

Welcome Visitors,

First, THANK YOU! We are excited to know that you are interested in worshipping God. We want you to feel very welcomed here among our group. Our goal is doing God's will. You will find that our teaching and preaching are strictly from the Bible so we encourage you to open a Bible and follow along as the lessons are presented today.

God's word is the complete guide for our life of service and worship. The all-sufficient word of God—the Bible is what we need (John 8:31-32; 2 Timothy 3:16-17). We desire to help one another in doing God's will. If you are interested in learning more please ask one of our members today.

Main Street Church of Christ Newbern, Tennessee

Schedule Of Services:

Lord's Day:	9:45 a.m.	Bible Study (All ages)
	10:20 a.m.	Morning Worship
	6:00 p.m.	Evening Worship
Wednesday:	7:00 p.m.	Bible Study

Our Elders:

**Johnie Dodds
Harry Elliott
Austin Willis**

Our Deacons:

**Danny Carpenter
Wayne Hulme
Tommy Savyers**

Our Preacher: **T. Sean Sullivan**

The Gospel Plan

HEAR THE GOSPEL MESSAGE Romans 10:11-16

BELIEVE IT !!! Romans 10:17; Hebrews 11:6

REPENT—CHANGE Luke 13:3; 2 Peter 3:9

OPENLY CONFESS—JESUS IS THE SON OF GOD

Romans 10:8-10; Acts 8:37

BE BAPTIZED—FOR REMISSION OF YOUR SINS

Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38-39; 1 Peter 3:21

LIVE ON FAITHFULLY Hebrews 10:35-39 I Peter 1:6-9

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The Main Street Church of Christ

Messenger

1 Thessalonians 1:6-8

Three Keys to Our Life

Would you ever be blamed for being a "Christian"? What kind of people are Christians? By "Christian" I mean those who have obeyed the gospel of Jesus Christ and are living faithfully to the expectations of God—striving to be a faithful servant of God—through Christ.

Christians are special people who are not willing to be just like everyone else (Romans 12:1-2). Christians are different in the way they talk, act, and dress. Christians have different entertainment, and different interests. Each of us gathered here need to know we can be the kind of persons who will succeed at being Christians.

The kind of persons who not only enjoy the beauty of a life in Christ here, but also those who will make it all the way through to that eternal victory called Heaven. We cannot afford to only "think" we are okay; we need to take an honest look at our lives and evaluate them according to God's word. There may be changes you must make; they are all worth it. God has promised eternal life in the glory of His presence if we are willing to do His will. That glory in Heaven is worth it!

Those who grow callused and will not submit to God's way; there is a place prepared for them too. There are a few descriptions to help us make up our mind: Do God's will and have "rest", "peace", and "everlasting life"; or go your own way and have "outer darkness, weeping, gnashing of teeth, and everlasting fire". Paul in Ephesians 5:15 instructs us to "*Walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise.*" We need to be doing some circle inspections of our lives right now. We are looking for the things that separate us from the rest of the world. God has called us to higher standards, for safety, satisfaction and success. Life in Christ is not

Vol. Six Issue Four (B) April 11, 2010

easy but it is eternally rewarding. Let's examine just three key ingredients that we need in our lives.

Key: To Practice Morality

What is Morality? It is a group of principles or rules of conduct. It is a standard of conduct that determines all aspects of one's life. Morality is not set by the world's standard (Ephesians 4:17-20). The true standard of morality is: holiness and acceptability to God (Romans 12:1-2). We must offer ourselves, both body and soul, to God.

Morality calls for proper use of the body, including appropriate sexual relations: Marriage is the only place for sexual desires to be exercised (Genesis 2:18, 21-24). In Galatians 5:19-21 we see there are sinful sexual relations: Before marriage is fornication; In addition to marriage is adultery; In an unscriptural marriage is adultery; With the same sex (whether male or female) is homosexuality. All of these sinful actions condemn souls—if not repented of.

Morality also calls for the appropriate presentation of your body, including appropriate clothing: Both Adam and Eve understood what nakedness was (Genesis 3:7). Genesis 3:21 God provided tunics that covered their nakedness. Since that time, when their senses were opened to understand "good and evil", mankind has been naturally aware of presentable parts and un-presentable parts. Today many try to ignore their natural understanding and have seared their conscience to the point where they are willing to go about without covering themselves. God instructs us through the New Testament scriptures in what to wear and how to wear it. 1 Timothy 2:9 Clothing is to be modest, appropriate, and moderate—both men and women must conduct themselves with modesty (1 Timothy 4:12).

Key: To Be Ethical

What Are Ethics? Ethics are also standards of conduct, but they are further defined in areas of dealing with situations and choices. Christians must predetermine what we will do or not do before we are faced with the actual choice. Like morality we are not looking for a worldly approach. We must make our determinations based on God's standard as revealed in His word (Psalm 119:97-105; 2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:3)

We must be mindful of our fellow man and our God in all of our deeds. We are to love one another, mind our own business, and walk properly toward those who are outside (1 Thessalonians 4:9-12). We do not seek to take advantage of anyone; certainly advantage takers exist in our society but we are not to be one of them (Jude 16-19).

Many take advantage of the elderly and the young, the rich and the poor, the weak and the strong. As Christians we must have a different outlook toward our fellow man—we are to provide for others'

best interests (Romans 12:17-21). We are to conduct ourselves appropriately with all people (1 Thessalonians 4:9-12).

Ethics also go hand in hand with our first key of morality. We must understand that moral decisions are ethical decisions. There is an ethical dilemma in thinking "nobody knows"—a Christian is ethical bound to be moral even when "nobody will ever know". That is the whole point of ethics: We do right, because it is right, not just because someone might see us doing wrong. Our ethics make us trustworthy, responsible and honorable people.

Key: To Be Obedient

The scriptures describe the role of a Christian many different ways. One in particular is, "a slave of righteousness" (Romans 6:16-17). This is not the same burdensome oppression that sin causes. Righteousness brings with it the necessity of being continually obedient to God's will. Our willingness to obey God is fundamental to staying acceptable to Him. We are clearly told that if we draw back we fail (Hebrew 10:35-39). We are instructed to be faithful until death (Revelation 2:10).

We are to be obedient always. Peter in his first epistle spoke at length concerning the need for consistency. Peter knew both sides of the picture since he, himself, failed to obey God's will when he was under pressure (Luke 22:54-62). Peter encourages obedience when times are difficult (1 Peter 1:6-9); when no one else is obedient (1 Peter 4:1-5); at all times, humbly submitting to God's will (1 Peter 5:6-11). Our willingness to be obedient keeps our lives on God's track.

Conclusion: Christians are special people because they put forward special effort in their life; effort toward "moral purity", "ethical consistency" and "full obedience". Anyone can become a Christian. The steps are not too challenging to do but only those who are willing to change their life and continue to live for God's will reap the benefits of the relationship.

As Christians, we have work to do every day. We must strive to do the things well pleasing to the Lord. Are you the kind of person who is willing to be moral, ethical and obedient? If you are and you are not yet a Christian why not become a Christian right now? There is a chart on the back of this bulletin please take the time to read the passages and please obey God today.
~tss
