

THE WHOLE ARMOR OF GOD

December 13, 2015

"BE STRONG IN THE LORD AND IN THE POWER OF HIS MIGHT"

PLEASANT PLAINS CHURCH OF CHRIST

JACKSON, TENNESSEE

Word of the Week: Conscience

"This is not a day care. This is a university!" These words in a post by Dr. Everett Piper, President of Oklahoma Wesleyan University, went viral last week and were reported by most of the media. Dr. Piper's post was in response to a student complaint that he was "offended" by a speaker on the campus with whom he disagreed. What was not widely reported by most outlets was the situation that caused the student's discomfort.

Here it is and the commentary in Dr. Piper's own words. "This past week, I actually had a student come forward after a university chapel service and complain because he felt "victimized" by a sermon on the topic of 1 Corinthians 13. It appears that this young scholar felt offended because a homily on love made him feel bad for not showing love. In his mind, the speaker was wrong for making him, and his peers, feel uncomfortable. I'm not making this up. Our culture has actually taught our kids to be this self-absorbed and narcissistic. Any time their feelings are hurt, they are the victims. Anyone who dares challenge them and, thus, makes them "feel bad" about themselves, is a "hater," a "bigot," an "oppressor," and a "victimizer. I have a message for this young man and all others who care to listen. That feeling of discomfort you have after listening to a sermon is called a conscience. An altar call is supposed to make you feel bad. It is supposed to make you feel guilty. The goal of many a good sermon is to get you to confess your sins—not coddle you in your selfishness. The primary objective of the Church and the Christian faith is your confession, not your self-actualization."

Our word of the week is *conscience*.

The New Testament uses the Greek word, *suneidesis*, which is translated conscience 30 times. It's a compound word that literally means "to know with." Dr. Vine defined the word as "the witness borne to one's conduct by conscience, that faculty by which we apprehend the will of God, as that which is designed to govern our lives." He further writes that the conscience involves, "that process of thought which distinguishes what it considers morally good or bad, commending the good, condemning the bad, and so prompting to do the former, and avoid the latter." The Bible speaks of a "good conscience," a "pure conscience," an "evil conscience," and a "defiled conscience." (1 Tim. 1:19; Heb 10:22; Titus 1:15)

In his book *Common Sense Preaching*, Dee Bowman writes, "Conscience is the mental apparatus that approves when it thinks or acts in accordance with what he understands to be right, and disapproves when he does that which he understands to be wrong." Both by definition and usage it is apparent that the conscience can only operate on the basis on what a person has been taught. It responds to one's values, beliefs and standards. That is why understanding Truth is imperative. A person convinced of a religious or moral error will not be convicted by their conscience unless their understanding is changed. Paul said he lived in good conscience, even when he was an unbeliever and killed Christians! (Acts 23:1). The conscience is trained by what it is taught. A conscience that is not taught the truth will guide one in the wrong direction. But when he comesto a knowledge of the Truth, as Paul did, the conscience will convict you to change.

The Bible sometimes uses the word "heart" in speaking of the conscience. After hearing Peter's sermon, those guilty of killing Christ were "cut to the heart" (As 2:47). In other words, they were convicted by their conscience when they heard the gospel. In John 3:20-21 the apostle says that our heart "condemns us." When we violate our conscience, we have a gnawing sense of being wrong. Of course, as Peter observed, one can have a "heart trained in covetous practices" (2 Pet. 2:14). After a period of time of repeatedly sinning, our conscience may become, as Paul put it, "seared with a hot iron," referring to a conscience that is deadened and without feeling

Since the conscience is our moral compass, the internal ethical governor of the heart, we must guard it. Train it according to Truth. And daily seek to live according to its direction. So, when a sermon "offends" you, ask why? Maybe it's your conscience convicting you and calling for change.

We are so grateful that you have made the decision to join our family, today, as we worship our Almighty God! If you have any questions or inquiries, please feel free to ask any of our members and we would be more happy to answer as best we can! Please accept our invitation to join us, again, when you have the opportunity.

-Ken Weliever, thepreachersword.com



Speaker:

NICK ANGEL

Sunday AM Notes 12-13-2015

**The
Message
of our Dress**
I Timothy 2:9,10

_____ we do _____ a

_____.

The _____ we send give _____ into what is

_____ our _____.

The _____ of our _____ should be that our

_____ is set on _____.



Speaker:

NICK ANGEL

Sunday PM Notes 12-13-2015

**Satan's Desires
For Our Efforts
in Evangelism**

Dear Christian,

✓ Think that _____ isn't really all that _____.

✓ Think that the _____ has lost _____ &

✓ Fail to put in the _____ to be able to _____ the
_____ of _____.

✓ Kill your _____ through _____.

✓ Unlovingly _____ people over the _____ with the
_____.

✓ Treat others as _____ because they
haven't _____ the _____.

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Our Preacher

Nick Angel (423) 310-8272
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Times of Worship & Bible Study

Sunday:

9:30 AM Bible Study

10:30 AM Worship Service: You can expect heart felt singing, reverent prayer, preaching from the Word of God, a focused and reverent observance of the Lord's Supper, and an opportunity for the saints of Pleasant Plains to give back to the Lord.

5:00 PM Worship Service

Wednesday:

7:00 PM Bible Study and Worship

Weekly Attendance

Last Sunday AM Worship.....118
Last Sunday PM Worship.....93
Last Wednesday Bible Study.....94

In Our Prayers

RECENT ADDITIONS/UPDATES:

-Tim Berry (The Berry's son)... recovering from by-pass surgery. Please keep him in your prayers for a full recovery.

-Christy Bennett's Nephew Logan... was able to go home for a little bit, but was then quickly taken back to the hospital with serious complications. Please continue to pray for this young man and his family.

-Barbara Leonard...really struggling with her health. Please be praying for her and let's see what we can do to assist her with food or other needs.

-Keller Stephens (Kathy Raines' Uncle)...please continue your prayers for Keller that he is able to recover to the extent that he can be baptized into the Body of Christ.

CONTINUED PRAYERS:

*****Our expecting mothers: Melanie Siedenstrang, Melessa Sain, & Spring McDonald.*****

-Christian Shadburn...20 yr. old Christian battling cancer.

-Stephanie Still (Becky Waddell's cousin)... dealing with numerous health issues.

-Robin Hill..... battling cancer.

-Jamie Neal and family (Nancy Phillips' friend)...Battling Melanoma.

-Ashley Pickens (Brent Holt's cousin)... Battling Cancer.

-Louise Stitt (Amy Gailey's mother) ... Battling leukemia..

-Pray for the work of this church. The fields are white & we need to be hard at work to spread the Gospel to as many lost souls as possible.

-Men & women making the sacrifice to protect the freedoms of this country.

*****If you have any updates or additions to the prayer list, please see Nick (in person, phone call, text, or email) so we can keep the bulletin up to date.*****

Pleasant Plains News

Upcoming Pleasant Plains' Bible Studies & Events

✓**Song Practice** - January 3rd at the Angel's home after evening service. **Song leaders: please be thinking of 4-5 songs that you would like to learn/practice during our time together.**

✓**Men's Bible Class** - January 9th at Panera Bread at 7:30am. Please be on the lookout for next year's book "Tender Warrior" to be handed out.

✓**Ladies Class** - January 5th at 10:00am here at the church house. Lesson 3 will be covered.

✓**Young People's Study** - December 20th at Jeff Cisco's House.

Area Gospel Meetings & Events

☉ Nothing on the calendar.

Daily Bible Reading For This Week: Nehemiah 10-13; Malachi 1-4; Job 1-11; Psalm 2, 29, 99, ; Revelation 8-12

Please make an effort to be in daily reading and meditation of God's Word! It's never too late to join your brothers and sisters of Pleasant Plains as we dive into God's Word. Read the Old Testament, Psalms, New Testament or any combination of the three and glorify God in your study and growth in 2015!