

The Prattmont Church of Christ is just what the name suggests, a church that belongs to Christ. We are not a denomination; we are simply a group of Christians trying very hard to practice the teachings of our Head, Jesus Christ. The New Testament offers a complete pattern for what each local church should be like—its organization, its worship, its work, etc. We are committed to following that pattern. We cordially invite you to attend our services. We would also welcome any comments or questions about this bulletin.

**TIMES OF SERVICES:**

*Sunday*  
 Bible Classes.....9 A.M.  
 Worship ..... 10:00 A.M.  
 Worship/Bible Study..5 P.M.

*Wednesday:*  
 Bible Study..... 7:00 P.M.



*Weekly Bulletin*  
 June 2, 2024

**Building a Good Name**

*by Bryan Gibson*

Found among the qualifications for elders: “he must have a good testimony among those who are outside, lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil” (1 Timothy 3:7). So an elder must have a good reputation, not just among his brothers and sisters in Christ, but also among those outside the church. “A good name in the community” is how we might express it.

But a good name is not just important for elders. “All the people of my town know you are a virtuous woman” (Ruth 3:11)—that’s what Boaz said about Ruth, and it sure would be great if the people of our town thought that highly of each one of us. What else does the Bible say about a good name?

**A good name is a very valuable asset.**

“A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches...” (Proverbs 22:1). “A good name is better than precious ointment...” (Ecclesiastes 7:1). Why so valuable? Because it

**Contact Information**

|  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
|  | <b>Mailing Address</b>                      | P.O. Box 680872<br>Prattville, AL 36067            |
|  | <b>Phone Numbers</b>                        | (334) 868-0801                                     |
|  | <b>E-Mail Address</b><br><b>Web Address</b> | prattmont@gmail.com<br>prattmontchurchofchrist.org |

greatly affects the influence we have on those around us. It's awful hard to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world if our reputation has been damaged (see Matthew 5:13-16).

**It takes many deeds to build a good name, only one to lose it.**

Seems unfair, but experience bears it out. Here's one way a good reputation can be ruined: "Debate your case with your neighbor, and do not disclose the secret to another; lest he who hears it expose your shame, and your reputation be ruined" (Proverbs 25:9-10). Showing a lack of trustworthiness—telling something we should not—is a good way to ruin a good name. I'm sure you can think of many others. Sometimes, we don't even have to do anything wrong to lose our good name; it could be we're just guilty of *suspicious* behavior. See 2 Corinthians 8:16-21 for how Paul was careful to avoid even the appearance of evil. A Chinese proverb says, "When walking in your neighbor's melon patch, don't stop to tie your shoe." You may not be stealing any melons, but it sure looks like it. How people *perceive* our actions—that's important, too.

**A good name is important, but character comes FIRST.**

The difference between reputation and character? He's obviously not an inspired writer, but Thomas Paine put it this way: "Reputation is what men and women think of us. Character is what God knows about us." The first order of business will always be to please God, to develop the kind of character with which He is pleased, and if we can do that, the good reputation will follow. You can see this illustrated in 1 Samuel 2:26

("Samuel grew...in favor both with the Lord and men") and Luke 2:52 ("Jesus increased...in favor with God and men").

**It is possible to have a good reputation, to be well spoken of by men, but still not be pleasing to God.**

This was certainly the case with the church at Sardis: "you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead" (Revelation 3:1). Another example would be the Pharisees who did enough to gain a good reputation among at least some of their fellow-Jews, but were far from pleasing to God (Matthew 23:23, 25, 28). We can sometimes fool people; we can never fool God.

### **Conclusion**

The ultimate aim in all this? To have the same thing said about us that was said about Demetrius. Read it carefully. "Demetrius has a good testimony from all, and from the truth itself. And we also bear witness, and you know our testimony is true" (3 John 1:12). It's great when witnesses all around speak well of us; it's even better when the witness is the truth itself.

