

Announcements

Those For Whom We Should Pray (Jas 5:16)

Beau Bender * Minnie Lee Boyette * Jo Byrnes * Joyce Coones
* Sleatha Gore * Evelyn Griffin * Essielene Henderson * Ethel
Jones * Faye Kilpatrick * Helen Usher

Out of Town

Buddy & Hildreth Johnson * Ronnie & Bonnie Lord * Sammy
Smith

New Quarter Begins Next Sunday!

Gospel Meetings

- ◆ Trenton — tonight through Friday, 7:30 pm * Don
Hooton, preaching
- ◆ Spring Warrior (Perry) — March 8-13, 7:30 pm * Rickie
Jenkins, preaching

This Week's Anniversary & Birthdays

- ◆ Adam Henderson (*today*)
- ◆ Devoise & Barbara Lord (*Monday*)
- ◆ Joan Smith (*Thursday*)

Where there is no counsel, the people fall;
But in the multitude of counselors there is safety
(Proverbs 11:14).

Chiefland Church of Christ

Meeting at 211 NE 2nd Street in beautiful Chiefland, Florida
PO Box 2539 * Chiefland, FL 32644 * (352) 493-1242

THINGS ABOVE

"Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth"

—[Colossians 3:1-2]—

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God Is Not a Beggar

By Jamey Hinds

I am the LORD, and there is no savior besides Me. It is I who have declared and saved and proclaimed, and there was no strange god among you; so you are My witnesses," declares the LORD, "And I am God. Even from eternity I am He, and there is none who can deliver out of My hand; I act and who can reverse it?" (Isaiah 43:11-13).

God is not a beggar. Unfortunately, many people misperceive that He is because they act as if He is a beggar by offering to him their scraps of time, energy, and money. The priests in Malachi's day did this kind of thing by offering the blind and lame when the commandment of the Lord

was clear that they were to offer only the very best (Malachi 1:6–9; Leviticus 22:18–25).

When God offered His only begotten Son, He offered the very best He could offer.

When He came into the world, He said: “Sacrifice and offering You did not desire, but a body You have prepared for Me. In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin You had no pleasure.” Then I said, “Behold, I have come — in the volume of the book it is written of Me — to do Your will, O God.” . . . By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all (Hebrews 10:5–7, 10).

If we are truly gracious for our salvation — and we can gain it from no other place (John 14:6) — then we will always strive to give God our best: our best time in prayer and study; our best use energy; and our money (Colossians 3:17, 23–25). And of these three the greatest single challenge may well be our money. “No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth” (Matthew 6:24).

“So then each of us shall give account of himself to God” (Romans 14:12).

The Challenges of Growth

By Jamey Hinds

The same apostle who commanded repentance and baptism in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins (Ac 2:38) also commanded growth — “Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ” (2 Pe 3:18). We often emphasize the one command, and we should not continue to ignore the second command.

To some degree growth is natural. We assume growth, but when it comes to spiritual concerns we shouldn’t take anything for granted. Growth comes by diligent effort. As the apostle Paul wrote Timothy, “Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth” (2 Ti 2:15).

With individual spiritual growth there are new challenges we may face every day that we find unexpected — praying takes effort and time and energy; studying God’s word for ourselves, again, requires effort, time, and energy; talking to someone, anyone, about the gospel and Christ crucified demands effort, time, and energy. Fighting the good fight of faith is not a Sunday-only task.

With congregational spiritual growth there are also new challenges. Sometimes it’s the challenge of dealing with newborn babes who struggle with concepts that we may feel they should understand sooner than later; and behavioral changes that we’d expect sooner than later from the young in the faith.

“Now we who are strong ought to bear the weaknesses of those without strength and not just please ourselves” (Ro 15:1). This, ultimately, requires patience. God is longsuffering with us, and it is our salvation (2 Pe 3:15). “Walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love, being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace” (Eph 4:1–2).

