

Times of Services

Sunday

9:00 a.m. Worship
10:00 a.m. Bible Study
11:00 a. m. Worship

Wednesday

7:00 p.m. Bible Study

Other Study and Worship Opportunities

- 2nd Sunday 2:00 p.m. Trinity Care Home Worship Service
- 2nd Saturday 6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study –Ranch House Restaurant
- 3rd Sunday Neighborhood Bible Study 6:00 p.m. (TBA)
- Young Bible Scholars monthly meeting (TBA)
- 5th Sunday Singing (TBA)

News and Notes

- **Home Bound Members:** Mike Butler, Eula Mae Harliss
- **Limited Health:** Joyce Manasco, Willena Woods, Wade & Doris McCrary
- **Others to remember:** Marion Butler, Steve Coburn, April Green, Kyle Green, Marilyn Lavender, Jim Ratcliff, David Allen Williams, Doris Young (Lynette Coburn's mother), Leo Briggs, grandson of Dan & Carol Briggs, Sara Williams, mother of Ed Williams, & Vickie Stevens (wife of Tim Stevens).
- **Prayer Requests:** Jerry Green's parents are battling major health issues. Jim King, brother-in-law to Vallie Gallop, is now undergoing cancer chemo treatments. Lee Gallop is recovering from knee replacement surgery. Mike Butler has been treated for lung and heart issues. Elbert Logan is recovering from surgery. Mike McCrary, son of Wade and Doris McCrary, is to have additional surgery as soon as his health will allow.

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Vol. 5 No. 2 February 4, 2018



East Columbus Bulletin

The Real Reason People Quit

We want to blame the elders, preacher, and church for our change of position in life, from either quitting the faith or changing to a different one all together, but in reality we have no one to blame but our self. When we drift from the Lord we do so because of our own carelessness and lack of commitment.

When Jesus analyzed the different reasons some discontinue their relationship with God, He gave two main causes: persecution and distraction (Mark 4:17-19). He compared the Word of God to a seed and the heart of men to soil, then said "these have no root, who believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away" (Luke 8:13). Not once did He place the blame on anyone else except the one who chooses to reject God's word. He viewed accountability as an individual matter (2 Cor. 5:10).

This is not to say people do not have a part in convincing us to change positions. Solomon is evidence of that; "pagan women caused even him to sin" (Neh. 13:26). Many a Christian woman and man have lost their way because of the corrupting

influence of an ungodly mate, or other family members and friends.

Likewise, the influence of some within churches have convinced people to reach the wrong conclusions (2 Tim. 2:18). The devil works through all sorts of mediums to sift us. Nevertheless, the real reason people quit the Lord remains the same: they lose their love for God. If they truly loved God they would not let anyone convince them to depart from the truth. Or as Jesus said, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word...He who does not love Me does not keep My words" (John 14:23-24).

Lest we forget, the Lord established only one faith for disciples to believe and practice (Eph. 4:4-6). We will either remain true to His way, His church, His plan of salvation, His definition of marriage and so forth, or we will not. There is no middle road in going to heaven. Jesus declared plainly, "He who is not with Me is against Me, and he who does not gather with Me scatters abroad" (Matt. 12:30). Quitting is no excuse.

Mike Thomas Standing Firm, Vol. 46, No. 8, Nov. 2015

Carefulness in speaking of God

"And so it was, after the Lord had spoken these words to Job, that the Lord said to Eliphaz the Temanite, 'My wrath is aroused against you and your two friends, for you have not spoken of Me what is right, as My servant Job has'" (Job 42:7).

Job's friends, who had presumed to speak on God's behalf, found themselves the object of God's wrath because, as He said, "You have not spoken of Me what is right." Speech is among the highest of our gifts as God's creatures, and it is a most serious thing to employ this gift in speaking about the Creator Himself. The gravity of saying anything untrue about God is such that it would be far better to remain silent than to speak in error. And yet, we often speak with shocking carelessness about God,

casually tossing around opinions about Him as if it were no more than a game. We speak of our Creator offhandedly.

As a writer, I write these very pages with an almost paralyzing sense of responsibility, a fear of misleading any reader. Solomon's reminder is never very far away from my consciousness: "In the multitude of words sin is not lacking, but he who restrains his lips is wise" (Proverbs 10:19). And then there is James's admonition: "So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak . . ." (James 1:19). The subject of God, of all the subjects in the world, is the one that deserves the greatest care and the greatest reverence from one who speaks or writes.

Computer programmers talk about "validating the input." Since the quality of a program's output depends on the accuracy of the input (garbage in, garbage out), it's always wise to validate the input, checking to make sure the information is as accurate as it was first thought to be. When the computer is our brain and the subject is God, can we not see how crucial it is to make sure our concepts are correct before we "output" them to others?

Just as it is possible for us to understand truth about God, it is possible for us to speak truth about Him. But we must be careful. Words about God have the power to uplift and to strengthen. But those words must be "acceptable words . . . words of truth" (Ecclesiastes 12:10). Words of truth. Nothing less must be our goal.

*Forge thy tongue on an anvil of truth,
And what flies up, though it be but a spark,
Shall have weight. (Pindar)*

Gary Henry, WordPoints Daily Devotionals, 4-8-08