

Those Serving This Week

Sunday: 10:30AM

—Opening Prayer David Tiffin
—Lead Singing Vincent Heath
—Lord's Supper Austin Henderson
Tim Henderson
—Lesson Tim Henderson
—Closing Prayer Telford Hamm
—Announcements Tim Henderson

Sunday: 4 PM

—Opening Prayer Jack Elliott
—Lead Singing Victor Heath

Wednesday: 7 PM

—Lesson Tim Henderson


This weeks reading:
Mark 11-12

Studies
In
Mark

Sunday at 9:30 AM

Bible
Survey

Wednesday 7PM



Eastside
Church of Christ

Volume-06 Issue-11 05/29/2022

"whatever is true, ... honorable, ... just, ... pure, ... lovely, ... commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things"
Phil. 4:8 (ESV)

Beyond Conformity

By: Gary Henry —Wordpoints.com

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new"
2 Corinthians 5:17

What does it take for our character to be changed at its deepest level? Christianity has always held that radical change in human character is possible, but Christians themselves have not always kept their thinking clear about what is involved in this change. Certainly there must be a decision to cease from sin and to start doing God's will. Reverent obedience to God's requirements is by no means optional (1 John 1:6). But if real change is to take place, our compli-

We appreciate your presence here today. We extend an invitation for you to join us at any of our other times of worship.

TIMES OF SERVICES
SUNDAY
Bible Study 9:30 AM
Assembly 10:30 AM
Assembly 4:00 PM
WEDNESDAY
Classes 7:00 PM

If you have any questions regarding what we teach and practice, feel free to ask.

"Come now, and let us reason together," Says the Lord, "Though your sins are as scarlet, They will be as white as snow;..." -Isa. 1:18

A publication of the
Eastside church of Christ
Which meets at:
1201 Highway 24 E
Red Bay, AL 35582
eastsideredbay.com

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Tim Henderson

ance with God's law must be enlivened and empowered by our gratitude for His grace.

In the New Testament, the Pharisees are a case study in what can happen when we try to conform to the precepts of God's law without any devotion to God Himself or any honest appreciation of our need for His grace. The Pharisees emphasized obedience with a zeal that was legendary (Philippians 3:5,6), and yet Jesus said to His followers, "*Unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven*" (Matthew 5:20). What does this mean? If it merely means that we must be more careful or exert more effort than the Pharisees, then we have little hope, for they worked at commandment-keeping about as hard as anyone can. Instead, we must take a different *approach* to righteousness. Our efforts must be of a different *kind* (Romans 10:3; Philippians 3:8,9).

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God Himself.*

Beyond conformity, deep inner change requires an actual reliance upon God Himself. If all we do is conform to biblical precepts, that does not by itself guarantee that we'll experience the richness and power of a transformed heart. In fact, if we don't throw ourselves into an honest love affair with the God of real grace, our obedience will feed our pride and actually worsen the condition of our heart. The truth is, we can't be more than imperfect instruments of God's glory right now. The change we need is one more radical than we can undergo just yet, and we must be willing to wait for our perfection in Christ. In the meantime, being a "new creation" in Christ requires that we accept, however painfully to our pride, what grace really means.

*"Grace is a certain beginning
of glory in us"*
~Thomas Aquinas~

Mark 11 & 12

Z R E N O I T C E R R U S E R N E
P I G E O N S S G U T R B Z E G H
I W E V O L Q I A R O E T F A D S
Q I Y I L L A P E B C B S P H U Z
Q D M G I U H S H N O U H K P C B
Y O Z R Q B P G A Q I T V L S A A
H W K O W A I T H R E P I A X E U
U Q E F S E I O A B A J N E J S S
X N T S N R X N L U E G F Y Q A H
L H E E E Z E D T I E D Q A Q R A
Y S O H N D K H R L V O Q V B K M
T T N S H A O T S A W E X T I C E
R I E S A R N N I F Y A S N W Z F
E L P H I N F T Q C T E G K G X U
V Q K T T I N J S B E D N Y S J L
O Q Y E C F D A F M O Y P I M L L
P E G A I R R A M M P P H A V U Y

ANGELS
AUTHORITY
BETHPAGE
CAESAR
DENARIUS
FORGIVE
HOSANNA

INHERITANCE
KINGDOM
LOVE
MARRIAGE
NEIGHBOR
OLIVES
PIGEONS

POVERTY
RESURRECTION
SHAMEFULLY
TENANTS
TRESPASSES
VINEYARD
WIDOW

"And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these." ~ Mark 12:30-31—ESV ~