

# The Messenger



“... How beautiful are the feet of those who bring glad tidings of good things!” Romans 10:15

A Weekly Publication of the Christians Meeting at  
Westlake church of Christ, 2291 Highway Z, Wentzville, Missouri 63385

Website: [westlakechurchofchrist.org](http://westlakechurchofchrist.org)

Sunday: AM Bible Study – 9:30 a.m., AM Worship – 10:30 a.m., PM Worship – 5:00 p.m.; Wednesday: PM Bible Study 7:30 p.m.

*Dedicated to the Proclamation of the Truth in the Spirit of Love (Ephesians 4:15)*

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Listen to PROVE ALL THINGS on 730 AM WKRE, Sunday mornings from 8:15 to 8:30

## Mediocrity

*by Darrell Hymel*

One of the saddest things I witnessed while teaching school for several years was to see a young person who was full of ability, be satisfied with a “C”. It was not the grade of the pupil that mattered, it was simply the fact that he had settled for less than his best. Mediocrity is the state or quality of being neither good nor very bad, common place, average, ordinary.

If a person is average because of heredity or environmental factors, that is one thing, but if he is average because he is satisfied with being average, ordinary or common place, that is all together something else.

The menace of mediocrity in the church is very real and a frightening thing. Many Christians see only monotony tomorrow because they have chosen mediocrity today. One who stagnates in mediocrity will have only hopeless depression in the future. A joyless life awaits a Christian who does not approach the goal set before him with vigor. “To him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin” (James 4:17). When we become self-satisfied and do not improve and grow as Christians, we have become lukewarm and ready to be spewed out of our Savior’s mouth (Rev. 3:16).

Mediocrity must have very great appeal, otherwise, how could we explain its overwhelming existence among men. From the high school student and store clerk, to the elders and preachers of the gospel, mediocrity is a disease which robs men of their salvation and dries up the harvest of lost souls. But being mediocre means being accepted. As long as we are satisfying the expectations of the norm, we not only do not rock the boat of social acceptance, but feel content and comfortable with ourselves.

Too long, we as Christians have measured ourselves by ourselves. We readily pat ourselves on the back for a job well done when really we are living lives of mediocrity. The church at Laodicea well illustrated the sin of mediocrity with their complete self-satisfaction. They said, “I am rich and increased with goods and have need of nothing”, but Jesus said, “Thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked” (Rev. 3:17). Jesus was ready to spew them out of his mouth because of their lukewarmness (Mediocrity) but they were satisfied because they were accepted and comfortable in their own eyes.

Like many students in high school, we have become satisfied with being “C” average Christians. We do what we think we need to do to be “accepted by a local church and that is our standard. We come to services a certain number of times a week, give a certain percentage of our income, make a visit to the hospital when a close friend is there, and that is the commitment we make. That is all that is demanded of us to be accepted as “faithful” Christians. That is all we need to do to be average. After all, we think, a mediocre Christian is better than not being a Christian at all! We become legally and morally “good” and relax in mediocrity.

There is just one big thing wrong. We can go to Acts 2:38 to back up our baptism as being right. We can go to Eph. 4:4 to show that there is but one church. But we cannot find one passage in all the Bible that says a mediocre Christian can go to heaven. We are not talking about a man with few talents as being mediocre, but about those who are self-satisfied with halfhearted effort and sacrifice.

Where can any room for mediocrity be found in the following passages: (Luke 14:25-26; Matt. 6:33; Luke 13:24; Gal. 2:20, Rom. 12:1)? We have been called with a high and holy calling. We have not been called to fill a pew, to give a percentage of our income, to sing and pray, BUT TO BE CONFORMED TO THE IMAGE OF GOD’S SON (Rom. 8:28-29). Any goal short of this will lead to mediocrity and spiritual death. The reason so few reach spiritual maturity is because they set their goals by the average church member, and not by the son of God himself. With God, “C” is not a passing grade. We must not imitate the majority of students, we must imitate the TEACHER!

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## **News and Notes:**

Remember to check the prayer list for those with ongoing spiritual weaknesses and physical illnesses.

*“...Pray for one another...The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.” James 5:16*

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