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# The Messenger



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

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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)*

Volume 14, Issue 44

Evangelist and Editor:

Dempsey Collins

Dec. 15, 2013

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

## How to Succeed at Griping Without Really Trying

by Ed O. Bragwell, Sr.

After several years of observing successful gripers, I have concluded that maybe I am qualified to offer some tips to those who might want to succeed in the art of griping. Here are some proven hints that I have collected (having learned them purely from observation, of course) which should make you the most successful griper in your congregation:

1. Learn as little as you can about the Bible. This will help you not to get too disturbed about such passages as: “*Neither murmur ye, as some of them murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer*” (I Cor. 10:10). Once that passage really gets to you, your griping days are over.
2. Learn to apply what you do know about the Bible only to the other person. This allows you to know enough about the Bible to answer some of the questions people might ask you – but allows you to still use all your faultfinding time on other people.
3. Do not get disturbed about sin among the members of the church. Do this and you can maintain a wide target area for your gripes. You can gripe about those who are concerned enough for the souls of men and women to “*rebuke them sharply that they may be sound in the faith*” (Titus 1:13). You may talk about how “hard” and “unchristian” the reproof is.
4. Accept no responsibility in carrying out the work of the church. It is much easier to gripe when you are sitting on the sidelines without any responsibility. You see, it kind of works like the old maid telling folks how to raise children.
5. Get as few facts as possible before passing judgment. Facts only serve to confuse and might even take away your old spunk to gripe. Let your motto be: “Speak now, think later.”
6. Feed regularly upon gossip. Never let a telephone ring pass without swallowing at least a mouthful of gossip. You will be surprised at how many big complaints you can make from the smallest morsel of gossip.

We suggest that you clip this handy reference and attach it to the side of your phone book, your TV Guide, or the outside cover of your Bible. Then it can be seen easily and often, and you can be assured of being a successful griper – without really trying.

# If You Died Tonight, Would You Go to Heaven?

*by Rogers Hillis*

Perhaps the most important question of your life is – If you died tonight, would you go to heaven? You need to know the answer to that question. “And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment” (Heb. 9:27). The Day of Judgment provides us with the incentive to make certain that we are living an acceptable life in the sight of God.

God has assured us that we will all eventually give an account of the things that we have done in this life. “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad” (II Cor. 5:10).

The apostle Paul knew, as he approached his death, that he was prepared to meet the Lord. “For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day . . .” (I Tim. 4:6-8).

On the other hand, Felix, the Roman governor, knew that he was unprepared for death. “Now as he (Paul) reasoned about righteousness, self-control, and the judgment to come, Felix was afraid and answered, “Go away for now; when I have a convenient time I will call for you” (Acts 24:25). The reason for his frightened response? Felix knew he was not ready to face the judgment throne of Christ.

One of the most serious facts in the Bible is found in James 4:14: “Whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away.”

There is a great need for spiritual emphasis in your life. We cannot neglect God for an entire lifetime and then expect to reap the eternal reward of heaven. Do not neglect this most important matter.

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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*