

Two Sad Obituaries

We are sorry to announce the passing of Brother Midweek Services. He died recently at the Church of Carelessness on Ho Hum Avenue. Born many years ago, he was once strong and healthy. He grew mightily as he was fed on zeal and Bible study. His influence was felt worldwide, and he has rightly been considered as one of the most influential members of the local church's family. However, in recent years Brother Midweek Services had been in failing health, wasting away until rendered helpless by stiffness of the knee, cooling of the heart, and a lack of spiritual sensitivity. He was quoted as having whispered some last words about the absence of his loved ones.

We have also been informed that Midweek's wife, Sister Sunday Evening Services, has just been admitted to the local hospital. Preliminary tests by Dr. I. M. Unconcerned reveal that the same disease that struck her husband down has now infected her, and has greatly diminished her strength. At this point her disease also appears to be terminal. Her recovery depends upon your care and concern. (Author Unknown)

The Passing of Someone Else

The church was bowed in grief this week to learn that one of our most valuable members, Someone Else, had passed away. This death creates a vacancy that will be difficult to fill. Someone Else has been with us for many years. During all of these years, he did far more than a normal person's share of the work. Whenever leadership was mentioned, this wonderful person was looked to for inspiration as well as results.

Whenever there was a job to do, a class to teach, a meeting to attend, one name was on everyone's list: "Let Someone Else do it." Someone Else was among the largest givers in the church. Whenever there was a financial need, everyone assumed that Someone Else would make up the difference.

This beloved member was a wonderful person, sometimes appearing super-human; but a person can only do so much. Everyone expected too much of Someone Else. Now Someone Else is gone. Who will pitch in and do the things that Someone Else once did? If you are asked to do a work in the local church, we hope you won't reply, "Let Someone Else do it." Now YOU need to pick up where Someone Else has left off. (Author Unknown)

"Judge Not"?

How often do you hear someone trying to salvage an unscriptural position or sinful behavior by quoting Matthew 7:1, "Judge not, that ye be not judged"? If nominal Bible students know any passage, it is this one. This verse, like all other scripture, is TRUE, but it is much misunderstood. Many assume ALL judgment must be left with God... under no circumstances may a man judge anyone for anything. What is wrong with this usual and misguided view of the passage?

1. It is a self-defeating position. One who judges another as wrong because he judges another, does exactly what he condemns. He is like the man who argues that it is wrong to argue.
2. It would negate our judgment by God. If the first part of Matthew 7:1 is absolute (under no circumstances may we judge), why is the second part not absolute (we will never be judged)?
3. It contradicts other passages. "Judge not according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment" (John 7:24). Never assume a position in one passage that contradicts another.

4. It would prevent us from following the example of Christ and His apostles. Matthew 6:2-18 teaches us to make judgments about others.

5. It contradicts the context. Carefully read verses 5-6, 15-20 to see if we can obey these things without forming judgments.

6. It would permit and encourage excesses in evil and false doctrine. We could not correct our children, our friends, our society, or our brethren for any kind of sin. 1Corinthians 5 shows what Paul thought of this view; how do you judge it? (By Rick Duggin)

Lifters or Leaners?

There are just two kinds of people, no more, I say.
Not the sinner and the saint, for it's well understood,
The good are half bad, and the bad are half good.
Not the rich or the poor, for to rate a man's wealth,
You must first know the state of his conscience and health.
Not the humble and proud, for in life's little span,
Who puts on vain airs, is not counted a man.
Not the happy and sad, for the swift flying years
Bring each man his laughter and each man his tears.
NO; the two kinds of people on earth I mean,
Are the people who lift, and the people who lean.
Wherever you go, you will find the earth's masses
Are always divided in just these two classes.
And, oddly enough! you will find, too, I mean,
There's only one lifter to twenty who lean.
In what class are you? Are you easing the load
Of overtaxed lifters, who toil down the road?
Or are you a leaner, who lets others share
Your portion of labor and worry and care.
Which class are you?

Today

We cannot change yesterday,
That is quite clear:
Nor begin tomorrow
Until it is here.
So all that is left
For you and for me
Is to make today
As sweet as can be.
(Anonymous)

Help Us to Help

Help us to help each other Lord
Each other's cross to bear;
Let each his friendly aid afford
And feel his brother's care
Help us to build each other up
Our little stock improve;

Increase our faith, confirm our hope
And perfect us in love.
(Anonymous)

A Moments Wisdom

- I have not failed. I've just found 10,000 ways that won't work. (Thomas Edison)
- You don't get to choose how you're going to die. Or when. You can only decide how you're going to live. Now.
- The last of the human freedoms is to choose one's attitudes.
- Never look down on anybody, unless you are going to help them up.
- Remember, people will judge you by your actions, not your intentions. You may have a heart of gold, but so does a hard-boiled egg.
- Start with what is right rather than what is acceptable.
- A pessimist, confronted with two bad choices, chooses both.
- We all find ourselves in situations that at times seem hopeless. And, we all have the choice to do nothing or take action.
- Be miserable. Or motivate yourself. It's always your choice in whatever has to be done.
- Courage is knowing what not to fear. (Plato)