



Truth for Today

August 9, 2020

1500 Wellman Road | Shenandoah | 77384 | 281.367.2099

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Asking the Wrong Questions

By Jamey Hinds

Then the disciples came, and said to him, "Do you know that the Pharisees were offended, when they heard this saying?" But he answered, "Every plant which my heavenly Father didn't plant will be uprooted. Leave them alone. They are blind guides of the blind. If the blind guide the blind, both will fall into a pit." (Matthew 15:12–14)

When it comes to the most important things in life—spiritual things (2 Corinthians 4:18)—too many ask the wrong questions. Rather than asking what makes a certain practice right (i.e., pleasing to God, see Ephesians 5:10), most are going to ask: "What's wrong with doing _____?" It's as if that—since they're the ones doing the questionable things and being asked to show from the Bible where they're getting their authority for doing those questionable things—they can't be really questioned. Paul said, "Test all things, and hold firmly that which is good" (1 Thessalonians 5:21).

Essentially, their motives are wrong, and so they ask the wrong questions. And the reason why their motives are wrong is because their heart is wrong—seeking to establish their own righteousness, they are unwilling to submit to God's (Romans 10:3). For example:

Behold, a certain lawyer stood up and tested him, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" He said to him, "What is written in the law? How do you read it?" He answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself." He said to him, "You have answered correctly. Do this, and you will live." But he, desiring to justify himself, asked Jesus, "Who is my neighbor?" (Luke 10:25–29).

The truth has nothing to hide and if we're sincerely wanting to please God now—glorifying Him, and seeking the eternal reward of being in His presence forever—then we must boldly ask of ourselves and others about the Scriptural reasons why we do what we do, and the way we do it: because it matters to God what and how we do His commands (1 John 5:2–3). Jesus said, "But the hour comes, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such to be his worshipers. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth" (John 4:23–24).

Currently there are many religiously-minded people who are doing things the way they want to do them without biblical foundations. They didn't read from God's word what they are practicing. Some have basically defended themselves—*what* they're doing and *how* they're doing it—by saying that they can't be wrong because

they're the ones doing these things from sincere hearts. "These have indeed an appearance of wisdom in promoting self-made religion" (Colossians 2:23). I am reminded of Uzzah and the ark of God (1 Chronicles 13:5–14). Uzzah was sincerely wrong.

Now Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, each took his censer and put fire in it and laid incense on it and offered unauthorized fire before the Lord, which he had not commanded them. And fire came out from before the Lord and consumed them, and they died before the Lord. Then Moses said to Aaron, "This is what the Lord has said: 'Among those who are near me I will be sanctified, and before all the people I will be glorified.'" And Aaron held his peace (Leviticus 10:1–3).

"Unauthorized fire ... which he had not commanded them." If we are open to God's word—reading and understanding it—then we are going to find out first what it is that He wants before offering what we think or hope is pleasing (Matthew 6:33; Proverbs 2:1–10).

Again, too many are asking the wrong questions, concerned about the wrong things, and ignoring the source of the problem, *which is a heart set on their own gain* (Ezekiel 33:31). "Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves" (James 1:21–22).

Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth. By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before him; for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; and whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him. And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. Whoever keeps his commandments abides in God, and God in him. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us (1 John 3:18–24).

If we want to please God as true worshipers, then we must first go to His word to find what it is that He wants us to be, think, and do. "All these things my hand has made, and so all these things came to be, declares the Lord. But this is the one to whom I will look: *he who is humble and contrite in spirit and trembles at my word*" (Isaiah 66:2).



UPDATED PRAYER LIST

- **Rommie Back's** surgery was postponed for a second opinion. He will have a consult Monday in Houston at Methodist.
- **Morgan and Trevor Potter** are still waiting for baby. She will be induced on Tuesday if the baby does not arrive before then.
- **Craig Preuss'** dad, Arthur, had a successful surgery for cancer was scheduled to go home Wednesday.
- **Dehbrenda Preuss'** dad, Bill Harrison
- Connor Foster, boyfriend of **Preuss' daughter Lindsay** is in TIRR and improving slowly.
- **Ross Randow's** father, Paul Randow, has been diagnosed with cancer in his lungs. Surgery has been scheduled for 8/11.
- **ECONOMIC CHALLENGES.** There are still some of our church family who have had pay-cuts, furloughs and job loss. Please let the Elders know. There are many who are ready to help.

—See Enews for Ongoing Prayer List

MEETINGS, EVENTS, SINGINGS & STUDIES

- Sunday Worship Assemblies Worship In-Person Worship In-Person (8:30 or 10:00 am) and LiveStream, August 9th.
- Reserved seating is for members, those who regularly attend with us and their guests. Reserved seating is repeated week to week based on the recent Sunday's assignments. Let us know if you 1) will be out of town, 2) are changing your time slot (from last Sunday) or, 3) if you will have more than your family. If you will not be present on Sunday, PLEASE let us HEAR FROM YOU that you will not keep your regular reservation and when you will need seating again for the 8:30 or 10:00 am service.
- Beginning September 6, we will adjust the seating arrangements. Seating will change from reserved for specific people to reserved for a maximum number on a first come-first seated basis. In other words, pews will be marked with a maximum seating (and a chart will be emailed to you as well as posted in the members only area in the website) and is available for whoever arrives first. No seat will be assigned to a specific family after August.
- Also, beginning September 6, based on input for different people, the west section in each service will be assigned a masks-with seating for members only.

Once seated, you will be free to remove your mask. However, we would ask that, just as everyone does in entering restaurants, wear a mask to your seat. The West Section was chosen because those who wish to remain masked can enter and exit on the east side without concerns from the distance of the west section. Because this section will also be limited seating per pew plus seating on a first-come, first-seated basis, All visitors will be seated in the masks-recommended east and center sections.

- If you would like to mail your contribution, send to 1500 Wellman Road, Shenandoah, TX 77384.
- **UPDATE on Mid-Week Bible Classes:** Beginning in September, our weekly Bible classes that meets on Tuesday morning and Wednesday nights will resume, with the same recommendations for safe gatherings. What this means:
 - ◊ The Tuesday class will meet in the auditorium in self-seated in recommended spacings.
 - ◊ The Wednesday Night Bible Class for the Adults will meet in the auditorium self-seated in recommended spacings. The Classes for children and young people will meet in their rooms that will be adjusted to enhance social distanced seating as well as sanitized regularly. The decision was made primarily because some schools are resuming

VIRTUAL SCHEDULE (through August):

- Sunday Worship | LiveStream on Sundays, 8:30 a.m.
- KidzOnly Bible Class time (ages 3-12) | LiveStream on Sundays at 8:00 a.m.
- **BIBLE CLASS MATERIAL is available for pickup for grades preschool through junior high in the hallway outside classroom #1**
- Sunday Class | Songs Outside the Psalter | LiveStream on Sundays, 1:30 p.m.
- Wednesday Class | 119: The Psalm of the Word | LiveStream on Wednesdays, 6:00 p.m.
- High School Classes (ages 13-18) | Available via ZOOM.
- "Building Strong Families" Monthly Class | postponed until the Fall
- 2:52 Kids Class [2-12] | (TBA)
- TEENS STUDY [13-18] | (TBA)
- YOUNG ADULTS | (ZOOM study TBA)
- TEEN DEVO [12-18] | (TBA)
- ADULT STUDY [30/40] | (TBA)

- BARNABAS GROUP | See Leo Betancourt
- YOUTH LECTURES recordings will be available to watch online.
- MEETING with Ben Hall | 9/13-16
- WOMEN'S DAY with Carmen Betton | 10/10
- MEN'S DAY with David McClister | 11/7

DIRECTORY UPDATES

- **We would like all families** to update their information and ALL worship leaders to do the same. If you have any questions about the DIRECTORY application of our website, *be sure to see Brian Clark.* The most recent printed directory is in the foyer for members.

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

- **WOULD YOU TEACH?** Contact John Beighle for info on teaching on Wednesday nights in September. ALL teaching volunteers should complete a background check. Contact John for all questions.
- **VOLUNTEER SIGN UPS.** See the Monthly Assignments and let Barrett Blankenship know if you cannot fulfill an assignment.
- **WOULD YOU ENCOURAGE?** See Leo Betancourt about getting involved in Barnabus Group.

WEEKLY BIBLE READING

- **Week Thirty-Two** (beginning 8/16)
 - Read Psalm 32, 82, 132
 - Memorize Psalm 32: 1-2
- **Signup for weekly reminders at <https://www.remind.com/join/weeklymemo>**

Attendance	InPerson Average Last-Month	Virtual Average Last-Month	InPerson Last Week	Virtual Views Last Week
KidzOnly Bible Class	n/a	5	n/a	8
High School ZOOM	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Sunday Adult Class	n/a	11	n/a	13
Sunday Worship AM	95	24	97	50
Sunday Worship PM	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Wednesday PM	n/a	16	n/a	23

NEXT WEEK'S SERVICE & WORSHIP ASSIGNMENTS	8:30 AM Aug 16	10:00 AM Aug 16	Contact Information
Communion Preparation	G/L Chapman	G/L Chapman	Elders
Sound Booth	C. Latson	C. Latsen	Keith Arrants 936.582.1244
Foyer 1/Greeting	C. Preuss	D. Haas	George Chapman 281.298.1303
Foyer 2/Usher	J. Beighle	D. Osteen	Norman Davis 832.326.2966
Song Leading	A. Bohanan	A. Stilts	Don Hooton 936.443.6230
1st Prayer	H. Goble	P. Harshman	Deacons
Scripture Reading	R. Randow - 2 Timothy 4: 1-6	A. Suarez - Acts 6: 8-15	John Beighle 806.367.3389
Communion	B. Blankenship	D. Haas	Adam Bohanan 281.798.1093
Bread	n/a	n/a	Brian Clark 281.513.0706
Fruit of Vine	n/a	n/a	Gary LeBlanc 281.292.0262
Contribution	n/a	n/a	Craig Preuss 832.477.0578
Assist	n/a	n/a	Evangelists
Assist	n/a	n/a	Don Hooton 936.443.6230
Preaching	D. Hooton	D. Hooton	Website
2nd Prayer	C. Preuss	L. Cockrell	www.woodlandschurchofchrist.org
Announcements	J. Dulin	M. Chandler	Office Phone
InterService Clean—Foyer /Bath	L/J Betancourt	A/M Suarez	281.367.2099
InterService Clean—Auditorium	W/R Ray	C. Neel	Church Email
DOORS Open @8 Lockup @11:30	A. Bohanan	D. Hooton	woodlandschurchofchrist@gmail.com