



Chalmette Church of Christ

October 12th, 2014

IGNORANCE AND APATHY DESTROY THE CHURCH

Douglas Hoff

A troubled church asked its members to identify the problems they faced. The survey had only one question: "In your opinion, what are the two biggest problems this congregation must solve?" One man wrote, "I don't know and I don't care." How right he was! Ignorance and apathy keep people enslaved to the devil and his ways. The devil would like people to remain ignorant of the Bible because they would then have no power to overcome him. Thomas Gray (1716- 1771) wrote poetic words that have been quoted out of context and misused for years. Many have heard the catchy phrase "ignorance is bliss."

Gray said that in this life, sorrow is an all too familiar reality and happiness swiftly flies away. Focusing on troubles only serves to destroy any chance for contentment. As such he wrote, "where ignorance is bliss, 'tis folly to be wise." However, this should not be taken as a blank. Another familiar cliché is "What you don't know can't hurt you." Oh, but it can! This is especially true in spiritual matters. In fact, when people do not "know" God in the sense of understanding His nature and obeying His commandments, they will be destroyed. The Lord said, "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee" (Hosea 4:6). When Jesus comes again he will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. It has often been said that ignorance of the law is no excuse. The Lord created within each person a drive to know God (Acts 17:24-27); therefore, mankind is without excuse (Rom. 1:20). Ignorance is a curse from which each individual must free himself to attain heaven.

Apathy is another one of Satan's set endorsement of tools for destroying souls and keeping them in his power. It is much like inertia to the soul. Overcoming the initial resistance takes work many are unwilling to put forth. Apathy has tragic consequences though Edmund Burke once said, "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing." Do nothing and you will lose your soul (Matt. 25:24-30). There is a story about a new minister who was trying to motivate the congregation to become more spiritually minded. He wanted them to be better Christians who were busy doing the work of the Lord. Thinking about how best to accomplish this task, he preached sermons on the love of God and the sacrifice Jesus made to save us from hell. People filed out of the building Sunday after Sunday saying "That was a good sermon."

Still, there appeared to be no change in the lives of the members. Months passed and the preacher became a bit discouraged. Finally, he decided to use a different approach to motivate and warn the church. The following Sunday when he got into the pulpit he cried out, "Fire!" The preacher's expression was so convincing that people jumped up and heads turned in fear but no flames were seen. After a while people sat back down and a buzz rippled through the auditorium. Questions abounded.

One of the older members asked the minister why he had pulled such a stunt during a worship service. It seemed totally inappropriate he said. The preacher sadly said, "For months I have been teaching all of you about the dangers of hell fire. I have been preaching on the love of God and how He sent his Son Jesus to die in your place. Yet, your lives have not changed. I was beginning to wonder if any of you realized the danger you are in because of apathy. Why is that when I yell, 'Fire!' you take action but when I preach on the reality of Judgment Day no one moves a muscle?" Brethren, let us never be guilty

of spiritual lethargy (Heb. 6:11-12). Knowing God's word ought to motivate us to love, serve and worship Him (1 Cor. 15:58).

Via Seek The Old Paths

People from the Old Testament

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

Aaron

Abel

Abraham

Adam

Benjamin

Cain

Caleb

Daniel

David

Elijah

Elisha

Enoch

Esau

Esther

Eve

Gideon

Hannah

Isaac

Ishmael

Isiah

Jacob

Jeremiah

Job

Jonah

Jonathan

Joseph

Joshua

Leah

Lot

Moses

Nehemiah

Noah

Rachel

Rebekah

Ruth

Samson

Samuel

Sarah

Saul

Solomon

News & Notes

- What a **Spiritual Feast** that all received from **Brother Garland Robinson** this past week! Our Fall Gospel meeting came to a close this past Thursday evening and we welcomed a new Sister in Christ. **Georgia Pennington** was baptized for remission of sin and we welcome you to our family! She has been studying with JV & Scott in the Fishers of Men studies.
- Please keep all of our sick in prayer. Jacki's mother Addrean Jenkins had surgery on Thursday in Arlington, Tx.
- Our **Third Sunday Singing and Fellowship Meal** will be next Sunday evening! Bring a dish and a friend! ****Since cooler weather has come around finally, bring your favorite soup, sandwiches and desserts!**
- Our pantry is running low and we need canned goods of any kind. Remember no cornmeal, flour or things of that nature please.
- Brother **Willie Franklin** will be here in November and post cards are available to handout on the foyer table. Please invite your friends and neighbors to come and enjoy fellowship with us!

October Birthdays & Anniversaries

17th- Codey Babin

13th- Stephen & Sherry Snyder

22nd- Kristen Clements

18th- Scott & Crystal Russell

27th- James Kennedy

28th- James & Doris Kennedy

30th- Ray'Nieciya Hills

Prayer List



**Alice Riley
Clifford Markum
Sherry Towle
Margo Rodney
Judy Hennessee
Ella Gillard
Krisztian Montague
Addrean Jenkins
Gloria Smiles
Joel James
Ryker Amaya
Gary Huettmann**

***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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