

Diligently Seeking God (Hebrews 11:6)

PRAIRIE VILLAGE CHURCH OF CHRIST

Church Bulletin Articles from June 26, 2011

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Scripture of the Week



Luke 2:48-49

“When they saw Him, they were astonished; and His mother said to Him, ‘Son, why have You treated us this way? Behold, Your father and I have been anxiously looking for You.’ And He said to them, ‘Why is it that you were looking for Me? Did you not know that I had to be in My Father’s house?’”

When Jesus was 12 years old, He and His parents traveled with a caravan of friends and relatives from Nazareth to Jerusalem to celebrate Passover. After they had stayed in the city for that week-long observance, the company of travelers gathered their families and belongings together and set out on the 90 mile journey back home. There was just one detail that had been overlooked. After they had traveled for an entire day, Jesus’ parents realized He had been left behind. Anyone who has ever lost a child while on an outing can sympathize with the fear and anxiety that Joseph and Mary must have gone through.

After three days of frantically searching, they finally found Jesus in the temple, listening to the teachers and asking them questions. When Mary asked Jesus how He could have treated her and His Father so poorly by making them search for Him, His answer to Her in verse 49 was remarkable. He implied that the temple should have been the first place they looked. They should have known He would be in His Father’s house if He wasn’t with them. With His answer He also reminded Mary that God was His true Father and not Joseph. Even at age 12, Jesus knew that faithfully serving God was the most important thing.

Thirty Years of Obscurity

Jesus is undoubtedly the most important person of all time. All the Old Testament prophets wrote in anticipation of His arrival into the world and His mission (Luke 24:27). He is the focus of the entirety of the Bible, the most influential and greatest selling book ever written. He is the focal point of the Gregorian calendar which is the internationally accepted civil calendar, also known as the Christian Calendar. Every event that has ever taken place in human history is estimated in respect to the time it happened before or after the birth of Christ. Jesus is the Son of God, the Creator of the universe and the Savior of all mankind. In spite these facts, very little is mentioned in the Bible

about the first 30 years of His earthly life. All the snippets we find recorded of His life before age 30 are His birth, His dedication to God at the temple at around 40 days old, His parents taking Him to Egypt sometime before He was two years old to escape the wrath of King Herod, and His trip to Jerusalem when He was 12 years old. Wouldn’t you love to know what kind of kid Jesus was and more of His early exploits and the activities He engaged in? The truth of the matter is that God hasn’t seen fit to divulge the vast majority of that information to us. And since He hasn’t, it must not be important for us to know. After His visit to Jerusalem as an infant, Luke 2:40 tells us that Jesus, “continued to

grow and become strong, increasing in wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him.” After His return visit in His twelfth year we read, “and Jesus kept increasing in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men” (Luke 2:52). In many ways Jesus grew and developed as any young person would. His body grew and developed healthfully and so did His mind and intellect. He was a gracious young person who gained the favor of His acquaintances and His God by the way He lived His life. Everything we need to know about our Savior has been accurately and faithfully written down for us in the Bible by God. Take the time to get to know the Jesus of the Bible as best you can.

Please Come Visit Us At...

Prairie Village Church of Christ
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Preacher – Louie Taylor
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www.pvchurchofchrist.com

Times of Services

Sunday Morning Bible Study.....9:30
Sunday Morning Worship Service.....10:30
Sunday Evening Worship Service.....6:30
Wednesday Evening Bible Study.....7:30



The House of God

When Jesus was left behind in Jerusalem at age twelve, and subsequently found by His parents in the temple, He responded to His mother's interrogation by saying "*Did you not know that I had to be in My Father's house?*" Even as a twelve-year-old child, Jesus loved to spend time worshiping His God and fellowshiping His brethren, and at a young age He understood the importance and value of doing those things. We read in Luke 4:16, "*And He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up; and as was His custom, He entered the synagogue on the Sabbath, and stood up to read.*" Jesus made it His lifelong habit to assemble at the local synagogue every Sabbath day in order to read and study scripture, and worship with His brethren. Unless Jesus had some other pressing busi-

ness that needed to be taken care of, chances are He could be found in the assembly of the saints. When we read phrases such as, He made it "His custom," and He "had to be" in His Father's house, it should impress upon us what an honor, privilege and necessity it is to gather with God's people just as often as we can. The Apostle Paul wrote in 1 Timothy 3:15, "*but if I am delayed, I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth*" (NKJV). Have you made it your custom to gather together with Christians in your Father's house on the first day of each week (Acts 20:7)? Do you feel like you just have to be at church services whenever they are taking place or else your week will be

incomplete? All Christians should get to a point in their walk with the Lord that, if they need to miss church services for any reason, it causes them to feel like they have been robbed of something vitally important to their soul's wellbeing. Some people have justifiable reasons to regularly miss services, like poor health or an odd work schedule, and God understands in those instances. But many people just choose to skip church services because they don't want to be there. Hebrews 10:25 tells us to not neglect the assembling of ourselves together. The reason for that is we need the fellowship and uplifting and worship that takes place in Christ's church in order to make us strong. When we willfully skip services we do so to the damage of our soul's health. I hope to see you at church this Sunday!

GOSPEL MEETING AUGUST 15-17 WITH GERRY SANDUSKY — Please mark your calendars and make early plans to attend every day of this short, three day meeting with Gerry Sandusky of Madison Indiana. Brother Gerry has entitled this series of studies, "Standing at the Door of the Day of Eternity". Each lesson will be taken from the New Testament book of 1 Thessalonians, and the goal of this meeting will be to motivate each one of us to live every day of our lives on planet earth as if it might be our last.