

### Times of Services

#### Sunday

9:00 a.m. Worship  
10:00 a.m. Bible Study  
11:00 a. m. Worship

#### Wednesday

7:00 p.m. Bible Study

### Study and Worship Opportunities

**Notice:** All assemblies and classes at the building are temporarily cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We will send out notice as soon as we get the all clear.

- **Gospel Meeting** – Cancelled due to pandemic

### News and Notes

- **Home Bound Members:** Mike Butler, Eula Mae Harless, Joyce Manasco.
- **Limited Health:** Wade McCrary.
- **Prayer Requests:** Jerry Paschall's mother, Frank and Joann Butler.
- **Others to Remember:** Steve Coburn, Jim Ratcliff, Jerry Paschall, Elbert Logan, Mike & Marion Butler, Lee Gallop. Willena Woods is at Windsor Place Room 205. Julie Reese Vibrock, daughter of Brooke and Randy Vibrock is doing well.
- **Sick:** Eula Mae Harless suffered a stroke May 29 and passed away April 12. Be prayerful for the family.

### Contact Information:

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# East Columbus Bulletin

## Should I Worry About This?

by Larry Rouse

Over the years I have carefully noted the circumstances surrounding Christians that fell away from the Lord. Some of these I knew very well, with some even being family members. Most of them started believing and professing things they had ardently opposed in the past. As time passed, some became more aggressive and even denied the plain gospel way of salvation calling it “traditionalism.” These departures caused me great grief and I became determined to help others avoid this terrible “slippery slope.” I often have asked the question: “Why did these departures occur?”

Even though these departures were later characterized by radical doctrinal compromise, I do not know of one individual whose departure came solely from a doctrinal influence. If these individuals had studied and became convinced that these doctrines were true to the scriptures, some of these people would have talked to me with an open Bible. One thing that I found characteristic, but puzzling, about my friends was that they would no longer even talk to me about their change, even though we had good relationships in the past. Again I asked: “What causes a person to act this way?”

The answer that I discovered is the answer the scriptures supply when it describes the “works of the flesh,” which in essence is the arsenal of Satan. All of these people, I strongly believe, lost control of their hearts to issues such as uncontrolled anger, covetousness, unbridled lusts and other temptations. One of the tools Satan used to destroy their faith and allow the flesh to dominate them was the stressful burden of worry. In the parable of the sower, Jesus describes the unrelenting war that Satan has waged against a living faith, a faith that must be fed by the

word of God. The plant that began by the sowing of the powerful seed of God's word, was made unfruitful by the later choking off of the sustaining word of God. Jesus said: *"Now the ones that fell among thorns are those who, when they have heard, go out and are choked with cares, riches, and pleasures of life, and bring no fruit to maturity."* (Luke 8:14)

Jesus taught about taking on unnecessary burdens when He plainly warned: *"Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble."* (Matthew 6:34) The Greek word that is translated "worry" in this passage has this root meaning: "to care for, be concerned about," but also can be used in a bad sense where it denotes to "be anxious, be overly concerned about, be worried about." (Louw-Nida Lexicon) Paul plainly showed that a living faith can overcome worry when he wrote: *"Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God."* (Philippians 4:6)

How can we know the difference between the legitimate cares that God wishes us to handle and the burdensome cares that we take on ourselves through a lack of faith? The answer is very simple and very comforting. We need to open our hearts completely to Jesus and let Him sift every thought, priority and goal that is in our hearts and then let Him discard most of them, leaving us with the burdens that we can handle. Do you really trust the Lord? If you do, you can certainly live a worry-free life when you trust God like this. *"Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup>Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. <sup>30</sup>For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."* (Matthew 11:28-30)

Consider some of the needless burdens we bear: We cannot control, or even know all of the consequences of every possible choice that we face each day. Those men who think they can actually control "what may happen" are either blinded by pride or are simply foolish. The heart of faith simply asks, "What does the Lord want me to do?" The burden of possible consequences is left to the God who sees and knows the very number of hairs on my head. *"Are not two sparrows sold for a copper coin? And not one of them falls to the ground apart from your Father's will. <sup>30</sup>But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. <sup>31</sup>Do not fear therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows."* (Matthew 10:29-31)

We cannot control what people think or how they might act. Some have become slaves of men with heavy burdens to bear because they fear "what others might think." What burden does God give us? He simply wants us to live for Him and let His power and His word speak to others through us. The apostle Paul knew that he had no power over the will of others but there was one thing he could do. *"Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers through whom you believed, as the Lord gave to each one? <sup>6</sup>I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase."* (1 Corinthians 3:5-6)

What list of unnecessary burdens could you list? Here is a short one to consider:

1. I must not worry about who will be the leader of our country. (Rev 2:26-27)
2. I must not worry about how I will pay the bills. (Heb 13:5-6)
3. I must not worry about my health. (Lk 21:16-18)
4. I must not worry about the well being of my family. (1 Cor 7:32-35)

What happens when a person fails to develop a faith that learns to take the light yoke of Jesus? In time, that faith will break down and that person will seek relief. This was the one characteristic I found in the departure of my friends. Some had become embittered by others and refused to let that burden be the Lord's. Others had burned themselves out through the pursuit of things that cannot last.

My friends ran to Satan with his false promises and his quick condemnation of the way of God as being "too hard." The sad truth is that the departure from God's way leads to a path of real hardship and trouble. Satan wants you to close your eyes and pretend that all is well. Many churches today will encourage you to cast off the commandments of God as "burdensome."

Which burden will you choose God's or Satan's? Please see clearly the path of a living faith and stand there! "For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome. <sup>4</sup>For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith." (1 John 5:3-4)