



*Chalmette
Church of Christ
February 16th, 2014*

But What Will People Think?

Chuck Webster

It's scary to admit how much we do to impress others—what John Ortberg calls "Impression Management."

We shake our heads at the pressure teenagers are under to act a certain way to be accepted—or at least not rejected or made fun of—by their peers. But I'm not sure we ever get past that; it just changes forms. Why do we wear what we wear? It's not mere comfort and warmth . . . we choose them to make an impression.

What people think of us influences what we drive, where we live (and how it's decorated), how we talk and walk, everything. We keep it to ourselves, but we want to shape what people think of us: we're smart, savvy, pretty, stylish, athletic, successful, well-read, funny, kind, or whatever. Impression management.

It even affects what we do religiously. There's pressure at church—pressure to talk and dress and act a certain way so that we fit in, so other religious people know we're part of the Christian "in" crowd. It shouldn't be there, but it is, and always has been. Jesus warns us about it here:

"Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven" (Matt 6:1).

Everybody at the front of the church building feels the pressure, of course. The preacher wants people to like his sermon, and the song and prayer leaders want to impress with their leading. But it's happening in the pew as well. Ever found yourself wondering—just for a second—if anyone noticed how beautifully you were harmonizing in that last song? Ever hoped that people might find out how much you give to the church? (They might be impressed)

Have you ever gone to a church event because you were afraid of what people would think if you didn't? Ever picked out a dress for church and hoped that people noticed it? Ever cooked a meal for someone and hoped word got out?

We probably need to hear these words from Jesus again. What we do religiously needs to be motivated by gratitude for what God has done for us, not to make people think we're good or holy or righteous.

It's amazing how quickly spiritual things can become self-centered, isn't it? In fact, religion becomes negative when it stops being about God and starts being about us.

This would be a good prayer theme for today. Lord, help me to obey you because of you. Help me to follow Jesus because of Jesus. Help me not to be merely religious, but to be you-centered. Create in me a heart that is concerned about what you think but doesn't obsess over what others think.

(Brother Webster is the pulpit preacher of the Hoover, AL Church of Christ)

"It Was Only a Quarter"

The story is told about a preacher who moved to a large city many years ago to begin a new work. Some weeks after he arrived, he had occasion to ride the bus from his home to the downtown area. When he sat down, he discovered that the driver had accidentally given him a quarter too much change. As he considered what to do, he thought to himself, "You better give the quarter back. It would be wrong to keep it." Then he thought, "Oh, forget it; it's only a quarter. Who would worry about this little amount? Anyway the bus company already gets too much fare; they will never miss it. Accept it as a gift from God and keep quiet." When his stop came, he paused momentarily at the door, and then he handed the quarter to the driver and said, "Here, you gave me too much change." The driver, with a smile, replied, "Aren't you the new preacher in town? I have been thinking lately about going there to worship. I just wanted to see what you would do if I gave you too much change." When the preacher stepped off the bus, he literally grabbed the nearest light pole and held on and said, "O God, I almost sold Your Son for a quarter."

This little story reminds me of something similar that happened to me several years ago while working with a congregation in a small town in Alabama. I stopped by a grocery store one day to get a check cashed before going out of town. When I asked the manager of the store if she would cash the check she abruptly replied, "I don't know if I can or not, who are you? I could have grabbed the check and just as abruptly left her store but I refrained. After I told her who I was she all of sudden smiled and said, "I know you, you preach for the church of Christ. I have seen you on television and enjoy hearing you preach. Sure I will cash your check." How thankful I am that I responded to her like a Christian ought.

We never know who is watching us. You are the only Bible some will ever read. You are the best Christian or the worst Christian in the eyes of someone. Remember what our Lord taught us, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in Heaven" (Mat. 5:16).

By: Barry Grider

Bible Wordsearch

THE GOOD SAMARITAN Luke 10:30-37

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

AWAY
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CLOTHES
COINS
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DEAD
DONKEY
DOWN
EXPENSE
EXTRA
FELL
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INTO
JERICHO
JERUSALEM
JESUS
LEAVING
LEVITE

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PLACE
POURING
PRIEST
PUT
REIMBURSE
REPLY
RETURN
ROAD
ROBBERS
SAMARITAN
SAW
SIDE
SILVER
STRIPPED
TOOK
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WENT
WHERE
WINE
WOUNDS

After you find all the hidden words the left over letters spell out a Bible verse reading from the top left to the bottom right

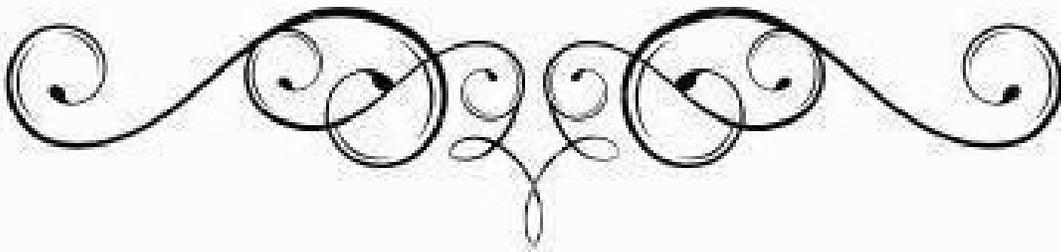
Psalm 31

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Wordsearch No.170
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News and Notes

- Our **Third Sunday Singing and Fellowship Meal** will be this evening. Bring a dish a friend!
- Our annual Ladies Day is just around the corner! It will be on March 15th and the theme this year is, "**What Not To Wear.**" **Sister Megan Shirley**, from the Morgan City congregation will be our guest speaker.
- We had such good participation with our work day yesterday. So much was accomplished for Ladies Day that is upcoming and we thank you for your help. There may be another one coming soon for the programs. Claudia will let us know as soon as she returns from her trip.
- The **Kennedy family, Brocks, Clements, Wagner, Smiles** have had sicknesses and deaths in their families recently. We want to offer our love and sympathy to all at this time.
- **Carol Calix** will be having double knee replacement surgery this Tuesday. **Julio** is doing better and is back at work, but he will be possibly be undergoing more neck surgery in March. Please pray for the Calix family that they will be on the road to recovery soon!



February Birthdays

17-Bruce Scariano
18-Claudia Smith
20-Bree Brock
26-Crystal Russell
26-Johnnie Wagner



March Birthdays

6-David Nye
13-Marlene Vazquez
14-Ashleigh Towle
22-Anthony Smith

Prayer List



**Alice Riley
Sherry Towle
Margo Rodney
Judy Hennessee
Betty Grisham
Ella Gillard
Krisztian Montague
Linda Swanner
Mary Macaluso Hardee
Gloria Smiles
Elbre Wolfe
Joel James
Charles Jenkins
David Ebeling
Ryker Amaya
Raymond Sanchez
Gary Huettmann
Malcolm & Marlene Vazquez**

***All of our brethren scattered across
the United States & our troops in
Iraq**



**Chalmette Church of Christ
200 De La Ronde
Chalmette, LA 70043
504-279-9438**

**Services of The Church
Sunday**

Bible Classes 9:00 am
AM Worship 10:00 am
PM Worship 6:00 pm

Wednesday

Bible Classes 7:00 pm

Elders

Mark Lance 504-250-8492

J. V. Russell 504-277-0251

Charles Whitley 504-277-4717

Evangelist

Mark Lance 504- 250-8492

gospelpr@cox.net

Deacons

Scott Russell 504-232-4120

Wayne Schulz 504-392-3999

Butch Snyder 504-682-0051

Mike Swanner 504-271-2465

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