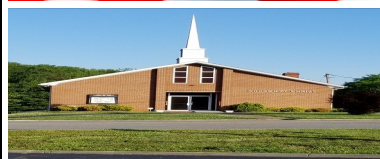




Collinsville Church of Christ

The Collinsville Herald

A Weekly Publication of the Collinsville Church of Christ.



2115 Daniels Creek Rd

Collinsville, VA 24078

www.ccocva.org

(276) 647-8454

Office Ext: 101

Minister Ext: 102

Times We Meet:

Sunday:

Bible Study: 9:30 a.m.

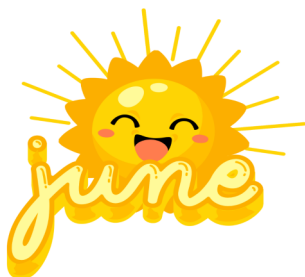
Worship: 10:30 a.m.

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No. 26

Getting Closer to God

Without a doubt, there are times when God seems far away. In times like these, we may feel as if our prayers go unheard. Or we may wonder why it feels God is so disconnected from our lives.

What we need to remember is that God is unchanging (Malachi 3:6). His character stays absolutely holy. His faithfulness remains constant. His power continues unabated. It is we who change. Oftentimes the problem is that we allow sin into our lives and choose a direction away from God. Sometimes the problem is that we spend less and less time with Him in Bible study, meditation, and prayer. Then one day we realize that we have gradually grown distant from God.

For those in situations like this, the inspired writer James offers a solution. He tells us how to once again draw near to God. It is found in James 4:8: "Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded." James' two suggestions are:

Stop whatever is pulling you away from God. It is mentioned in the text as "cleanse your hands." If you have been actively engaged in sin, you must renounce it (Ephesians 4:22). Stop doing things that harm your soul. If you have been drifting away from God, stop whatever is causing you to wander. Get your life back on the track that God has laid out for you.

Start your heart again for God. The passage states it this way: "purify your hearts." By repenting and getting forgiveness, God cleanses us once again (1 John 1:9). It is then that we must keep our hearts focused upon God. The heart is where the problem began. If we keep our attitudes, motives, and thoughts in harmony with God's will, we will find ourselves drawing nearer to Him once again.

There is no greater feeling of joy than knowing God is near you. We can have this assurance if we keep our hearts pure and our hands clean – if we stop doing the things we shouldn't and start again doing the things we should.

—Edd Sterchi

The World is Changing. Should We?

The answer is yes and no. We can and should change in some ways, but we must not change in others. The story of one man in the Bible teaches us how to know the difference.

Daniel was a young man living in the security of his home when the Babylonians attacked Judah and took him and others captive. His life changed almost overnight. His world turned upside down and suddenly he found himself in a strange land. Everything was different—the buildings, the language, the clothes, the customs, the food, the government and especially the religion and morals. He had to adjust in some ways, but he could not compromise in others.

The Chaldeans had brought him there for a purpose: to train him to be a government official. They taught him “the language and literature of the Chaldeans” (Dan. 1:4). Daniel consented. He did not say, “I am a Jew and I refuse to study about your country.” Daniel was a wise man, not a rebel. He knew he had to make the best of a bad situation, even if it meant doing things differently than the way he was raised.

But there were limits as to how far Daniel would go to accommodate this new world. The king himself ordered that Daniel and the other Hebrew young men in training be given the same food that he ate. To most people that would have been an honor. And there were some Chaldean foods Daniel could eat. However, the law of Moses prohibited eating certain foods, and risking his life, Daniel drew the line there. “But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king’s delicacies, nor with the wine which he drank; therefore he requested of the chief of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself” (Dan. 1:8). The law of man said to eat this food and drink this wine, but the law of God said to avoid them (Deut. 14; Prov. 23:31).

Daniel was a missionary in a foreign field. He knew the distinction between culture and Scripture. Today, our world is changing rapidly. We cannot foresee how much more it will change. We are gradually seeing the same changes Daniel experienced—different races, different languages, different cultures and customs, different family values and religions we have never studied. We can and should adjust in matters that are not right or wrong in themselves. That is what Paul meant when he said he became “all things to all men” so that he might save some (I Cor. 9:19-22). But in matters of Bible teaching, we must not change. Like Daniel, we must not compromise. This means we must study our Bibles to know the difference. —Kerry Duke

The Deceitfulness of Sin

The book of Hebrews tells us that sin is a deceiver. “But exhort one another every day, while it is called ‘today’, that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin” (Heb. 3:13). The word “deceit” means “to cause to accept as true or valid what is false or invalid” (Webster’s). The Greek word from which it comes means essentially the same thing and conveys the idea of giving a false impression.

“Deceitfulness” Continues on Page 3...

“Deceitfulness” Continued from Page 2... Simply put, Satan is a liar and portrays sin in a very flattering light. There are at least four ways in which Satan uses sin to deceive us.

First, sin deceives by minimizing. Sin masks the consequences of sin by trying to present how insignificant it is. Satan tried this with Eve: “You will not die” (Gen. 3:4). Sin tells us that a little sin never hurt anyone. Sin employs such terms as, “It’s only a little white lie.” Sin encourages us to enjoy its pleasures for a little while and then for a little while longer. Before too long, we are trapped.

Second, sin deceives by rationalizing. To rationalize is to find an excuse or reason for doing what you want to do even though you know you shouldn’t. Sin uses this method to explain itself away. Some of the rationalization tactics it uses are: “Everybody’s doing it,” and “That’s not that wrong.” Satan insists that we change our moral standards to meet the changing times, but God insists, “Woe to them that call evil good, and good evil...” (Isa. 5:20).

Third, sin deceives by glamorizing. Instead of showing you the alcoholic, the drug addict, or the AIDS victim, sin shows you how glamorous it is to drink, use drugs, and live a life of promiscuity. Sin wants us to see only the moment’s pleasure rather than the consequences whether physical or spiritual. Sin tempted Moses in this way, but Moses chose “rather to be mistreated with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin” (Heb. 11:25).

Fourth, sin deceives by hypnotizing. I’ve never been hypnotized. I have been told I am not a good candidate for hypnosis because I am too unwilling to put myself into someone else’s control. I’ve seen people hypnotized and found it strangely amusing, and yet startling, that one can be lured into such a state that they conform to another’s suggestions. There may be people who are not willing candidates for that type of hypnosis, but all of us are subject to the hypnotic effects of sin – unless we are very, very careful. Those who do get caught up in sin sometimes find the habit extremely hard to break. Fortunately, God has given us a ready resource to combat the allure to sin – the Christian armor (Eph. 6:10ff).

Beware of the deceitfulness of sin. “Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ” (Col. 2:8).

—Robert Lambert



Bible Quiz: Matthew 26:31-35

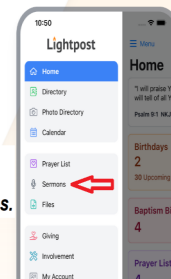
CHECK YOUR ANSWERS ON PAGE 4 !

1. “Jesus came with His disciples to a place called ____.”
2. Jesus said, “My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to ____.”
3. “Watch and pray, lest you enter into ____.”
4. True or False: The disciples stayed awake while Jesus prayed.
5. Jesus said, “The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is ____.”

Check Out the Sermon Section!

Listen to an MP3 of our sermons.
Facebook, YouTube & Vimeo
Links to Worship Gathering Videos.

Lightpost





Brandi Beavers. Health concerns.

The Beavers Children. Health concerns.

Debbie Brooks. Slipped discs in back & UTI.

Sibbie Byrd. Nursing home. Health concerns.

Drew Clifton. Need of prayer.

Tony Cockram. Multiple health concerns.

Randy Gauldin. Recent surgery.

Gary Hollandsworth. Recovering from surgery.

Jan Hollandsworth. Recent surgery.

Matthew Hollandsworth. Health concerns.

Clayton Hylton. Prostate Cancer.

Axel Keller. Dixie's grandson. Health concerns.

Rita Lawless. Health concerns.

Karen Lovell. Recent surgery.

Paul Mays. Health concerns.

Ruby Mason. Health concerns.

Terry Mason. Health concerns.

Carol Pace. Treatment for colon cancer.

Jaydan Patrick. Special needs.

Kitty Shumate. Health concerns..

Diana Smith. Alzheimer's Disease.

Sharon Teschendorf. Nursing home. Dementia.

Thomas Turner. Young child. Cancer.

Charlotte Wyatt. Undergoing PT.

Kevin Wyatt. Health concerns.

Caregivers.

Our Country, Military & Leaders.

To have someone added to the prayer list or to have information updated, please contact Matthew or Jonathan. Names will be removed after four weeks if no updates are received. You may also submit names for our prayer list in Lightpost.



July Birthdays!

1ST	JAY MARTIN
2ND	KITTY SHUMATE
20TH	VELVET WYATT
21ST	DAVE ROBERTSON
25TH	SAMMIE BEAVERS



July 4th Celebration!

Our 4th of July cook-out is on Saturday, July 4th at 4:00 p.m. at the fellowship hall.



Men's Breakfast!

Men's Breakfast will be on July 25th! Join us at 9:00a.m. at Clarence's Steakhouse for food and fellowship.



Potluck Lunch!

We will be hosting a Pot Luck Luncheon on Sunday, July 26th following our Worship Gathering. Everyone please bring your favorite dishes and desserts to share.



Pizza/Movie Night!

Our next Pizza & Movie Night will be on Saturday, August 1st! Pizza Supper at 5:00p.m. and movie starts at 5:30 p.m.

Upcoming Events:

ccocva.org/events



Lightpost Calendar!

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BIBLE Quiz

Solution

Gethsemane; death; temptation; False; weak



Collinsville Church of Christ

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