

Loyalty—An Essential Aspect of Faith

Certain words communicate concepts that are warm and winsome, comforting and delightful. They are like “comfort-food” for the soul. In contrast, there are words which have an opposite effect. The reality they present is painful, leaving us wounded and hurting. At the top of this list is a word which suggest betrayal and treachery. The word is “disloyalty”.

Treachery is the trademark of the criminal. A criminal deals treacherously with his victims, violating property and persons. The treachery of a criminal always does incredible harm. Yet, there is a greater treachery.

When a loved one, or one held to be a friend, deals treacherously with us, they violate more than property or person, they violate love and trust. They do violence to a relationship. When a friend violates love and trust, that disloyalty does incredible harm.

Have you ever experienced disloyalty at the hands of someone you loved and trusted? How did you handle it? How do you handle it when someone makes a promise they do not keep? Have you ever been disloyal to a loved one or to a friend? Did you correct it?

To be serious about maintaining holy relationships is to be serious about true love and unbending loyalty. A person that is serious about his own relationship with God—serious about honoring God, must be serious about these two elements. To live for God is to lovingly and faithfully yield heart, soul, mind, and life to devotion to Him. Lip service is not loyalty. Pretense is a mockery of every virtue. True loyalty is not exercised nor cultivated via mere empty routines, nor casual involvement. Indifference to God, and to His will, is inexcusable. To come to God requires a faith that demonstrates itself on a loyalty that is real, and in a diligence that is evident.

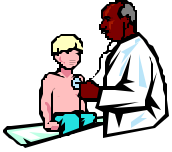
Loyalty to God is characterized by a desire and a diligence to know and fulfill God's will and purpose. The details of obedience, as required by God, are the delight of those that are loyal to God. They who eagerly desire to know and do the will of God from the heart, live in His will and live for Him.

When a person gives attention to matters of faith and devotion, questions beginning with “why” are going to arise: “Why worship?” “Why study?” “Why pray?” “Why serve?” “Why attend Bible study or worship assembly?” “Why live a life of moral integrity?” “Why be honest?” “Why be kind?” “Why give?” “Why forgive?” To all of these questions there is one answer that suffices. In a powerful way it states the mind-set of the child of God. “I do these things because I am ruled by a deep desire to be loyal to my Heavenly Father in all that I say and do.” In addition to this the child of God can also spell out his devotion and determination by saying, “To do less, to fail to be loyal to God would be for me to deal treacherously with my relationship with Him.”

-Ronald D. Bryant

Continue to remember in prayer:

Sick Marguerite Charles, Margaret Kratz, Miriam Majors, Betty Jenkins, Jim Dorsett, E.V. Wimmer, Peggy Paxton, Martha Keith, WJ Wood, Jonnie Charles, Mary Rose Michael



- Emily Richey continues to be hospitalized at this time.

Happy Birthday this week
to :



Jackie Dixon—9/7
Simms Triplets—9/7
Bonnie Mellon—9/11

Happy Anniversary this week to:



Lyn & Annette Shrader—9/8
Eric & Michelle Earnhart—9/13



SEPTEMBER ITEMS FOR THE STAFFORDS:

Cheetos and Ritz Mix 100 Calorie Snack Packs and sliced pepperoni.

Give your items to Jeanny and she will ship them over!

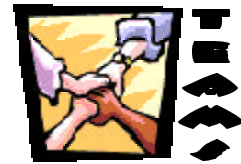


Military

Jay Martin—Afghanistan

Upcoming Events:

Mark your calendars—Team 2 and the WOW Group will be traveling to Safari Park on September 19. Pay Don your admission fee and reserve your seat on the wagon!



Teens



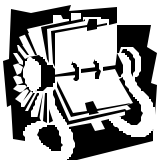
September Events
FHU Rush Weekend—9/11-13
TBS—9/20

Got ideas for this fall?
Talk to Mike to do some of them!!

WOW

Next WOW meeting will be Tuesday, September 8 at 10:30 am.

Trip to Safari Park— September 19—Details on the board. Pay Don your admission fee to reserve your seat on the wagon!



Weekly Reminders

For Your Information

FALL QUARTER CLASSES

Fall Quarter Classes start today. Remember to move your child up to new classes if needed!

COLLEGE ADDRESSES

Please have all college kids addresses to the office by today. These will be posted next week in the bulletin and on the board in the hallway!

LADIES NIGHT OUT

Our LNO will begin again on September 10 at 7:00 here at the building. Bring your favorite appetizer or dessert and the recipe. Drinks and paper products will be provided. (cookbooks will be made of the recipes and passed out at a later date!!) We will also be scheduling for the months of October thru May. If you cannot be there but would like to schedule a month—see Jo Ann.

AREA WIDE PREACHERS MEETING

Area Wide Preachers Meetings will begin again on Monday, Sept. 14 at 10:30. Everyone is invited.

WEDNESDAY FELLOWSHIP

There will be a Back to School Wednesday Fellowship on September 16 at 5:45. Menu includes soup, salad, and sandwiches. Sign up on the board and pay your \$5 at the door.

MENS BREAKFAST

The monthly Men's Breakfast will be held on Sept. 19 at 8:00 AM at Famous Anthony's.

PRIMARY TEACHERS MEETING

There will be a primary teachers meeting on Sunday, Sept. 20 at 4:30. 2's & 3's teachers are in charge of snacks.

TURN,TURN,TURN

T3 will be held on October 3 here at the building. Registration forms are located in the foyer or see Velda to register.

TEACHERS WORKSHOP

Please mark your calendars for Saturday, October 17. We have a GREAT TEACHER workshop planned for you. April Meacham and Teah McWhorter from Alabama and Mississippi will be here. They will have a HUGE amount of materials for you. Please register with Danny or the office by Oct. 3. Light breakfast and lunch will be provided.

Prayer list:

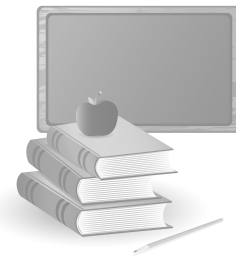
Marguerite Charles
Lyn Anderson
Martha Keith
Miriam Majors
Betty Jenkins
WJ Wood
Margaret Kratz
Jonnie Charles
Jim Dorsett
E.V. Wimmer
Sandra Wood
Emily Richey
Peggy Paxton
Sammy Simpkins
Charlie Puckett
Martin Family
Marie Campbell
Mary Rose Michael

Activities:

WOW—9/8

LNO—9/10

FHU Rush—9/11-13



September 2009

“If Any Man” (18)

Announcements Paul Mays
Song Leader (AM) Jeff Durham
Opening Prayer (AM)
9/6 Bob Martin
9/13 Collin Gregory
9/20 Richard Simms
9/27 Glenn Hartman

Preside at Communion Don Pettit
Serve Table Herb Baker Garrett Durham
Glenn Gabbard Ben Nikkel

Closing Prayer
9/6 Eric Earnhart
9/13 Jason Oldham
9/20 Tom Richardson
9/27 Mitch Jearls

Song Leader (PM) Eric Earnhart
Opening Prayer (PM)
9/6 Jerry Anderson
9/13 Jeff Durham
9/20 David Brown
9/27 Charlie Maness

Scripture Reader Ethan Rogers
Closing Prayer (PM)
9/6 Adam House
9/13 Jim Bush
9/20 Jim Harrington
9/27 Marc Laplante

Serve Table (PM)
Cameron Brown Bradford Durham

Song Leader (Wed) Josh Whitlow
Prayer (Wed)
9/2 John Black
9/9 Danny Guard
9/16 Charlie Gwaltney
9/23 Mike Durham
9/30 Greg Edwards

Open/Close Bldg Lyn Shrader
Greeters Guards/Reeds

Nursery Attend Grace Earnhart Evelyn Scott
Ushers John Black Roger Mays
Handouts Tanner Reed Noah Laplante
Jimmy Harrington Nathan Pelfrey

Prepare communion
Grace Myers Jessica White

Cards & Pencils
Conner Jearls Garrett Laplante

Last weeks attendance 8/30& 8/2/09

Bible Class—136 Worship Service—168
Sunday Eve.—135 Wednesday Eve.—147
Contribution—\$5939

A search of the phrase “if any man” reveals that it is found 62 times in the New Testament. It also reveals a wealth of study material, covering many subjects. We would all do well to learn from the things the Bible reveals apply to “any man.”

In his first general epistle John stated, “My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And *if any man* sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world” (I Jn. 2:1, 2). John continues his thoughts from chapter one (recall that there were no chapter divisions in the original document). In that chapter he had encouraged Christians to “walk in the light” (I Jn. 1:7). He also revealed that, although we must strive not to sin, we will not live perfectly (I Jn. 1:8, 10). He gave the remedy for sin in the Christian’s life in verse 9. Thus, when he begins with the words “these things write I unto you,” he is referencing those matters contained in chapter one.

John was writing to Christians, but he also includes the fact that Jesus is the only propitiation for sins for every man. He is our “advocate,” our mediator, our intercessor, our go-between. Literally, the word means “one who is called along side.” He, the Righteous One, pleads the case for us, the unrighteous ones. The Hebrews writer spoke of such in these terms: “Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them” (Heb. 7:25). Thus, His intercessory work is not without condition on our part. We must “come unto God by Him.” Those who thus do are assured of His mediation before the Father on their behalf. One who “walks in the light” of God’s word continually enjoys God’s fellowship and continues to be cleansed by the blood of Christ (I Jn. 1:7). He who remains faithful can likewise rest in the assurance of an eternal home with Him (Rev. 2:10).

-Eddy

September 6, 2009 Number 3036