

The Devil's Favorite Sermons

The devil does not mind preaching that much. In fact, there are sermons that he likes. Since the power is in the Word (Romans 1:16; Hebrews 4:12), he only fears sermons that effectively communicate Scripture. When the scriptures that are employed are taken out of context or misapplied (2 Peter 3:16), he likes the sermon very much. When more attention is paid to drawing a large crowd than to preaching sound doctrine (Titus 2:1), he can sit happily through the sermon.

When the theatrical presentation supersedes the sermon's content, he knows the "great swelling words of emptiness" are merely clouds without water (2 Peter 2:18; Jude 1:12–13; Matthew 23:5). When the church with feigned words "makes merchandise" of those attending, he likes the church service quite well (2 Peter 2:3).

The devil likes weak preaching. Weak preaching is dangerous.

Weak preaching leads to a lack of conversions. A non-gospel preacher cannot bring men to Christ when he deletes the power from his sermon (Romans 1:16). It is tragic for lost souls who desperately need to hear the gospel (Mark 16:15–16) to leave a meeting or worship service without knowing that they are lost and how to be saved. The souls of men are at stake. If gospel preaching saves (1 Corinthians 1:18), then non-gospel preaching condemns. Let us "preach the word" (2 Timothy 4:2). Abraham spoke from Paradise to say, "They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them" (Luke 16:29). Preachers today have Moses, the prophets, and the apostles, so they should "let them hear them"! (Romans 10:14).

Weak preaching causes weakened faith. Christians are built up by a steady and strong diet of the Word (Acts 2:42; Hebrews 5:12–14). If they are not fed, how long will they remain healthy?

Weak preaching eventually leads to church problems. The reason churches are being torn apart by false doctrine today is a lack of distinctive preaching yesterday. When "What Can I Do to Improve My Self-Esteem?" replaces "What Must I Do to Be Saved?" it is only a matter of time. When doctrinal sermons on fundamental issues are old-fashioned, it will not be long until women are put in leadership roles, instruments are used in the early service, and the Lord's Supper is taken once a month. Since sincere people do better when they are taught better, the best preventive for church problems is a strong pulpit.

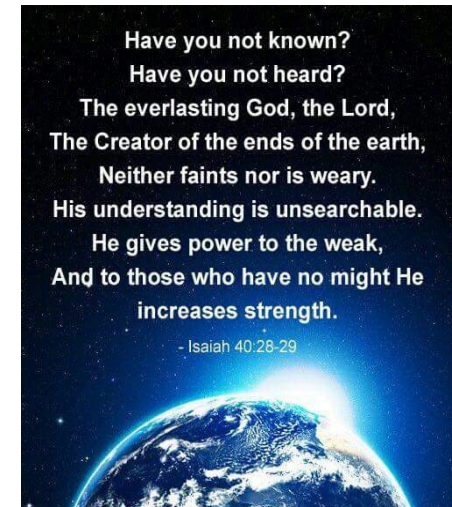
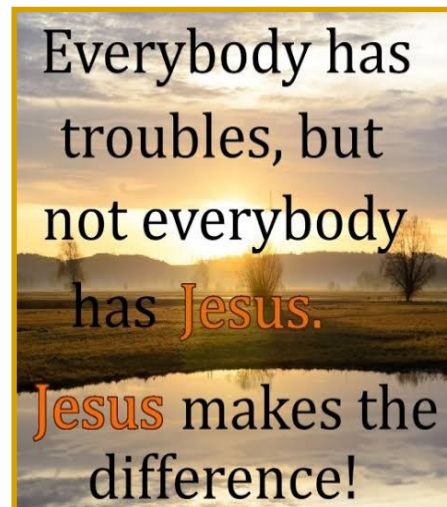
Weak preaching causes confusion and misunderstandings. When uncertain sounds (1 Corinthians 14:7–10) come from the bugle, an army panics. Weak preaching makes weak Christians. Weak Christians walk out of meeting house doors unequipped to cope with the god of this world. Confused Christians are unprepared to meet the false doctrine of the denominational world.

(continued next week)

Prayers and Concerns

- ♦ Lisa Goodnight was diagnosed with a brain tumor Monday. It is located behind her ear and not inside her brain. She was released Wednesday to a friend's house to wait for surgery in Little Rock.
- ♦ Kevn Kastning was without oxygen when he was out of power for 24 hours. He has been in Baxter in ICU on a ventilator.
- ♦ Melinda has been diagnosed with a migraine variant that leaves her weak and high blood pressure.
- ♦ Sympathy is extended to the Goodman and Lane families after the death of Tristan's father Frankie Goodman. His service will be Thursday the 23rd at 10 a.m. at Clinkingbeard's. We will have lunch for the family at 11:30 here.
- ♦ Randy Johnson had back surgery Friday to remove hardware.
- ♦ Bill Cockrum (Lana) has been fighting with the insurance company about covering the needed back surgery.
- ♦ Remember those with health issues—Barbara Stevens, Larry Butler, Aleta Collins, Lloyd Ellis, Ruth Strain, Coe Hamm, Vicki Boland.
- ♦ All those battling cancer—Dale Strong, Terry Pennington, Pat McKaig, Jamie Crisp, Ricky Langston, Lisa Langston, Tiffany Pleasant, Amy Myers, Don Luna, Wayman King, Donna Shipley, Elaine Hunter (Larry's sister), Dawn (Chris Lemburg's sister), Jana Crisp, Richard Blackburn, Sharon Fox, Bill Agee, Joy Cutbirth, Dan Harvey.
- ♦ GHCC: Virginia Hambelton, Delphia Holmes, Clifford Lansdown at Hiram Shaddox; Wilbern Uchtman at Brook Haven.
- ♦ Homebound: Vernon James, Steve Siebels, Mary Piepergerdes.

Come sing with us at the nursing home today at 1:30.



Birthdays		Anniversaries	
7-3	Ronnie Hambelton (80)	7-1	Larry and Dorlene Butler
7-8	Emma McGinnis	7-4	David and Barbara Stevens (57)
7-9	Bryce Hambelton	7-10	Dale and Brenda Strong (61)
7-13	Oakley Goodman (5)	7-15	Titus and Jessica Smith
7-23	Diana Moyers-Siebels	Birthdays	
7-27	Mary Piepergerdes	7-30	Esther Strong
7-28	Myles Smith (5)		

Date	Event	Details
TODAY 1:30 p.m.	Nursing Home Service singing and devotional	Meet in dining room
Wednesday	Ladies' Bible Class	Skipping to Chapter 8
Thursday 11:30	Funeral luncheon	Luncheon for Goodman/ Lane families
Sunday, Aug. 16 & Oct. 18, 1:30	Nursing Home Service singing and devotional	Meet in dining room

I know Jesus is
real because
I've seen the
difference
between me
with Him and
me without
Him.

"I have been crucified
with Christ and I
no longer live, but
Christ lives in me. The
life I now live in the
body, I live by faith in
the Son of God, who
loved me and gave
Himself for me."

GALATIANS 2:20

July Worship Assignments

Welcome & Shepherd's Prayer

7-19 Mark Lane
7-26 Don Luna

Communion & Closing Prayer

Don Reynolds
Paul Wade

Song Leader: Titus Smith
Greeters: Kay Young and Mary Lou Snelson

The Family News

July 19, 2026

Gainesville Church of Christ

PO Box 7, 23550 US Hwy. 160, Gainesville, MO 65655

www.gainesvillechurchofchrist.org

A Place to Call Home

We welcome you and are so glad you could worship with us today.

Schedule of Services

Sunday

9:30 a.m. Bible Classes for All Ages

10:30 a.m. Worship Service: ***The Difference Jesus Makes***

Wednesday

7 p.m. Bible Classes for all ages

Sunday Worship Outline

Welcome and Shepherd's Prayer

Kids Singing up front

#166, *He's My King*; #453, *Love Lifted Me*

#327, *All Because of God's Amazing Grace*; Communion Service

#638, *Harvest Time*

Sermon and Invitation

#947, *Jesus Is Tenderly Calling*

#699, *I'll Be a Friend to Jesus*; Closing Prayer

Offering baskets are located at the back.

*We are a community of redeemed sinners who are
following Jesus Christ, proclaiming the gospel of grace,
loving our Lord and one another.*

Elders

Mark Lane 417-679-4835
Don Luna 417-712-1945
David Stevens 417-679-4700
John Abraham 870-421-5632

Deacons

Dana Crisp 417-331-5090
James Langston 870-315-4355

Preacher

Halbert Smith 417-257-3880

Ministers: Every Member—Each One of Us