

Upcoming Events...
Galatians Class: Every Thursday at 1:00 p.m.
Barnabas Group Meeting: June 26

What Does God Require of Us?

“He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?” Micah 6:8

June Birthdays

9 Debbie Pescador 12 Celina Perales

June Anniversaries

5 Kurt & Debbie Hoffman 9 Sue Tanner
11 Marcos & Celina Perales

July Birthdays

22 Morgie McKnight 30 Willie Henderson

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The Christian Filter

By Robert Guinn

“Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things,” (Phil. 4:8).

Is it True? The mind of a Christian is to be rooted in truth. If an action is deceptive in its presentation or design, it should be avoided and not dwelt upon. Remember, sin promises pleasure, but it is a passing pleasure which deceives many (Heb. 3:13, 11:25). How much time is spent worrying over things which are not true? Much anxiety is brought on by suspicion and false conclusion.

Is it Noble or Honorable? When you turn on the television, read headlines in the newspaper, or read articles on the internet, do they tend to focus on the shallow, cheap, pointless, reckless, and malicious deeds of the world? Yet, Christian minds are to be centered on respectable and dignified matters. Our actions should literally command a sense of respect.

Is it Just? A Christian is one that desires to do the right thing. The essence of their being is captured in the idea of not rejoicing in wrongdoing or unrighteousness but in what is true and just (1 Cor. 13:6). If the action, thought, and/or moment promotes injustice, Christians are exhorted to shun such behavior and handle the situation in an appropriate manner.

Is it Pure? Christians should be concerned with what is morally right. God’s people are to be holy, for He is holy (1 Peter 1:16). Those that are pure see things purely, but, to those who are defiled, nothing is pure (Titus 1:15). The Christian’s inward being is to be focused on the pure, bringing them closer to God (Matt. 5:8).

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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Is it Lovely? Our actions and thoughts are to be friendly and acceptable. These actions and thoughts call out love from one person to the next. This implies the idea of eliminating personal agendas bent on vengeance, bitterness, or harm to others. Rather than causing resentment, the Christian desires to instill charity, gentleness, and patience within their fellow man.

Is it Commendable or of Good Report? A Christian's actions and thoughts are those which can be spoken well of. Not just in how they are viewed by others, but, rather, they consider if they could entertain such an action or thought in the presence of the Lord. Would you feel comfortable doing this knowing the Lord is watching? Be honest. Things need to be considered praiseworthy and excellent.

Do our actions and thoughts pass the Christian filter test?

Stop Signs

By Ron Adams

Two very true statements: (1) Stop signs don't stop cars. (2) God's laws don't stop sin.

Laws are not designed to stop lawlessness. They only specify what is forbidden. It's the driver who either obeys or disobeys stop signs. And it's the individual who obeys or disobeys God's commandments.

The driver must deal with the consequences of disobeying stop signs. And the individual must deal with the eternal consequences of disobeying God's "stop signs."

Ignoring a stop sign may not always result in a serious consequence, but disobeying God's commandments will certainly incur consequences. Sometimes in this life, but definitely in the judgment.

"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad." 2 Corinthians 5:10

"He who rejects Me and does not receive My sayings, has one who judges him; the word I spoke is what will judge him at the last day." John 12:48

LESSON: Obey stop signs to avoid serious problems. Obey God's commandments to avoid eternal consequences.

Have You Earned Your Place in Heaven?

By Steve Higginbotham

After making a whopping \$50 million donation to a gun control initiative, and because of his work against obesity and smoking, former New York City Mayor, Michael Bloomberg was quoted as saying: "I am telling you, if there is a God, when I get to heaven I'm not stopping to be interviewed. I am heading straight in...I have earned my place in heaven. It's not even close."

How does that sound to you? Presumptuous? Arrogant? The very idea that Mr. Bloomberg could think he could "buy" his way into heaven must be offensive to God. How less offensive is it when we believe and act like we can earn our way into heaven by...

- Going to church three times a week.
- Reading our Bibles daily.
- Giving generously each first day of the week.
- Helping the poor.
- Being a good father/mother/husband/wife, son/daughter.

The above list could go on and on. Do we, along with Mr. Bloomberg need to be reminded that after all we could possibly do, we are still unprofitable servants (Luke 17:10)? Do we also need to be reminded that our righteousness, the best we can offer, is as filthy rags to God (Isaiah 64:6)?

You see, Heaven isn't a matter of attainment, it's a matter of atonement. If we're in Heaven someday, it won't be because we earned it. It won't be because we wowed God with our own morality and righteousness. And it won't be because God's indebted to us. On the contrary, it will be because we're indebted to him! (And completely dependent on the grace and mercy of God...JB)