

Upcoming Events...

Business Meeting: Today at 4:30 p.m. Note the time!

Ladies Bible Class: Next Sunday, November 20 at 4:00 p.m.

Evangelism Class: Friday, 11/18 at 7:00 p.m. at McKnight home.

Barnabas Group Meeting: Tuesday, 11/29 at 7:00 p.m. at McKnight home.

Read through the Bible in 2016!

Suggested chapters to read so that we might read through the entire Bible during 2016! **This week's "schedule":**

- **Day 312** - Matthew 25 Monday
- **Day 313** - Matthew 26; Mark 14 Tuesday
- **Day 314** - Luke 22; John 13 Wednesday
- **Day 315** - John 14-17 Thursday
- **Day 316** - Matthew 27; Mark 15 Friday
- **Day 317** - Luke 23; John 18-19 Saturday
- **Day 318** - Matthew 28; Mark 16 Sunday

November Birthdays

6 Ashley Tanner 10 Daniel Brown
21 Garroll White 27 Lupita Guzman

November Anniversaries

2 Shannon & Susan Hudson

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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Leaning, But Still a Light!

By Lance Cordle

Along the sidewalk at the back of our house are two rows of solar-powered lights, mounted on sharply pointed stakes that have been driven into the ground. During the day they soak up energy for the sun and store it. When darkness falls, the lights come on and shine through most of the night and then go off at daylight so they can repeat the cycle. Sometimes the lights are low or do not stay on very long because of less exposure to the sun, but most of the time, they do well, allowing those who walk the path to do so safely.

The winter has softened the ground, however and the stakes holding the lights have begun to lean. Repeated rains as well as drifts of snow and ice have contributed to the lights being pushed over. Walking down the path one morning, several minutes before sunrise, I noticed the light at the end of the sidewalk leaning, nearly touching the ground.

As I observed this interesting circumstance, I thought how life sometimes seems to shove us over and we are left "leaning," but our "light" is still shining (Matthew 5:14). These scenarios have crossed my mind since that observation in the early morning hours:

- Some people are leaning because economic troubles and disasters have taken a toll on them. They just can't seem to significantly increase their income. They move forward, believing that God will continue to take care of them and provide their necessities as they put him first (Matthew 6:33).

- Some people are leaning because of health issues. Whether by accident, disease, or just bad genes, they find themselves struggling physically. Medications and minimal activity seem to be their lot. However, physical illness in a Christian is just an opportunity for God to show his strength in our life (2 Corinthians 12:10). They move forward, strengthened by God.

- Some people find themselves leaning because of old age. They don't stand as tall, jump as high, or run as fast as they did when they were young. They may feel out of place or unneeded in their family and in the church. They move forward, relying on the Bible, which says, *"The glory of young men is their strength, but the splendor of old men is their gray hair"* (Proverbs 20:29, ESV).

- Some people are leaning because life has beaten them down. The enemy of God has used people and circumstances to wear them down, and to move them to wonder whether it is worth it to go on and remain true to the Lord. They move forward, bruised but determined. They may be struggling, but they are still on the Lord's side. They trust in God's word, which says, *"they who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not grow weary; they shall walk and not faint"* (Isaiah 40:31, ESV).

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)

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 we feel comfortable doing this knowing the Lord is watching? Be honest. Things need to be considered praise-worthy and excellent.

Do our actions and thoughts pass the Christian filter test?