

Oaks-West Church of Christ

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February 2, 2020

Routine

by Darrell Trammel

{I wrote this article some time back, but our discussion in class Wednesday night fits well with the idea. Our zeal has to be tended and one of the ways to do that is to have a plan or routine to be active.}

I like having a routine, especially in the morning. With a routine, I forget things less often. Some parts of my routine are mundane - like setting up the computer and then going to start some coffee. Other parts of my routine are essentials, like prayer, reading, or planning out my week. Sometimes things come up that interrupt my normal routine and it takes a while to get back on track.

Jesus had a routine as well. For example, in Luke 4:16 it says, "And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as was his custom, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and he stood up to read." Also, in Luke 22:39, we see that His routine

included prayer. Paul gave a few glimpses into his routine when he wrote his letters and stated that he prays for them often. When something is important, it becomes our routine. We don't want to leave it out or forget it. Following are some ideas to help you build a routine that will benefit you spiritually.

1. Clarify what is important. Routine is great, but it can get bogged down in minutia. Decide what is truly important and make sure those things are part of your routine. Prioritize them.

2. Set aside theme days or times. In the business world, a theme day might be a day devoted to marketing. For us, this could be a day in which our routine is to call or visit those in the congregation that are shut-ins or are ill. Decide what you need to spend some focused time on and choose a day to get

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those things done.

3. Commit to your routine. There are always unforeseen circumstances that will throw us off. We can't do anything about that. We can, however, make a commitment to the routine we set for ourselves so that only the truly pressing needs will interrupt that routine.

4. Vary your routine from day to day. If your routine consists of doing the exact same things every day, then it can become a ritual without much thought or intention involved. Some items need to be a part of a daily routine, and others can be varied. Try to mix things up to keep it from being mindless.

Make God the center of your day. Set a routine that allows you to focus on what is truly important. Life can throw all sorts of distractions our way. Don't let those distractions pull you in every sort of direction. "Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness." (Matthew 6:33)

Do Messengers Matter?

By Warren Berkley

So, the gospel is just about the content, the message, the truth from God about salvation. Right?

Well, there isn't any question that is primary. But the conduct of the messengers is not irrelevant. The conduct and manner of the messengers can encourage good listening, or utterly undermine a good hearing of the message.

When Paul and his co-workers came to Thessalonica, for instance, what if these messengers had been drunk, half-hearted, rowdy and inarticulate? Would that have mattered? Sure. It would have hindered the faithful and effective delivery of the message.

One of the worst things to happen in preaching is for people to want to hear the truth, but the speaker or messenger exhibits behavior that distracts from that desire. The argument I'm making is affirmed by Paul.

"For you yourselves know, brothers, that our coming to you was not in vain. But though we had already suffered and been shamefully treated at Philippi, as you know, we had boldness in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in the midst of much conflict. For our appeal does not spring from error or impurity or any attempt to deceive, but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, so we speak, not to please man, but to please God who tests our hearts. For we never came with words of flattery, as you know, nor with a pretext for greed—God is witness. Nor did we seek glory from people, whether from you or from others, though we could have made demands as apostles of Christ. But we were gentle among you, like a nursing mother taking care of her own children. So, being affectionately desirous of you, we were ready to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you had become very dear to us." 1 Thess. 2:1-8

Welcome!

When you visit our assemblies, you will be received friendly, kindly and courteously. We believe this to be the natural attitude of those who truly love God and mankind. Though you may at first be among strangers, we hope that you will come to know us well and count us as your friends.

We offer Bible studies as well as correspondence courses for those interested in learning more about what God expects of us.



Upcoming Ladies' Bible Classes - February 11 at Dyanne Turner's home.

Song Practice - February 16, 5:00 p.m.

Gospel Meeting - February 13-16 with David Bonnor at Benchley church of Christ.

Our upcoming Gospel Meeting - March 1-4 with Rickie Jenkins

Gospel Meeting - March 7-10 with Kevin O'Banion at Northwest church of Christ in Austin.

If you know of upcoming events, please inform Darrell so they can be included here.



Please remember the following individuals in your daily prayers:

June Owens
Jack Wilson
Jerry Richardson
Karen Hallmark
Rich Force
Ron & Sue Stanberry
Silvia Stinnett & her family
Autumn Felps

If you know of someone that needs to be on this list, please tell Darrell (email preferred) and provide updates so names stay on the list as long as needed.

We have many that face challenges on a daily basis and need your prayers as well.

**“praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,”
(Ephesians 6:18 ESV)**

