



Trends

A recent survey found that scientists, on the whole, are much less religious than the general public. In fact, scientists are roughly half as likely as the general public to believe in God or a higher power. According to the poll, just over half of scientists (51%) believe in some form of deity or higher power; specifically, 33% of scientists say they believe in God, while 18% believe in a universal spirit or higher power. By contrast, 95% of Americans believe in some form of deity or higher power. Specifically, more than eight-in-ten Americans (83%) say they believe in God and 12% believe in a universal spirit or higher power. Finally, the poll of scientists finds that four-in-ten scientists (41%) say they do not believe in God or a higher power, while the poll of the public finds that only 4% of Americans share this view.

—via Pew Research

Psalm 14:1: "The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God."

Sentence Sermons

"It is the paradox of life that the way to miss pleasure is to seek it as your first priority. The very first condition of lasting happiness is that a life must be full of purpose, aiming at something higher and more noble."

—Unknown

Matthew 6:33: "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you."



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.
- Please pray for my son and his wife as they seek to start a new congregation in northern Michigan. Please pray Ryan can raise enough support to do this important work. Please read his recent report I forwarded to all on my e-mail list.
- Please pray for those at Grayling who chose not to follow the truth.
- Please pray for Sandy Willis, wife of gospel preacher Mike Willis (Decatur Township). Sandy had successful heart valve replacement surgery and is now home recuperating.
- Please keep sisters Virginia Brown and Wilma Cardwell in your prayers. Their faithfulness sets such a good example and gives encouragement to all! Ditto for Al (our Barnabas!).
- Pray for Hatti and her "new life" in Texas! We wish her only the very best and will miss her "something fierce"!
- Pray for the all of our students: elementary, secondary and college. Our young people are now back to school.
- There are many needy saints! Can you help?! Let me know.



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Words of Life

Westside church of Christ



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

John 6:68

Editor's Note: I found two great articles that have an application to us as we raise our children. When our children are grown and 'out of the house,' where will they be spiritually? The time we have them under our care a direction at home is so fleetingly short. One day they are in diapers and the next day they have flown away. If we are not training them "up...in the way he should go" (Prov. 22:6) NOW, I can tell you where they will be...about a million miles from faithfulness!

Children Need To Be Taught

Larry Ray Hafley

The title of this article could be the name of a series of books. However, we shall limit our thoughts to a few items children need to be taught.

First, children need to be taught respect for God and the authority of the Bible. Without that, the child can never be truly wise, nor can he ever be saved in heaven at last (Deut. 6:6, 7).

Second, children must be taught to honor the appointments of God. Children of ancient Israel were to be taught the sacredness and importance of

"...children must be taught to honor the appointments of God."

divine duties (Ex. 12:14-17, 24-27). So must our children be instructed. How, though, can they learn their value when we show disdain and disrespect by forsaking the assemblies of the saints?

Third, children should be taught to honor their father and their mother. Such honor will not be hard to teach if the home is one that fears God, prays to him always, and is characterized by godly living. Children honor those who love them, train them, and are good to them. Do your children honor you?

Fourth, children must learn to respect and obey social and civil authorities (1 Pet. 2:12-18). When the aforementioned items have been stamped on the

child's heart, this principle is easily inserted. Without the other elements as a foundation, this point will prove hard to instill and install.

These fundamental axioms must be learned in the home, but they cannot be learned unless they are taught. Parents, what are teaching? Remember, your children will grow up, and you will reap what you have sown.

"I'm Too Tired"

Hal Hammons

I could have come to worship services this morning. I'm not sick. I'm not incapacitated. My alarm clock works fine Monday through Friday; it would've worked today. It's just that I worked too hard last week. I stayed up too late last night relaxing from my hard week. I'm too tired.

I could have come to Bible class this morning. I could have taken my children. Then there might have been two or three in their classes instead of one or two. Of course, we haven't worked on their Bible class lesson this week. (I haven't worked on mine, either.) I suppose we could have gotten up fifteen minutes early

I could have gone to heaven, but 'I was too tired.'

—Editor

and still gotten their lessons done—maybe mine, too. But I'm too tired.

I could have gone to Bible class on Wednesday. I could have made sure we had a quick dinner. We could have left the dishes for later that night, I suppose. But it was an especially tough day at work Wednesday, I seem to recall. I just wasn't ready to get back in the car again. I was too tired.

I could be making plans to attend our gospel meeting, just like I made plans six months in advance to go on vacation. The kids will get plenty of sleep, since it's summer. And I stay up way past 10 every night anyway. But I like to save my evenings for myself. Five days in a row of worship is a lot to ask. I have a feeling I'll be too tired.

I could put Jesus first. I could teach my children to make time for God, no matter what is going on in our lives. I could be in my place whenever possible so I could give as much glory to God as I could manage. I could set a good example for my brethren so that they, too, would be motivated to put their priorities in order. I could encourage and instruct the ones who come so often and yet are not members of Christ's body. I could show them what a

I could have avoided losing my children to the world, but 'I was too tired.'

—Editor

Christian really looks like. I could lift up my spirit by singing familiar songs of praise and instruction, as well as learn new ones. I could be available to assist in the worship. I could be there to hear about who needs my prayers and visits. I could show God how much I love Him. —But I'm too tired.

Three Reactions to the Truth

Greg Gwin

When Paul preached his famous sermon on Mars Hill, in Athens, his teaching received three distinct reactions. "And when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some

mocked: and others said, 'We will hear thee again of this matter.' So Paul departed from among them. Howbeit certain men clave unto him, and believed..." (Acts 17:32-34). Do you see it? Some rejected the teaching immediately. Others procrastinated or withheld judgment, and did nothing. But some enthusiastically accepted the truth and acted upon it.

"These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so. 12 Therefore many of them believed..."

—Acts 17:11-12a

The same three reactions are in evidence to this day—even among members of the Lord's church. Consider this scenario: The preacher preaches a 'hard' sermon that exposes sin and worldliness. It's one of those sermons that "steps on toes" and hits "close to home." Some Christians will grow angry. The things taught suggest the need to change, and they are not willing to do so. They are happy to hear preaching on things they already agree about, but if a lesson contradicts their existing views or practices, they get mad. They are like those in Athens who "mocked."

Some other brethren hear this same sermon and, while it plainly shows that there are things they need to change in their life, they postpone any action. These are the ones who commend the preacher as they go out the door: "I really needed that!", or "You really stomped on my toes today!" And, yet, they do nothing. They continue in their former ways. In effect they are saying: "We will hear thee again of this matter."

Thank God that there are those who are tenderhearted; those who are always looking to bring their life into closer harmony with the will of God. These are the folks who, upon hearing the truth, respond by putting it into practice in their lives. If it means changing from what they previously believed, they will do so. Their commitment is to the Lord. Serving Him is their first priority. May their tribe increase!