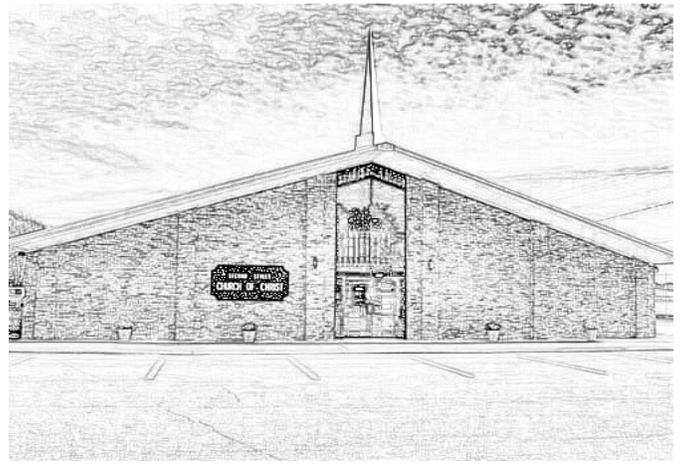


Second Street Church of Christ



July 23, 2017

The perils of prosperity

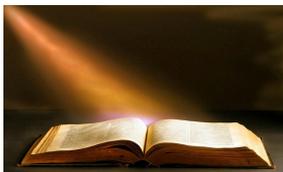
MINISTER

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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*

Throughout history people seem to have had the idea that those who were rich would get to heaven and those who were poor would struggle to get there. This seems to have been backed by this idea: the wealth of the rich was evidence that God was blessing them; the poverty of the poor was proof that God was not with them. As attractive as that philosophy has been, it doesn't take much reading in the Bible to discover that, more often than not, it is the poor who are faithful to God.

This brings us to the young man who came to Jesus who was quite rich. He asked, "Teacher, what good thing must I do to gain eternal life?" (Matthew 19:16 NET). He had the idea that if he did something good he would be given eternal life. And since he was wealthy, he could afford to do whatever it was that this teacher asked of him.

I am sure he was a bit surprised at the answer he was given. Jesus told him, "But if you want to enter into life, keep the commandments" (Matthew 19:17). The commandments? He knew what those were, the list of do's and don'ts that God had given Israel at Mount Sinai. Surely there was more to it than this! So he asked another question: "Which ones?"

Jesus responded by listing a number of what we know as the Ten Commandments (Matthew 19:18). Again, that wasn't the answer this young man was expecting, so he probed further.

"The young man said to him, 'I have wholeheartedly obeyed all these laws. What do I still lack?' Jesus said to him, 'If you wish to be perfect, go sell your possessions and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.' But when the young man heard this he went away sorrowful, for he was very rich" (Matthew 19:20-22).

(Continued on page 2)

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.

Speaker Today is Ron Deaton.

Different Attitudes Toward Faith

Some Welcome It (Acts 8:31-32; 10:33).

Some Receive It (John 12:48).

Some Obey It (1 Peter 1:22; Acts 17:10-12).

Some Do Not Love It (2 Thess. 2:10-12).

Some Resist It (2 Timothy 3:6).

Some Turn Away From It (2 Timothy 4:3-4).

Some Speak Evil of It (2 Peter 2:1-3).

*via San Augustine church of Christ
San Augustine, TX*

(Continued from page 1)

And there was the problem. Although he had, in his mind, “wholeheartedly obeyed all these laws” he seems to have realized that there was something lacking. Jesus told him what the problem was: it was his wealth. If he wanted to be “perfect” he needed to sell his possessions and give the money to the poor so he could have real treasure – “treasure in heaven.” He could then follow Jesus.

The man went away very sad. The problem was that he was very rich. It seems his security was in his abundance. I’m sure he thought that what he had was real treasure. Jesus said to get treasure that would last for eternity he needed to sell and use his earthly treasure. “Then Jesus said to his disciples, ‘I tell you the truth, it will be hard for a rich person to enter the kingdom of heaven! Again I say, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter into the kingdom of God’” (Matthew 19:23-24).

Does Jesus’ teaching here make us uncomfortable? Do we feel that our wealth gives us security? What would Jesus tell us if we came to him with the same question? I am confident that he would tell us the same thing: we need to use our riches to gain treasure that will be stored up in heaven.

“But this is too hard!” we might object. Notice how the disciples reacted: “The disciples were greatly astonished when they heard this and said, ‘Then who can be saved?’ Jesus looked at them and replied, ‘This is impossible for mere humans, but for God all things are possible’” (Matthew 19:25-26).

We need to learn to put our faith and trust in God and not in the riches of this world.

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Calling evil good

“**W**oe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; Who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!” (Isaiah 5:20 NKJV).

“Professing to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man – and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things. Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves” (Romans 1:22-24).

One does not have to be in Nepal for very long to become aware that the view of divinity held by the majority its people is drastically different from that considered normal in most of Europe and North America. Many who are raised in those latter cultures think of paganism, idolatry, and polytheism to be things of the ancient past. They do not realize that billions in the modern world continue to practice those forms of religion.

God’s perception of idolatry is clearly stated in the Bible. Idols are corruptions of the divine nature (Romans 1:22ff), impotent creations of foolish men (Psalm 115:4-8), and are abominations to God (1 Kings 11:7). Those who worship and serve them are calling evil good and replacing the sweet (God Almighty) with the bitter (the lies of false gods).

*No good comes from
confusing evil and
good.*

It is also clear that one does not have to go to the other side of the world to find the practice of idolatry, or to hear good called evil and evil good. One may commit idolatry by becoming covetous (Colossians 3:5) or by placing some person, practice, or thing above God in his or her affections (Matthew 10:37; 19:21-22). Worshipping the material instead of the spiritual is as commonplace and evil today as it has ever been.

As I think about these things I cannot but expand their application to embrace a modern enthusiasm in our country. That is the fascination with the world of fantasy, and the obsession of many with mythical creatures of that world. I am speaking of zombies, werewolves, vampires and other fictional representatives of the realm of the “undead” and / or the demonic realm.

Movies, television series, video games, and books featuring these beings have exploded over the past two or three decades. Certainly they were featured in such media long before this period, but now they have achieved acceptability and even a kind of hero worship by many. No longer are vampires and werewolves evil beings to be feared, avoided, or defeated. In many modern stories they are the main protagonists who are identified with and admired by the viewer or reader.

In light of the passages quoted previously I find this disturbing. No good comes from confusing evil and good. When we begin to enjoy relating to bad things or admiring evil beings we have already turned our value system upside down. One may call evil good, but that does not make it true. What it does create is a person deceived and entrapped by that which he or she has accepted. Their end is only tragic.

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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

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.

Prayer List

Paula Wanner	Dianne Vandagriff
Cassie Tierce	Kathy Alexander
Phillip Pharr	Stephanie Vandagriff
Stephanie Moore	Margie Pharr
Carolyn Holcomb	Ellie Sander
Lou Dodson	Lynn Sander
Tim Denson	Jim Johnson
Jimmy Searcy	Tim Brown
Christy Hickox	Mike Gaddy
Susan Vandagriff	James Bailey
Patsy Wanner	Ken Saylor
John Johnson	Linda Jones
Kenneth Orrick	Brenda Leatherwood
Paul Meachum II	Barbara White
Fred Albers	Jo Vandagriff
Brenda Jourdan	Jimmy Higginbottom
Cheryl Pardue	



July Birthdays

James Holcomb 7/18

LaSha Higginbottom 7/18

Barbara Livingston 7/22

Miranda Holcomb 7/30

July Anniversaries

Wallace & Glenda 7/1

Rajama & Randy 7/2

Sympathy

Cleghorn family