

Diligently Seeking God (Hebrews 11:6)

PRAIRIE VILLAGE CHURCH OF CHRIST

Church Bulletin Articles from June 5, 2011

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Scripture of the Week



Psalm 15:1-3

“O LORD, who may abide in Your tent? Who may dwell on Your holy hill? He who walks with integrity, and works righteousness, and speaks truth in his heart. He does not slander with his tongue, nor does evil to his neighbor, nor takes up a reproach against his friend.”

In Matthew 23:13-33 Jesus scathingly rebuked the scribes and Pharisees for their hypocrisy. They were the religious leaders of His day and yet they were ungodly men. They looked good and holy and righteous on the outside, but inwardly, Jesus said that they were “full of hypocrisy and lawlessness”. Hypocrisy means “pretense” or “play-acting”. A hypocrite is a person who is just putting on a show for other people to see. They profess one way of life, yet they live another. Their words and actions don’t always match the intentions of their hearts. A hypocrite finds no favor in the eyes of our Father, and hypocrisy is essentially the opposite of integrity. Psalm 15 tells us that only the person with in-

tegrity can dwell with God. Integrity means “moral and ethical soundness”. The Bible often depicts this type of person as being “upright”. The way an upright person talks matches the righteous way that he lives his life. In short, the person of integrity is truthful, honest and trustworthy. Anyone who desires a healthy relationship with God must be a truthful person, because our heavenly Father is “the God of truth” (Isaiah 65:16). Jesus said in John 8:44 the devil is “the father of lies”. A person who lies and steals and cheats and deceives is acting like the devil and he chooses Satan to be his father. Do you want to live forever with Satan or God? Choose today to be a person of integrity!

Integrity

Proverbs 10:9 states, “He who walks in integrity walks securely, but he who perverts his ways will be found out.” A person who lives his life according to the dictates of truthfulness and honesty, walks a straight and even path, and he never has to worry about being tripped up over a lie that he has told in the past. The dishonest person who perverts his way, walks in a zig-zag path of deception, and his deceitfulness will always be found out eventually, no matter how diligently he tries to cover his tracks. Lies just have a way of making themselves known, and when that happens, relationships are always injured. A lack of integrity always brings harm to all our relation-

ships—with ourselves, our loved ones and our God. Psalm 15:2 says the person of integrity speaks truth in his own heart. As long as we choose to deceive ourselves, we will never have peace of mind and heart. The first step to fixing any problem is admitting that a problem exists. People often live in denial of the fact that they have problems with drugs, alcohol, pornography, immorality, stealing, cheating, cursing, etc. Until a person is honest with himself and admits there are issues to be addressed, he will always sabotage his own physical, mental and spiritual health. A person who lacks integrity will also never develop healthy relationships with other peo-

ple. Psalm 15:3 says the person of integrity does no evil to his neighbor. Lying is hurtful and evil, and when people find out we’ve lied to them, they have a hard time trusting us in the future. Healthy relationships are based on trust, so untrustworthy people always have fractured friendships. Integrity is also required for a spiritual relationship with the Lord. Psalm 15:1 says only the person of integrity can dwell with the God. Since God hates a lying tongue (Proverbs 6:17), He won’t befriend us if we aren’t honest people who always try to speak the truth in love (Ephesians 4:15). We must serve and worship God in truth if we want to live with Him in eternity (John 4:23).

Please Come Visit Us At...

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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



Out of Self and Into God

Jesus said in Matthew 16:24, *“If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, take up his cross and follow Me.”* Is it any wonder that the life of true discipleship to Christ is the path less traveled? Anyone who wants to follow Jesus must take up his cross to do so. The meaning of this verse is often lost on the mind of the modern reader, but in Jesus’ day, the listening audience would have understood the cross to be an instrument of execution. So, Jesus was saying that following Him could very well require a person to lay down his life in service to Him. And while we may not be required to lose our physical lives to follow Jesus, all people are required to crucify the old person of sin and unrighteousness, in order to be made new and to be born again

in spiritual purity (John 3:5-7; 2 Corinthians 5:17). The Apostle Paul wrote in Galatians 2:20, *“I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.”* Paul wrote this verse from the perspective of a person who had died to himself so he could live to Christ. That brings us back to what Jesus said in Matthew 16:24 and the difficulty associated with being His disciple. Jesus said if a person wishes to come after Him, he must deny himself. To deny yourself means to say “No” to yourself. We all struggle with doing this don’t we? Saying “No” to our own selfish will, lusts, desires and fears is not always an easy thing to

do. And yet, if we wish to follow Jesus, we must learn to do just that. We must be willing to sacrifice our will for God’s will, and do just exactly what He tells us, even if we don’t want to or don’t feel like it. We are required to sacrifice our time in order to serve Jesus every day, and to assemble with other Christians to worship Him. We must also sacrifice some of our money to help needy people and support the Lord’s work. If you want to follow Jesus to heaven, you must deny yourself, crucify your own will, and follow His teaching and example while on earth. That starts with crucifying and burying the old person of sin in baptism and arising to walk in newness of life (Romans 6:1-4). That blessed walk ends only when we depart this earth (Revelation 2:10).

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.