

“Blessed is he that...”

How many of us have attempted to assemble something *without* reading the instructions? Whether it is a bicycle or a complicated device, unfortunately many of us have attempted this, only to become frustrated or angered that the OUTCOME wasn't what we expected (“What do I do with these *extra* parts?”)

Living our lives without reading God's Word for instructions on how to live righteously is kind of like trying to complete a project without reading the instructions: we are doomed to failure!

Rev. 1:3 gives some sound advice about the significance of using God's Word as our guideline in life.

“Blessed is he that...”

A) “Readeth” This is more than “casual” reading; we must pay close attention to its words, truly understand what is written. In Eph. 3:4, Paul says “Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge of the mystery of Christ.” The first century Christian's very life was at risk if he failed to understand the meaning of the revelation written by John.

B) “Hears” We husbands know the difference between listening and hearing, right? I may have HEARD what my wife said, but did I really LISTEN to what she said. We all know there is a difference! Jesus noted that it is a wise man who hears His sayings and does them (Matt. 7:24). But some have ears that are “dull of hearing”---they have tuned out God's words, refusing to listen to the gospel's saving message (Acts 25:26,27; Heb. 5:11).

C) “Keeps or Does” The phrase “do as I *say*, not as I *do*” is not one the Lord will be pleased with on the Day of Judgment. Jesus says that, unlike the evil doer, he who “doeth truth” comes towards the light that his deeds might be made known (John 3:20, 21). 3 John v. 11 tells us “...He that doeth good is of God: but he that doeth evil hath not seen God.” God requires that we take action on what we have read and heard.

God has made it so simple for mankind to be in position to receive His blessings, yet too many in the world refuse to read God's “instruction manual”, His Word, and follow it so they might obtain eternal life.

How well are we following the “instructions”?

The Elders

What Have You Been Singing Lately? (8)

One of the means whereby we worship God is singing (Heb. 2:12). As with all worship it, too, must be done “in spirit and in truth” (Jn. 4:24). And, since singing is also a means of teaching (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16), we must make sure the words we sing are Scriptural. We must also take stock of our lives to insure that the sentiments we sing are in accordance with the lives that we live. What have you been singing lately?

Have you sung the song “*Purer in Heart, O God*” lately? Its words are these:

“Purer in heart, O God, help me to be;
May I devote my life wholly to Thee;
Watch thou my wayward feet,
Guide me with counsel sweet,
Purer in heart, help me to be.

Purer in heart, O God, help me to be;
Teach me to do Thy will most lovingly;
Be Thou my friend and guide,
Let me with Thee abide;
Purer in heart, help me to be.

Purer in heart, O God, help me to be;
That I Thy holy face one day may see;
Keep me from secret sin,
Reign Thou my soul within,
Purer in heart, help me to be.”

Is it true that you want a life that is purer? Do you live as if purity is a priority? Do you really want your life to be devoted to Him and to be guided by His counsel? Does your life reflect that desire to others? Do you truly want Him to teach you? He does so only through His word (Ps. 119:104). Thus, if we can truthfully sing such we should also be studying and learning from His word on a regular basis (II Tim. 2:15). Are you among those who have been guilty of singing this or a song with similar sentiments and then failing to be faithful in attending the services of the church? How can we possibly petition God to be purer before Him and then refuse to worship Him? John speaks of the hope of being like the Lord when He appears (I Jn. 3:1, 2). He states that those who have such hope strive for purity in life (I Jn. 3:3). What have you been singing lately?

-Eddy

Teens

Teen Bible Study tonight after services at the Teen Center.

Mock Bible Bowl will be Saturday at 9:00 am.

Winter Area Devotionals:

March 10—Lake Drive 6-7:30

Dates for Teens:

March 3, 2007 Southwest Virginia Bible Bowl

June 17-23, 2007 VCC

July 1-6, 2007 Horizons Senior Week

July 8-13, 2007 Horizons Junior Week

ONLY ONE WAY

If you were to ask several people to draw a crooked line on a piece of paper, no two lines would be identical. There is a lesson in this: though there are many ways to be crooked, there is only one way to be straight!

The Bible says of Jesus of Nazareth, "There is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved" (Acts. 4:12).

There are a lot of other gods to choose from. Millions follow Mohammed, Buddha, Confucius, Mother Earth, various animal deities, and the cults of the ancestors. Millions worship money, sex, fame and power.

These crooked lines will take you different places. But only Jesus Christ will lead to God in heaven. Jesus said, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me" (John 14:6). Heaven is the only destination that counts.

In an age where religious tolerance and pluralism is the only real consensus, it sounds rude to say that Jesus is the only way. But as the world will soon see, it is absolutely true.

SIGN UP TODAY FOR GLENNA'S SPRING LADIES CLASS. ALSO THERE ARE STILL SIGN UP SHEETS FOR THE AFRICA DINNER, EDUCATION BANQUET, WEDNESDAY FELLOWSHIP, AND MAKING MARRIAGE MORE MEANINGFUL (M4). PLEASE CHECK THE BOARD TODAY!!

West Side's Older Workers

The next WOW meeting will be Tuesday, February 13 at 11:00 at Famous Anthony's.

Ruth Stanton's new address: 615 Poplar Avenue, Salem, VA 24153 Phone: 389-1593

Team Events

New Team events are going on!!! Check here every week for activities your team will be doing!

Team 1 - Tom Duff

Thanks to all who came out for the Sweethearts Dinner last night. A good time was had by all. Team 1 will be sponsoring the quarterly Fellowship Dinner on February 25 after morning services. Everyone plan on bringing your favorite dish for pot luck.

Team 2 - Bob Garby

Team 3 - David Brown

Team 4 - Tom Rogers

Team 4 will be having a Spring Get Together on March 3. Mark your calendars,

TEAM LEADERS: This section will be in the bulletin every week. E-mail any events to the office before Friday 8 AM.

Special Notice Regarding the Teachers' Workroom:

The Teachers' Workroom is not to be used during Bible Class and Worship hours. If you need to use the Teachers' Workroom, please make arrangements to do so at other times during the week. It is available for all teachers and assistants for use in preparing material for classes. We encourage you to use it as frequently as you need to do so. However, every member should be in a Bible Class and in attendance at every worship service. - The Elders

*Seek the wisdom of the ages, but look at the world through the eyes of a child.

*Always laugh when you can. It is cheap medicine.

SICK

Several of our members are out with various colds and viruses.

Sandy Garby will be having surgery on March 12.

Robert Argraves, **A.C. Janney's** brother-in-law, had a heart attack last week.

Dan Hudgins is now under Hospice Care. See Tom & Melissa if you would like to help out with calls, visits and food.

Remember the following in prayers: **Oliver Majors, Sam McNeil, Effie Wimmer, Betty Jenkins, Donnie Montcastle, Peggy Simpkins.**

With Sympathy

Our sympathies are extended to the family of Duane Crowe who passed away last week after a traffic accident. His funeral was yesterday. Remember the Crowe family in your prayers at this time.



Happy Birthday this week to:

Charlotte Harrington—2/13

Lynn Anderson—2/13

Teresa Sartain—2/13

Charles Maness—2/14

Shawn Simms—2/14

Emmalyn Whitlow—2/17

Happy Anniversary to:

Bob & Sandy Garby—2/17

Don & Mitzi Pettit—2/18



MILITARY: Ty Stricklin at 29 Palms Marine Base, **Jonathan Simpson, John Shannon** and **Gabriel Hayes** who are in Iraq, **Jonathan Chumley**, Kosovo.

If you know these soldiers please let JoAnn know about their current situations.



JANUARY/FEBRUARY ITEMS FOR STAFFORDS: Pepperoni and Crystal Light (assorted fruit flavors). Give your items to Jeanny and she will ship them over!!

Don't knock the weather; nine-tenths of the people couldn't start a conversation if it didn't change once in a while.

EVENING AT WEST SIDE

There will be a meeting for all ladies interested in hosting a table for the Evening at West Side Dinner today at 5:00 in the Fellowship Hall.

WEDNESDAY FELLOWSHIP

Wednesday Fellowship has been rescheduled from last week due to weather. It will now be this Wednesday. Menu is chili, salad and sandwiches. Please **resign up** today and pay an elder \$5.

EDUCATION BANQUET

TODAY is the last day to sign up for the Education Appreciation Banquet. The banquet is Saturday, Feb. 17 at 5:45. ALL Bible class teachers, helpers, workers in the teacher workroom are invited including spouses and friends. The meal will be catered. Please come for great fun, food and fellowship.

MAKING MARRIAGE MORE MEANINGFUL

There is a sign up sheet on the board to sign up for this event. We realize it isn't until the end of April. But plans are already in the works and we need to know how many West Siders will be here for workbooks, kits, décor, and food. Invitations will be sent out to area congregations soon. Please sign up today!

ALSO there will be a meeting for all who are involved in preparing for this event next Sunday at 5:00 in the auditorium.

AFRICA DINNER & SLIDE SHOW

You're invited to stay after services next Sunday evening to enjoy a slide show and an African dinner. Our guys will finally have a chance to tell you about the experiences they had last September while in Arusha.

SMOKY MOUNTAIN MARRIAGE RETREAT

The Marriage Retreat in Gatlinburg will be February 21-24. A few couples will be going down from here. It's not too late to sign up. See info on the board in the hallway.

QUARTERLY FELLOWSHIP POT LUCK

Team 1 will be responsible for the first quarter fellowship meal on Sunday, Feb. 25, after morning services. Plan now to attend.

CORRECTIONS

Give all corrections for the new directory to Michelle Earnhart or JoAnn by Feb 21. Please use the form in the back of the new directories. New corrected directories will be finished by the end of the month hopefully.

February 2007**Announcements** Wayne Dixon**Song Leader (AM)** Jeff Durham**Opening Prayer (AM)**

2/4 Eric Earnhart

2/11 Charlie Gwaltney

2/18 A.C. Janney

2/25 Fred Altizer

Preside at Communion Eddy Gilpin**Serve Table**

B. Martin G. Benefield

L. Guard A. House

Closing Prayer

2/4 Tom Richardson

2/11 Mark Brooks

2/18 Charlie Puckett

2/25 Gary Sartain

Song Leader (PM) Paul Mays**Opening Prayer (PM)**

2/4 George Mellon

2/11 Roger Mays

2/18 Bob Garby

2/25 Murphy Scott

Scripture Reader Garrett Durham**Closing Prayer (PM)**

2/4 Claude Crowe

2/11 Crawford Keith

2/18 Glen Hartman

2/25 Walter Jenkins

Serve Table (PM) D. Guard D. Brown**Song Leader (Wed)** David Brown**Prayer (Wed)**

2/7 Jim Cooke

2/14 Ethan Rogers

2/21 Paul Faw

2/28 Jim Harrington

Door Man Mike Durham**Greeters** J. & R. Bush McFalls**Nursery Attend** Dee House Judy Durham**Ushers** Greg Edwards Richards Simms**Handouts** Tom & Weston Rogers
Ed Argabright & Dylan Tyler**Alternates** Curtis Oaks**Prepare comm.** S. Neighbors S. Altizer**Last weeks attendance** 2/4 & 7/07

Bible Class—149 Worship Service—169

Eve. Worship—125 Wed. Service—117

Contribution—\$7549