

# Reflections

Volume 1 Issue 16

A Weekly Publication Of The Pine Street Church Of Christ

July 13, 2008

Pine Street  
CHURCH OF CHRIST  
429 Pine Street  
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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

*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.

## Measure Twice

By Jeremy D. Joy

**A**n old carpenter's trick of the trade is: measure twice, cut once. The more consequential the action, the more carefully and deliberately it should be thought out. It is better to be sure that we are right than to hastily and recklessly act in ways that turn out to be wrong.

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**We should form Bible-based convictions and then mold and shape our lives to resemble our convictions.**

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Unfortunately, many lives are the product of unskilled labor and shoddy workmanship (Matthew 7:24-27). It is amazing how shockingly lackadaisical we can be with God. We need to measure twice, cut once!

### In Religion

The average Joe has rejected religion on the basis of assumptions, prejudices, stereotypes, etc. without thoroughly investigating the real deal. The slogans and catchphrases that turn people against religion are accepted as true and valid. Some simply lack the mental curiosity of the Athenian philosophers who wanted to hear the case of Christianity (Acts 17:16-21) and are more like those who hurriedly



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

mocked Paul without honest consideration (Acts 17:32). The ramifications of rejecting Christianity without examining the evidence are too serious for such blatant intellectual dishonesty. Measure twice, cut once!

### In "Choosing A Church"

Does the average person understand the problem of denominationalism? Doubtful. Sorting out the problem of modern religious division requires at least the attitude of the Bereans who "searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so" (Acts 17:11). But most people "choose a church" like they choose a vitamin—it makes no difference which one you take as long as you take one.

## Reflections

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The work, worship, and organization of the church is not even an afterthought; it is not thought about at all. "Choosing a church" is no trivial matter (Ephesians 1:22-23; 4:4). Measure twice, cut once!

### **In The Christian Life**

Imagine your life as a speech. What kind of speech is it: a painstakingly prepared text or an impromptu, off-the-cuff performance? We are living in perilous times (2 Timothy 3:1-5) and the only way to survive the culture is to "walk circumspectly" (Ephesians 5:15-17). We must be careful and make wise, informed decisions based upon the word of God. We cannot make it up on the fly or it will show by the choices we make! We need to be more conscious and careful about distinguishing right from wrong, but we must choose to exercise our spiritual senses. (Hebrews 5:14). Otherwise, we are swallowed up by the evil and immorality in

the world. Measure twice, cut once!

### **Conclusion**

Socrates supposedly said that the unexamined life is not worth living. Life is too precious not to be more thoughtful and deliberate. We should form Bible-based convictions and then mold and shape our lives to resemble our convictions. We only have one chance and we cannot afford to cut now and measure later. How would you describe the quality of workmanship in your life: haphazard and slipshod or purposeful and meaningful? It is vital that we study to discover the truth, think about the significance and implications of the truth, and act upon the basis of the truth. Jesus warned would-be disciples about the importance of counting the cost of discipleship (Luke 14:25-33). Have you counted the cost of not measuring twice and cutting once? Jesus deserves better—and so do you as someone made in the image of God with the potential to be like

## **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: **Judy Haught** continues to improve...**Jeremy Joy** is recovering from mono.

Members of our church family who are traveling: **Love Postlethwait** is visiting family in Virginia and Louisiana.

Others who are sick and in need of our prayers: Jeremy Joy's grandmother, **Ruth Ann Joy**, is at home recovering from double by-pass surgery...**Wanda Rockwell's**, brother-in-law, **Bill Price**, is in poor health...**Crystal Shockley's** grandmother, **Dorothy Myers**, is improving...**Janet Webber's** mother-in-law,

**Florence Webber**, is confined to her home.

The next Training Class will be Sunday evening, July 20. The schedule is posted on the bulletin board.

Thanks to **Siegel Fetty** for preaching last Sunday. **Tim E. Haught** will be preaching today. **Jeremy** plans to preach Sunday morning, July 20.

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

The Scripture reading today is: Psalm 119:113-120