

Times of Worship
Sunday
10:00 a.m. (Bible Study) Classes Available
10:45 a.m. (Worship)
6:00 p.m. (Worship)

Wednesday
7:00 p.m. (Bible Study) Classes Available

3rd Tuesday of the Month
7:00 p.m. (Ladies Bible Study)

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Eldred Hess 330-317-8119

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Burbank Road Church of Christ



The Lamplight

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A GOD CENTERED LIFE

One obstacle we face is taking our eye off the ball. That is, getting distracted by earthly things and not doing what God's word says. In fact, having a "God Centered Life" can be hard. There are so many things to do and so little time to do them.

Eventually we develop a system of priorities, or a philosophy of life and what is really important. Those "really important things" are what we center our life around.

Some people center their life around sports. They either play sports or go to sporting activities. Turn on the television and you will see thousands upon thousands of spectators at stock car races, basketball games, football games, baseball games, golf tournaments, and that is just the tip of the iceberg. There is nothing wrong with sports until it comes between us and our service to God.

Other people center their life around their work. They either work for the money or because they like what they are doing. We have a responsibility of working and providing for our family. "Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with his hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need" (Eph 4:28). On another occasion the apostle wrote, "But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever" (1 Tim 5:8). There is a difference between working to live and living to work. Our life consists of more than a paycheck.

People may make their family the center of their life. I understand the importance of one's family. Being a husband, father of three children, a brother, and a son carries certain responsibilities to one's family. At the same time we must understand that our family must come after God. That may sound harsh, but that is what Jesus said. "He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. (Matt 10:37-38)

We could list things such as television shows, entertainment, science, education, and a host of other things that are not sinful in and of themselves. In the parable of the Sower, Jesus speaks of those that would hear the word and "the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things entering in choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful" (Mark 4.19b).

What does it take to live a "God centered life?"

We must have our heart set upon the right thing. "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Luke 12:34). How do we do that? By changing the way we think and the way we act. "Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth" (Col 3:2). This is easier said than done. We are physical beings and desire physical things. 1 John 2 speaks of the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life; those things get our attention and try our heart.

Let me suggest the following things we can do to have a God centered life.

Read your Bible! I know of no one who has grown closer to God without reading His word. It contains words of encouragement and warning. In it we read of

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THOSE THAT ARE IN NEED OF OUR PRAYERS

Shirley Dunn
Joan Carroll's Family
Edie Burgess's sister
Eileen's Sister
Harold Reynolds two Nieces
Beth Morehouse
Justina Sanders
Amber Marshall
Shirley Dunn's Daughter
Jason Workman
Esther Adams
Wilbur Bland Multiple Health Issues
Rhonda Hess
Shannon (Judy's Step Granddaughter) and Children
Marlene McCullough
Vera Snow
Bob Buckland
Bill Weigle
Justina Sanders Grandmother

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Beth and Jocelyn Morehouse are doing fine

Jason Workman is in military
Lesley is leaving soon for Ghana for 2 weeks

Justina's Grandmother has a fractured spine and is rehabbing

Remember our expecting mother Amber

John and Rose Smetzer is needing our continued prayers

CD's available upon request

If you have someone who may like to receive a bulletin please write down information and give it to Daniel

ORDER OF SERVICES

MORNING SERVICES

Announcements: Daniel Sanders

Song Leader: Jim Cline

Opening Prayer: Daniel Morehouse

Heading Lord's Table: Josh Marshall

Speaker: Daniel Sanders

Closing Prayer: Daniel Sanders

EVENING SERVICES

Song Leader: Jim Cline

Opening Prayer: Harold Reynolds

Lord's Table: Josh Marshall

Speaker: Sean Sullivan

Closing Prayer: Jim Butler

WEDNESDAY EVENING SERVICES

Announcements: Daniel Sanders

Song Leader: Daniel Morehouse

Opening Prayer: Eldred Hess

Invitation: Daniel Sanders

Closing Prayer: Jim Butler

God's plan of salvation, starting in Genesis and ending in Revelation. We see how God sent His Son at the proper time to die for our sins. By reading we understand how to become a Christian and how to live the life of a Christian. Just as a newborn baby needs milk to grow, we need the word of God, 1 Peter 2.2. Just as a baby grows teeth and starts to eat solid food, so we grow and eat of the meat of the word. "But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil" (Heb 5:14). Cut your teeth on the basics and then go on to the more difficult parts of the Bible.

Do not just read but mediate on what you have read. "Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and there is anything praiseworthy — meditate on these things" (Philippians 4.8). The very first Psalm compares the man who meditates on the word of God to a tree planted by the rivers of water. Many years ago there was a tree on my parents's farm that was always healthy looking. One year there was very little rain and many trees died. Not that one tree. Later on we discovered why. It was being fed by a stream of underground water. Man that knows and understands the word of God will be like that tree; able to withstand the trials and temptations of this world.

Next, cast aside sin and that which hinders your growth. I Peter 2.1 speaks of casting aside "malice, deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and evil speaking." Sin will separate us from God. Do not justify remaining in sin for it will only become more prevalent in your life. The Hebrew writer tells us to lay aside the weight that so easily ensnares us, chapter 12 verse 1. A lack of faith may have been what the writer had in mind but any weight that hinders our service to God must be set aside. The first step is in obeying the Gospel. One does not get out of sin by simply deciding to quit sinning. Even if you never sinned again, which I doubt could happen, you would still be accountable for sins previously committed. Only by being baptized into Christ, Galatians 3.27, will the blood of Jesus wash away your sins, Acts 22.16.

Then remember who you are! A Christian is a child of God. You have been redeemed by the blood of the Lamb, Ephesians 1.7. In obeying the Gospel you acknowledged Jesus as both Lord and Christ, Acts 2.36. This means both Savior and Ruler. You can not have one without the other. If Jesus is your Savior, He must be your King. If He is your King, He must be your Savior. Therefore, obey His commandments. Be faithful in your attendance on Sunday morning, Sunday evening, Wednesday Bible Classes, and Gospel Meetings. Why do congregations have Bible Classes and Gospel Meetings? To answer that question just think of the church at Antioch in Acts 11. Barnabas and Saul of Tarsus, the Apostle Paul, taught for a whole year. Verse 26 says they were first called Christians at Antioch. The spiritual growth at Antioch was connected to the teaching that was done there. We are the ones who benefit from our Bible Classes, Sermons, prayers, giving, and songs of praise toward God. We grow spiritually when we are doing spiritual things.

That is the key to living a God centered life, putting spiritual things first and the physical second. Going to heaven is more important than driving a new car or going to a ballgame. Being a godly husband/wife is more important than a bass boat or a new house. As long as we can have that mind set we can then have the bass boat and new house without letting them lead us away from God. D.T.

**IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO COME TO SERVICES AND YOU
HAVE SOMETHING TO DO PLEASE LET SOMEONE KNOW!**

Sunday Morning Sermon Note Taking
Tough Love

Sunday Evening Sermon Note Taking
Guest Speaker Sean Sullivan