

Monroeville Christian Church
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Sunday School 9:30am
Worship Service 10:30am
Sun. Eve. 6:00pm
Wed. Eve. 7:30pm

Dave Provance, Evangelist
Covey Wise III, Evangelist
Art Hanze, Evangelist

Vol. LI

July 11, 2018

DATED MATERIAL

No. 07

MCC CHRISTIAN SERVICE CAMP

"Camp Hero"

Our Christian Service Camp is held at Laurel Hill State Park, Group Camp #8.

Registration Times:

Check In - all campers 4:30-6:30pm
Monday, July 30th

Check Out - all campers 7:30pm
Friday, August 3rd

NEEDED - Snacks for camp. Please see sign-up sheet in the main vestibule. Any monetary donations can be given to Covey or Katie.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Aug 14thMeetings
6:30pm Elders / 7:30pm Board
25thChurch Picnic
Sept 01stBlood Drive

IT'S A BABY GIRL!!!!

Ladies ~ You are cordially invited to a Baby Shower for Allie Zottola on Saturday, July 28, 2018 from 12:00-3:00pm.

For details please see sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the main vestibule.

Please RSVP by July 14th.

Come and 'shower' Baby Zottola with gifts of love!

(Allie is registered at: Amazon, Target & Walmart)

CONGRATULATIONS!!!! To the proud new grandparents Mike & Carol Dell'Aquila on the birth of their grandson Julian Michael Festa.

THANK YOU CARD - Posted on the bulletin in the main vestibule from Chryseis Smith.

FOOD CUPBOARD NEEDS - Peanut butter, spaghetti sauce (please, no pasta) and soups.

MONROEVILLE MESSENGER

Art's Comments:

"I DID IT MY WAY"

Frank Sinatra made this song popular years ago. Today many in the church and world would have made this phrase their theme, "**I Did it My Way**". God gives words that promise comfort and victory but people want to "do it their way".

1. Jesus said when under stress "come to Me and I'll give you rest," but many "**do it their way**" and then wonder why they fail, fret and worry.
2. Jesus tells His followers, "Don't be troubled, believe in Me, I'm going to prepare a place for you and Me to dwell together forever. But many say, "**I'll do it my way**", and miss out on a wonderful eternal home.
3. The Word assures one "there is no condemnation to those who are in Christ", but the person "**does it their way**" and loses that assurance.
4. God tells us His Word is a lamp and a light to guide us in our way, but we decide to "**do it our way**" and wonder why we are still in darkness.
5. The Christian is promised that he or she has One in them Who is greater than Satan, but the Christian often "**does it their way**" and loses battle after battle.
6. We are promised that if we put on the whole armor of Christ we will stand in the evil day, but "**we do it our way**" and skimp on the outfit and fall.
7. The Bible says a righteous person's prayers does much good, but many "**do it their way**" seeking worldly advice and the result is much evil.
8. The Word promises a person's soul will be saved if they Believe, Repent and are Baptized, but many will "**do it their way**" and by challenging God lose out on that wonderful promise.
9. God has promised a white robe, names written in heaven and fruit from the tree of life and a new city if they overcome, but many good people have decided to "**do it their way**" and will hear the words from Jesus, "Depart from Me".
10. The Bible promises Christians that if they will walk in the light they will be continually forgiven and cleansed but many "**do it their corrupt way**" and lose the promise.

We could go on and on with point after point and the truth will always be the same. That truth - with every promise from God there is a condition. God is not the world's Santa Clause except maybe in this one point - "He's making a list and checking it twice."

Meeting God's conditions in no way implies we EARN our salvation but it does make it clear there is something we must do to RECEIVE the gift. Instead of saying, "**I did it my way**", why not say, "With God's help I'll do it His way!"

Love you,
Art

EVANGELIST'S MOMENT

Here is a Newsletter article I wrote a few years back. I made a few alterations to the original but it is a good article, please take a few minutes to read it again. Thanks.

“Modest Attire”

Today, there is an alarming trend infiltrating our brotherhood. It states that it doesn't matter what our outward appearance looks like, but it's only what is on the inside that really matters to God. This false teaching is very dangerous because of our world's rebellious nature and people's "I will do whatever I want attitude." The Bible teaches if your heart and mind are right with Christ that you will not want to look like the world and outwardly you will express the image of Christ. The importance of modest attire and being fashion conscious in God's sight should be the desire of every Christian in this Humanistic society we live in. Those who teach this false teaching use (I Samuel 16:7) which says, "But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have rejected him, for God sees not as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart." First, this passage is not talking about dress and what is proper attire for a Christian. It is talking about God selecting a new king for Israel. Now as far as Samuel is concerned, what else could he look at but these men's outward appearance? He is not God and cannot look at their hearts and minds. It was only natural for Samuel to look at these men's outward appearance and see who looked like a big, strong man to lead Israel's army into battle against God's enemies. God, on the other hand, was able to see inwardly their faults and shortcomings and knew that they were not right for the job. It's funny when David is picked what is said about his appearance. (I Samuel 16:12) says, "So he sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, with beautiful eyes and a handsome appearance. And the LORD said, Arise, anoint him; for this is he." Who did God pick, a young man who had an outstanding handsome appearance, God also knew his heart was right for the job to be the next king

of Israel. Those who try to use this passage to prove that it doesn't matter what you dress like or look like on the outside miss the whole context of this passage. This passage teaches just the opposite of what they are trying to prove. Read it again, "But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or the height of his stature, because I have rejected him, for God sees not as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart." This passage teaches man does look on the outward appearance; therefore, it is important to not look like some ungodly person because men will judge your outward appearance. It is very unscholarly to only look at this passage and say God only looks at the inside and not the outside.

The case where Jesus rebukes the Pharisees in (Matthew 23:25-27) is very important when dealing with this topic. He taught that if one's heart (the inside of the cup) was pure, the outside of the cup (one's appearance) would become clean also. If a Christian is to dress in accordance to God's design, he or she must first make their heart right. The New Testament teachings show us that we are to be different from this present world. We are to be a "Holy Priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ." (I Peter 2:5) To be a holy priesthood means that we will be set apart from this world, which logically would encompass both our inward and outward appearance. Notice what else Peter says, "Beloved, I urge you as aliens and strangers to abstain from fleshly lusts, which wage war against the soul. Keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles, so that in the things in which they slander you as evildoers, they may on account of your good deeds, as they observe them, glorify God in the day of visitation." (I Peter 2:11, 12) If we look and talk just like the heathens in the world they will slander us as evildoers and hypocrites. But, if we abstain from fleshly lusts like immodest attire and keep our behavior excellent, as they observe us God will be glorified. Look at what Paul says, "And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove

what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect." (Romans 12:2) We must first renew our mind with sound doctrine and principles taught in God's word. Once we do that we will understand what is good, acceptable and perfect in God's sight for His church. Do you really think God wants us running around in mini-skirts, short-shorts and immodest clothes? What about Adam and Eve? God didn't want them running around naked so He clothed them and made proper garments for them. (Genesis 3:21) Paul told Timothy in (I Timothy 2:9) that women should wear modest and discrete attire. So, what can we say then about the rebellious attitudes many Christians have when they dress like the world? Is this how God wants His children looking? What would Jesus do? How would He dress and appear in these last days? Church, ultimately what will advance the Kingdom and Gospel of Christ? Christians, who look like the world, half-dressed or wearing t-shirts advertising beer slogans and other weird and perverted things are not glorifying God! We are to be people who are different, called out, and modestly dressed presenting Christ and His love to a lost and dying world. As I conclude this article I want people to know that I wrote on this topic because I love Christ and His church. I'm concerned about the reputation we have within our brotherhood and the world. I'm not trying to be a dictator or start a "dress code". Remember, that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit and we don't want to cause another to stumble because of our actions or dress. We don't want the opposite sex to be tempted by the lack of clothes that we are wearing either. So let's dress for success being the Holy priesthood of believers that we have been called to be. May God grant you spiritual insight in this matter and bless your good behavior in the LORD!

In His Service,



BE SURE TO PICK UP A COPY – The new Photo Directories are complete. **Please** one per family. A special thank you to Josh & Hannah and Jim & Allie for all your work!

God's Plumb Line

Amos 7:7-9 reads, "This is what he showed me: The Lord was standing by a wall that had been built true to plumb, with a plumb line in his hand. And the LORD asked me, 'What do you see, Amos?' 'A plumb line,' I replied. Then the Lord said, 'Look, I am setting a plumb line among my people Israel; I will spare them no longer. The high places of Isaac will be destroyed and the sanctuaries of Israel will be ruined; with my sword I will rise against the house of Jeroboam.'"

Amos begins this passage talking about a plumb line. It is a construction device to determine if a wall is perfectly vertical and perpendicular to the foundation. It makes sure that the wall is not leaning to the right or to the left. In the Old Testament, the plumb line is used as a symbol of judgement. In Amos's vision, the Lord is standing next to a wall which had been built with the aid of the plumb line. In other words, the wall symbolized Israel and the plumb line the Word of God. The plumb line was now being used a second time to evaluate the wall, but the wall is found leaning. A leaning wall is dangerous and must be torn down. This was God's announcement of judgement on His people. They had been a people established by God's law, but now they were found out of balance with that Law and God would bring about their destruction. ¹

Symbolically, we can learn from this. God's people today can use His Word as a plumb line to see if they are building their lives according to His standard. When we take a look at our life, is it off balance? Are we building according to God's specifications? If our life seems to be teetering on the brink of collapse, then maybe it is time to bring it back into alignment with God's plumb line. Maybe it is time to dig deeper into His Word. Maybe it is time to regularly fellowship with the saints and meet around His table. Maybe it is time to serve Him wholeheartedly above everything else in this world.

What does your life look like when evaluated by God's plumb line?

In His Service,
Covey

¹ Smith, James E. *The Minor Prophets*. College Press, 1994. pages 188-189