



Northside Proclaimer

Proclaiming The Word Of The Lord

1 Thessalonians 1:8

Northside Church Of Christ Welcomes You!

September 13, 2015

The Christian's Earthly Life

Edward O. Bragwell, Sr.

The life of, even the best among Christians, is one of both joy and suffering. They suffer their share of all the infirmities common to all people as a result of living in a world marred by sin. Like all people, they hurt (physically and mentally), they have tragedies that affect their lives and those they love, they are victims of the sins of others, and they have to earn a living by the “sweat of their brow,” just as do others. The list could go on.

They, also, enjoy and participate in many of the innocent pleasures enjoyed by their neighbors. They rejoice with those that rejoice as well as weep with those that weep, even with their non-Christian neighbors.

Besides the problems common to man, Christians take on the additional responsibilities and problems in being obedient to the faith. Persecution, in some form, goes with the territory. (2 Tim 3:12). They add suffering as Christians, to their suffering as humans. Besides all this, they are not promised relief from poverty or physical infirmities, as the “health and wealth” gospellers deceptively proclaim. Without the hope of life beyond this life, they would indeed be a people to be pitied. (1 Cor 15:19, 32). But, as a Christian focuses on the life to come, he can live a happy and productive life here in the face of the all the difficulties involved, because of the mind-set that faithfully studying and practicing God’s will create within him.

1. It is a mind-set that considers all his suffering insignificant compared the glory he sees awaiting him. (Rom 8:18).
2. It is a mind-set that is convinced that godliness is profitable both in this life and the one which to come (1 Pt 4:8). He knows that his life might not give the most fleshly pleasure or best earthly advantage – but he knows it is still the most profitable life that he can live.
3. It is a mind-set that believes that God only does what is best for him. He understands that God only commands what is good for him (Deut 10:13). That is why he does not consider the commands a burden (1 John 5:3). He knows that while God’s discipline may cause pain for the present, but it will bear pleasant fruit in the future. (Heb 12).
4. It is a mind-set that can rejoice and be content in the midst of circumstances that would overwhelm others. (Acts 5:40-41; Phil. 4:11; 2 Cor 12:10).
5. It is a mind-set of a pilgrim in a foreign land. (1 Pt 2:11). He joyfully seeks to do all the good he can do and enjoy all of God’s temporal blessings while passing through this present world, but always looking to the day of his homecoming. (Tit 2:11-13).

Northside
church Of Christ

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Announcements

- Remember the shut in's.
- Pray for the church and one another.
- Remember the spiritual sick among us.
- Call or email me to add announcements, thanks.

Chronological Bible Reading Plan

Sep 13 Joel 1-3

Sep 14 Dan 1-3

Sep 15 Dan 4-6

Sep 16 Dan 7-9

Sep 17 Dan 10-12

Sep 18 Ezra 1-3

Sep 19 Ezra 4-6, Ps 137

When They Go Out From Us

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“They went out from us, but they were not really of us; for if they had been of us, they would have remained with us; but they went out, in order that it might be shown that they all are not of us.” (1 John 2:19)

Among Christians, often a new group will pop up teaching and practicing things vastly different from the apostles’ doctrine taught in the congregation(s) from which they came. We are shocked and rightly so. But in most cases these folks were “not of us” long before “they went out from us.” It usually happens after they have failed to win enough support within the congregation(s) where they formally attended to take over. They have now shown the world where their hearts had been for sometime.

All of this demands diligence on the part of overseers and other knowledgeable Christians to begin to deal with the problems when there are initial signs that they are “not of us” in their thinking. Instead, often the church’s leadership, instead of dealing forthrightly with it by corrective teaching and discipline, they prefer to not rock the boat, thus allowing the leaven enough time to work its way through a larger portion of the whole lump.

The Lord gives the responsibility to elders to shepherd the sheep and to watch for their souls. Instead, in too many cases, elders are mostly concerned with balancing the church’s budget and directing the church various “programs.” They have neither the time nor knowledge to spot and correctly deal with the wolves among them. They resent and/or ignore warnings from knowledgeable Christians outside their congregation who are aware of what “is going on” with some of their members. These elders and other knowledgeable men should be able to get a handle on the problem long before it becomes self-evident that they “are not OF us” when they “went out FROM us.”