

Service Opportunities

Announcements: Ted Wheeler
Usher: Delbert Leavens

RECORD

Attendance: **91**

Contribution: \$ 2619.29

Weekly Budget: \$ 2920.00

Thought for The Day

“What we have done for ourselves alone dies with us; what we have done for others and the world remains and is immortal.”

PIKE

Church of Christ of Venice

4301 SR 776
Venice, FL 34293

MORNING SERVICES

Opening Prayer: Tim Simmons

Songs: Dick Navarre

Sermon: Ted Wheeler

Closing Prayer: Bill Burnside

EVENING SERVICES

Opening Prayer: Wayne Vowell

Songs: Dick Navarre

Sermon: Ted Wheeler

Closing Prayer: Mike Weber

COMMUNION

Delbert Leavens Dale Schwartz

Larry Jenson Marvin DeMeester

Sermons:

People That Know Their God, *Daniel 11:32*
The Good News, *Romans 3:21-31*

Church of Christ of Venice

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

January 7, 2007

Volume 17, Number 01

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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The Fragrance of Christian Influence

Influence is powerful—for good or evil. The Christian constantly strives to enhance his influence for the honor of Christ.

People have long been aware of the value of influence. Plutarch said that “a word or nod from a good person has more weight than the eloquent speeches of others.”

Just as plants yield fragrances, so people exert influence—for good or ill.

What is influence? It sometimes is defined as the “ability to produce an effect without apparent force or direct authority.” Some people, by virtue of their personalities, have greater influence than others. A spiritual person longs to exude more influence for good. How can we develop greater Christian influence? Here are some principles for meditation.

Try to cultivate a **genuine interest** in people. Get to know the names of those with whom you have frequent contact—the lady at the market, your auto mechanic, your doctor, pharmacist, etc. Get on a first-name basis; inquire about their families, etc. In a bustling society, people are surprised and pleased when someone expresses personal interest in them.

When engaged in conversation with others, do not **dominate**

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.

the scene. Everyone has encountered the type of person with whom you cannot “get a word in edgewise,” and such motor-mouths are not appreciated. Be willing to listen as well as to converse. Show folks you value what they say—even if it’s trite and sometimes almost nonsensical.

Don’t be a **know-it-all**. No one is, but not-a-few think they are. There is no subject upon which they cannot pontificate for hours—whether they know anything about it or not. If you have a medical problem, they can completely diagnose it, recite a number of cases where friends have died of the ailment, and provide you with a healing remedy that may be ordered from Mexico. If your automobile is running “rough,” they know exactly what the problem is, though they may be unable to discern a screwdriver from a wrench. One can hardly influence others when he acts as if he knows everything about everything.

In attempting to exert Christian influence upon worldly friends, do not begin by correcting everything you observe that is wrong in their lives. If you attempt to initiate a relationship by immediately calling attention to their dress, language, recreational activities, political orientation, religious aberrations, etc., you likely will get nowhere with them. First, influence them by example. People listen to the way you talk, they observe how you dress, they soon become familiar with your patterns of religious activity. If they have a spark of spiritual interest, eventually they will comment or ask questions. Watch for open doors. You don’t have to break them down.

Be **patient** with people. Remember how long it took you to learn the fundamentals of the Christian life (read Titus 3:1-3). Growth does not come instantly, but slowly and steadily. If you appoint yourself as the one who sets the time-table for growth in the Christian “babe,” or for others who have spiritual problems, you will become frustrated and irritated—if and when your expectations are not met. Watch for signs of growth; encourage and commend these. Compassion and patience are not compromises.

In teaching, learn the art of **indirect maneuvers**. For example suppose a person says: “We are saved by faith, not works. Baptism is a work, so it can’t be a part of the salvation process.” Instead of responding, “That’s false doctrine!,” why not say something like this. “You know, there are a couple of passages on this theme that are intriguing. Jesus described ‘belief’ as a work [John 6:29; cf. Revelation 2:26], and God saw the ‘works’ of the people of Nineveh as they ‘repented’ [Matthew 12:41; Jonah 3:10], yet both belief and repentance are required by God. Why don’t we study these texts?”

Exerting influence is a skill — almost an art form — and every Christian needs to study more about how to influence others for good, whether they be non-believers, weak kinsmen in Christ, family members, or special friends.

Wayne Jackson
[Christian Courier Publications](http://www.christiancourier.com)

THE CAPTAIN OF OUR SALVATION

On one of his ocean voyages to the South Sea Islands, Robert Louis Stevenson related that a terrible storm arose and the passengers feared the ship would be lost.

One of the men finally went to the upper deck, braving the wind and the rain, to see the captain quietly pacing the bridge. With undisturbed face, the captain issued orders for the handling of the ship. The man made his way back to the other worried passengers huddled together and said: "I have seen the captain's face and all is well!"

In 2 Corinthians 5:14 we read: "*The love of Christ compels us.*" The words used here literally mean, "holds together." Christ is the "super-glue" that holds our lives together so we can be whole persons—pure, honest, upright—persons of integrity.

Amid all the sorrows and strife, and anxieties and confusions of our times, and amid all uneasiness over what may lie ahead, we take heart to face life courageously by centering our heart's devotion and life's desire upon the Captain of our salvation (Hebrews 2:10).

Jesus is the Revealed, the Redeeming, the Risen, the Reigning and the Returning Lord whose example runs like a golden beam of glimmering light, piercing the darkness of uncertainty that often surrounds us.

Hebrews 12:2 says we are to be "*looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith.*" We arise from our knees to take hold of our responsibilities with calmer minds and fresh courage. Mary James wrote:

"Since my eyes were fixed on Jesus,
I've lost sight of all beside.
So enchained my spirit's vision,
Looking at the Crucified."

Christians can be calm and controlled knowing the Captain is at the helm.

Bill Dillon

Remember in Prayer

KERRY KEATHLEY
JANET WEBER
DORIS WHITE
CLARENCE RIGGENBACH
PATRICA SMITH
FRANK SMALL
IVA & LEM TURNER
PATRICIA FORD
JEANETTE THOMPSON
TED WHEELER

Mark Your Calendars

- ✓ Jan. 7: Fellowship Meal
- ✓ Jan. 13: Prayer Breakfast @ 8:30 am
- ✓ Jan. 15-18, 2007: Florida School of Preaching. *32nd Annual Lectureship: **Do You Understand The God Of The Bible?*** The 15th is a holiday and hopefully we can get a group to go up on that Monday.
- ✓ Jan. 28: Song Service



If you are unable to attend the lectureship you can listen to it live via the internet. Beginning January 15th - just go to the school’s web site (www.fsop.net) and click on the link “Listen Live”.