

Want to Know More?

Interested in understanding more about the Bible and God's plan of salvation for humanity? Please visit our website (www.jonesroadchurch.org) for the following resources.

- Audio Sermons
- Bible-based Articles
- Recordings of various classes, including an ongoing study of the book of Acts.
- We can also be found on Facebook (Jones Road Church of Christ) and Twitter (@jonesroadchurch). Email: study@jonesroadchurch.org

Please Join us for Bible Study and Worship

Sundays

9:30am - Bible Study

10:20am & 5pm - Worship

Wednesdays

7pm - Bible Study

Jones Road Church of Christ

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"Trust in the Lord with all your heart,
And lean not on your own understanding;
In all your ways acknowledge Him,
And He shall direct your paths.
Do not be wise in your own eyes;
Fear the Lord and depart from evil.
It will be health to your flesh,
And strength to your bones." Prov. 3:5-8



The Friendly Visitor

October 2017

"For a man to have friends, he must show himself friendly." Proverbs 18:24

Facebook Posts

By John R. Gibson

We are aware that some of you do not have access to Facebook, but if you do, please visit the Jones Road page and like it so that you can see our posts, view our short videos, learn about scheduled events, and have easy access to links we share. In this month's *Friendly Visitor* we are going to give you a sampling of the kind of material you will find on our homepage.



Though our culture increasingly seeks to normalize sin of every kind, we must remember the admonition of Isa. 5:20.

"Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil;
Who put darkness for light, and light for darkness;
Who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!"

The book of Lamentations reflects the sorrow of one whose city and nation have been destroyed, but in the midst of the weeping a powerful statement of faith is found in chapters 3:22-24, a reminder which can help us in our darkest hours.

"Through the Lord's mercies we are not consumed,
Because His compassions fail not.
They are new every morning;
Great is Your faithfulness.
'The Lord is my portion,' says my soul,
'Therefore I hope in Him!' "

(Continued on page 2)

“For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but **faith working through love**” (Gal. 5:6).

“Circumcision is nothing and uncircumcision is nothing, but **keeping the commandments of God** is what matters” (1 Cor. 7:19).

Comparing these two passages yields two indisputable conclusions:

1) Faith is not working unless we are keeping the commandments of God.

2) The keeping of those same commandments must be motivated by faith and love.

Eph. 2:4-9 emphasizes that we are saved by God’s grace, but notice that **before** being saved they/we “conducted ourselves in the lusts of the flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind” (Eph. 2:3). Don't miss the fact that grace is intended to deliver us from the fleshly ways of sin, not excuse them. If you have been led to believe God’s grace allows you to continue in the ways of the flesh, you have been misled.

In a moment of panic the disciples asked, “Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?” (Mark 4:38)

There may be a lot of things in this life we don’t understand, but because of His death on the cross, we can know with all certainty that if we perish it will not be because our Lord didn’t care. He died for us and now waits for us. He cares!

“The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.” 2 Pet. 3:9

“Have a blessed day.” I appreciate the sentiment of this common greeting, but did you know we can be assured of a blessed day? Because Jesus said, “It is more blessed to give than to receive” (Acts 20:35), we can all have a blessed day simply by doing good for others.

What kind of day will you have?

Two mistakes regarding sin and false doctrine:

- 1) Like the Pharisees, some find fault when no wrong has been done.
- 2) But others turn a blind eye to the perversions of God’s grace by false teachers.

“Now it happened on the second Sabbath after the first that He went through the grainfields. And His disciples plucked the heads of grain and ate them, rubbing them in their hands. And some of the Pharisees said to them, ‘Why are you doing what is not lawful to do on the Sabbath?’ ”

Luke 6:1-2

“Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints. For certain men have crept in unnoticed, who long ago were marked out for this condemnation, ungodly men, who turn the grace of our God into lewdness and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ.” Jude 1:3-4

Are we carefully guarding our words and actions?

“Then He said to the disciples, ‘It is impossible that no offenses should come, but woe to him through whom they do come! It would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were thrown in to the sea, than that he should offend one of these little ones.’ ” Luke 17:1-2

In the political realm we often hear about independents and undecideds, but in the spiritual realm these are completely unacceptable. Have we made our choice?

Jesus said, “He who is not with Me is against Me, and he who does not gather with Me scatters abroad.” Matt. 12:30

Faith is essential (Heb. 11:6), but Luke 18 cautions that our faith must not be in ourselves (18:9-14) or in our riches (18:24-25). Let’s not allow pride or materialism to keep us from a deep dependency on the One in whom we live, move, and have our being (Acts 17:28).

“And after some days, when Felix came with his wife Drusilla, who was Jewish, he sent for Paul and heard him concerning the faith in Christ. Now as he reasoned about righteousness, self-control, and the judgment to come, Felix was afraid and answered, ‘Go away for now; when I have a convenient time I will call for you.’ ” Acts 24:24-25

Are we truly preaching, teaching, and living “the faith in Christ” if we are not making people aware of God’s teachings on “righteousness” and “self-control,” while also warning of “judgment to come?” While this must be done with love and compassion, love alone does not produce the conviction of sin needed to bring people to the saving grace of God. Let’s be diligent to teach the whole counsel of God (Acts 20:27), with both its positive and negative” aspects.