

## Announcements & Prayer Requests

- Please keep the following in our prayers:
  - Helen Parks, Rick's mother, passed away last week
  - Tom Hall: awaiting diagnosis on broken bone in foot and/or blocked artery in leg
  - Bernida Wolfe: cirrhosis
  - Kim Self: Cancer and stomach ulcers
  - Angie Self: Arthritis and Parkinson's
  - Tom Hall's mother in critical care following hip surgery
  - Darrell Austin's mother on hospice
  - Roy Parks, Rick's father: prostate cancer
  - Joann Larkin: Advanced dementia
  - Barb Agee's son (James)
  - 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](mailto:fix.bill@gmail.com)

[www.hwy70church.com](http://www.hwy70church.com)

## May 2, 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:  
Mens Rea/Intent

**Sermon Topic** – Take Heed...

# Assuming the Better

By Robert F. Turner (PLAIN TALK, March 1973)

Those who have made a study of such matters tell us that we tend to measure up to what certain peers expect of us. If those to whom we look as leaders or models indicate their high hopes for us, we strive to meet those goals. If they indicate a lack of trust in us, a feeling that we will fail, we may lose confidence in ourselves—and fail. I do not believe man is completely programmed by his environment, but it takes a lot of inner strength—built-in character available to those who look to God for the standard of integrity and righteousness (Prov. 11:3-6)—to buck the predictions of failure and succeed in spite of the gloomy odds against us. Sinful man must be encouraged to believe that he is made in God's image, and is capable of living to the glory of God.

The Hebrew writer recognized this principle, for throughout an epistle directed to backsliders, that necessitated many warnings of failure and of its dire results, he repeatedly **encouraged**. They were brethren with Christ, and in Him could be glorified (2:10-13). They were partakers of the heavenly calling (3:1). God's oath and promise offered them strong consolation (6:17-20). And after a direful warning he reminded them of past successes (10:31-f) and says, "But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition, but of them that believe to the saving of the soul."

The back-slappers have stretched this principle to include insincere compliments—**using** us (and our pride) to accomplish their ends. They would palaver us into doing their bidding or buying their products. By the same reasoning some would rule out all negative teaching and correction—including the Apostle Paul's, I suppose. Such maneuvering we abhor.

But elders, preachers, and parents (to name a few) may do a gross injustice to those who look to them for guidance, by failing to properly encourage. Must we always assume the very worst? Love thinks no evil (1 Cor. 13:5-6), but tends to place the best possible interpretation on matters. It most assuredly rejoices not in iniquity. (Think that one over!) Lawlessness calls forth sadness, compassion, a desire to help, on the part of those who love.

Some much-needed teaching re: the church, creedalism, fellowship, and many other subjects, has been ineffective and is rejected, because the teachers assumed a superior attitude and spoke or wrote as **though they did not expect the message to be heeded**. We do not advocate a Pollyanna, head-in-the-clouds attitude. Rather, suggest it is very realistic to expect that brethren in Christ really want to do what is right. True, many

are cumbered with traditional concepts, and may have a somewhat sectarian view of the church. But this is rarely by choice. They have inherited such error, over a period of years, and the surgery must be done with TLC and consideration. It is a fair assumption that genuine saints **desire** to be rid of all human error.

So, think positively! Warn in hope! Let your speech be seasoned with salt! Fight sin because you love the sinner!

## And Jesus Said, "What?"

By Robert F. Turner (PLAIN TALK, July 1980)

The following was found among the graffiti on a wall at St. John's University: "And Jesus said unto them, 'Who do you say that I am?' And they replied, 'You are the eschatological manifestation of the ground of our being, the kerygma in which we find the ultimate meaning of our interpersonal relationship.' And Jesus said: 'What?'"

Commenting upon the above, Bill Love (Christian Appeal) wrote, "*Jesus did not talk in the code language of a third-year seminarian because he cared too much for... people. He spoke in parables because he came to confront the pride of man with the love of God; he wanted both to bless the 'poor in spirit' and to confuse those who were inflated with religious and intellectual pride.... Jesus set forth the deepest truths about God and man in seemingly simple stories about a young runaway and his father, about a poor woman searching for her lost coin, and about a farmer sowing a field... Those who are as unpretentious and receptive as children will see God in these stories; those who are full of their own achievement will 'go empty away'.*" Are you unsophisticated enough to grasp that?

Paul wrote, "Not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble are called" (the last two words being supplied in K.J., 1 Cor. 1:26). McKnight suggests the supplied words should be "call you," referring to the "earthen vessel" character of the callers (preachers) rather than to those who heeded. God chose not the learned and noble of this world as messengers; but humble, lowly men, whom He then equipped with His Spirit so that the glory might be of God and not of man (2 Cor. 4:7). This does fit the immediate context of 1 Cor. 1 and 2:1-f. Either way, it isn't difficult to imagine the perplexity of an early saint, should he hear the religious jargon, the human philosophy, or even the social announcements that come from pulpits of our day. With a puzzled look he might well say, "What?"

When we have filled ourselves with the content of God's message; when "Christ, Son of God" says "Savior," and means exactly what it says; then plain gospel truth will be enough.