



“SACRIFICING FOR GOD”

Life is full of choices, some of which are not easy to make. As followers of Christ, there are times when doing the right thing requires not doing (or sometimes not having) certain other things. When we face such choices, it is usually a waste of time to try to figure how to have it both ways. The

fact is, we should be willing to give up some things for the Lord. We live in a bountiful society where we are surrounded by good things that are very interesting. It is easy to fall into the trap of thinking that we have a right to have and do all that we want, and that there must be some way to have it all and do it all without hurting our spiritual priorities. Such is not the case, however. There is simply too much out there. No Christian can have everything and do everything that strikes his or her fancy and still have the resources left over that the Lord’s work deserves. Some choices have to be made. Some things have to be let go. Someone has said that the good is often the enemy of the best. It is certainly so in matters that relate to eternity. If our heart is not so fully set on heaven that we are willing to relinquish anything, however good, in order to get there, it is not likely that we will get there. Receiving the best (heaven) often requires a willingness to sacrifice that which is merely good (this world’s pleasures). Jesus said, “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God” (Mt. 5:8). This means not only that we must purge our minds of anything dirty; it means we must sacrifice any concern, even if it is good, that gets in the way of our wholehearted pursuit of God. Jesus made the point clearly in Mt. 16:25 when He said, “For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.” If we had to choose between heaven and our physical life, we should be willing to let go of even such a precious thing as our life! We must think like Paul who said, “Nor do I count my life dear to myself” (Acts 20:24 NKJV). This week, as we meditate on the Lord’s word, let’s concentrate on the concept of sacrifice. Let’s see if we can’t get a fresh understanding of the notion of “letting go” of activities and priorities that hinder our full dedication to the Lord and His work. It is vital for us and our children. DP FOR STUDY & REFLECTION

(MONDAY) Matthew 16:24-26 – Key Idea: Sometimes we have to make a choice between the Lord and other things. Questions for Growth: What did the Lord mean when He said that we must “deny” ourselves? What are some ways we might “save” our lives instead of giving them up for the Lord? If we refused to let them go, what would these things “profit” us? Wisdom for the Day: Proverbs 12:11.

(TUESDAY) Luke 18:18-25 – Key Idea: We cannot serve Christ if the things we possess mean more to us. Questions for Growth: Think carefully: what was the “one thing” the rich young ruler lacked in order to serve the Lord? Why would he not do such a thing? How can we tell if we are developing the same kind of attitude? Wisdom for the Day: Proverbs 12:12-14.

(THURSDAY) 2 Samuel 24:18-25 – Key Idea: What we give to the Lord should “cost” us something. Questions for Growth: Why would David not accept the things that Araunah wanted to give him for the sacrifice? What does the word “sacrifice” really mean? What are some things that we may sacrifice today? Wisdom for the Day: Proverbs 12:15-16.

(FRIDAY) 2 Corinthians 8:1-5 – Key Idea: We will sacrifice anything we possess if we have first given ourselves to the Lord. Questions for Growth: What good work did the Macedonians want to help out with? Why might they have been excused from helping? What does it mean, in practical terms, to give “ourselves” to the Lord? Wisdom for the Day: Proverbs 12:17-22.

The Salisbury Beacon

Salisbury Church of Christ

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Douglas Post, Minister

410-742-4831

Office Hours: Tues-Thurs. 10AM-2PM

MAY 22, 2016

WELCOME TO OUR FAMILY

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.

BECOME A MEMBER 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 # 506 – GLORY TO HIS NAME

**SONG # 454 – OUR HEAVENLY FATHER UNDERSTANDS
PRAYER**

SCRIPTURE – DANIEL 4:1-9

SONG # 371 – WHEN WE MEET

LORD’S SUPPER

CONTRIBUTION

SONG # 456 – I’LL LIVE FOR HIM

SERMON: “OFF THE WALL”

SONG # 588 – I HEARD THE VOICE

SONG # 839 – BEAUTIFUL ISLE OF SOMEWHERE

CLOSING PRAYER

NEWS, NOTES & PRAYERS

LET US PRAY FOR: Ida Laramore (Judy Willie’s mother); Jimmy McMillon, Stella Reidy, Wilma Duke’s mother (dementia), Geri Plourde (cancer), Jenn Striecker (cancer), Jack Callaway, Katie Gray, Flossie Hull, Barbara Kuykendall, John Tillman, Paul Marchesault, Marilyn Artis, Linda Alaban, Florence Tucker, the

Jones/Dale family, the Gibson family, Larry Laten, Prince Ituen and all missionaries and military personnel serving overseas.

- Ken and Nancy Watson, friends of Bob & Diane, lost their daughter, Karen on Mother's Day. They are attending the funeral. Please pray for the Watson family and for a safe trip for Bob & Diane.
- The Dukes are traveling to be with Wilma's mother. Please pray for her mother and for their safe travels.
- Kronewitters are traveling to Florida. Please pray for a safe trip and return.
- Doug Post will be speaking at the Bellview Lectureship, Pensacola, FL – June 10-14.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

May 22 (Sunday) Evangelism Meeting (15 minutes)

June 4 (Saturday) Ladies Bible Class

June 5 (Sunday) Pot Luck

RECORDS YOU HELPED MAKE LAST WEEK

Sunday Bible Classes

Sunday AM Worship

Wednesday Bible Class

Contribution \$845.00

Contribution average (2016) \$1,061.32

THOSE WHO SERVE - SUNDAY, MAY 22, 2016

Announcements & Opening Prayer:

Song Leader/Closing Prayer: Kevin Kronewitter

Prayer & Scripture: Roland Pepper

Lord's Supper: Jerry Marvel

Assisting:

SERMON PREVIEW

MAY 29: Sizing up Satan

JUNE 5:

WHEN THE SAINTS MEET HERE IN SALISBURY

Sunday Bible Study – 9:30 AM Sunday Worship – 10:30 AM

Wednesday Bible Study – 6 PM

“WHY GO TO CHURCH?”

A person wrote a letter to the editor of a newspaper, complaining about “going to church” every Sunday. “I’ve gone for 30 years now,” he wrote, “and in that time I have heard something like 3,000 sermons. But for the life of me, I can’t remember a single one of them. So, I think I’m wasting my time and the preachers are wasting theirs by giving sermons at all.” This started a controversy in the “Letters to the Editor” column. It went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher: “I’ve been married for 30 years now. In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. But, for the life of me, I cannot recall the entire menu for a single one of those meals. But I do know this. They all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me these meals, I would be physically dead today. Likewise, if I had not gone to church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today!”

The New Testament emphasizes the importance of local assemblies. It was the pattern of Paul's ministry to establish local congregations in the cities where he preached the gospel. Hebrews 10:24-25 commands every believer to be a part of such a local body and reveals why this is necessary: “And let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more, as you see the day drawing near. It is in the local body that a level of intimacy can be found to carefully stimulate fellow-believers “to love and good deeds.” It is in this setting that we can encourage one another collectively. The New Testament teaches that every believer is to be under the protection and nurture of the leadership (elders) of the local church. These godly men can shepherd the believer by encouraging, admonishing, and teaching. Hebrews 13:7 and 17 help us to understand that God has graciously granted accountability to us through godly leadership.

Concerning public meetings, Paul wrote: “Until I come, give attention to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation and teaching” (1 Timothy 4:13). Part of the emphasis in public worship includes these three things: hearing the Word, being called to obedience and action through exhortation, and teaching. It is only in the context of the local assembly that these things can most effectively take place. The early church came together. “They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer” (Acts 2:42). They came together (1) to learn and apply the word (2) to carry out love and service to one another (3) to commemorate the Lord's death through the breaking of bread; and prayer. God desires assembling together. 1 Corinthians 11:18 says in part: “when you come together in assembly” (“church”). An assembly demands all the constituent parts assembling together. 1 Corinthians 11:20 says: “When you come together in one place.” 1 Corinthians 14:23 literally says: “When the assembly gathers together whole in one place.” All of these are in the “imperative mood” which means they are actually commands. There will always be those who will argue with God and His Word, but the Bible clearly teaches the necessity of coming together in one place on the first day of the week. Sadly, the real reason folks do not want come together – they simply do not want to! DP