



Chalmette Church of Christ

October 26, 2008

“It Always Goes Back to the Basics of Christianity”

We all have trials and temptations. We all face hardships in life (II Tim. 3:12). We face these things as congregations, families, and as individuals. Nevertheless, trials, temptations, and hardships are not the primary focus. How we deal with these things is the primary focus.

It really does not matter what the particular problem or difficulty may be that is facing us. As Christians, it should be dealt with in the same manner as all other things. I'm not going to address all the congregational, family, and individual problems and challenges we may face. I simply want to point out that the same biblical formula for success applies to them all (I Cor. 10:13).

I, like most people, have faced numerous congregational, family, and individual problems and challenges. These things are a part of life. Yet, it has been my experience, and I firmly believe the Bible teaches, they all must be ultimately dealt with in the same manner in order to be resolved productively. Furthermore, our individual challenges may be of such a nature that they are not resolved as much as they are overcome daily, “And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure. For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong” (II Cor. 12:7-10).

Though the following things are basics and fundamental to Christian living, they should never be underestimated. The seriousness with which they are applied is the difference between success and failure in living the Christian life, “But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ” (II Cor. 11:3).

Whether our problems and challenges are congregational, family, or individually oriented, it is still an individual matter as to how we respond. When congregations and families respond individually in a biblical manner we have the tie that truly binds our hearts and lives together (Phil. 2:1-8).

Prayer is our lifeline (Heb. 4:16). It is through prayer that we ask God for help, strength, guidance, and forgiveness (Phil. 4:6-7)/ How could such ever be taken lightly? Prayer has to fill our lives (I Thess. 5:17). We must constantly seek fellowship with God through prayer. Prayer does not show weakness, it displays a working knowledge of a loving and divine Helper (I John 5:14).

Our days should begin and end with prayer. We must discipline ourselves to always be prayerful throughout the day as challenges and temptations come-and-go. When our minds are troubled by anger, temptation, or sorrow we must focus our attention on prayer. Pray through the difficulties and challenges that arise. Pray through turmoil until peace is found. Such was the case with Jesus in the garden of Gethsemane (Mt. 36:36-46).

Bible study and meditation are not optional (II Tim. 2:15). Our prayers will be hindered if we do not stay close to God's word (Isa. 59:1-2). How will we know for what we should pray or even how to pray?

We would do well to remember that it is the lives of real people that we read about in the Bible. Hebrews chapters eleven and twelve speak of numerous real people who faced real challenges, hardships, and personal struggles and yet they all overcame through faith. The Bible refers to these people as "so great a cloud of witnesses" (Heb. 12:1).

Bible study involves putting ourselves in the positions of the people of which we read and vice-versa and thereby learning from their strengths and weaknesses (Rom. 15:4). As one studies the Bible, he or she will undoubtedly come to identify personally with certain Bible characters. Such is of immeasurable benefit in living the Christian life. Studying out the conduct of Jesus in various situations and applying the lessons to our own lives is the only way we can come to know what it really means to walk in the steps of Jesus (I Pet. 2:21).

Meditation as used in the Bible is taking of biblical principles and applying them correctly to the various walks of life. Rather than just dwelling on problems, struggles, or temptations, let us meditate upon how God's word would have us resolve and deal with such things (Ps. 1:1-6).

Application of biblical teaching is essential to success. This includes everything from worship to overcoming evil with good. It is not enough to know the truth, it must be applied (Mt. 7:21). Truth unapplied is truth unaccepted! To know and accept the truth of God is to apply it. Otherwise, we just become a people who knowingly live in sin (Rom. 1:32).

A remembrance of Jesus and heaven must be maintained (Heb 12:2-3). We must ever keep our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ before us. He is our ultimate example! We must always seek to imitate His life (Phil 1:21, Gal. 2:20). Jesus successfully met the challenges of this world and overcame them, "These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world" (John 16:33).

Jesus ascended back to heaven to be with the Father. If we are to see heaven, we must imitate Christ while looking towards heaven. This world is not our home, heaven is. We are pilgrims traveling through a sin-filled world looking for an eternal home free from the defilements that surround us (Heb. 11:13).

An application of these four steps, consistently and wholeheartedly, will make a tremendous difference in our lives. Yet, they must be maintained and continually increased in order to remain effective (II Pet. 1:5-11). These are not items to be set aside until "needed." These are characteristics and traits that must fill the lives of all that expect to overcome this world and be with Jesus Christ throughout eternity (II Tim. 4:6-8).

By: Johnny Lance

Daylight Savings Time starts
November 2nd, make sure to turn
your clocks back!



Our Gospel Meeting and Door
Knocking Campaign starts
November 2nd through
November 6. Please invite
neighbors and friends and make
plans to attend.

WORKS WE SUPPORT

Gospel Broadcast Network
House to House Heart to Heart
Two students at the Memphis
School of Preaching
Curry Montague— Budapest
Morrne Stephanus

Kid's Korner

See if you can answer the following questions:

Answers from last week:

1. John 2. Patmos 3. Seven Stars 4. 24 5. 4

The Book of Proverbs

Fill in the blank

1. Better is _____, and quietness therewith, than an house full of sacrifices with strife.
2. The beginning of strife is as _____: therefore leave off contention, before it be meddled with.
3. He loveth _____ that loveth strife: and he that exalteth his gate seeketh destruction.
4. It is an honour for a man to cease from strife: but _____ will be meddling.
5. Cast out _____, and contention shall go out; yea, strife and reproach shall cease.

Tune in next week to see if you got all the answers correct!



Cleaning Schedule

Month of October— Nell, Crystal, and Sarah

Upcoming Events

November 14 Ladies Night Out at Steak and Ale

NOVEMBER 14-16 Light From the Past Seminar with Dewayne Bryant

NOVEMBER 2-6 Door Knocking Campaign and Gospel Meeting with the Memphis School of Preaching

November 17- Men's business meeting

November 28- Ladies Game Night

Prayer List

Mary Jo Lance
Malcolm Vasquez
Muriel Jones
Joe Riley
Alice Riley
Maggie Fletcher
Bill Burchett
Buck Hall



Sherry Towle
Bob Spurlin
Catherine Grant
Kathleen Grant Dunn
Earl Grant
Alice Grant
Sonny Adams
Betty Grisham
Paul Roberts
Barnabas Tibbs

*All of our brethren scattered
across the United States

* Our men and women who are serv-
ing in the military:

- Ryan Neal
- Wayne Schulz

Chalmette Church of Christ
200 De La Ronde
Chalmette, LA 70043
504-279-9438

Services of The Church
Sunday

Bible Classes 9:00 am
AM Worship 10:00 am
PM Worship 6:00 pm

Wednesday

Bible Classes 7:00 pm

Elders

Mark Lance 504-250-8492

J. V. Russell 504-277-0251

Charles Whitley 504-277-4717

Evangelist

Mark Lance 504- 250-8492

gospelpr@cox.net

Deacons

Scott Russell 504-232-4120

Wayne Schulz 504-392-3999

Butch Snyder 504-682-0051

Mike Swanner 504-271-2465

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Grass Cutting

Schedule

Robert Gillard– October 27–Nov. 1

Mark Lance– November 3-8

Bruce Scariano– November 10-15

Mike Swanner– November 17-22

Bill Green– November 24-29

