

**SUNDAY MORNING**

**Announcements**  
Clay Morris

**Song Leader**  
Daniel Allgor

**Lord's Supper**  
Mark Davis    Jon Barry  
Jerry Schnelle

**Prayers**  
Joseph Barry    Clay Morris

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**SUNDAY EVENING**

**Announcements**

**Scripture Reading**

**Song Leader**

**Lord's Supper**

**Prayers**

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**WEDNESDAY EVENING**

**Via Zoom**

**ABOUT US**

**Elders**  
Jack Calvert    Rodney Ellis

Jon Barry    Bill Brittenham  
Mike Davis    Clay Morris

**Evangelist**  
Bryan Garlock

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**SERVICE TIMES**

**Sunday**  
Bible Study .....9:30 A.M.  
Worship .....10:15 A.M.  
Worship .....6:00 P.M.

**Wednesday**  
Bible Study .....7:00 P.M.

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**GOD'S PLAN FOR SALVATION**

**Hear** the word of truth ..... Romans 10:13-17

**Believe** the truth..... Hebrews 11:6; John 8:24

**Repent** from all sins .... Luke 13:3; Acts 2:38

**Confess** the name of Christ ... Matthew 10:32-33; Romans 10:9-10

**Be Baptized** in His name ..... Mark 16:16; 1 Peter 3:21; Colossians 2:12

**Walk** in newness of life and **be faithful** unto death ..... Romans 6:1-4; Revelation 2:10

overcoming the world unless we first believe in Him (1 John 5:1-5).

**Are YOU Ready?**

**2 Peter 3:10** *But the day of the Lord WILL COME like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up.*



**Volume XXVI**

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**The Christian and “Culture Wars”**  
Doy Moyer

“Culture wars” refers to the conflicts among social groups who fight to have their particular values and practices be the dominant cultural force. The idea is commonly heard in political settings where groups try to use political power to enforce those values and beliefs on others. One need not even be a Christian to fight in the culture wars. Christians often join in these wars because they see a world that is caving in to sin and degradation so much that culture around us appears to be falling apart. We want to hold on to some semblance of what we have known in the past (and this varies group to group). Every generation will see these wars going on around them.

taking pot-shots at one another and bemoaning how terrible the “others” are (behold the meme-wars). When Christians join in this kind of war, however, they may unnecessarily destroy opportunities to reach out with the Gospel because this type of war is typically carnal in nature (cf. 2 Cor 10:3-5). If we become more associated with political parties than with Christ, we failed somewhere.

When have Christians, historically, acting with the fruit of the Spirit, ever won a “culture war”? The world has its own god who blinds eyes and helps entrench people in futile thoughts and evil actions: “the whole world lies in the power of the evil one” (1 John 5:19). Why should we be surprised that the world thinks Christians strange when they separate from the world (1 Pet 4:3-6)? Why should we be surprised at the “next

Certainly Christians need to be speaking the truth to a world in sin, but there are dangers with the “culture war” approach because it tends to mobilize groups into sides that continually are

## FAMILY TALK

Continue to remember and check on our shut-ins: **Bonnie Allgor, Maxine Burnham, Ann Thomas** and **Francine Davis**.

**Cathy Monaghan** is continuing treatment for her cancer.

**Bible Study: 9:30 AM (and Zoom)**

**Services: 10:15 AM (and Zoom)**

**Kids Only: 5:00 PM (Zoom)**

**Monday: 7:00 PM (Zoom)**

**Wednesday: 7:00 PM (Zoom)**

**Thursday: 7:00 PM (Zoom)**

thing” that comes along flouting evil and sin? Shall we just get outraged more? Shall we threaten boycotts? Shall we try to yell louder than “the other side”? Shall we fill up social media feeds with more disgust? Shall we line up in the streets and threaten some kind of censure of the “other side”? Shall we take pleasure in shaming the enemy? What shall we do?

How exactly do Christians win a “culture war”? The truth is that we don’t. We need to realize that Christians will not win “culture wars.” They never have and they never will. Why? Because the whole world lies in the power of the evil one. That is not going to change until the Lord comes in judgment. Every worldly culture will be rife with sin, and that’s not going to change because that’s what the world

does and Christians cannot expect the world to act like Christians. On the other hand, Christians ought to expect other Christians to be godly, to be salt and light, to learn how to walk in wisdom and speak with grace “that you may know how you ought to answer each person” (Col 4:4-6).

Culturally, Christians have always appeared to be the losers. There will always be a deeper, spiritual conflict in this world that will often make it appear that the dragon of old is winning the war. He wages a mean war, has no scruples, and seeks to devour any in his path (1 Pet 5:8). The war is real, but it is a spiritual war that cannot be won through worldly, cultural, or political tactics (Eph 6:12). Our perspective of what is going on needs to go much deeper than what is outwardly manifested in current cultural values. The world simply will not appropriate the godly way of life. It won’t happen. Since Adam and Eve sinned, it never has happened. Not even in Israel. Why do we expect it will be different now?

But this is not a “we are losing and just ought to give up” kind of mentality. This is coming at reality from a different perspective. Rather than see it as a culture war to take up sides against the “others,” see it as a spiritual battle where the dragon and his agents are the “other,” and he is the enemy of all people, including those whom he has blinded. Our task, then, is to help people see Christ so that all of us will be on the Lord’s side. This will have to happen one soul at a time, and as souls are transformed, so is behavior (Rom 12:1-2).

Here’s the thing to remember: the dragon isn’t winning. He’s already lost. Read Revelation. On the surface, Christians lost the first century “culture war,” and they have lost every one since because sin won’t stop and the world continues under the dragon’s influence. However, Christians did not, and they do not, lose the ultimate conflict when they hold fast to the blood of the Lamb, keep their allegiance to the King of kings, and trust God for the final victory. If we can see behind the curtain, we would know that those who are with us are more than those who are with them (2 Kings 6). Our God is the Lord of Armies!

Outwardly, the culture war will rage and Christians will appear to be losing. They will suffer, and many will die. They aren’t losing and they won’t lose, however. Not at the deeper level. Not at the eternal level. Not where it finally counts. “And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever” (1 John 2:17).

Yes, Christians ought to speak out about sin. Christians of all people ought to know the proper way to address sin. We speak up in defense of our Lord. We stand against sin, whether in ourselves or others, because it is against His glory and honor. We need to practice and preach repentance because it is the path to reconciliation with God and others. It doesn’t matter what side of a culture war sin is on, and be assured that, culturally, sin is on all sides. We also know that sin angers God more than it angers us, yet He is the One who provided the solution to deal with it in grace and

love. Our solution, then, is to hold out His solution His way, and that can only happen in the teaching of the Gospel, pointing to the blood of the Lamb, and urging faithfulness to the Lord. The side of the Gospel is the only side Christians should be interested in being on. In Christ our allegiance is found.

We need to look at this from a different perspective than typical “culture war” thinking. Anyone, including unbelievers, can fight a culture war and sometimes get it right. Christians are fighting for something much greater than a culture that will always be part of the world system, and which will fail. We are in this for the Kingdom of God, and this kingdom will still be just as powerful as it has ever been even when the current culture collapses. God’s kingdom depends on no human culture to thrive. Read Daniel. Then read Revelation again. It’s all there.

When we see people in the world proudly displaying their sin, understand that 1) that’s not going to stop even if we try to force it, and 2) these are people in need of a Savior just like all of us. A culture war victory here and there doesn’t save them or us. Jesus does. This is why our real defense is not found in political solutions, cultural shouting matches, or violent revolutions. It is found in Christ and the Gospel. Through the blood of the Lamb, His word, and faithfulness to death (Rev 12:8), we can transcend the culture war and overcome the world the way God intends: by faith in Him. There is no