

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 (Heb. 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" (Gal. 2:20).

"For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain" (Phil. 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 good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God" (Rom. 12:1, 2).

Christianity is all about *changing* (Eph. 4:22-24), *growing* (2 Pet. 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* (Gal. 5:22, 23). To sum it up, Christianity is all about living. Let us therefore live!

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

Life's greatest tragedy is to lose God and not to miss Him. - F. W. Norwood

News & Notes

SYMPATHY: To Helene Wilson & family at the passing of her sister-in-law, Freda Wilson. God bless and comfort the family.

CARE & SHARE BEARS: Each Tuesday at 9:00 a.m. Any of the ladies are welcome to help with this work preparing stuffed bears for children.

PANTRY: Canned fruit, soup, tuna, cereal, peanut butter & jelly. Please do what you can to help restock the pantry for those in need.

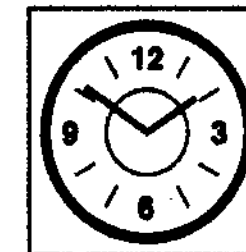
REQUEST FOR PRAYERS: Crystal Baker (Connie Cowdery's daughter). Crystal has begun a series of radiation and chemotherapy treatments.

ENCOURAGE: Cheryl Stackpole, Fred Larrimore, Jr.

THOSE WITH PHYSICAL PROBLEMS: Weirton Medical Center: Mabel Sprout. At Home: Fred Rayl, Rich Robinson, Jim Beagle, Michelle Hanlon, Dan Williams, Yvonne Price, Blondenia Orr, Jenny Rhodes, Pauline Clutter, Bette Gentry. **Others confined to their homes and in nursing homes are listed on the bulletin board.**

LECTURES & MEETINGS:

Ohio Valley	Aug. 18-21	(Harmar Hill) Marietta, OH
East Liverpool	Sept. 7-10	Terry Varner
CHESTER	Sept. 28-Oct. 2	Steve Higginbotham



Time was - is past, thou canst not it recall

Time is - thou hast, employ the portion small.

Time future - is not and may never be;

Time present - is the only time for thee.

TIME - is a quality - not a quantity.

From "Be Somebody" by Mary Crowley

- Submitted by Glenn McMahan -

For A Rainy Day

One rainy afternoon I was driving along one of the main streets of town, taking those extra precautions necessary when the roads are wet and slick.

Suddenly, my son Matthew spoke up from his relaxed position in the front seat. "Mom, I'm thinking of something." This announcement usually meant he had been pondering some fact for a while and was now ready to expound all that his seven-year-old mind had discovered.

I was eager to hear. "What are you thinking?" I asked. "The rain," he began, "is like sin and the windshield wipers are like God, wiping our sins away." After the chill bumps raced up my arms I was able to respond. "That's really good, Matthew."

Then my curiosity broke in. How far would this little boy take this revelation? So I asked ... "Do you notice how the rain keeps on coming? What does that tell you?" Matthew didn't hesitate one moment with his answer. "We keep on sinning, and God just keeps on forgiving us."

Who can drive in the rain again without thinking of this one???

-Tanner Church of Christ, Tanner, AL