

**MEADOWBROOK BAPTIST CHURCH**

Worship this Sunday April 30 9:00 AM

Sanctuary and Parking Area

For Information

meadowbrookbaptist.cc   bmarcaurelle@charter.net

Seven days without Church makes One Weak. I Hope to see you Sunday. Remember, Preachers are on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week and make house calls at no charge. I'm always here if you need me. Preacher Bob

**IF YOU DON'T LIKE HYPOCRITES**

**"You hypocrites-you shut to door to the Kingdom of Heaven in other people's faces and you yourselves don't go in."  
(Jesus, in Matt. 23:13-14)**

**"You teach others-why don't you teach yourself. You preach, Do not steal, but do you steal? / "You do the very thing for which you pass judgment on others. (Romans 2:21f; 1;24 Paul, the former Pharisee)**

The best description of a hypocrite is from Mark Twain's wife. She wanted to break him from cursing, so one day, she memorized a lot of curse words; walked up and said every one out loud. Twain said, "Honey - you got the words right, but your heart wasn't in it."

If you don't like hypocrites, you are in good company. You and Jesus feel the same way. The people in the Jewish Church who had 612 rules they claimed to live by, were the very ones, most responsible for having Him killed. He told them their rules were not from God and he ignored them. If someone needed healing on the Sabbath, He healed them on the Sabbath, and broke their loveless rule.

They made plans to have him killed for this (John 5) and when He called them "hypocrites" a few months later, (Matthew 6) they were

consumed with hatred for Him. They hounded Him all the way to the cross and while He was hanging on the cross. By the term hypocrite, Jesus meant they were "actors" *playing a part*. They were pretending to be good and religious. He said, "Everything they do, is just to show off in front of others." (Matthew 23:4)

In the first church service in the Bible, half the congregation was made up of hypocrites. Rebuked by God, Cain, all dressed up in his Sunday best, stormed out of church and then killed his brother, Abel, for no reason. (Gen. 4)

When people point out the fact of hypocrites, I always say, "If you were the devil, where would you put your best workers, to do the most harm to the church - you would put them in the churches." One foul mouthed or unkind or dishonest deacon or Sunday School teacher or preacher, can do more harm for the cause of Christ than ten thousand drunks and ten thousand atheists put together.

The only "church-going..blessing-saying..etc" person in my family was my Uncle. He made moonshine; he put his wife in the hospital with his fists, he treated me and my sick mother like dirt and worst of all he went to church with a Bible in one pocket and a bottle of whiskey in the other. After church he and a friend, from church, got drunk together.

When I went forward and gave my life and my sins to Christ, he was on my mind. I was saying, "Lord, I don't want to be like Uncle \_\_\_\_\_. I want to be the real deal." If I had let him keep me from Christ, he and I would probably end up in hell together forever. {The ultimate punishment would be having him for a roommate.} Revelation 22:11 says, "Let him who is filthy keep on being filthy." That is what hell is!