



We are a congregation of the Lord's people looking for you. We desire to love our community and neighbors as our Lord has taught us to do. Please allow us to be an encouragement to you as you are an encouragement to us by visiting with us today.

If you have any questions about anything you see or hear today, please stop someone and ask questions. We are seeking to be New Testament Christians, and as such we desire to share what we have been given. We want to be ready to give you an answer for what we do and say (1 Peter 3:15)

*But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:*

**Thank you for being our Guest today!**

As the Old Testament scriptures drew to a close, the people carried away to Babylon were allowed to return and rebuild. The city, temple and walls were restored to a shade of their former glory. However, the people were far from where they should have been spiritually and the prophets spoke of **hope and redemption** in a time when the world seemed dark and meaningless. The captivity did not correct all the problems of disobedience and the words of God through his prophets were still not being accepted by the people. Although there was a faithful remnant, the majority of the Jews still were wayward. The next four hundred years of history went silent with revelation from God, and the people were drifting further away.

The New Testament opens with announcements of joy as John and Jesus' births were about to bring hope and salvation to the people who would recognize them and their work. But the people, who had four hundred years to study God's word, rejected and despised the message they brought to light. The few that would listen, would believe and obey the Gospel and become the body of Christ. This group of God's children would have the privilege of communing with God again through the blood which Christ shed upon the cross.

Just before His death on Calvary, our Lord instituted the Lord's supper and instructed us to partake of it in remembrance of Him (1 Corinthians 11:23-26). The bread and cup were emblems he gave us to commemorate His body and blood of the new covenant which was shed for the remission of sins (Matthew 26:26-29). It is in this Memorial that we are to give reverence and honor for what our Lord has done for us. Remember His death on the cross makes possible our restored relationship with God and we have the opportunity to observe this each Lord's day. What an awesome way to be humbled and holy in his sight.



## Scavenger Hunt

through Philippians

Rebecca Rushmore

1. For what two negative motivations did some preach Christ?
2. How did Paul entreat the Christians to treat each other?
3. At what name will everyone one day bow?
4. Who did Paul soon plan to send to the church at Philippi?
5. Who did Paul already send to the church at Philippi?
6. Of what tribe was Paul?
7. Where is our citizenship?
8. List three individuals, other than Timothy, that Paul names in the letter.
9. In what state are we to be content?
10. Christians from whose household sent greetings by the way of Paul?

Hunt for answers in this bulletin as last resort, of course.

## Practicing “Paul”

Glenn Colley

In 1 Corinthians 4:16 Paul wrote, *“Wherefore I exhort you to be imitators of me...”*, and in Chapter 11:1 he penned, *“Be ye imitators of me, even as I also am of Christ.”*

That is good advice for us. Walk through 1 Corinthians with me and consider some traits of Paul we ought to practice.

In his message and his motives, he was totally loyal to Jesus Christ. *“And I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God. For I determined not to know anything among you save Jesus Christ, and Him crucified.”* (1 Corinthians 2:1-2). Clearly a man may have right motives and a wrong message, or the right message and a wrong motive. Paul was loyal on both counts.

He practiced self-denial out of a love for lost souls. *“For though I be free from all men, yet have I made myself servant unto all, that I might gain the more. And unto the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might gain the Jews; to them that are under the law, as under the law, that I might gain them that are under the law; to them that are without law, as without law, (being not without law to God, but under the law to Christ) that I might gain them that are without law. To the weak became I as weak, that I might gain the weak: I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some. And this I do for the gospel’s sake, that I might be partaker thereof with you”* (1 Corinthians 9:19-23).

Paul did not suggest here that we should compromise principles of faith in order to convert people, but rather matters of indifference. He put others above himself and his preferences.

He practiced self-discipline out of a love for his own soul. *“But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection; lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway”* (1 Corinthians 9:27). Some become their own worst enemy. We can never expect to have God’s approval as Christians without self-restraint. Just because I’m tempted to sin doesn’t mean I have a license to commit the sin (Romans 6:1).

He practiced self-restraint in the church out of a love for teaching truth and welfare of the whole church. *“Yet in the church I had rather speak five words with my understanding, that by my voice I might teach others also, than ten thousand words in an unknown tongue”* (1 Corinthians 14:19). While speaking the “ten thousand words” might have shown people Paul’s impressive abilities, Paul didn’t care about that. The praise of men was nothing when compared to the teaching of the lost and the stability of the church. Pride is what makes men ineffective today. They simply lose track of what is really important.

He practiced humility out of a love for God’s grace. *“For I am the least of the apostles, that am not meet to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am: and His grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me”* (1 Corinthians 15:9-10).

Forbidden fruit creates many jams!

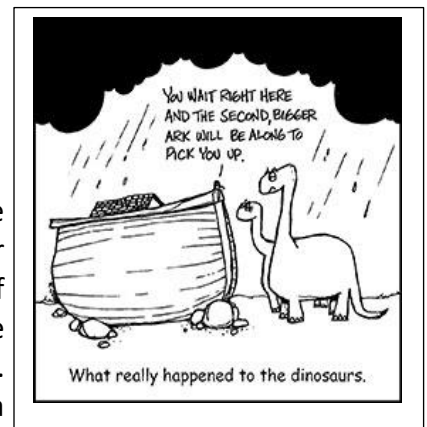
## Can I Be Guilt Free?

The weight of guilt can bear down on the soul of the carrier and diminish the spirit so that one becomes unfruitful. We're all guilty of something at one time or another. "There is none righteous, no, not one" and "all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." (Rom. 3:10, 23) It was guilt that caused the people of Acts 2 to be "cut to the heart" (Acts 2:37) and inquire about obedience to the gospel message. Guilt can cause a heavy heart and it is through the emotion of "godly sorrow" that a person will seek repentance (change) and turn toward God and His will. (2 Cor. 7:10)

In the act of gospel obedience, the past is washed away, leaving us to walk in a refreshing "newness of life" (Rom. 6:4) where our sins are remembered no more (Heb. 8:12). Romans 8:1 states, "There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit." Therefore, if one is not condemned, then one is free from guilt of the past infraction. However, we must remember, that we are never free to live sinfully just because of the blessing of God's grace (Rom. 6:1-2) and that we can willfully choose to return to the mud and mire of the world (2 Pet. 2:20-22) and when we do so "there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins" (Heb. 10:26). But as stated earlier, we no longer walk (live) according to physical desires but "walk in the light as He is in the light," and where "the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin." (1 John 1:7)

Can I be guilt free? Can I forget the things of the past and press forward to the goal of eternity? (Phil. 3:13-14) Yes, I certainly can, because of the gift of God's grace received through faith in Christ (Eph. 2:4-10).

Jay Launius – 2021



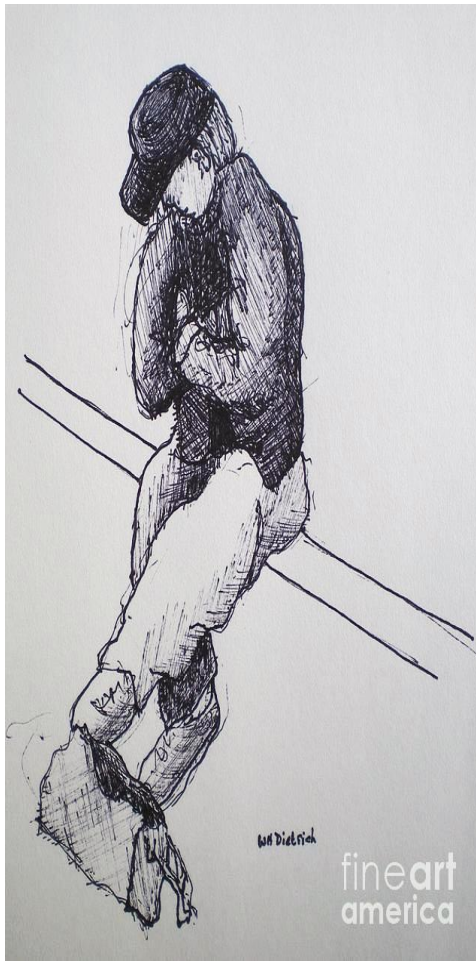
## This Week's Q&A

### Q: Of What Does True Worship Consist?

- A: 1. The disciples in the first century met on the FIRST DAY of the week to worship God (Acts 20:7).
2. They studied the Scriptures (Acts 2:42; 20:7, 11).
  3. They prayed to God in the name of Christ (Acts 2:42, John 14:13).
  4. They sang hymns (no mechanical instrument is mentioned in their worship, though instruments were known and available, the first ones being invented by Jubal, only the seventh generation from Adam; God wanted His creation to praise Him, not something we have made (1 Corinthians 14:15).
  5. They ate the memorial supper in remembrance of the Lord's death (1 Corinthians 11:23-26).
  6. They gave of their material possessions (1 Corinthians 16:2).

Answers to Scavenger Hunt on second page: 1. envy and strife (1:15) 2. "better than himself" (2:3) 3. Jesus (2:10) 4. Timothy (2:19) 5. Epaphroditus (2:25-30) 6. Benjamin (3:5) 7. Heaven (3:20) 8. Euodia, Syntyche, Clement (4:2-3) 9. whatever state in which we are (4:11) 10. Caesar's household (4:21)

Wisdom has two parts: having a lot to say, and not saying it.



## Friends

It was a cold winter's day that Sunday. The parking lot to the church was filling up quickly. I noticed as I got out of my car that fellow church members were whispering among themselves as they walked to the church.

As I got closer I saw a man leaned up against the wall outside the church. He was almost laying down as if he was asleep. He had on a long trench coat that was almost in shreds and a hat topped his head, pulled down so you could not see his face.

He wore shoes that looked 30 years old, too small for his feet with holes all over them, his toes stuck out.

I assumed this man was homeless, and asleep, so I walked on by through the doors of the church. We all fellowshipped for a few minutes, and someone brought up the man laying outside.

People snickered and gossiped but no one bothered to ask him to come in, including me.

A few moments later church began. We all waited for the Preacher to take his place and to give us the Word, when the doors to the church opened. In came the homeless man walking down the aisle with his head down. People gasped and whispered and made faces. He made his way down the aisle and up onto the pulpit he took off his hat and coat.

My heart sank.

There stood our preacher...he was the "homeless man." No one said a word. The preacher took his Bible and laid it on the stand.

"Folks, I don't think I have to tell you what I am preaching about today,"

Then he started singing the words to this song. "If I can help somebody as I pass along. If I can cheer somebody with a word or song. If I can show somebody that he's traveling wrong. Then my living shall not be in vain."

"IS YOUR LIVING IN VAIN?"

--Selected

The wages of sin is death. Repent before pay day.

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Mail me to  
someone  
who might  
read me!