

## Trends

### Statistics about homosexuality in the U.S.:

- ☛ Share of adult men who identify as gay in the U.S. 2.2%
- ☛ Share of adult women who identify as lesbian in the U.S. 1.1%
- ☛ Percentage of Americans saying gay/lesbian relations are morally acceptable. 63%

via Statista

**1 Corinthians 6:9-10:** "Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, 10 nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God."

## Sentence Sermons

**"Speak properly, and in as few words as you can, but always plainly; for the end of speech is not ostentation, but to be understood."**

~William Penn

**2 Corinthians 3:12:** "Seeing then that we have such hope, we use great plainness of speech."

## 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! Please pray for Susan Ferrell and her family as she continues to recover from brain tumor surgery. Also, please pray for her husband Shawn and their three boys: Samuel, Micah, and Eli.

Continue prayers for Jennifer Shorter (Garner) a member at Knightsville who is recovering well from her brain tumor surgery. Also, please pray for Elias Dispennett (age 8), son of Rob Dispennett, Knightsville's preacher, w2ho has Type 1 diabetes.

Please pray for my daughter Dawne. She had successful jaw surgery for her bilateral cleft palate on 7/13. She has had about a dozen surgeries for this condition over the years. Her eight hour surgery went well. Dawne continues to recover and had a good evaluation from the doctor on 8/4. Sherry and I sincerely appreciate continued prayers on her behalf.

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.

# Words of Life

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

John 6:68



**"faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God"**

Craig Thomas

Last time we examined what one must do to be saved: 1) **Hear Christ** (Heb. 1:1-2); 2) **Believe in Christ** (Jn. 20:31); 3) **Repent of sins** (Acts 17:30); 4) **Confess Christ** (Rom. 10:10); 5) **Be Baptized** (Mark 16:16); and, 6) **Live Faithfully** (Col. 1:22-23). Now, let's consider each of these aspects in more detail. Today we will consider "hearing" God's word.

1) **The Gospel: God's Power Unto Salvation.** Undeniably the Holy Spirit convicts men of "sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment" (Jn. 16:8). But, how? Is it done in some miraculous and mysterious way? No, he does so through God's word: the gospel. Paul said he was "not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes" (Rom. 1:16). He also said, "the message of the cross...is the power of God...it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe." (1 Cor. 1:18-21) Have you heard and believed the gospel message?

2) **God's Word: The Seed of the Kingdom.** In Luke 8:4-15 Jesus taught the parable of the sower. The seed sown was "the word of God" (v. 11). The soil in which the seed was sown was the "hearts" of men (vs. 11-15). The "word" is God's means of calling man to salvation (2 Thess. 2:13-14). This "call" is issued whenever the pure seed of God's word is preached or taught (1 Pet. 1:23). One can only be saved when he has "heard the word with a noble and good heart" and "keep[s] it and bear[s] fruit with patience." (Lk. 8:15) Have you heard God's word? Are you keeping it and bearing "fruit with patience"?

3) **God's Word: That Which Produces Faith.** In Romans 10:17 the inspired message states that "faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." We cannot be saved without faith (Heb. 11:6). In Ephesians 1:13 Paul tells us this faith comes "after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation." Do you want "saving" faith? Then listen again to the apos-

tle, "I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified." (Acts 20:32) Faith only comes through God's word as recorded in His book the Bible.

The Holy Spirit guided the apostles into "all truth" (Jn. 16:13). The words given to the apostles are to be employed to make believers (Jn. 8:32; 17:17, 20). This is why Jesus sent them "into all the world" to "preach the gospel to every creature" (Matt. 28:19; Mk. 16:15-16). Have you heard and obeyed the gospel? If not my friend you are lost (2 Thes. 1:7-9). Why not call us today so we can study God's word with you?

### **"without faith it is impossible to please Him"**

Craig Thomas

We are examining in more detail what God requires of us to be saved: 1) **Hear Christ** (Heb. 1:1-2); 2) **Believe in Christ** (Jn. 20:31); 3) **Repent of sins** (Acts 17:30); 4) **Confess Christ** (Rom. 10:10); 5) **Be Baptized** (Mark 16:16); and, 6) **Live Faithfully** (Col. 1:22-23). Today let's consider what we must "believe" in order to be saved.

1) **We must believe in God.** Hebrews 11:6 says "without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him." Note two things are involved: 1) belief in God's existence, and 2) belief that God rewards "those who diligently seek Him." Importantly, "belief" goes beyond a mere recognition that God exists. Belief also requires obedience to His word. James said "the demons believe – and tremble!" (Jas. 2:19) So a belief that saves goes beyond recognition of God's existence to obedience of His word, for "faith without works is dead" (Jas. 2:20).

2) **We must believe the gospel.** In Mark 16:15-16 Jesus said to His disciples, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." He also told them the one "who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned." Believe — or not believe — what? The gospel! Those who believe and obey the gospel message will have forgiveness of sins (Rom. 6:16-17); those who do not believe and obey it will be condemned to eternal punishment (2 Thess. 1:8).

3) **We must believe Jesus is the Christ.** As John concluded his gospel, he told us he recorded Jesus' miracles so "that you may believe." Believe what? "[T]hat Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name." As we read, we accept the evidence that leads us to believe and faithfully obey the Lord's teachings (Lk. 6:46) and receive the benefits of that "obedience of faith" (Rom. 1:5). Or, we reject it and remain an unbeliever, receiving the punishment for having done so (Jn. 8:24).

The faith that saves believes and obeys the commands that bring forgiveness of sins. "And many of the Corinthians, hearing, believed and

were baptized." (Acts 18:8) Do you believe? Have you confessed your belief? (Rom. 10:9, 10) Have you turned from your sins? (Acts. 17:30) Have you been baptized "for the remission of sins"? (Acts 2:38; 22:16) If not, why not call us today so we can assist you in obeying God?

### **Can You Help?**

I again want to make an urgent plea for a good friend and fellow gospel preacher, Robinson Pulveras. Brother Pulveras is a sound, faithful gospel preacher in Pamplona which is located in Cagayan province on the Island of Luzon in the Philippines. He is a humble and dedicated servant of the Lord. My wife and I have had the good pleasure to help support Robinson since 2003. I've visited the place where Robinson labors in the kingdom and have seen firsthand the fruits of his labor. He is a tireless worker!

Also, he and his fellow gospel preachers often take the gospel to the Negritos people. These people are the poorest of the poor in the Philippines and live in what we would call "the back country." Some expert sources refer to them as the Philippine version of aborigines. Robinson and his fellow workers have converted many of the Negritos people.

Robinson was recently informed by one church that helps with his support that, due to their financial difficulties, they could no longer help with his support. Therefore, he will soon lose \$200/month in support. This is devastating to him, his family (wife & two children), and his labor in the gospel. I can vouch for brother Robinson and would gladly put you in contact with him if you would be willing to help with his support. I promise you he will not disappoint!

**"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?"**

**I John 3:17**