



Volume 27, Issue 49

West Side Window

December 6, 2020

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.

The Church as a Team

The story is told of a horse pull where one horse pulled 9,000 pounds and another pulled 8,000. Together, you would expect them to pull 17,000 pounds. Not so! When teamed together, they pulled 30,000 pounds. The principle is called "synergism." By definition, the simultaneous actions of separate agents working together have a greater total effect than the sum of their individual efforts. More can be done in a team effort than can be accomplished solo. For the principle of synergism to work like it should, there has to be team work. Everything we do takes team and trust. Every person in the local church is valuable and needed. The church is a team and together we can build for the Lord.

"Now ye are the body of Christ and members in particular: (1 Cor. 12:27).

Selected



I Study My Bible Like I Plow My Field

A farmer explained: "I study my Bible like I plow my field. Oftentimes, when I'm plowing or breaking new ground, my plow will get hung under a root, and if I'm going at a pretty good clip it will really jar me. But I don't get mad and beat my mule and burn my plow. No, I just back up a little, ease over the root and get on with my plowing. Next time around I'll probably hit that root again and it still shakes me up, but I don't quit farming. I just back up, ease over the root and keep on working. Pretty soon I have hit that root so many times that it's loose and the first thing you know I plow right through it and don't even notice it. I've got it shook loose. That's the way I study the Bible. When I come upon a hard passage, it might shake me up a little bit, but I don't throw away my Bible and quit the Lord on that account. I just ease over it and keep on studying. The next time I read that passage I jar it a little bit more. I keep on doing this until finally, because of information that I have gathered from other parts of the Bible I am able to jar the passage loose. I understand it.

Selected



Services

Sunday Morning Class

9:30a

Worship: 10: 30a

(Also live-streamed)

No Sunday Evening Service

Wednesday Bible Study

7p

(Also Live-streamed)

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

December 6, 2020

Morning Worship

Announcements: Todd Stults

Song Leader: Gary Reynolds

Opening Prayer: Bill Smith

Scripture: Steve Gors

Acts 2: 40-45

Lord's Table: Rex Harper

Sermon: Mike Gors,

"Save Yourselfs from this Perverse Generation"

Closing Prayer: Jay Kellow

Sound Room: Lowell Huffman

Bible Study, December 9, 2020

Song Leading: Lowell Huffman

Devo: Mike Gors

Prayer: Mike Gors

Remember Calls and Cards to Our Shut-ins

Anna Funk--Westminster Village

Joyce Popplewell --

Heritage in Yorktown

Carl Gilstrap--Albany Health Care

Pam Smith--Waters of Yorktown Nursing Home

I saw God write a gorgeous poem this morning. With the fresh sunbeam for a pencil, on the broad sheet of level snow, the diamond letters were spelled out one by one till the whole was aflame with poetry.

Phillips Brooks

Burning Bridges

The expression 'burning bridges' obviously originated in the literal act of destroying structures used to cross over rivers and other barriers. By destroying them it prevented anyone, friend or foe, from traversing the obstacle. No one could come over to you but, likewise, you could not go to them. It was a permanent and final action. Today, we most commonly use the phrase figuratively to denote the termination of relationships and associations. Not only have these connections been broken, but also the means to restore them has been removed. There is no going back. Sadly, this often happens among brethren in the body of Christ. A harsh word spoken, a hateful act taken, a simple disagreement mishandled – and suddenly a full fledged 'bridge fire' ensues. Long friendships and close bonds are broken. Where once there was a valuable spiritual kinship, now there is deep alienation. And, what's worse, the way back is gone. The 'bridge' has been 'burned'. The Lord's instructions actually give us the methodology to avoid these relational disasters. If I am the offending party, I am to go to the one I have wronged and make amends (Matt. 5:23,24). If I am the one who has been wronged, I am to address the one who has caused the fault (Matt. 18:15ff). If both parties in the dispute are committed to this divine plan, 'bridges' need never come down. The unfortunate reality is that brethren too often allow simple, resolvable issues to become massive problems. Sometimes, the conflicts grow so large and complex that even 'the wisdom of Solomon' can not solve them. Knowing that this potential for 'burned bridges' and permanent separation exists, we should be extremely careful in the maintenance of our precious relationships. "Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind." (1 Peter 3:8 ESV) - by Greg Gwin

Pleasant Words

"Pleasant words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones." Proverbs 16:24 This passage shows the effect that pleasant words have on a person. It is as if the words sink deeply within. They are sweet to the soul and healing to the bones. Cold weather often makes our bones ache. Stress and hard work can make us "bone tired." We have learned that calcium can strengthen our bones. But in this passage, the writer is not talking about literal bones or literal healings, but the positive effect that good words have deep within us. There is a difference from pleasant words and flattery. Pleasant words are true, sincere and genuine. Flattery is often artificial, self seeking and doesn't do much other than swell the head. Notice today how many pleasant words you hear. I think you'll find that a typical day is void of many pleasant words. Look for ways to give pleasant words, especially to family and brethren. Once you have tasted of the sweetness of pleasant words you want others to enjoy it as well. The compliment, the words of gratitude and appreciation, and even words of forgiveness all fall under the category of pleasant words. Paul talked about "words fitly spoken" - he may have had "pleasant words" in mind when he wrote that! I think of Barnabas, who the apostles called the "son of encouragement." He must have been one of pleasant words.

- by Roger Shouse



Happy Birthday

Scott Hummel--Dec. 6
John Schock—Dec 13
Shawna Schock—Dec 15
Nathan Bayer—Dec 18
Kathy Harper—Dec 18
Karen Jaromin—Dec 24
Sally Anderson—Dec 27
Adam Gors—Dec 30



In Need of Prayer

Adam Huffman, two more chemo treatments to go. The last reading showed great progress where the count went down from 800 to 100. Go Adam!

Angie Reed, MS

Alex Odle, Cancer

Bill Smith, Surgery scheduled for Dec. 11th

Dan Proctor, Lela's son in NY. 2nd emergency brain surgery with continued stay in ICU. Prayers are requested.

John Schock, Knee Surgery.

Kathy Harper, Respiratory issues

Kim Ham, Cancer, Dana Kellow's sister

Linda Horning, Cancer

Mary Ann Bayer, Covid. Improving and able to work some from her home

Mitch Kinder, Cancer. Sally's neighbor

Nick Hummel, Cancer. Chemo Ongoing

Shirley Allison, Sister-in-law to Don. Seriously ill with covid and on ventilator. Patient at IUBMH.

Skyler Murphy, Gastro-intestinal issues

Sylvia Carroll, Facial surgery this past week with another scheduled for Dec. 10th. Swelling and discomfort. Prayers and cards appreciated.

Wanda Reed, Recovering from chemo and radiation

This and That:

--Youth and adult forms for L2L are on the table

--Please remember the needs of the food pantry. Delivery will be on Dec. 19th. Please bring boxed meals such as mac and cheese, Rice-a-Roni, Hamburger Helper and stuffing mixes.

--"I was angry with my friend. I told my wrath, my wrath did end." Unknown

"Let There Be No Strife"

When contention arose between the herdsmen of Lot and the herdsmen of Abram, "Abram said to Lot, 'Please let there be no strife between you and me, and between my herdsmen and your herdsmen; for we are brethren'" (Genesis 13:8). God's friend Abraham knew that brotherhood demands the cessation of strife. I fear that some brethren today believe that brotherhood demands incessant strife. Some practical measures for keeping peace include the following:

1. **DO NOT START A QUARREL** Proverbs 17:14 says, "The beginning of strife is like releasing water; Therefore stop contention before a quarrel starts." While it is true that there are principles of truth that must be defended, argued and contended for (Jude 3, Philippians 1:17), MANY quarrels among brethren are over things that have not even been revealed in Scripture. Others involve judging hearts and motives by appearance, instead of judging with righteous judgment (as Jesus instructed in John 7:24). This kind of strife should be nipped in the bud! We must simply "avoid foolish and ignorant disputes, knowing that they generate strife" (2 Timothy 2:23).
2. **DO NOT SPREAD TALES** Nothing fans the flames of strife more effectively than gossip. Conversation that is seemingly well meant can provide fuel to a fire that would otherwise die out. When a brother begins a conversation (or e-mail message) by asking, "Do you know what brother so-and-so said about you?" he may mean well, but what follows is usually combustible! "Where there is no wood, the fire goes out; and where there is no talebearer, strife ceases" (Proverbs 26:20).
3. **LOVE YOUR BROTHER.** "Hatred stirs up strife, but love covers all sins." (Proverbs 10:12). It is amazing how easy it is for folks to tolerate the faults of their loved ones, family, longtime friends, etc., while at the same time refusing to tolerate similar or lesser faults in those outside their circle of friends. If we could learn to show love, without prejudice or partiality, we might find a lot less to pick at in others (cf. 1 Timothy 5:21).
4. **FORBEAR.** The instructions given in Ephesians 4:1-3 for "endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" include forbearing one another in love" (KJV). According to Strong's Dictionary "forbearing" means to "put up with, bear with, endure, suffer". Some have the idea that they "don't have to put up with" anything from a brother in Christ. Nothing could be further from the truth. Even if you are being unjustly mistreated, "putting up with it" and taking it patiently is one of the truest marks of a follower of Christ (cf. 1 Peter 2:20-21). Suffering real or imagined injustice from a brother is a sad excuse for causing strife. It's an excuse Abram would not use, and neither should we. We might learn to be more forbearing if we would stop and realize how much we need others to "put up with" us! "Whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them." (Matthew 7:12).

-by Steve Klein

"If thou neglect thy love to thy neighbor, in vain thou profess thy love to God; for by thy love to God, the love to thy neighbor is born and by the love to thy neighbor, thy love to God is nourished. "

Francis Quarles

But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy. And the seed whose fruit is righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

James 3:17- 18