

Northside Church of Christ

“God is a Spirit; and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.”
John 4:24



Proper Perspective

By Mike Riley

The way we view life makes all the difference in the world. We carve out for ourselves incentives and motivation from the structure of our conduct and existence. The apostle Paul cogently reminds us: “For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God” (Romans 8:6-7 KJV).

In Hebrews 5, the Lord reminds us that when we are not discerning or perceptive, we are shallow and useless in the cause of Christ. The ability to become ardent soldiers of the Lord, is based on our perspective for living. When we grovel in the gutter of sin and shame, we are worthless in the area of holiness and dedication.

A tombstone once stated:

“As fades the leaf and morning flower,
So fade our lives each passing hour.
As dews melt before the sun,
So pass our lives one by one.”

What we do in this life to prepare for eternity, is based upon our purpose and commitment now. The following simple formula for success really works. You can anything you want, provided you:

- 1) Know exactly what you want.
- 2) Want it hard enough.
- 3) Confidently expect to attain it.
- 4) Persistently determine to obtain it.
- 5) Are willing to pay the price of its attainment. Continued on next page ...

SUNDAY MORNING

Triple E
Edify, Exhort,
Evangelize
4 Square
8:30 AM

SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY

Hebrews
9:30 AM

SUNDAY WORSHIP

Worship Service
10:30 AM

WEDNESDAY NIGHT

Romans
7:00 PM



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“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”

2 Timothy 2:15

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Place Stamp Here

The Inequality of Life

By Mike Riley

The phrase, “It’s not fair,” is commonly heard among siblings when one perceives that an inequality has occurred. Why? Because we live in a society where life is often assessed in terms of fairness. Many folks are raised from childhood with the notion that things need to be “fair.” If you have a turn, then I must also have a turn. If you have two of something and I have none, then you must share with me. If you receive something, then I also am entitled to the same.

Such a crooked perspective parallels what is “fair” with what is equal. Such a correlation results from the forced “fairness” of a communist/socialist system. Fair and equal are not synonymous. In fact, forced “fairness” precipitates injustice, contempt and incivility.

One writer observed that “when fairness is forced, it will never be carried out with benevolence on the part of the one being stripped of his abundance, nor can it be received with thankfulness on the part of the one expecting legislated equality.”

Let’s recall the parable of the day laborers (Matthew 20:1-16), noting that some of the workers perceived that they were not being paid fairly. With the first who came, he had agreed “for a denarius a day” (Matthew 20:2). Those who were hired at the third, sixth and ninth hours were told, “whatever is right I will give you” (Matthew 20:4). And finally, those hired at the eleventh hour were told, “whatever is right you will receive” (Matthew 20:7).

When it came time to settle with the laborers, from the last hired through to the first, each one received a denarius for their work. And so it was, the cry “unfair” came from those who had worked from the morning till the evening. How could the landowner pay men a denarius who had worked only an hour? It was unfair!

Note the landowner’s words:

“Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius? Take what is yours and go your way. I wish to give to this last man the same as to you. Is it not lawful for me to do what I wish with my own things? Or is your eye evil because I am good?” (Matthew 20:13-15).

Again, consider the parable in which Jesus spoke of the prodigal son (Luke 15:11-32). This younger son had squandered his portion of his father’s goods. Finally, having been completely debased in the aftermath of his “riotous living,” he determined to return to his father. He thought that perhaps his father would take him back as a hired servant. Upon his return and penitent heart, his father dressed him in the best robe, put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet.

The fatted calf was killed, and a celebration ensued, for he said, “for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found” (Luke 15:24). But then comes the older brother, and what is his cry? “Unfair!” He then pleads his case before his father – how he’d always been obedient, unlike his brother – and yet not once had a celebration of this sort been given in his honor. His father responded, “It was right that we should make merry and be glad, for your brother was dead and is alive again, was lost and is found” (Luke 15:32).

What is the attitude that causes this cry of unfairness? Is it not covetousness? Is it not the desire to have what another has, and which we perceive we also should have? Paul identifies it as a form of idolatry (Colossians 3:5). The Hebrew writer cautions us, “Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. “For He Himself has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you” (Hebrews 13:5). Jesus spoke, “Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses” (Luke 12:15).

Oh, that we would learn to focus on the important matters in life, rather than stewing over its injustices, whether real or perceived. This writer is fully convinced that those who are perpetually and intently concentrating on their service to the Lord, will not concern themselves with such things.

Brethren, it matters not whether we are treated fairly, whether we receive our “fair share,” or whether things are “equal” in all circumstances. What will matter, when this temporal life is over, is how we served our God and fellow man (Matthew 22:37-39; cf. Romans 12:1-21).

Let’s face it — there are times when life is simply not fair. However, in eternity, God is perfectly fair. Let us then focus on God’s eternal justice — not fleeting injustices here on earth.

The reason over one million divorces occur each year in America, is that too many husbands and wives have totally different perspectives, goals and ambitions. People ought to iron out these matters prior to marriage. When a Christian marries a person of the world, a gigantic gap between the two automatically arises. Unequal yoking (2 Corinthians 6:14) in any are of life causes conflict. Proper values form the foundation of success.

Losing ourselves in God’s work is the key. Our perspective concerning why we are here on earth, will determine whether we are optimistic or pessimistic. Paul wrote, “I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me” (Philippians 4:13 KJV). But without the Savior, we can do nothing (John 15:1-5 KJV).

What the heavenly Father did for us, should cause us to bask in the light of the glory of Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17,21 KJV). Proper evaluation concerning truth and error naturally reminds us of Psalm 119:104 KJV, “Through thy precepts I get understanding, therefore, I hate every false way.”

May we ever have the desire to be so wise.

Announcements

- Fellowship meal, November 6th following morning worship
- Mens’ Business Meeting November 6th following meal
- Holiday Meal at Diamond Jim’s Meridian Dec. 20 @ 6pm
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Prayer Requests This Week

- Pray for all those with ongoing health ailments
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Communion Preparation

- October - Carlberg
- November - Callens
- December - Rowell

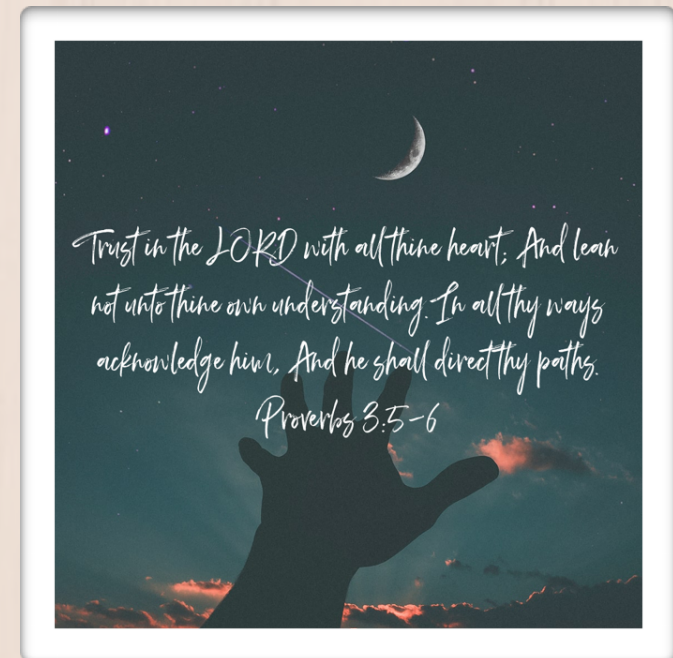
November Birthdays & Anniversary’s

- Laila McKenzie - 5th
- Cindy Littrell - 14th
- Marilyn Potts - 15th
- Ryan Joiner - 26th
- Margie Wooldridge - 30th

Every Sunday Morning

@ 8:00 AM

on WTOK-TV



Sermon Notes

Men to Serve

Announcements/Opening Prayer - Dwight Callens
 Scripture Reading - Proverbs 3:5 - 6
 Lead Singing - Chuck Rowell
 Head of Lord’s Table - Shay Cooper
 Assist on Lord’s Table - Camden Cooper
 Scripture Reading - Mark 14:17 - 25
 Closing Prayer - Don Potts

- Comcast Cable 6
- Comcast Cable 431
- Comcast Cable 1011
- DirecTV 11
- DirecTV 396
- Dish Network 11
- Over-the-air 11.3