



Today's Sermons

Morning: In Darkness or In Christ
Afternoon: Song Service

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Are You Preaching?

From Gospel Digest, November, 1959

There isn't a word that a preacher can say
No matter how lovely or true;
Nor is there a prayer his eager lips pray,
That can preach such a sermon as you.

You vowed to serve Christ and men know that you did,
They are watching the things that you do;
There is not one action of yours that is hid,
Men are watching and studying you.

You say you are no preacher? Yes, but you preach
A wonderful sermon each day.
The acts of your life are the things that you teach
It is not the things that you say.

So, Christian, remember you bear His dear name,
Your lives are for others to view
You are living examples, men praise you or blame,
And measure all Christians by you.



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Times of Services:

Sunday
Bible Study:... 10:00am
AM Worship:...11:00am
PM Worship:...6:00pm

Wednesday
Bible Study:.....7:00pm

Radio Program
Sunday:.....7:30am
"Back to the Bible"
AM 580 WSKS
93.5 FM

**We Extend A
Warm &
Cordial
Welcome
To All Our
Visitors!**

A PROVERB TO PONDER

Neal Pollard

*Now, not all our attenders are members,
And not all our members are attenders,
But if all our attenders were members,
And All our members were attenders*

THEN...

*We'd have more trouble menders,
More gospel defenders,
And more true soul winners!*

BUT...

*We'd have fewer people offenders,
Fewer spiritual hinderers,
And fewer religious pretenders!*

So...

*Let us all render a more tender surrender
To the Commender of a love full of splendor!
As we meander on this earth full of sinners,
Let us engender a life with the Lord at the center.*

Attitude

Neal Pollard (taken from Rise Up & Build, page 105).

HOW SOUR ATTITUDES ARE MADE

Abrasiveness—Keep a chip on your shoulder.
Temperamentality—Stay irritable, sensitive, and moody.
Talebearing—Talk bad about others.
Ignorance—Fail to appreciate how God has blessed you.
Temptation—Don't resist, overcome, or avoid it.
Unfaithfulness—Live by the gospel according to self.
Demanding—Expect more than others can do.
Egotism—Put self first.

HOW PROPER ATTITUDES ARE MADE

Action—Do right (Hebrews 5:9; James 1:22).
Thoughtfulness—Consider others (Philippians 2:3-4).
Thankfulness—Appreciate blessings (Colossians 3:15).
Ideals—Pursue spiritual things (Colossians 3:1-2).
Tests—Overcome trials (James 1:5-6, 12).
Understanding—Know how to navigate life (Proverbs 3:5).
Death—Crucify self (Romans 6:6; Colossians 3:5).
Erasers—Forget past failures (Philippians 3:13).

Raise The Goals!

Neal Pollard (taken from Rise Up & Build, page 107).

What started as a game for the eventual boys' state championship basketball team became a symbolic ritual. After every grueling practice, the coach would go to the utility closet and press the button that automatically raised the goals up into the gymnasium rafters. Then all the tired boys would take basketballs from the rack and toss them toward the rising hoops. Thunderous cheers followed every made basket. Curious, the coach one day asked the boys, "Why do you boys shout at those baskets when I take them up?" One of the team captains smiled and replied, "Aw, coach, anybody can hit the goals when they're lowered, but champions hit them when they're raised!"

The future of any congregation can be somewhat determined by the heights of its goals and plans. Where does it hope to be? What does it hope to do? Expectations are an inseparable part of those churches that thrive, grow and develop into beacons that shine into the lost communities around them. ...Each individual member of the Lord's church is helping to build a certain destiny in the unseen, unknown place called tomorrow. How can each Christian help build up the church of which he or she is a member?

Baptism: A Work of Merit?

Tim Canup

Many have tried to say baptism is not essential to salvation by saying it is a work (in the sense it is something done to earn salvation). Question: If baptism is a work of merit, then would it not be something that would have had to originate in the mind of man and not God? For example, a son may have certain chores his father has assigned for him to do to receive certain privileges or an allowance. In order to earn that privilege, he must do all that the father has commanded him. Let us say that the son wants to do something special, such as go to a ball game, which normally he is not allowed to do. So he sees a task that has not been assigned to him (washing his father's vehicle) which he performs hoping to influence his father to allow him to attend that game. The son has performed a work which he hopes will gain merit with his father; hoping his father will grant his wish. He has performed a work of merit, which he hopes will earn this special privilege.

So where did baptism originate, with man or with God? It is clear that God is the one who commanded it; therefore, it cannot be a work of merit and is a command. As a command it is a condition that has been attached to a promise or blessing (salvation from past sins). Listen to our Lord, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved..." To receive the promise or blessing of salvation, we are obligated to obey every command that God has given in His Word.

So why is it that when baptism is suggested as something to be done in order to be saved it is called work which earns salvation, but when it is done after salvation (as an outward sign of an inward faith or to confirm salvation), it is not? Does moving baptism to after salvation make it any less of a work of merit? The fact is baptism is a command from God, thus it is a work of obedience (as described in James 2:17-26) that must be done to be saved (Mark 16:16). As one preacher once asked, "Are there any non-essential commands?"

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Jan 11th – Preach & Eat immediately following morning Worship.
- Jan 11th – 1:30-2:30 – Song Service.
- Jan 11th – Worship @ Eula Osborne's & Birthday Get-Together @ 3:00 pm.
- Please give support money for Chinese orphans to Minnie Kennell
- Spring Meeting: May 24-28 with David B. Smith
- Lansing Tent Meeting: August 6-9 with Mark Bass