



*For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth... in every place.
(1 Thessalonians 1:8)*

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Schedule of Services

Sunday

Worship 9:30 AM
Bible Study 10:30 AM
Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday

Bible Study 1:30 PM
Bible Study 7:00 PM

Bible Call

(618) 667-9603

www.collinsvillecoc.org

LOVE ONE ANOTHER

Have you ever heard someone say, “I just can’t love (fill in the name)?” Have you ever heard a Christian say that they just cannot love a particular person? What’s wrong with that picture?

The Christian has a choice to love or not to love. Yet, he must understand that he is disobeying God if he does not overcome his own feelings and develop his love toward others. To love one’s neighbor is the second great commandment. Jesus said that love is the badge of discipleship. John recorded the instructions given to the twelve, “A new commandment I give unto you, that Ye love one another; even as I have loved you, that Ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that Ye are my disciples, if Ye have love one to another” (John 13:34-35). Love, therefore, is a commandment to be obeyed.

One must understand that the love the Christian is to develop is not some impulse from the feelings. It is not due to a close relationship or affinity toward another. It is not based upon natural inclinations to be drawn to another. Rather, it is a love of choice. It is a love of good will toward others. It is a love that does no wrong to the one loved (Romans 13:10).

God demonstrated the love that He would have His children to have. He looked upon man with love, though he was rebellious against Him and had rejected Him and grieved Him. Man was separated from God because of sin (Isaiah 59:1-2), destined to eternal punishment (2 Thessalonians 1:7-9). Man was not worthy to call upon the Holy God. Yet, He loved man and had good will toward man. Because of that love, He sent His Son to die upon the cross for man’s sins (Romans 5:6-11) that man might live (1 John 4:9-10).

In His life on this earth, Jesus demonstrated the love that He commanded His disciples to have. He was rejected by most while He demonstrated His deity through signs and wonders (John 20:30-31). He was blasphemed and tried over and over by the leaders of the Jews. In the end, He was betrayed by His own disciple. He was accused falsely. He was tried illegally and unjustly. He was beaten, mocked and spit upon. He was scourged and crucified upon the cross. Why was He willing to endure so much? It was because of His love for man. In the garden, He prayed that God would remove the cup of suffering which He was about to endure, if He were willing (Luke 22:41-44). Yet, He knew that His

sacrifice was the only way man could be saved. He could have called legions of angels to His defense, had He chosen to do so (Matthew 26:51-54). It was within His power to lay down His life or save it (John 10:17-18). His love for man was exhibited upon that cruel cross and by the very words He spoke as He looked upon the ones who were crucifying Him, “Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do” (Luke 23:34).

It was not because mankind was lovable that God the Father and God the Son loved man. It was a love of choice—a love of good will.

The characteristics of the love God would have His children to exhibit are found in the words of Paul to the church at Corinth (1 Corinthians 13:4-8), “Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends” (ESV).

Think about it! There may be those that you have no affinity toward. You might not even like to be with them or near them. Yet, as a Christian, is there anyone that you can say you do not love and still be obedient to God?

TLM

Mabery's Minutes



Once again this congregation has demonstrated the willingness to receive others and help them develop. Two years ago, Robert Guinn came as a young man right out of school. You received him into your fellowship and your love. You encouraged him and helped him. You saw him grow. Sunday evening, you gave him a loving send off when you gave him the “boot.” Robert’s mother expressed to me her appreciation for what you have done for him while he was here. As we look for someone else to come and grow with us, pray that we can continue to be a congregation that will accept and encourage these young men as they begin their labors for the lord. Pray for those who are seeking a new intern.

RESULTS OF SOWING THE SEED

BY MARVIN L. WEIR

Matthew's account of the parable of the sower is found in verses 3-23 of the thirteenth chapter. The sower obviously represents the Lord and Savior. His mission was "to seek and save the lost" (Luke 19:10). He charged His apostles with the task of proclaiming the gospel to a lost and dying world. To the twelve, Christ said, "Go ye therefore, and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I commanded you: and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world" (Matthew 28:19-20).

The apostles are all dead and Christ has ascended to the throne of God (Romans 8:34; Luke 22:69). Thus, in principle, the sower **now** becomes all faithful children of God who teach His glorious truths.

The seed that was sown and is to be sown is the "**word of God**" (Luke 8:11). The word of man is useless when it comes to saving one's soul! Jeremiah, a spokesman for God, declared, "O Jehovah, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps" (Jeremiah 10:23). This is the reason Paul stated, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek" (Romans 1:16). The word and the gospel are one and the same. Paul says to the Corinthians, "Now I make known unto you brethren, **the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye received, wherein also ye stand, by which also ye are saved, if ye hold fast the word which I preached unto you, except ye believed in vain**" (1 Corinthians 15:1-2, *emph. mine, MLW*).

Many today are sowing anything and everything except the word of God. The word, however, is the **only** thing that contains life. Jesus said, "It is the spirit that giveth life; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I have spoken unto you are spirit, and are life" (John 6:63). The apostle Peter taught the same thing in saying, "Seeing ye have purified your souls in your obedience to the truth unto unfeigned love of the brethren, love one another from the heart fervently: having been begotten again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, through the word of God, which liveth and abideth" (1 Pet. 1:22-23).

Even when the pure, unadulterated seed of God is sown the results will vary. Such is not because of the seed, but because of the soil (heart). The wayside soil represents one who is not genuinely interested in the word of God (v. 19). Perhaps because of pride, prejudice or worldliness, this person resists the truth of the gospel. The seed cannot accomplish its purpose because truth is rejected.

The word of God is also scattered upon rocky soil (v. 20). This represents the emotional hearer who lacks the depth for the word of God to take root and grow. So many today are

drawn only to that which appeals to their emotions. They do not realize that it is costly to become a Christian (Luke 14:25ff), and their emotions cool considerably upon learning there is a cross to bear (Luke 9:23). The word of God will also fall upon thorny soil (v. 22). This person will allow the "care of the world" and the "deceitfulness of riches" to **choke** the word from his heart. Even that which is good within itself must not be allowed to come before Christ and His church (Matthew 6:33). Many allow their jobs, recreation, or quest for secular knowledge to choke out the word of God.

Some seed that is sown will fall upon good soil (v. 23). This soil is indicative of a good and honest heart. Such a person will hear the word of God and be willing to let it serve as his guide. A good and honest heart will always do as the book of James teaches - "Wherefore putting away all filthiness and overflowing of wickedness, receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deluding your own selves" (James 1:21-22).

A Christian is responsible for sowing the pure seed (the word of God — the gospel). The gospel is indeed God's power to save (Rom. 1:16)! We must remember, however, that the seed has no power until it is sown! It is the responsibility of the recipient of the word, however, to be the right kind of hearer (Luke 8:18). One cannot be forced to obey the gospel against his will. One who properly sows the seed will always be pleasing unto God. One has fulfilled his responsibility when he sows the precious seed in the way God would have it to be sown.

Let us not become discouraged as we labor in the kingdom. May we remember, "I planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase" (1 Corinthians 3:6).

Via the Olathe, KS, bulletin, August 23, 2009

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