

Thank you, Collin McMasters...
...for being our speaker for today!

August Birthdays

1 Paige Cree
12 Debbie Hoffman
16 Nick Hoffman
27 Isaiah Diaz

"Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation."

1 Peter 2:12

Regular Meeting Times

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

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*"Trust in the Lord with all
your heart and do not lean on
your own understanding."*

Proverb 3:5

- ***"Fight the good fight"***
- ***"Keep the faith"***
- ***"Finish the course"***

The Power of Influence

By David Padfield

Webster defines the word influence as "the power of persons or things to affect others, seen only in its effects." Though the word influence is only found one time in the King James Version, its meaning is on every page.

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus tells his disciples that they are the "*salt of the earth*" (Matt. 5:13-16). There are many interesting things you can say about this figure of speech. Salt is totally worthless while sitting on a shelf, it has to be applied. Salt can also lose its "saltiness." When it loses its power to flavor, it is good for nothing and must be discarded.

Paul told the brethren at Corinth they were an "*epistle of Christ known and read by all men*" (2 Cor. 3:1-3). Whether we like it or not, every Christian is an advertisement for Christ. It is rather scary to think the honor of Christ is in the hands of his disciples. Men of the world will judge Christ by the character of his followers.

Have you ever considered what type of an advertisement you are? One of our songs suggests that "We are the only Bible the careless world will read, We are the sinners gospel,

we are the scoffers creed, We are the Lord's last message,
given in deed and word, What if the type is crooked? What
if the print is blurred?"

Much of the book of Proverbs is devoted to warning young men about their choosing their companions. *"He who walks with wise men will be wise, but the companion of fools will be destroyed"* (Prov. 13:20).

The majority of worldly people will pay very little attention to what we say, but our actions will always be scrutinized. When they think of our character and reputation, our actions will speak louder than our words.

Our oldest son has been deaf since birth. I have often been amazed at his ability to see through phony individuals. Though he can't always hear what people are saying, he is a pretty good judge of character. Several years ago a friend sent us this poem that I believe explains the situation very well. When you read the poem, think of how others view you.

*"Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young,
but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct,
in love, in faith and in purity."*

1 Timothy 4:12

Faith Cometh By Hearing

By David Hersey

According to the Bible, *"faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."* (Romans_10:17). Many who misunderstand faith believe it is merely a mental acknowledgment of one's belief in Jesus as the Son of God. But God's Word shows that faith is believing and heeding the information God has revealed. Because you believe this information, you are then inclined to follow the instructions that it presents.

Hebrews chapter 11 describes various actions individuals took by faith. When we examine these actions closely, we see that they were following instructions that were provided to them. They received information and then adhered to the instructions that came from it. As a result, they accomplished these acts by faith.

For instance, by faith, Moses forsook Egypt; he was instructed to do so. By faith, he kept the Passover, which he was also told to do. By faith, the Israelites passed through the Red Sea, following instructions they had received. And by faith, the walls of Jericho fell down, as they were told. None of these actions accomplished by faith would have resulted in the blessings they received if they had not heeded God's instructions. God provided them with information that included instructions to be followed. By faith they obeyed.

When you read your Bible and understand that faith refers to the information God has provided, complete with instructions, your understanding of faith will become much clearer. Notice that the gospel was made known to all nations for the obedience of faith (Romans 16:26), indicating that faith includes information accompanied by commandments we are expected to obey.