



Contact Us:

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Meeting Times:

Sunday:

Bible Study9:45 AM
Worship10:40 AM
Care, Inc. Service 2:30 PM
Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday:

Ladies Bible Class.10:00 AM
Bible Study 7:00 PM

Elders:

Gene Bannister..... Billy Chism

Deacons:

Mike Bannister..... Don Smith

James Thomas

Preacher:

Johnny McCaghren

Works We Support:

Cherokee Home for Children
Gospel Broadcast Network
Heart of Texas Bible Camp (Bangs)
House to House, Heart to Heart
Mission Printing
Rohan Jones, Africa
The Truth in Love
World Bible School

Let us know if you want to study
the Bible to know more about
Christ and His Church.

Are We Writing Too Many Parking Tickets To Dead People?

It was a pleasant September day when a Los Angeles Country parking control officer found an illegally parked car on Piru Street. A motorist had wrongfully parked his Cadillac next to the curb on street-sweeping day. The officer walked up to the car, wrote a \$30 parking ticket, and – reaching through the open driver-side window – placed the ticket on the dashboard.

What the officer failed to notice was that the driver was still in the car – dead! The owner was sitting in the front seat with a bullet wound in the head.

And I wonder, **how often to Christians write parking tickets** (metaphorically speaking) **to people who obviously have a much bigger problem?**

How often do we condemn the symptom rather than the actual illness? When we strongly criticize non-Christians for homosexual practice, adultery, drunkenness, drug-use, dishonesty, violence, stealing – do we sometimes forget the underlying problem? **The bigger issue is that they do not know God.**

If the homosexual stopped practicing homosexuality – if the adulterer stopped fornicating – if the drunkard stopped drinking – if the drug-user stopped doing dope – **he/she is just as lost as they were before. If we convince the sinner to simply stop sinning, what have we accomplished? Nothing. We have just written a parking ticket to a dead person.**

The Real Problem: Exchanging the Glory of God for Something Else

In the first chapter of his letter to the church in Rome, Paul pictures sin as “*exchanging the glory of God*” for something else (Rom. 1:23). Sin is “*falling short of the glory of God*” (Rom. 3:23). Ancient man happened to exchange the glory of God for graven images (cf. Rom. 1:23-25), and modern man exchanges the glory of God for more contemporary forms of idolatry.

Today we exchange the glory of God for the god of *evolutionary biology, political-correctness, self-gratification, money, materialism, pleasure*, etc. People worship themselves and their own selfish desires. Our culture proudly proclaims, “Image is everything.” America is now a secular nation that has exchanged God’s glory for *something else*.

“Alternative” sexual lifestyles, the apostle Paul says, are a result of this exchange (Rom. 1:26-27). But not just homosexuality; **all sin** (cf. Rom. 1:28-31) is a result of ignoring God’s glory.

Christians, remember this: **Homosexuality** is not the problem. **Murder** is not the problem. **Pornography** is not the problem. **Atheism** is not the problem. **Racism** is not the problem. **Lust** is not the problem. Oh, these are definitely problems. But they are all a result of one underlying problem: **exchanging the glory of God for something else.**

Those Who Already Know God’s Glory

With this perspective in mind, the apostle Paul distinguishes the sins of non-Christians

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“*And this was why the Jews were persecuting Jesus, because he was doing these things on the Sabbath. But Jesus answered them, ‘My Father is working until now, and I am working.’ This was why the Jews were seeking all the more to kill him, because not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God.*”

John 5:16-18

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from the sins of Christians. He writes,

⁹ I wrote to you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people – ¹⁰ not at all meaning the sexually immoral of this world, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters, since then you would need to go out of the world. ¹¹ But now I am writing to you not to associate with anyone who bears the name of brother if he is guilty of sexual immorality or greed, or is an idolater, reviler, drunkard, or swindler – not even to eat with such a one. ¹² For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Is it not those inside the church whom you are to judge? ¹³ God judges those outside. “Purge the evil person from among you.” (1 Cor. 5:9-13, ESV, emp. added)

There is a difference between how we treat the sins of non-Christians and the sins of Christians. The Christian knows the glory of God – and there is no excuse for him/her to return to a sinful lifestyle (2 Pet. 2:20-22).

We should be hurt and offended when fellow Christians support and engage in homosexual actions, drink alcohol recreationally, commit adultery, steal, view pornography, and lie. **They know better.** We do not tolerate sin in a Christian’s life, and we lovingly teach and convince them to repent of that sin (Jude 22-23). Sin is not only deadly to the Christian, but it is also poisonous to the church (1 Cor. 5:6).

But when we find a non-Christian who is guilty of homosexuality, greed, fornication, dishonesty, drunkenness, etc., we do not need to merely write them a parking ticket. We need to patiently teach them about the glory of God. We need to teach them about the authority of His Word. We need to teach them about Jesus Christ and His sacrifice for sin. And we need to teach them how to be changed by God’s grace – namely by repenting and being baptized (Acts 2:38; 3:19; 22:16; 1 Pet. 3:21). Then, not only will they stop sinning, but they will learn to “walk in the light” of Jesus (1 John 1:7).

Conclusion

Why should a homosexual stop practicing homosexuality? Why should a drunkard stop drinking? Why should an adulterer stop committing adultery? Why should a liar stop lying? There is no reason – except for the glory of God.

It is a shame that many in our secular, post-modern society see the church of Christ for what it is *against*, rather than what it is *for*. In reality, we simply want to glorify God. We are all about Jesus. Our opposition to sin is a result of our underlying love.

In a world that is becoming increasingly hostile to Christians, we can no longer afford to be lazy in how we distinguish sin in the Christian life from sin in the non-Christian’s life. The non-Christian simply does not know any better, and we must diagnose the real issue before treating the symptom.

Let’s stop writing parking tickets, and start showing the world Jesus and His New Testament. Not only will people stop sinning, but they will repent and turn to God.

Ben Giselbach

(www.plainsimplefaith.com)

Is God Really Good All The Time?

Where the phrase came from, I don’t know, nor do I much care, since I don’t follow popular culture much, but it’s a true statement that “God is good, all the time.” This affirmation, however, lies at the center of much discussion about Deity today.

Is God really good all the time? With the suffering and evil that exist in the world, can we affirm his intrinsic goodness? Is God playing (with) us? Especially when Scripture itself affirms that God tests us? How are we to understand this concept of God’s testing?

First, God’s testing or proving always seeks a positive outcome. God put Abraham to the test (Genesis 22.1), ordering him to sacrifice the son of promise. This did not cause Abraham to doubt God’s goodness. Instead, he imagined that the Lord might raise Isaac from the dead.

By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac. He had received the promises, yet he was ready to offer up his only son. God had told him, “Through Isaac descendants will carry on your name,” and he reasoned that God could even raise him from the dead, and in a sense he received him back from there (Hebrews 11.17-19 NET).

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Television

The Truth In Love (Robert Dodson)

Sunday @ 7:00am on KTAB

In Search of the Lord’s Way (Phil Sanders)

Sunday @ 7:30am on KTAB

Life In The Light (Chris McCurley)

Sunday @ 10:30am on KTAB

Radio

Preaching the Word (Michael Light)

Sunday @ 9:00am on KOXE 101.3

Internet

TheGospelRadioNetwork.org

Gospel Broadcasting Network (Gbnv.org)

God’s Plan for Redeeming Man

Hear Learn the saving message of Christ’s sacrifice (1 Cor. 1:18; Rom. 10:17).

Believe Jesus is the Son of God (John 8:24)

Confess Jesus as your Lord, Lawgiver, and King (Rom. 10:9-10; Matt. 10:32-33)

Repent of your sinful conduct (Luke 13:3,5)

Complete your initial obedience to the gospel by being **baptized** for the forgiveness of your sins (Acts 2:38; 22:16)

Live faithfully (Rev. 2:10; 2 Tim. 4:7-8)

Bible Reading Schedule

May 24	Psalm 108-110
May 25	1 Chr. 23-25
May 26	Psalm 131, 138-139, 143-145
May 27	1 Chr. 26-29; Psalm 127
May 28	Psalm 111-118
May 29	1 Kgs. 1-2; Psalm 37, 71, 94
May 30	Psalm 119:1-88
May 31	1 Kgs. 3-4; 2 Chr. 1; Ps. 72

“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” (2 Timothy 2:15)



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Abraham continued to trust God. He kept on believing the promise. Even though he didn't understand, at the time, the reason behind the command to sacrifice Isaac, he did not doubt that God intended good for him.

Second, the ambiguity of language sometimes masks the difference between testing and temptation. Temptation seeks to draw someone away from God. It seeks to make us fall. So in this sense, "God tempts no one" (James 1.13).

Jesus himself tested (Phillip – John 6.5-6), evidently, with a view to stretching his faith in the Lord's ability to provide. It was Andrew who passed that test, by bringing loaves and fish to Jesus.

Just as a coach will push his athletes past limits they think they cannot endure, so God leads us into places where we must turn to him, cast ourselves upon his strength, and believe that he does all for the greater good.

Third, suffering can actually be considered as a demonstration of God's goodness.

What suffering could be worse than that of Job? Even here, James reminds us that this experience taught Job the goodness of God.

"Think of how we regard as blessed those who have endured. You have heard of Job's endurance and you have seen the Lord's purpose, that the Lord is full of compassion and mercy" (James 5.11).

Compassion and mercy are not terms we would associate, at first glance, with Job's experience. James affirms it, however, in a phrase often used in the Old Testament. The Lord wants to fulfill his purpose in us, and his ways and means are far beyond our small minds to comprehend (Isaiah 55.8ff).

God did not cause Job's suffering, but he did use it to show his sovereignty over the world and his intention to bless mankind.

Paul has this conviction. *"And we know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose" (Romans 8.28).* This conviction is more than a mere wish that everything will work out in the end. It is faith that **God** will cause all things to contribute to our good.

In the first temptation, Satan sought to put doubts in man's mind about God's benevolent purpose toward man. He continues to use the same tactic today. God evidently allows Satan to do this so that our faith in divine goodness may be tested and, hopefully, found strengthened.

J. Randal Matheny (www.forthright.net)

Celebrate

"Rejoice with those who rejoice..." (Romans 12:15)

May Birthdays: Ian Barnum (5), Rosa Fuller (6), Tori Stewart (7), Barbara Bannister (10), Nita Boyd (14), Pam Teague (14), Caitlin Barnum (15), Billy Chism (15), Peggy Moore (17), Randy Brubaker (23), **Isaac Stewart (28), Gracen Hardy (30).**

May Anniversaries: Joe & Lasha Dennis (6).

Mistakes? Left Out? Let Johnny know...



Records

	May 10, 2015	May 17, 2015
Bible Class	42	56
AM Worship	60	76
PM Worship	41	61
Wednesday PM	43	39
Contribution	\$1,979	\$2,215

Privileged To Serve

"...be ready to every good work" (Titus 3:1)

Next Week: 5/24/15		Next Week: 5/31/15		May 2015 Make Announcements: John Barnum Prepare Communion: Tom & Carol Wilcox Clean Building: Jack & Judie Turner Keep Grounds: James Fuller June 2015 Make Announcements: James Fuller Prepare Communion: Gene & Barbara Bannister Clean Building: John Barnum Family Keep Grounds: Tom Wilcox
Sunday AM:	Song Leader: James Fuller	Song Leader: Tom Wilcox		
Greeters	Bannister Families	Mileen & Ashley Kahlich		
Opening Prayer	Gene Bannister	Allen Griffith		
Communion	James Thomas*, Hank Wheeler Joe Dennis, Don Smith	John Barnum*, Joe Dennis Ken Maninger, Chase Churchwell		
Closing Prayer	Billy Chism	Gene Bannister		
Attendance Cards	Caleb Dennis	Jaceton Evetts		
Sunday PM:	Song Leader: James Fuller	Song Leader: Tom Wilcox		
Opening Prayer	Joe Dennis	James Fuller		
Scripture Reading	Tom Wilcox	Hank Wheeler		
Communion	James Thomas	John Barnum		
Closing Prayer	Ken Maninger	Don Smith		
Wednesday Devotionals:	May 27 Joe Dennis	June 3 Prayer	June 10 Allen Griffith	June 17 Tom Wilcox

Search the Scriptures

Be like the Bereans who "received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so." (Acts 17:11)

Studies for the week of May 24, 2015	Sunday Class Acts 6:8ff
	Wednesday Class Ezekiel 6:1ff
<p style="text-align: center;">The Problem of Immorality – Romans 1:18-32</p> <p>God has given a moral system for his children to live by.</p> <p>I. Immorality is not a new problem.</p> <p>A. Garden of Eden. B. It reached tremendous proportions in the days of Noah (Gen. 6:5). C. Ancient Israel. D. Our text depicts the immorality of the Gentile – but the Jews were doing the same things (Rom. 2).</p> <p>II. Immorality results from several factors.</p> <p>A. Men love the darkness of evil rather than the light of truth (Jn. 3:19). B. "The fleeting pleasures of sin" (Heb. 11:25). C. Never considering the wages of sin – spiritual death (Rom. 6:23). D. The lack of fear and respect for God (Rom. 3:18).</p> <p>III. The cost of immorality.</p> <p>A. The enormous cost to society. B. Of course, some benefit from immorality – financially and materially. C. The greatest cost is the spiritual costs (Mk. 8:36; Gal. 5:19-21).</p> <p>IV. Let's get specific.</p> <p>A. The internet, television, and magazines overflow with immorality. B. In business, politics, government, and education we see the havoc of immorality – based on the humanistic philosophy. C. Sexual immorality and adultery are immoral acts. D. Drunkenness and mind altering drugs have become commonplace. E. Lying, cheating, perjury. F. Violence & murder. G. Greed (Luke 12:15). H. Gambling.</p> <p>I. What else?</p> <p>1. Disobedience to parents, being without natural affection, worshipping idols, envy, backbiting, etc. (all listed in Rom. 1). 2. The list of immoralities is long and always deadly.</p> <p>V. Is this not a problem?</p> <p>A. Christians are influenced because, even though we are not of the world, we are still in the world. B. The only solution is correction by purification of the heart.</p> <p>Consider Noah – surrounded by immorality – he was a righteous man, blameless, walked with God.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Jesus Knows Man #3 – The Royal Official 4:43-54</p> <p>⁴³ After the successful work with the Samaritans, Jesus again returns to Galilee. ⁴⁴ Jesus "testified" that a prophet receives no honor in his own country, but then v. 45 seems to indicate that Jesus did, in fact, receive such honor. They only welcomed him because of the "signs." The Samaritans had received him because of his "words." ⁴⁶ Two cities – Cana & Capernaum (about 20 miles apart). Some believe this is the same event as recorded in Mt. 8:5ff. Although there are some similarities, there are too many differences for these accounts to refer to the same event. ⁴⁷ He (the official) went to him (Jesus). <i>Come down and heal his son.</i> ⁴⁸ Unless you see signs and wonders you will not believe. It is disturbing to Jesus that signs are required for belief. Miracles are not needed to see and believe in Jesus (20:29) The reputation of Jesus had preceded him. Those interested in Christ are those who know they are sick and desire to be healed (spiritually). <i>Signs and wonders</i> – used together always indicates miracles. You. Plural in the Greek. Intended for more than just the official. ⁵⁰ Go; your son will live. ⁵¹ On his journey his servants reported his son was recovering [living]. This word (zoe) is a key word in John (55X). The Gospel is asking the question: "Can Jesus give life?" This text answers, "Yes!" ⁵² Seventh hour = 1:00 p.m. ⁵³ The nobleman "believed" the words of Jesus in v. 50, but here it says he "believed" again. There seems to be a progression of faith here. ⁵⁴ The second sign – the second sign performed in Galilee.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The Development of Faith – John 4:46-53</p> <p>Faith is something that grows. Notice the stages of the nobleman's faith:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Stage one – a basic belief (v. 47). 2. Stage two – a step into the unknown (v. 50). 3. Stage three – faith based on more concrete evidence (vv. 51-53). 4. Stage four – the victory of faith. 5. Stage five – the spread of faith (v. 53). <p>The Gospel of John was written to establish this kind of faith. Jesus proved worthy of the official's faith. So also with us.</p>