

Second Street Church of Christ



December 25, 2016

MINISTER

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SERVICE TIMES

Sunday Bible Class....9:00am
Sun. Morn. Worship.10:00am
Sunday Evening.....5:00pm
Wed. Evening.....7:00pm

*Endeavoring to keep
the unity of the Spirit
in the bond of peace.
Ephesians 4:3*

Some questions to ask of an activity

We have all observed the extraordinary pull of peer pressure on our children. There are totalitarian regimes in central Asia that offer more freedom of thought and expression than junior highers. Joseph Stalin allowed more dissent than these kids! Which is to say that it's not easy being a Christian young person. And, if we older people are honest, peer pressure affects us, too.

John urges us not to "love the world" (1 John 2:15-17). But how should we respond to activities offered to us? How can we tell if they are wholesome and good for us spiritually? Here are some practical questions to ask before taking part in any form of entertainment or activity: I will assume reasonable intelligence among you, my readers, and that you are willing to do what Paul suggested: To "test everything," and to "hold on to the good" (1 Thessalonians 5:21).

Question # 1: Does this activity force me to cave in to the world's standards? (Romans 12:1,2).

Question # 2: Does this activity place me among evil companionship? (1 Corinthians 15:33).

Question # 3: Does this activity either hurt a brother or lead him into sin? (Romans 14:15). Sorry, our actions do affect those around us. You might wish otherwise, but it's a fact.

Question # 4: Am I fooling myself into doing something wrong by excusing my participation? We are, after all, most susceptible to our own excuses (Jeremiah 17:9). "The heart," after all, "is deceitful above all things." You might fool your folks, and you might fool your minister; just make sure you don't fool yourself. Believe it or not, it's easier than doing the other things!

Question # 5: If Christ is really living in me, then could I conscientiously take Jesus with me on this activity? (Galatians 2:20).

Question # 6: Does this activity bring honor and glory to Jesus Christ? (Colossians 3:17).

I ask you, kindly, copy and paste this article, print it, fold it up and put it in your purse or wallet and refer to it when thinking of any activity in which you find yourself.

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Announcements

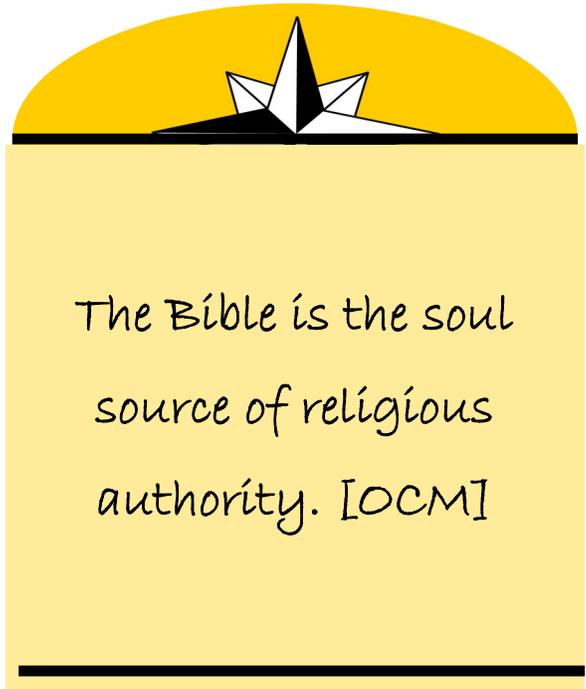
Welcome Visitors!! You are our honored guest, and we are glad you came our way! We invite you back to our evening services at 5:00 and Wednesday Bible study at 7:00 pm.

The sign-up sheet to host a singing and fellowship night is posted on the board in the foyer.

Clothing Drive Continues - See Debra Wren if you have any clothes to bring.

Mystery Dinner Dec. 31 at the building, followed by singing.

New Years Eve singing at Plainview 7—9pm.



Differing Paths

Often, when traveling through the Appalachians, I have noted the markers indicating the Eastern Continental Divide. This line denotes the watershed between streams that feed into the Atlantic Ocean and those that feed into the Gulf of Mexico. Two drops of rain, falling only inches apart on the ground, will end up separated by hundreds of miles before they reach the end of their journeys.

As we consider, personally, the choices we make day by day, we should recall the words of our Lord, "One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much." (Luke 16:10) The small things in our lives can well lead to big changes, either for good or for evil. This principle extends to congregations, as well.

Frequently, an emphasis on doctrinal exactness is greeted with a roll of the eyes. Why should we, after all, be concerned over small departures here and there? Isn't it just nit-picking to question everything that doesn't measure up to the truths we understand from Scripture?

We should be concerned about apostasy, even in the smallest measure, because it is a step down a path which will end in destruction. Every heresy that has divided the church began with a small departure from the truth, which lead to greater and greater departures over time.

Our fellowship must stand firm on the inerrancy of Scripture, the total truth and authority of God's word. We must stand firm in attempting to understand and follow the pattern of faith and practice outlined in the Bible. Most centrally, we must stand firm in teaching the exclusive truth of God's way of salvation through Jesus Christ. Even the slightest deviation in our commitment to these basic truths will plunge the church quickly into all manner of false teaching.

When Christian teachers and preachers depart from a complete confidence in Scripture, they stand in danger of losing their faith altogether. When congregations begin introducing unauthorized elements into the worship and work of the church, there is no end to the changes which will occur. When the church begins fellowshiping outsiders as if they were members of the Lord's church, soon the very heart of the gospel is laid aside. Constant vigilance is needed to keep the Lord's church true to the Lord's way.

—*Gregory Alan Tidwell* Editor, *the Gospel Advocate*

Written or spoken, God's word is powerful

“God said, ‘Let there be light.’ And there was light!” Genesis 1.3.

The Bible is God's word. In it, God speaks to man. Originally, for the most part, it was a spoken word. Then he caused it to be written down.

Whether spoken or written, God's word is the same and contains the same truth and power.

God's power is infinite. He is omnipotent. His power is exercised and displayed in his word.

Just as the rain and the snow come down from the sky and don't return there without watering the earth, making it conceive and yield plants and providing seed to the sower and food to the eater, so is my word that comes from my mouth; it does not return to me empty. Instead, it does what I want, and accomplishes what I intend, Isaiah 55.10-11 CEB.

God created all things by speaking. “By faith we understand that the worlds were set in order at God's command, so that the visible has its origin in the invisible” Hebrews 11.3. To create something by speaking a word is almost beyond human comprehension.

God's word is often associated with power, for power is an essential element of his word. “For the kingdom of God does not consist in [mere] words but in power” 1 Corinthians 4.20 NASB. God's word carries power with it. Paul spoke of himself and his companions as servants of God who worked “in the word of truth, in the power of God” 2 Corinthians 6.7. Converts have “tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come” Hebrews 6.7.

God's power is infinite. He is omnipotent. His power is exercised and displayed in his word.

Jesus is God, and as God he also wields the power of the divine word. He “sustains all things by his powerful word” Hebrews 1.3.

By means of the written word of God, he also creates something impossible for man to produce: a new life, a new creation, a new transformation of any person willing to submit himself.

Only the Bible is God's word. Therefore, only the Bible contains the power of God to save and to transform a person into a new creation. The Bible bears all the marks of a supernatural origin. It is consistent, free of error, and demonstrates a unity in all its parts, even though it was written by about 40 men over a period of hundreds of years.

God caused the Bible to be written, preserved, and translated. We may not see the details of how he did this, but he used many people—even those who don't serve him faithfully—in many places to bring the Bible to the world. We can see, however, its positive results.

No other book has been printed, shared, translated, and distributed as much as the Bible.

Even though some may not obey it, many discern in its pages the power of God. It behooves the faithful to proclaim its truth and its power that all might have opportunity to experience its wonderful effects.

SERVICE TIMES

Sunday

Bible Study **9:00am**
Worship **10:00am**
Evening **5:00pm**

Wednesday

Bible Study **7:00pm**

Behold, how good and how pleasant *it is*
for brethren to dwell together in unity!

Psalms 133:1

Prayer List

Paula Wanner	Dianne Vandagriff
Joey Pierce	Faye Johnson
Phillip Pharr	Elizabeth Posey
Barbara Blackman	Stephanie Moore
Larry Sartain	Flora Wanner
Jennifer Steger	Carolyn Holcomb
Lou Dodson	Shane Stevens
Mike Braden	Lynn Sander
Tim Denson	Jim Johnson
Sammy Green	Brenda Leatherwood
Charlotte Lard	David James
Jimmy Searcy	Aletha Ray
Steve Harris	



The process for becoming a Christian is the same as it was over 2000 years ago! To become a Christian, one must:

Hear the Gospel - Rom. 10:17

Believe the Gospel - Heb. 11:6

Repent of Sins - Luke 13:3

Confess Christ - Rom. 10:10

Be Immersed Into Christ - Acts 2:38

Live a Faithful Life - Rev. 2:10

None of these alone will make you a Christian. These commands are from God and must be obeyed from the heart to become a Christian.



December Birthdays

Flora Wanner 12/3

Faye Johnson 12/15

MaKayla Johnson 12/17

Steve Holcomb 12/21

Jan Higginbottom 12/26

Joe Horton 12/29

December Anniversaries

Sympathy

Gober Family