



Family

West Chicago Church of Christ

Volume 40, Issue 7 • February 17, 2008

A Preacher's Perspective

Understanding ourselves is a great challenge, isn't it? We have feelings, ideas, and patterns of behavior that seem to come from a source we cannot see or really understand.

Paul's words from **Romans 7** may come to mind.

"So I find this law at work: When I want to do good, evil is right there with me. For in my inner being I delight in God's law; but I see another law at work in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within my members." **Romans 7:21-23**

Only God knows our inner soul. "The spirit of man is the lamp of the LORD, searching all his innermost parts." **Prov. 20:27** God has created in us a spirit which longs to understand the truth about us and about Him. Paul wrote "For what person knows a man's thoughts except the spirit of the man which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God." **1 Corinthians 2:11**

Only when the Holy Spirit helps us can we have true understanding of who we are, of what God's mind is, and of how we are to be obedient to Him. It is primarily in the scriptures that we discover the truth, and it is in obedience that we demonstrate our true heart.

Man was designed to live in harmony and intimate fellowship with God. Before sin, he did just that. But since our flesh now is a battle ground between the will and word of God and the desires and lusts of man's

lower nature, we are often confused.

The goal we have is to walk according to the Spirit. When we live and walk according to the flesh, we are in disharmony and our lives don't make sense to us. The Spirit of God lives in us. We are His temple. But our flesh may claim control of the throne. We can "put out the Spirit's fire." We can be, like the Corinthians, "carnal" men who cannot receive and understand the things of the Spirit.

As we mature in Christ, Paul's prayers for us are that we would learn to walk in a way which is

consistent with the presence and power of the Holy Spirit within us. (**Eph. 1, 3**)

So, there's lots of reasons why we have problems understanding all that's going on in us. We're struggling to allow the Spirit to gain mastery over the flesh. We're reading in scripture the will of God, and we're living in the world which Satan dominates. Our will is in the middle. We have

to draw upon the power of the Spirit within us and we have to use prayer and regular relationship with God's word and fellow believers to be established in love.

Don't think you're alone in your confusion and frustration. When it all gets to be just too much, you might want to fall back on these words: "My heart is not proud, O LORD, my eyes are not haughty; I do not concern myself with great matters or things too wonderful for me.

But I have stilled and quieted my soul; like a weaned child with its mother, like a weaned child is my soul within me. **Psalms 131:1-2**

Just be like a child and let the Lord Jesus hold you in His arms.



Chuck Miller

Welcome to the West Chicago Church of Christ

If you are visiting with us, we especially want to welcome you. We pray our time together worshipping our Father in heaven will be uplifting and encouraging.

Bible classes are available for all ages. Babies can be taken to the nursery located at the back of the auditorium. All other children meet in classrooms downstairs. Teens meet in the teen room, which is also located at the back of the auditorium. Adult classes meet in the auditorium and in the fellowship room downstairs.

Our Small Group Fellowship program takes place during the fall, winter and spring months and is on the first and third Sundays of each month and is in lieu of the Sunday evening worship. The Small Group Fellowship schedule does change occasionally due to holidays.

You are an honored guest and we want to thank you for being a part of our worship this morning!

- Sunday Morning Bible Class 9:30 a.m.
- Sunday Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.
(The Sunday Morning Worship is interpreted for the deaf.)
- Sunday Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.
(No evening worship on Small Group Fellowship Sundays)
- Wednesday Evening Bible Class 7:00 p.m.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact one of our elders.

Elders:

- Don Brewster** **Bob Jett**
- Chuck Miller** **Bob Voigts**

Deacons:

- Justin Avey:** Benevolence, Fellowship, Stewardship & Leadership
- Jay Hearn:** Worship & Pulpit, Communications, Outreach, Education, Benevolence
- Cliff Plummer:** Fellowship, Benevolence, Education
- Curt Robinson:** Education, Stewardship & Leadership
- Rick Root:** Communications, Education, Stewardship & Leadership
- Paul Stirrup:** Stewardship & Leadership, Benevolence



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This Morning...

Please take a moment to fill out an attendance card, especially if you are a guest this morning. Please pass them to the aisle to be picked up before the sermon. Prayer cards are also available in the pew rack. You may choose to have prayers by the elders, a prayer warrior or by the whole church family. If you choose "whole church family" it will be announced following the sermon.

Order of Worship

- Welcome
- Singing - Rick Root
- Announcements - Scott Fordyce
- Singing
- Prayer - Cary Gray
- Singing
- Lord's Supper
- Contribution and Prayer Card Collection
- Sermon - Chuck Miller
- Singing
- Prayer Card Responses and Prayer - Bob Voigts
- Announcements
- Singing
- Closing Prayer - Bob Jett

Birthdays & Anniversaries

- February 17 Mike Kinder, Laura Young
- February 18 Alexis Kissane
- February 19 Mike Henkel, Steve Link
- February 20 Hunter Mathews
- February 22 Peter Drumheller
- February 23 Bev Day

Dates to Remember

- February 14-17 Winterfest/Teens
- February 17 Small Groups
- February 20 Seniors Breakfast
- February 22 Friday Fun Night
- February 24 Sunday Night Light/Teens
- March 2 Small Groups

Records You Helped Make

- Sunday Morning Bible Class 73
- Sunday Morning Worship 96
- Wednesday Evening Bible Class 40
- Contribution \$6,820.31

Items Left at the Building

There are still Bibles and other items left on the table by the restrooms. Please check the table for items that belong to you.

In Our Prayers...

Pray for the **adults and teens** who are **coming home** today from Winterfest in Gatlinburg, TN.

Herman Aultman, Bobbie Whitman's brother, is not doing very well again. He may be going back to the hospital.

Leona Boston, Lynette Root's aunt, suffered a stroke last week. She is out of the hospital and is in the health care facility at her assisted living facility.

Elizabeth Griffin is home from the hospital, but still recuperating. Prayers and notes are greatly appreciated, but please no visitors.

Jason & Jackee Johnston, the stepson & daughter-in-law of Lynette Root's friend, are going through a difficult pregnancy. The baby has Tetralogy of Fallot (a congenital heart disease) and missing a heart valve. He will need surgery as soon as he is born. They are hoping he will keep gaining in size and will be carried to full term. Jackee is going through many tests, including an amnio.

Jeremy McGill has been released from the hospital and is with Christians in Bangkok. Funds are up to about \$11,000 as of Thursday, so things are looking up!

Neal & Pat Ronzheimer continue to have health issues. Neal is under hospice care.

Fintan Schiltz, the infant son of Jay & Sally's neighbor, had a heart transplant six weeks ago. He had a better week and has had some of his IVs and medications removed.

Those suffering with long-term issues:

Andrea Bailey - a former member from California
 Irene Barnes - Lynette Root's aunt
 Paul & Judy Bertrand - Lynette Root's parents
 Lisa Beverly - Sandy Boyd's sister who has MS
 Bonnie Bingham
 Jim Brannon - Pat Brewster's brother-in-law
 Mary Brent - Joe Kirts' sister
 Nancy Brewster
 Jim & Julie Chavez
 Bob Czernik - Chris's husband
 John Day
 Lisa DeVaney - Marie Hayes' daughter
 Al Dorsey
 Chad Englebach - Marie Hayes' grandson
 Amy Ferguson - a former member from Montana
 Jean Gray - Linda Vantreese's sister
 Sarah Hayden & family - Maria Zeisler's relative
 Mary Henkel - Mike's mother
 Kathy Huml - John Pedersen's sister
 Kelly Ieler
 Amy Kalupski - sister-in-law of Julie Chavez's friend
 Joe and Star Kuhnle - Chuck & Bobbye's foster son
 Sue Lake - Marion's sister-in-law
 Debbie Lawrence - Bobbie Whitman's niece
 Don Lemley
 Anne Librande - Joanne Johnson's mother
 Steve Link
 Jack Lockett - the father of Charlie, Mike, Shelley,
 Julie Chavez, Missy Kissane, & Becky Pedersen
 Mike Lockett - Joan's son

Laura Mahan - Shirley Rucker's daughter
 Steve & Melissa Massie family
 Danielle Nichols - Alyssa Milam's niece
 Tim Miller
 Josh Otte - Chris Czernik's nephew and the son of
 Marion Lake's cousin
 Doug Peterson
 Melinda Poff - the sister of Jason Willis
 Kay Schrader
 Chester & Phyllis Sitler
 Margo Smetana - infant daughter of Steve Link's friend
 Bruce Snyder - Bob Voigts cousin
 Cindy Stewart - Bob Voigts' cousin
 Ollie Taylor - the niece of Lynette Root's friend
 Linda Vantreese
 Bob Voigts
 Eudie Voigts - Bob's mother
 Jim & Jamie Winner
 Jeremy & Jim Whitman
 Rick & Gina Zamora

Mothers-to-be:

Renell Johnston - former member
 Erin Livermore - Craig & Bev's daughter-in-law -
 due in 3 weeks

Armed forces overseas:

Greg Billings - Justin Avey's employee
 Dustin Meritt - Justin Avey's employee
 Chris & Jennifer Roberts - Cathleen Longfellow's
 sister & brother-in-law are going to Iraq for 16
 months, they have a 1-year-old daughter
 Shane - the son of LeAnn Sexton, a friend of
 Lori Plummer's
 David Teel - Justin Avey's employee

Missionaries:

Jarrold, Allison, Soledad & Levi Brown - Honduras
 (especially for their adoption process of Soledad)
 Obadiah Doka & Family - Nigeria
 Dry Bones Ministry - homeless teens in Denver, CO
 Juan & Roxanna Flores - Honduras
 Leonardo Ken & family - Honduras
 Keith, Kim, Candace, Laura & John Mark Lango
 - Brazil
 Makinde Olufemi - Nigeria
 Shults-Lewis - the teens, their families, the workers
 Joe Voigts - China - also pray for the churches and all
 the new Christians

Nursery Workers

Sandy Boyd, Sarah Miller



Collection Counters

Justin Avey, Mike Henkel



A Note of Encouragement

Cathleen Longfellow's sister and brother-in-law, Chris & Jennifer Roberts, are in Iraq. Jennifer is having a difficult time and Cathleen thought notes of encouragement would help. If you send a letter or card the postage is still 41¢. Her address is:

SPC Roberts, Jennifer
HHC 2 BSTB, FOB Liberty
2 BCT 101st ABN DIV (AASLT)
Unit #43490
APO AE 09344-3490

Wednesday Ladies Class

Several of our ladies will be sharing their most favorite, spiritually-uplifting books the next couple of weeks for our Wednesday Evening Ladies Class. The short book reviews will be held in a casual atmosphere with refreshments. Hope you'll join us for this fellowship.

Chicago Celebration for Women

Plans are underway for the next **Chicago Celebration, October 25 - 26, 2008**. We are inviting our Christian women to utilize some of the convention space which will be available to have a special women's event at Chicago Celebration 2008. We believe that Christian women are the heart and soul of the Lord's church. You have the passion and the wisdom which are so vital to our success in all that we do.

This year, the event will be held at the beautiful new UIC Forum near the Chicago Loop. There will be meeting rooms with a total capacity of 300 - 450 available on Saturday, October 25, 2008.

Any women interested in working to organize this event and make use of this space are invited to respond. We want to set up a meeting to choose a steering committee, handing off the details and leadership to you. We'll try to be of assistance to you in any way needed.

We hope you can take advantage of this opportunity for a great day for Christian women in the Chicagoland area. **Please reply to Chuck Miller: miller.chuck@comcast.net by March 15 if you are interested.**

Small Group Fellowships

Today is a Small Group Fellowship. If you would like to participate in the Small Group Fellowships and are not a part of a group yet, please contact Don Brewster or Bob Voigts. Following Small Group dates are: March 2, March 16, April 6, and April 20. This session concludes with a potluck for everyone on May 4. Remember, there is no Sunday evening worship services on Small Group Sundays.



Youth & Family News

TEENS: The visit to OC has been cancelled and may be rescheduled for late March.

We have a **Sunday Night, Light** next Sunday, February 24th. Guys bring pop, girls bring veggies or dessert.

SENIORS: The **Seniors Breakfast** is scheduled for this **Wednesday, February 20, at 10:00 a.m.** at the Colonial Restaurant on Route 38 by Randall Road. Everyone is welcome to attend. This is a great time of fellowship. Hope to see you there! Just for your information - everyone buys their own breakfast!

Where Are the Teens?

Most of the teens and the following chaperones: Kevin & Christi Bowman, Scott & Carrie Drumheller, Mike Mathews, and Cliff & Lori Plummer left for Gatlinburg, Tennessee Thursday afternoon to go to Winterfest. They are driving home today.

Winterfest is a weekend retreat that has been held for 20 years - one each year in Arlington, Texas and Gatlinburg, Tennessee. This retreat is geared toward middle and high school teens. Winterfest is attended primarily by teens from a cappella churches of Christ, although groups from several different fellowships do attend each year. The organizers use teachers from the churches of Christ to teach and encourage teens in their walk with God.

The theme for 2008 is "The Mission" from Matthew 28:19-20 - geared toward discipleship. The teachers and guests that lead use real life stories, drama, music and scripture to make the Christian life come alive to the teens involved. Our a cappella praise and worship times are uplifting and engaging.

Believing that the Christian life can be very joyful, they bring in the best Christian entertainers they can find, such as Bob Stromberg, Tom Tufts, CPR, Dr. Comedy, Bob Smiley, Brad Montague, 3-2-1, Bean & Bailey, to name a few. They have contemporary Christian concerts at our events that are supplemental to the weekend (such as Jars of Clay, Third Day, Newsboys, Audio A, Supertones, Tait, to name a few).

So, make a point to speak with one of our teens next Sunday and ask them some questions about their weekend at Winterfest!

