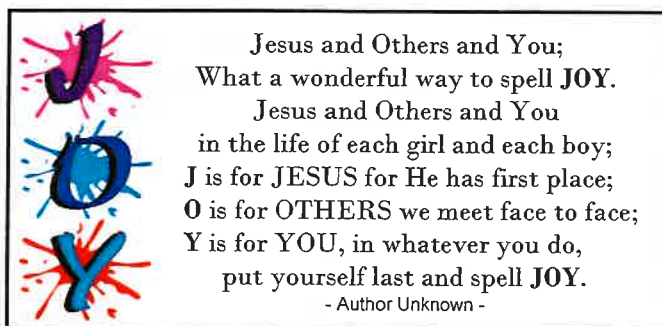


Jesus - First!

Jesus performed many miracles and proved that He was the Son of God (John 20:30-31). Now, if we believe that Jesus is the Son of God, we will put Him first in our lives (Luke 14:26-33; Matt. 6:33). Putting Jesus first in our lives means that He is more important than any material possession, any human relationship, one's own freedom, and even our very life! We must be willing to die in order to be faithful to Him (Acts 21:13; Rev. 2:10; Luke 9:23-24.)

The Bible teaches that we must have an acceptable faith to be pleasing to God. Matthew 8 refers to "great faith" and "little faith". The book of James speaks of "living faith" and "dead faith". Acceptable faith would be described as truly taking God at His Word and then taking action upon that faith. James 1:8 says, "A double-minded man is unstable in all his ways." We can't doubt God's love or His power and have a faith that is pleasing to Him. Have you put your faith to the test lately? Are you putting the Lord first in your life?

- Tommy Stacks, Muskogee, OH, via *Bulletin Digest* -



The Church

The church is never a place, but always a people. It is never a fold, but always a flock. Never a sacred building, but always a faithful assembly. The church is not a refrigerator for the preservation of perishable piety; it's a dynamo for changing the will with the power of the Gospel. The object of the church is not to tell men how to dodge difficulties, but to furnish strength and courage to meet them. The business of the church is not to furnish hammocks for the lazy. It is rather to offer fitting yokes for drawing life's loads. There is in this world no sanctuary for God but the human soul. The one who does not support the church practically casts a vote for its abolition.

- via *Bulletin Digest*

Walking with Jesus leaves footprints for others to follow.

News & Notes

CARE & SHARE BEARS: Each **Tuesday at 9:00 a.m.** All ladies are invited to participate in making small stuffed bears for sick and needy kids.

ADDRESS: Jonah Spencer, 1437 Fifth Street, Natrona Heights, PA 15065. Phone: (304) 551-4203.

7th ANNUAL SING & PIE FLING: Next **Friday, Aug. 16th, 7:00-8:00 p.m.** (singing lead by **Andy Robison**); **8:00-? p.m. (fellowship & desserts)** at the WV School of Preaching in Moundsville, WV. **R.S.V.P. by Aug. 15th.** Details on the bulletin board.

DELONG CORN ROAST: Next **Saturday, Aug. 17th, 1:00 p.m.** at the home of Charlie & Barb DeLong. The Delongs will furnish the corn. Those who want to supplement the corn can take any of the following: a covered dish, snacks, or a dessert. Also, take a lawn chair in case there is not enough seating.

SECRET SISTERS: Reveal on **Saturday, Aug. 24th, 11:00 a.m.** at the Fellowship Building. Bring your last gift for your "sister". Questions: see Latisha Brown.

IDLEWILD DAY: **Saturday, Aug. 31st.** Prices: Ages 2 & under, free; 3-59, \$23; 60+, \$21. Contact Betty Smith at 724-747-7653.

LABOR DAY COOKOUT & PICNIC: **Monday, Sept. 2nd, 1:00 p.m.** hosted by the Chester and St. Clair Ave. congregations at Thompson Park, Pavilion 1. Meat and drinks will be provided. Take a favorite dish, dessert, or snacks. All are invited. For additional information, call: (304) 387-1030 or (330) 386-6582.

PANTRY: Sardines.

SICK & SHUT-IN: At Home: Russell Martin, Blondenia Orr, Arlen & Joann Webb, Doris Dunham, Chris Lamb (David Roach's sister). **FOX:** Mary Jane Bowers. **CROSSROADS:** Sarah Miller. **IN FLORIDA:** Ilene Rayl.

Do Good To Others

Ben Franklin made the statement, "When you are good to others, you are best to yourself." Maybe that is one reason the Apostle Paul wrote, "As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith" (Gal. 6:10). As we help others, it brings a blessing to our own life.

It is said that John Wesley had this rule for his life:

"Do all the good you can - by all the means you can -
In all the ways you can - in all the places you can -
At all the times you can - to all the people you can -
As long as you ever can."

Sounds like a good rule to me. A person living by that rule would have to be a blessing to many lives, and, in doing so bring many blessings to himself.

One of the great commentaries on the life of Christ is that, *he went about doing good.* Let's do likewise. Let's do unto others as we would have them do unto us. It will make life more pleasant.

- Carroll Sites -