

The Sterling Herald

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Church of Christ

5825 Sterling Avenue, Raytown, MO 64133

Elders: Jerry Vick 734-8879;

Norman Fultz 876-9174

Deacons: Gene McClung 737-0181;

John Frazier 510-7979

Evangelist & Bulletin Editor:

Eric T. Stauffer: 816-908-6779

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Two Ways to Keep Members Faithful

*There are two ways to keep members of the church "faithful". **The first way** is to be sure everyone is involved. Have a project for each member, and make sure that he feels important in his role. Praise him for the good job he is doing. Make him feel needed; make him feel that the well-being of the whole congregation rests firmly on his shoulders. That will keep him "faithful".*

There are two problems with this method. In the first place, it encourages the creation of projects that are not remotely related to the work of the local church. One member plays on the church ball team; another leads the Boy Scout troop; another is an active member of the "Dorcas Society"; another plans the program for the men's luncheon. Everybody is busy all right, but in activities that are not authorized in the New Testament.

In the second place, members are often given roles for which they are not qualified. A lady is chosen to teach a class, not because she is qualified, but because she needs to be involved. A man is appointed a deacon to be "faithful". Another man is appointed to serve the Lord's

Supper for a month in order to encourage him to be present each Sunday that month. This method thus places “the cart before the horse”, for no one should ever be assigned any work in the Lord’s service who is not already faithful and qualified for the work to be done(2 Tim. 2:2).

The second way to keep people faithful is to develop within them a genuine love for the Lord. When people love the Lord, they will be faithful, and it won’t take some kind of “special” project to keep them faithful. They will also be involved: in worship, in study, in prayer, in godly living, in sharing the gospel with a friend, in helping the needy. I have known literally hundreds of Christians who who have never in their lives been appointed to any special work, but whose love for the Lord alone kept them faithful. There is no superficial faithfulness on the part of these; theirs is a faithfulness that is real.

Special responsibilities are fine for those who are qualified, but the man who requires some special duty to be faithful has never learned what true faithfulness is.-

Bill Hall

Guard the Faith by Stan Cox

As an evangelist, Timothy had a wonderful teacher, who instructed him in the gospel of Christ. The great apostle Paul took a personal interest in the young man, and called upon Timothy to “Guard what was committed to your trust” ([1 Timothy 6:20](#)).

The Greek word translated “Guard,” (or “Keep” in the KJV), means to guard or preserve. An evangelist is certainly not to guard the faith in the sense of keeping it

from others. Rather, he is to guard or preserve the integrity of the faith that is committed to his trust.

In fact, the phrase “committed to your trust” indicated that Timothy had a responsibility to pass on to others the exact message of truth that he himself had received. As we consider the extant dangers listed by Paul in the context, “profane and idle babblings”, “contradictions of what is falsely called knowledge”, we see that such corruptions of the truth lead to a disciple straying.

One of the primary responsibilities of the child of God is to, “contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints” (Jude 3). Jude speaks of “certain men”, “ungodly men”, who corrupt the truth of God, and in so doing defile themselves, and those who hear them.

*As an evangelist, Timothy had a special burden in defending the truth. No man who claims to be an evangelist is worth his salt if he does not stand up to the error that is present in every generation. Not only is a preacher to be a proclaimer, he is to be a guardian of the truth!- **taken from soundteaching.org; May 9, 2022***

Week 20 reading plan:

Monday: 2 Sam. 6; 1 Chron. 13; Psalm 60; Acts 23

Tuesday: 1 Chron. 14-16; Acts 24

*Wednesday: 2 Sam. 7-8; 1 Chron. 17; Psalm 132;
Acts 25*

*Thursday: 2 Sam. 9-10; 1 Chron. 18-19; Psalm 89;
Acts 26*

*Friday: 2 Sam. 11-12; 1 Chron. 20; Psalm 51; 32;
Acts 27*

Family Matters

Prayer List: Linda Adams; Roselle Grisham; John Frazier; Donnie Bunch, Howard Whittlesey, Elizabeth Matthews, Harold Whittlesey, Robbin Laffoon

Out of town: The Defoe family and the Cielos are out of town this week. The Defoes will return tomorrow, Lord willing, and Dan will have out patient surgery Tuesday. Please pray that their return is safe and that the procedure goes well. The Stauffers will be travelling to Kentucky on Thursday for the graduation of Eric's niece. Pray for safe travels for the family.

Next Sunday: Norman Fultz will handle the morning lesson and Dan Defoe will present the evening lesson in Eric's absence.

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