

Christianity: It's All About Living

What does the Christian life consist of? Some might say that it consists of worship services, padded pews, song books, pot lucks, Bible classes, announcements, work days, sermons, lectureships, meetings, fellowship and a host of other items. Certainly, all of these things have their place in life as we serve God in a local congregation. However, none of these things will have any real meaning at all unless they are backed up by lives that demonstrate real commitment and dedication to the greatest cause in the world, the cause of Christ.

We must understand that the Lord never meant for the Christian life to be centered upon warming a pew in an air-conditioned auditorium several times a week. This is not to say that the assemblies of the church are not important because the Bible plainly declares that they are (Hebrews 10:25). The assembly gatherings are to serve as times of praise, thanksgiving, giving, teaching and remembering. They are the "spiritual filling stations" where we recharge and retool our spiritual engines that we might continue in ardent service to the Lord. However, the assemblies of the saints are not ends in themselves. We must keep in mind that Christianity is all about living. Consider these following passages of Scripture:

"If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me" (Luke 9:23).

"I have been crucified with Christ, it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me" (Galatians 2:20).

"For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain" (Philippians 1:21).

"...Present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God" (Romans 12:1, 2).

Christianity is all about changing (Ephesians 4:22-24), growing (2 Peter 3:18), serving (Mark 10:45), loving (John 13:34,35), worshipping (John 4:24), and producing the fruit of the Spirit in one's life (Galatians 5:22, 23). To sum up, Christianity is all about living. Let us therefore live!

- Bill Burk, Seagoville Church of Christ - Seagoville, TX

It is good to be a Christian and know it; better to be a Christian and show it.

News & Notes

CONGRATULATIONS: To Bob McMahan on his retirement from the Hancock County School System after 44 years of service. Best wishes and God's blessings to Bob.

CARE & SHARE BEARS: Each Tuesday at 9:00 a.m. the ladies gather to make stuffed bears for sick and distressed children. Join the ladies in this good work and time of fellowship.

PANTRY: Hot Dogs.

THOSE WITH HEALTH CONCERNS: CITY HOSPITAL: Marie Jones. FOX NURSING HOME: Ruby Eddy. At Home: Tim Adkins, Ilene Rayl, Keith McClung, Docie Moore, Jack Board, Crystal Baker, Betty Carlin, Ruth Brewer, Harry & Imogene Nice. Remember others confined to their homes and in nursing homes. Check the bulletin board.

Maybe

Maybe . . . we were supposed to meet the wrong person before meeting the right one so that, when we meet the right person, we will know how to be grateful for that gift.

Maybe . . . it is true that we don't know what we have until we lose it, but it is also true that we don't know what we have been missing until it arrives.

Maybe . . . the happiest people don't necessarily have the best of everything; they just make the most of everything that comes along their way.

Maybe . . . you should dream what you want to dream; go where you want to go, be what you want to be, because you only have one life and one chance to do all the things you dream of, and want to do.

Maybe . . . the best friend is the kind you can sit on the porch with, never say a word, and then walk away feeling like it was the best conversation you've ever had.

Maybe . . . you should always try to put yourself in other's shoes. If you feel that something could hurt you, it will probably hurt the other person, too.

Maybe . . . you should do something nice for someone every single day, even if it is simply to leave them alone.

Maybe . . . happiness waits for all those who cry, all those who hurt, all those who have searched, and all those who have tried, for only they can appreciate the importance of all the people who have touched their lives.

Maybe . . . you should try to live your life to the fullest because when you were born, you were crying and everyone around you was smiling but when you die, you can be the one who is smiling and everyone around you crying.

- Submitted by Glenn McMahan