

## Man -- A Creature of Choice

God made man to be a creature of choice. He allowed Adam to make his own decision in the Garden of Eden, and he made the wrong one. Cain was later faced with a decision and he, too, made the wrong one. And man has been making unwise decisions ever since. But God still allows him to make them. He wants people who will make their own decision to serve him. Sometimes we blame God for our mistakes, but the blame must be placed where it belongs, with man himself. If he should make a decision for us in any way, by a direct operation of the Holy Spirit, or by some better-felt- than-told experience, he would have deserted this principle.

So his Son begs, pleads and gently invites us to make the decision to serve God and He shows us the way. "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light" (Matt 11:28-30). "And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely" (Rev 22:17).

And the whole situation is summed up in a statement made by the apostle in 2 Peter 3:9: "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."

Bob Craig <http://www.polkchurch.com/Articles.aspx?T=LA&ID=134>



# The Worker

3108 Hamburg Pike, Jeffersonville, IN 47130 Ph. (812) 284-3125  
Volume 3 Issue 24 [www.hamburgpikecofc.org](http://www.hamburgpikecofc.org) June 15, 2014

## What Do Visitors See In Me?

When we are assembled to worship the Lord, to study the Bible, to remember and show the Lord's death, what do our visitors see in me?

Do they see someone who is totally bored and uninterested in what is going on? If so, what is likely to be the level of their interest? At the very least, my apathetic attitude is likely to have a negative impact on their concept of the cause of Christ. Therefore, I must take heed to myself. I must strive to be a good listener. I must pay attention and not allow myself to become distracted.

Do they see someone who is sleeping through services? What does it tell a visitor about the seriousness of our assembly if some adults sleep through services? Age (both the very young and the elderly) and medicine may make one susceptible to sleep. So also may those faithful ones who work all night and then, with dogged determination, come on to services and try their best to concentrate on spiritual matters. We can excuse such folks, believing that the Lord does, too. However, do some of our people, especially older children, sleep during worship because they have stayed up too late on Saturday night? Parents, if we make our children go to bed earlier during the week because "it's a school night," why not see that they get their rest on Saturday because it is a "church night"?

Do they see someone laughing, whispering, passing notes, or playing with babies seated nearby? Our little ones, especially our grandchildren, are almost irresistible! At times, they demand our attention and care, even during worship. May God bless young parents, especially our devoted young mothers, who are during their best to worship while attempting to "subdue" a restless child and train a soul for heaven! Those things we understand. But, do visitors see me focused on everything except God and his word? Do they see me distracting others? Do they see me not paying attention to the gospel, but idly looking around at every other person in the auditorium? If so, what impression does this make on their soul? It cannot be a good one.

Do they see young folks getting up, walking around, going to the drinking fountain, and the bathroom? Obviously, we know there are times when one must exit during a service. Aging joints and aching backs force some to get up and move around. Again, the Lord knows and patient brethren understand. However, at an early age, youngsters need to be taught to get a drink and go to the rest room during the break between services. Unless there is a particular health problem, most youngsters can sit for an hour without a drink and without having to get up and go to the bath room. They need to be trained to do so.

(continued on page 2)

### Leadership

**Elders** Hayward Blanton, Jerry Casey  
**Deacons** Clint Smith Sr, Clint Smith Jr,  
Robby Stocksdale, Joe Sweeney  
**Pulpit Minister** Eric Welch  
**Associate Minister** Irvin F. Williams

### Panama Missions

Evans Campbell Pablo Sanchez

We Offer Free Personal Bible Studies and Bible Correspondence Courses - Phone (812) 284-3125

Visit Our Website: [www.hamburgpikecofc.org](http://www.hamburgpikecofc.org) Email: [church@hamburgpikecofc.org](mailto:church@hamburgpikecofc.org)

### Schedule of Services

#### Sunday

Bible Class 10:00 AM  
Morning Worship 11:00 AM  
Evening Worship 6:00 PM

#### Wednesday

Bible Class 7:00 PM

### Those Privileged to Serve

#### AM Service

Song Leader Michael Hawkins  
Opening Prayer Grover Blanton  
Scripture Kevin Blalock  
Sermon Eric Welch  
Lord's Supper Mark 15:42-16:8  
Message Rick Martin  
Attendant Hank Tincher  
Attendant Marc Owens  
Closing Prayer Irvin Williams

#### PM Service

Song Leader Robby Stocksdale  
Bible Reading Clint Smith Jr  
Selection 37  
Prayer Jerry Montgomery  
Sermon Eric Welch  
Closing Prayer Ernie Marshall  
*If you are unable to serve,  
Call Art Patrick 502-819-9481  
Or Harold Tincher 288-5956*

#### AM & PM Services

Announcements Joe Sweeney  
Lord's Supper Hayward Blanton  
Offering Ethan Welch  
Usher Matt Johnson  
Count Offering Hank Tincher  
Assist Count Harold Tincher

#### Last Sunday

Contribution Attendance  
\$1853 73

## Would You Be Sad for Me?

[Eric Welch](#)

Three years ago this month, my family's basset hound, Samson, was struck and killed by lightning. Hannah had asked to see Samson before we buried him. I decided that seeing him would help her deal with the loss. As I was covering him, she placed a clod of dirt over him and asked if doing so would hurt him. I told her that he no longer feels pain.

Then, she turned her attention from the dog to me and asked, "Daddy, if I died, would you be sad for me?" My children certainly know how to pull on Daddy's heartstrings. I don't have to think hard for the reason for that question. Hannah wanted and needed the assurance that Daddy still truly loved his little girl. "Daddy, would you be sad for me?" The answer is beyond expression.

Paul instructs fathers in Ephesians 6:4, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord. As a father, I cannot imagine giving my children everything there is to give in this life—food, clothing, shelter, love, affection, discipline, laughter and fun—but then, in turn, neglect to teach them how much God loves them and how much they should love God.

Family life should be centered on God and His Son, from worship, to work, to vacation to burying the family pet? In addition to the Bible classroom and the family devotional, the best time and place to teach children are when life throws you a curve ball. Let us fathers be committed to leading our families and to reassuring our children that we love them? Will you be the example for them as you follow your Heavenly Father?

May the Lord bless you this Father's Day.

### Sermon

Sunday am – "The Best Gift a Father Can Give His Children" Hebrew 11:17-19

Sunday pm – "The Great Wage Dispute" Matthew 20

*(What Do Visitors See In Me? continued from page 1)*

Our young mothers do not disturb services when they take their little children out. Indeed, they may do so if they do not! So, we are not discussing little ones who need to be disciplined or who need extra care. We are speaking of those who wander in and out of services because they have not been taught to sit up, pay attention, and act like a young lady or a young man.

Are children allowed to get up and get a drink and go to the bathroom during a wedding or a funeral service? No, because we know it is not polite and that it will disturb the ceremony. Then, why not have the same respect for the worship of our Lord and for the study of his word?

Larry Ray Hafley <http://www.polkchurch.com/Articles.aspx?T=LA&ID=60>

## Hamburg Pike Happenings

Our building project is almost finished and we are all very excited to begin using the new facility but we still have several tasks that need to be completed. With this in mind the Building Committee requests your continued cooperation in keeping out of the new addition and all other construction areas including the newly seeded grounds.

### **Does He Mean This Much To You?**

Some people never grow too old, or too tired; nor do they live too far from the meeting house to be present for every service. The weather never gets too hot, or too cold, as long as travel is possible. It is never too dry, never too wet, for some people to make arrangements to be at worship.

Do you think it is strange that people should act that way? Not at all. They attend services because of their relation to Christ. To them He is more than life or death, joys or sorrows; more than earthly comfort, entertainment or earthly gain. Christ is their all in all.

Such people do not have to tell their neighbors how much they love the Lord. Everyone knows that they do by the way they live.

The apostle Paul said, "For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. (Phil. 1:21) "I am crucified with Christ; nevertheless I live: yet not I, but Christ lives in me, and the life that I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of Him who loved me and gave Himself for me." (Gal. 2:20)  
Author Unknown

[Hamburg Pike church of Christ Home Page](#)