

of the Way. Ananias was afraid of Saul because he had heard of the deeds, which Saul had done, but God said, "Go." It is unlikely we will suffer physical persecution of the sort Ananias feared, but for some reason we are still afraid to go.

Another feeble excuse given by some is that they do not have enough time. This cannot be accepted either. God made the day to be twenty-four hours long, and every man has the same time allotment. We find in Acts 18 that Aquila and Pricilla were tent makers, but found time to teach Appollos and others about their Redeemer. If they were able to make tents by hand and still teach the gospel, why is it that we cannot fit one study into our schedule?

There are other excuses that we use, but the bottom line is that God will not accept any of them. We are the earthen vessels that carry the Word of power to other men (II Corinthians 4:7). It is a fact that when opportunity meets ability, the result is responsibility. We need to quit trying to avoid the obligation we have, and make time to teach others. Imagine the person you think would have been a great Christian in hell saying, "You never mentioned Him to me." Now, go teach him!

The Faithful Christian Will bear fruit

By James Farris

FROM the very early accounts of biblical history, God has called for His people to "Be thou holy for I am holy" (Lev. 19:22). The principle then has been given that God has always wanted His people to be like Him. The Christian will do well to contemplate what an honor it is to be God's child (1 Jn. 3:1). Since the child of God should resemble the Father, it is necessary to notice that the characteristic of faithfulness is ascribed

to God in both the Old and New Testaments. Moses said "He is God, the faithful, who keeps covenants and mercy for one thousand generations...." (Deut. 7:9). Paul told Timothy that God "cannot deny Himself" (2 Tim. 2:13). Our God then is one who keeps promises and is faithful to us. Obviously then we should be what He wants us to be concerning our own spiritual faithfulness.

In the context of the work of the church, each Christian has to answer a very personal question: "Am I as faithful as God would desire me to be?" In considering our own biblical faithfulness, there are varied degrees of faith the Bible discusses.

There is a vain faith. Vain is defined as empty or worthless. Paul discusses that faith can be made void or vain when one fails to hold fast to the memory and truth of the gospel (1 Cor. 15:2).

There is a dead faith. James discusses those who claim to be faithful individuals but who will not present their faith in the actions of helping another. "Even so faith, if it hath not works is dead, being alone" (Jas. 2:17).

There is a little faith. In Matthew 14:31 Jesus remarked to the doubting apostles just following a terrible storm at sea, "Oh thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?"

There is a great faith. Paul told the Thessalonian brethren that he always remembered their "work of faith and labor of love" (1 Thess. 1:3).

Biblically, the mention of vain, dead or little faith is spoken of negatively in the New Testament. Such a faith does not allow ones fullest potential in Christ to be obtained. The only reasonable alternative is that God's children should have great faith like the Thessalonians. We should desire this goal.

In this great faith we will see our influence spreading quickly throughout the world. The world will be unable to deny the faith of God's people who share this common bond. Paul spoke of the Romans as having a faith that was known through the entire world (Rom. 1:8).

If the church is to thrive then all members must understand that there is a great work for the church to do. We all have this in common. God is to be glorified and there are souls to rescue and save. It is not reasonable to conclude that a body of such far-reaching magnitude can survive, as it must without making some efforts to grow. Let us faithfully bear precious fruit for Jesus today.

Heartland Herald

1899 Saint Joseph St.
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Heartland church of Christ

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Evangelist

Michael Demory

Ministers

All members of the church

Schedule of Services

Sunday—9:30am
Wednesday—7:00pm

Evangelistic Efforts

Dubuque Advertiser

TV Program

"The Bible Says"

Public Access
Cable Channel 16

Free Bible Studies

Steps to Salvation

- Hear the Word (Romans 10:17)
- Believe (Hebrews 11:6)
- Repent (Luke 13:3)
- Confess Christ (Matthew 10:32-33)
- Baptism (1 Peter 3:21)
- Faithful Living (Revelation 2:10; 1 Corinthians 15:58)
- Bearing fruit (Colossians 1:10)

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Heartland Herald

Practicing 1st Century Christianity in the 21st Century

Website: www.dbqheartlandcoc.org

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Gospel Meeting

From God or From Men?

Guest Speaker: Ed Stover
From Edgewood, Texas



Questions will be taken from the audience each night after the lesson to discuss any topic that relates to what has been taught, as well as any other Bible related question. "Come, let's reason together" (Isaiah 1:18)

Sunday Evening 7pm

Authority In Religion
Monday 7pm

The church of Christ
Tuesday 7pm

The churches Worship
Wednesday 7pm

The churches Mission
Thursday 7pm

The Plan of Salvation

Sunday June 6th—Thursday June 10th

Remember in Prayer

Special Prayers

Brett Boor—open heart surgery (June 9)
 Mya Kulle - a tumor that turned out to be a cyst
 The Success of Our upcoming Gospel Meeting
 Kristy Farr
 Jo Gordon
 Ruby Bagwell
 Scharles & Graham Ballard
 Preston Estes family
 Our new evangelism effort
 Lilly Rucker & family
 Lyra Grochmal (7 yrs)—spine cancer— more tumors

are growing
 Laurie Davis—Multiple Sclerosis
 Yolanda Ritchwood—M.S.
 Natalie Bauman—M.S.
 Wade Miller—diabetes
 Susan Noel— that she studies to understand God
 Russell Bender— that he studies to understand God
 Freeman Dudley—liver cancer
 Kaiser family
 Eric Boor—blood disease
 Rockfalls church of Christ
 TV Program
 State of our Nation
 The closing of Planned Parenthood
 The church
 The erring & the Lost

Military

Jonathan Duckstein—Afghanistan
 Michael Chlamon—Ft. Drum, NY
 Daniel Heflin—Afghanistan
 Jason Cunningham—Stateside
 Jon McCain—Tech Training
 Military families who are coping while loved ones in harms way

Evangelizing the World

Garret Derouin—Webster, Wisc.
 Scott Nedland—Rice Lake, Wisc.
 Brian Sherrell—Rockfalls, IL.
 Bernie Guzman—Philippines
 Robert Lukenbill—Newton, Iowa

Johnny Robertson— Martinsville, Vir
 James Oldfield—Riedsville, NC
 Derrick Brown —Jamaica
 Gary Workman—Ukraine
 Kolakaluri Prasad—Nalgonda, Dist., India
 G. Prabhu Kumar—Chennai, India
 John O’Neal—India & Ghana
 Tom Wacaster—India & Russia
 Holger Neubauer—South Haven, Michigan
 Ernie Lawrence—Hutto, Texas

Calendar of Events

- **June 1-2**—Edit new program @ Mediacom 1-5pm
- **June 6-10**—Gospel Meeting; Dubuque, IA
- **July**—County Fair Booth
- **August/2nd week**—Power Lectures—Southaven, MS
- **Sept/3rd week**—St. Louis Lectures
- **October 18-21**—Lectureship—Dubuque, IA

“We Have Been to The Temple”

By Johnny Ramsey

as the one mentioned in Jeremiah 7. The place isn’t holy but the events are! I am also personally confident that the tragic results of Jeremiah’s day are being repeated in our own era, too.

Perhaps the following questions will help us decide if we have truly worshipped or if we have merely been to the meetinghouse!

After the Assembly:

*Do I truly feel nearer to heaven?
 Do I love the Lord and His church more?
 Am I more determined to teach others of the ONE true way?
 Is my love for the brethren stronger?
 Am I more forgiving?
 Am I more determined to purge my sinfulness?
 Do I now look forward eagerly to the next assembly?
 Have I begun to partake of the peace passing understanding?
 Is there any urgency within to share my joy with others?
 Am I determined to improve my participation in the worship?
 Am I looking for work that needs to be done for the Lord?*

The Scriptures point out that uplifting, spiritual homage, devotion and praise are calculated to produce such noble aspirations. But, it is apparent that we are not deriving such rich benefits from our periods of public worship today.

Every congregation, for instance, has a lot more worshippers than workers! Actually, just as in Jeremiah’s day, we can let assembly worship hinder us unless we practice what we preach (Phil. 1:27). When we “rest our case” upon the subtle idea: “We have been to the building” or “I never miss a service,” notwithstanding, our lives remain unchanged, we have actually become hypocrites of the deepest dye.

Does worshipping help or hinder you? True worship was designed for the purpose of drawing us nearer to our Maker, that we might draw others to Him. How many souls have you saved as a result of your worship? Personal worship will result in personal evangelism. Isaiah’s individual communion with God caused him to volunteer for service (Isa. 6:8). The best soul winners I have known keep in close touch with Jehovah.

Indeed, the most wonderful motivation for Christians comes from soul-stirring, Bible-centered, God-ordained worship. May we always avail ourselves of every opportunity to grow spiritually thereby. The results of such occasions will shake the earth. Souls by the thousands will be redeemed. Our own existence will be doubly enriched. And, on the other shore, we shall be better prepared to join in the eternal adoration of our Father.

Beloved brethren, do we really worship? Or, have we just been to the temple?

You Never Mentioned Him to Me

By Sam Dilbeck

Is there someone you know who would make a great Christian? It could be a relative, coworker, friend or schoolmate. The point is that everyone knows someone who would make an outstanding servant of the Lord. The question that we really need to be asking is: Have you approached this person with the gospel? If we really think that they would be

great in His service, why have we not tried to teach them the gospel of our Lord?

Many times in our lives we give up chances to share the gospel message. Solomon wrote about missed opportunities in Ecclesiastes 11:1,4, “*Cast thy bread upon the waters; for thou shalt find it after many days. He that observeth the wind shall not sow; and he that regardeth the clouds shall not reap.*” In verse one, Solomon is saying that when occasions arise to do something, do it. “*Cast thy bread*” has reference to the sowing of grain. The “*waters*” are the rainwaters, which have not receded from the ground yet. Solomon says to plant the seed even though the floodwaters still cover the ground, for it will produce.

Then in verse four, Solomon describes the man who makes excuses for not planting. This person “*observeth the wind,*” meaning that it is too windy to plant. This man may say that it looks like rain because he has “*regardeth the clouds.*” Thus, he makes excuses over the smallest things and will never be able to plant his seed.

Today, the seed is the Word of God (Luke 8:11), and the field is the world of souls. As Christians, we are sowers of the Word of God (Matthew 20:18-20, Mark 16:15 and Romans 1:14-16), and God expects us to plant the seed. Often, however, we pass up the opportunity to teach someone about Jesus Christ. Maybe we do not realize that we will be held accountable for our forsaken responsibilities. The opportunity was pointed out by Christ as being fields “*white unto harvest*” (John 4:35). The opportunities combine with our abilities as Christians to produce responsibility. Sometimes we have the audacity to try and make excuses for not going into the field to sow.

What are some reasons for not going into the fields? One reason might be fear. Sometimes we are afraid that the person we approach will laugh at us, or slam the door in our face. It could be that we are afraid to jeopardize our relationship. Maybe we are afraid that they will ask us a question that we do not know. Fear is not a reason to abandon the work of the Lord. Consider Ananias in Acts 9. He was called by God to go and help Saul of Tarsus, a Pharisee that was a known persecutor

IN Jeremiah, chapter seven, we have one of the most vivid pictures of degradation in Jewish history. We have therein one of the major weaknesses of God’s people that culminated in the seventy years of captivity down in Babylon. Because their decline in Jehovah’s favor so closely parallels one of our paramount problems today, we deem this lesson from “the weeping prophet” an absolute “must” for Christians. What is this common spiritual tragedy? **WORSHIP THAT DOES NOT HAVE THE NEEDED RESULT!**

Jeremiah, God’s voice to the people, strongly denounced the elect who put more trust in the temple than in Who was there and what transpired there. Instead of showing the fruit of transformed, spiritual lives in the vineyard of God, they could only reply incessantly: “*This is the temple of God*” (Jer. 7:4). The Creator challenged their minds by virtually asking: “*What good has it done you to come to the temple for worship? You still live as before; you still reject My counsel.*” And, then, in an indirect, scathing rebuke to Zion, He tells Jeremiah to abstain from praying for folk who are so steeped in sin. Temple worship had not benefited those people. They had been to the Temple – but what happened there did not phase them.

Yes, we are about to draw a parallel. It is true that God no longer “*dwells in temples made with hands*” (Acts 7:48). Anywhere and anytime a person worships “*In spirit and in truth*” (Jn. 4:24), Jehovah, hears. But, the church is the temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 3). Therefore, when the church assembles for worship (Heb. 10:25; Matt. 18:20) we have the same general situation