

## Proper Conduct in the Family of God

Ronald D. Bryant  
Part 2

God made the choice that the church should be His instrument through which His truth is proclaimed and personified, exalted and defended. The church is “the pillar and ground of the truth”. The glory of God is in the hands of His people, the church. “To Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.” (Eph. 3:21). The church is not a twittering bird singing a soft refrain to an unheeding world, nor is it a gentle cloud refreshing the environment of those who resist God. It is not a band of polished speakers offering platitudes to passersby. It is the company of the committed, designed by God as central to His work. They exist to be the pillar and bulwark of the truth, to proclaim the good news of God to the world, to accomplish the work of evangelizing the world. The people of God serve as light; penetrating and guiding, disturbing and directing souls to the Savior.

There have been some dreadful periods of time in history, times when the truth of God was suppressed by the false teachings of an apostate church. But, what men termed “the church” in those days was not the church of the living God. That apostate body can in no way be identified with the church revealed in the New Testament. Presently, the world is filled with sectarian orders and organizations. Regrettably, “the church” most people know is not the body of Christ, but is merely a denominational structure, ruled by tenets of men. Para-church organizations and cultic groups also exist, and these blind people to the church of which Christ is head. However, human religious orders are not the New Testament church. The situation is pitiful as well intentioned but deceived people, embrace the doctrines of men, because they have been blinded to the truth of God and the church which belongs to Christ.

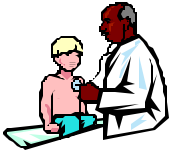
There have been some regrettable times in history, when in some circumstances the people of God have not conducted themselves in holy fashion. They have failed to honor God in their conduct. Regrettably, because of this many have turned away from the truth of God, refusing to heed it. This illustrates the necessity placed upon the people of God to uphold the truth of God in the context of conduct and character that honors God.

Each child of God has a two-fold responsibility: To hold fast to the word of God, and to conduct themselves as is becoming a child of God. Loyalty to Christ is essential! Holy lives sustained by holy conduct and character, remains central to the life and to the work of the people of God. God has entrusted His children with the responsibility of behavior that is fitting for “the house of God, the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.”

Continue to remember in prayer:

# Sick

Margaret Kratz, Miriam Majors, Betty Jenkins, Jim Dorsett, E.V. Wimmer, Martha Keith, WJ Wood, Jonnie Charles, Mary Rose Michael, Milton Webster, Al Furrow, Emily Richey, Lyn Anderson, Marguerite Charles, Jo Musgrove



- Evelyn Scott was in the hospital earlier this week for tests.
- Jackie Griffith, Kristie Jearls' grandmother, had a pace maker installed at LGH.
- Velda Gearhart will be having knee replacement surgery on Oct 9.

THANKS!!!

Marguerite Charles would like to express her sincere thanks to all those who help keep her going!!

## 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

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## Upcoming Events:

Gospel Meeting and Feed the Preacher meals will be taking place later next month so keep your evenings free to enjoy fellowship with others!!



## Teens

### October Dates



Teen Bible Study—10/18  
Gospel Meeting—10/25-28

## WOW

The next WOW meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 13, at 10:30. Make plans to be here if possible!

### "I'd Rather See A Sermon"

I'd rather see a sermon  
than hear one any day;  
I'd rather one should walk with me  
than merely tell the way.  
The eye's a better pupil  
and more willing than the ear,  
Fine counsel is confusing,  
but example's always clear;  
And the best of all preachers  
are the men who live their creeds,  
For to see good put in action  
is what everybody needs.  
I soon can learn to do it  
if you'll let me see it done;  
I can watch your hands in action,  
but your tongue too fast may run.  
And the lecture you deliver  
may be very wise and true,  
But I'd rather get my lessons  
by observing what you do;  
For I might misunderstand you  
and the high advice you give,  
But there's no misunderstanding  
how you act and how you live.

# Weekly Reminders

## For Your Information

### FALLS FIRST FELLOWSHIP

Everyone is invited to enjoy the changing of the seasons tonight after services. Bring your favorite finger food and join us for this fellowship. Ask your team leader if you have any questions.

### GOSPEL MEETING

Our Fall Gospel Meeting will be next month with BJ Clarke. There are addressed postcards and mailing labels available in the foyer to send him a note of encouragement. Also available are flyers to pass out to your friends and neighbors.

### TURN, TURN, TURN

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

### EDP MEETING

There will be an EDP Meeting on Sunday, October 4, at 4:00 in the fellowship hall.

### MENS BREAKFAST

The Monthly Men's Breakfast will be on Saturday, October 10, 8AM at Famous Anthony's.

### WEDDING SHOWER

There will be a Wedding Shower for Becky Cooke on October 11 at 4:00. She is registered at Macy's, Target, and on-line at Crate 'n Barrel.

### AREA WIDE PREACHERS MEETING

The Area Wide Preacher's meeting is scheduled for October 12 at the Radford Congregation.

### TEACHERS WORKSHOP

Primary Bible Teachers Workshop will be held on Saturday, Oct. 17 9 AM- 3PM. Please sign up on the sign up sheet by October 4. For women only. Light breakfast and lunch will be served.

**Also** the ladies will need help on Friday morning, 10/16, at 9AM to unload all of the material for the workshop. See Danny.

### WEST SIDE GOLF TOURNAMENT

The annual Men's Golf Tournament will be taking place on October 24. Sign up on the board if you are interested and see Jeff with any questions.

### 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  
Charlie Puckett  
Marie Campbell  
Mary Rose Michael  
Dr. Daniel Hodges Sr.  
Jo Musgrove  
Velda Gearhart  
Al Furrow  
Jackie Griffith  
Evelyn Scott

### Activities:

Turn, Turn, Turn—10/3  
EDP Meeting—10/4



This week's ? ? ? ? ? ?

Emphasis: Evangelism

"Searching for Truth"

DVD and book

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October 2009

## “If Any Man” (20)

<b>Announcements</b>	Tom Rogers
<b>Song Leader (AM)</b>	Eric Earnhart
<b>Opening Prayer (AM)</b>	
10/4	Charlie Gwaltney
10/11	John Black
10/18	Don Petit
10/25	Wayne Dixon
<b>Preside at Communion</b>	Danny Guard
<b>Serve Table</b>	Jeff Reed Sam Valentine AC Janney Marc Laplante
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	
10/4	Collin Gregory
10/11	Mark Brooks
10/18	Charlie Maness
10/25	Greg Edwards
<b>Song Leader (PM)</b>	Jason Oldham
<b>Opening Prayer (PM)</b>	
10/4	Jim Harrington
10/11	Josh Whitlow
10/18	Cameron Brown
10/25	Jeff Durham
<b>Scripture Reader</b>	Bradford Durham
<b>Closing Prayer (PM)</b>	
10/4	Paul Mays
10/11	Eric Earnhart
10/18	Glen Hartman
10/25	Adam House
<b>Serve Table (PM)</b>	Nathan Pelfrey Garrett Durham
<b>Song Leader (Wed)</b>	Bob Garby
<b>Prayer (Wed)</b>	
10/7	Mitch Jearls
10/14	Bob Martin
10/21	Jim Bush
10/28	Gene Benefield
<b>Open/Close Bldg Greeters</b>	Squeaky Valentine Pettit/Peverall
<b>Nursery Attend</b>	Sandy Garby Jennifer Laplante
<b>Ushers</b>	Herb Baker Curtis Oakes
<b>Handouts</b>	Mark Brooks Jeff Guilliams

### Prepare communion

Rebecca Durham Karen Munsey

### Cards & Pencils

Austin Whitlow Noah Laplante

### Last weeks attendance 9/16&20/09

Bible Class— 125    Worship Service—159  
Sunday Eve.— 110    Wednesday Eve.—131  
Contribution—\$5350

We continue our look at the phrase “if any man” this week. Found some 62 times in the New Testament and covering a vast array of subjects, it provides for us some interesting and beneficial studies. For our final two installments of this series we will look to the book of Revelation.

In His final words to the seven churches of Asia, Jesus said to the church at Laodecia, “Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: *if any man* hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me” (Rev. 3:20). The Lord had just issued harsh words of censure to this lukewarm congregation. He had revealed that their lack of action and indifferent attitude made Him sick (“I will spew thee out of my mouth”- vs. 16). This was the only one of the seven congregations for which the Lord had nothing good to say.

This passage, along with many others, refutes the doctrine of Calvinism. This doctrine maintains (among other things) that man is helpless within himself to do anything in regards to his salvation- God must do it all. The Lord teaches us in this verse that a man can both “hear” and “open the door.” Man is not powerless and helpless regarding salvation but is, in fact, to be a participant in it. He simply must! Jesus is the Savior of those (and only of those) who obey Him (Heb. 5:9). Obedience on man’s part is essential (II Thes. 1:8). Peter encouraged the crowd on Pentecost to “save yourselves from this untoward generation” (Acts 2:40). Obviously, man is not sufficient in himself to be saved. He is powerless in that sense. But, God has put forth His system of salvation in such a fashion that man must participate in the salvation process. In order to avail himself of the grace of God he must do what God says and do it (if God so specifies) in the way He says and for the reason He says.

The Lord stands at the door and knocks. He gently pleads, “Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest” (Mt. 11:28). It is up to us to hear His voice (His call through the gospel II Thes. 2:14) and open the door (being obedient to His will). This is true of “any man.”

-Eddy

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