

Family Matters

Illness

- Margaret Baker was ill earlier this week. She also requests prayers from her 18 month old grandon (TJ) who has been fighting e-coli.
- Victor Studdard has fallen a few times in the last two weeks. Please keep him in your prayers.
- Eddie Bowen's sister has not responded to medications for heart failure. Please keep her and the family in your prayers.

Homebound: Barbara Green, Nelda Clifton, Connie Pagan, and Stephen Cooper. Donald Hejl and Doris Smith continue in hospice care facilities.

Today: 3PM Men's Meeting

The Jordan's home flooded and is being repaired. They are going back and forth between their mother's homes until they can get back in the house.

Tony Gross has retired and moved to Arkansas where he is with lots of family.

New Caney Church of Christ

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Assembly Times

Sundays
Bible Class 9:30 a.m.
Worship 10:30 a.m.
Wednesdays
Bible Classes 7:00 p.m.

Retaining The Standard Of Sound Doctrine

Evangelist: Charles Willis
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Know Your Bible: Answers

1. Song of Solomon 2:12
2. Amos 4:8
3. Psalm 60:8
4. Romans 3:15
5. Exodus 4:12

This Week's Assignments

Announcements:

Sunday Morning

Greeter: Arturo Orozco
Announcements: John Franks
Encouragement Talk: Eddie Bowen
Opening Prayer: Josh Emerson
Scripture Reading: Jacob McAdams
2 Timothy 3:1-11
Song Leader: Ryan Haarmann
Bread: Ronnie Ramsey
Contribution: Todd McAdams
Helper: Corwin Richardson
Fruit of the Vine: John Van Baale
Helper:
Helper: Verlin Wilson
Closing Prayer: Billy Lovell

Sunday Afternoons

May 12 3PM Men's Meeting
May 19 3PM Devotionals
May 26 Parent Planned Youth Devotional
June 2 3PM Encouragement (cards & calls)

Wednesday Evening

Song Leader: Ryan Haarmann
Speaker: Tyler Blazek



Standing Firm

"Take up the full armor of God, that you may be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm"
Ephesians 6:13

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Alternatives To Indifference

Indifference is unconcern. It is an individual matter, but churches become indifferent to the extent that the people who comprise them are indifferent. It is likely the most common malady among local congregations today. It may be found in every section of the country and in every size congregation. Personally, it pervades the lives of the most spiritually intelligent people just as it does those who have little knowledge of the Scriptures. It is subtle, gradual, and many times, imperceptible. It moves slowly and without fanfare and is thus hard to diagnose, even for the most sagacious person.

The conquering of indifference can be done perhaps more effectively by preventative measures than by diagnostic ones.

The measures for the prevention of indifference are so obvious as to almost seem simplistic. But we must begin with these or we are apt to fool ourselves into thinking we are active when we are, in fact, indifferent. Make no mistake about it, there is no time to lose, for this most pervasive of all spiritual maladies is most assuredly at work.

1. There must be a stronger tendency toward Bible study. Indifference has a hard time making much progress in a life that is duly influenced by regular exposure to biblical instruction. Bible study is hard, no doubt about it. It takes work, concentration, planning, and perseverance. No wonder Paul calls the one who does it a "workman" (2 Timothy 2:15). He says one must "handle aright" the word of truth; it takes a workman to do that. Handling calls for concentration. "Cutting along a straight line" is the idiom in the original language. Cutting is hard work, no matter if it's cutting meat, cutting material, cutting the grass, or appropriating the word of God to one's life. You have to try hard.

And there is no such thing as "corporate study" (it is not so that because there is studying going on, you have studied); but there is such a thing as "corporate knowledge," or the whole of what each person knows, viewed together. Such corporate education is necessary for strong churches. And to whatever extent it does not exist, to that same extent the local congregation suffers indifference, sometimes even moral decay.

2. There must be a greater devotion of worship, both public and private. Worship illustrates commitment. It is unthinkable that a person who meditates about God and His word and is seeking to apply it to his life would be derelict in worship. And yet, we see people who affirm their faith in Christ who are indifferent to such opportunities. You may rest assured that when people are sporadic in attending public worship services, there is an amount of indifference in their lives.

Nor does the mere fact that we attend the public assemblies declare how much private worship we do. What seems to be worship may be an empty ritual, one designed to walk through the various exercises in order to keep down some controversy or maintain family tradition. But true worship is a great combatant against indifference.

Notice, I said true worship. Worship, public or private, must have the right elements (see John 4:23-24), or be *“in spirit and in truth.”* No worship can ever be proper without the right attitude; nor can it be proper when truth is not present. Otherwise, the worshipper has no idea if he is pleasing God. The truest worship you can give begins when you present yourself to God (Romans 12:1-2). Both private and public worship depends on first giving yourself. It means nothing if it starts some other place.

3. We must have a genuine concern for one another. We can do much to combat indifference - both in ourselves and in others - by mutual exhortation. Hebrews 10:23-25 recommends that we exhort one another to greater faithfulness. Sure, there is a risk involved — do it anyhow! If someone were headed toward some sure disaster, you certainly would ignore the risk and warn them, would you not? Hebrews 3:12-14 tells us we should do it *“while it is today,”* indicating that we sense the urgency in the situation. There may be no other opportunity.

Romans 12:4-21 gives an abundance of information which, if implemented, would do much to combat indifference. Among other things, it requires that we not think too highly of ourselves (verse 3); that we each do what we have the gift to do (verses 4-8); that our love be pure, not feigned (9); that we have a “family affection” toward one another (10); not flagging in our energetic pursuit of that which is right (11); keeping hope alive for one another, forbearing one another and urgent in our remembrance of one another in prayer (12); benevolent to those who need us, hospitable to each other (13); involved with one another (15); same-minded, always descending to the level of those lower than we are (16);

Know Your Bible

Where is the curious quotation found?

1. The voice of the turtle is heard in our land.
2. So 2 or 3 cities wandered unto 1 city to drink water.
3. Moab is my washpot; over Edom will I cast out my shoe.
4. Their feet are swift to shed blood.
5. Now therefore go, and I will be with thy mouth.

Answers On Back

Sunday Sermons

Point your phone camera at the square below, then click on the link to hear the sermon. Recordings will change mid-week.



and handling disagreements with care, considering God in all we do (17-21). If these few things were put into service, indifference would suffer a serious blow.

Let's get going again. Let's get ourselves up and begin again to do what we know is right. Let's rid ourselves of the deterrents to our faithfulness, charge ourselves with our own responsibilities, fuel ourselves with a love for God and for our brothers and sisters in Christ.

By Dee Bowman

The Last Fight

By Robert Turner

On the ruins of a theater in Ephesus there is a memorial to an athlete of the 2nd century A.D. which reads: “He fought three fights, and twice was crowned.” Watch out for that last step! You see, those “athletes” fought to the death. A man's last fight was always fatal. So, the crown meant only that one changed opponents; and sooner or later the last would slay him.

What a difference in this crown, and that of the apostle Paul: *“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...”* (2 Timothy 4:7-8).

Paul did more than fight “unto death” — he fought unto life, eternal. If his fight of faith cost him his earthly life, it only meant he was now free to claim the crown that counted most (Revelation 2:10, 2 Cor. 5:6ff.). How different from those who die without hope.

Paul sought an enduring victory — one that could not be taken from him. He exhorted Timothy, *“Lay hold on eternal life...”* (1 Timothy 6:12). This called for training, perseverance, and above all, self control (1 Corinthians 9:24-27). The athlete trained his body only to prolong the day when it would fail him; but Paul trained his that it might the better serve the Lord, and thus serve his eternal purposes.

We are all engaged in some sort of battle, and in a very real sense it is “unto death.” The fatalist, the fool, resigns himself to shortchange. Though he fights 3,000 times, he can expect but 2,999 temporal crowns, not one of which he can take with him beyond that last fight. The futility of it all is enough to make a man throw in the towel.

The Faith gives purpose to life. The Christian fights, hard and often. But he has submitted himself to God's will, *“strives lawfully”* (2 Timothy 2:5), and his fight is never in vain. Jesus Christ has provided for him a crown, and not for him only, *“but unto all them also that love his appearing.”*