

Reflections

Volume 1 Issue 5

A Weekly Publication Of The Pine Street Church Of Christ

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Pine Street
CHURCH OF CHRIST
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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.

Is It The Soil Or The Kind Of Seed?

By Jeremy D. Joy

Evangelism in the twenty-first century is hard because our culture has become more secular and less spiritual. People have no use for God or religion. As a result, it seems that evangelism is unsuccessful, but is it entirely because of poor soil?

When Paul evangelized the pagan city of Corinth, he did not rely upon his eloquence or on Greek philosophy to convince his listeners. Instead, he presented "the testimony of God," which was being revealed by the Holy Spirit. "And I, brethren, when I came to you, did not come with excellence of speech or of wisdom declaring to you the testimony of God. For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified" (1 Corinthians 2:1-2). Jesus was the focal point of his preaching.

The teaching of Jesus emphasized the importance of humility if one is to be great in the kingdom, but why is it essential.

Perhaps our lack of success in evangelism is because of the type of seed we are sowing. Based upon personal observation, much of our preaching is issue-oriented with the intent of winning an argument and not necessarily winning



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

a soul. We build a straw man, tear him down, and then congratulate one another on standing for the truth. It is not likely that we will convert someone to Jesus simply by our expert analysis of an issue although we may win him to "our" point of view.

We need to imitate the preaching of Paul, which emphasized the cross of Christ, because it can save (1 Corinthians 1:18). Perhaps we need to reconsider the kind of message that we are preaching if we are to be more successful in evangelism. We should have learned that much from our Gospel Meeting last week.

There is a time and place for hashing out doctrine, but we must remember that it is

Who Is The Greatest?

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Fans passionately debate who is the greatest player in a certain sport—and there is no shortage of opinions. We may judge a player based upon a number of criteria including his personal accomplishments as well as the success of his team.

In the kingdom of God, the criteria for greatness is unmistakably clear, but it is not what you might think. Power, popularity, possessions, and prestige may win some votes, but it does not necessarily indicate the favor of God.

As Jesus ended His ministry in the region of Galilee, the disciples argued over who is the greatest in the kingdom of God. Matthew records the response of Jesus in the fourth of five discourses in the Gospel (Matthew 18:1-35). The teaching of Jesus emphasized the importance of humility if one is to be great in the kingdom, but why is it essential?

- For entrance into the kingdom (vv 2-3).
- For greatness in the kingdom (v 4).
- To prevent offenses (vv 5-11).
- To carry out proper discipline (vv 5-20).
- For forgiving one another (vv 21-35).

In each instance, humility enables one to submit to the will of God and serve others whereas pride, the opposite of humility, prevents one from true service. It is a sign of greatness because it reveals that we are sensitive to the needs of others and are willing to stoop to the level of a servant like Jesus who washed the feet of His disciples as an example for us (John 13:1-17).

We must assess our attitudes and actions toward others. "Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others" (Philippians 2:3-4).

Pine Street News And Notes

Members of our church family who are sick and in need of our prayers: **Judy Haught** will have a heart valve replacement on Tuesday...**Melinda Koontz** is at home recovering from surgery...**Wanda Rockwell** is at home recovering from surgery.

Others who are sick and in need of our prayers: **Crystal Shockley's** sister will be having surgery to remove some cancer from her nose.

Thanks to everyone who worked to make our Spring Gospel Meeting a success. Let's continue to build on what was

accomplished.

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

Jeremy will be preaching a "sermon in song" this evening.

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

Is there someone who needs help or encouragement? Look for opportunities to practice humility and serve others.

The Scripture reading today is: Psalm 119:33-40.