



Contact Us:

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Meeting Times:

Sunday:

Bible Study 9:45 AM
Worship 10:40 AM
Care, Inc. Service N/A
Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday:

Ladies Bible Class N/A
Bible Study 7:00 PM

Elders:

Gene Bannister..... Billy Chism

Deacons:

Mike Bannister..... Don Smith

John Barnum

Preacher:

Johnny McCaghren

Works We Support:

Cherokee Home for Children
Gospel Broadcast Network
Heart of Texas Bible Camp (Bangs)
Mission Printing
Rohan Jones, Africa
World Bible School

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

Worldliness

**Worldliness is conforming to the world.
Worldliness is anything that is opposed to being
transformed. Worldliness is “world-like-ness” in anything.
Worldliness is anything that is not Christ-like or that
hinders “Christ-likeness.” Worldliness is sin.**

After careful study, I have come to the conclusion that worldliness is the greatest threat facing the church today. I am fully convinced that the majority of our problems, individually and collectively, are rooted in this one problem. I believe that at the bottom of the problems of attendance, small contributions, and the lack of development of Christians, will be found in worldliness. Just a moment in reflection will show this is true. Who attends the services of the church faithfully—the most spiritual, or the worldly members of the church? Who is most concerned with their development in the Christian life—the spiritual, or the worldly member?

DEFINITION TOO LIMITED

I am also convinced that our definition of worldliness has been too narrow. If this is true, then I am afraid that preachers and teachers have contributed toward worldliness by leaving the wrong impression on some. Too often we have confined the term to some few things, which were certainly worldly, but were far from covering everything that should be included in the term. Many members of the church think that because they do not dance, or wear immodest clothes, play bridge, and a few other similar things, they are not worldly, yet in God's sight they are. I do not mean to suggest by this that these things are not worldly and that they should not be condemned, but we should not leave the impression that worldliness is confined to these.

Jesus said in John 17:11,16, “*these are in the world...they are not of the world.*” How broad is the phrase, “not of the world?” Does it not include ALL THAT BELONGS TO THE WORLD? When John says, “*Love not the world*” (1 John 2:15), just how broad is that? Is it confined to some few things, or does it cover all that belongs to the world? Have you ever wanted any particular thing more than all else in the world; and, been willing to go to any extreme to attain it? Have you decided what you want your life to count for or have you ignored such a decision? Would not either of the above be worldly when measured by God's standard?

WORLDLINESS

What is worldliness? Worldliness is sin. Worldliness is conforming to the world. Worldliness is anything that is opposed to being transformed. Worldliness is “world-like-ness” in anything. Worldliness is anything that is not Christ-like or that hinders “Christ-likeness.” Worldliness is a wedge that sin drives

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into the heart of the member of the church, disuniting his own will and God's will for him, making his actions incompatible with his spiritual potentialities, because he allows selfish interests to usurp the place of God in his life.

MAJORING IN TEMPORAL INSTEAD OF SPIRITUAL THINGS

Worldliness, the opposite of spirituality, is an obsession with temporal, material things, to the exclusion of spiritual growth and to the neglect of spiritual interests.

Worldliness is a force that sidetracks the Christian from his greatest function —fruitful service. When one persists in worldliness, he will inevitably decrease in spiritual perception. Worldliness is majoring on the temporal rather than the spiritual, for habits, attitudes, and inconsistencies that produce barriers, minimize influence, and make the permanence of our fellowship with God less vital.

INDIFFERENCE TO MORAL VALUES

Worldliness is a cancer which creates an indifference to moral values, a "no difference" attitude about right or wrong, and ordering of lives without reference to Christian ideals. Worldliness is anything that leads away from God rather than closer to God. It makes a person insensitive to real abiding values and, in most cases, unsteady in Christian life. Worldliness is one of the primary stages of vice (though it is not vice in every instance). Immorality is worldliness, but not all worldliness is in immorality. Worldliness splits an individual's loyalties, making him selfish, spiritually indifferent, careless, nearsighted, and complacent. These are all unbecoming qualities that nourish unchristian attitudes and belong to the world.

What is your primary concern? Is it to be a social leader, prominent, comfortable, wealthy, popular, living in ease, spending all of your free time in some sort of pleasure that may be right in itself, or is it to be the best Christian possible —whether these other things come or not? These things may be worthy of attainment, but not to the neglect of spiritual growth. Their proper place, if

they come, are by-products in the life of one who's major interest is to make Christ supreme in his life.

Let us keep in mind that worldliness is the opposite of spirituality; and obsession with temporal and material things to the detriment of spiritual growth. One does not have to be knee-deep in sin to be worldly. The person who considers himself a "pretty good fellow," but whose ideals are material and self-centered is, according to the Bible, a worldly person.

WHY ARE SO MANY MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH WORLDLY?

I would say the first cause is *a failure to properly evaluate life*. Too many members of the church have not learned the real values of life. They are interested in finding happiness, but do not know where it is to be found. It has never dawned on them that happiness is determined by what one is. Look at the beatitudes and note the emphasis on character. Substitute the word "happy" for the word "blessed" and re-read the beatitudes. Someone describes Paul in prison as follows: "with life and all that men count dear behind, and with the horrors of a barbarous death before him, alone, unfriended and suckered, he is yet the happiest man in Rome. Among the millions within her wide walls, not another heart is so buoyant with hope, so lifted with you." This was true of Paul because he had learned life's value. He was happy because of what he was.

A second reason so many members of the church are worldly, is that *they have never tried to reach their potential in Christian living*. Life will not remain a vacuum. It will be filled with something. If all Christians would make a determined effort to fill their lives with good, there would not be any place for the worldly. Too many are satisfied to just "get in" the church, and then just do as little as possible! The natural result from such is to fill the void that is left with worldliness. God knew what he was doing when he said, "seek ye first the kingdom of God" (Matt. 6:33) This is not just an arbitrary command. It has as its basis the building of a life that is spiritual. The way to get worldliness out, is to put something in its place! Just as long as there are members of

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Television

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

Sunday @ 7:30am on KTAB

Life In The Light (Chris McCurley)

Sunday @ 10:00am 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

video.wvbs.org/access/interactive-bible-reading-plan/

| | |
|----------------|-------------------------------------|
| June 28 | Deut. 7—8; Prov. 28 (video) |
| June 29 | Deut. 9—10; Proverbs 29 |
| June 30 | Deut. 11—12; Proverbs 30 |
| July 1 | Deut. 13—14; Proverbs 31 |
| July 2 | Deut. 15—16; Psalm 1 (video) |
| July 3 | Deut. 17—18; Psalm 2 |
| July 4 | Deut. 19—20; Psalm 3 |
| July 5 | Deut. 21—22; Psalm 4 |

"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)



Visitation Meeting

- ◆ Last week 47 contacts were made.

Announcements

- ◆ It is great to be back to our normal schedule on Sunday and Wednesday evenings! **Please continue to practice smart precautions and respect other people's boundaries.**
- ◆ Please join us for our new Sunday evening series: **The Life of Christ.**
- ◆ **Summer Youth Series** this week is at Rising Star (Tuesday, 7:00pm). The lesson will be "King Josiah."
- ◆ If you are visiting with us, welcome! Please fill out the "visitor" side of an attendance card on the back of the pew in front of you and place it in the collection plate.

Upcoming Special Events at 4th & Stewart

- ◆ July 28—We host Summer Youth Series
- ◆ October 11-14—Fall Gospel Meeting w/ Denny Wilson

Other Upcoming Opportunities to Learn and Grow

- ◆ July 12-17—Senior Camp

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the church who refuse to fill their lives with service for God, there will be worldly members.

A third reason for so much worldliness in the church is *indifference*. This is perhaps one of the greatest hindrances to the solution of the problem. It is so much easier to travel the path of least resistance, to take the road mapped out by others, than it is to find out whether it is right or not. So many members of the church live day after day not caring that they have no influence for good and are not interested in learning why. They are afraid if they got interested it would upset their own lives and they just do not want this to happen. Let the preacher present any lesson and they refuse to give it even a passing thought.

A fourth reason for worldliness in the church is that *there are some who do not want to pay the price that is necessary to be spiritual*. The story is told of a young woman, who having observed the charming life and broad influence of a fine Christian woman, went to her and said, "I would give the world if I could only have your influence." The lady replied, "that is exactly what it costs." There is a price for everything, and spirituality is no exception. Until more Christians are willing to pay the price of spirituality, the church will be filled with worldliness.

A fifth reason for worldliness in the church is that *many are guided by custom rather than the Bible*. There are many members of the church who want the Bible on the plan of salvation, the church, its organization, and worship; but, they do not want the Bible on worldliness. Do they ever give chapter and verse for their worldly practices? No. Their theme song is: "everybody else is doing it," "I can't see any harm in it." That is exactly what denominational people say about instrumental music. Why reject their plea for instrumental music and then turn right around and use their old worn-out arguments for your worldly practices? Then some say, "I can do it and it won't hurt me." Suppose you could. Can a conscientious Christian be happy when he knows he is giving his time and lending his influence in that which degrades more than it uplifts?

Let us face the threat of worldliness and build lives that are spiritual.

Franklin Camp (1915-1991)

[Seek The Old Paths, 31:6, June 2020, pp. 41, 46]

Celebrate

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

July Birthdays: Ashley Kahlich (6/29), Laura Huckaby (6), Jason Warman (6), Chase Churchwell (11), Cindy Fuller (12), John Barnum (26), Jack Hill (26).

July Anniversaries: David & Lisa Greer (6/28), John & Tammie Ross (1).

Mistakes? Left Out? Let Johnny know...



Records

| | June 14, 2020 | June 21, 2020 |
|--------------|---------------|---------------|
| Bible Class | 45 | 42 |
| AM Worship | 44 + [9] | 54 + [5] |
| PM Worship | 26 | 35 |
| Wednesday PM | 43 | 30 + [10] |
| Contribution | \$2,324 | \$2,252 |

Privileged To Serve

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

| | | | | |
|-------------------------------|---|--|--|----------------------|
| | This Week: 6/28/20 | Next Week: 7/5/20 | | |
| Sunday AM: | Song Leader: Mike Bannister | Song Leader: Mike Bannister | <p>June 2020 Make Announcements: Don Smith Prepare Communion: James & Cindy Fuller Clean Building: James & Cindy Fuller</p> <p>July 2020 Make Announcements: Ken Maninger Prepare Communion: Mike & Patti Bannister Clean Building: Mike & Patti Bannister</p> | |
| Greeters | — | — | | |
| Opening Prayer | John Barnum | Gene Bannister | | |
| Communion | Ryan Rudloff, Don Smith James Fuller, Allen Griffith | John Barnum, Chase Churchwell Vernon Zier, Rafe Smith | | |
| Closing Prayer | Randy Huckaby | Ryan Rudloff | | |
| Attendance Cards | — | — | | |
| Sunday PM: | Song Leader: Tom Wilcox | Song Leader: James Fuller | | |
| Opening Prayer | Ken Maninger | Mike Bannister | | |
| Scripture Reading | Chase Churchwell | Tom Wilcox | | |
| Communion | Ryan Rudloff | John Barnum | | |
| Closing Prayer | Rafe Smith | Ken Maninger | | |
| Wednesday Devotionals: | July 1 Prayer Night | July 8 James Fuller | July 15 Rafe Smith | July 22 Don Smith |

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 June 28, 2020

Sunday Class *1 Corinthians 10:27*
 Wed. Class *Exodus 15:22*

Qualifications of Elders (1) – "Husband of One Wife"

Just as there are qualifications in getting a job in the world, there are qualifications for fulfilling the role of an elder in the church.

An elder must be blameless.

- "Must" – present, active, infinitive – δεῖ – it is necessary [δεω – tie, bind]
- "Be" (1 Tim. 3:2)/ "Is" (Tit. 1:6) – present, active, indicative – εἶμι – be.
- "Blameless" – not sinless – unarrestable (charges will not stick to him).

I. Various Interpretations Given to the Phrase "Husband of One Wife".

A. "It means that an elder cannot be a polygamist."

1. All Christians are commanded to only have one spouse (1 Cor. 7:2).
2. Elders are to be "blameless" – the cream of the crop.
3. How does this separate the elder from any other Christian? No Christian is allowed to be a polygamist!

B. "It means that an elder must have been married only once".

1. Any Christian involved in unscriptural sexual activity should be withdrawn from.
2. If an elder can only be married once, then elders (and aspiring elders) are not permitted to do what Jesus said was Scriptural to do.

C. "It means 'one wife at a time'".

1. This idea is that the elder must be married and his wife must still be living.
2. This becomes then, not a qualification for the elder, but instead, a qualification for his wife.

II. If it does not mean "married only once," or "one wife at a time," then what does it mean?

A. The literal rendition.

1. Literally, the phrase "husband of one wife" is "man of one woman."
2. The article ("the") is not in the Greek – oftentimes the article is left out when the character or nature of something is being emphasized.
3. The elder "must be" one with the character of being a one-woman man.

B. Historically speaking.

1. This phrase was found in 1st century tomb inscriptions.
2. Many times, it was used to describe someone whose spouse had died years – sometimes decades – before.
3. It described the character of the person.

When Paul says, "one-woman man" (*husband of one wife*), he is saying the elder must be a dedicated, faithful husband.

The Life of Christ – Introduction: The World into Which Christ Came (1)

Early readers of the Gospel Accounts were familiar with the world into which Jesus came, but most of us are not.

I. The Period Between the Testaments.

- A. **Silence:** between Malachi and the events in the Gospel Accounts, there were approximately 400 years of prophetic silence.
- B. **Sources of information:** Apocryphal writings, writings of Josephus, miscellaneous Greek and Roman witnesses, archaeological findings, the Scriptures.

II. Four Empires (Daniel 2).

- A. King Nebuchadnezzar (as ruler over the kingdom of Babylon) was represented by the head of gold (Dan. 2:37-38).
- B. Before the OT was complete, the second (Medo-Persia) had come to power.
 1. **The Medo-Persian Period** (539-333 B.C.).
 - a. The Medes and Persians combined forces to conquer the world.
 - b. When the OT came to a close, the Persians controlled Canaan.
 - c. During this period, tension grew between the returning Jews and the mixed-race inhabitants of Canaan (see Ezra 4:4; Neh. 4:1-8).
 2. **The Grecian Period** (333-165 B.C.).
 - a. **Alexander the Great** (333-323 B.C.).
 - 1) In 336 B.C., 21-year-old Alexander the Great assumed command of the army of Greece.
 - 2) After Alexander's death in 323 B.C. his kingdom was divided into four territories: Greece, Asia, Egypt, and Syria.
 - a) The two that interest us are Egypt and Syria.
 - b) The Ptolemies took control of Egypt; the Seleucids ruled Syria.
 - b. **The Ptolemies** (323-198 B.C.).
 - c. **The Seleucids** (198-165 B.C.).
 3. **The Period of Independence** (165-63 B.C.).
 4. **The Roman Period** (63 B.C. – A.D. 70).
 - a. Jerusalem was conquered by Pompey the Great in 63 B.C. and was put under rulers responsible to Rome.
 - b. The Romans gave the Jews a number of concessions.
 - c. The Roman period prepared the way for Christ.