

Trends

"Two-thirds of American adults either believe moral truth is relative to circumstances (44%) or have not given it much thought (21%). About one-third, on the other hand, believes moral truth is absolute (35%). Millennials are more likely than other age cohorts to say moral truth is relative—in fact, half of them say so (51%), compared to 44 percent of Gen-Xers, 41 percent of Boomers and 39 percent of Elders. Among the generations, Boomers are most likely to say moral truth is absolute (42%), while Elders are more likely than other age groups to admit they have never thought about it (28%)."

- via Barna Group

Proverbs 14:12: "There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death."

Sentence Sermons

"Don't assume that because God hasn't dealt with evil yet, that He won't deal with it at all."

—Unknown

Romans 14:12: "So then each of us shall give account of himself to God."

News & Notes

Please pray for those mentioned in the announcements after services and others listed on the bulletin board in the foyer of the church building.

Pray for all the members at Westside! Susan Ferrell, a friend of the Thomas family from Michigan, had great news! Commenting on the latest MRI, the oncologist said, "it could not look better"! They've also been able to increase the chemotherapy dosage. Please continue to pray for Susan, her husband Shawn and their three boys: Samuel, Micah, and Eli.

Jennifer Shorter (Garner) a member at Knightsville is reported to be recovering well from her brain tumors; keep her in your prayers. She still has more tumors that may be problematic in the future. Also, please pray for Elias Dispennett (age 8). He is the son of Rob Dispennett, Knightsville's preacher, and has been diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes.

It is with great sadness that I report that Christian Shadburne passed away last week. He was a great example of a true Christian! Please pray for his family in their grief.

Pray for the college students as they are now on summer break. Jonathan will be attending IUPUI law school this fall and Rachel plans to return to IU.

Please keep sister Wilma in your prayers! She gives all of us so much encouragement! God bless her and Virginia! Remember both of them in your prayers.

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Times of Service: Bible Study, Sunday 9:30 AM and Wednesday 7:00 PM; Worship, Sunday 10:30 AM and 5:00 PM

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Please direct questions and comments to the editor.

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"Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life."

John 6:68



Are Bible Classes A Waste Of Time?

Kyle Campbell

In the minds of some people Bible classes are not important. They may even consider them just "a waste of time." What should be our attitude toward them? Why do we have Bible classes on Sunday and Wednesday? Do we have classes just because others have them? Do we have classes just so we can say that we are at least doing something? Until we come to learn the significance of them, we will not appreciate them as we should. If we appreciate them, then and only then will attitudes and attendance change for the better. Our Bible classes are significant because they help ...

1) **PROMOTE** the work of the church. Bible classes are one avenue through which the word of God can be taught. We want to take advantage of every opportunity to teach and study from the Bible (Psalm 1:1-3; 2 Timothy 2:15).

2) **PROVIDE** a way for the flock to be fed. Paul, when speaking to the Ephesian elders said, "Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with His own blood" (Acts 20:28). Peter declared to the elders, "Feed the flock of God which is among you" (1 Peter 5:2). Through our Bible classes we are being fed in proper spiritual affairs.

3) **PRODUCE** tomorrow's elders, deacons, preachers, and teachers. We want to encourage our young people to grow up being servants of God. In our Bible classes, we are training potential soldiers in the Lord's army. The Bible classes are helping to train the young in the way they should go (Proverbs 22:6).

4) **PREVENT** unfaithfulness in the church. We all need encouragement in living the Christian life. Through our Bible classes we can "exhort" and "provoke" one another to be strong in the Lord (Hebrews 3:13; 10:24-25).

5) **PREPARE** one for eternity. Who has doubts about the importance of

studying the Bible? Christ said we should “*know the truth*” and Paul said we should come to a “*knowledge of the truth*” (John 8:32; 1 Timothy 2:4). The time we spend in studying the Bible in our classes is preparing us to inherit our eternal home.

A Simple Verse About Right and Wrong

Frank Himmel

“... *abhor what is evil; cling to what is good*” (Romans 12:9). This short verse (actually it is just the second part of the verse) would be a fine one to commit to memory. It states or implies at least three vital points.

First, **there is such a thing as good and evil.** People used to understand that. We used to know that one is supposed to keep his word, that greed is a bad thing, that marriage is for life, that homosexuality is a perversion, etc. Now, several generations have grown up listening to denominational preachers say that it does not matter what you believe, thereby undermining Bible authority.

We have heard libertarians rationalize any and every kind of conduct. We have grown accustomed to comedians making daily fodder of sin of every kind. Is it any wonder people are confused? Come to think of it, this is nothing new. Long ago Isaiah wrote, “*Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; who substitute darkness for light and light for darkness; ... who are wise in their own eyes and clever in their own sight*” (Isaiah 5:20-21).

Second, **it is both possible and necessary to discern good and evil.** Personal preferences and moral relativism leave us adrift. There is a fixed standard. It is God. He is right or righteous. “*A God of faithfulness and without injustice, righteous and upright is He*” (Deuteronomy 32:4). His word, His self-revelation, is the yardstick by which all conduct is measured. It is the standard by which we shall be judged (John 12:48).

Discerning right and wrong begins with the “*thou shalt/thou shalt not*” passages. We must also take into account principles of conduct, such as maintaining a clear conscience (Romans 14:22-23), not putting other things before God (Matthew 6:33), leaving off questionable things that would lessen our influence for good (Matthew 5:16), etc. Paul often prayed that Christians would grow in this area of distinguishing conduct (Philippians 1:9-11; Colossians 1:9-12).

Third, **we must act in keeping with the quality of any given behavior.** If a thing is good we are to cling to it. The original verb in our text is from the Greek noun for glue; be glued to it. On the other hand, if conduct is bad, we are to abhor it. *Abhor* is from the Latin word for horror, which literally means to shudder. We should shudder at the very idea of some kinds of behavior [misbehavior].

Simply put, Romans 12:9 tells us to use God’s word and draw the line between good and evil. Once that line is drawn, do not see how close to it you can get without stepping over; stay as far away from evil and as close to God as you can.

A Squeak In The Pulpit

Steve Higginbotham

Recently I read of an entry found in an old church record of a business meeting. It stated: “A committee was appointed to investigate the squeak in the pulpit.” Upon reading this, I couldn’t help but think that today’s world, even today’s church, desperately needs more than a “squeak” coming from the pulpit. Now, as much as ever, we need the clear tones of the gospel resounding from our pulpits.

We are hearing far too much about churches who are selling out to the culture. The distinctive preaching of New Testament Christianity is seldom if ever heard in some pulpits. Sermons that challenge our morals, expound our doctrine, question our ethics, and rebuke our mediocrity are exchanged for sermons that have an air of religiosity, but are lacking in substance.

In 1 Chronicles 12:32, it was said of some of God’s children that they “*understood the times*.” There remains a multitude of God’s children who understand the times. They understand that now is not the time for a squeak in the pulpit. There are many godly elders, and godly Christians who are demanding to hear more than a squeak from the pulpit. They have not bought into the idea that distinctive preaching has harmed the church. They want substance over style and flair. They want truth over entertainment. They want biblical authority over pragmatism. And they would rather have the sometimes bitter truth over a watered-down gospel. To put it in the words of John MacArthur, they realize that the weakness of the pulpit today does not stem from frantic cranks who harangue about hell; it is the result of men who compromise and who fear to speak God’s Word powerfully, with conviction.

There are many challenges that face the church today. If we are to rise up to the occasion and defeat our adversary, we must have a strong pulpit; Pulpits that will speak the truth in season and out of season, with all the love it can muster; Pulpits that will not compromise the truth; Pulpits that do more than just squeak!

“But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him?”

1 John 3:17