

Reflections

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A Weekly Publication Of The Pine Street Church Of Christ

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Pine Street
CHURCH OF CHRIST
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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.

Do You Have The Right Perspective?

By Jeremy D. Joy

In a world plagued by religious corruption and hypocrisy, the teaching of Jesus addressed head-on the problem of sin and the need for a heartfelt response to God. The Sermon on the Mount recorded in Matthew 5:1-7:28 peels back the layers of religious rules and regulations revealing the nature of true righteousness. It was shocking to His first

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century audience and it continues to challenge hearers today.

However, in stark contrast to the teaching of Jesus, Christianity today has become less about the spiritual and more about the secular. Popular televangelists promise "health and wealth" if listeners send money to support their phony ministry. Many churches are involved in accomplishing political change and social reform through fundraising and lobbying. It is a far cry from the higher plane to which Jesus called all men and women.

The fundamental problem is that we fail to recognize that we are "sojourners and pilgrims" (1 Peter 1:11-12). Peter was writing to Christians who had been



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

scattered throughout Asia Minor because of persecution (1 Peter 1:1). They were strangers living in a strange land literally and spiritually. Likewise, we are foreigners traveling to our eternal home because "our citizenship is in heaven" (Philippians 3:20-21). We live and work here, but we are not like the people around us since we have made a commitment to follow Jesus.

It is not wrong to seek to improve the quality of our lives in the world, but the focus of the gospel is spiritual change, not secular change. We may be successful in eliminating hunger or preserving the environment, but if we lack true spirituality, we have failed at the highest level of our existence. "For what profit is it to a man if he gains the world, and loses


Is Christ Divided?

By Jeremy D. Joy

Division among Christians is sinful and contrary to the will of God, but unfortunately, it exists on many levels from Christianity in general to local churches. Nevertheless, it is always the result of an individual or a group placing a higher priority on their selfish opinions than the teaching of Jesus and the apostles. However, We are not the first to wrestle with the problem.

Upon hearing reports concerning division in the church at Corinth, Paul was deeply troubled and pleaded with them “by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Corinthians 1:10). He could appeal to no higher authority! In addition, he raised an important question for those who had pledged allegiance to various teachers including himself, Apollos, Peter, or Jesus:

“Is Christ divided?” (1 Corinthians 1:13). Neither Paul, Apollos, nor Peter had died for the sins of the world and believers were not baptized in their name. Only Jesus can demand our loyalty because He is the head of the body, the church (Ephesians 1:22-23; Colossians 1:18). Herein lies the solution that so often eludes us: Jesus is the answer!

When there is controversy, we become overly preoccupied with maintaining party loyalty to the point that we condone sinful attitudes or participate in sinful practices instead of vowing to be faithful only to Jesus. We must recognize that the tie that binds us is not a peculiar belief or doctrine; it is a person who died for us. If we follow Him, then all controversy will be resolved based upon His will, not our own. 

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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...**Howard Smith** continues to have health problems.

Others who are sick and in need of our prayers: **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.

Florence Webber was baptized last Sunday in her home. We rejoice with her and pray that she will have hope and peace in her heart.

The Training Class will be this evening. The schedule is posted on the bulletin board.

A teacher is needed in the pre-school class beginning in July. Please contact **Jeremy** as soon as possible if you are interested.

There are several families who will be traveling throughout the summer. We pray for their safe return.

The Scripture reading today is: Psalm 119:89-96.

The sermon today is: “The Perfect Father” (AM).