

News & Announcements

PRAYER REQUESTS

Annette Asbury is scheduled to have surgery on April 9th to remove her thyroid. Keep Annette in your prayers.

Let us rejoice with James Hollister who was baptized into Christ on Sunday morning. He is the son of Marco and Coretta.

Ramona Barton, daughter-in-law of Dorothy Barton, is not doing well. Her cancer has returned and she needs our prayers to help her get through chemo treatments and her well being.

Keep the following on your prayer list who are either shut-in, unable to worship with us, or have on going health concerns,

Daryion and Janette Banks, Clara Beth Barker's daughter, Marsha; Dorothy and Firman Barton, Vaughn and Keith Barton, Mary and Bob Cress, Beverly Dempsey, Delois Jenkins, Rachel Kidwell, Beth Nebeker, Bobbye Pounders, Ignacio Reyes, John Simo, and Fernando Vizcarra, Jr., & Lewis Wells.

Our Gospel Meeting is Sunday, May 1 through Friday, May 6, 2016. The speaker is John Robertson of Wichita Falls, Texas. The lessons are as follows: 1) The Jesus of the Bible; 2) A Spiritual Phenom; 3) The Sabbath; 4) Self Control; 5) Bible Study; 6) The Pharisees; 7) How to Use the OT in the NT and; 8) The Beloved Saints.

TRAVELING MEMBERS

Delois Jenkins is in California and will return soon. Keep Delois in your prayers for a safe return.

MILITARY MEMBERS

Michael Barnes and David Sims are stationed at Nellis Air Force Base.

WORD OF FAITH

Weekly bulletin of the Vegas Drive Church of Christ

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Sunday Bible Class: 9 AM • Sunday Worship: 10 AM & 6 PM • Wednesday Bible Class: 7 PM

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BEING A CHRISTIAN IS COSTLY

The devil would like nothing more than for one to believe that it does not cost to be a Christian. Some well-meaning folks will even declare that after one becomes a child of God, his troubles are over. Those who expect their problems and sorrows to disappear after obeying the Gospel are then discouraged when the devil attacks with all his fury. One must remember that the word of God warns: *"be sober, be vigilant: because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour"* (1 Peter 5:8). When Satan loses a soul because of one's obedience to the Gospel, he will unleash his fury in seeking to tempt the new convert to apostatize from the faith. If people are taught and realize that Christianity is costly, it will be more difficult for Satan to sow seeds of discouragement. Let us consider some of the costs of becoming a Christian.

First, **one must be willing to give up the pleasures of sin.** Not all are willing to turn from certain sins. The devil will do all in his power to convince one to continue the wickedness that brings temporary pleasure. This is why many folks continue to live in and enjoy an adulterous relationship. They do not desire to forsake that which is pleasurable! The Bible, however, encourages all to imitate Moses. God's Word says, *"By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season"* (Heb. 10:24-25).

People need to see sin for the bad investment it is. God makes it clear that those who live in or practice sin will not inherit the kingdom of heaven (1 Cor. 6:9-10). The wages of sin is death (Rom. 6:23).

Second, **one must be willing to surrender to the will of God.** Even the majority of the "religious world" has no desire to turn from their man-made doctrines and surrender to

God's plan of salvation. Jesus said, "If ye love me, ye will keep my commandments" (John 14:15). Countless thousands say they love Christ, but their actions speak louder than their words! So many claim to believe in and accept Christ but reject the command to be baptized for remission of sins (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; 22:16).

The truth is that many people today are related to the Pharisees of Jesus' day. John stated, "Nevertheless among the chief rulers also many believed on him; but because of the Pharisees they did not confess [him], lest they should be put out of the synagogue: For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God" (John 12:42-43). One must be a "doer" of the word and not a "hearer only" (James 1:22).

Third, **one must be willing to be separate from the world.** The apostle Paul said, "But far be it from me to glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world hath been crucified unto me, and I unto the world" (Gal. 6:14; cf. Gal. 2:20). Paul taught the brethren at Corinth: "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in [them]; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people" (2 Cor. 6:14-17).

If a man is in love with the world, the love of the Father is not in him (1 John 2:15-17).

Fourth, **one must pay the cost of self-denial.** Many determine this is too high a price to pay as they will not say "No" to themselves. The Lord taught, "...If any [man] will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me" (Luke 9:23). It is true that it costs to be a faithful Christian. But the costs are greater when one rejects Christianity. Can you afford to live your life in such a way that it costs you your soul, heaven, and eternal fellowship with God and those of like precious faith? The cost is great to be a Christian, but the cost is far greater to be a servant of Satan.

By: Marvin Weir

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GOD'S AGELESS ULTIMATUM

Repentance is one of the great doctrines of the Bible. It is a foundation principle. The Bible says, "Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and faith toward God" (Heb. 6:1). **Repent or perish, turn or burn, is God's ageless ultimatum.** Noah preached repentance (Gen.

7-9). God told Jonah to go to Nineveh and preach repentance. He refused at first, but after some convincing, he went and preached. As a result, they repented. John the Baptist preached repentance, "...Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" (Matt. 3:2). Jesus preached

repentance, "From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" (Matt. 4:17). Our Lord repeated this in Luke's account, telling men to "repent of perish" (Luke 3:3-5). Peter preached repentance on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:38). Simon the Sorcerer was told to repent, "Repent therefore of this thy wickedness..." (Acts 8:22). The seven churches recorded in Revelation 2 and 3 were told to REPENT OR ELSE! There are some things repentance is not.

Repentance is not conviction. Some folks will say, "I know I'm a sinner" but never do anything about it. A husband and wife were living in adultery and knew it. They cried, but they never repented. Many families living in adultery, rather than repenting and getting out of it, will find a congregation that will accept them. There was an uproar in a congregation over *The Masonic Lodge*. The men didn't repent and get out of it, they just found another congregation that would accept it. A drunkard may be sorry for getting drunk, but never changes. A husband will beat his wife and apologize hours afterward, but the next time he becomes angry he beats her again. Sin is often white-washed rather than repented of.

Repentance is not being sorry. As demonstrated above, a man may be sorry for beating his wife, getting drunk, stealing, etc. but until he changes his mind and action, repentance hasn't taken place. Now keep in mind what the Bible says, "godly sorrow worketh repentance" (2 Cor. 7:10). Being sorry can lead a person to repent.

Repentance is not fear. A person may become deathly sick; and, in the throes of death may decide to obey God. This must be followed up with repentance (Acts 17:30), confession (Rom. 10:9-10) and baptism (Acts 2:38). A negligent Christian may become ill unto death and decide to repent and ask God's forgiveness. God will forgive. I've had prayer with many Christians in the hospital who asked forgiveness and prayer. God forgives. If recovery takes place, that person must demonstrate that sincerity of repentance. The Bible says, "bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance" (Matt. 3:8).

What is repentance? REPENTANCE IS A CHANGE OF HEART THAT BRINGS ABOUT A CHANGE OF ACTION! Remember the parable of the two sons (Matt. 21:29)? The son repented and went. Preaching brings repentance. "They repented at the preaching of Jonah..." (Matt. 12:41). Peter preached on the Day of Pentecost. About 3,000 repented and were baptized after hearing his sermon.

God's ageless ultimatum is REPENT!

Unknown Author

God's Plan of Salvation

HEAR the gospel Rom. 10:17
BELIEVE the gospel John 3:16
REPENT of your sins Luke 13:3
CONFESS Christ Matt. 10:32
Be BAPTIZED Acts 2:38
Live FAITHFULLY Rev. 2:10

If you are visiting today, we appreciate your presence and hope to get to know you better. Please fill out a visitor's card so we can have a record of your attendance, and if there is any way we can serve your spiritual needs, please bring this to our attention.

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