



The Pearland Harvester

EQUIPPING THE SAINTS FOR THE WORK OF SERVICE, BUILDING UP
THE BODY OF CHRIST

ARE WE HOLY AND UNBLEMISHED?

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The most recent article discussed the value of the church to Christ, with the Lord describing the church as His holy and unblemished bride (Eph. 5:27). But in that metaphor, how are holiness and being unblemished measured?

There can only be one way. So long as holiness means “set apart,” then the church can only be holy so long as it is set apart from the world. To be unblemished can only be understood as having a complexion or appearance that is without unsightly marring. Therefore, the church can only be unblemished in the sight of the Lord if it is not marred by worldly values. Additionally, this metaphor only works so long as we understand that the church desires for itself that holiness and that it strives to remain unblemished. The church will consciously avoid worldliness and anything of the world that harms its appearance.

To carry the metaphor even further, we have to think about the desires of a young bride. She wants to maintain those things about herself that first attracted her husband to her; so she takes the time necessary to look into the mirror, and she knows all the things necessary to keep up her appearance. The church ought to be equally as careful about itself! It should know the Lord’s pleasure so well that it is never in doubt as to what it should do.

Yet so often the church is uninterested in those things. Paul said that the church itself is the glory of God in all generations (Eph. 3:21). However, that glory is not just because the church exists. It is because the church bears much fruit! We’ve often lost sight of that truth. We focus on things like buildings and programs that enhance our fellowship (both of which are needed) to the point that they consume all of our energy and finances. We have

meetings, endlessly so, to address these concerns and forego opportunities to focus on what truly brings glory to God.

The holy and unblemished church is not just a congregation that conscientiously abstains from denominational practices; it is a church that is equally focused on bearing fruit to the glory of God. How does it bear that fruit? It does so through its divinely appointed works of evangelism, edification, and relief.

The church is evangelistic only if it is consciously working to reach the lost. First-century churches were always encouraged to reach out to others in their locations (Acts 5:42; 1 Thess. 1:8). Never was a local church told that it overemphasized and exerted a disproportional amount of its energy and resources in evangelism. The church is focused on edification if it pays close attention to the Scriptures (1 Tim. 4:13,16; Heb. 2:1). What the church paid attention to in terms of doctrine was a constant subject of apostolic writing. Finally, the church is carrying out its work if it is meeting those needs of its members that might weaken their faith. In fact, the faith of the local church was said to be a dead faith if it did not meet those needs (James 2:15-17).

To keep the church focused on those works that keep it holy and without blemish, the Lord gave it elders and charged them to engage in those works. The local church is to esteem them highly because of their work (1 Thess. 5:12,13; 1 Tim. 5:17). The local church needs to desire holiness, and it needs to make every effort to be unblemished. It needs elders who understand what it takes to be holy and unblemished, and the congregation needs to support their efforts. In those cases where the elders’ focus is elsewhere, the congregation needs to encourage them to help it remain holy and unblemished by concentrating on those things.



Keep studying and keep serving! ⚡ DC Brown ©2016

Weekly Bible trivia question. Please submit answers to the elders. The first correct answer reported to the office will be recognized and published in the next bulletin. Here goes...I am not imprisoned; I am not dead; I am a builder; I am upright and I am always right. Who am I?

Connie Powell gave the first correct answer to last week's question: ESAU.

Daily Bible chapter reading schedule, beginning Thursday, March 17, 2016:

Thursday—Romans 11-12

Friday—Genesis 20-23

Saturday—Judges 1-6

Sunday—Psalms 15-17

Monday—Job 11-12

Tuesday—Isaiah 29-33

Wednesday—Matthew 14-16

Jr. & Sr. High School Retreat at Camp Hensel is scheduled for March 25-27, 2016. See Paul for applications. Scholarships are available. Sign-up deadline is March 16, 2016.

Camp Bandina (for 7th-12th graders) will be June 5-11, 2016. Applications are available from Paul, or you can register online at <https://campbandina.wordpress.com/full-registration/>. Please sign up quickly, as space is filling up fast. First cut-off is April 10, 2016, before moving to a waiting list.

There will be a church work day beginning at 9 AM this Saturday, March 19, 2016. There are several clean-up items to be finished before our Homecoming in April, including washing the outside of the Annex to prepare it for painting.



The Arms of Hope Grocery Run will be the week of **May 2-6, 2016**. We need to collect the following:

**Paper Towels
Toilet Paper**

Please bring your items by Sunday, May 1. Arms of Hope did not specify quantity, but let's have a generous donation.

KEPT IN PRAYER

Our deepest sympathy to the family of **Bartis Knight**, who passed away March 10, 2016. Services were held in Lawn TX on Tuesday, March 15, 2016. He was Jerri Farmer's brother.

David Smith had a stent successfully implanted in the main coronary artery on Tuesday, March 15, and has returned to Trinity Oaks today (March 16). On Monday, May 2, he will have surgery to remove the cancerous tumor from the colon. During this time, he will be restricted from public venues. He would still appreciate visits at Trinity Oaks, Room 520. However, do not visit if you have something contagious; call him at 281-485-2092. Your prayers and thoughts are appreciated.

Loma Stone has been battling pleurisy and dizzy spells for several weeks.

Continuing Need:

Our Members: Sheila Banyai, Fran Barnhill, Annette Bumpers, David & Libby Clayton, Evelyn Cordell, Daisy Dees, June Evans, Bennie Sue Galindo, Ross Genaro, Dorendia Hamilton, Charlyne Harper, Minnie Harris, Murrell Hill, Judy Indest, Kaliya Kelly, Wanda Kirby, Dorothy Kirkland, Von Knight, Wanda Knight, Jan Lemoine, Mary Means, Vi Price, Betty Pridgen, David Smith, Loma Stone, Sandy Stone, Doris Stuteville.

Others: Brianna Aaronson, Mary Alford, Leona Anderson, Timothy Anderson, Harold Anglin, Mike & Cindy Barnhill, Ted Bowers, Margaret Brown, Catina Davis, Brooke Dempsey, Billie Dykes, Marcia Ellison, Linda Evans, Richard Fairservice, Darrell Farmer, Glenda Garner, Betty Goad, Bo Herrington, Cody Holcomb, Robert Holmes, Charles (Huck) Huckabee, Carol Jackman, Ed Jones, Charles Layton, Sr., Kerry Lemoine, Dave Manley, Blake McAdams, J. S. Miller, Pat Miller, Steve & Gayle Miller, Lauren Murphy, April Parker, Carolyn Cheshier Peters, Jillian Polete, Susan Priel, Cloey Pruitt, Jayson Romano, Henry Schaefer, Don Scott, Sherly Scott, Frank Staten, Margie Stephens, Rick Stone, James Thabiso Taylor, Heather Thomas, Larry Thornhill, Pedro Vasquez, Kinnie Warren, Anna Young.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Kevin Scarsdale is our contact elder for **March**. If you would like to schedule a meeting, please see **Kevin**.

March 2016

- 19 Church Work Day—9 AM
- 23 Ladies' Bible Class—10 AM—Annex

April 2016

- 4 Secret Sisters—TBD
- 6 Wednesday Night with the Master—Meal served at 6 PM in the Annex—Menu TBD
- 11 Golden Agers' Luncheon—11:30 AM—Location TBD
- 13 Ladies' Bible Class—10 AM—Annex
- 16-17 Homecoming
- 27 Ladies' Bible Class—10 AM—Annex



The church-wide encampment is set for April 22-24, 2016, at Cagle Recreational Area which is 6 miles west of New Waverly on FM 1375. Take I-45 north to New Waverly, take FM 1375 west for 6 miles to Cagle Rd. All sites have water and electricity for tents and full hookup for RVs. Two nice bathhouses, hiking trails and paved roads throughout. The campground is 80 miles north of Pearland. Each camper is responsible for making reservations.

Mainland Church of Christ in Texas City is having a Ladies Day on April 2, 2016. A flyer is on the bulletin board. Mary Allen is the speaker. RSVP requested by March 25, 2016.

PLEASE SAVE APRIL 16 & 17, 2016, FOR THE PEARLAND CHURCH OF CHRIST HOMECOMING FOR CURRENT & FORMER MEMBERS.

If you would like to contribute to the Homecoming fund, please give your money to Gretchen Whitmire.

March Birthdays

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 4 DC Brown | 5 Christi Hines |
| 6 Taylor Cuellar | 7 Ramón Sanchez |
| 12 Ashley Hundley | 13 Bennie Sue Galindo |
| 17 Pat Wagoner | 19 Trudy Knight |
| 19 Sandy Stone | 22 Appeal Byers |
| 25 Evelyn Cordell | 25 Demetris Kelly II |
| 27 April Cartwright | 29 Judy Indest |
| 30 Candice Townzen | 31 Heather Cook |
| 31 Mary Holmberg | |

March Anniversaries

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 9 DC & Debbie Brown | 14 Jeff & Gena Coe |
| 16 Grayson & Candice Townzen | 22 Greg & Linda Fabian |
| 22 Gene & Stephanie Forster | 22 Larry & Delores Truelove |
| 31 Russell & Canova Genaro | |

Those to Serve

Pearland Church of Christ

...equipping the saints for the work
of service, building up the body of Christ...

2217 N. Grand Blvd.

Pearland, TX 77581 • 281-485-2436

Wednesday Evening March 16	Wednesday Evening March 23
Building Lock Up—Fabian	Building Lock Up—Cartwright

Morning Worship March 20	Morning Worship March 27
Opening Prayer Daniel Brown	Opening Prayer James Maxcey
Song Leader Greg Fabian	Song Leader Paul Cartwright
Communion	Communion
Presiding: Bob Williams	Presiding: Daniel Brown
Demetris Kelly James Maxcey	Bobby Parker Bob Williams
Russell Genaro Brandon Stafford	Jacob Carriere Matthew Fabian
Paul Hamilton Nathan Scarsdale	Tom Langford Josh Hundley
Announcements Kevin Scarsdale	Announcements Kevin Scarsdale
Closing Prayer	Closing Prayer
Nursery Attendants	Nursery Attendants
Canova Genaro Elaine Genaro	Laurie Maxcey
Ushers (*indicates head usher)	Ushers (*indicates head usher)
*Jimmy Terry, Matthew Fabian, Gheath Alatrash	*Phil Godwin, Clifford Layton, Lynn Adams
Greeters	Greeters
Kevin & Maresha Scarsdale	Clifford & Nina Layton
Audio—Projector for AM	Audio—Projector for AM
Mauney	Mauney
Building Lock Up for AM & PM—Cartwright	Building Lock Up for AM & PM—Lindelof
Evening Worship	Evening Worship
Opening Prayer Chris Lindelof	Opening Prayer Gary Adams
Song Leader Gary Adams	Song Leader Greg Fabian
Communion Brandon Stafford, C Layton	Communion Bobby Parker, N Scarsdale
Closing Prayer Kevin Scarsdale	Closing Prayer Kevin Scarsdale

ELDERS

Gary Adams 281-997-3790
Greg Fabian 713-305-1626
Chris Lindelof 281-224-2183
Kevin Scarsdale 713-447-1866

DEACONS

Bobby Parker
Charlie Story
Bob Williams

MINISTERS

D.C. Brown Pulpit Minister
Paul Cartwright Youth & Family Minister

MISSIONARIES

Benin, West Africa:
Paul Tohionon - Bohicon
Pascal Djedatin - Dassa
Blaise Atta - Bétérou
Clément Djebede - Okéwo
Boniface Yantekoua - Kaboua
Joachim Tounou - Abomey-Goho
Gaston Nda - Natitingou
Valentine Ndimonte - Natitingou
André Assogba - Savé et Kokoro
Dorotheé Tchekpo - Savé et Bessé
Paul Kouagou - N'Dali
Jonas Sambieni - Glazoué
Gabin Agbeci - Savalou
Portsmouth, Dominica, West Indies
Lewis Romain

Worship Times:

Sunday

Bible Study9 am
Morning Worship.....10 am
Evening Worship.....6 pm

Wednesday Bible Study.....7 pm

www.pearlandcoc.com