

# *The Messenger 2010*

Published Weekly by Main Street Church of Christ  
306 West Main Street, Newbern, TN 38059  
mainstreetcofc.com

Bulletin Editor: T. Sean Sullivan  
VOLUME 005::ISSUE 033: August 22, 2010

## The Third Danger



### **Introduction:**

Pride is an essential ingredient in life however it can, easily, get out of control. With most topics that we encounter in life there are extremes. When entering into a discussion on pride some believe in total disregard of self and others believe in total elevation of self. Knowing that truth is rarely ever in an extreme conclusion we need to look of some solid advice.

As we always should, we will look to God for His advice and direction. We know that pride is a subject that comes with certain warnings. The “pride of life” is one of the three dangers in 1 John 2:15-17. We are also told that “*Pride comes before destruction; and a haughty spirit before a fall*” (Proverbs 16:18). On the other hand, we are also told of our value in the eyes of God—He willingly allowed the ultimate price to be paid for us (1 Peter 1:18-19). We must comprehend that balanced personal pride is something more than self-inflation or, on the opposite side, self-eradication; so let’s look to the instructions of God to consider this topic.

### **The Pride of Life Defined:**

The pride of life is a total lack of understanding as to who we are. We must always be mindful of the fact that we are the creatures not the Creator (Psalm 100:1-3; Acts 17:26-27). We need God—God does not need us (Proverbs 14:12; Jeremiah 10:23). [God wants us to serve Him but He exists without us].

The pride of life is characterized by Pharaoh—when he refused to submit to God. He voiced his great pride by saying, “*Who is the Lord, that I should hear His voice...?*” (Exodus 5:2; 10:3). Another vivid picture of this elevation of self is Herod in Acts 12:21-23; here the people touted him to be a “god” and he accepted their praise.

Pride’s opposite is true humility—remembering God. Without God’s blessings we could not live (Matthew 5:45); without His hope we are lost (Romans 5:6-10); and without His direction we cannot make our way home (John 14:6). All that we are; all that we are capable of, is because of God—to God be the glory (1 Peter

5:11).

### **The Problem of Pride of Life**

On a personal level, the pride of life inhibits growth. We are expected to grow up in Christ (Ephesians 4:15). We are to produce fruit for God (John 15:1-8). We are always to be prepared by the word (Ephesians 6:10-18).

What can pride do to these expectations? Pride can cause us to assume we know the scriptures. We learn the necessity of daily study from the Bereans who searched the word daily (Acts 17:11). Even Timothy was told to read, and to meditate on the scriptures, as a perpetual responsibility (1 Timothy 4:13, 15-16). We are to “rightly divide the word of truth” this takes the diligence that comes from a humble heart (2 Timothy 2:15).

On a congregational level, we can become overconfident in our knowledge “collectively”. This may result in a lack of zeal for God’s word (Revelation 2:4-5). This complacency could allow for teachers who will scratch our itches (2 Timothy 4:3-4). This lack of knowledge will leave us without strength against the tempter’s wiles (Ephesians 6:10-18). \

### **Why Humility is Better**

In the bonds of pride, we have no hope of finding God. It is clear that God resists the proud and gives grace to the humble (James 4:6-10). When we acknowledge God, He will direct us (Proverbs 3:3-8; 1 Peter 5:5-6).

The proud refuse help. The proud say, “Who are you to teach me?” or “Why should I have to listen to anyone?” The proud will never find the rewards of God’s word because His word is designed for the humble to access (1 Corinthians 1:20-31). The humble know they need to do God’s will (James 1:22-25).

We need to be humble because we have nothing without God. His rewards are for those who are humble enough to submit to Him. James 4:6 *“God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble.”* 1 Peter 5:6 *“Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time...”*

### **Conclusion:**

The pride of life is a dangerous area of temptation. Is not being proud of your children or grandchildren—it is not being proud of your personal accomplishments. Pride of life is the desire to elevate one’s personal opinion above God’s. Do not let the pride of life stop you from searching for God’s will. If you are willing to humble yourself and submit to His direction—God will lift you up.

Are you certain of having followed God’s plan of salvation? Do not let pride stop you from asking this tough question. The opportunity to make certain through humble submission to God is now. ~tss

## **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 THE REMISSION OF YOUR SINS  
Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38-39; 1 Peter 3:21**

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

If you are enjoying The Messenger and you know someone else who would like to receive it. Please forward this copy to them and send their email address and I will add them to the list.

*Sean*