



West Side Window

Volume 29, Issue 52

December 26, 2021

Don't Forget to Light the Fire

In one of Jack London's short stories, he writes about a fellow who was a newcomer to the Alaska gold rush. As he outfits to go out to "stake his claim and strike it rich," a seasoned veteran gives him some advice. "It's winter, so whenever you pause from hiking, be sure to light a fire before doing anything else...including resting."

The rookie millionaire "want-a-be" hikes for hours toward unclaimed land to set up his land claim. Finally, he stops. He is exhausted. So, he rests under a tree for *only a moment*. He figures that a little rest before making his fire and setting up camp wouldn't hurt. He ignored the advice from the old outfitter. He drifts into a short nap.

When he awakes, he finds that his hands and feet are so numb from the cold that he cannot make his fire. His body grows cold and his first day in Alaska becomes his last.

A sad story with no happy ending. But I find in this little bit of fiction a parable for life. If you don't light a spiritual fire, you will soon grow numb and your spiritual life will fade and flicker out. How do we do we light such a fire? There are three important steps.

Listen to God daily. This means reading the Bible every day. If your time is limited or your eyesight is faltering, then you can listen to recordings of Bible on tape or CD. "Receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls" (James 1:21b).

Be diligent in doing God's work. This means worshiping with the brethren and telling others about Christ. The opposite of this is described in Luke 8:14.

Pray often. This keeps the fire in our lives going as much as stoking a camp-fire with more wood (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18).

Larry Fitzgerald

Woodlawn church of Christ

Abilene, TX



Services

Sunday Morning
Class, 9:30a

Worship: 10:30a
(Also
livestreamed)

**No Sunday
Evening Service**

Wednesday Bible
Study, 7p

Preacher

Michael Gors

Elders

Michael Gors

Gary Reynolds

Todd Stults

Deacons

Don Allison
Fellowship

Jim Clark
Visitation

Lowell Huffman
Media



Love. Grow. Serve.

Leaders in Worship

December 26, 2021

Announcements: Don Allison

Song Leader: Gary Reynolds

Opening Prayer: Jimmy Clark

Scripture: Richard Messer, *Luke 2: 8-14*

Lord's Table: Todd Stults

Sermon: Mike Gors,
Rooted in Jesus, Part 4

Closing Prayer: Lowell Huffman

Sound Room: Case Reynolds

Bible Study, December 29th

Song Leader: Seth Gors

Devo: Adam Gors

Prayer: Mike Gors



From the Elders

If you are visiting with us today, we welcome you and hope you have been enriched by what you have heard and seen here. If you wish to wear a mask, please do so. You will find masks, communion packets and contribution baskets at each double door. Visitor cards can be found on each aisle. If you have questions or concerns, the Elders would be glad to meet with you.



Happy New Year
Everyone!

*May you shine with the
light of Christ in
this new year.*



Let the Bible Be Your Guide

We have nothing to offer but the word of God. We have no Catechism, no Manual, no Confession of Faith; in short, no creed book of any kind but the Bible. If someone were to ask a member of the church, "What do you believe?" he would hand him a copy of the Bible! If the question were more specific, then the Bible would be opened to those passages that deal with that particular problem. Our plea to each of you is, let the Bible be your guide. There probably has never been a time in modern history when the need for a return to the Bible has been more critical. There is religious division on every hand. Confusion abounds and honest, sincere people don't know which way to turn. A prophet in the Old Testament cried, "O Lord, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps" (Jer. 10:23). Man can fly to the moon and walk on the ocean floor, but he lacks the ability to find his way to heaven. How desperately we need to open our Bibles and let the Lord tell us what is right. It would be incorrect to say that the Bible is a guide. The reason? The Bible is THE guide! There is no other! 2 Tim. 3:16-17 tells us that "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works." This passage either states the truth or it does not. If it does not, then the Bible is not reliable. If it does state the truth, then the Bible is all any person needs to go to heaven because it will make him perfect and completely furnish him to all good works! And so we plead, let the Bible be YOUR guide. - by Aude McKee

Happy Birthday

Sally Anderson—Dec 27

Adam Gors—Dec 30



In Need of Prayer

Alex Odle & his fiancée

April Stinson, Cancer. Friend of Genny

Cliff Nicks, Recuperating from heart surgery

Cory Cross, Cousin of Kendall

Damon Summers

David Sharp, Stage four cancer, Betty Kellow's brother.

Henry Robinson, Surgery, requesting prayer. Father of Debby's son--in-law

Joey Harper, Covid, but stable

Joyce Colvin, Heart issues

Kendall Clark, Blood clot in leg

Lisa Harmon, Terminal breast Cancer. Wife of Brian's friend

Marty Gors

Norma Haffner, Surgery for broken hip. Scheduled for rehab

Rex Harper, Hospitalized at IUBMH for Covid/pneumonia.

Terry Kearns, Passed away from complications of Covid. Zach Cox's father-in-law



Addition: Obedience to the Master

Copies of January "Leaders in Worship" are on table.

Tomorrow

What a familiar word! What a dangerous word. "I will do it tomorrow." The tragedy of it all is that tomorrow never comes. If we don't do the things we should today, then today's things will never be done. Solomon said, "Boast not thyself of tomorrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth" (Prov. 27:1). So uncertain is tomorrow that we dare not to trust our souls to it. If your soul is not right with the Lord, now is the time to do something about it. The apostle Paul said, "I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation I have succored thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation" (2 Cor. 6:2). Tomorrow may find me unable to do the things I should do today. I may not be alive tomorrow. James says, "Come now, ye that say, Today or tomorrow we will go into the city and remain there a year and trade and get gain: Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is a vapor, that appeareth for a little while, and then vanisheth away. For ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall both live, and do this, or that" (James 4:13-15).

—by Hollis Creel

"Always change, renew, rejuvenate yourself; otherwise you harden."



Who Made You Judge Over Us?

When faced with the unpleasant but necessary task of correcting another's error, the common retort is "Who made you the judge?" or some slight variation on that theme: "Don't judge me!" or "Why are you so judgmental?" Such efforts to deflect criticism aren't new at all. Thirty-four centuries ago, Moses was observing his countrymen in Egypt when he witnessed an assault. Confronting the aggressor, he asked, "Why are you striking your companion?", only to be rebuffed with the words: "Who made you a prince and a judge over us?" (Exodus 2:13-14). Hundreds of years earlier, Abraham's nephew Lot was dwelling in the city of Sodom when his homosexual neighbors attempted to gang rape his houseguests. Lot implored them, "Please, my brethren, do not do so wickedly!" (Genesis 19:6), following which they remarked, "This one came in to stay here, and he keeps acting as a judge" (Genesis 19:9). Notice in these two Old Testament examples that opposition to beatings and sexual crimes was dismissed as judgmentalism. Thus, it should come as no surprise that the same tactic is employed by sinners today. People just don't like to be told they're wrong. Exercising judgment is an essential element of godly behavior. Jesus did not forbid judging; He just taught how it is to be done: "Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment" (John 7:24). Indeed, it is a defining characteristic of spiritual maturity that one is able "to discern both good and evil" (Hebrews 5:14). Paul commented, "Do you not know that the saints will judge the world?" (1st Corinthians 6:2). Scripture teaches that Noah "condemned the world" when he prepared the ark to save his household from the flood (Hebrews 11:7), and Jesus said, "The men of Nineveh will rise up in the judgment with this generation and condemn it, because they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and indeed a greater than Jonah is here" (Matthew 12:41). Whenever one does right, he implicitly condemns those who err. —Bryan M. Dockens