

Showing Our Christianity

"You yourselves are our letter of recommendation, written on our hearts, to be known and read by all. And you show that you are a letter from Christ delivered by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts" (2 Corinthians 3:2-3).

A foundational idea of Christianity: **It must be shown.**

Christianity is not merely some facts to believe (though there are some facts that absolutely must be believed, such as the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus).

Christianity is not merely some ideas to understand (though there are some ideas that must be understood, such as all have sinned and stand in need of a Savior).

Christianity is a lifestyle—it is a life—that must be clearly demonstrated. The facts that are believed and the ideas that are understood must lead to transformation. Our lives must be lived in such a way that we make it clear that we know Jesus.

"Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished. And they recognized that they had been with Jesus" (Acts 4:13).

*"For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland" (Heb. 11:14). **Christianity must be shown.***

Let us live in such a way that we make it clear to whom we belong.

- Bart Warren South Green Street church of Christ Glasgow, KY (*Bulletin Digest*) -

Pulling on Both Oars

An old Scotsman operated a small rowboat for transporting passengers.

One day a passenger noticed that the old man had carved on one oar the word "Faith" and on the other oar the word "Works." Curious, he asked the meaning.

The old man replied, "I'll show you." He dropped the "faith" oar and pulled the "works" oar. The boat went around in circles. Then he dropped that oar and pulled the "faith" oar. The little boat went around in circles in the opposite direction.

After this demonstration, the old man picked up Faith and Works and began plying both oars together. The boat sped swiftly over the water.

The old man explained, "You see, that is the way it is in the Christian life. Dead works without faith are useless, and faith without works is dead also, getting you nowhere. But faith and works pulling together make for safety, progress, and blessing." Read James 2:14–26.

- Brett Petrillo, Denver, CO (*Bulletin Digest*) -

Calvary is God's blood bank for a sick world.

News & Notes

ITEMS FOR MALAWI PROJECT: Bring to the church building tomorrow between 5:00 - 6:00 p.m.

CONVERT'S CLASS: each Thursday at 11:00 a.m. Open to all.

MEDICAL PROCEDURE: For Dean Spencer on next Thursday, March 28th.

TO HAVE SURGERY: Kevin Richmond next Friday, March 29th.

CHESTER'S SENIOR DAY: Saturday, April 6th, 10:00 a.m.-Noon. Speakers: Albert Farley and John Board. Lunch provided.

LADIES INSPIRATION DAY: National Road Church of Christ, Wheeling, Saturday, April 20th. Additional details on the bulletin board.

PANTRY: Applesauce.

REMEMBER THESE SICK & SHUT-IN: *Continuing Health Care, Lisbon:* Stan Williams. *St. Elizabeth, Youngstown:* Alan Six (Marilyn Miller's brother), heart surgery. *Veteran's Hospital, Pittsburgh:* Harry Huff. *At Home:* Anita Hopwood, Dean Spencer, Peggy Linger, Claudette Miller, Nancy Cox, Barbara DeLong, David Strum, Cheryl Renfro Walker, David Michaels (Ed's brother), Todd Grimes (Cindy Miskimen's nephew), Lori Stocks (Karen Strum's niece), Eric Martin (friend of Joe Brubaker), Rich Shilling (relative of Iris Durbin). *Fox - Chester:* Janice Hutchins, Mary Johnson. *Calcutta Health Care:* Audrey Geer (Linda Hall's mother). *Elsewhere:* Carol Williams (Sharon Sprout's mother), 104 N. Clayton, Carlsbad, NM 88220. **Herman McHan**, 7401 Elmwood Drive, Lisbon, OH 44432.

GOSPEL MEETINGS

Barnesville	Mar. 24-28.....	Phil Grear
Hanoverton	Apr. 14-18.....	Dan Kessinger
CHESTER	Apr. 21-25	Bruce Daugherty

Always in Control

Terry Wheeler

Does anything get by our God? Does anything happen to catch Him off guard or threaten to defeat Him? Of course, the answer is, "No." When we hurt or get swallowed up in circumstances beyond our control, it is real easy to think that this got past God's control as well, but nothing could be further from the truth.

He feeds the animals, dresses the grass and runs the heavens. He supplies all His creation with everything it needs all the time. He neither sleeps nor is weary; He is not distracted, preoccupied or enfeebled. He sees everything, is everywhere and knows all. How can **anything** get past Him? The answer is, "It can't."

Does God use trouble and trials for our eternal benefit? Oh, yes, He always has and will continue to as we have need (Romans 8:28). However, will these situations ever get out of His control? Never. How could they? **He's got the whole world in His hands.** "The earth belongs to the Lord, and all its fulness, the world and those who dwell therein" (Psalm 24:1). - (*Gospel Gazette* online) -