

SUNDAY MORNING

Announcements

Randy Ellis

Song Leader

Daniel Allgor

Lord's Supper

Jon Barry Jerry Schnelle
Mark Davis

Prayers

Bryan Garlock Clay Morris

WEDNESDAY EVENING

Announcements

Daniel Allgor

Song Leader

Clay Morris

Prayers

Bill Rinehart Bill Brittenham

Invitation

Joseph Barry

ABOUT US

Elders

Jack Calvert Rodney Ellis

Jon Barry Bill Brittenham
Mike Davis Clay Morris

Evangelist

Bryan Garlock

SERVICE TIMES

Sunday

Bible Study9:30 A.M.
Worship10:15 A.M.

Monday (Zoom)

Bible Study7:00 P.M

Wednesday

Bible Study7:00 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



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Issue 26

Influence

Charles Durham Jr.

There is an old adage which says, "Actions speak louder than words." And that is the truth. We call it "influence." The power one possesses to sway other people along certain courses of action because of his wealth, position, or ability. Influence, either for good or evil, follows in the wake of one's actions and not of what one says he will do or not do. One of the first places I fully came to be aware of this power was in the parent-child relationship. I would see parents warning their children not to smoke. In between their admonitions that smoking caused halitosis, hacking coughs, and lung cancer would be a puff from a cigarette and this feeble rebuke, "Now, don't do as I do but do as I tell you to do." Given man's propensity toward evil, I knew how far that advice went for the betterment of mankind.

What makes influence such a powerful tool is the fact that each of us possess it.

There are people who watch us, who admire something about us, who imitate our actions. If put to its proper use, influence can be a great means of leading someone to obey Christ. Listen to Jesus, "For I have given you an example, that ye also should do as I have done to you" (John 13:15). Jesus spoke of actions. Paul wrote, "Be ye imitators of me, even as I also am of Christ" (1 Cor. 11:1). His apostle wrote of deeds. Peter said, "For hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, that ye should follow his steps" (1 Pet. 2:21). To follow anyone's footsteps, we must walk. The word "example" as used by Peter literally means "an under-writing." It refers to teaching children the alphabet. A copy of the letters of the alphabet would be distributed to each child. They would write underneath the example of the letter as it should be drawn, trying to

let you have certain drugs. He says he has to be narrow because government regulations are narrow, and even thinks it is for good!

As you think about it, it's a blessing that somebody is narrow-minded. And however much we need to be "narrow" about vital material matters, we must be infinitely more careful and exact about spiritual laws. God will not be mocked.

Deut. 10:17 "For the LORD your God is the God of gods and the Lord of lords, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God who does not show partiality nor take a bribe.

FAMILY TALK

Continue to remember and check on our shut-ins/sometimes shut-ins: **Bonnie Allgor, Pat Buls, Maxine Burnham, Ann Thomas, Sonny & Cathy Monaghan, Pete & Beth Rowland, and Francine Davis.**

Cathy Monaghan has had more medical problems but is home now.

Dee Minter had his second carotid surgery. He had a few problems after this surgery but is doing better.

Bible Study: 9:30 AM (and Zoom)

Services: 10:15 AM (and Zoom)

Monday Class: 7:00 PM (Zoom)

Wednesday: 7:00 PM (and Zoom)

reproduce it as closely as possible. We must pattern our lives after Jesus. We must do our best to live as he lived, "to be holy as He is holy." Thus, "by their fruits ye shall know them."

Influence begins with the heart. Only as we keep the seat of our intellect, emotions, and will unmixed with evil, can we expect to wield the silent power of influence for good. Solomon wrote, "Keep thy heart with all diligence; For out of it are the issues of life" (Prov. 4:23). In the ASV, "with all diligence" is footnoted "above all that thou guardest." We must see the necessity of keeping our heart right with God. We must see the danger in letting our thoughts aimlessly wander from sin to sin, of toying with its pleasures in our mind, of

calculating our pursuit of it. We must heed the Lord, who was tempted like we are tempted, yet without sin, for He said, "For from within, out of the heart of men, evil thoughts proceed, fornications, thefts, murders, adulteries, covetings, wickednesses, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, railing, pride, foolishness: all these evil things proceed from within and defile the man" (Mk. 7:21-23).

Influence is the result of doing good. If influence is sought for its own sake, then it is a matter of selfish pride and not an attempt to glorify God. The Pharisees were guilty of seeking their own glory above the glory of the Father. They loved to spread their influence for the sake of spreading their influence (cf. Matt. 6:1-5). Jesus said, "Ye are the salt of the earth...Ye are the light of the world... so let your light shine before men; that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven" (Matt. 5:13, 14, 16). The reason we do good works and influence others to do good works is not "to be seen of men." Rather, that being seen, others may understand that we serve God to glorify Him. We are the light of the world. We must penetrate the evil world and show forth the excellencies of Christ as surely as the light of a burning star pierces the darkness of night. We must preserve from corruption by giving life to people who are spiritually dying as surely as salt gives protection to meat that would decay and become rancid without it (cf. Phil. 2:15, 16).

And above all things we must be steadfast, unmovable, constant in our endeavor to serve God. We cannot fellowship evil and expect our influence to be good. We must not fraternize the enemy.

Our teachings and deeds must be consistent. Surely we can see this in the life of Jesus. "He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad" (Matt. 12:30 KJV)

Distraction (Unknown)

The song leader read the passage that encouraged us to praise the Lord in song and then instructed us to, "pay attention to the words."

Yet... The man sitting two rows in front was staring into space, then looking around the room — never a note sung.

"Pray without ceasing," Paul instructs in I Thessalonians 5:17 and the gentleman at the front says, "Please bow with me while we pray."

Yet... To the right was a woman making faces at a child, seeking a laugh or smile and to the left another was using her thumbs to quickly send a message on her phone.

Mark 4:24 warns to, "pay attention to what you hear," which applies to the word of God being spoken during a sermon.

Yet... the man behind me broke my concentration by talking to his wife while God's word was being read and taught.

The book of Nehemiah tells of the Israelites standing when Ezra read from God's scroll.

Yet... while sitting in comfortable, padded pews, the time was being checked on watches and phones, demonstrating disrespect for the holy words.

Jesus commands us to remember Him through the taking of the Lord's Supper ... His death and sacrifice for MY sins.

Yet... some around could NOT have been remembering because they were busy with other things ... a precious sacrifice forgotten.

Agrippa said, "Almost you persuade me to be a Christian," and so was I ...

Yet... during the invitation three in front were preparing to leave and while the song was being sung two left the auditorium just to return moments later.

I came to worship my Lord.

I came to hear His word.

I came to reflect on my relationship with Him.

I came to be persuaded to serve.

Yet... I was distracted.

Pray that we are **never** part of any distraction.

What about 'Narrow' Preachers? (Selected)

I don't know about you, but I get a little weary of hearing the word "narrow" used as a slur against preachers who adhere to the Bible in their preaching. Sure, they are "narrow", but so are factory workers, surgeons, druggists and teachers.

The factory worker is so "narrow" that he uses micrometers and measures to the thousandth of an inch the bores and pistons of engines, electronic components and balancing wheels in timepieces.

The surgeon is so "narrow" that he insists on ultra-technical laboratory analysis, meticulously sterilized instruments of special design. Why, he is so picky narrow that he makes his assistants wear masks over their faces!

The druggist is so "narrow" that he just has to have a prescription before he will