

SLIDELL CHURCH OF CHRIST

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December 20, 2015

Preacher's Point

By *Dan Schillinger*



May Christians Observe Holidays?

Surely we must recognize that historically a practice may have originated under certain circumstances, but now has lost that significance for people today, either wholly or to a great degree. How does this principle apply to the celebration of some of the holidays popular in our culture -- like giving gifts at Christmas time, allowing children to go trick-or-treating at Halloween, or hunting eggs at Easter? There is no biblical authority for the church as such to celebrate these events as religious holidays. What individual Christians do in their hearts and their homes concerning their private devotional observance of any special day is between themselves and God, Romans 14:5, 6, ***One person considers one day more sacred than another; another considers every day alike. Each of them should be fully convinced in their own mind. Whoever regards one day as special does so to the Lord.*** So to practice Christmas, Halloween, or Easter merely as a cultural custom would be a matter of personal judgment.

Most folks who are negatively sensitive about these cultural practices are not consistent entirely in their own conduct. Consider, for example, the man who takes his wife out for dinner and gives her flowers on Valentine's Day. Has he yielded to the Romish dogma regarding "Saint Valentine"? When we place flowers on the graves of our loved ones, is this the same as the Hindu practice of putting food on the graves of one's ancestors? Does having a wedding ceremony in a church building



The Word of God!

Today's Sermon

One of our shepherds, Gerald Molina, is bringing us his second message this morning in our series on matters pertaining to marriage, divorce and remarriage:

a.m. "From the Beginning It Was Not So" (part 2)

Matthew 19:1-9

p.m.

Opportunity for discussion and reflection on

imply that we endorse the Catholic notion that marriage is a "church sacrament"? Surely the answer to all of these questions is "No."

Practices can change with time and mean different things to different people. We must not compromise the truth, but neither are we permitted to make spiritual laws for others.



Welcome Visitors!

We are pleased to have the opportunity to welcome you to our service. We think you will find our congregation family to be one that enthusiastically embraces newcomers and warmly welcomes them into our fellowship. We hope you feel right at home as you join us in worship, praise and thanksgiving.

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*Sermon Series Reminder!*

Continuing our Sunday morning sermon series on discerning God's will as it pertains to matters of marriage, divorce and remarriage, one of our shepherds, Gerald Molina, is presenting his second message this morning. Gerald is planning on preaching most of the remaining sermons.

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*Children's Bible Hour
Hosts Holiday Dinner &
Cookie/Dessert Swap Early
This Afternoon!*

Early this evening, Sunday, December 20th, following our second service, the congregation is invited to attend a dinner hosted by our "Children's Bible Hour Class." Dinner is provided, but everyone is asked to bring some cookies or a dessert to share for a cookie swap. If possible, everyone is also encouraged to bring another dozen cookies for our cookie ministry.

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The Ladies Bible Class & Stitches of Love will not meet again, due to the holidays, until January 5.

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"REMEMBER IN PRAYER

&

ENCOURAGE"



The victims of continuing Islamic terrorism around the world

The family of **James Martinez** (nephew of Paul & Teresa Moragne), whose 17 year-old daughter perished in a vehicle accident last week. This in addition to James's mother passing away in September.

The family of **Dan Alderete**, a former member here, who passed away from cancer in San Antonio, Texas on Friday, 27 November (the day after Thanksgiving). A wake and memorial service for Dan was held in Honaker's Funeral Home on Tuesday.

Roger Waters (Shirley Fowler's brother, of Granada, MS) - received chemotherapy for lung cancer last week and is now likely going into hospice care at home.

Tim Woods (husband of Jesse Fowler's niece) - has colon cancer that has metastasized into his lungs. Doctors do not give him long to live.

Angel Mangus (of Houston, TX, niece of Carl Mangus) - afflicted with inoperable stage 4 brain cancer.

Lester Lee (father of the boss of Paul Moragne, Jr.) - has pancreatic cancer and had surgery for it recently.

Daniel Ballentine (brother of Paul Moragne's good friend) - victim of a vehicular accident in Shreveport.

Andy & Chris Shoemaker (two grandsons of Mr. Dale) - recovering from injuries sustained in a recent auto accident in Pennsylvania.

Sydne Wilcox (Mr. Dale's granddaughter) - recovering from foot and leg surgery recently.

Marvin Phillips (well-known former minister at the Garnett Road church in Tulsa, OK, who led the Soul-Winning Workshops there) - in hospice care with heart problems.

Dan Ledford (a preacher of the church in Alabama) - diagnosed as having a brain tumor.

Donald Boudreaux (age 86, brother-in-law to Joyce LeBlanc) - diagnosed with renewed cancer.

James Baker (Schillinger's grandson, in the third-grade) - has had trouble in school recently, resulting in his undergoing for the next two and a half months an evaluation and processing for eligibility for special education services.

The father-in-law of **Nancy Reece** (a member at the Tammany Oaks church) - hospitalized in Iowa with dementia and other problems.

Martha Swint (a member at the Tammany Oaks church) - age 82, suffered a recent heart attack.

Kimberley Carter - diagnosed with Epstein-Barr syndrome (mononucleosis). And her liver enzyme readings indicate she may have some other issues as well.

Toni Doreaux (Jamie Lawrence's sister-in-law) - may require permanent dialysis treatments soon.

Larry Covington (co-worker of Dorsie's) - hospitalized in an ICU in Jackson, MS with breathing difficulties and low oxygen.

Rose Acker - is experiencing periodic brief hospitalizations for congestive heart fluid retention

Ronald Molina (Gerald's brother, in E. Tennessee) - battling prostate cancer.

Roger Whitley (in-law of the Moragnes) - suffering from emphysema in North Carolina.

Jase Roig (premature infant son of Colton Roig) - pray for God's healing hand to be upon through his long-term health problems of an arachnoid cyst in his brain, and cardiac openings that have not yet healed.

Jessica Jackson (daughter of a friend of George Roig) - age 26, suffering chronic headaches and depression which have only recently begun.

Marie Peterson - recovering at home from recent surgery.

Mildred Tymkiw - has returned to her home to continue her recovery from heart surgery. She was able to attend morning worship last Lord's Day. Calls are very much appreciated, but not visits please at this time.

Jerry Kimbrough (former member here, now at the church of Christ at S. Baton Rouge) - diagnosed with cancer in his eye, and will be undergoing chemotherapy soon.

Shirley Ervin - thanksgiving that she is healing following recent neck surgery and is striving now to return to normal activity levels.

Debbie Grabert (former member here, now of Lafourche Parish) - being treated for a staph infection.

Stephanie Smith (sister of Kevin Cox) - needs surgery for her right shoulder, but a calcium deficiency won't permit this now.

Zach Steele - suffering now from abnormal cells in his blood called myelodysplastic syndrome (MDS). It is what can be called a "second cancer." It's not cancer, but can be, and in his case is a result/side effect of previous treatments for cancer.

Zach will be having chemo and selective radiation treatments periodically for the foreseeable future.

Rosa Nuñez (good friend of the Vargas family) - having serious painful health problems.

Jessica Fowler (Jesse and Shirley's granddaughter, a resident of Lockport, LA) - facing severe personal problems.

Terri Jones - pray that she'll come to feel better through her negative phases in her Epstein-Barr disorder.

Dale Epperley - awaiting a new prosthesis that will relieve the pain and inflammation in his leg.

Gerald Molina - still seeing doctors for spinal stenosis.

Sharon Honoré (sister of Anita, and a member at the Crowder Blvd. church) - has advanced breast cancer.

Fairie Roig - sustained a minor jaw injury from a recent fall.

Clara Leonard - overall pain continues to subside somewhat, though her ankle bothers her now.

Bobby Leonard - awaiting test results from his recent appointment with a kidney specialist.

Butch Acker - suffering from fluid retention.

Caitlyn (Kate McDonald's daughter) - moving to Spring, Texas this weekend to seek teacher certification in that state.

Devon Nelson (Roig's grandson) - enlisted in the U.S. Army last month and is in basic training at Fort Benning, GA. He will be visiting home for the Christmas holiday.

Jesse & Shirley Fowler - travelling in north Mississippi to visit ailing relatives.

Joyce LeBlanc - travelling to Houston, and is planning to be home by Tuesday.

Pray for all who are travelling.

Pray for Latino evangelism in our area.

Pray for our elders: Courtney Cheri, Dwight Jones and Gerald Molina.

Pray for President Obama and all our elected officials.

Pray for our men and women in our armed forces, both here and abroad!

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***The Old Testament Narratives:
Their Proper Use (continued)***

Adapted from Fee & Stuart, *How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth* (3rd edition)

Principles for Interpreting Narratives

Some Final Cautions

Why is it that people so often find things in Bible narratives that are not really there? Why do they read into the Bible their own notions rather than read out of the Bible what God wants them to know? There are three main reasons.

First, they are desperate, desperate for information that will help them, that will be of personal value, that will apply to their own that situation. Second, they are impatient; they want their answers *now*, from *this* book, from *this* chapter. Third, they wrongly expect that everything in the Bible applies directly as instruction for their own individual lives. The Bible is a great resource. It contains all that a Christian really needs in terms of guidance from God for living. But it does not *always* contain answers as specific and personal as some people would wish, and it does not contain all its information in every chapter of every book! Too impatient to find God's will from the Bible as a whole, people make mistakes--they allow themselves to misinterpret individual parts of the Scriptures.

In our next article we'll discuss six common errors of interpretation that people commit in looking for answers from parts of the Bible.

Our Leaders!

Elders

Dwight Jones
Courtney Cheri
Gerald Molina

Preacher

Dan Schillinger

Deacons

Jesse Fowler
James Richardson
Hector Urbina

Our Services

<i>Sunday Morning Bible Class</i>	9:30 a.m.
<i>Sunday Morning Worship</i>	10:30 a.m.
<i>Sunday Evening Worship</i>	5:00 p.m.
<i>Wednesday Evening Bible Class</i>	7:00 p.m.