

The Bible is God's Unchanging Standard

Man is not left to "do his own thing" religiously. He has the Bible, God's unchanging standard upon which to build his life. Confusion comes when "Every man does that which was right in his own eyes" (Judges 17:6). When man becomes a law to himself and tries to direct his own affairs religiously he always makes a mess. "O Lord, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps" (Jeremiah 10:23). Man left to himself does not manage his life well. The Bible is God's spiritual ruler or measuring stick. It is Heaven's unchanging standard. God has warned us about false prophets. He said there are many of them. "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world" (1 John 4:1). Everything and everyone must be measured by the Bible. Only the truth will set you free spiritually. "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:32). We need Jesus!

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

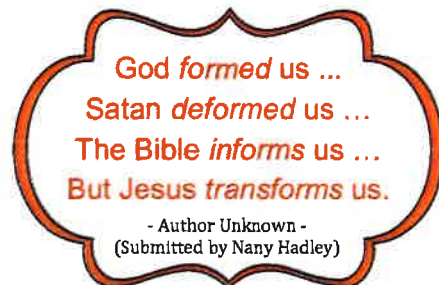
Questions Regarding Your Faith

We are told in 2 Corinthians 13:5 that we are to examine ourselves as to whether we are in the faith. To help us do this, may I offer the following questions for you to answer. Be honest and deeply examine yourselves.

- Am I growing spiritually?
- Am I able to truly forgive others when asked?
- Am I always looking forward to coming to worship and working with the church?
- Am I really concerned about lost souls?
- Am I excited about going to heaven – even today?

If you answered "no" to any of these questions, then maybe you should take a closer look at your faith and where it is possibly headed.

- Edd Sterchi, Broadway church of Christ, Campbellsville, KY (*Bulletin Digest*) -



No peace without forgiveness and no happiness without peace.

News & Notes

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

MEN'S BREAKFAST: Next Saturday, Dec. 9th, 8:30 a.m. at the Columbian Church of Christ. The Chester brothers will host and cook.

PARENT/YOUTH MEETING: Next Sunday, Dec. 10th immediately following the morning worship. Please plan to attend.

HOLIDAY GATHERING: Friday, Dec. 15th, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. at the Fellowship Building. Food, fun, and fellowship. Pizza will be provided. Bring a dessert or side dish. Sign-up sheet in the foyer.

PANTRY: Cranberry sauce and noodles.

MALAWI PROJECT: Give voluntary monetary donations to purchase items to make the Birthing Kits to MaClay Toomey. Donate cash or checks made out to the church.

SICK & SHUT-IN: Trinity West, Steubenville: Dean Spencer. **At Home:** David McKittrick, Marlene Evans, Linda Parkes, Melissa Rosohac, Peggy Linger, Nancy Cox, Blondenia Orr, Barbara DeLong, David Strum, Cheryl Renfro Walker, Linda LeMasters (wife of Larry LeMasters - McKineyville). **Fox - Chester:** Mary Johnson (Lois Hissom's sister). **In Ohio:** Herman McHan, 7401 Elmwood Drive, Lisbon, OH 44432.

What Have You Got to Smile About?

Smiling is a natural reaction to having a happy heart. I'm not talking about a smirk, leer or a sneer but a genuine, radiant, beaming smile.

Actually, there is a lot about "smiling" in the Bible although the actual word isn't used much in most English translations. For instance, Proverbs 15:13 in the old King James Version talks about "a cheerful countenance." An easier version makes the translation clearer. "A happy heart makes the face cheerful, but heartache crushes the spirit." And, Psalms 34:5 uses the phrase "radiant faces."

Cheerful countenance, happy heart, radiant face ... what great descriptions of someone who is genuinely happy!

Did you know that God smiles? That is what is meant by Numbers 6:25: "The Lord make His face shine on you. And be gracious to you." Numbers 6 is talking about God smiling on (or because of) you!

Happy hearts produce smiling – a reaction we get from the God who made us in His Image. What have you got to smile about? Start counting your blessings and you will find that you have a lot of reasons!

- Larry Fitzgerald, Woodlawn church of Christ, Abilene, TX (*Bulletin Digest*) -