

Heaven

March 9, 2008

"In my Father's house are many dwelling places... I go to prepare a place for

Volume 1, No. 2

The Church's Responsibility to my faith

Charlestown Road Church of Christ

4601 Charlestown Rd.
New Albany, IN 47150
812-945-8460

Web site:
www.Truth-search.org

Our Services

Sunday

Bible Class: 9:30 am
Worship: 10:20 am
Evening: 5:00 pm

Wednesday

Bible Study 7:00 pm

Our Preachers:

Roger Shouse 816-260-1257
Patrick Cawthon 813-817-2810

Our Elders:

Larry Beckham 502-777-7720



"The church's responsibility to my faith." What an interesting subject. I don't think I've ever heard a lesson on that. To be honest, I don't think most folks have even thought about that before. What role does the church have to your faith?

There are some principles that come quickly to our mind about this. The church gathers to offer praise and worship to God. There is a responsibility there—to conduct a God-pleasing worship.

We would also remember the great Ephesians 4 passage that teaches that we are to build each other up in Lord. Paul says this is done by equipping the saints. The church has the responsibility to teach lessons that will help us be the citizens of Heaven that God wants.

We might even mention the importance of the preacher preaching lessons that are true to God's word.

But I wonder if we put way too much responsibility for our faith upon the church. I wonder if we expect the church to be our vital link to Jesus Christ?

Sometimes people leave a congregation proclaiming that "We just don't get anything out of the Bible classes," or, "I'm just not growing in that church." And off they go looking for a place that will fulfill their spiritual hunger without realizing

that one's faith is the responsibility of that person—and not the church. Rarely, if ever, do you hear a family member complain that their faith is not growing in the home? Yet isn't that where God put more of the responsibility (consider Eph 6:4)?



Our society is soft. We like to have others do things for us. We will gladly pay for others to clean our house, change our oil, watch our kids, shop for us, and deliver pizza to our door. But this doesn't translate spiritually. We don't pay the preacher to "give us faith" or "to make my faith grow." We don't have Bible classes for the sole purpose of increasing our faith. My faith is my responsibility. Your faith is your responsibility. We need to take ownership of our faith. We need to realize that it is up to each of us to feed, watch and grow our own faith. We fail to see that the choices we make Monday-Saturday can help or hurt my faith hundreds of times greater than what happens on Sunday. Far too long, too many have assumed that what others do for them on Sunday morning is all that is necessary for faith. How wrong that is. What are **you** doing for your faith aside from coming to church on Sunday?

Now, that is a question to think about!

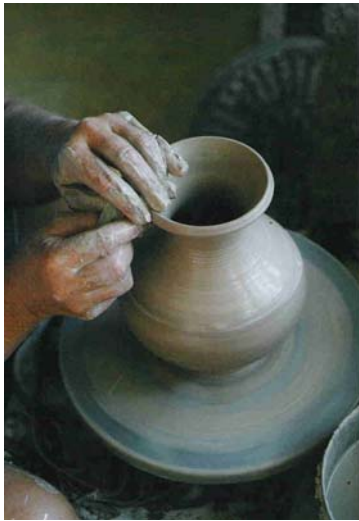
The Muck and Mire

Heb 2:14a, 17 *Since then the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same... Therefore, He had to be made like His brethren in all things, that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.*

For thirty years he would feel everything you and I have ever felt. He felt weak. He grew weary. He was susceptible to wooing women. He got colds, burped, and had body odor. His feelings got hurt.

To think of Jesus in such a light is—well, it seems almost irreverent, doesn't it? It's not something we like to do; it's uncomfortable. It is much easier to keep the humanity out of our image of Jesus. Clean the manure from around the manger. Wipe the sweat out of his eyes. Pretend he never snored or blew his nose or hit his thumb with a hammer.

He's easier to stomach that way. There is something about keeping him divine that keeps him distant, packaged, predictable.



But don't do it. For heaven's sake, don't. Let him be as human as he intended to be. Let him into the mire and muck of our world. For only if we let him in can he pull us out.

God Came Near

Give it a thought:

It isn't the load that weighs us down—it's the way we carry it.



Family Connections

Needing Our Prayers

