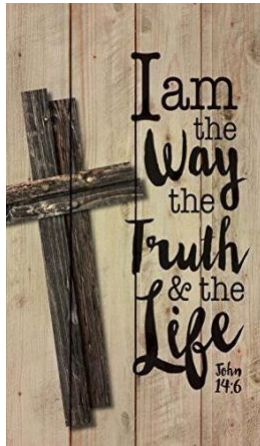


Announcements

Business Meeting: Today at 2:30 p.m.



September Birthdays

11 Marie Burruss 15 Marcos Perales 16 Jim Burruss
30 Dortha Gentry 30 Kurt Hoffman

Regular Meeting Times

Sunday.....9:45 a.m.

Sunday.....10:45 a.m.

Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.

Website:

indiochurchofchrist.com

Preacher:

Jack Critchfield

Church of Christ

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“A Workman Who Does Not Need to Be Ashamed”

By Bruce Evans



Standing before the congregation, he began to present the sermon he had prepared. He was clearly uncomfortable as preaching was not his forte, he was merely helping out. Rarely did he wear a tie or sport coat. He looked down at his hands, which were cracked and calloused from work. Some dirt could be seen under the tips of his fingernails, he dug into his pocket and pulled out a pocketknife, with which he began to clean under his fingernails. His wife, sitting among members of the congregation was mortified at what he was doing. Without missing a beat, he kept on preaching. The sermon presented that day was from the heart and no doubt touched the hearts of many of those who heard his words.

“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, handling accurately the word of truth.” (2Timothy 2:15) The man in the real-life example noted above, expressed he was embarrassed and apologized to all who spoke to him afterward that he was a “simple man who works with my hands”. No apology was necessary, he spoke truth from God’s word. Far and away too many in the Lord’s church find excuse after excuse for not stepping forward and embracing the task at hand.

Could it be said of the apostles that they were viewed as being “accomplished”? One was a tax collector, another described as a zealot and the remainder for the most part were fishermen. However, none of that mattered in the final analysis. Paul labored as a tentmaker when the need arose. He even went so far as to say in 1Corinthians chapter two that he did not have superiority of speech, and that when he was with them it was *“in weakness and in fear and in much trembling.”* What these men had was a burning desire to spread the message of the gospel. Perhaps best summed up by Paul in 1Corinthians 9:16. *“For if I preach the gospel, I have nothing to boast of, for I am under compulsion; for woe is me if I do not preach the gospel.”*

How many times have we sung the hymn “I Want to Be A Worker For The Lord”? The next time we sing it, consider carefully the lyrics and what we are professing. There are many facets of work within the kingdom of Christ. All of which is *“for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ.”* (Ephesians 4:12)

In Romans, chapter twelve, Paul lays out a beautiful portrait of one in service to the cause of Christ. Take some time and read over verses four through fifteen notice the various tasks of service one can embrace. As a workman, never be ashamed in the noble task of service.

Truth Is Narrow

Mike Johnson

Truth is narrow. This concept is easy to see, and most people understand it. Consider an illustration from science. We know under ordinary conditions, water freezes at 32 degrees at sea level. Suppose a scientist says, “I am very broad in my scientific beliefs. I am not one of you scientific bigots who insist water freezes at just 32 degrees, and all who think differently are wrong. Just so people are sincere; it does not matter what their view is about the point when water freezes.”

The above attitude would be considered nonsense in science, with no one taking such a person seriously. Yet, views thought ludicrous in other fields are perfectly acceptable in religion. This is because the attitude exists that truth is relative, and it does not matter what one believes, providing that sincerity exists. People, according to many, can believe what they want to about the Bible without any adverse consequences.

With the Bible, as in other fields, truth is narrow, and we must strictly adhere to its teachings. II John 9 points out that if people do not abide in the doctrine, or teaching, of Christ, they do not have God. Jesus reveals, “. . . *Every plant which my heavenly Father hath not planted shall be rooted up*” (Matthew 15:13). In this passage, He is discussing the hypocritical Pharisees who also engaged in false teaching. The writer of Hebrews makes it clear that salvation is only for those who obey the Lord (Hebrews 5:9). The way to heaven is even described as “narrow” or “restricted,” while the road to hell is called the “broad” way (Matthew 7:13-14).

When it comes to God’s Word, truth is essential. Only “truth” can set us free from sin (John 8:32). It does matter what one believes, teaches, and practices!

Andy Rooney

Rooneyisms - Too good not to share!!

- I've learned.... That the best classroom in the world is at the feet of an elderly person.
- I've learned.... That when you're in love, it shows.
- I've learned.... That just one person saying to me, 'You've made my day!' makes my day.
- I've learned.... That I can always pray for someone when I don't have the strength to help him in some other way.
- I've learned.... That we should be glad God doesn't give us everything we ask for.
- I've learned.... That to ignore the facts does not change the facts.