

# Reflections

Volume 1 Issue 6

A Weekly Publication Of The Pine Street Church Of Christ

May 4, 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.

## Something To Hold On To

By Jeremy D. Joy

**T**ime is filled with swift transition — Naught of earth unmoved can stand — Build your hopes on things eternal, Hold to God's unchanging hand.

The words of the old hymn express a sentiment that is true today: we need something to hold on to. Christians of the

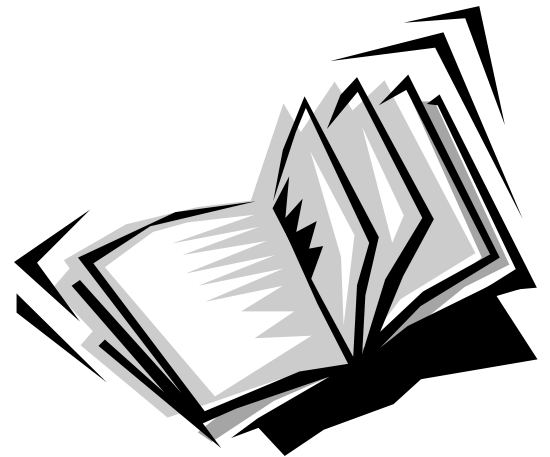
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**We may not win over the hearts of our peers, but we may earn their respect and ultimately receive our reward.**

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first three centuries had to endure physical abuse, false imprisonment, and even death. Christians now suffer social pressure, verbal abuse, and a feeling of alienation from a world that is becoming more secular and less spiritual. We need something unmoved and unchanged — and Jesus is the answer.

Writing to Christians suffering persecution from the Romans, Peter uses a number of "stone testimonies" linking three Old Testament prophecies to Jesus. He is the "chief cornerstone" (1 Peter 2:6), the foundation stone from which all other living stones are placed in the spiritual house of God (Ephesians 2:19-22). In ancient buildings, the cornerstone was laid first and then all the other stones were



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

aligned accordingly. Likewise, we need to stay focused on Jesus, our cornerstone today, who never changes, and build our lives upon the rock. Then we can have a confident and victorious spirit, even when the winds are blowing and the storms are raging (Matthew 7:24-27).

In spite of opposition, we can model Christ to the world by maintaining personal holiness and honor God by the manner in which we suffer for righteousness. "Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this matter" (1 Peter 4:16). We may not win over the hearts of our peers, but we may earn their respect and ultimately receive our reward (1 Peter 1:3-5). In a world of doubts and uncertainties, we have

# Preaching To Be Understood

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There have been many outstanding preachers and teachers in the church, but Jesus stands head and shoulders above the rest. He is indeed the Master Teacher whose methods should be examined and emulated by all preachers and teachers today if we are to succeed.

On one occasion, the Pharisees, Saducees, and scribes all in turn tried to stump Jesus, but with no success (Mark 12:13-34). He then challenged them by asking a question: how can David call his descendant Lord (vv 35-37)? However, even though they comprised the religious establishment of the day, they had no answer. In contrast, Mark records that *“the common people heard Him gladly”* (v 37).

The primary purpose of preaching is to be understood, not to impress the audience with the knowledge the preacher has

acquired. The preacher has a message he must convey using various methods and techniques. Preaching that cannot be understood is pointless to hearers. That is not to say that the hearer bears no responsibility (Matthew 13:10-17), but the preacher must present his information using words and terminology the hearer can understand, even if the subject is difficult and challenging.

First, the preacher must know the subject. You cannot preach what you do not know (and the same applies to Bible class teachers). This requires time and hard work, but knowing the subject is only half the battle. Then, the preacher must be able to explain the subject. The content may be accurate, but if the preacher has not enhanced the understanding of the hearer, he has not accomplished his objective. May we be more like the Master Teacher!

# Pine Street News And Notes

Members of our church family who are sick and in need of our prayers: **Judy Haught** is recovering from heart valve replacement surgery...**Melinda Koontz** is recovering from surgery.

Others who are sick and in need of our prayers: **Crystal Shockley’s** grandmother is in the hospital with pneumonia. She is not well at this time

**Sandy Ritz** was restored on Wednesday. We rejoice that she is back with us and pray that she will be steadfast to the end.

The Training Class will be Sunday, May 18. The schedule is posted on the bulletin board.

**Jeremy** will be preaching for the church at Ravenswood next Sunday morning as a part of their Gospel Meeting.

Check the bulletin board for Gospel Meetings throughout the Ohio Valley.

Is there someone who needs help or encouragement? Look for opportunities to serve one another.

The Scripture reading today is: Psalm 119:41-48.

The sermons today are: “Have You Sold Out To Jesus?” (AM) and “Seeing The Grace Of God” (PM).