

Service Opportunities

Announcements: Ted Wheeler
Usher: Delbert Leavens

RECORD

Attendance: 58
Contribution: \$ 2034.00
Weekly Budget: \$ 2920.00

Thought for The Day

There is a God-created vacuum in the heart of every man, which cannot be satisfied by any created thing, but only by God the Creator, made known through Jesus Christ.

Blaise Pascal

Church of Christ of Venice

4301 SR 776
Venice, FL 34293

MORNING SERVICES

Opening Prayer: Kerry Keathley
Songs: Tim Simmons
Sermon: Delbert Leavens
Closing Prayer: Dick Navarre

EVENING SERVICES

Opening Prayer: Delbert Leavens
Songs: Tim Simmons
Sermon: Wayne Vowell
Closing Prayer: Wayne Vowell

COMMUNION

Marty Wingo Kyle Sais
Troy Wheeler Kaden Simmons

Church of Christ of Venice

"A friendly church, proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ"

September 17, 2006

Volume 16, Number 37

Elders

Delbert Leavens
Wayne Vowell
Ted Wheeler

Minister

Ted Wheeler

Sunday Services

Bible Study-10:00 am
Worship-11:00 am
Evening Worship-6:00 pm

Wednesday

Bible Study-6:30 pm.

Church of Christ

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FLORIDA SCHOOL
OF PREACHING



LESSONS LEARNED FROM A COFFEE CAN

T i m N i c h o l s

You can learn a lot from the side of a coffee can. Maxwell House has written, there, to inform us that they have some experts who know how to carefully select, roast, and grind these beans in several different ways. They assure us that one of those ways will satisfy us. Read it for yourself if you don't believe me. They used to tell us that they had one coffee to offer us and that it was *"good to the last drop"*. Now they tell us that they have gotten their experts to mix up some other batches in case you don't agree with their opinion of the first. They have a batch without much caffeine in it, one without any, a mix that is *"bold, hearty, and exceptionally rich"*, one that's *"pure, lively, and full-bodied"*, one that's *"deep, intense, but not bitter"*, and one that's *"smooth and satisfying"*. They used to tell us that their coffee was better than the other ones. Now, they are making a lot of *"other ones"* and telling us that any one of these might be the best one *"for us"*.

Jesus established His church and He delivered the faith to her in the first century (Jude 3). His moral standards for our individual and collective lives are the right ones as He

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A SPECIAL WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS!

Please fill out a blue visitor card so that we might have a record of your visit. If needed, there is a **nursery** available at the rear of the auditorium. **Bible classes** for all ages are available Sundays at 10:00 am and Wednesdays at 6:30 pm. We hope that you will join us for these studies. Please come and worship with us again soon.

delivered them. His orders regarding the mission of the church are complete and unchanging. His instructions regarding how we are to express our worship, what we are to teach the world and each other, how we are to help those in need, and how we are to conduct ourselves toward one another are exactly as they ought to be. In the first century they were uniformly given to individual churches that were to walk by the same standard (1 Corinthians 4:17; 7:17; 16:1). When Jesus revealed truth that offended rather than drew people in, He said of those who did not want it, *"Let them alone. They are blind leaders of the blind"* (Matthew 15:12-14; see also Matthew 11:6; 13:55-57; John 6:60-66; Romans 9:32, 33; 1 Peter 2:8). When Paul knew that he could draw larger crowds and awe larger numbers of people by using the admired techniques of rhetoric of his day, he refused to do so because doing so would deny the power of the gospel (1 Corinthians 1:17-31). The gospel produced oneness when it produced its designed fruit and all those things that threatened to produce distinguishable *"varieties"* from the substance of the gospel -- and thus division, were to be abhorred rather than embraced (1 Corinthians 1:10).

Could it be that some of our misguided brethren have been reading and learning from coffee cans when they ought to be reading their Bibles? When we are told that we ought to remove some element of Divine truth in order to appeal to some element of human desire, it seems so. When we are counseled to add some human element not found in the gospel, it seems so. When we hear of large churches having a "traditional service" for those who prefer such a thing, and then a *"contemporary service"* for those whose tastes are not satisfied by the other, it seems so. When we hear those who once called upon the world to find the church that is right and true rather than to *"attend the church of your choice"*, now turning around and saying, *"attend the service of your choice"*, it seems so. Even when it is suggested that any particular truths are to be emphasized while others are to be de-emphasized, it seems so.

The gospel has come to us ground and blended to perfection. We cannot, with human hands, reformulate and improve the substance of it. Its elements are all in right proportions to one another. The ratios of mercy, justice, love, duty, comfort, expected affliction, calls for repentance and obedience, and assurances of forgiveness are all perfect. Maxwell House can make its *"Master Blend"* and then go ahead and recommend some others. Jesus Christ has delivered the *"Master's Blend"* and no other will do. It is perfectly *"good to the last drop."*

HUMAN FICKLENESS

The man at Lystra had been a *"cripple from his mother's womb"* (Acts 14:8). He had never experienced the simple joy of walking. With wishful, longing, envious eyes, he could only watch while other children ran and played. Now a man, he listened intently as Paul preached. The faith that comes by hearing settled in his heart. Discerning the presence thereof, Paul with God as the source, gave life and strength to impotent limbs and with indescribable joy, he *"leaped and walked"* (Acts 14:10).

In an emotional frenzy, the people of Lystra robed Paul and Barnabas in the mental garb of deity, named them after their gods, and were scarcely restrained from expressing homage at their feet with sacrificial oxen. While still encompassed in the aura of worship, certain Jews from Antioch and Iconium arrived in Lystra, incited the people, and *"having stoned Paul, drew him out of the city, supposing he had been dead"* (Acts 14:19). Human fickleness drove the people from a desire to worship Paul and Barnabas to attempted murder.

God terminated Israel's bondage in Egypt with a massive exhibition of divine power. However, just 72 hours was sufficient to supplant gratitude and a song of praise with a critical heart and murmuring spirit (Exodus 15:22-24).

Israel fled in horror as God devoured Korah and company in the heart of the earth and consumed 250 of their princes with fire. However, one night was ample time to dissipate their fear and revive their relentless spirit of rebellion (Num. 16).

Human fickleness reached its climax when *"Hosanna to the Son of David"* (Matthew 21:9), was converted into the most horrendous cry of the ages, *"Crucify Him, crucify Him"* (Luke 23:21).

The vacillating spirit is a human scourge. Elders who love God, truth, and the souls of men have often been prayed for on Sunday and cursed on Monday. Preachers endeavoring to proclaim the whole counsel of God have frequently sailed on the ship of human praise one week and then been forced to ride on the Mayflower moving van the next. Arrows of commendation and condemnation come forth from the same quiver. *"Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be"* (James 3:10).

Remember In Prayer

DORIS WHITE
PAT BURNSIDE
DONNA YOUNGBLOOD
CHRIS MILLER
GARY LUCAS
DONNA TILLER
CLARENCE RIGGENBACH
PATRICA SMITH
FRANK SMALL
IVA & LEM TURNER
PATRICIA FORD
JEANETTE THOMPSON
TED WHEELER
DAVID ATNIP
EDWARD QUANSAH'S MUM

Mark Your Calendars

- ✓ Sep. 24: Song Service
- ✓ Sep. 30: YOUTH. **Photographic Scavenger Hunt** @ River Road church in New Port Richey
- ✓ Oct. 1: Fellowship Meal @ noon
- ✓ Oct. 29: Song Service

Frank Chessner