

Discouraging Others

By Tom Moore

As we reach forward to God, we all know how frustrating it is to be discouraged in our efforts to live the Christian life. Knowing this, we should give extra caution that we do nothing that would discourage someone else as they try to make progress in their Christian walk. It is a great offense to the Lord to be a “stumbling block,” particularly to those who’ve not yet acquired much strength of their own. Jesus said, “Then said he unto the disciples, It is impossible but that offences will come: but woe unto him, through whom they come! It were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and he cast into the sea, than that he should offend one of these little ones” (Luke 17:1-2). It’s a serious sin to discourage others.

Furthermore, Jesus upbraided some of the religious leaders of His day, saying: “Woe unto you, lawyers! for ye have taken away the key of knowledge: ye entered not in yourselves, and them that were entering in ye hindered” (Luke 11:52). As “so-called” expert students of the Scriptures, these discouraging individuals might have been expected to be the first to recognize Jesus as the Messiah. When they refused to deal honestly with the evidence their sin became double in that: “ye entered not in yourselves,” AND “them that were entering in ye hindered.”

Friends, No man is so insignificant as to be sure his example can be of no discouragement. Each day we encourage or discourage our brethren with which we come in contact. It’s hard enough already for many around us to keep moving faithfully ahead in their Christian walk. If, by our example, we make it even harder for them, we should expect God’s extreme displeasure. And not only that, we should expect to find our own lives less happy. Remember, No deed that sets an evil example can bring joy to the doer.

We need to encourage as God commanded Moses to encourage Joshua. “But Joshua the son of Nun, which standeth before thee, he shall go in thither: encourage him: for he shall cause Israel to inherit it ... But charge Joshua, and encourage him, and strengthen him: for he shall go over before this people, and he shall cause them to inherit the land which thou shalt see” (Deuteronomy 1:38; 3:28).

Let us all be encouragers and not discouragers.



STERLINGTON
Church of Christ



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Sunday Morning Bible Classes - 9:30 AM
Sunday Morning Worship - 10:30 AM
Sunday Evening Worship - 5:00 PM
Wednesday Evening Classes - 6:00 PM.

Welcome Visitors

If you are seeking a church home, we hope that you will consider joining with us. We are a growing congregation, dedicated to worshiping in truth and spirit. Please fill out the Visitor's Card and place it in the collection plate!

Those to Serve

Today

Announcements- Lyle Russell **Opening prayer**- John Chisley

Communion- Wayne Fowler **Closing Prayer**- Damien Miller

Sermon- Don DeLukie

January 28th

Announcements- Wayne Fowler **Opening prayer**- Travis Rogers

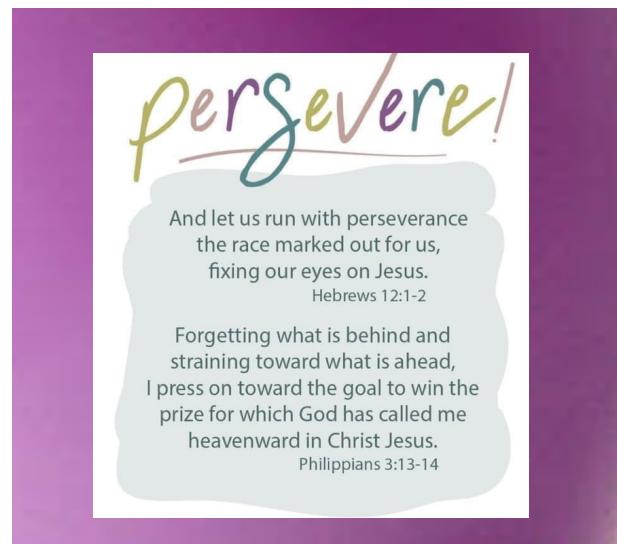
Communion- Lyle Russell **Closing Prayer**- Rick Cook

Sermon- Don DeLukie

Announcements

—Question & Answer Series: Our next Question and Answer Series will be scheduled when enough questions are collected. Give your questions to Don.

—Children's Home Collection: Our congregation is collecting items for the Children's Home in Paragould, AR. Collection boxes are by the nursery. A list of needed items is in the foyer.



Please Pray For:

Barbara Wheeler, Joyce McDonald, Emmitt McDaniel, Misty Bible, Louvenia Dickson, Evertt Frost, Bobby Wanderish, Jimmy Binford, Virginia Cook, Larry McDonald, Lynn Urban, Ronnie & Dena White, Kathrine Simmons, Billy & Carol Granger, Katy Harris, Dan Ross Jr.

Bereaved: Families of Lorene Johnson, Margie Smith, Rose Lester, Gail Sewell, Debbie Love Brugman, Sonny Williams.

Continue to Pray For:

Joanne Randolph, Dwain & Bettye Flowers, Linda Garris, Sharon White-Ross, James Johnson, Bobby Barker, Ronnie Tatum, Cindy Smith, Renee Gee, Bobby Simmons, Tricia Muse, Terrance Dawson, Jamie Ross.



January Birthdays

- 1 - John Chisley
- 6 - Carolyn Jones
- 15 - Tommy Franklin
- 21 - Gary Harris
- 24 - Buck Raus
- 26 - Arthur Binford

January Anniversaries

- 6 - Debbie and Rick Cook
- 7 - Charles and Brenda Fricke

