

The Northwood Messenger

Telephone 205-339-6122

Sunday, December 25, 2011

www.justchristians.info

We Welcome Our Visitors

Visitors are a special part of our service and we are so glad to have you here today. Please take a moment to fill out a visitor's card and include any way that we may be of service to you.

Song Service Tonight

This evening we will have our monthly song service. Many of our members are traveling today, so all men who are willing to participate are asked to get with David Hartsell who will coordinate the service.

Special Wednesday Classes

This coming Wednesday is the appointed time for our Small Groups to gather to discuss any Small Group matters and to have a study from God's word. Remember, everyone will meet in the auditorium before breaking into the individual Small Groups.

Last Week's Attendance and Contribution

Sunday AM—148 Sunday PM—110

Contribution—\$3,272

Wednesday—105

Coming Clean with the Lord

Jason had misbehaved, so his mother sent him to his room. A short time later, he came out and said to his mother, "I've been thinking about what I did and I said a prayer." His mother, pleased with his attitude, encouraged his behavior. "That's wonderful. If you ask God to make you good, I know He will help you." "But I didn't ask Him to help me be good," Jason said. "I asked Him to help you put up with me."

Prayers like Jason's are not uncommon. We don't like to admit that we may be to blame for the problem, so we petition the Lord to change other people or our circumstances. In doing so, we focus on secondary problems and avoid the heart of the matter -- our own heart. Praying about our circumstances is effective only when we come clean with the Lord about our own sin. In David's prayer in Psalm 51, he first asked for mercy (v.1). Then he acknowledged his sin (v.3), asked for a clean heart (v.10), and asked for a restoration of the joy of his salvation (v.12). When David confessed the shameful deeds of adultery and murder (2 Samuel 11), he made no excuses.

God wants nothing less than our total honesty when we talk with Him. We may have to struggle with ourselves -- that kind of praying is not always comfortable -- but it's most profitable. -- Dennis DeHann

Reprinted from the New Georgia church of Christ website.

IGLESIA DE CRISTO

Lugar de reunion (4601 Northwood Estates Drive, Northport, AL 35476)

Para clases biblicas llamar al telefono. (205) 296-7208

Sergio Herrera: Siervo de Cristo Horario. Domingo. 2:30 a 4:30 pm.

Les invitamos a que vengan a escuchar la palabra de Dios en español. Tal vez usted ya sea religioso o tal vez no. Pero de todas maneras le invitamos a escuchar y a observar de cómo adoramos a Dios y como enseñamos la palabra. Y tal vez después de escuchar y meditar en esto, usted tenga alguna pregunta, sugerencia o comentario. Trataremos de escuchar con atención y respeto y contestar con la Biblia abierta con amor y humildad. TODOS SON BIENVENIDOS.

Our Humble King

Sunday	December
Song Leader	J. Huggins
Speaker @ Table	G. Mann
Lord's Supper	Wright
Assist	D. Smith
Assist	Richardson
Assist	B. Mann
Assist	Jf. Arrowood
Assist	Jolly
Prayer	Scheiner
Announce- ments	N. Huggins
Closing Prayer	M. Haley
Sunday	December 25
Song Leader	Singing
Prayer	Delk
Lord's Supper	Wright
Assist	D. Smith
Announce- ments	N. Huggins
Closing Prayer	Clanton
Wednesday	December 28
Song Leader	Holt
Invitation	Classes
Closing Prayer	Classes
Audio/Video	Clanton

Think back to when you first obeyed the gospel of Jesus Christ. Remember how you felt? Love, zeal, courage, commitment, obedience, and prayers all ran together to make you determine to follow Jesus wherever He led (I Pet.2:20-23). However, time did what it always does, passes quickly. Now you are older. While you still love and serve The Lord, a cooling of your zeal and dulling of desire for His word comforts you now. How can such a saint renew his loving commitment that once completely controlled his life? It all begins with going back to Christ and one's decision to imitate Jesus' life as best he can. Jesus perfectly exemplifies many wonderful Godly qualities. One in particular hovers above the rest, humility. Without humility one cannot become a disciple much less live fervently in faith throughout his life. Let's develop a better understanding of the humility that pervades the reign of our King Jesus Christ.

Who is Jesus of Nazareth? During His earthly existence many answers were offered: John the Baptist (Matt.14:1-2), a deceiver (Matt.27:63), a poor carpenter's son (Lk.4:22), or one of God's prophets (Matt.16:14). Many today acknowledge Him as a great religious teacher, but not a divine being. What did Jesus say about Himself? "He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, 'Show us the Father'?" (Jn.14:9) God's word verifies this truth. "He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation" (Col.1:15). Jesus was in the "form" of God but took the "form" of a servant when he came in the likeness of a man (Phil.2:6-7). The word "form" means the specific natural and the very essence of what it is compared to. Simply, Jesus is God who humbled Himself, not just to be a man, but a servant. At first, Jesus closest disciples didn't understand this truth but later they saw it clearly. The apostle John writes, "but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name (Jn.20:31).

Christians must strive to develop Jesus' humble spirit. "Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself" (Phil.2:3). When genuine humility dominates our lives human relationships drastically improve. Marriages, families, church leadership, and peace among brethren result from "esteeming others better than ourselves." One who never looks you in the eye and always seems to give in on every issue is not always humble. They could be insecure and fearful. The best definition of humility is submitting To God's Will (Jn.8:29).

Friend, Jesus could go no higher when He was in heaven; He was God! But Jesus, the Son of man, shows how to follow His Father's will in all things, especially the death of the cross (Phil.2:8). Each person must humbly bow to God through Jesus Christ because each one will stand before our Judge, Jesus Christ based on our earthly lives (2 Cor.5:10-11).

- DBH