

## The Christian's Aim

The aim of Christianity may be described in various ways. It is to obey the will of Christ. It is to become Christ-like in every way. The purpose of the Christian life to glorify God before men. But perhaps none of these describes the Christian's goal in life any better than these words from the pen of the apostle:

*"Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him" (2 Cor. 5:9, NKJV).*

Aiming to please God — what a beautiful way to express it! And that's exactly what the Christian tries to do in everything. He does, that is, if he is a faithful Christian!

This ambition to please God will manifest itself in two ways. First, he will SHUN anything and everything that is wrong! He will flee from temptation. He will resist every evil work. He will be careful to guard every thought and word and deed. If the Lord has forbidden it, that settles it!

Second, the desire to please the Lord will cause the child of God to DO that which He has commanded and use every opportunity available to show his love and gratitude to the Lord for all He has done for him! Service will never be "duty only"! It will always be considered a "privilege" as well!

One way the Christian can measure his spiritual vitality is by examining his primary aim in life. What would such a test reveal about me?

- Larry Fluitt, *Bulletin Digest* -

## GOD'S JUDGMENT

The judgment Of God is a theme in the book of Jude. Jude mentions the prophecy of Enoch, "the seventh from Adam", in underlining God's judgment against those who oppose His will.

In verses 14 and 15, Jude characterized God's judgment in the following descriptions:

1. **IT IS PERSONAL.** God will judge each person based on his or her deeds (2 Cor. 5:10).

2. **IT IS UNIVERSAL.** No one will miss the judgment. Kings as well as paupers will stand before God on that notable day (Matt. 25:31-46).

3. **IT IS JUST.** God's judgment will be based on His Word (John 12:48), and our actions (Eccl. 12:13, 14).

4. **IT IS FINAL.** The time for plea bargains will be past. His "depart from me" will be final. "Behold, now is the day of salvation" (2 Cor. 6:2).

- David Powell, *Bulletin Digest* -

*The world crowns success; God crowns faithfulness.*

## News & Notes

**TODAY'S SPEAKER:** Aaron Burch. Bro. Rico will participate this week in the lectures at the Florida School of Preaching.

**REQUEST FOR PRAYERS:** Mickie Barrett.

**2nd SECRET SISTER PROGRAM:** Information and questionnaires will be distributed **today** to those ladies interested in being a part of this program. **Questionnaires must be returned no later than Wednesday, Feb. 5th. Sister selection/choice will be Sunday, Feb. 9th.** The big reveal will be in **August**.

**PANTRY:** Peaches & pears

**SEND CARDS & PRAYERS:** Rick Beck (minister at Weston, WV), 807 Camden Ave., Weston, WV 26452. Rick's cancer has returned.

**SICK & SHUT-IN: AT HOME:** Ruth Hartzell, Docie Moore, Emma Rine, Russell Martin, Blondenia Orr, Joann Webb, Doris Dunham, Mary Jane Bowers, Alex Harless, Chris Lamb (David Roach's sister). **FOX:** Tom Postlethwait. **CROSSROADS:** Sarah Miller. **VALLEY OAKS CARE CENTER:** Fred Larrimore, (Room 210). **BRIGHTWOOD CENTER:** Rich Robinson, 840 Lee Rd., Room 242, Follansbee, WV 26037. **IN FLORIDA:** Ilene Rayl.

## FORGIVEN

"When a woman who had lived a sinful life in that town learned that Jesus was eating at the Pharisee's house, she brought an alabaster jar of perfume, and as she stood behind him at his feet weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears. Then she wiped them with her hair, kissed them and poured perfume on them" (Luke 7:37-38).

What kind of sinner was this woman? Imagination runs wild. I don't know. She repented Jesus stated:

"Your sins are forgiven ... Your faithy has saved you; go in peace." (Luke 7:48, 50).

God forgives. Men often do not. Some will not forget. How many fingers pointed at this woman years later as some pious individual informed another of her past indiscretions? Loose tongues cannot be stopped. Inquirer minds are society's cancer. We can only pray for them and thank God through Jesus that He forgives sins. He forgave and forgives ours whether others do or not!

- Ray Hawk, *Bulletin Digest* (adapted) -

He who cannot forgive others  
burns the bridge over which he himself must pass. - Herbert