

February 3, 2013



WEEKLY SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday: 10:15 AM Bible Class
 11:00 AM Morning Service
 Thursday: 7:30 PM Mid-week Service

WEB ADDRESS

Be sure to bookmark our website for daily articles and audio messages:
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WEEKLY MEETING LOCATION

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SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

10: 15 a.m. Bible Class followed by short break

11:00 a.m. Service

Opening Hymns

Scripture Reading

Message

Closing Hymn

Nursery Today: Urmilla I.; **Nursery Thursday:** Debby D. ; **February Bdays:** Kris D--2nd; Barbara S--7th; **Anniversary:**

LOVE OF THE FATHER

1 John 2: 12-17

The apostle John addresses the three kinds of believers found in a local church. Fathers are those who have been longest in the faith, young men are those who have been in the faith the next longest behind the fathers (usually middle-aged believers) and little children are newly born-again believers, babes in Christ. Here is important instruction for the good of each believer now, as well as for the good of those younger believers among us who are the future of this church.

Love Not the World, Neither the Things in It

Believers have no reason to love this world. We are born of the Spirit of God from above; we are not of this world. (Jn 17: 14-16) God the Father chose us unto salvation in Christ before ever even making this world. Christ Jesus has redeemed us out of this world. Our citizenship is in the kingdom of God, not of this world. (Col 3: 20-21; 4: 1; Jn 8: 23; 18: 36) But in this world we face difficulties.

With every phase of life comes a new challenge. The fathers have looked forward to enjoying their golden years and are apt to indulge in things of this world. Likewise, the middle-aged believer is coming into more of this world than he has ever had or is on the downhill side of middle age wanting to kick up his heels while he can.

Yet, we must remember that Christ our everlasting Father laid up for his children, perfect righteousness, by laying down his life for us. Likewise, it is up to the fathers and the young men in the faith to lay up for the little children in Christ, rather than loving this world.

If Any Man Love the World, the Love of the Father is not in Him

The love of the Father considered the spiritual welfare of his children more important than the world. (Mt 4: 8-10) So too, the spiritual welfare of babes in Christ is more important for the faithful fathers and young men than anything else in this life. If our attendance on spiritual things is only for our immediate needs, or our own personal family till we get them out of the house, then we leave the church, no longer giving ourselves for these believers coming up behind us, then how can we say the love of the Father is in us? Is the lust of the eyes, the lust of the flesh and the pride of life what we love or do we love these children for whom Christ died? (1 Jn 2: 18-19)

To you young in the faith planning to go to college, you would be wise to stay close or to go only where you can continue to hear the gospel preached in truth consistently. And attend every service. Hearing of Christ Jesus through the gospel is preeminently more important than a degree of any kind from any institution in this world. Also, as you think of a career, let this be first in your thoughts, what can I do to promote the good of Christ's kingdom without being consumed away from Christ by a career. One day you will be the one looking out for those younger in the faith than you. So make Christ and the furtherance of his name the chief thing in all you do in this life. No man can serve two masters. (Mt 6: 24) The deceitfulness of riches choke the word so that while it may appear outwardly you have profited, in reality you will have become unprofitable. (Mt 13: 22) That is the word and example that we fathers and young men are to teach these who are younger in the faith. If our actions teach them otherwise, how can we say the love of the Father is in us?

All that is in the World is not of the Father but of the World

Is Satan whispering in your ear saying, "Has God said? Oh, that is not what he means." Satan got Eve to look at the fruit—lust of the eyes. He told her it was good for food—lust of the flesh. He told her it would make her wise—pride of life. As soon as Adam ate, he experienced the lust of the eye—I am naked!; Lust of the flesh—I need a cover for me!; Pride of life—I can cover myself!; And they blamed others for it all. Did God teach these lusts? No, all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. Believer, we only overcome the wicked one, by abiding in Christ. Will we heed his word or our own lusts? Instead of going after the world, go after the

Father! Everything in this world that appears most precious, important and valuable to our flesh is marked for destruction. Do not take my word take God's word, "And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof."

But He That Does the Will of God Abides Forever

Christ has done the will of God for his people so that the law is fulfilled for us, our sins are put away, and we have been made the righteousness of God in him. Our victorious Savior is risen and abides forever. By the grace of God we have done the will of God by believing on Christ who is our Life eternal. Now continue abiding in him and we shall abide forever. (1 Jn 2: 24-28) And remember, the new commandment to love, which Christ gave us, is not to love the world, but to love one another as Christ has loved us. (Jn 13: 34) We love one another when we lay down our life, providing for our brethren so that they can continue hearing the gospel of our Redeemer; we love these young believers coming up behind us by laying down our lives, providing for them so they can have the gospel of Christ in truth; we love by laying aside vain wisdom, teaching them that nothing else is more important in this life than continuing in Christ together with brethren; we love by the example of our own consistent continuance in Christ and the hearing of the gospel, rather than exhibiting a love for this world and the things in it.

He that does the will of God abideth forever. This is the will of God that we believe on Christ and love one another. (1 Jn 3: 23) Remember Moses? "By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward. By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible." (He 11: 24-26) Moses is one of those faithful fathers whose example is still teaching us babes today. But we don't even know Pharaoh's name. And Moses has been with the Lord in eternal glory over five thousand years as new as the first day.

Brethren, the will of God is that we love not the world, but abide in Christ and love one another. He that does so shall do so forever!