

OUR GOSPEL MEETING: NOV. 11-16
JERRY FITE FROM PASADENA, TX WILL PREACH THE WORD

Sunday A.M. (Class) God's Antidote For Worry
Sunday A.M. - The Individual's Responsibility To The Church
Sunday P.M. - The Church's Responsibility To the Individual

Nightly at 7:00 PM

Monday - The Roman Road To Salvation
Tuesday - What Can A Dead Man Do?
Wednesday - Preparing Our Children For This World
Thursday - Unity and Uniformity
Friday - The Judgment: Who Me?

Remember our weekday morning lessons (11AM)

Tuesday - Who Are You That Judges Your Neighbor? (James 4:11-12)
Thursday - The Forgotten Work (James 5:19-20)

-- *Editor's Note:* Our space in the *Arkansas Weekly* will simply be a list of the topics of the week, so use that article and this bulletin to make others aware of this opportunity to learn more about the Bible. God knows that we are making these plans and is working with us. Jerry Fite is coming to work with us not for us, and his preparations have already begun. What will you do this week as you meet people who will benefit from the opportunities of the week?

We assemble each Sunday at 10AM, 10:45AM, 5PM & Wednesday at 7PM

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The Exhorter

Acts 11:23 *Exhorted them all... cleave unto the Lord*
Church of Christ--Quail Valley
November 11, 2012
WWW.QVCOC.COM

CONSIDER THE APPLES IN A SEED

Jerry Fite

I remember the thought as if it were yesterday. But over 20 years ago, while flying into Houston after an encouraging week in a Gospel Meeting, I saw all of the housetops and considered the many souls that live around me and in need of the Gospel. I did not have to wonder if they needed the Gospel, for all have sinned and have fallen short of God's glory (*Romans 3:23*). Jesus died for all dead in sin (*2 Corinthians 5:14*), and the saving gospel message is for all: Jew and Gentile (*Romans 1:16*). There-fore, with Paul I too felt con-strained to do what I can to reach as many as I could with the Gospel.

We know the Gospel is for all and as followers of Christ, we understand our responsibility to spread the seed of God's word to others (*Matt. 28:18-20*). With the weight of this responsibility on our heart, it is good from time to time to have encouragement that keeps us going. An aerial view reminding me of just how many potential souls are out there to be saved opened my heart to the possibilities. But the thought of counting the apples in a seed is another stimulating thought.

In June of 1996, an article appeared in the Guardian of Truth written by Dennis Gullledge and entitled, "**Can You Count the Apples in a Seed?**" He writes, "*Someone has said that you can count the number of seeds in an apple, but you cannot count the number of apples in a seed.*" The point is you may be able to count the number of people being saved at a given time, but "*you cannot count the number of good things done in the life of the one person who becomes a Christian*"

The example given is the baptism of James W. Shepherd. In 1877, an elder of the church was asked about the Gospel Meeting preached by James A. Harding. The elder said, "*Oh brother Harding did his usually powerful preaching, the attendance was fair, but the results were negligible. Only little Jimmy Shepherd was baptized.*"

This “little Jimmy Shepherd” grew up to preach the Gospel in New Zealand and Australia in the late 1800’s. His classic work entitled “*Handbook on Baptism*” was published in 1894. J.W. McGarvey said it was “*the best and most comprehensive work of its kind in existence*”. Brother Shepherd also compiled and edited “*Queries and Answers*” containing questions answered by David Lipscomb. “Little Jimmy” grew to produce many good things in the Kingdom.

In 1999, Ann Stevens was encouraged by the 1996 article and wrote a hymn entitled “*The Apples in a Seed*.” The third verse reads: “*Do not doubt that someone will believe it, though a hundred hear and turn away, for if only one heart will receive it, through the one, a thousand may obey. It may be a gentleman of ninety. It may be a child of only ten. Sow the precious seed for the Almighty, You can watch it multiply again.*”

“*Who can count the apples in a seed? Who can say how much the fruit will grow? Who can know the harvest of tomorrow? Who can count the apples in a seed?*” Let us spread the word to the next soul! (*Glad Tidings* Aug. 19, 2012; Parkview Ch. of Christ)

Editor’s Note: This article was in our bulletin back in August, but I thought it was worth re-reading as we prepare to work together planting seeds with Jerry Fite.

LACK OF DAILY-BIBLE READING AMONG CHURCHGOERS

Steven F. Deaton

A recent study found that most people who attend church services do not read their Bible on a daily basis. About 34 percent read their Bible daily or a few times per week, while a combined 66 percent read it once per week, a few times per month, once a month, or rarely to never. Really, this should not be a shock to most of our readers. The obvious lack of Bible knowledge shows people are not avid Bible students.

The troubling thing is that this is also true of members of the church. Those of us who claim to faithfully follow New-Testament teaching are little better when it comes to consistent study of God’s word.

The Bible emphasizes again and again the importance of knowing God’s will which only comes through His word (Eph. 3:3, 4; 5:17; Acts 17:11; 2 Tim. 2:15; etc.). The gospel is God’s power unto salvation (Rom. 1:16). The truth sets us free (Jn. 8:32). Jesus commanded the apostles to make disciples and “teach them to observe all things that I have commanded you” (Matt. 28:20). This is not accomplished by two or three

group studies per week. We are in a daily battle for our souls and must daily arm ourselves against the onslaught of the devil — as he attacks our minds.

The article also revealed the following.

The survey found 90 percent of churchgoers agree “I desire to please and honor Jesus in all I do,” and 59 percent agree with the statement: “Throughout the day I find myself thinking about biblical truths.” While the majority agree with both statements, there is a significant difference in the strength of agreement. Nearly two-thirds of churchgoers (64 percent) strongly agree with the first statement, but only 20 percent strongly agree with the second. - Lifeway article

In other words, there is a huge disconnect between what people know is right and what they do. Jesus said the difference between the wise and foolish men was one did, the other did not (Matt. 7:24-27). Hence, James admonished, “But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves” (Jas. 1:22).

Regarding Bible study, let us not deceive ourselves by thinking that thinking consistent, regular study is good, but not doing it — that this is acceptable. Let us not be satisfied with acknowledging what is good and right, but fail to do it. If we are going to save ourselves and others, we must dig into the word; know it and live it (cf. 1 Tim. 4:16).

(*The Way of Truth & Life*; Oct. 28, 2012; the church of Christ in St. Leon, IN)

Paul’s Desire to Teach the Lost: Is It In You?

For if I preach the gospel, I have nothing to boast of, for necessity is laid upon me; yes, woe is me if I do not preach the gospel! (1 Cor. 9:16). Though we are not apostles, will God speak “woe” against us if we do not try to teach?

And since we have the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, “I believed and therefore I spoke,” we also believe and therefore speak, (2 Cor. 4:13).

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad. Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord, we persuade men... (2 Cor. 5:10-11)

For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died (2 Cor. 5:14) Does the love of Christ compel you?

I am a debtor both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to wise and to unwise. (Rom. 1:14) Do you believe you are a debtor to neighbors, friends, co-workers, and family?