

Enthusiasm

Henry Ford said, "You can do anything if you have enthusiasm.

Enthusiasm is the yeast that makes your hopes rise to the stars.

Enthusiasm is the spark in your eye, the swing in your gait, the grip of your hand, the irresistible surge of your will and your energy to execute your ideas. Enthusiasts are fighters, they have fortitude, they have staying qualities. Enthusiasm is at the bottom of all progress! With it, there is accomplishment. Without it there are only alibis."

Many people mistakenly think they can find contentment in the things of the world. A wealthy employer once overheard one of his workers exclaim, "Oh if I only had a hundred dollars, I would be perfectly content." Knowing that his own money had not given him inner peace, he told her, "Since I would like to see someone who is perfectly contented, I'm going to grant your desire." He gave her the money and left, but before he was out of earshot, he heard her remark bitterly, "Why on earth didn't I say \$200?" The boss smiled, for he had made his point that money doesn't make a person "perfectly contented."

It's been said that when attempting to boil a frog, if you start by boiling the water and put the frog in the boiling water, it will jump out. If, however, you begin by placing the frog in water that's room temperature and then put the pot on the heat, the frog fails to recognize the gradual change in water temperature. Before the frog knows it, the water temperature is greater than it can bear. This is the way Satan works on us - in a slow, subtle, undetectable manner. We need to be on guard and resist him with all our being.

When people are offered ice cream, tea, and fried chicken as enticement to attend worship services, you will find that those people are as cold as the ice cream, weak as the tea, and as dead as the chicken.

A boy while flying a kite was so successful that the kite went out of sight. He stood in the field with a cord in his hand that bent upwards into the sky. Someone asked him how he knew the kite was there, and he let them put their hand on the string. They could feel the pull of the unseen kite. Similarly, the world may not recognize the existence of God, but those who are in Christ know Him. They recognize His invisible power in every phase of their lives, and unbelieving bystanders are forced to admit that the true believer possesses something which they do not have.

Edifier

Evant church of Christ

310 W Brooks Drive

Evant, TX 76525

254-471-5705

April 24, 2016



Attending church services regularly is like making a path through the forest: the more often you use it, the less obstruction you find in the way."

Sunday Worship:

Will Vann, Preacher

9:30 am Bible Study

863-899-0987

10:20 am Worship

Email: wvann@yahoo.com

12:30 pm Afternoon

www.evantchurchofchrist.org

Wednesday Night

7:pm

Trust the Lord

“Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding” (Prov. 3:5). Applying this verse is sometimes extremely difficult. The pressures and anxieties of life can lead us to trust in worldly wisdom rather than in our all-knowing God. However, real peace and strength are only found when we place our confidence in Him (Psa. 32:1; 125:1). We should trust the Lord:

IN EVERYTHING. “In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths” (Prov. 3:6). Many people seem to revel in their independence; they view themselves as being self-sufficient, and have little or no room for God in their life (Rev. 3:17). But nothing could be farther from the truth! Trusting the Lord in everything shows our realization of our own insufficiency (Jas. 4:10), and our desperate need for God’s help. “And the LORD shall help them...Because they trust in Him.” (Psa. 37:40).

FOR EVERYTHING. “Commit your way to the LORD, trust also in Him, and He shall bring it to pass” (Psa. 37:5). Every good and perfect gift comes from the Heavenly Father (Jas. 1:17). It is easy for us to think that everything we have was attained solely through our own efforts, but this is simply not so. It is through God that we live and move, and have our very being (Acts 17:28).

WITH EVERYTHING. “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” (Matt. 6:21). Some people cling to their possessions or pride as though they were going to have them forever. The folly of this thinking will sadly carry over into eternity. To the faithful child of God, the Father must come first (Matt. 6:33; Luke 14:25-33). When we trust in God with our all, then we have our priorities set properly.

THROUGH EVERYTHING. “For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory” (2 Cor. 4:17). We need to trust in Him even in the midst of trials and sufferings, for although we may not understand the purpose of those difficulties, we still can live righteously before God and glorify Him. “The LORD redeems the soul of His servants, and none of those who trust in Him shall be condemned” (Psa. 34:22).

May we truly be able to say, “In God We Trust!”

*Mike Vestal
via Broadway church of Christ
Campbellsville, KY*

Those to Serve

(B) Calvin Burks FV) Keith Stifflemire

(O) Doug Pruett (A) Kyle Stifflemire

1st prayer Jeffrey Burks 2nd prayer Jack Wall

Announcements: Judd Wall Singing: Mike Mallet

Prayer List: Naomi Wall , Mildred Lovell , Gene Payne, Lloyd Crownover, Ruby Jones, Pray for our nation, our Troops and Law Enforcement

No People can be bound to acknowledge and adore the invisible hand, which conducts the Affairs of men more than the People of the United States. Every step, by which they have advanced to the character of an independent nation, seems to have been distinguished by some token of providential agency. . . we ought to be no less persuaded that the propitious smiles of Heaven, can never be expected on a nation that disregards the eternal rules of order and right, which Heaven itself has ordained . . . GEORGE WASHINGTON, from the National Archives' transcription of WASHINGTON'S INAUGURAL ADDRESS OF 1789

John 15:5 (KJV)

I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.



To

Emma Lee Burks 28th

Connie Mallet 30th

Jana Wall, May 18th

Dates to Remember

April 24th

Family & Friends Day

Noon Fellowship

May 1st

Mission Sunday

May 8th

Mother's Day

What Is Heaven Like?

By Ron Boatwright

Jesus says, "In My Father's house are many mansions, if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also" (John 14:2-3). Heaven will be a mansion like we have never seen before. "We have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed with our habitation which is from heaven" (2 Corinthians 5:1-2). We should be looking forward to going to Heaven. "For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body" (Philippians 3:20-21). Heaven is described as "The city had no need for the sun or moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it" (Revelation 21:23).

Heaven will always be pure. "But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life" (Revelation 21:27). There will be no evil people in Heaven.

Heaven is "an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you" (1 Peter 1:4). We do not earn Heaven, but we inherit it by being a faithful child of God. In Heaven "God shall wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away" (Revelation 21:4). There will be no tears or crying in Heaven because there will be nothing there to cause them. There will never be another sad moment because there will be nothing but joy and happiness. In Heaven there will be no funerals or cemeteries because people there will live forever, "In the land where we never grow old". There will be no pain, sickness or hurt in Heaven because we will have an immortal body like the Lord's body. As humans beings we cannot even begin to understand the glories of Heaven even if we were given a lengthy description. The only way we will understand how wonderful Heaven is going to be is to see it for ourselves. Let's make sure we go to Heaven and not Hell.

What Ministries Are You Looking for in a Church?

That seems like a legitimate question doesn't it, "What ministries are you looking for in a church?" After all, most people looking for a church home are looking to see what kind of "ministries" a church offers. Does this church have a children's ministry? a youth ministry? a college ministry? a singles ministry? a transportation ministry? The list of ministries people are looking for in a church could go on and on. But what if people are asking the wrong question? What if the church shouldn't be in the business of "offering ministries" to church shoppers? Here are some things to consider...

The Effect of Consumerism

Consumerism has changed the way we think of the church. In most larger communities there are several congregations from which to choose and most people "shop" for a church home the way they shop for anything else. When people are considering whether or not to become a customer of a business, they ask questions like, "What services can your business offer me that your competition doesn't offer?"

When shopping for a new church home, parents usually want to make sure there is a ministry for their children. Singles want a ministry that is catered to them. College students want a church that ministers specifically to those in their age group. And if a particular church can't offer the ministries they are looking for, they'll go down the street to another church.

Trying to compete, churches have become big businesses, creating, maintaining, and advertising various ministries to draw in church shoppers. "We'll minister to your every need," they shout to the community. And most people today think that's the way it should be; but that's because we have been more influenced by our consumer culture than Scripture.

2. You're Asking the Wrong Questions

When looking for a church home, we should not be asking, "How will you minister to me and my family?" We should be asking, "How will you equip me and my family to minister to others?" You see, in addition to reaching the lost with the gospel, the church's primary function is to "to equip the saints for the work of ministry" (Ephesians 4:12).

Unfortunately, we have bought into the lie that paid church staff are the "ministers" and that "ministry" is something that is done by paid ministers or corporately by "the church." But the biblical truth is that every member of a congregation should be a minister and everything we do every day of our lives should be ministry (see Romans 12:1; 1 Corinthians 10:31; Colossians 3:17; Galatians 6:10).

Just as a few examples of what I'm talking about: a Christian stay-at-home mom is a minister and one of her ministries is taking care of her children, her husband, and her home (Titus 2:4-5). A Christian sanitation worker is a minister and reaching his co-workers with the gospel is one of his ministries. A Christian college student, on the campus of a state college, is a minister and being a representative for truth and godliness is one of her ministries.

That doesn't mean there is no place for churches to have paid staff (see 1 Corinthians 9) or that the church shouldn't minister to people corporately. But as individual Christians, we need to stop looking for ministers and churches to minister to us and start looking to become ministers so we can minister to others.

3. So What Should I Look for in a Church Home?

Biblically speaking, a great church is not necessarily one that offers all kinds of ministries to serve you, but one that equips you to go out during the week and do all kinds of ministry. So how does a church equip you in this way?

According to 2 Timothy 3:16-17 and Ephesians 4:12-16 here are a few ways the church should be using God's word to "equip" members:

1 Teaching – Churches should focus the majority of their efforts on "*prayer and the ministry of the word*" (Acts 6:4). They need to be teaching sound doctrine, so members are not "*carried about by every wind of doctrine*" (Ephesians 4:14). Look for a church home where you will be taught God's word.

2 Reproof – A church that does not reprove you when you are in sin is not a church that is equipping you. Look for a church where you are made aware of YOUR sins and not just the sins of everyone else.

3 Correction – Not only do we need someone to tell us when we've gone wrong, we need people who will invest in our lives to help us get back on track. Look for a church with shepherds (elders) and members who will lovingly and gently correct and guide you back to the straight and narrow path.

4 Training – It's not enough to just *learn* what we should be doing, we need to be "*doers of the word*" (James 1:19-27). Look for a church where people are working and ask, "*Can you train me to help?*"

5 Love – A healthy congregation is one in which "*each part is working properly*" and when this happens, it "*makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love*" (Ephesians 4:16). Look for a church that will build you up in love.

Remember, you'll never find a perfect congregation, but I'm certain – if you are willing to do the work – you can find one that will help equip you "*for the work of ministry.*"

I love you and God loves you,

Wes McAdams

Ephesians 4:31-32 (KJV)

31 Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice:

32 And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.