

THE BULLETIN

A SUNDAY VALENTINE



This Sunday is, of course, Valentines Day. I'm not sure how often it happens that this holiday of romance falls on a Sunday, but this is the first one in a long time, I think. But as I was thinking about how to work out something meaningful to my marriage for Valentines Day into a preacher's busy Sunday schedule, it has occurred to me that living a consistent Christian life is, in fact, one of the greatest gifts you can give to your loved one.

I saw an interview recently with John Belushi. Now, I'm not a big fan of Hollywood "wisdom", but when he was asked what he thought would be a great gift for Valentines Day, he said, "Listen." I thought, *Hmm, even a blind squirrel finds a chestnut once in a while.* (By the way, Linda, don't worry; the tulips will be on their way. :-) But there is wisdom here, Christian wisdom.

Wrap up these treasures for your loved one. Listen. Love. Serve. Be honest. Be faithful. Be tender. Be true. Be respectful. Be kind. Forgive. Think of your spouse's best interests. Don't provoke. Be courteous. Have patience. Be a real, consistent Christian.

The flowers will fade, as nice as they are. The cards will, usually at best, be tucked away in a shoebox as a memory. The chocolates will (at length) be worn on the hips. The kisses and affection will be a great way to end the evening. But being a Christian mate will be the "gift that keeps on giving" Sunday through Saturday, week after week, deepening the relationship and establishing love for a lifetime.

Being a Christian, in other words, is one of the best Valentines Day gifts you could give – worship assembly, Bible classes, fellowship, and all.

Last Sunday we began a study of the topic of Biblical marriage, "God's Plan for Marriage", and this Sunday we'll continue with a look at the apostle Paul's inspired teachings about marriage in Ephesians 5. Here we'll look at the basic organization and obligations of marriage.

What a great gathering we had last Sunday evening for dinner, devotional, and a report on the mission work of Denise Heroux —



all, in spite of the fact that it was Super Bowl Sunday. Why not join us again this Sunday evening at 6PM for a half-hour devotional and communion service followed by a half-hour Bible study series on the smaller books of the Bible — this Sunday we'll be looking at Paul's inspired letter to Philemon. I think you'll find the some interesting and instructive things here in this inspired but often understudied part of the New Testament.

Manchester Church of Christ

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Elder's Link: February

Duane Coss - 424-9152

drccoss@myfairpoint.net

Barry Fogal - 487-2387

bfogal@comcast.net

If you have any concerns that the elders should be aware of, or need to speak to with them, please contact Duane or Barry this month.

Our Worship Services

Sunday AM: 8:30 & 11:00

Bible Class: 10:00

Sunday PM: 6:00

Small Groups:

West Side Small Group: 6:15PM at Doug Paul's

Merrimack Small Group: 5:30PM contact Stuart Peacock

Wednesday PM Devotional/Bible Classes: 7:00

News Items? Please submit before 11AM each Tuesday.

Our Family

“So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God’s household,”
Ephesians 2: 19, NAS95.

Coming up in February...

Memorial service There will be a memorial service for Ruth Baker on Saturday, February 13th at 10a.m. at the Nashua church of Christ. (97 Farley Rd.)

Singing small group will be meeting at the Evans' house on Friday, February 19th. Dinner begins at 6pm and singing at 7pm. Please RSVP to Mark or Glenna if you will be there for dinner.

Our new website is going live soon! We have contracted with Bethany Prevatt to design, develop, and maintain a new website for our congregation. She has been hard at work and is just about finished and we hope to go live with it February 24th. Stay tuned for more details later. If you have any questions, please see Tony Casella, our newly appointed deacon in charge of technology.

What else?

Teens/parents of teens Conway youth rally (February 26th-28th) forms are due this Sunday. Please give them to Kim or leave them on her desk.

New England church growth conference will be held on March 13, 2010 at the church of Christ in Manchester, CT. A brochure is posted on the bulletin board in the foyer.

Save the Dates... Biddeford Ladies Day-- March 27th. Ladies Day in Roxbury, MA on March 27th. More details to come. The Conway church of Christ will be hosting a Ladies weekend April 9th-11th with speaker Becky Blackmon. See the flyer on the bulletin board in the foyer.

This and that...

Can you help?? To help cut expenses, Darlene and Alan are looking to carpool to worship/Bible class with others living in the Concord area. If you can help, please

call them at 715-1150. They will help with gas money and tolls.

Notes of encouragement
Brett Anderson
SOTF 3/3
APO AE 09354

Wednesday night suppers Make sure to sign up on the list on the bulletin board in the back of the auditorium if you plan to attend.

Wednesday Night Menu

Chicken cacciatore
rice
salad
bread
dessert

Worship Leaders

Sunday, Feb 14, 8:30AM

SongsKen B.
Closing PrayerDoug P.
ScriptureMark C.
Lord's Supper Karl D.
CoordinatorDoug P.

ScripturePete S.
Lord's SupperRick G.
CoordinatorKen S.

Sunday, Feb 14, 6:00PM

Songs.....Mark E.

Sunday, Feb 14, 11:00AM

SongsPaul M.
Closing PrayerDavid S.

Wednesday, Feb 17, 7:00PM

Songs.....Mark E.

Prayer Concerns

Health: Doreen Lee, Duane Coss, Pat Arel, Bill Waisnor, Deniza Chase's niece, Penny Ranger, Manley Jones, Michael Anderson's brother
Leadership: Ministers, Elders, Deacons
Evangelism: Bible studies in progress, our website, MNFM, food pantry, Give Away Day contacts
Return to the Lord: Brethren who have forsaken the assembly

WHAT DOES THE HOLINESS OF GOD MEAN TO ME?

PARK LINSOMB

“Holy” is one of those words in the Bible that you see a lot — but may not completely understand. The most likely reason that we do miss its meaning is because we use it so frivolously in common conversation, so that it has *come* to mean merely “something religious”. It is much more than that. Its essential meaning is different, not common, extraordinary. And specifically, as it refers to God, it is God’s very nature; He is the Holy One of Israel, Whose angels stand around Him saying, “...Holy, Holy, Holy, is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory.” (Isaiah 6:3, NAS95). The holiness of God is about His powerful, awesome otherworldliness. He is uniquely different from absolutely anything else. He the Creator and everything else and everyone else is a creature, made from nothing. The awesomeness of this fact should never be lost on us, although clearly both men and angels have — leading us to rebel and disobey, as if we had the right and power.

But God’s holiness is about more than His otherworldliness, His Creator-ness, His eternal existence, and infinite power. It also is about His moral nature. God is not a mere incomprehensibly powerful “thing” like a force of nature. He is a person. An impersonal “thing” or force of nature (as in “Luke, may the Force be with you.”) has no moral aspect, consciousness, or choice. It can be used — just like

in Star Wars — for good or evil, depending on the user. But God is not a force; He is a Person of moral aspect, of consciousness, and of choice. And happily — much, much more than “happily”, but it’s the only word that even comes close to how “fortunate” we are — He is a Person of justice, righteousness, love, grace, patience, and all that is good. How tragic it would have been had the Creator been satanic or capricious or uncaring! But our Creator, the one and only true and living God, is good and has our best interests at heart.

And yet, how tragic it is for God that His creatures are often not so good. It’s not that God created them flawed, of course. Everything God made in the creation was “very good”. The flaw has come from the creatures themselves. God granted some of His creation, angels and men, the superlative honor, free will. But rather than living up to the honor, we abused it. We chose to reject one of the most precious aspects of being created in the image of God, His moral nature.

You see, that’s really what sin is; sin is the rejection of God’s moral nature. God didn’t just decide to make up a bunch of arbitrary rules to keep us humans oppressed, ruin all of our fun, etc. God — if I may borrow a pejorative of one political party against another — is not the “party of no”. Far from it! The morality embodied in the “10

Commandments” and the rest of Scripture is really just an expression of God’s own essence. We, for example, shouldn’t lie, because God is about truth. We shouldn’t steal, because God isn’t a thief. We should do good even toward enemies, because God “... causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.” (Matthew 5:45, NAS95). We are to keep our word, our covenants, and our promises, because God does. We should be generous, because God is. In other words, “... YOU SHALL BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY.” (1 Peter 1:16, NAS95) and “... you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.” (Matthew 5:48, NAS95).

And when we become disciples of Jesus, forgiven and more obedient; our holy God himself calls us “holy”. He calls us His children, because we better reflect His nature. We have, as it were, our Father’s eyes (seeing as He sees things), our Father’s hands (doing what He does), our Father’s mouth (saying what He says), and His heart (thinking and valuing things the way He does). Holy. Different. Not like the creaturely world, but like our holy awesome Father.

Our Congregational Calendar						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
7 Happy Birthday: Deb Garven Marseille potluck 5pm	8	9 Happy Birthday: Jewell Tait	10 Bible class 7pm	11	12	13
14	15 Happy Birthday: Linda McCarthy	16	17 Bible class 7pm Happy Birthday: Bradley Chandler Klaryssa Ortega	18 Happy Birthday: Jason Therrien	19 Singing small group 6pm	20

<p>Teen News</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conway youth rally forms are available on Kim's desk. Pick one up, fill it out and return to Kim by February 14th.
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Our Statistics	
Sunday Morning Worship (combined)	No count
Contribution	\$3883.03

The Manchester church of Christ
 66 Mammoth Rd.
 Manchester, NH 03109