

*Thanks to our Speaker
Mike Odorizzi*

Scripture Reading

Matthew 7:21-23

“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter. Many will say to Me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?’ And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; leave Me, you who practice lawlessness.’”

April Birthdays

3 Amanda Hoffman 6 Susan Hudson 16 Alana Hudson
23 Shannon Hudson 26 Stori Rose Hoffman

April Anniversaries

19 Bill & Kena Brown

May Birthdays

2 Peggy Woodruff 15 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.

Temporary Meeting Times

Sunday.....10:00 a.m.
Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.

Preacher:
(Vacant)

Church of Christ

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Evidences of Christians

By Dan Jenkins

Words obviously have definitions and it is important to use words with a full understanding of what each word means. One of the problems which has led to religious division is a failure to define words of the New Testament as they were used in the first century. One would never come to the conclusion that sprinkling is baptism if we understood that the word “baptism” in the first century always meant “to dip, to submerge.”

I recall years ago when knocking doors in New Zealand that we asked the man who came to the door what he was religiously. He knew he was something but had no idea what he was. So, he shouted out to his wife and asked her what he was. In the broadest sense, he might have said he was a Christian, but had no idea beyond that.

New Zealand was an amazing place in so many ways. They viewed themselves as being a Christian nation, but only 3% of the people regularly went to worship. Obviously almost no one in there sang praises to God. Few of them had Bibles and even fewer read the Bible regularly. Their absence from assemblies meant they rarely gave anything to God. The Lord’s Supper was rarely observed. There was little evidence in their lives of Christ, yet they saw themselves as a Christian nation.

If a doctor has no office, has no patients, prescribes no medicine, diagnoses no illness, does no medical exams, and receives no pay, is he a doctor? Whenever he has stopped doing those things which doctors do, he is no longer a doctor.

If a farmer plows no land, buys no seed, plants no crops, feeds no animals, never harvests anything, is he a farmer? Whenever he has stopped doing those things which farmers do, he is no longer a farmer.

Now make the spiritual application of this principle. If a Christian stops attending worship, sings no hymns of praise, never bows his head to pray with others, never gives, never reads the Bible, never sits in Bible classes or hears sermons, is he a Christian? Whenever he has stopped doing those things which Christians do, he is no longer a Christian.

Let me make this same point in another way. Suppose our government were overthrown and all Christians were put on trial. Those found guilty were immediately slain. If this were to happen, would there be enough evidence to convict us? Think about this, what evidence is there to those around you that I am a Christian? If Christianity were outlawed, would I be alive or dead.

Remember the words of Jesus: *“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father.”* Do others know that I am a Christian?

Crises Reveal Our Character

By Joe Chesser

What would we do if we were fired from our job and put in prison because our employer's wife told horrible lies about us?

What would we do if we had run for our life because we helped defend a neighbor from an injustice?

What would we do if we were offered something we greatly desired but knew was illegal and life-threatening to obtain?

What would we do if suddenly we discovered that all that we had believed in the past was not true, and instead of serving God we were actually fighting Him?

What would we do if we were offered a considerable amount of money to betray a friend?

What would we do if we found out that the woman to whom we were engaged became pregnant before the wedding, and we knew it wasn't our child?

These are not hypothetical questions. They really happened, and the answers to these questions reveal the type of character each person possessed at the time the crisis occurred. We can probably identify each of the people in the above scenarios: Joseph (Jacob's son), Moses, Eve, Paul, Judas, and Joseph (and Mary). Some of them faced the crisis with faith and resolve and withstood the challenge. Others failed. But what these examples teach us is that when crises occur, our character will be revealed.

All of us have faced and will continue to face many challenges in our lives. They may be strong temptations; they may be difficult choices; they may be heart-breaking health issues. And many of our crises are not personally our own – they may involve our spouse, parents, children, family or friends. Still, they are heavy burdens.

As we reflect back on 2020, it's easy to see that there were countless crises that shaped, molded and revealed our character. Not much we can do about them now except to determine that in 2021 we will learn from our mistakes and enhance our strengths.

How we handle crises reveals who we really are. It also reveals how we have prepared for the inevitable challenges. We may not know exactly the kind of crises that may be coming in 2021, but they will come. How we prepare today for them will determine how these crises affect us. Roy Disney once said, “When your values are clear to you, making decisions becomes easier.” Our three basic optional responses to crises are: 1) Joseph was able to overcome the crisis with Potiphar's wife because he had already established his values, even as a teenager; 2) Moses overcame a poor decision by developing spiritually while in the wilderness; 3) Judas allowed his crisis to destroy him.

What will 2021 reveal about our character?