

Announcements

“Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. . . . Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord” (*James 5:13–14*).

Jo Byrnes * Betty Cannon * Joyce Coones * Sleatha Gore
Buddy Johnson * Ethel Jones * Faye Kilpatrick
Randy McElroy * Carl Rutter * Gary Ogden

Out of Town

Tony & Lisa Beach

This Week's Birthday & Anniversaries

Ashley Hinds (*today*) ♦ Adam & Amy Henderson (*today*)
Myron & Diane Watson (*Tuesday*)

Proverbs 24:26

An honest answer is like a kiss on the lips.

We say we like honesty, but when someone tells us honestly that we're living in sin, we can quickly get angry at the one telling us the truth. The apostle Paul experienced this with the churches of Galatia — “Have I therefore become your enemy because I tell you the truth?” (*Gal. 4:16*). The point of rebuke is to correct the sin in our lives. “Teach a righteous man and he will increase learning” (*Prov. 9:9*). If brethren refuse to submit their lives to the will of God, then we must admonish them. “Do not share in the sins of others. Keep yourself pure” (*1 Tim. 5:22*).

Chiefland Church of Christ

Meeting at 211 NE 2nd Street in *beautiful* Chiefland, Florida
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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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How We Receive Instruction Reveals Who We Are

By Jamey Hinds

He who corrects a scoffer gets shame for himself, and he who rebukes a wicked man only harms himself. Do not correct a scoffer, lest he hate you; rebuke a wise man, and he will love you. Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be still wiser; teach a just man, and he will increase in learning. . . . If you are wise, you are wise for yourself, and if you scoff, you will bear it alone” (*Prov. 9:7–9, 12*).

Graphically, Jesus said, “Do not give what is holy to the dogs; nor cast your pearls before swine, lest they trample them un-

der their feet, and turn and tear you in pieces” (Matt. 7:6). The point, of course, is that swine cannot discern the value of pearls. And, quite honestly, some who call themselves Christians cannot discern the value of the gospel.

No one is perfect. But it astounds me that there are many who say they love the Lord who refuse to obey Him. Jesus said, “If you love me, you will keep my commandments” (Jn. 14:15). In another place He said, “You are my friends if you do whatever I command you” (Jn. 15:14). And we know that “this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome” (1 Jn. 5:3). In other words, the Lord doesn’t require from anyone anything that we cannot do. Now, it might be we don’t want to please the Lord and therefore won’t do what He commands; but there’s a difference in this and in His commands being too difficult for us to do.

Repentance

Repentance is necessary for us to go to heaven. This means we must change our hearts and minds about sin, and actually prove ourselves changed. The apostle Paul said to King Agrippa, “I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision, but declared first to those in Damascus and in Jerusalem, and throughout all the region of Judea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent, turn to God, and do works befitting repentance” (Acts 26:19–20).

In another place, Paul wrote, “Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly

sorrow brings death. See what this godly sorrow has produced in you: what earnestness, what eagerness to clear yourselves, what indignation, what alarm, what longing, what concern, what readiness to see the right thing done. At every point you have proved yourselves to be innocent in this matter” (2 Cor. 7:10–11).

If a brother or sister says they have changed, but they don’t do anything differently — they don’t show they have changed — then they haven’t changed! Actually, they are liars. And all liars will go to hell (Rev. 21:8).

The apostle Paul wrote by inspiration of the Holy Spirit, “Be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that you put on the new man who was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness. Therefore, putting away lying, ‘Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor,’ for we are members of one another” (Eph. 4:23–25). Some Christians can’t seem to tell the truth to save their lives.

Conclusion

There are some among us who never take responsibility for themselves; instead, they willingly blame the preacher, or the elders for their own lack of love for God. This is shameful. If we want to go to heaven, we’ll be happy to be rebuked and won’t go off blaming others for our own sinfulness and lack of shame. “For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age” (Tit. 2:11–12).

