

## Serving in Silence

The story of Zechariah and Elizabeth in Luke chapter 1 is one of great faith and hope. The reference to Herod (vs. 5) reminds us that this was a dark time in the world. Herod the Great was a tyrant who held on to his throne at all costs. He would even execute his own family members if he felt they were a threat to his throne.

In contrast to this were Zechariah and Elizabeth, Godly individuals who were lights shining in a world of darkness. Verse 6 gives us a look into their character, which allowed them to shine in this darkness.

First, they were "both righteous before God." To be righteous means to be just, to be in a right relationship with God. They were declared righteous by God because of their faith. Secondly, they walked in "all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless." To walk refers to their conduct. They conducted themselves according to the word of God. Their lives were patterned after the divine standard. Biblical righteousness is an inward quality that manifests itself in obedience to God's word.

Here are two people who were steadfast in their confession of faith. They were committed to living out (expressing) their faith. What a testimony of faithfulness. Do we stand righteous before God? Are we patterning our lives after the divine standard? Do we give consistent and visible expression to our faith?

Dennis Russell preaches for the Foster Road Church of Christ in Santa Maria, California.



# The Worker

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## Just Your Interpretation?

By Joe Slater

I always smile (at least on the inside) when someone asks me, "What does the church of Christ believe about such-and-such?" Usually my reply is something like this: "I don't know what the church believes about it, but let's see what the Bible says."

I understand what folks are asking – they're used to the idea of a church having a creed or confession of faith that spells out its "official position" on various issues. But the question arises: If you need a creed to "interpret" the Bible, what makes you think you can understand the creed? Will you need another document to "interpret" the creed? And another to interpret the interpretation of the creed? Where does this end?

The whole idea of "interpreting" the Bible is troublesome. If, by "interpret," we mean to determine the teaching of a passage, then of course we must do so. Jesus severely criticized those who failed to use Scripture and sound reasoning to arrive at truthful conclusions (see Matthew 22:29-32).

But many understand "interpret" to mean putting your own slant on a text to suit your personal agenda. A common assertion, "That's just your interpretation," betrays such thinking. It assumes that there are as many interpretations as there are people, and that any particular interpretation is as valid as any other. Therefore, we cannot know for certain what the truth is, nor can we say that any particular interpretation is right or wrong.

Is there such a thing as the "right" interpretation? Paul affirmed that people who read what he wrote can understand (Ephesians 3:4). That isn't to say there aren't "some things hard to understand" (2 Peter 3:16). However, by using the Scriptures with sound reasoning, we can reach reliable conclusions. Peter did not say that those difficult things admit of a dozen interpretations; in fact, he warned that "those who are untaught and unstable twist (those hard passages) to their own destruction, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures" (2 Peter 3:16).

Indeed, wrong interpretations are destructive to our spiritual well being! Let us stand boldly with the word of God, "handling aright the word of truth" (2 Timothy 2:15).

- Joe Slater serves as minister of the Church of Christ in Justin, TX. He may be contacted through the congregation's website: <http://justinchurchofchrist.com>

### 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 Mission

Pablo Sanchez

### 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

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)

### Sermon Titles

Sunday Morning: To be announced

Sunday Evening: To be announced

### Those Privileged to Serve

#### AM Service

Song Leader Michael Hawkins  
Opening Prayer Matt Johnson  
Scripture Clint Smith Jr  
Sermon Irvin Williams  
Lord's Supper  
Message Jerry Casey  
Attendant Brandon Montgomery  
Attendant Marc Owens  
Closing Prayer Hayward Blanton

#### PM Service

Song Leader Robby Stocksdale  
Bible Reading Greg Blanton  
Selection 40  
Prayer John Keaton  
Sermon Irvin Williams  
Closing Prayer Ernie Marshall  
*If you are unable to serve, please call Art Patrick 502-819-9481 or Harold Tincher 502-409-3511*

#### AM & PM Services

Announcements Leon Stocksdale  
Lord's Supper Grover Blanton  
Offering Ethan Welch  
Usher Harold Tincher  
Count Offering Harold Tincher  
Assist Count Hank Tincher

#### Last Sunday

Contribution \$3,003  
Attendance 81

## **Stand Up for Jesus**

Eric Welch

On October 1, 2015, Chris Mercer shot dead a teacher at Umpqua Community College and asked students to stand up if they are Christians. Nine of those who stood were then executed. These people gave their lives by actually standing up. I'm sure that you have asked yourself, "would I have the courage to stand up?" Do you have to lose your life to stand up for Jesus? Yes, but not in the way you might expect.

Jesus said, "If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. 27 Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple." (Luke 14:26-27).

If you are living a counter-cultural life, you are standing up for Jesus and dying to yourself. If you are refusing to lie your way to the top, to cheat on a test, or to sleep with someone not your spouse, you are dying to yourself and standing up for Jesus. If you are battling that addiction and winning, you are dying to yourself and standing up for Jesus. If you are staying faithful and true to your marriage vows, dying to yourself and standing up for Jesus (Ephesians 5:22-33). If you are demonstrating the value of hard work by providing for your family without entitlements, you are dying to yourself and standing up for Jesus (Ephesians 4:28). If you are providing for the spiritual needs of your family through devotionals, teachable moments and attending worship and Bible study, you dying to yourself and standing up for Jesus (Ephesians 6:4). If you are protecting your family from evil by saying "no," to your children when necessary, you are dying to yourself and standing up for Jesus. If you show the kindness of good manners and compassion to strangers, when you could be rude and insulting, you are dying to yourself and standing up for Jesus (Colossians 4.6). If you are resisting Satan and the temptation to sin, you are standing up for Jesus and dying to yourself (James 4:7). If you are sharing your faith with a friend, you are teaching someone else to die to himself and to stand up for Jesus.

I have shared this illustration before. A \$100 bill and 100 \$1 bills have the same value, but the difference is how they are spent. I can spend a \$100 bill in one large transaction or I can spend 100 dollar bills a little at a time. When the apostle James was killed by Herod (Acts 12), he spent his \$100 bill at once. However, when Peter, was beaten (Acts 4-5), thrown in prison for a week (Acts 12) or mocked because of his faith (1 Peter 4:4), he spent his one dollar bills in many small transactions.

Dying for your faith would be a courageous thing. You'd be spending your \$100 bill all at once. We all hope that we would have the courage to stand up and lose our very lives to show our faith in Jesus. However, standing up for Jesus and living for Him through sacrifice of \$1 at a time, takes even greater courage.

## **Hamburg Pike Happenings**

The Monday Night for the Master group will NOT meet October 12<sup>th</sup>.

Mark Your Calendars! Our annual Trunk or Treat is scheduled for October 30<sup>th</sup> at the building. Please join us if you can.

A group will be going to Cornucopia Farm in Scottsburg, IN on Saturday October 17<sup>th</sup>. The group plans to meet at the farm at 11:00 a.m., directions and a sign-up sheet are available in the foyer.

Mark your calendar for our Fall Gospel meeting scheduled for October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> with speaker Eddie Boggess.