

Plain Path

Weekly newsletter of the Fry Road church of Christ

Sunday, April 6, 2014

Volume 19, Number 14

“Teach me thy way, O Lord, and lead me in a plain path... Wait on the Lord; be of good courage, and He shall strengthen thine heart” (Psalm 27:11-14)

JUST A POINT ON “LOVE”

by Bob Pulliam

I have, in the current series I have been preaching, referred to Philippians 2:1-7 several times. It fits what we have been discussing, and yet I have so much ground to cover with other texts I have not actually discussed it. Since it is such a powerful text, let's do so right now.

Since my space is limited, allow me to focus on this: *“Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind let each of you regard one another as more im-*

portant than himself; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.” (Phil 2:3-4) We are to regard one another as more important than self. Please answer this: Can you obey that command while you ignore or avoid others? Are you obeying that while you are gossiping about, or running them down? Is it name calling that Paul requires here?

I know many might think it absurd that I ask these questions. But

if it is so absurd, why does it still take place? Can you go to heaven and still disobey this? “This isn't really about salvation.”, you might say. I think you'd better read on down to verse twelve. It begins with “so then”, meaning it is dependent upon the discussion leading up to that verse. When Paul tells these people to “work out your own salvation”, he doesn't have the immediate subject of baptism in mind. He's discussing the way brethren treat each other. There were aspects of Roman society (Greek culture) that would have made it an effort to put others before self. But then, we have the same problem today in our culture. Neither culture is exempted, however. Evidently, there was grumbling and disputing among these people (2:14). They were to work out their salvation by regarding others as more important than self. They were to look out for the interests of others. And the example Paul uses is that of Jesus (vv 5-11). They were to have the same attitude as that possessed by Jesus.

Have you ever looked upon a brother or sister as being unworthy of your time and energy? Then you do not have the same attitude that
(“Love”, continued on pg 2...)

Gospel Meeting

April 13 - 16

- Sunday:** 9:30 AM - What Happened to the Church Jesus Built (Mt 16)
10:30 AM - Jesus Is the Head of What?!
- 6:00 PM - WWJD? or WDJS?
- Monday:** 7:30 pm - How Do We Know What Jesus Wants Us to Do?
- Tuesday:** 10:00 am - Does Jesus Care How We Worship Him?
7:30 pm - What Kind of Church Did Jesus Build?
- Wednesday:** 7:30 pm - The Un-Denomination

Our speaker will be Steve Wolfgang

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(“Love”, continued from pg 1...)

Jesus had. We were still sinners, and yet He came to die for us (Rom 5:8). Are you telling me that your brother or sister isn't worthy of your sacrifices, but you were worthy of Jesus' sacrifice? Surely no one would be so arrogant! But are you telling the Lord the same thing with your treatment of brethren? Some are. It is time to repent. Humbling oneself is difficult, but it is time for you to **work out** your salvation. I've never eaten an actual crow; but I have “eat-en crow” on a number of occasions. It doesn't taste good. And there is no way to “doctor it up” so it will taste good. If you need to eat some crow, then get it over with.

And with that I will remind you of my remarks on Wednesday night. If you do not love your brother (and you know that includes your sister), then **you are not born of God**. (I Jn 4:7) Only they who are born of God

are children of God. Do you cherish your distinction of being born of God? It is a sham if you do not love the brethren (*all* the brethren). If you do not love your brother, then **you do not know God**. (I Jn 4:8) Why is that? God is love. We sing it. But if you don't live it, then you do not belong to God. If you do not love your brother, then **you do not love God**. (I Jn 4:20) And I think we all know where that leaves a person.

Now let me ask you this. Would Jesus ever ignore, avoid, or exclude anyone? You know He would not. He ate with Pharisees, tax collectors, and sinners. Are you following Jesus' example? And what names would he call those people you've been running down? You know He wouldn't. And would He whisper

behind someone's back, announcing their deficiencies, faults, and errors? He would get it accurate (because He does know all), and yet you know He would not indulge in such a self-serving tirade of wickedness.

Love is to be the basis for who we are. Not just in serving God according to His law (Mt 22:37-40), but in dealing with our neighbor. We are even commanded to love our enemies (Mt 5:44). When we fail to exhibit the love Jesus put on display for the whole world, we fail to teach the world with the lives we live (Jn 13:35). Love connects us to Jesus. And when we begin to move away from love, we have begun our journey away from Jesus and toward hate.



Just a Thought From a New Poll

by Bob Pulliam

A recent Pew Poll on Millennials (people born after 1980), commented on by Michael Barone in the Washington Examiner, has an interesting tidbit that we all might take to heart. There were actually a couple of other items that might be noted, but I would like to focus on one dealing with digital social networks. The question was, who do people in this age range trust? The answer: “those they are connected to in digital social networks. Some 81 percent of Millennials are on Facebook, with a median 250 friend count...” (Michael Barone, *WashingtonExaminer.com*, April 3, 2014) But there is something present in this that I think we miss. As this younger generation has become better at dealing with people through wires (digital connections), many have failed to develop an ability to make friends in a

“face-to-face” environment (like church), let alone **get along**. And it isn't just a problem for people 34 and under. People over 34 can fall into this infectious trap, and substitute typing for meaningful encouragement and loving fellowship. I understand the virtues of social media, and the ability it offers for staying in touch with important people in our lives. But when **trust** (which was the basis of the article) comes most easily through a computer monitor or tablet, I believe we've lost an ability to foster peace and harmony in the local church. New members are sized up by their willingness to listen to gossip, and accept unkind remarks about others. But if they refuse to listen (won't click “like”?) we shun them and refuse their efforts at friendship. Babes, who have difficulty knowing how to handle these situations, are

(Poll, continued on pg 3...)

THIS WEEK'S DAILY BIBLE READINGS

NEW TESTAMENT
READING

MARK 1 - 4

April 6 - 8

OLD TESTAMENT
READING

EXODUS 18 - 26

April 9 - 12

I TIMOTHY 4:13

FAMILY NEWS & NOTES

*News and Notes of Interest
to Fry Road Members*

Because of the large number of visitors to our services, we would ask those wishing to identify with the congregation to do so by expressing this interest directly to the elders.

Upcoming Meetings & Events:

Gospel Meeting (Steve Wolfgang) V.B.S. ("We Would See Jesus")
April 13 - 16, 2014 June 23 - 26, 2014

Annual Singing Gospel Meeting (Joseph Casimier)
September 6, 2014 September 7 - 10, 2014

Sick and Shut-Ins

Sections have been removed to preserve members' privacy

preach. Truth be known, there are some who revel in the "dark side" of this force. They stir trouble with far reaching consequences. Their gossip is a pestilence that consumes. Their posts spew venom that poisons members. They use the "like button" like a dagger, creating a party spirit that upholds "our people" and excludes "them". All of this is witnessed by non-members who wonder just what kind of people we are. We can't possibly be disciples of Jesus with all of this going on (Jn 13:35). If I have just described you, you need to leave your keyboard and do the following:

- 1) Get down on your knees and pray to God for forgiveness. You are lost.
- 2) You need to go before the church and acknowledge your sin. After all, you put it on display for the whole world's bewildered gaze (as they wondered what kind of church members you worship with).
- 3) You need to go to your "enemies" and reconcile.
- 4) Now work on being a loving brother or sister "in person". 

Directory Info

(Poll, continued from pg 2...)

imperiled by self-serving conversations. And why not. These members do it with their "friends" on a social network and "get away with it".

Now don't get mad! You may have no idea how much trouble Social Media (FaceBook, Twitter, Pintrest, etc.) has caused in local churches (including here). Be blessedly happy in being unaware, my friend. But I have, for some time, heard reports from other preachers about this problem in congregations where they

Sermons:

Next Sunday:

Jesus Is the Head of What?

Tonight:

The Fruit of the Spirit

Grief Stricken

FOR THE RECORD

WEEKLY ASSIGNMENTS

MONTHLY ASSIGNMENTS

Sections have been removed to preserve members' privacy

IN KEEPING WITH OUR LONG STANDING AGREEMENT, THOSE SERVING PUBLICLY ARE REMINDED TO PLEASE DRESS IN A MANNER RESPECTFUL OF THE GOD WHOM WE SERVE.

ELDERS:

Ruben Amador
Matthew Heaton
Donnie Mangrum
Steve Voss



DEACONS:

John Coleman	Ken Dunsmore
David Ellison	Ray Farrell
Aubrey Garner	Steve Geraci
Steve LaGrasta	John Light
Steven Martin	Mike McMurray
Jason Mock	David Stevenson
Glenn Tomblin	

TIMES OF SERVICES

Sunday Bible Classes	9:30 AM
Sunday Morning Assembly	10:30 AM
Sunday Evening Assembly	6:00 PM
Wednesday Bible Classes	7:30 PM

EVANGELIST & EDITOR:

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