

Reflections

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A Weekly Publication Of The Pine Street Church Of Christ

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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.

Honesty And Humility In Religion

By Jeremy D. Joy

Intellectual honesty is important in the pursuit of truth, especially in religion. It is a constant challenge because our conclusions are colored by our past experiences, prejudices and preconceptions. It is hard to be completely objective 100% of the time, but it is an ideal we must strive to attain. Our relationship with God demands no less.

We must point people to the word of God as the standard by which we must measure our beliefs and practices.

The problem is that over time we begin to view our conclusions as the standard of right and wrong. For example, in our preaching about the one true church, we may encourage others to be like the "church of Christ" in their work, worship, and organization, but the appeal, though it contains an element of truth, only contributes to sectarianism and division in religion. Man is not the standard, not even the "church of Christ." We must point people to the word of God as the standard by which we must measure our beliefs and practices. "For we dare not class ourselves or compare ourselves with those who commend themselves. But they, measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among



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

themselves, are not wise" (2 Corinthians 10:12). Otherwise, we fall under the same condemnation as the scribes and Pharisees who were "teaching as doctrines the commandments of men" (Matthew 15:8-9) by elevating their beliefs and practices to the same level as the word of God.

In the realm of judgment or expediency, we may view with suspicion brethren who choose a method that is not the common practice of churches in geographic location, not because it violates scriptural precedent or principle, but simply because it is different from "our" tradition (1 Corinthians 6:12; 10:23). A church is not "liberal" because it engages in a practice that is unfamiliar. Perhaps we need to re-

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examine our traditions and consider other scriptural options that may be more expedient in our time and place. It is a real test of intellectual honesty. A particular belief or practice stands or falls based upon its own merits. It demands more of us, but if we are unwilling to step up to the challenge, then perhaps it reveals more about us as a body of people than we would like to see. Maybe we are not as committed to speaking "as the oracles of God" (1 Peter 4:11) as we think.

There are some who believe that honesty and objectivity mean fellowship with sin and error. It requires no thought to wrap ourselves in the security blanket of tradition

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** has mono and has been instructed to rest...**Carol Skinner** has been sick this past week.

Members of our church family who are traveling: **Love Postlethwait** is visiting family in Virginia and Louisiana...**Paul and Wanda Rockwell** are on vacation in Tennessee...**Barbara Williams** is visiting family in Texas.

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.

Thanks to everyone who participated in the Training Class, especially **Adam Koontz**

and oppose something using the "slippery slope" argument. To the contrary, a firm commitment to the truth involves testing all things (1 Thessalonians 5:21) by the standard of Jesus and the apostles (1 John 4:1-6). The honest truth-seeker upholds the word of God as the yardstick by which we must measure ourselves and others. The belief or practice in question stands or falls accordingly (John 12:48).

The bottom line is not an appeal for an open door policy, but more humility in our personal study and application of the Bible and in our public and private teaching. We need to stand behind the cross and magnify God in our work and worship. If we

for the sermon on priorities. If you were not here, you missed an opportunity to be encouraged!

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

If there is something that you would like published in the "Pine Street News And Notes" section of the bulletin, please contact **Jeremy** by Saturday morning.

Jeremy will be answering questions from "The Question Box" this evening.

Look for opportunities to encourage members of our church family this week.

The Scripture reading today is: Psalm 119:97-104.

The sermon today is: "The Art Of Encouragement" (AM).