

Holy Habits

Ronald D. Bryant

Holiness is an internal transformation that manifests itself in external conduct and character. Holiness in a child of God is the reproduction of the holiness of Christ. The rule of Christ brings one into the likeness of Christ. Holiness consist in conformity to Him and His will. Holiness is not sad, gloomy, or dull. It is not isolation. It is full and rich, warm and winsome—lived out in the flow of God's love and truth. Yet, the power of holiness is in the transformation of the soul in ever increasing resemblance to God. Every aspect of holiness is powerful. Holiness is to be chosen as the habit of life.

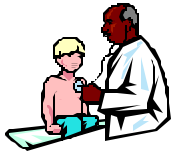
Our lives are lived under the sway of habits, both good and bad. The habits we embrace are significant. We are free to choose our actions and our habits. The chains of habit are generally too small to be felt until they are too strong to be broken. Yet, we are perpetually embracing the influences which will in time rule our existence. We are choosing our habits, our traits, our associates, our temperaments, our way of acting and reacting. In time these will acquire a power over us and will control us.

In large measure Christian virtue consists of good habits. If good is chosen and honored it will grace us with its holy garments and equip us for eternity. Habits pass soon into more than activities; they pass into our personality and character. Character is the sum and substance of all our cultivated habits; personality is but a manifestation of our character in movements and events. We would like to think that in all things we are wise and thoughtful, but it is our habits, not our intellect that works more readily and with greater force than we care to admit. Habit is readily obeyed and reason is not even consulted until after the fact in too many of the events of life. This fact is a strong argument in favor of developing good habits—holy habits.

Make honesty a habit, and dishonesty will become abhorrent. Make kindness a habit, and no act of unkindness will be entertained in thought, let alone followed. Make sobriety a habit, and intemperance will be rejected and despised. Make discretion a habit, and reckless conduct will be avoided. Make reverence a habit, and irreverence will not be tolerated. Make prayer a habit, and spiritual strength will be yours. Make it a habit to draw near to God, and you will know the joy of His nearness. Sacredly regard the truth of God, respect its message and its purpose, make a habit of doing so, and your life will take on the character of eternal verities, and will be possessed of the hope that will anchor your soul. If you would be holy, make the pursuit of that which is holy your habit—and in all things you will become more and more like God.

Sick

Continue to remember in prayer:
Marguerite Charles, Lyn Anderson,
Martha Keith, Miriam Majors,
Betty Jenkins, WJ Wood, Steve
Harrah, Margaret Kratz, Dee
House, Betty Buckner, George Free-
land, Ed Hansberry, Raymond



Clark.

David Wilcox is at Friendship Manor Rehab, Room 1013A. His address is: 327 Hershberger Road, Roanoke, VA 24012

Several are out with the usual illnesses.

Sympathy is extended to Ben & Michele Nikkel in the death of their unborn daughter.

Happy Birthday this week to:

- Luke Guard—3/8
- Dorothy Mays—3/11
- Sophia Mays—3/11
- Sam Valentine—3/12
- Weston Rogers—3/14
- Ryan Simms—3/15



MARCH ITEMS FOR THE STAFFORDS: Ink pens (Grip, medium Pilot and fine Zebra) and tic tacs—favorite is lime green. Give your items to Jeanny and she will ship them over!



Upcoming Events:



Team 2 (Garby) welcomes the Spring season with a colorful dining event on March 21 at 5:30. All dishes prepared will have a pastel color theme, so prepare your favorite dish and let your creative juices flow!

Teens



March Dates

- 3/14 Winter Youth Devo—Lake Drive
- 3/15—TBS
- 3/29—Young Men conduct services

WOW

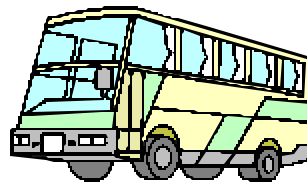


Please sign up on the WOW board for the video auto-biographies being done by Richard Simms.



Next WOW meeting will be on Tuesday, March 10, at 10:30.

The bus to the Maple Festival pulls out next Saturday morning at 7:15. Be here by 7 AM. The pancake breakfast will be at 9:30. The weather outlook is for fair skies and low 40 temperatures, so bring your coats!! And don't forget comfortable shoes to walk around in! Don & Mitzi are taking your \$2 entry fee so you don't have to stand in line when you get there! Several food vendors and restaurants will be available at your own expense thru out your day.



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“If Any Man” (3)

The repetition of a word or phrase in Scripture often provides abundant material for study and profit. Much insight can often be obtained by examining passages and contexts in which the same word or phrase is used. One such phrase is “*if any man*,” which is found 62 times in the New Testament. Let’s continue our examination of this phrase.

“*If any man* come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple” (Lk. 14:26). Preceding this statement was the parable of the great supper (Lk. 14:16-24). In this parable excuses were offered for not being able to attend. The excuses were rejected and the excuse-makers condemned. The text then reveals that there was a great multitude with the Lord (Lk. 14:25). It was to this mass of people that Jesus made the foregoing statement. The word “hate” as used in this context simply reveals a matter of priority. For one to “hate” his kinsmen and himself simply means that the Lord is to be a higher priority than all others. We are, of course, to love all of these (even self); but, to place any other at a higher level than the Lord is to love that person too much and the Lord too little.

The day after the miraculous feeding of the 5000 (Jn. 6:5-14), Jesus spoke to the multitude about bread. He cautioned them against placing a higher value on physical sustenance than on spiritual food. He trumped their statement about Moses giving their ancestors bread from heaven by revealing unto them that He was the true bread from heaven (Jn. 6:30-33). He told them plainly, “I am that bread of life” (Jn. 6:48). He then stated, “I am the living bread which came down from heaven: *if any man* eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world” (Jn. 6:51). In His sacrifice of His body on the cross Jesus provided the way of salvation for all mankind. Although not all will be saved through His sacrifice, it will not be because they can not, but because they refuse to accept His terms of pardon, and thus will not (Jn. 5:40). Are you “eating” of that bread?

-Eddy

Those to Serve in March

Announcements: Roger Mays
Preside at Communion: Jason Oldham

Opening Prayer: Richard Simms
Next Week: Jeff Durham

PM Song Leader: Sam Valentine
Opening Prayer: Mitch Jearls
Next Week: Walter Jenkins

Serve Communion: Nathan Pelfrey, Tanner Reed

Wednesday Song Leader: Garrett Durham

Open/Close Bldg: Mike Durham
Ushers: Danny Guard, Curtis Oakes
Greeters: Hartman/Laplante

Last weeks attendance (3/1&4/09)

Bible Class: 150 Worship Service: 174

Contribution: \$7686

Song Leader: David Brown
Serve Table: Fred Altizer, Greg Edwards
Jim Harrington, Cameron Brown
Closing Prayer: Gene Benefield
Next Week: Murphy Scott

Scripture Reader: Caleb Reed
Closing Prayer: John Black
Next Week: David Brown

Prayer: Mike Durham

Prepare Communion: Lowe/L. Maness
Cards/Pencils: S. Durham/O. Valentine
Nursery Attend: M. Halling/K. Jearls

Mar. 8 (Acts 11)

- Read Acts 11 three times today
- Pray today
- Memorize contents of Acts 11—Peter’s defense at Jerusalem regarding Cornelius
- Barnabas & Saul (Paul) united
- Write a note or card this week
- *Increase your contribution by \$1 today

Mar. 9 (Acts 12)

- Read Acts 12 three times today
- Pray today
- Memorize contents of Acts 12—James killed by Herod
- Herod imprisons Peter
- Peter released by an angel
- Herod’s death
- Barnabas & Paul go to Jerusalem with Mark

Mar. 10 (Acts 13)

- Read Acts 13 three times today
- Pray today
- Memorize contents of Acts 13—Paul’s 1st missionary journey
- Paul strikes Elymas blind

Mar. 11 (Acts 14)

- Read Acts 14 three times today
- Pray today
- Memorize contents of Acts 14—Paul & Barnabas regarded as gods at Lystra (Jupiter & Mercury)
- Elders appointed at Antioch

Mar. 12 (Acts 15)

- Read Acts 15 three times today
- Pray today
- Memorize contents of Acts 15—Council at Jerusalem (regarding circumcision & the law)
- Contention between Barnabas & Paul (regarding John Mark)
- Paul’s 2nd missionary journey begins (with Silas)

Mar. 13 (Acts 16)

- Read Acts 16 three times today
- Pray today
- Memorize contents of Acts 16—Macedonian call to Paul
- Lydia converted (Philippi)
- Paul & Silas imprisoned
- Philippian jailer & family converted

Mar. 14 (Acts 17)

- Read Acts 17 three times today
- Pray today
- Memorize contents of Acts 17—Paul at Berea & Thessalonica
- Paul’s sermon on Mars’ Hill (Athens)

March 8, 2009

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