

THOSE PRIVILEGED TO SERVE

Sunday Morning Service

- Song Leader Akel Marshall
- Scripture Reading Kelly Knepley
- Opening Prayer Kelly Knepley
- Lord's Supper Jim Tobias
- Closing Prayer Philip Steele
- Closing Prayer Luke Collinsworth

Sunday Evening Service

- Song Leader Philip Steele
- Opening Prayer Tom Haddox
- Closing Prayer Akel Marshall

Wednesday Evening Service – Jan 8th

- Song Leader Philip Steele
- Opening Prayer Tom Haddox
- Closing Prayer Luke Collinsworth

Today's Sermons:

AM – Jesus Trades Places With A Leper
Scripture Reading: [Mark 1:40-41](#)

PM – We Must Lift Up Christ Jesus As Lord!

Wednesday Adult Class Study: [2nd Samuel](#)

“Let Brotherly Love Continue”
Hebrew 13:1

CHURCH OF CHRIST

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SERVICES OF THE CHURCH

Sunday



SEARCH
OF THE LORD'S WAY

Local Cable 18

@ 7:00 AM and 4:30 PM

Bible Class	9:30 AM
Morning Worship	10:30 AM
Evening Worship	6:00 PM

Wednesday

Bible Class	6:30 PM
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January 5, 2014

GOOD HABITS

by Charles Cash, Bella Vista Church of Christ

***“Be very careful, then, how you live—
Not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity.”
(Ephesians 5:15)***

William James, noted psychologist, once said, “Ninety-nine percent of life is made up of cultivated, automatic actions.” Habits! This article is about good habits to develop! Several books have been published about the habits of successful people. How about the habits of successful, dedicated, committed Christians? This is not to suggest that the Christian life we live, the character we develop, and the service we perform, are just a matter of habit; but it must be apparent to any thoughtful person that habit plays a vital role in the whole process. Concerning good habits, it has been said, “Habits are to the soul what the veins and arteries are to the blood, the courses in which it moves.” They are the soul’s muscles; the more you use them, the stronger they become.

What are some of the habits of successful Christians? Here are three vital ones:

First, the habit of attending all the worship services of the church.

We are given this admonition in the Book of Hebrews: *“Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the day approaching.” (10:25)* The word for “habit” here is also translated “manner” (KJV), “custom” (ASV) “habit” (RSV), and “habit” (NASM). These Hebrew Christians had already gotten into the bad habit of “giving up meeting together,” or “forsaking the assembly.” If the bad habit of not attending the assembly was condemned, as the text clearly indicates, then the good habit to get into would be to attend all the assemblies. People who were not attending church have often told me, and probably many of you also, “I just got into the habit of missing church and it got easier and easier.” Many people lose the fellowship they once had with God. The saddest part of it all is: Some don’t seem to miss Him! Folks, one of the best habits you could possibly get into for your own spiritual welfare and development is to be there every time the church door is open for worship! And there is no way that “worship in spirit” can ever become a dull habit! Church attendance is not for building records, but Christians.

Second, the habit of regular prayer. The apostle Paul admonishes us to “pray continually.” (1 Thessalonians 5:17) What about your prayer habits? Does prayer begin the day? Do we pray during the day? Does it end the day? What a great privilege prayer is; and what a great source of strength and power! God hears your prayers and answers your prayers. Don’t ever give up the habit of prayer. Are you in the habit of praying for others, or just for yourself? Effectual prayer to God is much more than the counting of beads or the Hindu pulling the lever on a prayer wheel to receive credit for so many

prayers. Develop the habit of talking to God regularly! Jesus did during his ministry on earth. If He needed it, I need it much, much more. What a good habit to form and cultivate. The results will amaze you! God’s good!

Third the habit of daily-Bible-reading and study. “Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that need not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” (2 Tim. 2:15 KJV) The American Bible Society offers eight suggestions for Bible study. The eighth suggestion is the crucial one: “Make it a habit; become a daily reader of the Bible.” Make daily Bible reading and meditation a habit! Now, we are not talking about a quick glance at a verse or two so that our Bible reading for that day can be checked off. As Vance Havner once said, “Speed-reading might be a good thing, but it was never meant for the Bible. It takes calm, thoughtful, prayerful meditation on the Word to extract its deepest nourishment.” There is no better habit than daily Bible reading to insure our continued spiritual growth and development. Our spiritual growth will be in direct proportion to our assimilation of the Word of God.

These three habits can be the stones we use in building a strong and wonderful life. These habits form the very basic foundation of that life. Good habits! Make them yours!

Upcoming Dates to Note:

- **Church Family Event Planning Meeting– Today, after morning service.**
- **Guest Speaker –** January 12th AM, A. L. Parr
- **Potluck –** January 12th, immediately after the morning service.
- **Monthly Men’s Business Meeting –** Immediately after the potluck.
- **Men’s Breakfast –** Saturday, January 18th @ 7:30 AM at Big Boy’s followed by Bible Study in the fellowship hall.

Attendance:

Sunday Bible Study (12/29) – 18
Sunday Morning Service (12/29) – 23
Sunday Evening Service (12/29) – 14
Mid-week (01/01) – 7

Statistics:

Contribution Last Week (12/29) - \$883
Average Contribution (per week, up to 12/29) – \$1007
2013 Weekly Contribution Goal – **\$1015**

Remembrance in prayer:

- **Betty Navin –** ongoing health issues.
- **Ashley Veatch –** (Tom & Kristine’s daughter) her health and the baby.
- **Chuck Chamberlain –** healing from foot surgery
- **Sami Knepley –** recovering from wrist surgery
- **Kristine Haddox –** severe Bell’s palsy
- **Schneider family–** assorted ailments have struck the whole family