

# Reflections

Volume 1 Issue 21

A Weekly Publication Of The Pine Street Church Of Christ

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Pine Street  
CHURCH OF CHRIST  
429 Pine Street  
New Martinsville, WV  
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## ASSEMBLY TIMES

Sunday Bible Study  
9:45 AM

Sunday Worship  
10:45 AM & 6:30 PM

Wednesday Bible Study  
7:30 PM

## RADIO PROGRAM

"For The Glory Of God"  
8:45-9:00 AM  
MAGIC 99.5 FM  
Cable Channel 15

## WEB SITE

[www.pinestreetcoc.com](http://www.pinestreetcoc.com)

*Reflections* is a weekly publication of the Pine Street church of Christ including Bible-based articles for the spiritual edification and education of all readers. Please contact us if you have comments or questions about the content of the paper.

## Christians Are Perfect...Right?

By Jeremy D. Joy

**W**e claim to be Christians who regularly worship, read the Bible, and pray. So...we should be perfect, right? Not at all! No one is perfect — myself included. However, the problem is that the world expects us to practice what we preach and when we fail to live up to our standard, they use it as an excuse to stay at home on Sunday. Is

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*really* claim about ourselves. What is the truth about Christians?

Contrary to popular belief, Christians are not perfect — not even close. "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us" (1 John 1:8). Being saved does not eliminate temptation or the weakness of the flesh. It is a constant struggle. "For what I am doing, I do not understand. For what I will to do, that I do not practice; but what I hate, that I do...For the good that I will to do, I do not do; but the evil I will not to do, that I practice" (Romans 7:15, 19). There

it fair? No, but it is the reality. Both Christians and non-Christians can improve. We should quit acting like we are perfect and the world should listen to what we



**I will meditate on Your precepts, and  
contemplate Your ways.  
— Psalm 119:18**

are times when our thoughts, words, and deeds are less than pure, not to mention what we fail to do. If we think that we are perfect, then we are fooling ourselves, which is proof that we are *not* perfect.

Nevertheless, we should strive for perfection, but it is not the kind of perfection that you might think. In the New Testament, "perfect" means "having reached its end" referring to the moral and spiritual growth and development of a person (Vine). It involves a process with a goal to be attained, but it does not imply sinlessness or flawlessness. We should strive for perfection as the ultimate objective of our salvation (Ephesians 3:14) realizing that it will not be completely fulfilled until the resurrection of our bodies

## Reflections

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(Philippians 3:12-14). However, the fact that will not be perfect in the absolute sense does not lessen our responsibility to *strive* to imitate the character of God. "Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus" (Colossians 1:28).

So...who or what is Christian? We are not perfect — just forgiven. Paul considered himself to be "the least of the apostles" (1 Corinthians 15:9) because he had a checkered past as a former persecutor of Christians. "This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief" (1 Timothy 1:15). Every

Christian has skeletons in the closet — some more than others — but we can be forgiven of our past by the grace of God and the blood of Jesus.

There are no perfect Christians and there are no perfect churches. We are all sinners! We are people of privilege, but it is *undeserved* privilege, and we should not act like we are better than others (Romans 5:6-8). Nevertheless, we should strive to live by a higher standard and not provide someone an excuse for rejecting salvation. At the same time, the world must come to the realization that it stands condemned before God because of sin *too* (1 John 5:19). There is no room for excuses, but there is room for faith and obedience. 📖

## Pine Street News And Notes

"Let brotherly love continue" — Hebrews 13:1

Members of our church family who are sick and in need of our prayers: **Howard Smith** is home and improving.

Others who are sick and in need of our prayers: **Love Postlethwait's** brother-in-law, **Blane Morris**, has lung cancer...**Crystal Shockley's** grandmother, **Dorothy Myers**, is improving...**Janet Webber's** mother-in-law, **Florence Webber**, is confined to her home.

The Training Class will be this evening. The schedule is posted on the bulletin board. Please see **Tom Blatt** if you need a replacement.

Preaching reports from **Kent Clark** and **Daniel Ruegg** are posted on the bulletin board.

Please check the bulletin board for Gospel Meetings throughout the Ohio Valley.

Our Fall Gospel Meeting will be September 21-26 with **Danny McKibben**. Mark your calendars and plan to attend.

We need your help to complete the new worship schedule for the next quarter. Are you willing to lead the singing, lead a prayer, read the Scriptures, or serve the Lord's Supper? Please sign-up as soon as possible. The sign-up sheet is on the stand in the foyer.

Is there someone who needs encouragement? Look for opportunities to encourage one another this week.

The Scripture reading today is: Psalm 119:145-152.

The sermon today is: "Winning Souls For Jesus" (AM).