



We would like to take this time to welcome you to the Rich Creek, Virginia Church of Christ. You are our honored guest and we hope you will come back and be with us again! If you have any questions, please feel free to ask at any time.



We would like to take this opportunity to thank the brethren from Tennessee for taking time out of their busy schedules to hold our Spring Gospel Meeting. We would also like to say thank you to their congregations for giving them the time off so they can come to hold our meeting. Finally, a big "thanks" goes out to Danny Sain for organizing the gospel meetings in our surrounding communities.

We want the Elders and members of the Leoni Church of Christ to know how much we appreciate them supporting this great work.



After services this morning everyone is invited to join us down stairs to eat.

After we eat we will then come back up stairs for a short devotional service. Remember there will be no evening services.

Prayer List: **Cancer:** Kenneth Dunn; Allen Mooney; Rhonda Bogus; Rick Campbell; Emily Hamilton; Debbie Boggs; Johnnie Blaylock & Barbara Hill. **Health Problems:** Virgil & Emma Steele; Donald Rife; Eugene Holdren; Patricia Rotenbury; Steve and Pam Poorman's-daughter; Glenna Dempsey; Marlin Harles; Hazel Farr & JR Farr; Roy & N. Compton; Jean Walden; David Allen; Sonya Radford; Shirley Coburn; Kara Christian; Gary Durham; Arnold Dempsey; Ken McWilliams. **Strokes:** Richard Clement; Amanda Lance. **Other:** All hospice patients; Debbie Jones family; Diane Haleston eye problem; Billy Myers-Depression; Zack Holland-profound brain damage; Rex "Jimmy" Backus heart and lung problem; Tony & Robin Hodges-personal problems; Mini Mills-Broken elbow and knee. Sue Anderson-therapy; Don Hill-cancer; Vanessa Yeager-Vehicle accident and she is in ICU at Charleston General Hospital; Tammy Hodges-cancer; Sandy Pennington-recovering from gallbladder surgery and Kidney problems; Calvin O'Donnell- in the PCH-pneumonia; Lewis Blaylock-cancer; Gene Booth and Wanda Rowe-Health problems; Dosie Branscome-Heart problems; Abby Myers; William Anderson-on life support; Zella England-Alzheimer's. Brooke Steele-has an extra heart valve and will have heart surgery at Duke in 2 1/2 weeks; Mike Shrewsbury-head injury; Raymond Myers-breathing problem. **Nursing home:** Peggy Barie is in the Loving Hands Adult Care. **Military:** Zachary McConnell



Polly Keen 05/02

*Leann Reece
05/04*

*Justin Anderson
05/04*

Church of Christ



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*Preacher:
Roger Hazelwood:
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*Services:
Sunday:
Bible Study: 9:30 AM
Worship: 10:30 AM
Bible Study: 6:PM
Wednesday: 6:PM*

*Serving Communion:
James Asbury
Darrell Fletcher
Don Hill*

*TV Programs on Sunday
In Search of the Lord's
Way 7:30 am
INSP Channel*

*The Gospel of Christ
10:am CW Channel
www.wvvacofc.com*

*Free Private Home :
Bible Studies & Lessons!
Video Lessons & Tracts!
www.exhorter.com*

Exhorter May 1, 2011

7 Gospel Imperatives By J. Randal Matheny



Wisdom sparkles from every line of Scripture. To fulfill our mission of proclaiming Christ to the world, look to other emis-

saries of peace for a great education in working with people and doing the will of God. The travels and experiences of the apostle Paul in Acts 19 provide many lessons for the followers of Christ.

#1. Do it right (1-7). Make sure your obedience is complete, and help others to obey the Lord Jesus in all things, as he commanded in Matthew 28:20. A partial or incorrect obedience requires proper knowledge and correct compliance.

#2. Find your platform (8-10). The gospel is for proclamation. When the synagogue closed its doors to him, Paul found a school from which to preach. Discover how you can get out in the community to reach people.

#3. Know what you're doing (11-16). Going off half-cocked by going through the motions without personal obedience and submission to God will leave you exposed and bruised.

#4. Don't skip repentance (17-20). Not until sinfulness is exposed -- confessed and repented of -- will God have space to remake us and use us for the gospel.

#5. Make plans for the gospel (21-22). The Lord will at some point change our plans, but he does use them to advance the kingdom.

#6. Expect disturbances (23-27). People have hidden motives and selfish interests and will often attempt to protect them at all costs. Beware!

#7. Avoid the uncontrollable (28-41). Sometimes you can bring sense to senseless situations; other times, you should stay out of mobs that react violently. Listen to those close to you.



Confused

By Stan Mitchell

"The prudent see danger and hides himself, but the simple go on and suffer for it" (Proverbs 27:12, ESV).

Some friends of mine were driving down the highway at night, pulling a trailer behind their car. Their little two year-old had an "emergency," so they pulled over to the side of the highway, put on their hazard lights and began to attend to little Wayne's emergency.

It was then that a car came over the

rise, and plowed straight into their car. Thankfully no one was hurt -- they were extremely fortunate -- but in the aftermath the policeman asked the erring driver the obvious question: "Why didn't you slow down?"

The answer was simple. "I saw all those lights, and I was confused!"

Confused? If you're confused by what you see on the highway, then all the more reason to slow down until your confusion is resolved.

A lot of people live that way, it seems. Heedless of warning signs, advice from friends and guidance from God, they tear down life's highway, ignoring all the indications of danger. They simply "keep going" and "suffer for it."

When you see those flashing lights, slow down, look carefully, and think over your next move.

God's Eternality

by John Henson



God's eternal existence is a theme that is sounded through the entire Bible. If one aspect of God's eternality is true, then God exists. Since the universe and the world exist, there must have been a cause for that creation. The cause is God, plain and simple. There has never been proof of the contrary, and there is plenty of proof the cause is God.

All one has to do is view the creation, and its design will testify to the existence of God. The psalmist wrote, "The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork," (Psalm 19:1 ESV).

Since the universe had a beginning, which even atheists agree it did, and since God is the cause for that beginning, as the psalmist wrote, then God exists. There is at least one aspect of God's eternality that is true. The conclusion, therefore, is inescapable.

The psalmist continues in the next verse, "Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God," (Psalm 90:2 ESV). Not only was God existent before the worlds began, he will exist when the universe is no more.

God's eternality and immutability give us great comfort. The writer of Hebrews proclaimed:

"So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he guaranteed it with an oath, so that by two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to hold fast to the hope set before us," (Hebrews 6:17-18 ESV).

The truth of God's promises of eternal life, since God is eternal, will be true for all eternity! God be praised for his eternal existence and the truth of his promises to us!

HOW TO BECOME A CHRISTIAN

Hear

John 6:45 must hear and learn
Rom. 10:14 must hear to believe
Rom. 10:17 must hear word of Christ
Rev. 1:3 a blessing in hearing and doing
James 1:22 be doers, not hearers only

Believe (Have Faith)

Heb. 11:6 faith required
James 2:24 not faith only
Mark 16:16 believe to be saved
John 6:29 faith is a work
John 8:24 believe, or die in sins
John 5:24 hear Christ and believe God
Acts 16:31 believe on the Lord Jesus
Rom. 16:26 faith required obedience
Gal. 5:6 faith works through love

Repent

Luke 13:3,5 repent or perish
Acts 17:30 commanded to repent
Acts 2:38 repent for forgiveness-of sin
Acts 3:19 repent for blessing
Acts 26:20 repent to turn to God & good works

Rev. 2:5 repentance shown by works
Luke 15:7 repentance brings joy
Rom. 2:4 goodness of God leads to repentance

2 Cor. 7:9,10 Godly sorrow works repentance

Confess

Rom. 10:9,10 confess unto salvation
Matt. 10:32,33 confess Christ (Luke 12:8)
Matt. 16:16 Peter's example
1 Tim. 6:12 the good confession (witness)
Acts 8:35-38 the Eunuch's confession

Be Baptized

Acts 10:48 baptism commanded
Acts 2:38 for remission of sins
Mark 16:16 authorized by Jesus Christ
1 Pet. 3:21 baptism saves