

The Messenger



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

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Westlake church of Christ, 2291 Highway Z, Wentzville, Missouri 63385

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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

We Can't Make it Alone

by Jesse LaRue

“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” These were Jesus’ words as He hung upon the cross (Matt. 27:46). He felt more alone at this one moment than He had ever felt during his life on earth. At this point He was cut off from the Father for the first time, all because of our sin. This had to be the most painful experience of the cross – more painful than the nails – for Jesus was so incredibly close to His Father, leaning upon Him for His every need.

As humans, we sometimes feel this way as well. When hard times come and you think that things can't get any worse, they do. And situations don't seem to get any easier as we age either. I think the problem lies mostly in our attitudes. We like to think that we can handle things on our own. We want to rely on our wisdom and strength to get us through the tough times. If only we would take the example of Jesus and rely on our Father for every need, then I believe that our burdens would be lifted and things would not seem quite so hard.

Don't think for a second that Abraham, Moses, David, Elijah, Peter, Paul, and all the other great men of faith did not rely soely on God for their strength to get them through tough times. If these men couldn't do it alone, and if Jesus couldn't do it alone, surely we need the Father as well.

We must rely on God as our Creator, Provider, and Advisor. We must rely on Him for our every need, wisdom, and guidance. It is God who is in control and not us. God cares for us and we must realize how small we are in the world, yet how important our souls are to Him. We should pray without ceasing (I Thess. 5:17) and pray fervently (Acts 12:5) while never doubting the power of prayer (James 5:13-18).

The good news is that we don't have to live alone. We have our Almighty God and Father to help us through each day. By the way, how long has it been since you knelt in prayer and gave your hardships to Him? *Err you left your room this morning; did you think to pray?*

Special People

by Rickie Jenkins

Christians are described as a special, peculiar, royal, and holy people (I Peter 2:9). Each of these words describes something unique about us. Just what is it that makes us unique?

- Does our stand against institutionalism make us a special people?
- Does practicing immersion as opposed to sprinkling make us a peculiar people?
- Does partaking of the Lord's Supper the first day of each week make us a royal people?
- Does the fact that we can take the truth and refute denominationalism make us a holy people?

Have you ever thought that we can do each of these things in the right way and *still* be wrong? We can be wrong because we are not what we ought to be *inwardly*.

There is an emphasis through the Bible on *what manner of persons we ought to be*. When we talk about what we ought to be, we are not talking just about what we *do* but *who we are*, i.e., our character. We have spent, and rightfully so, much time teaching about what we need to do but have neglected what we ought to be. Therefore, is it any wonder that we sometimes find ourselves deficient in personal character? Is it any wonder we have an integrity crisis? Is it any wonder people have problems honoring covenants? Should we be surprised when there are difficulties arising from mistreatment of one another?

Moreover, it is common sense that most (if not all) sins of the flesh could be successfully solved by placing an emphasis on what we ought to be. Even if we did not have God's revealed will relating to specific sins, would it not naturally follow that if we are to be like Him, that such things as adultery and covetousness, etc., would be no problem? Would envy be a problem, or selfish ambition if each of us developed the mind-set of Christ?

"Christian" is not a term to be worn on a lapel. It describes people in relationships to Christ. Not only have they obeyed a particular form of doctrine (Rom. 6:17-18), but they are a particular kind of people (Titus 2:14) in their personal lives. They are a people who try to be like God and who seek to emulate Him in every action and attitude as they represent Christ to others (Phil. 3:12-14).

Yes, we may struggle with a weakness, ignorance or consequences of habits, but we discipline our will through Christ and thus find the desire to *do* right because we want to be right. In fact, if we will concentrate on being right, doing right will follow naturally. In other words, when we find out what God wills for us to do, doing it will not be a problem. "For it is God who works in you both to will and do for His good pleasure" (Phil. 2:13).

Be (and do) right!

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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