

**Clarksville Church of Christ**  
 407 W Lewis & Clark Pkwy  
 Clarksville, IN 47129-1649  
 (812) 944-2305  
[www.clarksvillechurchofchrist.org](http://www.clarksvillechurchofchrist.org)

**Sundays**  
 Bible Study..... 9:30 AM  
 Worship.....10:30 AM  
 Worship.....6:00 PM

**Wednesdays**  
 Bible Study.....7:30 PM

**Elders**  
 Stephen W. Nale.....812-948-9917  
 Allen L. Morris.....812-967-4536

**Deacons**  
 Jeffrey B. Hunt.....502-931-5766  
 Elbert Metcalf.....812-246-5938  
 Rondal O. Thompson Jr....812-944-8295  
 Mark Maudlin.....502-523-0479

**Editor**  
 Stephen W. Nale.....502-727-7559  
 Email: [info@clarksvillechurchofchrist.org](mailto:info@clarksvillechurchofchrist.org)

Goals For 2021  
Theme  
 A Church with a Mind to Work  
Attendance: Sunday Bible Study: 40;  
Sunday AM: 50  
Sunday PM: 40; Wednesday Bible Study: 30

Giving: Meet Our Yearly Budget

Invitations: 130

Every Member Committed To Daily Bible Reading

Every Member Committed To Daily Prayer

Every Member Committed To Be At Every Service

Support the Work in Vincennes, Indiana  
Hold A Men's Training Class

Hold One Gospel Meeting

-Like us on Facebook-View us on YouTube at Clarksvillechurch

-Gary Henry preaching today

***We are now in week #18 of our Daily Bible Reading.***

**Prayer List**  
 Kay Thompson  
 Norris Family  
 Rob Kelly's mother  
 Sharon Nale, Polly Ward  
 Les & Novema Dunn  
 Debby Spears (Roseann's sis)  
 Sharon Thompson, Janet Blake  
 The Wards & Beth McFarland  
 Dale Kahl, Brooke Thomas

**"Preaching": 1 Cor. 1:21; 1 Tim. 3:15; 1 Thess. 1:8**

**Who Have You Invited To Services This week?**

**Lord's Supper Reading**  
 Matt. 26:26-29

**Scripture Reading**  
 AM: Matt. 4:23  
 PM:

**Encouragement Tally**  
 Invites this month: 0  
 Invites last month: 8  
 Visitors YTD: 8

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Place Stamp Here



**The Clarksville Beacon**  
[www.Clarksvillechurchofchrist.org](http://www.Clarksvillechurchofchrist.org)

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Clarksville Church of Christ

May 2, 2021

**What Is Our Attitude Toward Preaching?**

**Welcome!**  
 If you're visiting with us today, we want you to feel welcome and we want you to feel like our honored guest! We also want you to know that all we're interested in here at the Clarksville Church of Christ is the Truth. Jesus said, "You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." John 8:32. The truth He's talking about is God's word. Jesus said, "Sanctify them by thy truth, Thy word is truth." John 17:17. Therefore we hope you'll appreciate that we'll give you book, chapter and verse from the Bible, the word of God, for everything that we say or do here today, so that everything that we do may bring glory unto God, I Pet. 4:11.

- Introduction**
- A. "And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom" (Mt. 4:23; 9:35).
  - B. The basic meaning of "preach" is to "proclaim."  
 1. Gk. kerusso = to be a herald, to announce or make a public proclamation - Mt. 3:1-3.  
 2. Gk. euangelizo = to bring a joyful message, announce glad tidings - Ac. 5:42.  
 3. Gk. didasko = to teach, instruct - Ac. 5:42.
  - C. To the elders from Ephesus, Paul said, "I kept back nothing that was helpful, but proclaimed it to you, and taught you publicly and from house to house (Ac. 20:27
- I. THE GOSPEL NEEDS TO BE "PREACHED"**
- A. The gospel is both important and urgent - Ac. 2:40. Its public proclamation needs to reflect both of these qualities.
  - B. There is a need for clarity (Col. 4:4) and boldness (Ac. 4:13,29,31; Eph. 6:19,20; Phil. 1:20).
- II. THERE WILL ALWAYS BE A NEED FOR PREACHING**
- A. People today may prefer "group discussions" over preaching, but there will never come a time when the public proclamation of the gospel does not need to be engaged in, at every opportunity. Cf. Rom. 1:16; Col. 1:28; etc.
  - B. Among the Puritans (in England and then in the New World), the sermon was held to be a very important contributor to the spiritual growth of the congregation today, we would do well to adopt that perspective ourselves.
- III. LOOKING FOR WAYS TO ELEVATE PREACHING**
- A. More preaching, rather than less, should be of interest to us. Consider these recommendations:
    1. Quit "apologizing" for preaching, as if it were an unfortunate necessity in the Lord's work.
    2. Maximize, rather than minimize, the number of sermons heard by the congregation each year.
    3. Look for ways to get sermons out of the building and into the community (CDs/DVDs, internet videos, public venues, etc.) — if people won't come to the building to listen, we must take the message to them.
    4. Support preachers who see the importance of the sermon.
    5. Prioritize expository preaching, i.e., sermons that give an exposition of an extended section of the text.
    6. Increase opportunities for men in the congregation other than "the preacher") to preach.
  - B. A congregation with a "mind to work" will give serious attention to its preaching of the gospel - 1 Thess. 1:8.

**CONCLUSION**  
 A. What a thrill it must have been to hear Jesus preach — or to hear His apostles. Cf. Mt. 7:28,29; 12:41. B. If we appreciate the importance and urgency of the gospel, we will not be ashamed of its public proclamation.  
**Gary Henry**

## Three Crucial Questions

### Introduction

- A. The phrase "people of God" (Heb. 4:9) is familiar to us in the Scriptures, but who are those to whom this applies?
- B. In the widest sense, these words apply to every person God ever created. But in the Scriptures, the phrase often refers to a group with a special relationship to God, due to having been redeemed and rescued by Him.
- C. When the Law of Moses was in effect, the tribes of Israel were God's people in a unique sense, but who are the ones today who are the "people of God"? It is those who obey the gospel of Christ. The nation of Israel, in fact, pointed forward to this greater Israel, a spiritual people belonging to God - 1 Pt. 2:9,10.
- D. If you want to know whether you are among these "people of God," ask yourself some questions like these:

### I. HAVE I BEEN RECONCILED TO GOD — ON HIS TERMS?

- A. It is God's prerogative, not ours, to set the terms of our reconciliation to Him. At the very least, we cannot say we are a part of the people of God if we haven't obeyed the initial conditions God has set for the forgiveness of our sins.
- B. God's people are His forgiven ones — having committed themselves to Him in faith (Jn. 8:24), repented of their sins (Ac. 2:38), confessed their faith (Rom. 10:9,10), and died to sin in baptism (Rom. 6:3-5).

### II. DO I OFFER TO GOD WHAT HE IS SEEKING FROM HIS CREATURES?

- A. God has always, in every age of the world, looked for those who would love Him with all their hearts and live accordingly (Deut. 10:12,13; Micah 6:8).
- B. Even if we have obeyed the initial terms of the gospel, including baptism, we are not among the people of God if our hearts are not given to Him in wholehearted love - Mt. 22:34-40; 1 Cor. 13:1-3. Cf. Rev. 2:2-5.

### III. DO I LIVE ON THE BASIS OF FAITH IN GOD?

- A. I am not one of God's people if my life doesn't show that I trust Him — being willing to take real risks to do things His way. There is no more fundamental principle of the gospel than this: "The righteous shall live by faith" (Rom. 1:17).
- B. Abraham is the spiritual forefather of those who trust Him enough to obey Him even when what God requires seems to go against what is wise and expedient - Gal. 3:7-9.

### CONCLUSION

- A. It is only the people of God who can look forward to the eternal rest that He has promised.
- B. For Israel, Canaan was the land in which they hoped to rest, but God spoke even back then of a greater rest awaiting His people. "For if Joshua had given them rest, God would not have spoken of another day later on. So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God" (Hb. 4:8,9).
- C. May God hasten the day when His every foe has been vanquished and He reigns forever over all His faithful people.

**Gary Henry**

## The Work and Worship of the Church

**THE** apostle Paul, in 2 Corinthians 10:12 charges that we should be careful not to "*compare ourselves with those who commend themselves: but they, measuring themselves by themselves, are not wise.*"

There is a very serious question that confronts the conscientious Christian. What does the Bible teach that the church ought to be. What are its divine functions in the world? Many individuals and congregations can boast an enviable record, if their standard of achievement is determined by what others are doing. If we are forever commending ourselves on the progress of some pet project, we become like those mentioned in the text above, of whom Paul said, "they are not wise."

It is rather frightening to notice that a great deal of what is being done in the name of religion (Christianity) is only remotely related to what the Lord requires of us. That which is being done in many instances may not be bad within itself. It may be pleasant, and who can say, perhaps some good is accomplished, but we miss the mark entirely when we call such activity "church work."

Many folks are truly amazed when they see the striking simplicity of God's plan; but when the truth is actually discovered, we see that there is far more to be done than our time will allow. Christian activity, in every instance, is based upon the principle of obedience and obedience may be simply, yet adequately, defined as doing exactly what the Lord says do, in the manner which He prescribes, and for the purpose stated. Anything short of that will result in failure and condemnation. Perhaps you will recall the strong rebuke which Samuel aimed at King Saul. He said, "*Behold to obey is better than sacrifice and to harken than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the Lord, he hath also rejected thee from being king.*" 1 Samuel 15:22-23

**What then is the mission of the church and what does the Lord require of us? Generally speaking, the Bible directs the church in four areas of activity:**

1. The church is charged with the responsibility to preach the gospel at home and abroad. Matt. 28:18-19 and 2 Timothy 3:15.
2. The church is expected to conduct regularly scheduled worship programs in which God is glorified and Christ is truly esteemed as king. John 4:24; Hebrews 10:25.
3. There must be carefully planned sessions of teaching, training and edifying the body of Christians. See 2 Timothy 2:2 and 1 Peter 3:15.
4. The church is obligated to attend to certain works of love and charity. 1 Cor. 16:1; Acts 11:27; 1 Tim. 5:3.

**H. Robert Williams**