

If The Apostle Paul Were Coming To Town

David Halbrook

If Paul, the apostle, were alive today, would he visit Batesville? If given the opportunity, yes! If he came, what message would he preach? *Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus* (Colossians 1:28).

Did you know that preaching Christ requires both teaching and warning? Read some of Paul's warnings in Colossians 2.

In preaching Christ, Paul preached about life's anchors, God's promise to Satan, and God's gift of salvation, but he never offered things like *weightlifting for Christ, dog ministries, or Christian martial arts*. Such things are often offered today, but they are unrelated to *preaching Christ*.

If your interest is in Christ and His truth then make plans to visit us during our spring gospel meeting, **April 26-May 1**. Each day, we will assemble to worship God and in the process better understand Him and His will. Of course, Paul will not be here, but the same message he preached will be preached by Jimmy Stevens of Seminole, Texas. For more information on the topics of the week or with any question, contact us or visit our website.

Editor's Note: Use our article in *Arkansas Weekly* to invite someone to our gospel meeting. Next week's ad will list the topics of the week, which are available now at our website or on the flyers available in the foyer.

Simple opportunities to teach the lost and assist each other.

Pray for: Ed & Janice White, The Ledgerwoods, Novela Puckett, Noleka Hopper, Samuel Southall, others with ongoing trials, and new Christians among us.

Our spring gospel meeting is April 26 – May 1. Be praying and preparing for this work we've committed to. *Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some have unwittingly entertained angels.* (Heb. 13:2---open your home to the Stevens one night. See the meal list for times that are available)

Join us each Sunday at 10AM (classes), 10:45AM, & 5PM and Wednesday at 7PM.

church of Christ—Quail Valley
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Evangelist:
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The Exhorter

Acts 11:23 *Exhorted them all... cleave unto the Lord*
church of Christ--Quail Valley
April 19, 2015
WWW.QVCOCCOM

WARNING! Find the Time!

Jimmy Stevens

Several years ago I approached a man about studying the Bible. He answered, "I don't have time!" He began to name all the things that he had to do and just did not see how he could work "studying the Bible" into his schedule. Many today share this bad habit of not having enough time to study God's word.

The irony of this attitude is that we can find time to do the things that will not help us go to heaven while ignoring the very things that can save our souls. All through the Bible God promised reward to those who knew his will and obeyed it. Read the context of Deuteronomy 11:18-22, but especially note verses 18 and 22. The Lord is instructs Israel to "*lay up these words...in your heart and in your soul,*" and to "*...carefully keep all these commandments which I command you.*" In the New Testament Peter said, "*as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue.*" "*but grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.*" (2 Pet. 1:3; 3:18). Paul said, "*Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*" (2 Tim. 2:15). Gaining the knowledge to know what to do to receive the reward of heaven takes time.

How important is it to set aside time to study the Bible and obey his will? Paul wrote, "*...when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.*" (2 Thess. 1:7-8).

You may not want to take the time now to learn about God from his revealed word, but the day will come when you will wish you had.

Responding To Needs (R..J. Evans)

We all need to be alert and responsive to needs. By so doing, we can be diligent and effective in carrying out whatever is needful. The Scriptures emphasize this. For example, the Apostle Paul said- "Awake to righteousness..." and "Awake, you who sleep..." (1 Cor. 15:34; Eph. 5:14). In this article, let us notice some aspects of life where responding to needs is required.

1. We must respond to the needs of others. Sometimes it is the small, everyday needs of life which go unnoticed. However, these may very well be the critical areas where care and encouragement is so desperately needed. "Little things," such as a warm smile, a firm handshake, a pat on the back, a visit, a card, a phone call, or a word of appreciation just might "make someone's day." I'm sure we have all done some kind deed, and the person responds, "Thank you so much. I needed that." Small deeds like the above are much like giving someone "a cup of cold water" (Matt. 10:42).

2. Shepherds must respond to the needs of the flock. Paul told the Ephesian elders to "shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood" (Acts 20:28). In order to obey this command, the elders must know the flock. This necessitates alertness to the different needs that exist among the members of the congregation. Some may need instruction, discipline and correction; some may need more encouragement; some may be weak and need to be strengthened. Thus, shepherds respond to the needs of the flock because they watch out for their souls "as those who must give account" (Heb. 13:17).

3. Preachers must respond to the needs of the congregation. Paul told the evangelist Titus- "For this reason I left you in Crete, that you should set in order the things that are lacking" (Titus 1:5). Preachers need to preach "the whole counsel of God" (Acts 20:27). Unfortunately, some have "itching ears" and want to have their ears tickled with "fables" and fluff (2 Tim. 4:3-4). While some may want that kind of preaching, that is not what they need. They need solid Bible preaching that is according to "sound doctrine" (2 Tim. 4:3; Titus 1:9-10; 2:1). Paul told the evangelist Timothy to "Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching" (2 Tim. 4:2).

4. We must respond to the needs of self. Being responsive to what is lacking in our own lives enables us to begin making the necessary improvements and corrections. We must guard against having too high an opinion of ourselves. Paul told the Romans: "For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think

soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith" (Rom. 12:3). We must guard against self-complacency. This was the problem of the Laodiceans- "Because you say, 'I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing'-and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked" (Rev. 3:17). The necessity of being responsive to the needs of self was stressed by Paul when he said, "Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Prove yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?-unless indeed you are disqualified" (2 Cor. 13:5).

Responding to needs is imperative! If we have become unresponsive to what is needed, it is high time that we wake up! We close with the urgent words of the Apostle Paul: "And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light" (Rom. 13:11-12).

Encourage Children To Be Spiritually-Minded (Steven Deaton)

"How can we encourage our youth to be spiritually-minded in this age of materialism and convenience?"

First, don't spoil them. Giving them everything they want, or nearly everything, or pushing things on them they haven't even asked for will create a materialistic mindset. Waiting on them hand and foot will make tyrants out of them.

Second, make them work. Teach them to do chores and generally help out around the house. Sometimes this means foregoing play time with friends. Make them get up and get going with the day (Prov. 26:14).

Third, and this is an overall point, children must have the truth instilled in their hearts from a very young age (Eph. 6:4). "Unless the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain who build it" (Psa. 127:1). They need to be instructed in the pitfalls of materialism (1 Tim. 6:9, 10). Pointing to the wrecked lives of the "stars" in our culture will help to impress on them the emptiness of riches for the sake of riches.

Fourth, and perhaps most importantly, as parents we need to shun materialism and not shirk our duties in this age of convenience. Setting the right example for our children will put an indelible mark on their psyche that will stay with them the rest of their lives. If we are not doing right, we cannot expect them to do right.

We have an uphill task in raising our children. We must approach it humbly, with much prayer and patience. Others who have gone through it before can help us to avoid some of the bigger pitfalls and give wise counsel (Prov. 15:22). Let us have confidence we can do what the Lord requires of us and that our children will be good people.