

Vivian Bigler, Weakness and significant weight loss

Wanda Reed, Recovering from chemo and radiation

In Love and Sympathy

--We are saddened to hear of the death of Connie Reynolds' nephew, Eric Cullen, who died in a moped accident.

--Please pray for the Lautzenheiser family as they mourn the loss of Joy Lee who was the daughter of Earl and Sue. She was 58 and the wife of Thomas, the mother of seven and grandmother of 7. Services were held in Indianapolis yesterday.

Elders' Duty of Watchfulness

In his parting address to the elders of the church in Ephesus, Paul prophesied: Elders have a sober responsibility of guarding the flock against grievous wolves. Within such a framework, a number of things are necessarily implied.

“I know that after my departing grievous wolves shall enter in among you not sparing the flock and from among your own selves shall men arise speaking perverse things to draw away the disciples after them. Wherefore watch...” Acts 20: 29 -31

Personal Bible Study

First, the elder himself must be a diligent student of the Bible. His knowledge of the Scriptures must be beyond that of the average member of the congregation that he oversees. The elder who superficially studies the Word and evinces such in the classes he teaches will not motivate the church to know the Bible. Elders should build good personal libraries and take in-depth Bible courses when such are available. They should constantly strive to enhance their qualifications as stewards of God.

Awareness of Doctrinal Threats

To some degree, the elder must inform himself of popularly circulated false religious doctrines. He may do this by subscribing to good religious periodicals that call attention to current trends. Journals such as the [Spiritual Sword](#) and Christian Courier have rendered an invaluable service to the church in this connection. He ought to attend Bible lectureships and keep in close touch with the activities of our brotherhood. Far too frequently, error has swept like wild-fire through a congregation while the elders were totally unaware of the threat. Be prepared, brethren.

Defend the Faith

The elders must take seriously their responsibility to guard the church. They must be absolutely dedicated to that end. Jesus Christ, the Chief Shepherd (1 Pet. 5:4), characterizes those shepherds not committed to a defense of the flock as hirelings who do not care for the sheep (Jn. 10:12, 13). Elders will give account to God for those souls that they lose to false doctrine through their neglect (cf. Heb. 13:17).

Preventative Measures

Elderships must know the doctrinal needs of the church and accordingly inoculate against the errors with which our people are sure to be confronted. How many elderships, for instance, have had the wisdom to require classes in the local congregation in Christian evidences and moral values? Such is needed from the primary grades onward. And why not? Children are being taught the theories of evolution and homosexual legitimacy from the moment they enter the public school system or even earlier through cartoon entertainment.

Know Thy Flocks

God's bishops must know the teachers who labor under their oversight. They need to be assured of their soundness in the faith. Preachers who teach error or who are unsure of where they stand on matters of faith should be removed, even if they are popular with many of the congregation. I once knew of a preacher who openly declared that he believed the use of mechanical instrumental music in Christian worship is optional. His elders said that they disagree, but would defend his right to hold that opinion. They are unworthy of the name they wear! Moreover, elders should be familiar with the teachers in the Bible school program — both men and women. Efforts should be made to oversee what is being taught in the classroom. They should be thoroughly aware of the literature being used in the Bible classes. Through lapses in such oversight, unsound teaching occasionally has been smuggled into the local church to do its damage.

Monitoring Social Media

The ease of publication in the internet age has created a new area of concern for elders. No longer do false teachers need an eldership's permission to influence the flock. Social media, online videos, and brotherhood blogs can teach error and sow doctrinal division by means of electronic access long before Sunday arrives. This new method of teaching by electronic methods can originate within the local congregation or enter in from without. Elders have the added burden of at least being aware of what their own members may be publishing or sharing. These observations will inform good elderships of what teaching needs to be done.

Courage for Confrontation

Elders must have the courage and the willingness to meet error head-on. They must not only be able to exhort in sound doctrine but also to convict the gainsayers (Tit. 1:9). God, through His inspired prophet of the Old Testament era, pronounced a **woe** upon shepherds who allow the sheep to become “food to all the beasts of the field” (Ezek. 34:5). The elder's task of protecting the church is certainly a stressful one. Dealing with false teachers is never pleasant. At times, an obstinate error must be confronted and rebuked. Contrary to the view of some, the church will grow mightily when she kindly but forcefully meets the opposition of sectarian influence from without and hobbyists from within. Perhaps the reason some elderships have an aversion to religious debates today is that some who are weak and uninformed just do not have total confidence in the doctrine we proclaim. Churches will never be strong in defense of the gospel until leaderships become strong in what they believe, teach and defend. The times are crucial. Elders must arise to meet the challenges of the day. Future generations of the church are depending on good elderships.

Wayne Jackson