

Announcements & Prayer Requests

- Let's keep the following in our prayers:
 - Olive Hall, Bernida Wolf, and Jimmy Woodall, who all have suffered recent losses of loved ones
 - Kim Self: Cancer and stomach ulcers
 - Angie Self: Arthritis and Parkinson's
 - Joann Larkin: Advanced dementia
 - Barb Agee's son (James)
 - Rick Parks' parents: Roy has prostate cancer; Helen has dementia
 - Jimmy Woodall's sister: Cancer
 - Dorothy Macon, Sandra Perez's grandmother: Dementia
 - Frank Wineinger, Sandra Perez's uncle: Stage 4 cancer

THE GOSPEL PLAN OF SALVATION

- Hear Gospel – Rom. 10:17; Acts 8:30-31
- Believe – Heb. 11:6; Mk. 16:16
- Repent of & Turn from Sins – Acts 2:38; 17:30
- Confess our Faith – Rom. 10:10; Mt. 10:32
- Baptism – Acts 22:16; 1 Pet. 3:21
- Live Faithfully – Rev. 2:10

Let us draw near with a **true heart in full assurance of faith [Believe]**, having our **hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience [Repent]** and our **bodies washed with pure water [Baptism]**. Let us **hold fast the confession [Confess]** of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. And let us consider one another in order to **stir up love and good works**, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but **exhorting one another**, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching. – *Heb. 10:22-25*



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

www.hwy70church.com

February 7, 2021

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 – Legal Principles and the Bible:
Constitutional Authority v. Biblical Authority

Sermon Topic – 3 Things Sin Will Do...

The Ingredients of a 15-Minute Sermon

By Dennis Gullege (GUARDIAN OF TRUTH, XL, Apr. 18, 1996)

Did you hear about the Baptist preacher recently who decided to cut his religious services down to 22 minutes and issued it as a challenge to see if people would be bold enough to "receive their religion in small doses." He wanted to do for his preaching what McDonalds has done for food—make it fast! What this preacher proposes is nothing new, and he certainly is right up there with some of our brethren in his fascination for brevity.

The length of a sermon is purely a subjective matter. There is no right or wrong as to the time involved. The personal preferences of people get involved and everybody has his opinion about it. As far as opinions go one is about as good as another. It isn't as though I haven't given serious consideration to the ingredient of such, and here are my conclusions:

1. Leave out a lot of Scripture. Keep "opening and alleging;" preaching the Word, quoting and reading to a minimum.
2. Dispense with heartfelt appeals for lost souls.
3. Don't study.
4. Eliminate applications from Bible passages that might fit our time and situations in life. It might take a few minutes.
5. Quit calling them sermons and call them "nice little talks," or better yet, "sermonettes."
6. Forget boldness in the pulpit—you might be prompted to linger.
7. Never condemn sin! There is too much of that to deal with. For the sake of brevity, you may just have to ignore it.
8. Minimize any concern for the disobedient and wayward persons in your audience. You might shed too many tears privately and too many words publicly in trying to reach them. And besides, people will be too busy studying their watches to hear what is said anyway.
9. Leave out any treatment of issues troubling the church. You might be perceived as being "negative," and you might get bogged down in warning people.
10. Just have something to say instead of something you have to say. Try to squelch any feelings of earnestness about your task. Just get the job done quickly!

This is what I would have to recommend to my preaching brethren if they are to learn the art of the 15-minute sermon. However, it appears that many of them caught on years ago when you consider some of the ingredients above. All in all, it appears that more is left out of the sermon than put into it.

Bill's Notes on a 15-Minute Sermon...

By Bill Fix

I'm not sure that anyone would accuse me of trying to get by with a 15-minute sermon—it seems most of mine clock in at 30-35 minutes. But aside from how much time elapses during a lesson, I think the author's points are well taken. Do the sermons you hear (from me or anyone else) rely on Scripture for authority? Is there an application or takeaway that helps us put the lesson in context with our own spiritual lives? Is the message something we *need* to hear?

Should I fail to adequately preach the truth and make it meaningful, please let me know. We strive to be more like **2 Tim. 4:2** ("Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.") than **Is. 30:10** ("Speak to us smooth things, prophesy deceits.").

Fixating on What's Important: *Happiness*

By Rebecca Fix

In the Declaration of Independence, Thomas Jefferson asserted that we all are endowed by our Creator with certain unalienable rights that include Life, Liberty and the **pursuit of Happiness**. Such a "pursuit of Happiness" did not guarantee happiness to all mankind; instead, Jefferson believed we were created with the ability to practice or experience happiness, and that opportunity shouldn't be stripped away by government. Seeking happiness and obtaining happiness are two different ideas. To pursue happiness is not a mission but an unalienable right. We should not TRY to be happy, but ACTUALLY be happy.

The Bible discusses finding joy or happiness at length. We all go through difficult times, and sometimes our world feels like it's been turned upside down. But, are we looking at the bigger picture or are we focusing on the small details that really don't matter? Jesus tells us in Jn. 10:10 that the "thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly." Whenever we feel down, we should remind ourselves of the eternal happiness that we have in Christ.

James 1:2-4 tells us that we should consider it all joy when troubles come our way because such testing of our faith is an opportunity to grow. These tests produce patience and endurance in us, helping us to be complete. We all have times where we feel down, but happiness is a mindset. Wake up every day telling yourself that you WILL be happy today and why. If need be, "count your blessings," starting with your job (some people are unemployed or unable to work), your home (some people are homeless), your health (many people are in worse health than you), and your loved ones (some people don't have family, friends, and Christian brethren who care about them). Spiritual/eternal blessings include your Savior, your promise of heaven, and the fact that God knows our needs and will take care of us (Mt. 6:25-34).