



Today's Sermons

Morning: What Does It Mean to Be Faithful?

Evening: Song Service

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FOR THE RECORD

Sunday Bible Study	44
Sunday AM Worship	63
Sunday PM Worship	30
Wed. Bible Study	37
Offering	\$1776

Why Many Are Not Saved

- Some have allowed Satan to snatch the Word of God out of their hearts
 ■ Matthew 13:19
 ■ Luke 8:12
- Some have been deceived
 ■ 2 Thessalonians 2:10-12
- Some love sin
 ■ John 3:19
- Some love the praise of men more than the praise of God
 ■ John 12:42-43
- Some follow family tradition rather than the Lord
 ■ Matthew 10:37-38
- Some trust in their own morality
 ■ Romans 1:16
 ■ Ephesians 5:23
- Some are filled with prejudice
 ■ Matthew 13:15
 ■ Acts 7:51-59
- Some neglect their salvation
 ■ Hebrews 2:3
- Some have fallen away
 ■ 2 Peter 2:20-22

*"The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved."
 Jeremiah 8:20*



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Times of Services:
Sunday
 Bible Study:.... 10:00am
 AM Worship:..11:00am
 PM Worship:....6:00pm
 2nd Sunday:.....1:30pm

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!**

MAINTAINING A PROPER SELF-IMAGE (WHAT SHOULD I THINK ABOUT MYSELF?)
 Roger D. Campbell

When Jesus was asked, "*Which is the first commandment of all?*," how did He respond? He said, "*And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, with all thy soul, with all thy mind, and with all thy strength. This is the first commandment. And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself*" (Mark 12:28-31). The Master wants us to love others as we love ourselves. Do you love yourself? What do you think about yourself? We often are concerned about what *others* think about us, but we also need to maintain a proper attitude toward ourselves. You see, how we think of ourselves often influences how we treat others and how we serve God. Let us consider three relevant musts.

I must realize God's attitude toward me. When God looks at each of us, what does He see? He sees someone that is made in His image (Genesis 1:26,27). The Bible says that we are "*the offspring of God*" (Acts 17:29). None of us is perfect, but each of us is unique – there is no one else exactly like us anywhere in the world. Yes, we have physical bodies, but before God we are more than just a physical body, because He Himself is the "Father" of our spirits (Hebrews 12:9).

Continued Inside

The Psalmist asked Jehovah, "*What is man that thou art mindful of him? And the son of man that thou visitest him?*" (Psalm 8:4). Does the Lord really care for me? Christians are told, "*Casting all your care upon him, for he careth for you*" (1 Peter 5:7). Does that mean that God loves us? Of course. "*But God commendeth his love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us*" (Romans 5:8). Does God care for us so much that He wants our soul to be saved? Yes! ". . . *God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth*" (1 Timothy 2:4, NKJV). Furthermore, God's divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness (2 Peter 1:3). Regardless of our education, family background, race or physical appearance, God loves each one of us and is willing to accept our service if we will accept and follow His beloved Son.

I must realize that as a human being, I am not God. That means that I must lay aside the sin that so easily ensnares me (Hebrews 12:1). God is perfect – He makes no mistakes and commits no sins. But all humans are sinners (Romans 3:23), and if we say that we have no sin, then the truth is not in us (1 John 1:8). We should all strive to perfectly imitate the pattern of Jesus the Christ (1 Peter 2:21,22), but we have to realize that due to our weakness, we will never be able to be completely free from sin.

God "knows all things" (1 John 3:20), but I am not God. Thus, I must admit that I am not all-knowing. In fact, the Bible tells me that I must "*grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ*" (2 Peter 3:18). Let us not be lifted up with pride because we possess some knowledge of the Scriptures. Remember, "*And if any man think that he knoweth any thing, he knoweth nothing yet as he ought to know*" (1 Corinthians 8:2).

Because I am not God, then I am not all-powerful. The Lord alone is the Almighty. I must accept the reality that because my power is limited, there are some things that I cannot accomplish, and others that I simply cannot control. Also, as a human, I have no right to question how God deals with me or anyone else. God's way is always right, but I cannot truthfully say that about my way. Let us remember the words of Jehovah: "*For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways . . . for as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts*" (Isaiah 55:8,9). **I must be content with what the Lord has given me.** Jesus said, "*But seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you*" (Matthew 6:33). In the context, "these things" refers to food, drink, and clothing (6:32), that is, the necessities of life. Thus, Jesus promises that He will provide us with physical necessities if we will put Him and His work first in our lives. The Holy Spirit also says, "*And having food and raiment let us be therewith content*" (1 Timothy 6:8). It is not wrong to have more than basic necessities, nor is it wrong to make plans for the future, but the question that each of us should ask himself is, "What does it take to make me content?" Remember that there were times when the Son of God had no bed on which to lay His head (Luke 9:58).

What about our physical bodies? Who gave them to us? God did. Our body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, and we are not our own, but belong to the Lord (1 Corinthians 6:19,20). With our physical body, whether we eat or drink, or whatever we do, we are to do it to the glory of God (1 Corinthians 10:31). Each of us needs to accept or be content with

the physical body that God has given to us. Remember, God looks not on the outward person, but on the heart of man (1 Samuel 16:7). If you feel that you have been given a physical body that in some way is not "ideal" or has some weaknesses, then consider the following. I once read of a man who read his Bible each day. You might say that there is nothing special about that. He was a blind man. But, is there not a special Bible that blind people can read with their hands? Yes, but this man had no hands. So, he read his Bible with his tongue! And, do you know what else? He rejoiced and thanked God for the ability to do so! Remember, some things in life are unchangeable. We must be able to tell the difference between things which can be changed and those which cannot. When thinking about our bodies, let us not forget that we cannot change the color of our skin, our eye color, foot size, and the genes which we inherited from our parents. However, if we need to, we can change our attitude, our treatment of others, and our outlook on life!

God has also given us special talents. Oh, we may not be as talented as some others, but each of us has some talent that we can use in the kingdom of Christ. In our service to Jesus, ". . . *it is accepted according to that a man hath, and not according to what he hath not*" (2 Corinthians 8:12). Jesus taught the same principle when He said, "*But he that knew not, and did commit things worthy of stripes, shall be beaten with few stripes. For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more*" (Luke 12:48). Jesus told a Parable of Talents about how a man gave different sums of money to three of his servants. To one was given one talent, to another two, and to the third five (Matthew 25:14-30). In this parable, our Lord teaches that regardless of the size of the talent that we have received from Jehovah, we need to use it for His glory! If we will do that, then He will cause our talent to increase. Let us not complain about the abilities that God has given us, nor about the ones that we do not possess. If you have a talent to do something in the kingdom, then do not boast about it. But, at the same time, do not deny it. Simply be thankful for it and use it for the Lord.

In order to maintain a good attitude towards ourselves, then we need to remember God's attitude toward each of us, remember that we are not God, and remember that we need to be content with what God has given to us. Let us not forget that through the word of God it is possible for us to be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work (2 Timothy 3:17). At the same time, let each of us be careful "*not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think*" (Romans 12:3).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Aug 26 – Song Service
- Sept 2 – Men's Business Meeting & Ladies' Class
- Sept 9 – Preach-N-Eat & 1:30 Worship
- Oct 5-6 – "Emerging Church" Seminar w/ Kevin Rutherford
- Please give support money for Chinese orphans to Minnie Kennell