

## Service Opportunities

Announcements: Ted Wheeler  
Usher: Delbert Leavens

### RECORD

Attendance: 61  
Contribution: \$ 1507.00  
Weekly Budget: \$ 2920.00

### *Thought for The Day*

Every body thinks of changing humanity and nobody thinks of changing himself.

Tolstoy

### MORNING SERVICES

Opening Prayer: Tim Simmons  
Songs: Marty Wingo  
Sermon: Delbert Leavens  
Closing Prayer: Dick Navarre

### EVENING SERVICES

Opening Prayer: Wayne Vowell  
Songs: Marty Wingo  
Sermon: Song Service  
Closing Prayer: Delbert Leavens

### COMMUNION

Kerry Keathley Sean Keathley  
Troy Wheeler Kaden Simmons

## Church of Christ of Venice

4301 SR 776  
Venice, FL 34293

# Church of Christ of Venice

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

September 24, 2006

Volume 16, Number 38

#### 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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## Young Man, Young Woman ... What Do You Believe?

Young hearts are tender, but young hearts need teaching. Teenagers need understanding, but they also need firmness and discipline. Just because they attend Bible classes and worship assemblies does not mean that all of them agree with sound Bible teaching.

The liberal ABILENE CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY recently asked over 500 youths (ages 11-19) in churches of Christ about their beliefs. The results were shocking:

- 65% said that church membership doesn't matter as long as you love God.
- Only 14% believe one must be an active member of the church to go to heaven.
- Only 39% said adultery is the only biblical reason for divorce.
- Only 31% said Christians should be very different from the world in dress, language, etc.
- Only 10% said using instruments during church is sinful
- Only 11% said it is wrong for girls to lead in youth group devotions or singing.
- Only 22% said women should never take a leadership role in worship.
- Only 32% said Christians should avoid any and all

*Continued on Page 2*

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.

alcoholic beverages.

- ☒ 66% said abortion is wrong.
- ☒ 79% said God will punish the wicked in a literal hell.
- ☒ Just 23% said nations who do not hear about Jesus have no hope for salvation. <sup>(1)</sup>

Also interesting is what the researchers found these young people were "into." <sup>(2)</sup> One researcher said, "There is a spiritual wave moving across this generation. They are into angels, spiritual movements... and this is so important to them." Another said, "Kids are into God, not church." These researchers seem to know as little about spirituality as the young people they surveyed. The great majority of them reject or are ignorant of basic Bible teaching, as the above figures reveal. Do we call this a "spiritual wave"? And this clamor about being "into angels" and "spiritual movements" - whatever that means - is typical today. Most religious people, young and old, turn away from the plain teaching of the Bible so they can have some mystical, emotional rush by speculating about unseen, unknown, or unrevealed matters. "The secret things belong unto the Lord our God" (Deut. 29:29). The plain Gospel has "things the angels desire to look into" (I Pet. 1:12). Angels are notable servants of God (Heb. 1:1-14), but to call interest in angels and "spiritual movements" a "spiritual wave" - while the Gospel the angels desire to look into is rejected - is nonsense.

I know there are young people who are different. They believe the Bible and obey it. I also realize that you cannot hang your hat completely on statistics. At the same time, this survey is revealing. We need to be diligent in grounding our children in the home first and in the church second. We need to be very careful about who we let teach them and where we send them: youth rallies, Christian universities, Bible camps, Christian schools. We need to insist that Bible class teachers be godly and knowledgeable. Part of the blame no doubt lies with older generations of parents and grandparents who either did not teach these young people or do not believe the Bible themselves. Perhaps the above questions should be posed to those who have been in the church twenty, thirty, or forty years.

Young people, "Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth" (Eccles. 12:1). "Flee also youthful lusts" (II Tim. 2:22). Let the Bible tell you what is important and what is not. Remember that true spirituality is doing the will of God, not just having a certain feeling. Have fun, but don't try to mix worship with entertainment. And don't ever think you really love Jesus if you don't listen to what He says. Remember, Jesus said, "If ye love me, keep my commandments" (John 14:15).

ENDNOTES

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1. The Christian Chronicle website (www.christianchronicle.org), vol. 57, no. 6.  
 2. Ibid.

**Kerry Duke**

### The Servant of God and The Situations of Life

You have probably seen the little verse on posters and bookmarks which reads:

*"God give me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference."*

There is certainly a great deal of insight conveyed in these words; insight which, if applied, would help Christians to deal much more successfully with the situations of life and to lead settled and peaceful lives.

There are things which we simply cannot change. Some are unchangeable by their very nature (*weather, certain illnesses, etc.*), while others could be changed only by people other than ourselves, and these people refuse to change those situations. Some things we can change, if only we have the courage to try.

Such things as bad habits and certain marital and family problems can be changed with effort and commitment. Knowing the difference between the two helps us to save ourselves much needless frustration and worry on one hand, and to avoid making excuses on the other.

This principle is well illustrated in the life of King David. In 2 Samuel 11-12, we learn of David's fall into the depths of sin - lust, adultery, dishonesty, and murder because of a sinful relationship with Bathsheba (11:5, 27). Because of his sin, God told David that the child would die (12:14). After David had repented of his wrongs, and when the child became ill, David "pleaded with God for the child," and "fasted and went in and lay all night on the ground" (12:16). When he later heard that the child had died, he stopped fasting, and basically got back to life as usual (12:20). When asked about this unusual behavior, which seemed to be a reversal of standard mourning activity, David replied:

*"While the child was still alive, I fasted and wept; for I said, 'Who can tell whether the Lord will be gracious to me, that the child may live?' But now he is dead; why should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me" (12:22-23).*

Notice that David first tried to change the situation while it seemed there was yet any hope that he could. When he knew there was nothing he could do, he accepted the situation and resolved to get on with life. And he clearly knew the difference between the two.

We all have both types of situations in our lives. We can learn to be more effective servants of God and have more peace of mind if we will learn to apply this principle to our lives, whatever the adversity.

**Tim Forlines**

### 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

### 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