

## “OUR BLINDED EYES”

Spiritual blindness can be caused by a number of things. Ignorance will cause people not to see God's will. Once they hear the word of God, their eyes are open. Love of sin will cause some to be spiritually blind. They do not see the truth for the same reason a criminal does not see a police officer; he is not looking for one. We do not see the truth because we are looking at other things. As I read passages such as Matthew 15:14, I wonder if the Pharisees knew they were blind. They were the educated, the scholars of the Law of Moses. Yet they did not grasp the whole of God's word. Five times in Matthew 23 Jesus uses the word “blind” to describe the Jewish leaders. Let such be a warning to us. We may think we are seeing everything that needs to be seen, but be blind to certain things. For instance, we may be blind to opportunities to spread the Gospel of Christ. The “Great Commission” in Matthew 28:18 applies to all of us. Are we truly seeking opportunities to talk with our friends, neighbors, and family about the word of God? We may be blind to those that need our encouragement. “And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works” (Hebrews 10:24). This passage is not limited to our encouragement in assembling together to worship God. We all need encouragement from time to time. We need to see those visiting with us at worship services. When was the last time you walked up to a visitor and introduced yourself to them? Another thing that causes us to be blind is being too busy. “Idleness is the devil's workshop” is an old saying. It rings true, but business can also be a tool of the devil. We may intend to visit someone in the hospital or spend time with a home bound Christian and never “get around to it.” It is not indifference causing our blindness, but our hectic lifestyle. Jesus came to open the eyes of those spiritually blind. Let us see all that there needs to be seen. Having the right answers is one thing, doing the right thing is another.—SELECTED

# Teen News

Thanks to everyone who stayed for ice cream last Sunday. There were a lot of different flavors to choose from. I didn't get to try them all, but what I did eat, was good! Thanks to the youth group for serving it to everyone. You all did a great job. Also thanks to those who made and brought the ice cream. We all had a very good time and I hope we can do that again sometime soon. Today at 5p.m. the youth group will meet in the activity building, we will have a devo and eat pizza. Please make plans to attend and feel free to invite your friends too!! See ya tonight. I also want to thank everyone for the birthday wishes and cards. THANK YOU!!  
BEN

## CONGRATULATIONS

to Mike Howell who was selected to coach one of the All-stars baseball teams in the Summer league this summer. Congratulations also to Jayden Townsend and Blake Howell who were chosen to play on the all-star team. We are proud of all of them.

DOOR GREETERS June 8, 2014

Adam & Diane Harding

COMMUNION PREPARATION  
June 8, 2014

James & Linda Henry

# Gospel Worker

## Crockett Road Church of Christ

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### MINISTERS

Dan D. Manuel  
Pulpit Minister  
Ben Rhone  
Youth Minister

### ELDERS

Dan D. Manuel  
Dale Sparks

### DEACONS

Henry Baker  
Sam Ellis  
Dwight Franklin  
Adam Harding  
Kyle Lock

### SECRETARY

Lorelee Reeder

### MISSIONS & OUTREACH

Brown Trail School of Preaching, Bedford, TX  
Jose Cuadras—Mexico School of Preaching  
Hershel Bearden  
India Mission  
Central TX Children's Home—Buda, TX  
Tipton Children's Home  
Tipton, OK  
GBN T.V. NETWORK  
GIVE ME THE BIBLE  
T.V. Program  
KETK-56 Tyler, TX.  
FOX 44—Waco, TX.  
FOX 29, Bryan-College Station, TX.  
NBC 53—Lufkin, TX.  
ASSEMBLY TIMES  
Sun: 9:30 AM Class  
10:30 AM Worship  
6:00 PM Evening  
Wed: 7:00 PM

Have you ever given much thought to *why* you do what you do as a Christian? Many Christians mistakenly think that the only acceptable reason to serve God is because we love Him (Matt. 22:37). While love for God is certainly a Biblical and worthwhile motive for service, it is far from being the only motive mentioned in Scripture. Consider several Biblical motives for serving God:

**Expression of love** — Jesus said, “If you love Me, keep My commandments” (John 14:15). Genuine Christianity is characterized by a faith that works through love (Gal. 5:6). Our desire to please God because we love Him is certainly a high and noble motive to serve Him with our whole heart (Deut. 6:4-6; cf. 1 Jn. 5:3).

**Increased effectiveness for God's use** — Another motive for obeying God's commands is that we desire to be used more fully in His service. Paul writes about Christians who cleanse themselves from sin in order to be, “a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work” (2 Tim. 2:21).

**Fear of God** — Some would undoubtedly object to this idea, but God clearly intends that we have a healthy fear of Him. The Hebrews writer warns us not to draw back from serving God, “for our God is a consuming fire” (Heb. 12:29). When Ananias and Sapphira were destroyed for lying to the apostles, “great fear came upon all the church, and upon all who heard these things” (Acts 5:5, 11).

**Desire for influence on others** — One great motive for serving God is the realization that our lives touch and influence others. Jesus commanded His disciples to, “let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven” (Matt. 5:16). Peter wrote of how Christian wives could win their unbelieving husbands through their example, “without a word” (1 Pet. 3:1-2).

## WHAT IS YOUR MOTIVE?

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# Great Ice Cream Supper & Many Attend Memorial Day Service



*From Dan's desk:*

We have been supporting a mission work in Leesville, LA. for the last few years. Two church of Christ in the Leesville area are merging and I have been asked to speak to the congregations today. Robert Duzan will be teaching the auditorium class this morning and preaching during the morning worship service. Thanks to the Deacons and Ben Rhone for speaking tonight. Last Sunday we had numerous guests in the audience for the worship service. Thanks for your positive and encouraging remarks about the lesson Sunday morning and evening. Last Tuesday night Dale and I visited in the home of Mike and Laura Howell and studied with their family. Following our study, ASHTON, ALLYSA and BLAKE were all baptized into Christ for the remission of sins. We rejoice with all of them. It is hard to believe that the month of June has arrived. A lot is planned for the month including our Vacation Bible School on June 24th. We are reaching out to a number of young children in an attempt to teach them timely lessons from God's Word. Thanks to all the teachers and helpers who will be working to make our efforts successful. Much good will result from our combined efforts to teach others. Our continued appreciation is offered to those who help in the "Stock Pot" on Monday, providing meals to the hungry. Our Summer Speaker series will start next Wednesday night June 11th. Joe Hancock will be our first speaker. The series is entitled "THE FOUR-FOLD NATURE OF THE GOSPEL." Please mark it on your calendar and plan to be present.

DAN

**PLEASE TURN OFF ALL CELL PHONES**



**TO KEEP  
IN OUR PRAYERS**

**RENEE WHITLEY** got good results on all her tests.

**GARY OLIVER** got good news that the new medication is working.

**ELLA GRACE MITCHELL**, the Tuschoff's granddaughter, had brain surgery on Thursday at Children's hospital in Dallas. She will have additional surgery tomorrow.

**JAMIE MOLIS**, daughter of Pam Gallaway and granddaughter of Sue Grubbs, has been undergoing tests as she is having seizures.

**CONTINUE TO REMEMBER** all those with continuing health problems.

## **RESPONSES**

### **Baptized**

Ashton Howell  
Alyssa Howell  
Blake Howell

Our sympathy is extended to Ola Pearl Reeves in the death of her son, JIM REEVES. Jim passed away on Monday of last week. His services were held yesterday.

Our sympathy is also extended to Marjorie Myers in the death of her sister, GEORGIE DEFORE JONES. She passed away on Monday. Services were held for her on Friday.

## **"THE EMPTY BEER CAN"**

It was lying on the side of the road on the corner to my house. A single beer can discarded as a piece of trash by a person who had used its contents to fill a pleasure and then thrown it out the window. I have seen hundreds of discarded cans and this one was no different with the exception of what it represented at that moment. The appeal of its contents had caused a person to purchase it and then consume the momentary feeling of pleasure. When the can was emptied, it had no use and was carelessly thrown out for someone else to pick up. It was empty. It had no use. It had lost its appeal. It was, but for a moment. It was worthless. Man has always sought for the momentary pleasures to fill his void. Looking for the appeal of alcohol man seeks out these cans of vipers poison and drinks his fill and while finding a sense of satisfaction for the moment realizes that it is only for a moment. His life is like the can he threw away - emptied, rejected, little use, shallow and unfulfilled. Lives have been destroyed because of intoxicating drink. Families are torn apart daily by its presence in the home. Young people live with consequences of their actions through the use of alcohol for the rest of their lives. As Herman Melville wrote in "Moby Dick," it is truly a "demon." The wise man wrote in **Proverbs 23:29-35**:

"Who has woe? Who has sorrow? Who has contentions? Who has complaints? Who has wounds without cause? Who has redness of eyes? Those who linger long at the wine, those who go in search of mixed wine. Do not look on the wine when it is red, when it sparkles in the cup, when it swirls around smoothly; at the last it bites like a serpent, and stings like a viper. Your eyes see strange things, and your heart will utter perverse things. Yes, you will be like one who lies down in the midst of the sea, or like one who lies at the top of the mast, saying, 'They have struck me, but I was not hurt; they have beaten me, but I did not feel it. When shall I awake, that I may seek another drink?'" People of God have been shown by the Lord that alcohol has no value in their lives and no purpose. The great tragedy of its use is the end result - like a discarded can on the side of the road.

Selected