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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Burbank Road Church of Christ

The Lamplight

May 22nd 2011 Issue: 0020 Volume:002

Have You Ever Wondered?

There are times we all get discouraged and wonder what it would be like if we could do what we want. What would it be like if we did not have to work or go to school? What would it be like to have all the money we wanted and could buy whatever we desired? Such wondering is natural but we realize that such is actually wishing and will not happen. In fact, some of the things we would want would not be good for us.

Have you ever gotten discouraged while serving God and wondered what it would be like if you could go somewhere else? Those with children want Bible Classes with lots of children so their young ones will have good companions. Young couples often want to go somewhere that will have numerous young couples for them to go out with. Single Christians want other single Christians nearby as they look for dates. I do not blame anyone for desiring such things. I remember being a teenager at a congregation that had no one my age. It can be discouraging and lonely.

There are times it is tempting to go somewhere else because we want something better. We want to go where the building is full and we will have more people to associate with. However, some will place their desires ahead of God's Word. People may leave a faithful congregation to go to a denomination because it is bigger and has more young people, but they are not placing God but themselves first.

This got me to thinking of what it was like to have been a Christian in the first century. We often read through the Book of Acts and learn of those at Jerusalem, Samaria, Antioch, and other places as they obeyed the Gospel. We read of the riot at Jerusalem that claimed the life of Stephen, Acts 7.57-60. We also read of Christians being scattered due to the persecution at Jerusalem and the spread of the Gospel. Also in this account is Paul's conversion and his various legal and personal trials. It was hard being a Christian in the first century. They had to be convicted by the word of God in order to stand up against such trials and tribulations.

Have you ever wondered what first century Christians wanted for their children? Being a Christian parent could not have been easy in the first century. I doubt if they had classrooms like we do now. Who knows what type of classes the early churches had for their young people. Most likely what the children learned came by way of their parents. Mothers and fathers would have instructed their children in the way of the Lord. "And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord" (Ephesians 6.4). Many of these parents would face persecution and see their children face similar trials. Some would die at the hands of the Jews as they tried to stop the preaching of the Gospel of Christ. Later on, some would face Nero. They would be fed to lions, or have their heads chopped off, or be dipped in oil and burned alive. Domitian and Diocletian would cause the streets of cities to be red with the blood of Christians. I dare to say that many first century Christians would look at parents today that complain because there are not enough young people for their children to be with and wish for such problems. They simply wanted their children to be able to serve God and live. I know some parents don't want their children to make the sacrifices that earlier

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THOSE THAT ARE IN NEED OF OUR PRAYERS

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 Grandaughter) and Children
Marlene McCullough
Vera Snow
Golda Cline
Bob Buckland
Bill Weigle
Justina Sanders Grandmother

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jason Workman is in military

Please pray for Harold's Nieces one has been diagnosed with Lou Gehrig's disease and the other has a spot on her neck that is a concern

Marlene McCullough is continuing to recover

Justina's Grandmother has a fractured spine and is rehabbing

Remember our expecting mother's Amber , Beth Morehouse, and Justina

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: Eldred Hess

Song Leader: Jim Cline

Opening Prayer: Josh Marshall

Heading Lord's Table: Jim Cline

Speaker: Daniel Sanders

Closing Prayer: Daniel Sanders

EVENING SERVICES

Song Leader: Jim Cline

Opening Prayer: Harold Reynolds

Lord's Table: Jim Cline

Speaker: Daniel Sanders

Closing Prayer: Jim Butler

WEDNESDAY EVENING SERVICES

Announcements: Eldred Hess

Song Leader: Jim Cline

Opening Prayer: Tony Scarpino

Invitation: Daniel Sanders

Closing Prayer: Jim Butler

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

Christians made in serving God. But it is through those sacrifices that our children learn to depend on God and grow.

I dare to say that some first century Christians would have wished for things to have been different for themselves and their children. They would look at our buildings with padded pews, classrooms, teaching material, and wish they had it so good.

Many early Christians probably just wished they could worship God in peace and quiet. All they wanted to do was to preach the Word of God to their fellowman and help others go to heaven. Paul did not wish for more money or a greater retirement plan, he wanted his brethren to be saved. "Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel [fn] is that they may be saved" (Romans 10.1). Those that met for a whole year at Antioch in Acts 11 made a lot of daily sacrifices so as to meet each day with their brethren and teachers. They may have wished for a time when they could simply pick up a Bible in order to know the Word of God as we can do today.

Have you ever wondered how many Christians decided to stay home instead of hear Paul or Barnabas preach? I am sure some were tempted to do so since there is a warning given in Hebrews 11, "24 And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, 25 not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as [is] the manner of some, but exhorting [one another], and so much the more as you see the Day approaching." But I wonder how many actually were sporadic in their attendance.

Have you ever wondered how many Christians backslide in the first century? We read of men like Hymenaeus and Philetus who strayed from the truth in 2 Timothy 2.17-18. Young widows were told to remarry less they cast off their first love and get involved in things like gossip and being busy bodies, 1 Timothy 4.11-13. Peter warns us of going back into the world in 2 Peter 2. I don't know about you but the picture of a dog vomiting and eating its own vomit is pretty disgusting. That is what some Christians did in the first century. We will never know how many felt the price was too high to pay to be a Christian. But we do know they were wrong, just as those who do the same thing today are also wrong.

Have you ever wondered how many Christians in the first century await the Day of Judgment? They paid the price and remained faithful to the very end, Revelation 2.10. Revelation 6 speaks of those that were slain on the altar for the word of God. "And they cried with a loud voice, saying, 'How long, O Lord holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?'" (Revelation 6.10) All we know is that it is not as long now as it was then and it will come.

Perhaps you have not been tempted to wonder and wish like I have. Perhaps you have been tempted to quit or compromise the word of God for an easier road. But let us not lose sight of why we are doing what we are doing and realize the many blessings we have today.

-- Dennis Tucker

Sunday Morning Sermon Note Taking
Inconsistencies of the Gospel

Sunday Evening Sermon Note Taking
Faith and the Modern World