

Eisenhower Church of Christ

Deadly Desires (Part 1)

When Peter wrote to Christians scattered and suffering persecution, he impressed upon them the importance of continuing to desire the Word of God. He noted its purity and called on the church to long for its truth as newborns desire milk (1 Peter 2:2). Peter followed up on the command with good reasoning. Christians should know the value of seeking God's Word because they have experienced the Lord's gracious provision (1 Peter 2:3). Everything we need is supplied by our wise and loving God (Philippians 4:19; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:3). Diligence in the Word is essential for our spiritual growth and development (Ps. 119:9-11; 2 Timothy 2:15). God has delivered to us the model of strong faithful living but refocusing on the proper desire requires us to turn away from the deadly desires of sin. Consider how God tells the church to lay aside these weaknesses to truly live after the Holy Word (1 Peter 2:1).

The phrase "laying aside" in verse one, means to set down or to put away. The picture is very much like one taking off an outer garment. We must put sinful desire away if we are truly desiring the Word. Christians make this decision repeatedly. We remove wicked desires when we obey the Gospel, choosing service to Jesus instead. However, Satan and those who have given themselves over to him will attempt to turn us from our purpose. A desire for God and His Word is often replaced in the heart of a Christian who begins to act like the world around him. This call to "lay aside" describes the maintenance of spiritual purity. We must put to death our earthly pursuits, refusing to be conformed to the world or to make friends with what God calls evil (Colossians 3:5-8; Romans 12:1-2; James 4:4).

First, we must lay aside all malice. This could be described as the desire to harm others. The same root word is present in the word malignant. If we allow this evil disposition to be present in our hearts, then we will never respond appropriately to our enemies. When someone insults or attacks us, we may want to respond in like manner. Our Lord has not called us to be avengers though. His doctrine, and the model He lived out, says to respond with good (Matthew 5:28-48). Rather than retaliation, God's Word promotes living peaceably (1 Peter 3:8-9; Romans 12:17-18).

Second, we must lay aside all deceit. This could be described as the desire to cheat or trick others. Often translated as "guile" or "craft" in the KJV, this same term is used of those who sought to take Jesus by subtlety and kill Him (Matthew 26:4; Mark 14:1). Interestingly, Peter declared the Lord to be free of this evil desire in the very same chapter we are told to lay it aside (1 Peter 2:22; Isaiah 53:9). Our enemy, the devil, is presented in Scripture as a cunning trickster: The very name,

Satan, means “adversary.” It is time we realized, to desire to deceive is to desire to be devilish Genesis 3:1-13; John 8:44)! Rather than deception, God’s Word promotes honorably walking in truth (1 Peter 3:10-12; 3 John 1:4).

—John Haffner
(Part 2 next week)

Sympathy

Our sympathy goes out to Mac Deaver and his family on the loss of his wife, **June**. June lost her battle with cancer on Friday, July 30th. Mac is the preacher at the Sheffield church of Christ. Keep him and his family in your prayers.

Prayer Request

Jana Martin (Jeff Wesson’s sister) had her appendix removed last Sunday in San Antonio. Prayers were requested for a successful surgery.

Bryn Berry (granddaughter of Bill & Vickie Ryan) is being treated for the Covid virus.

Concerns Update

Terresia Weaver had her first chemo treatment on July 28th. All went well and she is feeling good. Her next one is August 11th.

Prayer List

Wayne Anderson; Nola Beckham; Betty Branson; Bill & Mary Brown; LaDonna Chism; Casey Devito; Catherine Eastwood; Dana Erwin; Briana Fuentes; Hattie Gilmore; Paul Gunn; Cody Guynn; Doug Guynn; Vertie Howard; John & Belinda Katon; Mildred Lee; Betty Leeth; Alex Martinez; Glenna McCarty; Melissa Moore; Juan & Estella Morolez; Bruce & Trina Plyler; Jackie Rex; Cynthia Schulze; Jackie Schulze; Shane and Nicole Sweeten; Velma Tolbert; Marilyn Upshaw; Terresia Weaver; Janet Wesson; Charles Wood; John Wood.

Eisenhower’s Shut-ins

Dusty and Kathy Marshall; Janelle Shirley and Marilyn Upshaw.

Youth

Bible Quiz Question ... (Question)

What is it that is “sown in weakness” but “raised in power” at the coming of Christ?

Last Week’s Bible Quiz Answer...

When Jesus told the Jews, “Before Abraham was, I AM,” They tried to stone Him, but He left the temple (b) through the middle of the crowd.

Events Watch “*In Search of the Lord’s Way*” Sunday mornings at 7:30 am on KWES TV

Family Night

We will have a “**Family Night**” this evening in the Annex. Please bring homemade ice cream and sandwiches or both. Visitors are welcome.

“Illegal Citizens”

One of the major controversies in our country is what to do about the many who are in this country illegally. We do have laws that tell how one can become an American Citizen, but some choose not to obey the rules. Thus, they remain illegal but at the same time they are able to enjoy most or all the benefits of being a true citizen. It seems everybody hates the U.S. but given a chance, they want to come here.

Our politicians seem to be totally perplexed by the situation. Some want to give all of them amnesty and make them full citizens. Others want to “round ‘em up and head ‘em out” to their own country.

This whole situation reminds me of those who want to go to heaven, but don’t want to follow the “rules” which Christ set down for becoming a “citizen” of His kingdom. Many prefer to make up their own “rules” for heavenly citizenship—thus they feel they can enjoy the benefits without fuss or bother. The scribes and Pharisees were like that, and Jesus called them hypocrites, serpents, blind guides and murderers (Matthew 23:13-35).

One example of changing Jesus’ “rules” is the teaching that repeating the “sinner’s prayer” is all one needs to do to go to heaven. Never mind the fact that neither Christ nor His apostles ever told anyone that was what to do to be saved. Jesus stated that only those who do His Father’s will can enter the kingdom (Matthew 7:21).

Jesus said, “if you love Me, keep My commandments” (John 14:15). If there are commandments (rules) for being a Christian, then we **MUST** follow those rules if we want to be a true citizen. Those rules are in the New Testament not in some man’s notion or some decision made by a council or convention of delegates.

Christ is King. He has all authority (Matthew 28:18). He is neither perplexed by what He gave as rules for citizenship” in heaven, or what to do with “illegal Christians.” As the righteous Judge He knows who is a “true” citizen of His kingdom and who is not.

I would not count on amnesty on the **Day of Judgment!**

—John K. Wills
Owingsville church of Christ
Owingsville, KY

August 8, 2021
Announcements

A.M.
Larry May

P.M.
Larry May

Song Leader	Oliver Hernandez	Craig Wesson
Sermon	Allen Weakland	Allen Weakland
Opening Prayer	Larry May	Larry May
Scripture	Jr. Munoz	David Ryan
Second Prayer	Jacob Carson	Gary Loving
Closing Prayer	Don Easlon	Charles Wood

Lords Supper		Cody Wesson
<u>Scripture Reading:</u>	<u>Jacob Carson</u>	Communion
	Bill Ryan	(In Library)
	Richard Siler	
	Tom Sorenson	

Other Responsibilities: *Elder:* Larry May 638-3990— *Deacon:* Don Easlon 288-5834—
Pulpit: Scot Straw 288-4533 — *Table:* Cody Wesson 934-4646— *Song Leaders:* Larry
May 638-3990— *Recording Sermons:* Rudy Ochoa 214-0398 — *Collections:* Scot Straw
288-4533

Sunday AM

“Lovest Thou Me More than These?”
(John 21:15-19)

Sunday PM

“They Have No Roots in Them”
(Mark 4:1-9)

Records

Bible Class... 57
Morning Worship...77
Evening Worship...52
Wednesday...NC
Contribution...\$4,824.00