

Attention!

**GOSPEL MEETING BEGINS!
Welcome Danny Linden and family!**

Thanks for all who helped prepare for the meeting!

“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. The second is like it, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’” Matthew 22:37-39

October Birthdays
28 Allan Brown

November Birthdays
10 Daniel Brown

November Anniversaries
2 Shannon & Susan Hudson

Regular Meeting Times

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

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Practice What You Preach

By Mike Riley

Practice what you preach! Christ as the master teacher (John 3:2) taught his disciples not only by word but by example (John 13:15). He demonstrated by His living how they should live before their heavenly Father. After washing the disciples’ feet (John 13:3-5), Christ explained to them the spiritual “benefits” of serving others (John 13:14-17). In fact, true happiness cannot be attained in any other way. What will bring true happiness in time will also bring it into eternity (Matthew 6:19-21; 1 Tim. 6:17-19). The principle of helping those who are spiritually weak (Romans 14:1; 1 Thessalonians 5:14), of weeping with those that weep (Romans 12:15), of encouraging the lowly (Luke 6:20; Gal. 2:10) and encouraging the sinful to sin no more (John 8:11), is the essential and fundamental spirit of our Lord. To cultivate the spirit and practice of doing good to others (Matthew 5:44; Acts 10:38) is the work that fits mortals for that eternal heavenly home (Colossians 1:4-5; 1 Peter 1:4).

To understand the importance of learning to practice what we preach, British-born American writer Edgar A. Guest wrote the following words:

*“I’d rather see a sermon than hear one any day,
I’d rather one should walk with me than merely show the way.
The eye’s a better pupil and more willing than the ear;
Fine counsel is confusing, but example’s always clear;
And the best of all preachers are the men who live their creeds,
For to see the good in action is what everybody needs.
I can soon learn how to do it if you’ll let me see it done.
I can watch your hands in action, but your tongue too fast may run.*

*And the lectures you deliver may be very wise and true;
But I'd rather get my lesson by observing what you do.
For I may misunderstand you and the high advice you give,
But there's no misunderstanding how you act and how you live."*

As the master teacher, Jesus not only "told" but provided the perfect example (Hebrews 4:15; 1 Peter 2:21-22; 1 John 2:6) of how we as God's children should live before our heavenly Father and fellow man. This same principle of "practice what you preach" was demonstrated in Paul's and Peter's life (2 Corinthians 5:15; Gal. 2:20; 1 Peter 4:1-2). Faithful Christians are to provide the proper spiritual "example" before men by the lives they lead (Matthew 5:16; Philippians 2:14-16; 1 Peter 2:12).

In our everyday living, what kind of spiritual "sermon" are we preaching before others?

Whom Do You Trust?

By Bill Brandstatter

There are times in our lives when we must trust other people. As a small child, I trusted my parents to provide for my needs. When I started working, I trusted my employer to give me a paycheck. When I have medical needs, I trust a health care professional. Sometimes, I may question a decision that is made. I might decide not to take a recommended procedure. I might decide to refuse treatment; but, ultimately, I have to put my trust in someone else.

What about our spirituality? I must trust what God says. I might not like what He says. I may decide not to do what He says; but, ultimately, we will all stand before Him (2 Corinthians 5:10). We will be judged by what we knew and what we obeyed (John 12:48). Many people trust themselves for spirituality. They make up their own rules and ideas about what it means to be spiritual. Often those ideas are far from God's. The apostle Paul described some who "*became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened*" (Romans 1:21). He also mentioned that they did not like to retain God in their knowledge (Romans 1:28).

I must trust God for any information about heaven. God is the source of all information about Himself, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, Christianity, Heaven, and Hell. God says not everyone is going to heaven (Matthew 7:21-24). God says just professing Him won't get a person to heaven (Matthew 7:21). God indicates that just prayer won't save (John 9:21; Isaiah 59:1,2). God tells us that baptism is a must to be saved (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; 1 Peter 3:21). God tells us that baptism is a burial (Romans 6:3). In whom do we place our trust regarding these matters?

Am I a Lighthouse?

By Ed Wittlif

"Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven" (Matthew 5:16).

Before radar and global positioning satellites, lighthouses were positioned to guide sailors past dangers to safe haven. Lighthouses go back to ancient times. Being a lighthouse keeper was a very responsible position and it required a trustworthy man to serve as one.

In the darkness, light serves as a guide and also reveals reality. Even during the day, we live in a world of darkness. The vast majority stumble about in darkness, not seeing the reality of God and sin.

Jesus tells us that those who follow Him are the light of the world (Matthew 5:14). We serve to point out the dangers of unbelief in God and disobedience to God. We also serve as guides to leading people to God.

Jesus says that if our light is hidden, it serves no purpose. If the lighthouse keepers had covered their lights, lives would have perished. We must be active in this dark world. People need to see that God is real and is shown to be what He is through our behavior and words. People need to learn that God is loving and that He cares. But they also must learn that God has standards that will not be put aside.