

(continued from page one)

5) Growth without diligence. Unfortunately most Christians remain spiritual “babies” (Heb. 5:12-14). Peter said we must “give all diligence” to “add” certain things to our faith (see 2 Pet. 1:5-7). If we fail to do so, he said we are “shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins.” (2 Pet. 1:9) Are you growing or forgetting?

6) Knowledge without study. The amount of Bible knowledge possessed by most Christians is truly pitiful! Evidently they don’t realize God said, “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge.” (Hos. 4:6) We need to be diligent students of God’s word (2 Tim. 2:15). Otherwise we’ll fall too! (Eph. 4:11-14) How are your Bible study habits?

7) Truth without controversy. By its very nature truth is controversial. But in our “politically correct” world few are willing to “earnestly contend for the faith” (Jude 3). Does the truth make you squeamish? Remember, “Good preaching sounds reveille, not taps.” What about your religion? Is it true to God’s book? Is it the religion taught by Jesus and the apostles? Is it sacrificial, obedient, and self-denying? Or, is it a religion of convenience, a “microwave religion”?

Craig Thomas via the weekly bulletin of the Harrisburg Church of Christ in Harrisburg, IL. You may visit their website at <http://www.harrisburgchurchofchrist.org>



The Worker

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Microwave Religion

Undoubtedly today’s world has many “conveniences”: cell phones, instant pudding, remote controls, drive-through restaurants, and microwave ovens. There’s nothing inherently evil about conveniences, but living in such a world can lead us to develop unhealthy spiritual attitudes. Below are some examples that, if practiced, lead to “microwave religion.”

1) Salvation without sacrifice. Jesus said, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.” (Lk. 9:23) But about the only thing that differentiates most “Christians” from people of the world is that their name is on a church roll somewhere and they show up once in awhile for a worship service (maybe!). You can’t have salvation without sacrifice! Jesus asks for our sacrifice, not occasionally, but “daily!”

2) Remission without repentance. Repentance is perhaps God’s hardest command. Repentance is more than saying you’re sorry (2 Cor. 7:10). It requires us to change our mind and our behavior (Matt. 3:8). Repentance is an absolute requirement! “Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish” (Lk. 13:3; cf. Acts 17:30). “God...now commands all men everywhere to repent,” - that's you, that's me, that's everyone! (Acts 17:30)

3) Righteousness without obedience. Many people excuse themselves of obeying God, “I’m just human!” they cry. But the Bible says, “Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments.” (1 Jn. 2:3) Claiming to know God without keeping His commands makes us a liar! (1 Jn. 2:4) Jesus is “the author of eternal salvation” to “all who obey Him” (Heb. 5:9) and His commands are not “burdensome!” (1 Jn. 5:3)

4) Morality without self-denial. We live in a society without self-denial. But it is impossible to live a moral life without self-denial (Titus 2:11-12). Even Paul said he had to “discipline” his “body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.” (1 Cor. 9:27) Are we greater than the humble apostle? Nay, we must practice the same!

(continued on back page)

Leadership

Elders Hayward Blanton, Jerry Casey

Deacons Clint Smith Jr, Robby Stocksdale

Joe Sweeney

Pulpit Minister David Wright

Associate Minister Irvin F. Williams

Panama Missions

Evans Campbell

Pablo Sanchez

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Email: church@hamburgpikecofc.org

Those Privileged to Serve

AM Service

Song Leader Michael Hawkins

Opening Prayer John Keaton

Scripture David Blackwell

Sermon David Wright

Lord’s Supper

Message Harold Tincher

Attendant Rick Martin

Attendant Jerry Montgomery

Closing Prayer Irvin Williams

PM Service

Song Leader Robby Stocksdale

Bible Reading Greg Blanton

Selection 15

Prayer Ernie Marshall

Sermon David Wright

Closing Prayer Ron Iverson

If you are unable to serve,

Call Art Patrick 293-4745 or

Harold Tincher 288-5956

AM & PM Services

Announcements Clint Smith Jr

Lord’s Supper Hayward Blanton

Offering Matt Johnson

Usher Grover Blanton

Count Offering Art Patrick

Assist Count Marc Owens

Last Sunday

Contribution Attendance

\$2781 85

The Simplicity of True Worship

[David Wright](#)

Jesus was traveling from Judea to Galilee. Tired, hungry, and thirsty, he and the disciples arrived in Sychar, a Samaritan village in the shadow of Mount Gerizim. While the disciples went to buy lunch, the Lord sat alone beside the well. When a woman came to draw water, Jesus asked for a drink. Astonished, she said, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (John 4:9).

Painfully familiar with troubled relationships, this woman expected Jewish men to ignore her. Racial and gender prejudices were strong. But this stranger was willing to drink after her, to put his mouth where hers had been. Intrigued, first by Jesus' openness and then by his uncanny knowledge of her personal history, the Samaritan woman posed a religious question important to her: "Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet. Our fathers worshiped on this mountain [Gerizim]; and you [as a Jew] say that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship" (John 4:19-20). Were her people right, or were the Jews right? Where did God expect the temple to be?

The answer startled the Samaritan. "Woman," Jesus said, "the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. [...] The hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth" (John 4:21, 23). Sadly, many church-goers never seem to grasp what Jesus said. With their mechanical instruments, choirs, robed clergy, and splendid houses of worship, they attempt to recreate the temple system. But the appeal of Christian worship is its simplicity. Free of instrumental music and all the other trappings of temple worship, the church can gather in any setting—no matter how humble—and offer up pleasing worship to the Father. What matters to God is that our assemblies be truly spiritual.

Sermon

Luke 24:44-53

Jesus Was Taken Up (a.m.)

The Throne of Grace (p.m.)

¹⁹The woman said to him, "Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet. ²⁰Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship." ²¹Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. ²²You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. ²⁴God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." ²⁵The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming (he who is called Christ). When he comes, he will tell us all things." ²⁶Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am he."
John 4:19-26

Prayer List: MARTIN BONNEY, Larry Coulter (Lou Ann), JAYNE CRAVENS, Jerry Crick (Ann), Todd Cunningham (Hank), Esther Davis (Marian), JANICE DIMMITT, MYRNA DIMMITT, PATTY DIMMITT, MILDRED ELLIOTT, Zachary Ferguson, Elma Fielder (Marian), Lillian Foster, Diana Fulks (Norma), FRANK & MARY HARRIS, Pricilla Hudkins, ALLENE HUSTON, Steve A. Hueston (Harold), RON IVERSON, Elise Jackson (Christine), Alice Jenkins (Ann), Charles & Marlyn Jenkins (Ann), Arletha Kenty (Nathan), Josephine King (Polly), MERLE & JOYCE KNUCKLES, FRANCES LAWTON, SUE LINNE & Rhea, Shelly Marshall, POLLY MCCLINTOCK, JERRY & SONJA MONTGOMERY, CAROL MOUSTY, Gary Peyton (Jean), Jerrie Phillips, CHRISTINE RHOTON, Cindy Roeder (Christine), Wendell & Betty Smith (Polly), Lynn Sullivan (Ann), THERESA TEMPLE, FERN TINCHER, Lynn Tincher (Fern), Fulton Wilson (Ann)

Military Service: Matt Bartram, Stephen Blanton, Scott Viers, Zach West, Jeremy Whitlow

Hamburg Pike Happenings

The Monday Night for the Master group will meet Monday January 13th at 6 pm. Hope to see you there. Please sign the sheet if you plan to attend.

Quotes & Sayings

Prayer is not a "spare wheel" that you pull out when in trouble, but it is a "steering wheel" that directs the right path throughout your week.

Do you know why a car's windshield is so large and the rearview mirror is so small? Your past is not as important as your future. Look ahead and move on.

Friendship is like a book. It takes a few seconds to burn, but it takes years to write.

"Man will ultimately be governed by God or by tyrants." (Benjamin Franklin)

"It is the peculiar quality of a fool to perceive the faults of others and to forget his own."
(Cicero)

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