

Announcements & Prayer Requests

- Let's keep the following in our prayers:
 - Jimmy Woodall—electrical cardioversion scheduled for 7-24
 - Carol Jarabek—suffering from kidney stone(s)
 - Kim Self has stomach ulcers and weekly Chemo treatments
 - Angie Self has arthritis and Parkinson's—slowly improving
 - Joann Larkin had advanced dementia
 - Barb Agee's son (James)
 - Bernida Wolfe's father has dementia and Parkinson's
 - Bernida's friend (Esther Fletcher)—brain surgery was successful
 - Rick Parks' father has prostate cancer
 - Terri's cousin (Becky) has colon cancer
 - Jimmy Woodall's sister has cancer
 - Sandra Perez's uncle has stage 4 cancer
 - Joel Perez's mom (burns on leg) doing much better

Sermon Notes



CHURCH OF CHRIST

Invitation

'Therefore, go into the highways, and as many as you find, invite to the wedding.' – Mt. 22:9

Address

5080 Highway 70 East
Rockwood, TN 37854

Assembly Times

Sunday Bible Study – 10:00 AM
Sunday Worship – 11:00 AM

Please text/email any announcements, questions, or concerns to Bill Fix, (865) 934-9239 or *fix.bill@gmail.com*



<https://www.facebook.com/ChurchofChristRockwoodTN>

July 12, 2020

We extend a warm welcome to all our visitors and members. If you have any questions or need any assistance, please let one of us know.

Adult Bible Class – Gal. 6:2ff

Sermon Topic – The Impact of Love toward Others

Memory verse:

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom,
And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding. – *Prov. 9:10*

Who Cares?

By Dan S. Shipley

Did you ever think about who turns out the lights and locks the doors at the church building? It may seem a small thing, but it could create some problems if no one did it. The point is, **someone** accepts the responsibility that most members give very little thought to. The same could be said of cleaning and maintaining the building, parking lot, lawn, etc. Usually, some few willing souls will volunteer their services — and most others are perfectly willing to let them. Many Christians simply do not relate themselves to such work, and worse, may not appreciate those who do. But, in the absence of paid janitors and yardmen, why is any one member any more or less responsible than any other? What if no members cared about the appearance of a dirty building, or a weed-filled lawn or broken windows? Such neglect would soon become embarrassingly apparent.

On the other hand, other and more serious neglect is not so apparent. Take, for instance, the erring brother. Whose responsibility is he? Who cares? Must he finally embarrass the church like an unpainted door or a broken window to merit attention? God says, “you who are spiritual restore such a one” (Gal. 6:1). As none will admit to **not** being spiritual, that makes the erring member the business of **every** member! When Christians are motivated by genuine love and concern for each other; when they have the same care one for another (1 Cor. 12:25); and when each looks to the needs of others (Phil. 2:4), little time will be wasted in trying to figure out who has to go and help “save a soul from death” (Jms. 5:20). What if no one in the whole church cared about the weak brother? It’s bad when Christians don’t care about unkempt meeting places, but it’s far worse when they neglect the erring brother, one for whose sake Christ died.

Equally important is the responsibility **every** Christian has in regard to teaching the lost. The **faithful** are to be able to teach others (2 Tim. 2:2). All are to be ready always to give answer concerning their hope (1 Pet. 3:15). To that extent they can teach others how to gain such hope. When the early Christians were scattered abroad, they went about preaching the word (Acts 8:4). Unscattered Christians can and should do the same. Paul writes of how most of the Roman brethren were bold to speak the word of God without fear (Phil. 1:14). The world urgently needs such bold brethren speaking that same word today! But who will do it? Those who turn out the light and lock the doors? Only those who preach from pulpits? God looks to His people—**all** of His people—to help others in the way of salvation. The blessings of truth and salvation are not to be hoarded, but

shared—else, we risk losing them. Jesus came to seek and save the lost (Lk. 19:10). How can His followers **not** be interested and involved in the same work? How can they **not** care?

Shunned and shifted responsibility has hurt the Lord's church immeasurably. The slothful spirit of “doing as little as you can get by with” may suit the world, but it is grossly inappropriate for those who care—and those who have been blessed with God’s best.

Fixating on What’s Important: Wisdom

By Bill Fix

The other day, my son asked what wisdom was, and I explained to him the difference between knowledge and wisdom. That distinction might be deep for a six-year-old, but I know he at least understood how to use his knowledge to protect himself from harm—like not touching a hot stove.

Sometimes though, we often do stupid things when we should know better. And since I just mentioned the hot stove, I can remember my older brother (who was in high school at the time) burning his hand because he touched multiple burners on the stove “to find out which one was hot...” Too often, we hear about people today getting mixed up in illegal drugs, alcoholism, prescription drug abuse, extramarital affairs, domestic violence, and various other ill-advised decisions when they “should know better.” Or maybe it’s less egregious activities—like gossip, envy, white lies, or a lack of love toward others. The fact is we all know better—we just fail to exercise sound judgment and wisdom at times.

When James cautions us that “to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin” (Jm. 4:17), it is a strong warning that **failing to exercise wisdom is sin**. And this warning follows another admonition about making plans without considering God: “Come now, you who say, ‘Today or tomorrow, we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit’; whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away. Instead, you ought to say, ‘If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that.’” (Jm. 4:13-15).

We should exercise patience in all facets of our lives. Doing so will give us more time to think, helping us better apply our knowledge to whatever situation we’re in—thus exercising wisdom. “But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing. If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.” (Jm. 1:4-5).