

ELDERS

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DEACONS

John Gambill
J.C. Hughes
Brad Morris
Nathan Parks
Jeremiah Smith
Matthew Vonderheide

SERVICES

Sunday Bible Study 9:45am
Morning Worship 10:45 am
Evening Worship 6:00 pm
Wed. Bible Study 7:00 pm

MISSIONS

Jerry Sturgill
Tri-state area
Daniel Goshorn
Peru, SA
Dustin Bolks
Sioux Center, Ia.
Dahn Ramkelawan
Suriname, SA
Michael Mayo
Thailand, SE Asia
Herman Joseph
Guyana, SA
Mohamed Ally
Guyana, SA
D.J. Hatfield
WVSOP support
“In Search of the Lord’s Way”
TV broadcast

SEARCH TV

Sundays 7:30 am (on Fox)

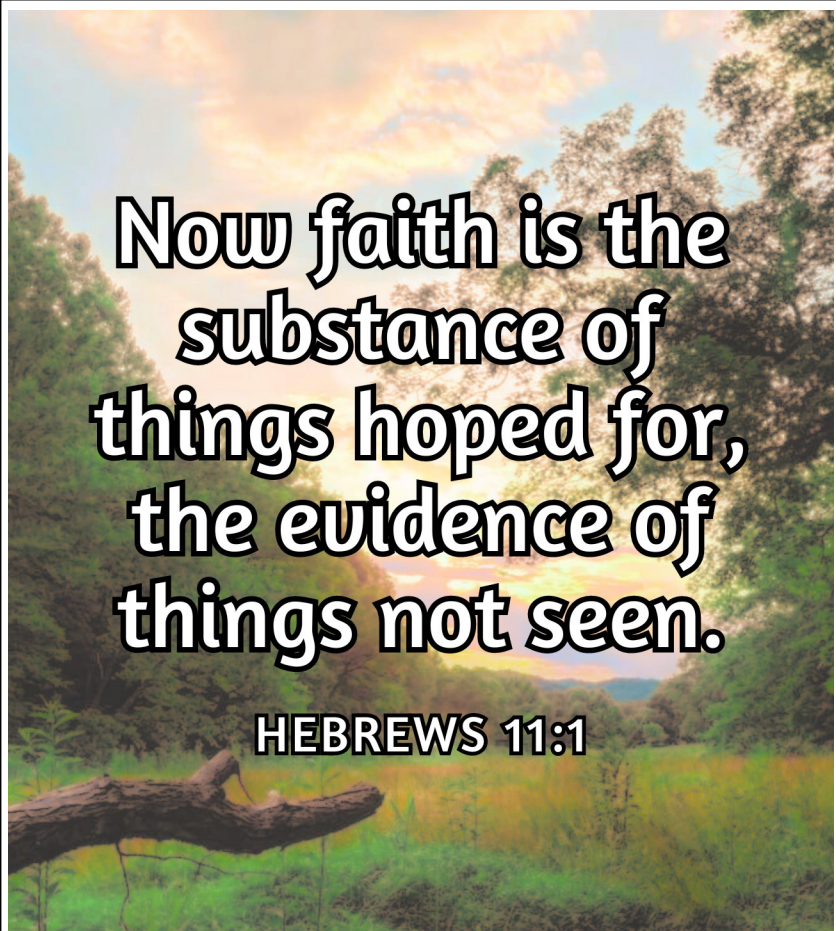
FLATWOODS CHURCH OF CHRIST
HERALD

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We offer 4 free Bible correspondence course series by mail:

- 8 lesson series by Hurt
- 6 lesson series “Acts Of The Apostles” by Pharr
- 30 lesson series “Studies In The Bible”
- 20 lesson series “Getting To Know Jesus” by Pharr

Let everyone know!

Withdrawal and Salvation

This is the second installment of a series on the command to withdraw from the disorderly in 2 Thessalonians 3:6. Last week, we ended by noting how we must learn to trust God's wisdom in this matter. This article will focus on how withdrawal is a salvation issue, that is, it is a matter of spiritual life and death (1 Cor. 5:5).

Saving someone's life is no easy, convenient matter. It takes energy, wisdom, and compassion. This is an oft-neglected command not because it is difficult to understand, but because it is difficult to administer. It has never been easy to follow this, but it is so essential to the health of the church. It certainly was easier for the church at Corinth to remain proud in their religion rather than dealing with the fornicator in their midst, but it was not what God wanted (1 Cor. 5:2). If one in the midst of the body of Christ persistently engages in a public sin without facing discipline, then others in the congregation will feel free to engage in open sin as well. If this attitude permeates a congregation long enough, returning to the Lord's way may take the withdrawal of so many that a split in the congregation may occur as a result. It is best then to follow this command and nip each problem in the bud before the sinful influence spreads. The purity of the church is an oft-forgotten aim of withdrawal (1 Cor. 5:6); regardless of whether the disciplined person repents, the purity of the church will be maintained.

In regard to how quickly a congregation moves to the final phase of discipline in withdrawal, we have mentioned how Paul had already taken previous warning measures to correct this behavior at Thessalonica. In the first letter he again gave them a command to work and reminded them it was commanded when Paul was in Thessalonica (1 Thess. 4:11-12). He instructed all of the members of the Thessalonian congregation to "warn the unruly," admonishing those who were behaving disorderly by not working. The first letter with these commands was read before all the members of the church (1 Thess. 5:27). Since those commands had continued to go unheeded by some at Thessalonica, Paul, by apostolic authority, gave a command for the final phase of discipline for these unruly members: withdraw from them. The term "church discipline" is a more general than the way many use it, associating it only with withdrawal. When any Christian admonishes another brother, it is church discipline; when elders confront members about sinful practices, it is church discipline; when a preacher delivers a sermon where he rebukes practices among those in the congregation (2 Tim. 4:2), it is church discipline. Withdrawal is the final phase of discipline: a punitive phase when the one out of step will not respond to verbal warnings. How fast a congregation moves to the final phases is a matter of judgment that is not stipulated in scripture. The timeframe for the successive phases of discipline must fit the individual's spiritual maturity, mental and emotional state, and responsiveness.

Many times, an improper application of this command is due to an overall misunderstanding of the church. Some have the false idea that there are saved people outside of the Lord's

(Continued on next page)

church. Withdrawal is not excluding someone from a club because we think we are better than them. No, it is an attempt to save their soul (1 Cor. 5:5). There should be no distinction manufactured between the saved and the church; if one is not fit for church membership it is because one is in a lost state (Acts 2:47). If genuine repentance takes place, then God has mandated that the church accept the person back with the full blessings of brotherly love (2 Cor. 2:5-11); to continue to withhold fellowship from him is wholly contrary to the Lord's commands.

Since God identifies the church as the saved, it does us no good to swell in numbers of people who are not saved by failing to practice church discipline. Next week, we will look at the command to withdrawal and numbers.

- Mark Day

Today's Lessons

Sun AM: Examples of Faith: Enoch and Noah - Jeremiah Smith

Sun PM: The Power of Influence: Daniel - Jackson Morris

PM Scripture Reading

Hebrews 12:2 (NKJV)

Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,

Attendance & Contribution Goals			
	10/6/24	Goal	10/8/23
Bible Study	64	90	60
AM Worship	113	130	98
PM Worship	47	90	77
Mid Week	64	90	69
Contribution	\$8,932.52		\$5,383.06

SERMON NOTES

DATE

MAIN
VERSE

KEY POINTS

KEY SCRIPTURES

Today's Prayer

PRAY MORE
worry less

Today's Servants

WELCOME

AM/PM: Greg Conley

SONG LEADER

AM: Brad Morris

PM: Jeremiah Smith

FIRST PRAYER

AM: Jordan Conley

PM: Jackson Morris

LORD'S TABLE*

AM Presiding: Mark Parks

Assisting: Nathan Parks, Matt Vonderheide, Terry Fouts, Jacob Brown, Mason Morris, Jacob Martin, Jesse Legg

PM Presiding: Nathan Parks

Assisting: Jason Fouts

*gluten-free bread

CLOSING PRAYER

AM: Chris Legg

PM: Cody Ward

SCRIPTURE READING

PM: Gabe Scott

Wednesday Servants

WELCOME: Brad Morris

SONG LEADER: Jackson Morris

PRAYER: Jordan Conley

DEVOTION: Cody Ward

Weekly Servants

LIVE STREAM: Jason Fouts

POWER POINT: Matt Vonderheide

BLDG. ATT.: Mark Parks

COORDINATOR: JC Hughes

ATTENDANCE: John Gambill

Welcome, Visitor!

We are so pleased to have you as our guest today.

If you are a first-time visitor with us, please, fill out a 'visitor card' that you will find on the back of the pew. You may put it in the collection plate or give it to one of the men at the auditorium doors as you exit.

We have tract racks on the wall in the foyer with free tracts and literature. We also have Bible correspondence courses you can sign up to receive by mail at no cost to you. Let our preacher know if you would like to set up an in-home Bible study. Thank you for attending.

We hope to see you often.

Dates to Remember

Oct. 19 - Fall Camp at WVCYC

Oct. 20 - 4:30pm - Elders, deacons, preachers' meeting

Oct. 25 - 11:30am - Ladies' lunch at The Armory

Oct. 26 - 6pm - Trunk or Treat



Youth Notes

Sundays at 5:45pm - Pew Packers in front of the auditorium geared to age 12 and under but everyone is welcome.

October 19 - Fall Camp at WVCYC. Let

Jeremiah know if you plan on attending so we can coordinate housing for the night before.

Preregister using the QR code to get a free t-shirt. Ages 11+

