

Recent Prayer Requests

- Tolbert Nichols has been diagnosed with lung cancer. He continues to battle headaches and nausea. He will begin chemotherapy this Tuesday. Please keep him and Betty in your prayers.
- Judy Ballard's father, Novis Pennell, was scheduled to have open heart surgery. We do not have any updates.
- Debbie Richey, a friend of the Craytons, is having cancer treatment at MD Anderson in Houston.
- Ken Bell is recuperating at home after his shoulder surgery.
- Henrietta Smith is doing well in her recovery from thyroid surgery.
- Ellagean Peters, mother of Lisa Watkins continues to suffer from health issues.
- Lisa Watkins' is awaiting test results. She has more tests scheduled for this Tuesday. Please keep her in your prayers.
- Jack Christian, father of Janice Jefferson, continues to battle COPD and has been moved to hospice care. Please keep the Jefferson and Christian family in your prayers.
- Steve Fortner, brother in law of Janis McGee, had a defibrillator implanted and is now recuperating at home. He is feeling much better.
- Ray McGee, Janis' husband test results showed blockage in the neck and legs and he will see the surgeon on Wednesday.
- Pearl Morris' niece, Debbie, has been diagnosed with colon cancer. Her cancer has been diagnosed and they think they have it contained to one area that can be removed and then she will have some further treatment.
- Bill Marshall continues to battle some health issues
- Katie Lanham, granddaughter of the Nichols, is battling substance abuse.
- Frances Miller's Daughter, Elaine, continues to recuperate from surgery on her broken knee cap.
- Ken Bell's Daughter, Alicia, continues to suffer from rheumatoid arthritis.
- Please continue to remember Charles Robinson, Gary Dawson, Calvin Young, Lily Ray, Joanne Morgan and Michelle McCoy, in your prayers.

frisco
messenger

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SERVICES & GATHERINGS

Sunday Bible Class..... 9 AM
 Sunday Worship 10 AM & 6 PM
 Lodges at Preston Ridge 1:15 PM
 Wednesday Evening Bible Class,7 PM
 Elders Office Hours : Every Tuesday7PM-9PM
 Ladies Bible Class 2nd & 4th Thurs. of the month....7PM

FOR THE RECORD

Sunday Morning Classes	32
Sunday Morning Worship	83
Sunday Evening Worship	58
Wednesday Evening Classes	48
Contribution	\$3181
Budget	\$3322



I READ THE BIBLE. I'M A CHRISTIAN, BUT I AM NOT A RELIGIOUS MAN.

A few days ago I was listening to a "radio talk show." A caller made the statement used as the title of this article. When I first heard that statement, I laughed. Soon, my laughter turned to dismay, then agitation, and finally to feeling sorry for the person who made it.

You see, this statement exhibited an attitude that is prevalent in our society today. We might be shocked to learn how many people would regard the above statement as legitimate.

I understand that a person can be a Christian and be living the life of a reprobate. Such a person could honestly say "I'm a Christian, but I am not a religious man." But the individual did not use the statement in that sense. He presented himself as one who was acceptable to God.

It is bad enough this attitude is in the world. The sad thing is far too many Christians have this philosophy of life.

The question for consideration today: Can one be in an approved state before God and truthfully say, "I read the Bible. I'm a Christian, but I am not a religious man"? I affirm that such is not possible.

The word "religious" as we normally use it means *adhering to or manifesting religion; pious, godly. . .extremely faithful; scrupulous*. Can one consistently claim to be something and not exemplify the characteristics of that which is claimed? I think not!

Peter touches on this very thing. He wrote, "According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: *that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust*" (2 Pet. 1:3-4). Would the person who manifests the DIVINE NATURE be classified as a *religious* individual? Indeed he would! Would the person who epitomizes the DIVINE NATURE be showing that kind of life so dominate in the world today? I think not!

Paul wrote, "And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him" (Col. 3:10). This is impressive. Inspiration affirms the new man is being renewed *after the image of him that created him*. Would this be evidenced in the life of one who is not *religious*? Surely none would so argue.

Now, let us imagine for a moment the above mentioned caller was correct in his statement. Link that with the thoughts of Peter and Paul just mentioned and we come away with an interesting scenario. It would mean this "nonreligious Christian" (as he depicted himself) is radiating that which manifests one who has been born of God! Can you believe it?

Is possible that a faithful Christian would lie? cheat? steal? be dishonest? use filthy language? make unholy insinuations? drink alcoholic beverages? carouse? go out on their mate? play the lotto? To each one of these, I respond: Absolutely not! Why? Because this is opposed to all that is included in the perception of one who is created after the image of Him that created him.

In the Roman epistle, Paul penned the following, "For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be *conformed to the image of his Son*, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren" (Rom. 8:29). Right quick: Write down how you would describe one who was "conformed to the image of His Son." How many of you wrote

Elders

Bill Gressett
Brian Kidd
Hubert Lowry
Will Watkins

Deacons

Tom Bright
Finance & Administration

Cris Brown
Youth Education & Activities
Building & Maintenance

James Cothran
Benevolence

Kevin Lowry
Adult Education & Activities
Worship

Evangelist

Todd Crayton

Scripture of the Week

For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing

2 Timothy 4:6-8

mean-spirited? unkind? unloving? uncaring? unmerciful? non-benevolent? not peaceable? not longsuffering? not gentle? I think everyone sees our point.

But beloved, the thinking of the above mentioned caller is found in too many people. They feel this is what it means to be "Christ-like."

Long ago Isaiah wrote of those who "...call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter" (Isa. 5:20). Satan often uses this subterfuge. If it is evil, just call it good -- people will accept that. Is it good? Call it evil. Man loves to do that!

By using this same maneuver, imagine how Paul's list of the *works of the flesh* would read. It would sound something like ". . .love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance" (Gal. 5:22-23). And then imagine Paul writing ". . .of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God" (Gal. 5:21)!

Those things he calls the *fruit of the Spirit* would read, "...adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like" (Gal. 5:19-21). Furthermore, can we comprehend Paul saying of this nefarious list, "against such there is no law"?

We might be amused at this classic example of rewriting what constitutes good and what comprises evil. But be sure of this one thing beloved, the only reason Satan would ever smile at this is that he has found it to be most effective.

When I hear such words as, "I read the Bible. I'm a Christian, but I am not a religious man," it disturbs me. It bothers me in that we are made to realize that Satan has been successful. It distresses me that man has been deluded to the point he thinks such reasoning is logical. It is upsetting to realize that untold numbers, both in and out of the Church, will go to the judgment bar of Christ, having accepted such nonsense as this!

Please consider this. Since we are the children of God, is it unreasonable to think that His children should have the attributes of their Father? I think not. For one to think they can be a faithful non-religious Christian is ridiculous. It is tantamount to placing oneself on the road to eternal destruction.

Let us be sure this is not our philosophy. Let us be certain we are always "...denying ungodliness and worldly lusts" and living "soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ" (Titus 2:12-13).

Short Thoughts

- It would be better to live as if there is a God and die to find out there is not – than to live as if there is no God and die to find out there is!
- How can one make it to heaven – if he cannot make it to Church?!
- If we feel a distance between us and the Lord; remember, it's not the Lord who has moved.
- Some people continue to change jobs, mates and friends -- but never think of changing themselves.

WHY DO YOU MISS SERVICES?

Check the appropriate space. If space is checked, please answer the question that follows.

- ___ Because I had company. (Did your company keep you from work?)
- ___ Because there was a good television program I didn't want to miss. (Is that putting first things first?)
- ___ Because I felt that once is enough. (Would you recommend that we close the doors at all other times of services?)
- ___ Because I was tired. (Would you have been too tired if there had been a \$25.00 reward for going?)
- ___ Because I was lazy. (Honest?)
- ___ Because I had homework. (Does your homework keep you from doing anything else you want to do?)
- ___ Because I had a date. (Why not bring your "date" to services? Is your "date" more important than the Lord?)
- ___ Because I don't like the preacher, (You don't worship the preacher, do you?)
- ___ Because I had a "club" or "civic" meeting. (Are those meetings more important than the assembly of the saints?)
- ___ Because I love pleasure more than I love the Lord. (Did you ever read Hebrews 11:24ff?)
- ___ Because I am not interested in preaching the gospel to the lost. (Why do you come on Sunday morning?)
- ___ Because I was traveling - and you can save money if you travel on Sunday. (Did you ever read Mark 8:36-37?)
- ___ Because the biggest crowd is present on Sunday morning. (Well, didn't you help make it smaller on Wednesday night?)
- ___ Because I didn't want to go. (Why? Are your affections set on things above? Col. 3:1-2).
- ___ Because my children were taking a nap, and I didn't want to disturb them. (is this the way that parents are to bring their children up in the "nurture and admonition of the Lord? Eph. 6:1-3).

If you are unwilling to check any of the above "reasons" for missing services, why not be present at all the services - Sunday morning Bible class and worship, Sunday night worship, Wednesday night Bible study, and all other assemblies of exhortations (Heb. 10:25)?

Borrowed

IN FOCUS

PANTRY ITEM... Canned vegetables

THINGS TO KNOW....

- The youth devotional for the 6th through 12th grades has been cancelled.
- There will be VBS set up and rehearsal tonight after services.
- If you have signed up to bring snacks for VBS, please bring them tonight so we can be ready for Monday.
- Our VBS starts tomorrow night and runs through Wednesday night. We will meet each night from 7PM to 9 PM and there are classes for all ages including the adult class.
- We are currently working on filling our Bible class teacher rotation for the next two years. Please let Chris Brown know when you are available to teach.
- We will have our monthly singing practice next Sunday afternoon at 5:15.

ANNIVERSARIES & BIRTHDAYS this week....

July 28th – Cris Brown
July 29th – Amanda Setzler
July 31st – Drew Willard