

2016 Issue 19
May 15, 2016

2016 Theme: Unity in the Body of Christ

Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love, being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.
Ephesians 1:1-3

SOUTHPORT CHURCH OF CHRIST

7202 Madison Avenue, Indianapolis, Indiana 46227—Phone: 317-787-7059

Oh How I Love God's Law!

By Dennis Kilgo

Last month in an article entitled “Oh How I Love Your Law” we surveyed the different ways to grow in our knowledge of God’s word - ways that are available to us as members of the Southport church of Christ. Here’s the list --

1. Private or family Bible reading & study.
2. The sermons each Sunday.
3. Our Sunday morning adult Bible study.
4. Our Wednesday evening adult Bible study
5. Our library.
6. Our children’s and teen Bible classes.
7. The devotional at Manor Care.
8. The Ladies Bible study at the building.
9. The women’s home Bible study.
10. The monthly home study of Revelation.
11. Our Gospel Meetings.
12. Gospel meetings elsewhere.
13. Other home Bible studies.
14. Our website.

I thought this list was complete, but since then three more items came to mind, two are so obvious I couldn’t see them!

15. **Our tract rack.** Just inside the entrance are two tract racks with a supply of tracts on a wide variety of Bible subjects. These concise treatments of important Bible subjects can “jumpstart” our study of many Bible subjects.

16. **This weekly bulletin.** Rather than containing just congregational news and jokes or sayings to entertain, this is a teaching bulletin. Each week articles can be found that turn to the scriptures to inform, encourage, or enlighten us.

17. **Any occasion in which we share God’s word with others.** Hopefully you have experienced this phenomenon. Whether we are preaching, teaching a class, leading a home Bible study, or simply discussing a Bible subject with a friend, we find ourselves gaining more Bible knowledge and insight – sometimes learning more than the ones we are teaching. This last way in which we can grow in knowledge leads us into the main subject of this article, how important it is to share God’s word with others.

Share God’s Word

Even a casual reading of the New Testament will cause us to conclude that our Lord wants his people to share the gospel with others. Jesus made it clear that “peacemakers” will be blessed (Mt. 5:9) and goes on to tell us “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.” (Mt. 5:14-16 ESV) Our Lord wants us to be peacemakers, especially that peace between our friends and God. He tells us we are lights and should act like it.

(Continued on Page 3)

Elders: Jeff Dickey: 317-534-8957 • Bill Perry: 317-847-8991
Deacons: Mark Bemis: 317-361-5321 • Carrell Butcher: 317-856-5494 • Will Jones: 317-985-8563
Tim Kilgo: 317-397-0410 • John McCauley: 317-882-5507 • Tony Thetford: 317-856-3698

Of Interest to Our Members

Please remember these shut-ins. They could certainly use encouragement, cards, and visits.

- **Eva Wagner**, Bickford Senior Living, 3021 Stella Drive, Greenwood, IN 46143
- **Sue Miller**, Brownsburg Healthcare Center, 1010 Hornaday Rd., Brownsburg, IN 46112
- **Judy McMullen**, Harrison Terrace, 1924 Wellesley Blvd, Indianapolis, IN 46219
- **Al and Shirley Blankenship**, 1712 Magnolia Drive, Greenwood, IN 46143
- **Lena Welsh**, ManorCare Health Services 8549 S Madison Ave., Indianapolis, IN 46227
- **Sharon Vasquez**, 8549 South Madison Avenue Room 125, Manor Care, Indianapolis, IN 46227
- Let's also remember **JoHelen Woods, Carol Norris, and the Hunters**. Although they are able to meet with us occasionally, for the most part they are unable to do so.
- **Linda Simpkins** will be unable to attend services for awhile, as she is caring for her husband, who is seriously ill.

The Ladies Bible Class will meet the first and third Tuesday of each month, 7:00p.m.



It's A Lie.

By Wilson Adams



Some have bought the lie that they are beyond saving. They believe there's no hope, no life, they will never be better, and God doesn't care. They have given up. "It is enough now, O Lord, take my life..."

They...are...wrong.

Satan says you aren't worth it. God says you are. To prove it, He sent His Son to die so you could live -abundantly here and forever. That's how much He loves you. By the way, don't try and comprehend it, because you can't. Just embrace it.

"Could we with ink the ocean fill, and were the skies of parchment made,
Were every stalk on earth a quill, and every man a scribe by trade;
To write the love of God above would drain the ocean dry;
Nor could the scroll contain the whole, Tho stretched from sky to sky."

Me? God loves me? Yes. God wants me? Yes. In spite of my sins and skeletons? YES! YES! YES! All of which means... you can tell the deceiver to get lost -'cause you aren't buying his lying line any more.

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom..." (Colossians 3:16)

"...As newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby..." (1 Peter 2:2) "Receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls" (James 1:21)



Consider the difference between a strong and weak cup of tea. The same ingredients – water and tea – are used for both. The difference is that the strong cup of tea results from the tea leaves' immersion in the water longer, allowing the water more time to get into the tea and the tea into the water. The longer the steeping process, the stronger the cup of tea. In the same way, the length of time we spend in God's Word determines how deeply we get into it and it gets into us. Just like the tea, the longer we are in the Word, the stronger we become.

(From 1500 Illustrations for Biblical Preaching, p. 31)

Oh How I Love God's Law! (Continued from page 1)

Then, of dozens of other passages, let's note what Peter wrote in 1 Peter 2:9: "But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light." We belong to God, we've been called out ("church" is the "called out") of darkness. As we rejoice in his marvelous light we proclaim how wonderful he is, that is, we evangelize, we share the gospel, the good news of salvation in Christ.

We listed all the ways available for us to learn God's word. Now let us list the ways we, as members of God's family at Southport, have to share God's word with others.

- 1. Invite someone to come with you to worship services.**
- 2. Invite someone to join you in the Bible classes on Sunday morning and Wednesday night.**
- 3. Invite your children's friends to the children's Bible classes.**
- 4. Participate in such efforts as the devotional at Manor Care.**
- 5. Invite a friend, to the ladies Bible class.**
- 6. We regularly record all the sermons presented here, Get a CD of a good salvation sermon to give to someone. Give someone a CD of a sermon on a subject of interest.**
- 8. Keep a couple of our "I'd Like to Recommend" business cards to give to those you meet.**
- 9. Invite a friend to an ongoing home Bible study.**
- 10. When you are having regular family Bible studies, invite a neighbor.**
- 11. Tell a friend about our website where they can find over 600 sermons to listen to, and over 60 articles on a variety of subjects available to read.**
- 12. Check our library for material on how to reach the lost.**
- 13. Invite your friend to study a particular Bible subject or Bible book together.**

- 14. Invite your friend to a weekly reading of the Bible.**
- 15. Invite your friend to hear a lesson during a gospel meeting.**
- 16. Invite your friend to hear a lesson in a gospel meeting elsewhere, especially if the subject announced is one of mutual interest.**
- 17. Introduce your friend to other members. The more he or she knows that are of "like precious faith" the more likely their interest will increase.**

All of these ways to share the gospel with others pretty much assumes that our friends are open to spiritual things. This brings us to the final, and most fundamental thing for us to do that can lead eventually to sharing the gospel and souls saved. That one thing?

Good works!

Notice what Jesus said in Matthew 5: "let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven." It is in seeing our good works that bring others to give glory to God.

Good works – that is so important! "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. "Ephesians 2:10. Jesus "gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works. Titus 2:14. Good works are so important we are urged, "And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works," Hebrews 10:24.

These good works, done because we are God's children, will be noticed and eventually those open to spiritual things will ask us about our hope, why we do good for others. "[I]n your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect," 1 Peter 3:15. As we answer questions about our hope we will naturally share the gospel with them, using the different means listed above to share God's word.

Paul And The Sinner's Prayer

By Ron Boatwright

In Acts chapter 9, Saul of Tarsus, who later was named Paul, was struck blind when he met the Lord on the road to Damascus. Then we read in Acts 9:6 about Paul, "So he, trembling and astonished said, 'Lord, what do you want me to do?' Then the Lord said, 'Arise and go into the city and you will be told **what you must do**'". Notice, Paul would be told "**what you must do**". Then we read "But they led him by the hand and brought him in- to Damascus. And he was three days without sight, and neither ate nor drank" (Acts 9:8-9). Did Paul have faith in the Lord? Yes. Was Paul saved by "faith only" at this point? No; as we will see, Paul still needed to be baptized to wash away his sins.

The Lord sent a man, named Ananias, to tell Paul **what he must do**. The Lord told Ananias to "Arise and go to the street called Straight and inquire at the house of Judas for one called Saul of Tarsus, for behold, he is praying" (Acts 9:11). Paul had been praying, but he did not receive forgiveness of his sins through praying. Paul still had all of his sins. Paul was told by Ananias "And now why are you waiting? Arise and **be baptized and wash away your sins**, calling on the name of the Lord" (Acts 22:16). Paul was not

saved and his sins were not forgiven until Paul did what he was told he must do; that is to "**arise and be baptized and wash away your sins.**"

Today men have come up with the idea of "accepting Jesus as your personal Saviour" and saying the "sinner's prayer" in order to be saved. This is a ploy of Satan which will cause many people to be eternally lost by

not obeying what the Lord says that we must do in order to have our sins forgiven and to be saved. Satan knows people are not saved by saying the "sinner's prayer".

"Accepting Jesus as your personal Saviour" and saying the "sinner's prayer" in order to be saved is foreign to the Bible. Why wasn't Paul's sins forgiven by his praying before he was baptized? Paul's sins were not washed away until after he was baptized. Paul was not told to pray the "sinner's pray-

er", but to "Arise and be baptized and wash away your sins". I cannot think of a more flagrant crime against God and man, than to tell lost sinners who want to be saved something different than what God says in the Bible.



"And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord" (Acts 22:16).

Times We Meet:

Sunday morning:

Bible Classes for all ages, 9:30 a.m.

Worship, 10:30 a.m.

Sunday evening:

Worship, 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday Evening:

Bible Classes for all ages, 7:30 p.m.

