

A Great Challenge to Christians

Our challenge in this life is to make a positive difference for the Lord while we are on earth. The Bible clearly teaches us that serving God is vitally important (Matthew 22:37-40). Our main purpose is not working, hunting, texting, or hanging out with friends. Instead our purpose is that of serving God faithfully. Faithfulness to God requires a strong resolve to put Him first in our lives. Becoming a Christian is not enough. This is only the beginning of a life which is to be lived for God daily. The Lord must be first in the hearts and lives of His followers. "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you" (Matthew 6:33). The Macedonians had it right when "They first gave themselves to the Lord" (2 Corinthians 8:5). The Lord is satisfied only when He has "preeminence" in our heart and life. The Bible commands us to live a life worthy of the sacrifice of our Lord Jesus (Revelation 1:5). Your love for the Lord will lead you to faithful Christian living.

- Charles Box, Walnut Street church of Christ, Greenville, AL (via *Bulletin Digest*) -

Would You be Happy in Heaven?

Toby Miller

The Bible teaches most assuredly that there will be no unhappiness in Heaven (Rev. 21:4). Therefore, those who would be unhappy will not be there. Examine yourself (2 Cor. 13:5), your activities, your innermost thoughts, and your real desires. If God took you to Heaven today, would you be happy? If not, do not worry, you will not be there.

Do you desire the company of Jesus only in emergencies? Do you get upset when the preacher goes beyond the 20-minute limit? Do you let the world dictate to you how to conduct your life and the fads and fashions you must adopt to be socially acceptable? If serving God in this life makes you unhappy, do not worry; you will not have to serve Him in the next life; you will not be in Heaven. If you dislike having to "obey His commandments" now (John 14:21), you need not be concerned about having to obey His commandments in Heaven because you will not be there; you will be in the "other place" (Mat. 25:41).

The only way you can love God is to learn of Him (John 6:45). The more you understand the nature and effects of sin and realize what God has had to do to make forgiveness possible, the more you will love Him. The more you love Him, the better you will serve Him. That is what life is all about. God is determining who will and will not serve Him, to determine who will and will not be in Heaven.

- Beacon, Bellview Church of Christ, Pensacola, FL -

The Power of Words

A careless word may kindle strife; a cruel word may wreck a life;
A bitter word may hate instill; a brutal word may smite and kill;
A gracious word may smooth the way; a joyous word may light the day;
A timely word may lessen stress; a loving word may heal and bless.

Author Unknown

The one who plans on making it to Heaven had better read the map.

News & Notes

COVERED DISH DINNER: TODAY about noon at the Fellowship Building, followed by our **afternoon service at 2:00 p.m.** at the Church Building.

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY: Each Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.

MEN'S BREAKFAST: Next Saturday, Feb. 11th, 8:30 a.m. at the Columbiana Church of Christ.

PANTRY: Canned chicken.

SICK & SHUT-IN: Linda Parkes, Nancy Cox, Kevin Richmond, Mike West, David Strum (Karen's husband), Jim Hadley, Barbara DeLong, Claudette Miller, Cheryl Renfro Walker. Herman McHan, 7401 Elmwood Drive, Lisbon, OH 44432. **Fox, Pepperberry Suites, Chester:** David McCoy. **Weston, WV:** Sharon Beck, 807 Camden Ave., Weston, WV 26452.

Do You Really Know This God of Whom You Speak?

Cliff Holmes

Read Acts 17:24-31. Paul characterized God in various ways, each to widen the message about God!

- **God is the divine Creator and the universal Lord** (v. 24). The "God, who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands" (NKJV).
- **God is the bountiful Giver** (v. 25). "Nor is He worshiped with men's hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things."
- **God is the Almighty Ruler** (v. 26). "And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings."
- **God is the unseen Spirit** (vs. 27-28). "So that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; for in Him we live and move and have our being, as also some of your own poets have said, 'For we are also His offspring.'"
- **God is the tender Father** (vs. 28-30). "...For we are also His offspring.' Therefore, since we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, something shaped by art and man's devising. Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent."
- **God is the righteous Judge** (v. 31). "Because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead."

Let us all see every one of the attributes of God and praise Him from Whom **all** blessings flow!

- Gospel Gazette Online