

Welcome Visitors,

First, THANK YOU! We are excited to know that you are interested in worshipping God. We want you to feel very welcomed here among our group. Our goal is doing God's will. You will find that our teaching and preaching are strictly from the Bible so we encourage you to open a Bible and follow along as the lessons are presented today.

God's word is the complete guide for our life of service and worship. The all-sufficient word of God—the Bible is what we need (John 8:31-32; 2 Timothy 3:16-17). We desire to help one another in doing God's will. If you are interested in learning more please ask one of our members today.

Main Street Church of Christ Newbern, Tennessee

Schedule Of Services:

| | | |
|--------------------|------------|------------------------|
| Lord's Day: | 9:45 a.m. | Bible Study (All ages) |
| | 10:20 a.m. | Morning Worship |
| | 6:00 p.m. | Evening Worship |
| Wednesday: | 7:00 p.m. | Bible Study |

Our Elders:

Johnie Dodds
Harry Elliott
Austin Willis

Our Deacons:

Danny Carpenter
Wayne Hulme
Tommy Sawyers

Our Preacher: T. Sean Sullivan

The Gospel Plan

HEAR THE GOSPEL MESSAGE Romans 10:11-16

BELIEVE IT !!! Romans 10:17; Hebrews 11:6

REPENT—CHANGE Luke 13:3; 2 Peter 3:9

OPENLY CONFESS—JESUS IS THE SON OF GOD

Romans 10:8-10; Acts 8:37

BE BAPTIZED—FOR REMISSION OF YOUR SINS

Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38-39; 1 Peter 3:21

LIVE ON FAITHFULLY Hebrews 10:35-39 I Peter 1:6-9

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The Main Street Church of Christ

Messenger

1 Thessalonians 1:6-8

Being Careful Not to Hinder

Introduction:

Our work is the cause of Christ. Saving souls is the business of the church. We are to evangelize, which is to sound forth the gospel to reach lost souls and we are to edify, which is to strengthen the souls who obey.

There have been different climates for the gospel over the years. There have been easier times and more difficult times for the gospel to effect people. Today is a seemingly more difficult time to reach the souls of the lost. We have our work cut out for us and we need to all the focus we can muster. There are some things that we need to be aware of that will hinder others from obeying the truth—things that we must be careful to never do. Let's open our Bibles and consider how we can avoid being a hindrance to others.

Inconsistent Living Hinders

One of the most negative influences is inconsistency in the lives of those who call themselves members. We all should know that others are watching and judging. We should all know, "Do as I say, not as I do" will never work.

Our conduct always matters (Colossians 4:5; Ephesians 4:17-24). We have a responsibility to demonstrate God's will. In Romans 12:2 we are told that our actions are proof, when it

Vol. Six Issue Three (A) March 07, 2010

says, “...that you may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God.” We are “proving” these facts to others outside of Christ. If we live as we should, we prove the ability for others to do the same. But the opposite is also very true; when we fail to live as we should we prove that God’s will is not livable. Why should anyone make extra effort toward something that you prove cannot be done?

The great danger is when others see our improper actions and blaspheme God and His plan—Christianity (Romans 2:17-24).

Prejudice Hinders

Since I was a child I have heard the Parable of the Sower used to proclaim the fact that we are to be “Seed Sowers” and not “Soil inspectors” (Matthew 13:3-9; 18-23). Everyone who has a soul needs salvation and everyone alive has a soul (Mark 16:15-16—every [human]). We can hinder the truth from some souls if we begin to set our own standard of worthiness. When the truth is barred from some because of prejudices we fail in our role before God as His link in this community.

We need provide the opportunity of hope freely; some of the most unlikely people have become Christians even in our modern history. What about this picture from the scriptures? Who would have chose a religious gathering of another faith to proclaim the truth of hope? (Acts 2:22-42)—people of other faith need truth. Who would have chosen a renowned sorcerer like Simon to become a believer? (Acts 8:9-12)—people of different backgrounds need truth. Who would have chosen one who had a powerful position to be a seeker? (Acts 8:26-29)—all people, regardless of their position in this life, need truth. Who would have chosen Saul of Tarsus to be a convert? (Acts 9:1-18)—even our enemies need truth. We are the only hope for this community to hear the gospel—let’s not be prejudice about sharing the message—all people, even ourselves, require forgiveness.

A Closed Mouth Hinders

We need to be willing to tell others about Jesus. The great commission calls for Christians to sound forth the gospel to oth-

ers (Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-16). We are perpetuating the echo of the gospel, first sounded forth by the apostles in the first century. When we fail to proclaim Jesus we hinder others from obedience.

Who else will tell them what they need to hear? We have the words of Jesus—the words of eternal life (John 6:68). We know what they need to know (Romans 1:16-18). We all know people who have not yet obeyed the gospel: family and friends (Acts 10:24-27) and everyone else (Mark 16:15-16). You may be surprised to know who has been waiting for you to share your source of love, joy, and peace (Galatians 5:22-25)

Conclusion:

Our work is the cause of Christ. Saving souls is the business of the church. We are to evangelize: Sound forth the gospel to reach lost souls. We are to edify: Strengthen the souls who obey.

Today we are living in a difficult climate for the gospel. The needs of the soul are not high on many people’s lists. Knowing this, we must be careful not to drive anyone away.

We will be effective, we have the gospel power. We will be effective when demonstrate proper living, demonstrate a willingness to share our hope, and actually begin to tell others—we will grow.

Are you a Christian today? The opportunity is yours to hear, believe, and obey the gospel right now. ~tss
