

Faithfulness in Our Walk Despite

Paul defines faithfulness, a fruit of the Spirit, in Gal. 5:22-23. The faithfulness described here is a Fruit we must produce in our Christian walk. It is defined in the way we deal with situations and those around us.

We often forget what God has really promised us. While we forget what He has promised us, we tend to make His promises something they never were intended to be. God did promise us that He would never forsake us and that there would be no temptation put before us, but what there would be a way of escape. There would never be a burden we could not bear due to the fact that God is faithful in His promises (Matthew 28:20; 1 Corinthians 10:13).

God never promised us success in worldly things, though He does lavish us with “showers of blessings” (Ezekiel 34:26) each and every day. So often we get caught up in the things the world considers important, not necessarily even bad things, just things that in the spiritual realm do not make any difference at all. In fact, “worldly wisdom” tells us they are important, but we must remember “God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty” (1 Corinthians 1:27).

God has not promised us that we would each rise to the top of our chosen profession, be the most popular person, have the nicest things, or always feel physically well. More importantly, He has promised if we overcome adversity and be faithful to the end that He will give us a crown of righteousness (Revelation 2:10). The fruit of the Spirit, faith-fulness, will help us overcome and give us some of what we hope for now.

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Volume 2 Issue 39

www.hamburgpikecofc.org

September 29, 2013

Lay Aside Every Weight

The Hebrew writer was very definite when he instructed his readers to “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” (Heb. 12:2).

Sin is so capable of causing us to be thrown off course. James said it has the potential for drawing us away (Jas. 1:14). Other terms like “enticed” and “ensnared” are used to describe sin’s effect on us. Also, when we are burdened with “weight” the work of the Lord suffers. Whether weighted by sin or any other element that has the potential for preventing us from living the Christian life or finishing our task here, needs to be dumped!

The disposition of Paul was to always be looking forward and pressing for something better (Phil. 3:14). He strove to put the past behind him and allow nothing to interfere with his primary objective of being a slave with total commitment to his Lord.

David indicated that there are some burdens that we are entitled to carry, “Blessed be the Lord, who daily loads us with benefits, the God of our salvation!” (Ps. 68:19). We must always qualify what we are doing and that which is allowed to impact our lives to see if it is for our betterment or serves as a negative.

With the present condition of our national economic situation, people are being forced to eliminate excess and unnecessary expenditures and debt. This may be good in that it forces us to give due emphasis to necessities and not luxuries. We eliminate unnecessary driving to save fuel. We take a second look at acquiring additional debt because of how it may impact our future. This works both for individual family budgets as well as the congregational efforts of the Lord’s church.

Have you ever made the statement, “I look forward to the time that when we go out to eat that the first thing we do not look at on the menu is the price”? Our Lord taught us to always “sit down first and count the cost, whether he has enough to finish it” (Lk. 14:28). There is never a time, nor do we have permission, to be wasteful with our time, life, or possessions. We are to always present ourselves before God as good stewards, responsible, and mindful of proper management of God’s possessions. When a ship is taking on water, first dispose of excess weight, then, when being forced to swim ashore, make sure we do not insist on salvaging our work-out weights!

Mike King Lakeside church of Christ Orange Park, FL <http://lakesidechurchofchrist.com>

Leadership

Elders Hayward Blanton, Jerry Casey
Deacons Clint Smith Jr, Robby Stocksdale
 Joe Sweeney
Pulpit Minister David Wright
Associate Minister Irvin F. Williams

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

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 Email: church@hamburgpikecofc.org

Those Privileged to Serve

AM Service		PM Service		AM & PM Services	
Song Leader	Michael Hawkins	Song Leader	Clint Smith Jr	Announcements	Robby Stocksdale
First Prayer	Joe Sweeney	Bible Reading	David Blackwell	Lord's Supper	Hayward Blanton
Second Prayer	Jerry Montgomery	Selection	65	Offering	Matt Johnson
Scripture	Harold Tincher	Prayer	John Keaton	Usher	Art Patrick
Sermon	David Wright	Sermon	<i>Singing Emphasis</i>	Count Offering	Joe Sweeney
Lord's Supper		Closing Prayer	Greg Blanton	Assist Count	Hank Tincher
Message	Irvin Williams	<i>If unable to serve please call:</i>		<i>Do not be slothful in zeal,</i>	
Attendant	Brandon Montgomery	<i>Art Patrick 502-819-9481 or</i>		<i>be fervent in spirit, serve</i>	
Attendant	Ron Iverson	<i>Harold Tincher 502-409-3511</i>		<i>the Lord. Rom 12:11</i>	
Closing Prayer	Grover Blanton				

Is Suicide Forgivable?

David Wright

Christians often wonder how suicide will be judged by God. The theologian Augustine (AD 354-430) harshly condemned it. He argued that suicide is worse than murder because the perpetrator dies in an unrepentant state. Is this argument biblical?

The OT writers omit any specific injunction against suicide, but they do record four cases of self-destruction. Abimelech, the ruler of Shechem, suffered severe head trauma in the battle at Thebez. When he begged his armor-bearer to perform a mercy killing, the “young man thrust him through, and he died” (Judg. 9:54). In the desperate battle with the Philistines on Mount Gilboa, Saul and his armor-bearer committed suicide by falling on their swords (1 Sam. 31:4-5). Ahithophel, the trusted adviser who betrayed King David, “hanged himself” when he realized that Absalom preferred the counsel of Hushai (2 Sam. 17:23). And Zimri, the man who reigned over Israel for only a week, “burned the king’s house over him with fire, and died” (1 Kings 16:18). In all four of these tragic cases, suicide terminated a life gone wrong.

The only NT case of suicide portrays it as the act of an evil man. Judas, the hypocritical apostle who betrayed Jesus, “went and hanged himself” (Matt. 27:5). In his graphic description of the corpse, Peter says that the traitor “burst open in the middle and all his bowels gushed out” (Acts 1:18).

The apostle Paul comes short of specifically condemning suicide, but his teaching about healthy marriage implies condemnation of the practice. He tells husbands that “he who loves his wife loves himself. For no man ever hates his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it” (Eph. 5:28-29). Obviously, Paul understands that some men do hate and destroy themselves. He means that no sensible, right-thinking person would ever intentionally inflict self-harm.

But what if the person is irrational? Since Paul does not address this question, any answer is a matter of opinion. For what it is worth, here is mine: A severely depressed person who commits suicide will be judged by God on the basis of his spiritual condition before becoming irrational. If, for instance, an unbeliever becomes psychologically imbalanced and kills himself, he stands in peril of eternal judgment—not because he has committed suicide but because he has died in his sins (John 8:24). If, though, a depressed Christian becomes irrational and destroys himself, he is blessed with eternal life—not because suicide is of no consequence but because he has died in Christ (Rom. 8:1). Is God just if he condemns a person for an irrational act?

Sermon

Acts 14:8-18

Is There Some Good in All Religions?

Singing Emphasis (p.m.)

¹⁹ Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, ²⁰ for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.
1 Corinthians 6:19-20

Prayer List: Chandra Akers (Marla), MARTIN BONNEY, 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, DOUG & JUDY HAWKINS, Pricilla Hudkins, ALLENE HUSTON, RON IVERSON, Bernie Jackson (Harold), 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, Fulton Wilson (Ann)

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

Hamburg Pike Happenings

Men and Young Men, if you would like to present a Wed evening devotional, please sign the list posted on the bulletin board. Lessons should be 3 – 5 minutes in duration.

Our youth will have a time of fellowship and a devotional after the evening service on Sunday September 29. Matt Johnson will be the speaker. Moms are encouraged to bring finger foods. And the young people are encouraged to bring their friends.

The elders request that any announcements please be submitted in writing either to the elders or to the designated announcer. The cooperation of everyone will be appreciated.

Our evening worship on Sunday September 29th will be a singing emphasis service. Men and young men, who would like to lead a song or read scripture, please sign the sheet in the foyer.

The Lebanon Junction Church of Christ is hosting a Gospel Meeting October 6th-9th. The theme for the meeting is *Which Religion is for Me?* Details are posted on the bulletin board.

Phase 1 of our building project is underway with the beginning of the excavation work. These are exciting and encouraging times; God has blessed us “beyond measure”. Please continue to pray for this project including our building committee and Ott Const.

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