

“COME YE OUT...”

Christians are obligated to be “*true to God*” (Rom. 3:4). A follower of Christ must be the “*salt of the earth*” (Matt.5:13). If a child of God does not possess the strength to be a preserving influence for the cause of Christ he is “*good for nothing*” (v. 13). A member of the Lord’s church is to be the “*light of the world*” (v. 14). It does absolutely no good to possess light and then place it “*under a bushel*” (v. 15) so that it cannot be seen. A light that is hidden is of no benefit to the Lord or man!

Christians must ever be on guard to resist Satan’s temptations to conform to this world (cf. Rom. 12:2). The cry that the faithful must take seriously is God calling, “...*Come ye out from among them, and be ye separate...*” (2 Cor. 6:17). Many who profess to be in the Lord’s army have such an aversion to being labeled as “**peculiar**” that they have lost the **distinction** of being God’s people. Peter reminds those whose goal is heaven, “*But ye are a elect race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, that ye may show forth the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light*” (1 Peter 2:9).

We live in a world where both the young and old practice deception on a daily basis. Many members of the church have become far too comfortable with worldly habits. Some have become quite adept at pretending to be a “**new creature**” while refusing to give up the “**old things**” (2 Cor. 5:17). People need to take to heart these words of Paul: “*Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth unto his own flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth unto the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap eternal life*” (Gal. 6:7-8).

Every day people who live sinful lives are laid to rest in cemeteries with an inscription on their tombstone reading, “*Asleep In Jesus.*” How is it that so many people can be “asleep in Jesus” upon death, and yet they were rebellious and unfaithful to Him while alive? Some folk were more honest during the days of the Wild West. An inscription might read, “Here lies a horse thief who was hanged.” Another inscription might read, “Cattle rustler – shot to death.” Why practice deception when both man and God know the truth?

If honesty were practiced, what would the inscription read on the monument erected in your memory? Would the epitaph read, “Here lies a thief?” What about one that says, “This woman was a liar!” One might say, “This man was an adulterer.” Another inscription might read, “Here lies a lover of pleasure instead of a lover of God.” Another epitaph might say, “This family loved the praise and approval of men more than the praise and approval of God” (cf. John 12:43). There is no need to practice deception because God knows the truth.

As a Christian, you can choose how the **only** epitaph in regard to your life that matters will read. While we are alive, we **choose** how we will be remembered after we have departed this life. Our lives will either be an influence for the cause of Christ or an influence for the devil. There is absolutely no middle ground (cf. Matt. 12:30). How will the epitaph read that God inscribes on your permanent record?

Consider these Bible examples of godly folk whose chose to live lives that continue to be an influence for good. Their epitaphs could read as follows:

(1) Here lies Noah who found **grace** in the eyes of God – Gen. 6:8).

(2) Abraham, a man who was willing to leave behind family and friends to do God’s bidding – Gen. 12:1).

(3) Here lies Moses **who chose God and His people** over the Pharaoh and the world’s riches – Heb. 11:24-27).

(4) Joshua, a man who chose to be a **true soldier** of the cross – Num. 14:7-9.

(5) Here lies Saul of Tarsus (Paul) who was willing to admit he was wrong – Gal. 1:13-14.

As members of the Lord’s church, we have an obligation to **refuse** unacceptable behavior, attitudes, and relationships that undermine good influence. All children of God should remember the apostle Paul’s words to Timothy. Paul admonished, “*Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an ensample to them that believe, in word, in manner of life, in love, in faith, in purity*” (1 Tim. 4:12). When people decide to exchange “*the truth of God for a lie*” and to worship and serve “*the creature rather than the Creator,*” God will give them up to vile and damnable passions (Rom. 1:25-26). Jude records these words that should cause us to tremble today: “*Even as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities about them, having in like manner with these given themselves over to fornication and gone after strange flesh, are set forth as an example, suffering the punishment of eternal fire*” (verse 7, emph., MLW).

The faithful child of God must **resist** the beckoning call of worldly temptations and be separate from them. Let us choose carefully the epitaph that will become our legacy after our death!

Marvin L. Weir from *Bonham Street Beacon*

BIRTHDAY

Tom Tucker, 08-22.

ILL

Sunday: Kathleen Camp (PM); Millie Robertson (PM).

Wednesday: Janice Carter; Millie Robertson.

Dee Adams had surgery on her shoulder on Thursday, August 14 and is recovering at home. Allen Scott was admitted to Olathe Medical Center on Tuesday, August 19 and is in Room 424-1.

Those battling cancer: David Cole, Ledgia Campbell, Betty James and Cleo Stone. Remember these in your prayers along with: Millie Robertson and Allen Scott.

HOME BOUND

Bob Adams resides at Room D-4 of the Johnson County Nursing Center in Olathe. Marion Stone is at home. Please remember these in your prayers and visitation.

OUT OF TOWN

Chris Edwards was in Chicago on business last week. Ted and Julia Thrasher were in Colorado last week.

LADIES DAY

There will be a Ladies Day at the Chipman Road Church of Christ in Lee's Summit on Saturday, August 23rd from 10 AM to 12 PM with lunch served after the lessons. Check the flyer in the foyer for further details.

MID-WEST LECTURES

There is a sign-up list in the foyer for help with the Mid-West Lectures on "Olathe Day" Tuesday, September 23. If you can provide a dessert, greet guests or help in the kitchen, please sign the list.

ATTENDANCE

Sunday AM, 56; Sunday PM, 33; Wednesday PM, 31.

"Be not deceived: evil communications (companionships, ASV) corrupt good manners (morals, ASV)."

1 Corinthians 15:33

Those To Serve

August 17, 2008

BUILDING AND COMMUNION..... Nelson

MORNING WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS..... George Thomas

SONG LEADER..... Trent Thrasher

OPENING PRAYER John Dodson

PRESIDE..... Chris Edwards

ASSIST..... Steve Brown

ASSIST..... John James

CLOSING PRAYER..... Jared Nelson

EVENING WORSHIP

OPENING PRAYER Jeff Nemechek

CLOSING PRAYER..... John Cody Carter

LORD'S SUPPER..... Chris Edwards

WEDNESDAY 20th

SONG LEADER..... Trent Thrasher

INVITATION Ted Thrasher

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday

Bible Study 9:30 AM

Morning Worship 10:30 AM

Evening Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday

Ladies Bible Study 10:00 AM

Bible Study 7:00 PM

Preacher: Ted J. Thrasher

Phone: (913) 764-2325

E-mail: olathecoc@sbcglobal.net

CHURCH OF CHRIST

515 WEST PARK

P.O. BOX 482

OLATHE, KANSAS 66051

www.kc-cofc.org/olathe.htm

www.oabs.org/olathe.asp