

MEADOWBROOK BAPTIST CHURCH

Worship This Sunday

May 21, 2023 ~ 9:00 AM

In the Sanctuary or Parking Area

Message: *IN THE RING WITH THE DEVIL*

On YouTube Later

meadowbrookbaptist.cc

For free Newsletters and Bible studies see
bmarcaurelle@charter.net for a catalog.

OUR GIVING THROUGH APRIL

Needed: \$45,937

Received \$40,433

Spent \$40 354

WORK AT BETHEL

If you would like to help with clean-up at Bethel for an hour or two, be there between 9:00 – 12:00 this Friday AM.

DEALING WITH CRITISISM

CRITICS GOOD AND BAD

"When respond gently when bad things are said about us." {1 Cor. 4:9-13}

John 18:19-23 One night at 11 PM I was about to get in bed when the phone rang. There had been a wreck and one of my members was in the ER, I rushed there and for two hours I was a model of the faithful pastor - talking to family members; to the injured person; to doctors; to nurses; and to people in the waiting room.

Getting home about 3 AM I went to brush my teeth, looked in the mirror and yelled, "Geronimo!" On the right side of my nose was a black, sticky glob of "medicine" that opened boils. I thought I looked like the picture of a good Pastor, when I really looked like a clown.

I needed help. I should have listened to my wife, and *looked in the mirror* before I went out. I also needed someone *who cared* who would take me aside and tell me. I could have used someone who *didn't like me* to point it out and laugh. There is positive criticism given to help and negative criticism given to hurt and we don't want or like either one.

Criticism is like bad tasting medicine - we don't like it or want it, but it is good for us.

BLIND SPOTS

'How can I know the sins in my heart? Cleanse me from these hidden faults.' / "O Lord / You know everything about me. / Search me O God and know my heart. Test me and know my thoughts. Point out anything to me that offends you and lead me in the everlasting way."

{Psalm 19:12 / 139: 1, 23-24}

Galatians 2:11-16 We need criticism because we are blind to our faults. We are experts at hiding who we really are from others and from ourselves. Comparing ourselves with others we say things like: You are *stubborn* but I have *convictions*. You are *stingy* but I am *thrifty*. You are *cowardly* but I am *cautious*.

To see the real "us" we need to *know the Bible*. It is a "living" Book that "**discerns the intents and purposes of our heart.**" (Heb 4:12) We need to spend time alone *in prayer with God* (Isa. 6) because:

We can fool all the people some of the time. We can fool some of the people all the time, but, we cannot fool God any of the time.

We should listen to *our friends*. Peter was brave enough to go against the "big shots" in Jerusalem by allowing Gentiles into the church without adopting Jewish rituals. (Acts