

SLIDELL CHURCH OF CHRIST

**994 Old Spanish Trail
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January 18, 2015

Preacher's Point

By Dan Schillinger



Why do People Miss Out on Blessings?

Many continue to find themselves *cut off* from life's greatest blessings. They are cut off *horizontally* from other people, and they are cut off *vertically* from the God who created them. The greatest fact in human nature is God's love for us and his desire to heal our broken relationships vertically and horizontally--relationships that are life's greatest blessings.

Why have people missed out on blessings? It is because they have lived a life that was *not* "in Christ." After his brief introduction, Paul begins his letter to the Ephesians by exclaiming,

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.
(Eph 1:3). Later in that epistle (Eph 2:21, 22) Paul concludes,

In him [Christ] the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

God *wants* us to worship him. He doesn't *need* us, for he couldn't be a self-sufficient God and need anything or anybody, but he does *want* us. When Adam sinned it was not he who cried, "God, where are you?" It was *God* who cried, "Adam, where are you?" Throughout Scripture, we see that it is the *steadfast love* of God that causes

Today's Sermons

a.m. "No Regrets"

Matthew 27:3-5

p.m. "The Apostles' Teaching and Fellowship."

Acts 2:42-46

him to pursue after us in fellowship--even when our hearts and minds are the furthest from him, even when we are *not* interested, even when we couldn't care less.

Why have people missed out on blessings? It is because they have lived a life that was *not* "in Christ." They have not obeyed the divine command, "*Remember!*" (Eph 2:11) They have *not* made a past event a living, present reality. Some of us may have never faced the present reality of our alienation and estrangement from both God and man. And others of us have never made our past *commitment to Christ* a present, *living* reality. We miss out on life's greatest blessings when we refuse to lose ourselves through a union with the "one unified person"--Christ Jesus.

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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.

REMEMBER IN PRAYER & “ENCOURAGE”



With Visits, Calls, & Cards

Sydney Zanco (eight year-old daughter of Angela Richardson's friend) - was in an ATV accident, has extensive injury to her right leg, will be in hospital for at least a month. Physicians are hoping they can restore all blood flow and nerves so she won't lose the leg.

Merissa Ridner - eight year-old niece of Dan & Margaret's son-in-law, in Tullahoma, TN. She is diagnosed with cancer of her lymphatic system.

Steve Sanders - former minister here, hospitalized in Missouri this week with an elevated heart beat and low blood pressure.

Clara Leonard - diagnosed with pleurisy.

Claude Fairley - friend of Dorsie's, hospitalized in Lacombe Regional Hospital this past week.

Cecilia McDonald - Kate's mother, scheduled for stent surgery.

JayCee Johns - Joyce Carter's granddaughter: pray that she will come to her senses and repent from recent bad attitudes and decisions.

Jimmy Barnett, friend of Wally's: thanksgiving that he has a clean bill of health following recent medical setbacks.

Donald Boudreaux (Joyce LeBlanc's brother-in-law) - scheduled for kidney cancer surgery.

Irvin Briant, Jr. (Greg Briant's brother) – receiving Hospice care at home. Pray for his comfort and encouragement.

Dorothy Bryan - recovering very well from recent cancer surgery and is doing well with her chemo treatments.

Leonard Cousin (friend of Nayla's) - has a brain hemorrhage.

Janet Despenza - still awaiting a corrective leg brace, while suffering foot pain.

Angela Keys - diagnosed with cancer.

Terry McKenzie (friend of the Caseys in Jackson, MI) - not given much time to live.

Ernest Moragne (brother of Paul Moragne) - has incurable lung cancer.

Zach Steele - health issues.

David Gilstrap - former member and deacon here, has his sight in one eye partially restored following surgery last week. Surgery scheduled tomorrow to attempt to do the same for his other eye.

Pray for all who are travelling.

Pray for the Spanish Bible study.

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!

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

The Exclusiveness of Christianity

Jesus said, *“I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”* (John 14:6, ESV).

We live in an age of “political correctness.” “Tolerance,” “acceptance” and the prevalent “post-modern” world-view equate all religions and philosophies as equally valid (or invalid!). But in this verse our Lord states that he is:

* THE Way (not A way)

- * THE Truth (not A truth)
- * THE Life (not A life)

These words of Jesus logically exclude all other religions as ways to salvation:

- * Judaism (see Matthew 17)
- * Islam (Allah vs. the Lord)
- * World religions (Buddhism, Hinduism, Shintoism, etc.)
- * Skepticism, agnosticism, atheism, or any other forms of unbelief.

The way of “political correctness” demands compromise, but numerous passages in Scripture make it plain that Christians cannot compromise their convictions and be pleasing to God, e.g.,

Daniel 3 (Daniel’s three Hebrew friends); Daniel 6 (the lions’ den); Acts 4 and 5 (the apostles before the Sanhedrin); the entire book of Revelation.

The New Testament often speaks of “the world” as being sinful people who are alienated from God. It is absolutely wrong for those of us who call ourselves Christians to exhibit prejudice, intolerance, or bigotry towards people as people, even if they hold to some other religions, because Jesus said, ***“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son...”*** (John 3:16). We have no choice but to emulate our Creator’s love and to strive to convert those outside of Christ because their souls are in danger of being eternally lost. The apostle Peter summarizes the situation well:

“There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.” (Acts 4:12, ESV).

The way of Christianity is exclusive to all others!

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Avoiding Negativity

...for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind ...he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

(James 1:6, 8, NKJV)

The more senior folks among us have surely heard the old song, “You gotta accentuate the positive, eliminate the negative, latch on to the affirmative, and don’t mess with Mr. In-Between.”

We can avoid negative thinking, because if we *harbor* negative thoughts, sooner or later they’ll destroy our lives.

There have been people who tried to start their car with a jumper cable, but instead of connecting the correct part of the cable to the positive pole of the battery, they connected it to the negative pole. This mistake can spark a terrible explosion, and because of it, folks have become permanently blind.

In the same way, many people blind *themselves* by connecting to the negative pole of life. Negativity is like a witch’s wand that attaches itself to a person’s forehead. The wand kills and destroys whatever it points toward. It may point toward the person who wears it, or it may point to others. You probably know people who walk around with that wand permanently pointed at their own lives. You can recognize them immediately by their negative thoughts: “I’m nobody...I really don’t amount to much...I don’t have many friends...I’m not too smart.”

Others take that wand and point it *outward*. These people fail in life but blame their failures on others: their parents, their spouses, their bosses, the system, the corporation. They never accept responsibility for their own downfall.

Some even point the wand at God. They say, “God could never love me. I wonder if there even is a God.”

“I have begun everything with the idea that I could succeed, and I never had much patience with the multitudes of people who are always ready to explain why one cannot succeed.” - Booker T. Washington (former slave)

We all have negative thoughts at times, and often we don’t recognize them. While we can’t avoid all negativity, we can turn our attitudes into more positive perspectives. Today ask God to show you your negative thoughts and to give you the ability to look at the bright side of life.

WARNING!! DISCLAIMER!!:

Humorous material follows. DO NOT take seriously as authentic Bible teaching! But it is GREAT for some authentic laughter! *A merry heart does good, like medicine, But a broken spirit dries the bones.* (Proverbs 17:22, NKJV)

Children's Bible Stories

<http://www.whiterobedmonks.org/christ.html#adn2>
Accessed last night

The following Bible stories were written by real students and are genuine, authentic and unretouched. They are taken from *National Review Magazine*, 31 Dec 1995, "Question & Answer," by Richard Lederer, p. 38

In the first book of the Bible, Guinessis, God got tired of creating the world, so he took the Sabbath off. Adam and Eve were created from an apple tree. Noah's wife was called Joan of Ark. Noah built an ark, which the animals came out on to in pears. Lot's wife was a pillar of salt by day, but a ball of fire by night.

Samson was a strong man who let himself be led astray by a Jezebel like Delilah. Samson slayed the Philistines with the axe of the apostles.

Moses led the Hebrews to the Red Sea, where they made unleavened bread, which is bread made without any ingredients. The Egyptians were all drowned in the dessert. Afterward, Moses went up on Mount Cyanide to get the Ten Amendments.

The First Commandment was when Eve told Adam to eat the apple. The Fifth Commandment is humor thy father and mother. The Seventh Commandment is thou shalt not admit adultery.

Moses died before he ever reached Canada. Then Jusua led the Hebrews in the battle of Geritol. The greatest miracle in the Bible is when Josua told his son to stand still and he obeyed him.

David was a Hebrew king skilled at playing the liar. He fought with the Finkelsteins, a race of people who lived in Biblical times. Solomon, one of David's sons, had 300 wives and 700 porcupines.

When Mary heard that she was the Mother of Jesus, she sang the Magna Carta. When the three wise guys from the East Side arrived, they found Jesus in the manager. Jesus was born because Mary had an immaculate contraption. St. John, the Blacksmith, dumped water on his head.

Jesus enunciated the Golden Rule, which says to do one to others before they do one to you. He also explained, "Man doth not live by swear alone." It was a miracle when Jesus rose from the dead and managed to get the tomb stone off the entrance.

The people who followed the Lord were called the 12 decibels. The epistles were the wives of the apostles. One of the opossums was St. Matthew, who was by profession a taximan.

St. Paul cavorted to Christianity. He preached holy acrimony, which is another name for marriage. A Christian should have only one wife. This is called monotony.

Our Leaders!

Elders

Dwight Jones
Courtney Cheri
Gerald Molina

Preacher

Dan Schillinger

Deacons

Jesse Fowler
James Richardson

Our Services

Sunday Morning Bible Class **9:30 a.m.**

Sunday Morning Worship **10:30 a.m.**

Sunday Evening Worship **5:00 p.m.**

Wednesday Evening Bible Class **7:00 p.m.**

Ladies Bible Class **Tuesday 10:30 am**