

NEWS AND NOTES

Visitation Group 2 meets tonight after services.

Fourth and Stewart is having a Gospel Meeting this week. Details are in the foyer.

Michael will be teaching a new class on *first principles*, beginning the first week of April at 5:30 on Sunday afternoons. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Prayer List

Randy Dunlap's daughter, **Andria** passed this past week. Please remember the family in your prayers.

Oleta Pafford, Laurie Spradlin, Sue Bennie, Tammy Doss, Linda Rainey, Ken Edwards, Joyce Dunn, David Harris, Mary Howeth, Clint Wheeler, Pam Beasley, Cindy Dugger, and Anita Jarvis.

Elders

Horace Hounshell 752-7423

Johnny Seymore 752-6261

Morey Mast 752—6500

Deacons

Jason Nicholas 642-0073

Tim Keely 647-9840

James Pafford 647-2258

Preacher

Michael Light 642-2102

Mission Works

Radio Program KOXE 101.3
Heart of Texas Bible Camp (2 sessions)
New Zealand —Rob Kyle
Seek Ye First Publication
Virginia—James Oldfield
Harris and Moore (Radio Talk Show)
Tulstar (publishing and recording ministry)

BANGS CHURCH OF CHRIST

Romans 16:16, "The churches of Christ salute you..."

MARCH 29, 2015

HOW DOES IMMOR- ALITY AFFECT THE CHURCH?

Michael Light

*If ye will fear the Lord, and serve him, and obey his voice, and not rebel against the commandment of the Lord, then shall both ye and also the king that reigneth over you continue following the Lord our God: **But if ye will not obey the voice of the Lord, but rebel against the commandments of the Lord, then shall the hand of the Lord be against you, as it was against your fathers... Only fear the Lord, and serve him in truth with all your heart: for consider how great things he hath done for you. **But if ye shall still do wickedly, ye shall be consumed, both ye and your king.*****

The above passage comes from a ser-

mon preached by Samuel to a rebellious generation who had requested – and received – a king “like the nations around them” (1 Sam. 12:15,16,24,25).

These people of old mirror our generation in many respects. They had a heritage of following God’s word and being led by His judges. God was their King and they had blessings and peace as long as they followed His instruction. We too have an abundant, full and great life laid out for us if we follow the Divine blueprint (John 10:10).

But, like many today, after some time they seemed to grow bored with God’s instructions and turned toward worldliness and the destructive nature of sin began to cause their demise (Prov. 13:3).

TRACK SEASON

We have quite a few kids participating in track this year:
Junior High—Emily, Honey, KayLeah, Dawson and George
High School—Michaela, Bryan and Timothy

Let's notice some reasons for their departure from truth. We will also attempt to draw some parallels to what is happening in our day.

The initial problem was that they began to look longingly toward the world. Note their comment to Samuel, *Behold, thou art old, and thy sons walk not in thy ways: now make us a king to judge over us like all the nations* (1 Sam. 8:5).

There are many things wrong with this statement. First, the age of the prophet has no bearing on the truthfulness of the message. Paul dealt with this on the other end of the spectrum regarding Timothy being young, telling him, *Let no man despise thy youth: but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity* (1 Tim. 4:12).

Just as these rebellious sinners of old used Samuel's age as an excuse to leave the truth, many in our day try to use either the age of the Bible, or the age of a doctrine to somehow discredit it. 2 + 2 has always been 4 and will always be 4. To argue that we need a "new" answer for a "new"

generation is idiocy. The same is true concerning moral truth.

The Bible is God given – *All scripture is God breathed...* (2 Tim. 3:16-17). Jesus is the only way that leads to heaven – *I am the way, the truth and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me* (John 14:6). And the church is the total sum of all the saved - *And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved* (Acts 2:47).

Far too many in the church are infatuated with what those in the "nations round about us" are doing. Why would a child of God, led by the divine inspired word of God, even begin to think of mimicking what they see in the denominational world?

How can we imitate the lost and still be saved? There is no salvation in manmade religion (Acts 17:25). Ignorant worship cannot save (Rom. 10:1-3).

The children of old desired a king so they could be like those around them (those who were not following God, not saved). Many in the church today

have the same attitude – a total disregard for the Bible on all topics.

This attitude very quickly shows itself via immorality. Many congregation today would not be recognized by former members if they were allowed to come back from the grave.

Note a few sins that are basically ignored by the supposed people of God in our day. **Immodesty** (2 Tim. 2:22) – this takes many forms – of course under dressed (not enough material in the outfits). Shorts dresses and shorts, low cut tops (all ages not just the teens), clothing that is too tight and revealing.

Often in cheerleading and sports (especially track and volleyball) the "standard" outfit is not appropriate. Only our spouses should see us in our underwear, not stands full of spectators.

Sexual impurity – fornication and adultery, lust filled entertainment {TV, internet choices, music, dances, etc} (1 Cor. 6:9-11) are far too common among God's people – and often not dealt with in a serious fashion by the elders. Ephesians 5:11, both those

that sin and those who hold their tongues about it, are going to be lost. The failure of many in the church to speak up about sin, in an attempt to save the sinner, is also a type of immorality (Luke 19:10)

Ungodly attitudes – either we possess the fruit of the Spirit and the Christian virtues or we do not (Gal. 5:22f; 2 Pet. 1:5f). If we truly were spiritual and not worldly in attitude toward God and His word, the above sins would not be an issue.

There are hundreds of other specific sins that could be mentioned that are symptomatic of a church that has slipped into immorality, the result will be damnation on those who linger in the way of the devil.

But the answer to it is found back in our original text, *Fear not: ye have done all this wickedness: yet turn not aside from following the Lord, but serve the Lord with all your heart; and turn not aside...For the Lord will not forsake his people for his great name's sake* (1 Sam. 12:20-22).

