



Saturday, June 27
The next youth devotional will be hosted by Archana Verma. More details to come!

Summer Activities:

- June 14-19 Hensel Camp.
- July 19-24 Peach Valley Camp.
- Thursday, June 25, MidTown will host one of the Thursday Night Summer Youth Series covering the topic, "The Battle Belongs to the Lord." Please help by bringing cookies.



EDUCATION

In Search of the Lord's Way

The lesson for Sunday, June 21 at 7:30 a.m. on KMOL is entitled, "All-Sufficient." God gave to us in the Bible all things that pertain to life and godliness, and we are not lacking anything that teaches us how to live and how to have eternal life. Because the word is all-sufficient, there is no need to change it in any way.

SUNDAYS

Bible Classes9:00 AM
Morning Worship10:00 AM
Evening Worship 5:00 PM

Mondays (every first and third week)
Ladies' Bible Study 7:00 PM
Tuesdays (September through May)
Men's Bible Study 10:00 AM
Ladies' Bible Study..... 10:00 AM

WEDNESDAYS

Midweek Bible Study 7:00 PM

EVANGELIST

Clay Bond

SUPPORTED WORKS

James and Emily Cammock
Hamilton, New Zealand

Cecil Shaw
Ocho Rios, Jamaica

Mike Batot
Southwest School of Bible Studies

THE MIDTOWN MESSENGER IS THE WEEKLY BULLETIN OF THE MIDTOWN CHURCH OF CHRIST, 5901 N. MAIN, VICTORIA, TEXAS 77904 . 361-573-0030
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JUNE 14, 2015

"HABITS: GOOD OR BAD" by Clay Bond

Someone has said that bad habits are like a comfortable bed: easy to get in and hard to get out, while good habits are like porcelain: easily broken. As Christians we need be concerned with our behavioral patterns. Paul told Timothy, "But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth" (1 Timothy 3:15). In this article we want to talk about habits to cultivate, habits to avoid and habits to break.

The first good habit we should cultivate is daily Bible reading (1 Timothy 4:13-16).

"Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying..."

Ephesians 4:29

Just like the body needs food in order to survive, our souls need the spiritual food of God's word daily in order to survive (Hebrews 5:12 -14; 1 Peter 2:2-3). Instead of starving ourselves spiritually, we should be like Job who loved God's word more than his necessary food.

A second good

habit to develop is daily prayer. David wrote, "My voice shalt thou hear in the morning, O LORD; in the morning will I direct my prayer unto thee, and will look up" (Psalm 5:3) and "Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I pray, and cry aloud: and he shall hear my voice" (Psalm 55:17).

Through prayer we thank God (1 Thessalonians 5:17-18), cast our cares upon Him (1 Peter 5:7), make known our requests (Philippians 4:6) and access His second law of pardon (1 John 1:7-10). Bible reading and prayer go hand in hand; we will find it easier to cultivate both of these good habits together. Thirdly, having family devotionals is a good habit to cultivate (Deuteronomy 6:4-6; Ephesians 6:4). Perhaps you have heard

the old adage “the family that prays together stays together.” In addition to daily family devotionals, regular worship attendance is a good habit and should be the highlight of our week (Psalm 122:1). The worship assembly is where we leave the world behind to draw near to God and find encouragement and strength (James 4:8; Hebrews 10:24-25)

Bad habits, which are easily picked up, must be avoided and when present they must be broken. It is easier to be conformed to this world than to be transformed into the image of Christ. Drinking alcohol is a very difficult habit to break. God has clearly expressed His desire that His children remain free from any mind altering substance (1 Peter 5:8). Smoking is another destructive habit that is difficult to break. As Christians we realize that our body is the temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 6:19-20; 2 Corinthians 7:1).

We ought to practice good stewardship of our bodies and resources. Before you develop or continue in either of these habits ask yourself a few questions: Would Jesus drink beer, wine or liquor? Would Jesus chew or smoke tobacco? Would Jesus use mind altering drugs? Remember, we want to be like Jesus in everything we do (1 John 2:6).

We can also have bad habits in the way we speak, specifically swearing, lying and gossip (Matthew 5:33-37; Proverbs 6:16-17). Those who lie are often guilty of adding sin to sin because they must often tell more and more lies to cover the initial lie. God’s word tells us to “Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers” (Ephesians 4:29). This passage would cover lying, cursing and gossip.

The book of Proverbs has a lot to say about gossip (Proverbs 11:13; 18:8; 20:19; 26:20; 26:22). The tongue may be small, but it is the

Records You Helped Make

For the Week of
JUNE 7, 2015

Attendance

Sunday Bible Class.....100
Sunday Morning Assembly.....137
Sunday Evening Assembly.....97

Offering: \$4,285

hardest part of the body to control. Indeed, “Death and life are in the power of the tongue” (Proverbs 18:21).

Additional bad habits the Christian must avoid are faultfinding, anxiety, pessimism, cheating, anger, gambling and lustful looking (Matthew 7:1-5; Philippians 4:6; Philippians 2:14; Matthew 7:12; Ecclesiastes 7:9; 1 Timothy 6:10; Matthew 5:28).

As Christians, we should always be willing to examine ourselves without being offended by God’s word. Let us be like the Psalmist who said, “I thought on my ways, and turned my feet unto thy testimonies. I made haste, and delayed not to keep thy commandments” (Psalms 119:59-60). To break a bad habit we must first cultivate an intense desire to overcome it (Psalm 39:1).

Secondly, we must learn to abhor of the practice (Hebrew 1:9, Romans 12:9). Thirdly, we must implore the aid of God (Philippians 4:13; Psalm 119:173). Fourthly, we must ask our church family for help (Romans 15:1). Finally, we must have the determination to quit (Galatians 6:9). Each of these might also be employed to promote a good habit: cultivate an intense desire to develop the good habit, learn to love the practice, implore the aid of God, ask the church family for help and have the determination to follow through. Will you look into God’s word and let Him be the Lord of your habits?

News & ACTIVITIES

Wednesday, June 24

Please bring cookies for the Thursday Summer Youth Series.

Thursday, June 25

The Young Ladies’ Potluck Luncheon will be held at Noon.

Sunday, June 28

The Fourth Sunday Fellowship Meal will follow evening service.

- Homewood Team #2 will meet today.
- You may listen to Sunday and Wednesday lessons by visiting the Soundcloud.com site. Instruction cards are available in the foyer.
- The Monday Ladies’ Bible Study will break for the summer.

Keep in PRAYER



IN SYMPATHY:

We extend our deepest sympathy to the family of **Patsy Randle**, wife of Steve. Services were yesterday.

We also offer heartfelt sympathy to the family of **Connie Lints**. Services were Saturday.

And we extend our sincere condolences to the family of **Dorothy McCarn**, great-aunt of Will Burluson.

RESPONSES:

Please keep **Bryce Dolan** in prayer who responded to the invitation Sunday.

MEMBERS:

Jeff Cannady
Dee Gilpatrick
Betty Key
Sandy Malone
Bob Neel
Ann Pantel
Glen Pitts
Rex Sims
Etta Williams

FRIENDS & FAMILY:

Cynthia Barrett
Sandra Barton
Josephine Escojido
Pam Hawkins
Jim Hinchey
Amy Jamison
Perliene Johnson
Dorothy Koenig
Dorothy McCarn
Edna Randall
Sarah Randle
Ernest Rundzieher
Richard Smith
Ray Shannon
Mark Withers
Ray Williams

Join us for a baby shower

Honoring
Naomi Flonnory
Saturday, June 20
2:30-4 p.m.
at the church building

Registered at Target Size 2 diapers and up