

The **Brantley Beacon**

"...BE YE STEADFAST, UNMOVEABLE,"
ALWAYS ABOUNDING
IN THE WORK OF THE LORD..."
I CORINTHIANS 15:58

THE CHURCH OF CHRIST MEETING IN HOBOKEN, GA

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Advice to Ignore By Dan S. Shipley

"Blessed is the man that
walketh not in the counsel of
the ungodly..." (Psalms 1:1).

God's people, above all others,

ought to be a happy and joyful people. Why, then, are so many of them so often otherwise? Simply because they ignore or forget to apply Bible truth to situations and circumstances of everyday living! Such as that found in this text, for example. God is saying, in effect, "If you want to be happy, don't be influenced by the counsel of ungodly people." But, who are the "ungodly?" Many tend to view them as the base, immoral and criminal elements of society. However, the ungodly may be respected citizens, good neighbors, and even people of high morals. The thing that makes them ungodly is that they are simply without regard and reverence for God. God does not rule their lives. They either have disregard or defiance for the person of God. Now, why does God want His children to avoid the advice of such? In the first place, because they are foolish people. Of the few men God refers to as fools in the Bible, one is the man who says "there is no God" (Psalms 14:1); the other is the man who lives as if there is no God. He is a practical atheist, something like the foolish farmer of Luke 12. No doubt he professed faith but, like so many of his modern counterparts, he had no time for God. Finally, his selfish planning is interrupted one night with these words: "Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee...". "This night" shall come to every such foolish man – and with it, the belated realization that life without God is a tragic mistake. It is foolish for man to say "there is no God"

or to live like it. But it is also foolish to be influenced by the counsel of men who refuse to be influenced by the counsel of God! Furthermore, and as you might expect, the counsel of ungodly people ignores spiritual relationships and needs. This is one reason why Christians should be very careful in the selection of a professional counselor such as a psychiatrist, psychologist, or lawyer. It is not unusual to hear of ungodly “pros” offering solutions and encouraging conduct contrary to God’s laws. Doesn’t Paul touch on this principle touch on this principle in shaming the Corinthian Christians for going to law with brethren before pagan judges? (1 Corinthians 6:1-8) Those who “live by bread alone” are ill-equipped to render judgements affecting moral and spiritual issues – and Christians need to remember that! (Especially those seeking help from ungodly marriage counselors!) But, ungodly professionals are not the only ones that dispense advice worth ignoring. You can get it free. You can get it from an ungodly professor in school who ridicules the Bible and teaches our monkey ancestry or who encourages situation ethics. You can get it from people in high and influential places like Washington, Hollywood, and Nashville. They live it, they sing it, they write it. Advice to be avoided may even come from an ungodly parent or friend. Ignore them and “hear ye him”.

**No Higher Love Than
To Share The Gospel
By Gary Henry**

Jesus emphasized the priority of love, and so should we. When asked what was the greatest commandment in the Law of Moses, He said, “You

shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself” (Matthew 22:37-40). It doesn’t get any more basic than this.

In Philippians 2:3-8, we are urged to have the “mind of Christ.” Among other things, this means we are to emulate His love — not just the *fact* that He loved others but also the *way* He loved them. The prime example of the way He loved, of course, is the cross. Putting our needs ahead of His own desires, He gave up His life for us, even though we

were unworthy. And He said that others would know His disciples by the fact that they loved one another as He had loved them (John 13:35).

But notice what we see in Philippians 2:3-8. Of all our needs, what were those for which Jesus made His greatest sacrifice? It was not for our temporal needs; it was to save our *souls*. Jesus certainly helped a lot of folks physically, as His path brought Him into contact with them. But if we're going to use Philippians 2 as our example, that is an example of Jesus' sacrifice in the service of people's spiritual needs.

Our problem is not that we talk too much about love, but that we talk about it so superficially. *We praise Jesus' love, but we don't prioritize the same needs that He did.* Compared to His love, our love deals in trivia.

Paul is an interesting case study in the lengths that love will go to. He had a tender heart (much more tender, I think, than we often give him credit for), but he had a truly Christ-like concept of taking risks and suffering damage *to serve people's spiritual needs*. He desired peaceful relationships as much as anybody, but his love would not let him remain silent when there was something that needed to be said. "Have I then become your enemy by telling you the truth?" (Galatians 4:16).

Even more than Paul, of course, Jesus is our example. So when we discuss love and sacrifice, are we putting the primary emphasis where Jesus put it? We like to think that we act in love, but how can we talk about loving our neighbors without talking about evangelism? Helping people with their physical and emotional needs is a piece of cake compared to the difficulty of saying what they need to hear spiritually. And if our willingness to say the words our neighbors need to hear is any measure of how much we love them, can we really say that we do? *What is the costliest sacrifice any of us have ever made in order to serve someone spiritually?* Jesus risked friendship and goodwill — not to mention safety and life itself — in order to get those whom He loved to heaven. *Have we adopted the "mind of Christ" about such things?* I don't know about you, but these questions make me very uncomfortable.

Upcoming Gospel Meeting

October 17 – 21 (Wednesday – Sunday)

Speaker: **Bob Myhan** from Macon, GA

The church of Christ meeting in the city of Hoboken, Georgia

5101 Main Street

Hoboken, Georgia

Our Meeting Times

Sunday Morning

Bible Study 9:30a.m.

Worship 10:30a.m.

Wednesday

Bible Study 7:00p.m.

Upcoming Spiritual Opportunities Men's Study

10-14-2018 - 5:00p.m.

Song Service

10-21-2018 - 5:00 p.m.

In Need of Our Prayers and Encouragement:

- Rex + Frankie Hadley and family
- Jeannie's brother & sister in-law - Harold and Penny Blitchington
- Jeannie's Uncle - Bob Ross
- Micah's Parents - Perry & Kay Byars
- Micah's Aunt - Thelma Harmon
- Phillip's Aunt – Sylvia Thrift
- Thelma Stewart – Jesup Congregation
- Leanne Wiser – Jennings/Oak Grove
- Pete Newsome – Oak Grove Congregation
- Tom Edwards – Tebeau Street Congregation
- Our Upcoming Gospel Meeting with Bob Myhan
- Our Lord's work in Hoboken & Brantley County
- Our fellow Christians around the world