

St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church

Life In The Word

10 1 Vol. VIII * The true enemy of faith is doubt, doubt is possible if we take our eyes off the Lord *

The Word is the way **Faith & Love is the Road**

The Holy Spirit is our compass

Let us also walk in the spirit Know it, speak it, show it.

BE NOT DIVIDED

We are all members in the body of Christ.

Matthew 12: 25 And Jesus knew their thoughts, and said unto them, Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand:

We all have faults, encourage one another to overcome, pray for each other. Remember, Love covers a fault.

Visit us 24/7 @ www.stpaulmbchurch.org

1404 Briggs Street, Joliet, IL 60636 * Phone: 815.723.5396 / Fax: 815.723.5520

New Year + New Year's Resolution + The Same You = The Same Thing as Last Year!

Wait a second. Before you try to meet with me to discuss this further in the parking lot, I am talking about me too.

Of course we all want to do better. The problem is that we seem to think we know what better is. Unfortunately, many times better is determined from a worldly perspective.

The time to get right with the Lord, to refocus our direction to what the Lord wants for us is always, always right NOW.

Better is not necessarily more money, losing weight, a new relationship or even going to church more. Anything we do can be self-serving and lead us way from our Lord depending on the reason why we do them.

Mathew 7

²¹Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

²²Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?

²³And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

The Lord's Work and Will for our lives is what the Lord says it is not what we say, think or feel it is because we're doing it.

Yes, I know the Lord gave us a brain to think with just like He gave us free will, but in choosing Christ first, we must align our thoughts to His Will to do His Work.

The following is only for the purpose of understanding, please accept it in the spirit of love in which it is offered and again I am talking about me too.

How many times have you said or heard..... "I go to church every Sunday" or "I study the bible everyday." or "I am a Christian." My point is that if the only way you would know this is because I told you, then something is wrong.

More importantly, you should know these things by who I am and what I do, by my fruits. I am not going to tell you that everyday I brush my teeth or I put on clean socks . What am I trying to prove? Who am I trying to impress or convince and why? For what the Lord has you to do, do it for Him.

Mathew 6

¹⁶Moreover when ye fast, be not, as the hypocrites, of a sad countenance: for they disfigure their faces, that they may appear unto men to fast. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward.

¹⁷But thou, when thou fastest, anoint thine head, and wash thy face;

¹⁸That thou appear not unto men to fast, but unto thy Father which is in secret: and thy Father, which seeth in secret, shall reward thee openly.

DOING THE RIGHT THINGS FOR THE WRONG REASONS DOES NOT MAKE IT RIGHT.

Accolades or recognition from others, for what the Lord gives us to do, should never be something we seek.

RENEW YOURSELF IN THE LORD

More Problems + More Attacks + A New You in Christ = Victory in all Things.

When we start assigning expectations based on what we feel or want, we begin putting the old ways of the flesh with the new ways of the Lord. If the Lord tells me I will be delivered from a vice, I must remain faithful and diligent in my administration of His Ways and do what He would have me to do.

When the multitude cried out to Moses and He turned to the Lord, the Lord gave him specific instructions to bring forth water. However, Moses disobeyed the Lord and although he did bring forth water, he had to answer for his disobedience. When Jesus walked on the water he told Peter to come out on the water and Peter began walking on water towards Jesus and saw the winds become boisterous, became fearful and began to sink. How many times have we let fear, doubt, and worry affect us in what we were suppose to do? We can no longer cater to the ways of the flesh for we must make room for the path within us for the Lord to work anew. The first and most critical step to doing this is what Peter failed to do and that is never, ever take your eyes off the Lord. We are made a new creation in Christ and we must let the old pass away for the new has come.

Mathew 9

¹⁶No man putteth a piece of new cloth unto an old garment, for that which is put in to fill it up taketh from the garment, and the rent is made worse.

¹⁷Neither do men put new wine into old bottles: else the bottles break, and the wine runneth out, and the bottles perish: but they put new wine into new bottles, and both are preserved.

I know what you are saying. "I've given my life to Christ. I am reborn in Christ. What else is there for me to do?" The fact is our walk in the Holy Spirit with Love and Faith was never a destination. It is a journey.

STOP HIDING FROM YOUR PROBLEMS IN THE CHURCH

The moment we commit ourselves to Jesus, our life begins as with our Journey with Him. A journey in which the Lord tells us when we are done, not when we say so because we are tired, discouraged or feel we've done enough. This is why it is critical we are doing because the Lord desires it of us and not because we desire it for any other reason.

Do not use the church as a hiding place from the problems in your life. If you spend all of your time at the church to avoid dealing with unpleasantness in your life, you are limiting what our Lord will do in your life. We are not suppose to just hear the Word, clap and feel good in the church and then go home to be defeated by our circumstances. We should call on him, pray, act on His Word and praise Him through each and every challenge, aligning our actions to what our Lord will have us to do.

1 Corinthians 12
12 For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ.
13 For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.

Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father. And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

John 14:12, 13

**Lebanon District Women's Auxiliary presents...
Expect Great Things from God Attempt Great Things for God
January 24, 2010**

If you missed the anointed word of God flowing through a group of phenomenal First Ladies during the Lebanon District Annual Program, you truly missed a treat!

This program, held at the St. Paul MB Church, brought together the following First Ladies, teaching and reaching out to others for the cause of lifting up the name of Jesus and staying true to the theme:

Our very own Sister Asie Martin of the St. Paul M. B. Church, Sister Hilda Wilburn of the Mt. Moriah Baptist Church, Minister Tammie Latimore of the Mt. Zion Baptist Church, and Sister Melody Ervins of the Mt. Ebal M.B Church. The purpose for this program was to promote fellowship with one another so that we can become acquainted with each other. We will no longer be strangers in our different churches but we become sisters in Christ joining together for the up building of one another in Christ. (Reach and Teach)

As women of God our focus is meeting the needs of people who are less fortunate than us, whether the needs are physical or spiritual. Sometimes the cause may be within, may need scripture, prayer, a listening ear, guidance for different situations such as, teaching how to do certain household tasks, but our focus is also a mission of outreach on the local, state and the national level as we partner with our state and national conventions outreach efforts.

This program also helped to build finances to do more in the outreach ministry and continue to meet the needs of others in a greater way.

**Lebanon Women's Auxiliary
Rev. Edward Martin Jr., Moderator
Sister Marilyn Coutee, President**

It's not too late to add this CD to your collection of memorable and thought provoking messages, you may find the word you've been waiting for or need to increase in your walk

Don't Worry, Be Happy!

Happy is that people, that is in such a case: yea, happy is that people, whose God is the Lord
(Ps.144:15).

Are you happy? How many times has this question been posed and the response is based on the current state of one's emotions, me being on of those emotional responders at times. Recently, when asked the "Happy" question, I was immediately challenged in my spirit to revisit the root of Christian happiness. In all honesty, I have been researching this topic for a few months and there always seems to be some distraction on why I could not finish it, but not this time!

Did you know that the Greek word translated "blessed" means "blissfully happy"? Philippians 4:11-12, where Paul stated, *Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content. I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.* Paul revealed in these verses that in every situation he had an attitude of contentment within regardless of his emotions.

I began to think through the different challenges that have occurred in my life recently and how I could have better demonstrated contentment. The Lord promises that real, lasting happiness, along with God's provision of all our essential needs, will be ours, if we "*seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness*", Matthew 6-33. In other words, following Paul's example highlights a opportunity to do better in our walk by fully embracing the meaning of Christian happiness. Paul's happiness was internal and he resolved to control how he reacted despite being unable to change all that life threw his way. Secondly, Paul was doing the best he could to fulfill the calling of God, and the result was contentment despite the circumstances. Now, I am not trying to be unrealistic here and state that we should be overjoyed by all that comes our way, but as Christians our reaction should go back to our core, Christ. Paul was happy that he was in the right place doing what God wanted him to do, and we should strive for the same. Seems very simple but it is a difficult path to follow when the world's gauge for happiness is based on external gain and not fulfilling God's will in all that we do.

Continued on the next page.

HOLY
BIBLE

Don't Worry, Be Happy! – Cont.

Now, it is hard work to be content in the midst of a storm, eliminating one's self or emotions to overcome the urge to make a decision that may result in a temporary moment of perceived pleasure or stability. We will never be able to nor should we attempt to eliminate our emotions; however, decisions should not be based solely on how we feel at a given moment.

So what was the point of reviewing the topic of Christian happiness? We all know what the word says right? Well it is a constant battle to overcome our flesh and emotions but at our core should be a focus on God and giving him glory.

Contentment, as Paul exemplified, is focusing on what God would have us to do with our lives. So the next time someone questions me about whether or not I'm happy, it's not being "religious" as some will say to check myself to understand where my happiness is rooted despite the circumstance. Denying self, coming unto Christ, learning of him, resting in Him, taking up His cross, copying His service to God and to others – these are the steps to a life of enduring happiness and peace. Jesus told his disciples, "These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world", John 16-33. What is this scripture saying...Don't worry, be happy, Jesus has already paved the way!

Other Scripture References::

Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it. (Mark 8:34-35)

The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly. (John 10: 10)

But by love serve one another. For all the law is fulfilled in one word...Thou shall love thy neighbor as thyself. (Galatians 5:13-14)

Test Your Bible Knowledge

1.) Moses told the people all the words of the LORD, and all the judgments: and all the people answered with one voice, and said, "All the words which the LORD hath said will we do." And Moses wrote all the words of the LORD, and rose up early in the morning, and builded an altar under the hill, and (how many?) pillars, according to the tribes of Israel.

See: Exodus 24:3,4

2.) Who wrote these words? "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee. Blessed art thou, O LORD: teach me thy statutes. With my lips have I declared all the judgments of thy mouth."

See: Psalms 119:11-16

3.) The psalmist wrote: "The judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. Moreover by them is thy servant _____: and in keeping of them there is great reward."

See: Psalms 19:7-11

4.) Philip found Nathanael, and said to him, "We have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." And Nathanael said to him, " _____ "

See: John 1:45,46

5.) During His temptation in the wilderness, Jesus responded to the Devil with the phrase, "It is written, _____ "

See: Matthew 4:4-10

6.) The Pharisees and scribes asked Jesus, "Why walk not thy disciples according to the tradition of the elders, but eat bread with unwashed hands?" He answered them and mentioned a prophet who had prophesied of them saying, "This people honoreth me with their lips, but their heart is far from me." What was the name of the prophet he quoted?

See: Mark 7:5-8; Isaiah 29:13

7.) When a lawyer asked Jesus which was the greatest commandment in the law, Jesus said, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, _____. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

See: Matthew 22:34-40

8.) Jesus said to His disciples, "These are the words which I spoke unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written _____ concerning me."

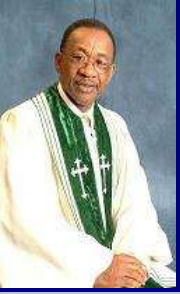
See: Luke 24:44,45

9.) A man said to Jesus, Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life? And he said unto him, Why callest thou me good? There is none good but one, that is, God: but if thou wilt enter into life, _____

See: Matthew 19:16-22

10.) Some Sadducees asked Jesus about whose wife should a woman be in the resurrection, who had seven husbands while on earth. Jesus told them that they erred, because they did not know the scriptures, and neither did they know _____

See: Mark 12:18-25



**Pastor Edward Martin Jr. &
The St. Paul Missionary Baptist
Church**

Join Us In Fellowship in 2010 For...

FRIENDS & FAMILY CASUAL SUNDAYS

January 31, May 30, August 29, October 31



COME AS YOU ARE, THERE'S A SEAT RESERVED FOR YOU!



"Let us Make Your Day Sweeter"



You have a sweet tooth? Then Gji's should be your next stop! Specializing in vintage candies, ice cream, micro-brewed sodas, popcorn and most things sweet! Also do birthday parties, gift baskets, etc.

Gji's is located at 81 North Chicago Street, Joliet Il 60432. Call Gji's for more details at 815-727-1500. Store Hours: 11-6 M-F, 12-6 Sat.

Advertise Here

Pick up a form from the Media Ministry. Thank you

Help Wanted

MILILI SALON AND DAY SPA

15921 Weber Rd, Unit C. Crest Hill, IL. 60403

SHAMPOO TECHNICIAN

Wed-Fri 4pm-8pm and Saturday 7am-3pm

Job Duties: shampoo, serve clients coffee/tea, general customer service. Right person will be nice, courteous, enjoy helping others and have reliable transportation. Ideal job for high school students or college students attending a local college.

Contact Rhonda Burns at 815-838-6001 if you are interested ,will train the right person.

While St. Paul is not responsible for transactions resulting from these ads, We expect all parties to act responsibly and always in a Christian manner.