

Be Positive about the Church

It's easy to be negative and to find fault with about anything. If you listen to most conversations long enough, you will usually hear of some complaint, some problem or something bad that someone has experienced. It's true of our government, our neighborhood, our schools, our families, our jobs and many other aspects of life. Sometimes, we hear of it even in the church.

Of course, we shouldn't tolerate sin or doctrinal error. We must stand firm in the faith and seek to live by the standard that God has given to us in His Word. However, not everything about the church is bad or negative. There is much good to say about the church! We should be positive about the church of our Lord, about our being part of that wonderful body and about the hope it provides to each of us every day.

There is no greater institution ever established on our behalf than the church. Christ offered His life on its behalf (Ephesians 5:25-27) that we might be added to it, to have our sins forgiven and be acceptable before God. God has organized it so it helps us grow and mature in Him and His salvation (Ephesians 4:12-16). The church encourages us to be our best individually and to reach out to our community in order to be at our best collectively. There are no better people than those within the church. Who else cares about our needs, our problems, our goals than one's brothers and sisters in Christ? We have an eternal hope to guide us on our way and the promise of God to help us attain it. There is nothing that can compare with the church.

We cannot ignore problems that may arise within the church, for that can be destructive to our faith (1 Corinthians 5:6-8). On the other hand, we should never ignore the immense good within the church as we benefit from it every day of our lives. Let us deal with sin honestly and righteously, but never act as if that is all the church is. Let's remember how important the church is, serve for its good and encourage one another to be positive about the church. Can we be complacent about that to which our Lord has added us for salvation? Be excited about being a member of the body of Christ. Be positive about the church!

—Robert Johnson, gospelgazette.com, 12/14

A Choice to Make

You may or may not have heard of a person named Stephanie Stephenson. Several years ago, she was working in Branson, Missouri as an understudy in one of the productions staged there. She landed a choice role in the touring company of *Les Miserables*. Her excitement faded, however, when she found out she would portray a prostitute in a street scene. She would have had to wear a revealing costume and be poked, prodded and fondled by male actors. Her choice? She quit and went back to Branson. She said, "People work all their lives to get to 'Les Miz.' I knew that I might be giving up a lot. There's a fine line between the morals and going over that line." The executive producer said he was shocked she quit the play, adding she could have played the role to "great acclaim" and "probably end up on Broadway." He also said, "I respect what she did. I think she's a brave young girl to forgo an amazing career boost." I admire her nerve to stand up for what she believed in.

Stephanie isn't a New Testament Christian, but her choice illustrates the commitment every New Testament Christian should have. When you obey the Gospel, you are proclaiming that you choose Christ over the world. He comes first. You will live for Him – no matter what. I wonder, though, how many New Testament Christians would have made her choice. I say that, seeing numbers decrease by almost half on Sunday night,

knowing that New Testament Christians have rejected Christ for some activity other than assembling with their brothers and sisters to worship God. I say that, hearing New Testament Christians offer all kinds of excuses why they avoid serving in the kingdom of God, who wouldn't think of saying such things to their employers. Just how committed are we, really?

Jesus said, "He who is faithful in a very little thing is faithful also in much; and he who is unrighteous in a very little thing is unrighteous also in much" (Luke 16:10). You don't have to wait until some major challenge comes along in your life to know the measure of your faith and commitment to God and the Gospel. Look at the everyday choices you make. Where does God come in them? Who really comes first? Put another way, "For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it; but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?" (Matthew 16:25-26).

Stephanie Stephenson could have offered all kinds of excuses to justify taking that offensive role. She didn't, but remained true and committed to her convictions. If you consider the choices you make in life, what about you?

—Robert Johnson. gospelgazette.com, 12/14

October 28, 2018

Apologetics

What is apologetics? In 1 Peter 3:15, Peter writes, "...but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect..." The expression "to make a defense" comes from a Greek word (apologia) that conveys the idea of giving a verbal (or written) defense of the Lord's way. This pertains not only to the Lord's character and divinity, but also His teachings.

Thus, when one denies that baptism is essential to salvation, the faithful Christian will stand up and oppose such words. When one stands opposed to the Lord's decree on the singular nature of the Lord's church (one body, one church; Eph. 4:4), the faithful Christian will stand opposed to such words. You get the idea. When the Lord states something, all things contrary to what He said needs to be opposed.

—Ron Thomas, bulletin GOLD, 10/18

**THOSE PRIVILEGED TO SERVE
WORSHIP—SUNDAY AM**

October 28, 2018

Co-Coordinator.....George Clay
Announcements.....Dallas Eddie
Scripture Reading.....Austin Clay
Song Leader.....Steve Anderson
Opening Prayer.....Jacky Carver, Sr.

Lord's Supper-Preside: Robert Hackett
Serve: Mitchell Brooks, Ethan Leonard
Justin Draper, Roger Draper,
Closing Prayer.....Glen Reece

Greeter— Dianna Dillehay & Susanne
Greeter— Glen & Patsy Reece

Greeters: Please be here to greet 20 minutes before services.

Count Offering.....Dallas Eddie
.....Kaleb Bush
AM Sermon— Luke Wilken
PM Sermon— Fourth Sunday Singing

WORSHIP---SUNDAY---6:00 PM

Announcements.....Dallas Eddie
Song Leader.....Steve Anderson
Scripture Reading..Pro. 29:6.....Austin Clay
Opening Prayer.....Mitchell Brooks
Lord's Supper.....Jacky Carver, Sr.
.....Gavin Spurlin
Closing Prayer.....Roger Draper

BIBLE STUDY WEDNESDAY---7:00 PM

Announcement.....Dallas Eddie
Song Leader.....Brian Smith
First Prayer.....Jacky Carver, Sr.
Opening Prayer.....Roger Draper
Invitation(10/31).....Kaleb Bush
Closing Prayer.....Justin Draper

**Prepare Communion for OCTOBER
Cynthia & Paige**

MONTROSE BULLETIN BOARD

NURSING HOME:

Opal Agee-Kindred

THOSE ON THE SICK LIST;

W. A. Gibbs, Gladys Bowling,
Jimmie Faye Cole, Sawyer Cole,

Ramelle Cole, Idella Spurlin, Linda Phillips, Rita Lankford, Carolyn Hill,
Joyce Williams (Athens, TN), Mary Massey

Sympathy extended to the family of Pearl Anderson as she passed away Saturday.

OUR RECORD OF LOVE FOR CHRIST

10/21/18

Wednesday.....	45
Worship Sunday AM.....	78
Bible Study Sunday AM.....	73
Daily Bible Readers.....	31
Worship Sunday PM(10/14).....	61

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Oct. 27th- Hayride at the Bush's

Nov. 4th- Elders and Deacons Meeting

Pantry Item: Can of soup

READING SCHEDULE FOR OCTOBER

01 Micah 5-7	11 Matt. 1-3	21 Mark 5-9
02 Nahum 1-3	12 Matt. 4-6	22 Mark 10-12
03 Hab 1-3	13 Matt. 7-9	23 Mark 13-15
04 Zeph 1-3	14 Matt. 10-14	24 Mark 16; Lk. 1-2
05 Hag. 1-2; Zech. 1	15 Matt. 15-17	25 Luke 3-5
06 Zech. 2-4	16 Matt. 18-20	26 Luke 6-8
07 Zech. 5-9	17 Matt. 21-23	27 Luke 9-11
08 Zech. 10-12	18 Matt. 24-26	28 Luke 12-16
09 Zech. 13-14; Mal. 1	19 Matt. 27-28; Mark 1	29 Luke 17-19
10 Mal. 2-4	20 Mark 2-4	30 Luke 20-22
		31 Luke 23-24; John 1