

“WHAT ARE YOU LIVING FOR?”

A man had the good fortune and insight to take a chance with a credit card company in the Baltimore area several decades ago. He retired a wealthy, high ranking executive. In the course of his career, he put together a streak so impressive-35 years in which he never missed a day of work-that "Iron Man" Cal Ripken, Jr., wrote him a letter commending him for it.

When he retired, the company gave him a classic car as well as many other lavish gifts. He had a great many benefits and perks, the admiration of peers and competitors, resort townhouses, and considerable wealth. But, one day very soon after he retired his life was dramatically changed after a visit to the doctor. He had an aggressive form of cancer. A few months later he was dead.

This is not a commentary on the morality or priorities of the man. I know nothing about either. His story points out that his well-laid plans and successful career could not delay the inevitable end result common to every man. It should also provoke a question. What are we living for? Is our identity tied to our career? Do we want to be known as the life of the party? Is it all about travel and adventure? Does life revolve around going to the river, campground, fishing-hole, beach, or mountains? Is it sports, shopping, spending, or spirituality?

Of necessity, all of us have a central focus. It is the thing that forms the bull's eye we repeatedly find ourselves aiming at. Too many times, something becomes the thing in "first place" over Christianity. Colossians 1:18 reminds us Christ must come to have first place. When it comes to our jobs, Jesus must take first place. When it comes to our recreation, same thing. When it comes to relationships, He deserves primary position. Whatever we say or do, Jesus must be at the forefront. He wants that we may invest in the wrong kind of treasure rather than the true riches (Mat. 6:19-21). He admonishes us to seek the kingdom first over "**things**" (Mat. 6:33). He warns against choosing family members over Himself (Mat. 10:37).

When life draws to a close, we will be confronted by the reality of what we made first place. Certainly, when we cross into eternity, there will be no denying, rationalizing, debating, or arguing what our "bull's eye" was. But, in our heart of hearts, don't we all know what's most important to us right now? It's what occupies the greatest amount of our interest, time, energy, emotion, and effort. It is what we live for. When we die, will what we live for help us live eternally or be the cause of eternal death (cf. Rev. 21:8)? Let's hear Paul's encouragement to "**set your affection on things above and not on things of the earth**" (Col. 3:2). DP

The Salisbury Beacon

Salisbury Church of Christ

3322 Old Ocean City Road,
Salisbury, MD 21804

<http://churchofchristsalisbury.org>

Doug Post, Minister

410-742-4831

Office Hours: Tues–Thurs. 10AM–2PM

FEBRUARY 28, 2016

WELCOME TO OUR FAMILY

Dear friends – we appreciate your willingness to worship God with us this Lord's Day! If you would like more information about the Church of Christ, or if we may assist you in other ways, please let us know. Come and be part of our family – the Salisbury Church of Christ

Please fill out a Visitor's Card and place it in the collection plate

Order of Our Worship

ANNOUNCEMENTS & OPENING PRAYER

SONG #545 A Wonderful Savior

SONG #556 The Church's One Foundation

PRAYER

SCRIPTURE – LUKE 5:27-32

SONG # 707 On Bended Knee

LORD'S SUPPER

CONTRIBUTION

SONG # 218 In Moments Like These

SERMON: "WHO IS YOUR ONE?"

SONG # 364 I Gave My Life for Thee

SONG # 5 Step By Step

CLOSING PRAYER

FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRAYER CONCERNS

LET US PRAY FOR: Church Growth: Pray for both spiritual and numerical growth of our church. Debbie Post, Stella Reidy, Jack Callaway, Sharon Travi, Lavinda Mason, Delores Price, Katie Gray, Flossie Hull, Barbara Kuykendall, John Tillman, Paul Marchesault, Marilyn Artis, Linda Alaban, Florence Tucker, George & Lynette Bell, the Jones/Dale family, the Gibson family, Larry Laten, Prince Ituen and all missionaries and military personnel serving overseas.

- **Wilma Duke's** sister in Indianapolis passed away on Thursday. Please keep Wilma, Herman, and her family in your prayers during this time, and for safe travels.
- **Ethel Dickerson** will be having an outpatient procedure/examination done on March 2. Please keep Ethel in your prayers.
- **Elaine Bradley** has asked that we keep her son, Bruce Lauder, in our prayers as he deals with his substance addiction
- **Ray Maddox** has not been feeling well. Please remember him in your prayers.
- **Judy Willey** will be traveling to Texas 2/19 to 2/22 to be with her mother who is waiting for test results for breast cancer. Please keep both Judy and her mother in your prayers.
- **Ruth Bank's** brother passed away after being involved an accident. Please keep Ruth and her family in your prayers, that they all will be comforted by the God of all comfort.
- **Mary Callaway** - We are saddened at the loss of our sister, Mary Callaway. Please keep the Callaway family in your prayers as they mourn for their loss. We pray the Lord with strengthen them all – *“But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus”* (1 Thess.4:13-14).

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

February 28 (Sunday) Evangelism Committee Meeting

March 6 (Sunday) Pot Luck

March 12 (Saturday) Ladies Bible Class

March 13 (Sunday) Daylight Savings Time (Spring Ahead).

April 17 (Sunday - Wednesday) Gospel Meeting with Jerry Brewer & Song Service

April 23, 2016 (Saturday) – Ladies Day, Laurel church of Christ

GOSPEL MEETING APRIL 17 – 20

Sunday 10 AM & Mon. – Wed 7 PM

ETERNITY! ARE YOU READY?

“Return to Me and I will return to you”- God!

“GOD SAID”

“GOD SAID” is the Basis of acceptable worship: Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews. But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth. (John 4:22–24). Truth is essential for all acceptable worship. God said is the basis of the Truth that must direct all acceptable worship (John 17:17).

If one cannot know God without revelation (and he cannot), then it also follows that one cannot worship God acceptably without the Truth that comes by revelation. The Samaritans worshiped God, but it was not acceptable, because it was based on partial revelation. One's worship must be spiritual—from man's own spirit, and it must be as the Truth of the Gospel directs. God said is therefore the basis of all acceptable worship. Some brethren today need to reconsider this fundamental Truth. This will stop some of the foolish and hurtful things that take place in worship today. God said is the basis of all acceptable “religious experience”: **Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints** (Jude 3). Jude speaks of “contending for the faith”—that is, objective faith [the gospel], the written revelation, upon which one's personal [subjective] faith must rest.

Any “religious experience” not based upon what God has said is false. One's “religious experience” must be tested by what “God said,” not by what one thinks God says through a “religious experience.” Testing what God says by one's “religious experience” today is the basis of false religion. Abraham had a “religious experience,” but it was based upon what “God said” (Gen. 22:1–13). Salvation is a “religious experience,” but it must be based upon what “God said.” Worship is a “religious experience,” but it must be based upon what “God said” (Acts 17). The Athenians were having a “religious experience,” but it was not acceptable unto God, because it was not based upon revelation. One can find people gathered everywhere in worship going through some kind of “experience,” but this does not mean that that experience is acceptable to God. Every “religious experience” one has must be in harmony with what the Bible teaches and must rest upon what “God said.” When one has some kind of “experience” unknown to the Bible, that “experience” is false and deceptive and not accepted by God. It is time for men to turn back to the Bible and to find out what it teaches and then act upon it. The action then will be an “experience” that harmonizes with what “God said.” This will be acceptable unto God. Nothing else is or can be. —*Franklin Camp Deceased*

When the Saints Meet Here in Salisbury

Sunday Bible Study – 9:30 AM Sunday Worship – 10:30 AM
Wednesday Bible Study – 6pm