

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

Leadership

Elders Hayward Blanton
Jerry Casey

Deacons Clint Smith Jr
Robby Stocksdale
Joe Sweeney

Pulpit Minister Eric Welch
Associate Minister Irvin F. Williams

Mission Work

Panama Mission
Pablo Sanchez

We Offer Free Personal Bible Studies and Bible Correspondence Courses, if interested contact us at (812) 284-3125 or email: church@hamburgpikecofc.org

Visit Our Website: www.hamburgpikecofc.org

Try Harder

I'm convinced that many of us may not resist the temptation to sin as we should. It's not that we want to sin, for we don't. It's just that when temptation crosses our path, we don't fight it as though we were in a life or death struggle. We may resist, but the resistance is only token.

Not long ago, a friend of mine gave a lecture in which he raised the question, "What if every time we sinned, an ugly scar appeared upon our face? How much harder would we resist sin? Good question. None of us would like to have our faces scarred. Scars to our faces would be embarrassing, affecting our relationships and our behavior. I'm sure we would tenaciously fight the temptation of sin if succumbing meant a big scar on our faces.

You see where I'm going, right? Why should we fight harder to preserve our temporal flesh than we would to preserve our eternal soul? The fact that we can't see the scars sin leaves upon us doesn't mean they're not there. Friends, resist the temptation to sin, using not just a token resistance before you succumb, but a persistence that reflects a life and death struggle.

- Steve Higginbotham preaches for the Karns Church of Christ in Knoxville, TN.

Those Privileged to Serve

A.M. Worship Service

Song Leader Michael Hawkins
Opening Prayer Rick Martin
Scripture Reading Rudy Ayala
Sermon Guest Speaker
Lord's Supper Message Irvin Williams
Table Attendant Hank Tincher
Table Attendant Jeremy Montgomery
Closing Prayer Joe Sweeney

P.M. Worship Service

Song Leader Robby Stocksdale
Bible Reading Harold Tincher
Selection 2
Opening Prayer Greg Blanton
Sermon Eric Welch
Closing Prayer Nathaniel Welch

A.M. & P.M. Services

Announcements Leon Stocksdale
Lord's Supper Prayer Ethan Welch
Offering Prayer Grover Blanton
Usher Brandon Montgomery
Count Offering Robby Stocksdale
Assist Count Joe Sweeney

Sermon Titles

Sunday Morning: To Be Announced
Sunday Evening: "Paul's Sacrificial Faith"

Last Sunday

Offering: \$3,221 Attendance: 91

The Worker

Hamburg Pike church of Christ

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The Word Among Us

The apostle John began his gospel: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God ... and the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory of the only begotten, full of grace and truth" (John 1:1, 14).

The Bible, the inspired written word of God tells us of the personal living Word of God coming and dwelling among us. Jesus didn't come into the world simply to deliver some message—prophets frequently had done that throughout the Old Testament period. The world was in need of someone greater than a prophet—one who would reveal to us the fullness of the glory of God, embodying totally His "grace and truth." Jesus came as the living Word of God, "the image of the invisible God" (Colossians 1:15), in Whom dwells "the fullness of the Godhead bodily" (2:9).

God, the Father, has not only "spoken to us by His Son" (Hebrews 1:1) with oral and written messages, but also His Son is the message. He personally is "the Truth" (John 14:6). He is personally God's greatest message to an alien world, conveying the love of God and offering hope to man. It is one thing to read God's message (which is good), but it is another thing to be led by that word to see, by faith, that message embodied in a Person—Jesus Christ.

In Jesus we are able to see not only God above us, but also, as John declared, God "among us." Or, as it was prophesied in Isaiah 7:14, and quoted in Matthew 1:23, "A virgin shall conceive and bare a son, and they shall call his name Emanuel, that is, God with us." He came among us, bearing our griefs and carrying our sorrows (Isaiah 53:3). He, too, had to struggle with the same temptations to which we are heir, in that "He was tempted in all points like as we are, yet without sin" (Hebrews 4:15). In our darkest hours we can take comfort in the words of one of my favorite hymns: in answering the question, "Does Jesus Care?" the reply is:

"Oh yes, He cares, I know He cares;

His heart is touched with my grief.

When the days are weary, The long nights dreary,

I know my Savior cares."

Have you put your trust in the Word among us?

- Ronald Bartanen preaches for Arthur Church of Christ, Arthur, IL.

The Church's Responsibility to the Elders (part II)

Eric Welch

Last week, we discussed the responsibility of the church to select its elders. This second part of the discussion will complete our series on the eldership. How should the church treat its elders? I have adapted the points made by Stan Mitchell from the March 2013 issue of Gospel Advocate magazine.

First, show them respect. Paul instructs the Thessalonian Christians “to respect those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you” (1 Thessalonians 5:12). The writer of Hebrews says to let the leaders keep watch over the flock “with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you” (Hebrews 13:17). The sheep of a flock should not make the work of the shepherds difficult but should have an attitude of cooperation and respect. We must remember that it is the Holy Spirit who makes the overseers (Acts 20:28). To resist them is to resist the Spirit.

Second, submit to their authority. Some people deny that elders have authority, but, again, Hebrews 13:17 says that they are “leaders,” and we are to obey them and submit to them. This instruction does not mean that we follow the elders if they go beyond God’s authority. Even then, we must be careful in receiving accusations against an elder: “Do not admit a charge against an elder except on the evidence of two or three witnesses” (1 Timothy 5:19). I myself do not accept anonymous criticism on paper about me, nor anyone else for that matter, especially an elder. Jesus says in Mat 18:15, “If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother.” Nowhere in this verse does Jesus say, “Go to the preacher (or someone else) first about it.” If you come to me with an accusation against an elder, you should expect this question from me: “did you speak with him about it?” The next step is to take two to three witnesses to the meeting and then to the church if he does not repent. However, it seems that we often get this procedure backwards; the whole church knows about the accusation before the accused knows it. This action breaks the Golden Rule to treat others as you want to be treated (Matthew 7:12).

Hebrews 13:17 deals with the need to submit to the leaders in areas in which they trust in God’s Word and in matters of judgment (areas of ministry, future plans, and decisions that affect the whole congregation). Let us not be like King Rehoboam who accepted the advice of the young men over the advice of the elders in relieving the populace of heavy taxation. His decision split the nation. Jesus is King, the Chief Shepherd. The Lord has designed that the church be led by men of maturity in wisdom and experience

Third, trust their judgment. We must appreciate the fact that sometimes elders have to make decisions based on principles that they must stand firm upon, on reasons that affect the whole congregation, or on confidential information that the members are not privy to. We must come to trust them.

Because elders are human, they will make mistakes. They might not say the right word, speak with the right tone, or use the right body language, but they need benefit of the doubt like we all would want. They are mature enough to apologize if at fault and to grow from their mistakes. Whereas members often grow from immaturity to maturity, elders grow from maturity to an even greater level of maturity. For this reason, they need our constant trust, compassion, friendship, appreciation, prayers and support.