

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

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

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

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

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

Editor
 Stephen W. Nale.....502-727-7559

Beginning Our 66 th Year Dec. 3, 2023

Goals For 2023
Theme
 "Courageous Christians in 2023!"
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
 will be preaching today.

We are on week # 49 of our daily Bible reading.

Prayer List
 Sharon Nale, Polly Ward, Macon Ward, Debby Spears (Roseann's sis) Sharon Thompson, Kay Thompson Gene Ward, Beth McFarland, Brooke Thomas, Pam Caudill Debbie Lewellen, Cathie Hall, Ronnie Kahl

THIS MONTH:
Courage and Good Conscience
1 Pet. 3:16, 2:19; Acts23:1

Who Have You Invited To Services This week?

Lord's Supper Reading
Mark 14:17-25

Scripture Reading
 AM: 2 Tim. 1:12
 PM: Romans 6:16

Encouragement Tally
 Invites this month 6
 Invites last month: 15
 Visitors YTD: 12

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Place Stamp Here



The Clarksville Beacon

www.Clarksvillechurchofchrist.org

Our Theme for 2023...
"Courageous Christians!"
 1 Cor. 16:13
 Clarksville Church of Christ
 407 W. Lewis & Clark Pkwy.
 Clarksville, IN 47129
First Service December 7, 1958

Volume 35 Issue 49 **Clarksville Church of Christ** **December 3, 2023**

FAITH

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.

VISITORS
 Please fill out a visitor's card or scan the QR code below and provide the information requested.



TEXT: 2 Tim. 1:12
 Faith is important in *becoming* a Christian — it's also important in *being* one. If the topic is "walking in Christ," faith is at the very center of the discussion.

As Paul's statement in **2 Tim. 1:12** indicates, the Christian's faith is not an abstract belief; *it is trust in a Person.*

THE CONCEPT OF "CALCULATED RISK"

The concept of "calculated risk" is a biblical idea. It's at heart of faith, and here is what it means:

- We weigh the *evidence* for whether God can be trusted.
- We count the *cost* of obeying God.
- We make a *deliberate choice* to trust and obey Him.

THE EXAMPLE OF ISRAEL'S FAILURE

The writer of Hebrews said that it was because of "unbelief" that the Israelites who left Egypt did not make it to the Promised Land - **Hb. 3:18,19**. Cf. **Num. 14:6-12**.

WALKING BY FAITH

Nothing is more basic to living as a Christian than **living on the basis of faith - Rom. 1:17; 2 Cor. 5:7**. Cf. **Gen. 15:6**.

Faith is the *great principle* of our lives, the *ultimate guide* in our choices and decisions.

Faith is an active, engaged trust in the character and promises of God — as seen in Noah (**Hb. 11:7**), Abraham (**Hb. 11:8-19**), and many others in the Scriptures. Cf. Paul's example in **Ac. 21:10-14**.

It involves risk-taking, obedience, and a deep reliance on God's care - **Jas. 2:17**. Faith is an intimate relationship with God, a binding contract with the Almighty.

Conclusion

Given the great importance of faith, it's imperative that we *grow in our faith* - **Mk. 9:24**.

OBEDIENCE

Text: Romans 6:16

OBEDIENCE COMES FROM TRUSTING GOD

Faith and obedience are meant to reinforce one another.

Obedience to God comes from trusting God — to believe in God is to trust Him, and if we trust God, we'll obey Him. Cf.

Prov. 3:5,6.

As we see in **Hb. 3:18,19**, the failure of Israel to obey God's command to possess Canaan was an act of "unbelief."

NOT A NEGATIVE CONCEPT

Obedience is not a negative concept, although it is often portrayed that way — obedience is *necessary*, but it need not be *negative*.

Far from restricting us, obedience is the source of everything that can rightly be called "*freedom*." Cf. **Gen. 3:4-6.**

If we reject obedience, we become ensnared by the very sins we thought we were free to commit - **2 Pt. 2:18,19.**

When one obeys God out of a sense of trust and love, obedience is not a burden but a joy - **1 Jn. 5:3.**

OBEYING THE GOSPEL DAILY

"Walking in Christ" should be seen as "obeying the gospel" on a *daily basis* — it is our way of life.

Just as we were responding to the gospel when we obeyed its initial requirements, living in Christ means that we keep on responding rightly to God for the rest of our lives, gratefully submitting to Him as the wonderful King who has forgiven us of our disloyalty.

Obedience becomes the *norm* for us, a conspicuous *pattern* in the way we live.

FAITH AND OBEDIENCE ARE NOT IN CONFLICT

We shouldn't pay too much attention to the alleged "conflict" between faith and works, for there is no conflict.

Both are essential parts of life in Christ, and without the other, neither can work as God intended - **Jas. 2:14-26.**

Conclusion

May our lives be characterized by obedience — lives in which obedience is an observable pattern or habit - **Mt. 5:16.**

This is what we will do if our hopes are set on Christ's return - **1 Jn. 3:3.**

Gary Henry — WordPoints.com + AreYouaChristian.com

The Wages of Sin is Death

Third and Final Installment of Radio Sermon #16

IN the parable of the sower, recorded in Matt. 13, it is said that some seed fell among thorns, and the thorns sprung up and choked them. Our Savior's own explanation follows in verse 22, "*He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful.*" Friends, we must flee the pleasures of sin and the prejudice which forbids the wholehearted acceptance of God's grace. Paul warns, "*Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices.*" (2 Cor. 2:11) Hear Paul again, "*Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God. For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace. What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid*" (Rom 6:12-15).

The strict nature of the law of Moses required that punishment for sin came surely and swiftly. Under the New Testament law of Jesus Christ, God's justice is tempered with mercy. The grace of God has been bestowed upon us through Christ, but this does not allow us to take advantage of that grace and to sin intentionally and carelessly. "*Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?*" (Rom 6:16).

Here we are considered as having been in bondage to sin. Then being bought by Christ from that slavery we should give ourselves entirely to the doing of his pleasure. He will not force our allegiance, however; you may even now present yourself as a servant of sin or as a servant of righteousness as you may choose. To whom ye yield yourselves as servants, his servants you are. "*But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you.*" (Rom 6:17). Paul is not thanking God that Christians had one time sinned but rather that such practices has been terminated. They, Christians, became such and were made free from sins when they obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine. From the heart means simply after serious consideration, prayerful thought and meditation. No one is freed from sins unless he wants to be and unless he conforms to the pattern presented. The doctrine delivered was the death of Jesus Christ for our sins, his burial and resurrection.

The doctrine, of course, one cannot obey. The form of it is seen in our separation from sins and sinful practices, burial in water in full faith in the atoning blood of the Savior and in imitation of his burial and resurrection. "*Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.*" (Rom 6:18). And again, "*But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.*" (Rom 6:22).

"*Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.*" (Isa 1:18).

H. Robert Williams