



Lifeline

CHURCH of CHRIST
at Galena



Building a Life That Will Last

The Preacher has preached His sermon, and His invitation to action, already begun, is now concluded. The road has been forking continuously throughout the discourse—two kinds of righteousness—two kinds of treasure—a broad and a narrow way—hypocrisy or simplicity—this world or the next—our will or God's. The choice has been clearly and powerfully drawn.

It is not looking good or sounding pious or doing "something wonderful" in Jesus' name that takes one to the kingdom of God. It is obedience—obedience as an expression of absolute trust. In His concluding appeal, the Lord has already painted two pictures to illustrate this fact. He now gives His hearers the third and last.

"Everyone therefore that heareth these words of mine, and doeth them, shall be likened unto a wise man, who built his house upon the rock: and the rain descended, and the floods came, and the wind blew and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon the rock. And every one that heareth these words of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, who built his house upon the sand: and the rain descended, and the floods came, and the wind blew and smote upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall thereof" (Matthew 7:24–27).

The Two Builders. In these verses, the Lord introduces us to two builders. We can discover the dif-

ference in them by observing the similarities. Both these men had the same wish—to build a house—a place to live, a place of shelter and security. Each built his house and if the two were dissimilar, it is not noted. Both houses were tested by the same storm. At last, the only discernible difference in these two builders and their houses is the foundation on which they chose to build—one on the rock, the other on the sand. And before the deluge fell, both men seemed to have succeeded admirably.

This story suggests that whatever the house is, all men are seeking to build it. It could be called "success" or "happiness" or "peace of mind" or "fulfillment." It stands for the common longings of the human heart, longings which are not necessarily wrong in themselves but a part of the way God made us. *"He has set eternity in their hearts"* (Ecclesiastes 3:11).

The differing foundations stand for the way we try to fulfill our desire for happiness. So far as the Son of God is concerned, there are only two foundations on which to rest our aspirations for ultimate fulfillment—submitting to His will, or rebelling against it. The first house will stand, the second will fall.

The Two Foundations. The wise builder took the time to dig to solid footing (Luke 6:48). It was laborious and time-consuming, but his house and all he was to put into it, even his own life, were at stake.

...CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1...

He took the long look and considered more than present sunny skies. It was the inevitable storm for which he built.

The fool built for the moment and without foresight. Whatever could be done with little effort and achieve quick results attracted him. He presumed that the way things were was the way they would always be. The idea that his house might be severely tested appears never to have entered his mind. He doubtless had his house up and furnished before his struggling neighbor had even completed his foundation.

Building Before the Storm. It is important to realize that in our Lord's story there is a time when any differences in these two builders will be hard to see. Both will appear to have succeeded—houses standing firm and unshaken. In fact, the fool, having saved himself so many rigors, may seem even to have the better of it. And it is in the midst of this time, before the storm, that we must decide how to build our own spiritual houses. Of course, it will be easy enough to see the difference after the tempest, but that will be too late to mean anything. It is now, in the calm before the cataclysm, that we must act out of faith. We must prepare for the deluge in dry weather. We must run from Sodom before even the first sign of the firestorm.

GROWING WEARY

"And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart." (Gal. 6:9)

The great enemy of soldiers is weariness. When a soldier becomes weary he can be easily overcome by the enemy. Let's recognize some things that cause us to feel weary so we might overcome them (1 Cor. 15:58).

Practicing Self-Denial. Day in and day out we see neighbors enjoying the "pleasures of sin" (Heb. 11:24-25). Christians can become weary of avoiding even the very "appearance of evil" (1 Thess. 5:22). Don't give in to Satan's propaganda war! It is false advertising.

Criticism. It is a part of life. It is necessary for growth. Yet, it is so much easier to give, than it is to take. As soldiers in the Lord's army we must be careful about the

To the careless eye, the practical difference between the children of God and the children of this world will be difficult to see. Both will suffer reverses, know heartaches, fall ill, and die. For this reason thoughtless people will always struggle to see the distinction between true righteousness and Pharisaic hypocrisy—between the narrow way and the broad one—between the true prophet and the zealous impostor. That is the reason that an attitude of humility and honesty is so vital for those who want to survive the storm of divine judgment. We must have the meekness of spirit which will enable us to see ourselves for what we are, and the Son of God for who He is.

The day is coming when the differences which tend to escape the attention of the unthinking will be starkly evident. Speaking of that day of reckoning in His explanation of the Parable of the Tares, Jesus promises that *"Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father"* (Matthew 13:43). Even the blindest of men will see the difference then. We need the eyes to see it now, and to order our lives accordingly. ❖

Earnhart, Paul (1988)

Mining the Scriptures:

**Practical Expositions: The Sermon on the Mount
Christianity Magazine, 5 (4), 27**

attitude in which it is offered (Rom. 14:19; Col. 4:6) and the attitude in which it is received (Prov. 9:9; 19:20).

Efforts Unappreciated. Some work tirelessly with little or no appreciation. Yet, if we are looking around to others for commendation we are looking in the wrong place. Look to God for approval and remain faithful (Matt. 25:21,45-46).

Bear More Than Their Share. It is frustrating and discouraging when we think this is the case. Yet, don't think too highly of self (Rom. 12:3). We may be missing the unseen service of others.

How Do Soldiers Keep From Becoming Weary?

1. Develop an attitude of joy in your service to the Lord (1 Jn. 5:2-3).
2. Trust in the promises of the Lord who has always proved Himself faithful (1 Jn. 2:24-26; 3:1-3; Phil. 4:4).



LORD'S SUPPER MEDITATION

Why Did Jesus Come to Die? ...To Obtain for Us All Things That Are Good

"What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? (32) He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?"
(Romans 8:31-32)

Are You a Minister? (Acts 4:32-37)

Introduction: There are certain areas of Christianity which are challenging. It is not because they are difficult to do but, they are difficult for each of us to decide to do, make plans for doing and even get to the point of doing without thinking.

I. What is a Minister?

A) Biblically defined (3 interconnected terms)

1. G1247 - διακονέω - diakoneō - Verb

a) Like Jesus (Matthew 8:15; 20:28)

b) Women who served Jesus (Luke 8:2-3; Mark 15:41)

c) Christians in the early church (Luke 22:24-27; John 12:26; Acts 6:2-4)

2. G1248 - διακονία - diakonia - Noun

a) Apostles, deacons, others (Acts 1:25; 6:4; 11:29-30; 1 Cor. 12:5;

16:15; Acts 12:24-25; 2 Tim. 4:11;

Eph. 4:12; Colossians 4:17; 2 Tim. 4:5)

3. G1249 - διάκονος - diakonos - Noun

a) Generic Idea of a Servant (Romans 16:1; 1 Corinthians 3:5;

Colossians 1:7; Colossians 4:7)

B) So What?!

1. _____ of _____

2. _____ of _____

II. Who Needs to Be a Minister?

A) _____

1. Teaching God's word

2. Serving others

B) _____

III. How Does One Serve as a Minister?

A) _____

B) _____

C) _____ in Christ

D) _____ of others in this life

IV. Are You a Minister?

A) Are you teaching people?

B) Are you serving people?

C) We will be judged for our service

(Matthew 25:44-45; Luke 12:37; Hebrews 6:10; 1 Peter 4:10-11)

Conclusion: Each and every one of us need to learn how to integrate ministry of the word and serving into our lives so that we don't have to think about it but, it becomes a part of who we are as a Christian.



The Imperfect Churches of the Perfect Christ

I. Make Your Choice:

- Congregation #1 has an outspoken portion of members who are legally binding things on others that God has not bound, leading to serious controversy (_____ - Acts 15:1-5)
- Congregation #2 is struggling with the tendency to quarrel with each other over matters of opinion (_____ - Romans 14:1-4, 10-13)
- Congregation #3 is arrogantly allowing sexual immorality that would make the most worldly unbeliever blush to go on unchecked among their membership (_____ - 1 Corinthians 5:1-2)
- Congregation #4 is on the brink of deserting Jesus and the call of God's grace by turning to a different gospel (_____ - Galatians 1:6-7)
- Congregation #5 has more than one overseer on the pathway to departure from the truth and leading the church into division (_____ - Acts 20:28-30)
- Congregation #6 has two female members whose struggle to get along has gotten so bad that they're being called out by name (_____ - Philippians 4:2-3)
- Congregation #7 has members whose unwillingness to let go of human teachings is leading to what the apostle Paul would describe as "self-made religion" (_____ - Colossians 2:20-23)
- Congregation #8 contains a number of brethren who would rather consistently mooch off the other members of the congregation than work (_____ - 2 Thessalonians 3:6-11)
- Congregation #9 has members who do not understand the things about which they are confidently speaking and are swerving away from sound doctrine (_____ - 1 Timothy 1:3-7)
- Congregation #10 has empty talkers and deceivers who need to be silenced because they are capsizing the faith of entire families in the church (_____ - Titus 1:10-14)
- Congregation #11 has a bully who is so fixated on "it's my way or the highway" that he has become a local church tyrant (_____ - 3 John 9-10)

II. Important Observations:

1. Not one of these churches _____ represented the will of the perfect Christ.
2. Churches are messy because they are made up of _____.
3. Every church—ancient and modern—is a _____ in progress.
4. The perfect Christ specializes in working with people who realize their ongoing _____ for him.
5. When I realize my ongoing need for him, I will persistently "draw near to _____ Him."
6. When we properly recognize who He is and who we are, we will _____ to Him.
7. We don't have to _____ what submission sounds like, looks like, or acts like.
8. Our standard is not ourselves or other churches, but _____ revealed will.
9. If we will listen, trust, submit, and follow the lead of our perfect King, he will lead us to _____!



Have you ever been driving in an unfamiliar area in complete confusion? Perhaps you had been given directions to a place "you can't miss."

In your frustrations you tossed aside "those useless directions." We've all been there.

Similarly, in a spiritual sense, many people are wandering around lost, without bothering to read the directions. In Jesus' compassion for the multitudes He said they were like "sheep without a shepherd."

There is only ONE way to heaven. Jesus said, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

It's important for us to READ THE DIRECTIONS (i.e. the Bible).

As your friends here at the church of Christ we want you to know we are all on the road of life together.

This is a place where you can stop and ask for directions and a place, "Where You're Always Welcome!"

WE'RE PRAYING FOR...

Belinda's niece Allison in the hospital
 Jerry Maudlin, Tim's dad
 Jim Hudson's mother
 Laura Barkers mom, Kay Gegenheimer

Shut In Members:

Marjorie Dodge
 Grace Singleton



Special Series of Bible Lessons with Paul Earnhart April 16-21



Brother Earnhart was born March 2, 1931, in Hughes County, Oklahoma. He and his wife Wilma have 3 children: Eric, Kim Latham, and Beth Ray. He received his formal education at Abilene Christian College (BA, 1953) and College of St. Thomas (MA, 1971). Brother Earnhart began preaching more than 50 years ago during his college days in Texas, but has since preached in Nigeria, West Africa, Wisconsin, Illinois, Minnesota, Missouri and now in Louisville, Kentucky. He is the author of Invitation to a Spiritual Revolution: Studies in the Sermon on the Mount (Gary Fisher, 1998). Many of his articles appeared in Christianity Magazine from 1984-1999.

PROPHETABLE

LIFE MAJOR LESSONS | from the MINOR PROPHETS

READ ZEPHANIAH FOR WEDNESDAY!

THIS WEEK

Barker March 26 th	Dowling April 2 nd	Loughmiller April 9 th	Mitchell April 16 th	Scott April 23 rd	Stout April 30 th
Farmer Keehn Loughmiller, B. Woolbright, Randol	Barker, Ashlyn Keehn Michell Sieg, Don	Dooley Schoenbaechler Shaffer Woolbright, Ryan	Buchanan Hudson Sieg-Swank	Bailey Miller Sieg, Donny	Loughmiller, N. Maudlin McKinney Woolbright, D.

APRIL SERVANTS

Building Cleaning & Communion:
 Barker & Stout

Benevolence Organizers:
 Farmer & Shaffer



APRIL

1 - Shannon Michell B'day 16 - Andrew Maudlin B'day
 5 - Tim Maudlin B'day 30 - Sarah Dooley B'day
 11 - Keith Keehn B'day
 14 - Clayto Sieg B'day

**BIRTHDAYS
 ANNIVERSARIES**

CHURCH of CHRIST
 at Galena

SERVING IN WORSHIP

THIS WEEK

Sunday Morning (04/02)

Announcements: Dale Woolbright

1st Prayer: Tim Maudlin

Song Leader: Donny Sieg

Lord's Table: Scott Mitchell (Lead)

L. Dooley, S. Miller, R. Scott

Sermon: Shannon Shaffer

Closing Prayer: Gus Schoenbaechler

Sunday PM (04/02)

Announcements: Dale Woolbright

1st Prayer: Mike Loughmiller

Song Leader: Seth Shaffer

Lord's Table: Scott Mitchell (Lead)

L. Dooley

Sermon: Shannon Shaffer

Closing Prayer: Michael Stout

Wednesday (04/05)

Announcements: Daryn Barker

1st Prayer: Bill Buchanan

Song Leader: Michael Stout

Invitation: Dylan Culver

Closing Prayer: Benny Loughmiller

NEXT WEEK

Sunday Morning (04/09)

Announcements: Bill Buchanan

1st Prayer: Randol Woolbright

Song Leader: Dylan Culver

Lord's Table: Ryan Woolbright (Lead)

K. Keehn, J. Maudlin, E. Mitchell

Sermon: Shannon Shaffer

Closing Prayer: Jim Hudson

Sunday PM (04/09)

Announcements: Bill Buchanan

1st Prayer: Shanon Miller

Song Leader: Jeff Farmer

Lord's Table: Ryan Woolbright (Lead)

K. Keehn

Sermon: Shannon Shaffer

Closing Prayer: Seth Shaffer

Wednesday (04/12)

Announcements: Michael Stout

1st Prayer: Gus Schoenbaechler

Song Leader: Don Sieg

Invitation: Kyle Dowling

Closing Prayer: Daryn Barker

Shepherds:

Bill Buchanan

Cell: (812) 989-5961

billbuchanan@insightbb.com

Dale Woolbright

Cell: (812) 989-1483

rdwoolbright@gmail.com

Deacons:

Daryn Barker

Cell: (502) 396-3063

darynb81@sbcglobal.net

Kyle Dowling

Cell: (812) 989-2211

kmdowl01@gmail.com

Mike Loughmiller

Cell: (812) 267-9254

loughmiller6@aol.com

Scott Mitchell

Cell: (812) 620-4034

stblessedwith4@gmail.com

Randy Scott

Cell: (812) 620-3747

countingourmanyblessings@gmail.com

Michael Stout

Cell: (502) 939-9525

cnotes@otherside.com

Evangelist:

Shannon Shaffer

Cell: (615) 289-1721

shafferlifeline@gmail.com

CHURCH of CHRIST at Galena

Lifeline

Meeting at

5466 Featheringill Road

Greenville, IN 47124

Sunday

Worship: 9:00 AM

Bible Classes: 10:00 AM

Worship: 3:00 PM

Wednesday

Bible Classes: 7:30 PM

Website

<http://churchofChrist>

inGalena.com