

Upcoming Events...

Galatians Class: Every Thursday at 1:00 p.m.
Barnabas Group Meeting: April 24

The Greatest Commandment

“And He said to him, ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the great and foremost commandment.” Matthew 22:37-38

Do I believe it? Is this my attitude? Do I show it by my actions?

April Birthdays

1 Daniel McKnight 11 Dolly Cashion 23 Shannon Hudson
3 Amanda Hoffman 16 Alana Hudson 26 Stori Rose Hoffman
6 Susan Hudson 17 Belva Meanor

April Anniversaries

19 Bill & Kena Brown

Regular Meeting Times

Sunday.....9:45 a.m.
Sunday.....10:45 a.m.
Sunday.....6:00 p.m.
Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.

Preacher:
Mike McKnight

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Practice what you Preach!

By Roy A. Crutcher

We have all heard the old saying, "Practice what you preach." But, do we always do it? I heard someone say, recently, "Why is it that we practice a lot of religion, but not much Christianity?" As unfortunate as it is, the reason many people may be rejecting Christianity is because they are seeing too much "religion" and not enough "Christianity." What does this mean? Religion is defined as " a personal or institutionalized system grounded in such belief and worship...". "Grounded" is a key word here. If one is not well-grounded and not firmly committed, then it is very likely that one will not practice what he preaches. Perhaps this can be best explained by looking at a passage of scripture. James, in 1:27, uses the words, "*Pure and undefiled religion.*" This is an indication that one's religion could be defiled or impure rather than pure and undefiled. In this case, one is not likely to practice what he preaches. He may "spout" a lot of scripture and doctrinal concepts, but have a lifestyle that is totally inconsistent with those principles.

Christianity is defined as, "The Christian religion, founded on the life and teachings of Jesus." If one's religion is in Christianity, then one must preach/ teach those standards that were taught and practiced by Jesus Christ and his disciples. If one does teach these things, then he should also "practice what he preaches." When someone speaks of seeing too much religion and not enough Christianity, he is saying that he sees people who make the claim of being a Christian, but who do not practice what Christianity teaches. May God help us all to strive to not only know the teachings of Christ, but to reenact those very same teachings in our own lives by "practicing what we preach."

Making it Personal

By Dan Jenkins

One of the problems every Christian faces is to read the Bible and then feel a sense of personal obligation to take those words and make them part of life. It's the same problem faced by a school teacher who tells her students, "Sometime today we need to make sure that we clean this room and get all the scraps of paper off the floor." The students look around, they see the trash and while they know what the teacher wants to be done, they simply get lost in the crowd. Perhaps unconsciously they think it will just happen.

How many sermons have we heard about specific actions the Lord wants to happen and we acknowledge that changes need to be made, but the urgency of feeling a personal obligation is lost because we think of the teaching in a much broader scope? Let me suggest something which might help change all of this.

When the apostles heard Jesus' words about taking the gospel into all the world, think of how some might have reacted. Since Peter, James and John were closer to the Lord than Bartholomew or Thaddeus, these "lesser-known apostles" could have stepped back into the shadows of the "greater" apostles. They could have thought that those other men were far more talented and that they had heard Jesus say things to them when the other apostles were not around. The work needed to be done and it would have been so easy just to let those more qualified do the work. The truth is that the Great Commission was not just given to Peter, James and John!

How could 21st-century "Bartholomews" make this commission a personal one if we had lived in the first century? Here's one way. Just imagine that all of the other apostles were not there and Jesus had said these words only to me, a "Bartholomew". Do I think I would have felt a personal responsibility? The obligation would have been overwhelming. Had he/I ignored the Great Commission, the coming of Jesus would have been for naught! But if Bartholomew had the right to ignore it as part of the group, so did all the rest. Jesus' final words were intended to be

personal! The lack of talent or self-esteem of any individual did not remove that individual's personal obligation.

So let's take time today to think about ourselves and our personal responsibility to honor His last words. By the way, both of these apostles evidently took His words personally. Tradition tells us that Bartholomew preached in India, Arabia and Armenia. He died after being beaten with rods, scourged and beheaded. Thaddeus preached in Syria, Iran and Egypt and died by crucifixion. They took that commission personally. How seriously do we feel a personal obligation to tell others?

How Great is Our Love?

By Tim Dooley

We hear a lot about the greatest command (Matthew 22:37-38). We sing about it, pray about it, and preach about it. Yet it seems that few Christians really practice it. Selfishness, envy, pride, arrogance, vengeance, laziness, and indifference abound even among those who claim to be children of God.

Paul warns those who have been grafted into the vine to not be high minded and think that they cannot also be removed (Romans 11). We need to not think of ourselves more highly than we ought to think, but to be living sacrifices (Romans 12:3). Paul wanted all men to be saved and if that meant he would be lost so they all would be saved, then so be it (Romans 9:3).

Thanks be to God that Christ paid that price for us so that we could be saved. *"Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God"* (Romans 11:22) Love good, hate evil, be kind, be busy, be joyful, be patient, pray, give, be hospitable, bless, and overcome evil with good. Being a Christian and going to heaven is not a passive pursuit. Be obedient, be active, love, and be faithful!

"For through the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith." Romans 12:3