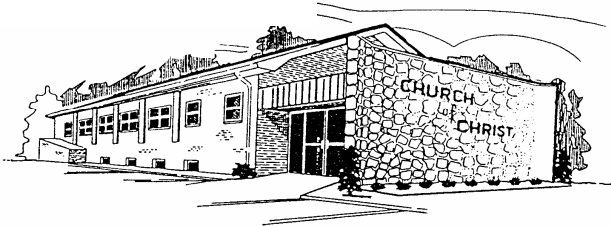


Teaching them to observe
all things...Matt. 28:20



The St. Joseph Observer

March 21 2010

The St. Joseph Church of Christ

Charlie McGee, Minister
Russell Hicks, Berrien General

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Schedule of Services

Sunday School
9:45

Sunday Worship
10:45

Sunday PM
5:00

Tuesday Ladies' Class
9:00 AM

Wednesday Bible Study
6:00

Elders

Leo Conkin	925-7688
Clyde Daniel	428-2322
Charlie McGee	861-5811
Steve Parsons	465-7901

Deacons

Dave Hipskind	468-4735
Eric Ramso	465-5965

Ladies' Prayer Chain

Kim Batson	428-7281
Barb Conkin	925-7688
Gayle Daniel	428-2322
Jan Mundy	473-1505

Who is Your Yardstick?

Sometimes we compare ourselves to others and then we either feel particularly good or bad about ourselves. We feel good thinking we're not as bad as some others and we feel bad thinking we don't measure up. Either way, we use the wrong yardstick.

Parents are bad about that. They look over the fence at other families and think those families sure seem to have it all together. And they wonder why they seem to have so much trouble. They desperately wish they had what someone else appears to have. They look over the fence at someone else and see good things. But they don't see the effort that was put forth to make things good.

Some people are well off financially because they work long hard hours. They work at being good at what they do. Most of the time, we only see the results of patience, diligence, and hard work. We don't see the effort that made those results possible.

Too often we want to skip to the end. We want to skip over the hard parts and go right to the "enjoy the fruit of your labor" part. That's why I'll never be a millionaire. While it's true that I'm probably not smart enough to be one, what's more important is that I have no desire to be one. I'm not willing to do what it takes to be one. I'm not willing to invest the time and energy required to be one. So, I can continue to look over the fence and see those "rich" people and be miserable wondering why I am not one of them. Or I can learn to be content with what I have.

I don't necessarily have to give up all efforts to increase my "domain." It is to our advantage to have dreams and aspire to great things. God expects us to do our best in life including family, work, and service to Him and others. What's not ok is wondering why others seem to have advantages that we don't and failing to be thankful for who we are and what we have been blessed with. And what is worse is when we become anxious and lose sleep over it.

Some folks feel good about themselves because they measure themselves by what they **DON'T** do. They are proud of the fact that they don't steal, cheat on their spouse, or kill. They are satisfied thinking that they are reasonably good people. They've never been in trouble with the law and lots of people like them. They **MUST** be pretty good.

There are a couple of things we need to keep in our minds. One is that none of us are so bad that we can't be forgiven. The other is that no matter how good you are you still don't deserve to go to heaven.

The only valid yardstick is Jesus. And, of course, we can never measure up to Him. So what are we to do?

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Please remember in prayer...

- Members with Health Issues Leo Conkin, Warren James, Virginia Kowalski, Vanessa Matthews, Jim Smith, Lee Wallis, Juanita Weatherford
- Friends & Family with Health Issues Bunnie Woods (Conkin's Daughter) Magalie (McGees)
- The Military Nick Hastings, Ian Matthews
- Our Church The Buildings & Grounds Committee, our Elders & Deacons, our members

Announcements

Scott Batson is planning for the "Nest Fillers" class for kids of all ages. Questions can be directed to him at: scottbatsonSJCofC@gmail.com

Rejoicing & Congratulations to...

Keith Kierstead and Leo Conkin, Jr. & their families. Both men were baptized Friday.

Best Wishes to...

Ginni & Keith as they begin their new marriage.

Tonight is Singing Night
Please join us at 5 PM

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First, we have to make Jesus **THE** priority in our lives; the **MOST** important thing in our lives (*Mark 8:34-35*). There can't be one single thing that is more important. That includes family, career, hobbies, friends, or anything else. If Jesus doesn't take precedence over everything else in your life, then you cannot be His disciple. And if you are not His disciple, then how you measure yourself really doesn't matter.

Second, put others first. Lose yourself in service to others. Be less concerned about what you want and more concerned about the needs and wants of others (*Philippians 2:2-4*).

Third, learn what it means to be content. Paul is a great example of that. He told the Philippians that he had learned to be content **NO MATTER** what his circumstances were (*Philippians 4:11-12*).

Fourth, if you really want a better family situation, a higher income, a more satisfied life, a closer walk with Jesus, look for a mentor. Find someone that you believe is spiritually mature and is successful in the area that you want to develop. Then do the hard thing; **LISTEN** and learn (*Matthew 13:15*).

Congregational Calendar March – April

21  Lorene Milliken 	22	23 <i>Ladies' Class</i>	27	28	26	27
28	29	30 <i>Ladies' Class</i>	31  Sara Gilmer	1	2	3