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FIRST CORINTHIANS 13:13

Westhill Church of Christ

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Corsicana, TX 75110

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office@westhillchurchofchrist.org

westhillchurchofchrist.org

Sunday 9:30a, 10:30a, 6:00p
Tuesday 10:30a
Wednesday 6:30p

Wednesday Benevolence 8:30a

July 2, 2017

God Accepts The Imperfect

Ron Bryant

The only kind of people who inhabit this earth are imperfect people. We are each painfully aware that even though we may desire to be all that we ought to be, we are not. To be sure, there are occasions when we are more nearly perfect than others, yet we must confess that even our desire to be all that we ought to be is not always what it ought to be. We are imperfect.

Imperfect people do not possess perfect faith, perfect love, or perfect salvation. It is man's lack of perfectness that called the perfect one, Jesus, into the world. He came to seek and save the imperfect. He came to give imperfect people a standing and a relationship with God, through the perfect redemption that He alone could provide.

At our best, our faith and love are going to be less than perfect. Faith and love, at times, vary in the best of us. Our love and its application reaches toward the sublime and, while it exists because of the perfect love of God, our love is not sublime.

The perfect will of God calls for our obedience, and our love for Him moves us to yield and to obey from the heart, but we are not perfect in our obedience. Yet, the good news is this - it is God's good will to accept us in Christ. God looks on our hearts. He looks at the genuineness of our love, not its flawlessness. God weighs the unfeigned nature of our faith, not its perfection. He regards the sincerity that produces our efforts to obey Him, not the excellence of our efforts.

God looks at the desire of our hearts, not the perfection of our actions. He wants us to humble ourselves before Him, and asks that we cease our rebellion and yield ourselves to Him. God longs to write upon our hearts the fact that our hearts belong to Him alone. He has chosen to give Himself to those who, though imperfect, are seeking to know and honor Him. Man's imperfection is no excuse or barrier to seeking to give oneself to God.

The Christian's life is the world's Bible

A Head Without The Body

Doug Dingley

You walk down to the curb to get your day's mail from your mailbox and notice your next door neighbor doing the same. You decide to take a few minutes to visit and strike up a friendly conversation. After the obligatory, introductory topics of the day's local weather and sports are addressed, the subject of their spouse – whom you haven't seen around for a few weeks – comes up. As they turn with a satisfied smile and step towards their car parked there by the curb, they say, "Oh yeah, I got sick and tired of the way their body didn't seem to want to cuddle and embrace me anymore, but they're still here and I still love them – just not their body. Don't worry though, they're still with me," they say, as they open their car door and pull out only the bloody, now-severed head of their once-beloved spouse.

A macabre murder mystery you say? A deranged, serial killer crime scene from some new "blood and guts" movie? No. How about a very apt physical illustration, of a deadly and widespread spiritual illusion, suffered by many once-faithful saints of today instead? Because that's exactly what it is.

This deadly and devastating, soul-destroying delusion is suffered by those who claim they only want and/or have Jesus, but want nothing whatsoever to do with His church. The fatal symptoms of this epidemic spiritual disease are also clearly seen in the statements of many who claim to want nothing to do with "organized religion" but just want Jesus, or say something to the effect of, "Give me Jesus – just not the church!" It is suffered by those once faithful saints who have now walked away and severed themselves from His church, but still claim to have a good and loving relationship with Jesus. Those suffering from such a serious and insidious delusion need to understand that such is simply not even possible – and here's why: Jesus is the Head, of His body, which is His church (See: 1 Cor. 12:12-28; Eph. 1:22-23, 5:23; as well as Col. 1:18, 24)! What happens when one seeks to sever the head from a physical body so they can then carry it around with them, while leaving the rest of the body behind? Is there life between them and the head? Is their relationship with the head still a healthy and vibrant one without the rest of the body? Of course not! Plus the fact that they have committed a gruesome crime and will therefore most likely wind up in prison for a very long time!

And the exact same thing is certainly true in the spiritual realm as well. When any member of the church/body of Christ, severs or amputates themselves from the assembly/fellowship/worship of the saints because they are unhappy with the way they perceive

that a few of the rest of the body/church members have supposedly treated them, they need to understand that severed limbs have no life in them, nor can they sever and take the Head with them and leave the rest of the church/body behind when they self-amputate (See: Jn. 15:1-17). It doesn't work that way. The Head (Jesus), and His body (Jesus' church) are totally inseparable (Jn. 17:17-26).

We initially come to God, Christ, salvation and Christ's church as a complete and total, divinely-inseparable package deal (See/hear the audio sermon "It's a Package Deal" here: <https://soundcloud.com/user-640047687/467-3-8-15-am-its-a-package-deal>). It's all of them, or none of them, but surely it's not just some of them (Acts 2:37-47; Hebs. 12:22-24). And one therefore must logically leave in the exact same way – not selectively severing and taking the Head, Christ, with them, while leaving the work, worship, fellowship and relationships of the Lord's church, or body, behind in the dirt (Eph. 2 + 3; Titus 2:11-14). And to continually commit such an ugly, ungodly, and gruesome atrocity in the eyes of God, is to set one's self up for an eternal life sentence that far surpasses any earthly agony when we all appear before the Great and Almighty Judge on Judgment Day... the very Judge whose body (church) some will have deceived themselves into believing they have gotten away with decapitating and leaving behind, while removing and taking the Head (Jesus) with them. Hence, the heavenly warning of Hebrews 10:23-31:

Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching. For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries. Anyone who has rejected Moses' law dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace? For we know Him who said, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord. And again, "The Lord will judge His people." It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

Please, we beg of you, if you have been infected by this deadly delusion, the Great Physician can still heal you! Please come back to the Head, and body/church of Christ – still intact and inseparably and forever together – and get re-attached to them while you still can (Ro. 11:17-22)!

Pure & Practical
RELIGION
inspired thoughts by James
2017 Westhill Summer Series

June 7	Justin Williams	Introduction to James
21	Robert Dodson	Chapter 1 Faith...Hearing & Doing
28	David Mahoney	Trials: Joy/Wisdom/Reward (1:2-8, 12)
July 5	Jim Haden	Temptations: In poverty/In wealth/In desire (1:9-11, 13-18)
12	Scott Barham	Christianity 101: Practical Religion (1:19-27)
19	Jay Lockhart	Chapters 2-4:12 Ignorance of Worldly Living
26	James Olsen	Worldly Preferences (2:1-13)
August 2	Josh Haden	Worldly Faith (2:14-26)
9	David Shastid	Worldly Divisiveness (3:1-18; 4:1-12)
16	Steve Bailey	Chapters 4:13-5 Leaning on OUR Power
23	Billy Roughton	Boasting in our Empty, Worldly Wealth (4:13-5:6)
30	Dale Hill	Suffering w/ Patience & Praying w/ Faith (5:7-18)

WesthillWORKS!

Community Outreach

Benevolence Program
Habitat for Humanity
Food for Fitness

Local Missions

Cherokee Children's Home
In Search of the Lord's Way
Southwest School of Preaching
Brown Trail Spanish School of Preaching
The Truth in Love *ttil.tv*
WVBS Online School
school.wvbs.org
La Poynor Prison Ministry
(Steve & Carrie Handley)

Foreign Missions

Four Seas Bible College, Singapore
New Zealand Harvest Missions

Leadership

Elders

Percell Milton - 903.673.1819
Paul Slaughter - 903.872.1228
Paul Stewart - 903.872.3464
Darwin Thomas - 903.695.0176

Deacons

James Ainsworth - 903.872.1390
Scott Barham - 903.641.0133
David Baumgartner - 903.654.4057
Zach Drain - 903.521.6055
Dan Gibson - 903.641.9587
Joshua Haden - 903.602.9645
Micah Haden - 903.673.1177
Michael Jones - 214.803.5984
Roy McCullough - 903.872.2069
Greg Olsen - 903.654.1406
James Olsen - 903.874.8918
Rusty Owens - 903.695.0095
Billy Roughton - 903.654.4032

Dickie Russell - 903.874.4457
David Shastid - 903.257.6464
Brent Stewart - 903.641.9052
Justin Williams - 903.875.8288

Ministers

Cory Myers - 512.627.6672 (Family)
Tim Cooke - 903.641.5515 (Seniors)

Staff

Jay Mahoney - 903-467-9093 (Office)

Prayer List

Beverly Cooke's nephew, Craig McPherson, does have lymphoma. They are not certain best treatment options right now. He is a member of Blum, TX COC.

Meagan Gould was hospitalized last week with abdominal pain and had tests ran Friday.

Velma McDougald's sister, Carolyn Bynum is in Baylor Dallas with pneumonia along with being a 12 yr. cancer patient. Also, Velma's sister, Anna Bolton, has fallen twice because of strokes. Please continue prayers for Velma.

Continue to Remember: Wanda Horner, Shirley Wardlaw, Lanny Powers, Juanita McCary, Don Bowen, Royce Bunch, Aline Barrett, Melba & Eleanor Bower, Jerry Cockerham, Wanda Brown, Ricky Stepp, Anita Hawkins, Rita Dominy, Terri Shook, Jim Howard, Sheri Bayes, & Ava Johnson

Announcements

We are very excited that **Zach & Michelle Crowson** placed their workmanship with us here at Westhill!

Seniors Young at Heart Tuesday morning class will not meet due to it being on July 4th.

July 4th Celebration at Roughton's Funeral Home 7:30pm Tues. Bring your family and enjoy hot dogs and the fireworks show. You are welcome to bring chips, dips, or desserts.

Summer Series "Pure & Practical Religion" *Inspired thoughts by James*, will continue Wednesday with Jim Haden teaching Temptations In: Poverty/Wealth/Desire

Youth Summer Camp coming July 9-13. **REGISTER TODAY!** Just go to the Events tab on the Westhill website.

Leadership Initiative for young men is scheduled for July 28-30. Registration is now available online.

WOW Save the Date! Ladies Retreat Sept. 29-30
Summers Mill, Belton, TX
Speaker: Whitney Watson, Greenville, TX
Topic: Resolved (to stand for our Lord, no matter the cost)

The 39th Annual Southwest School of Bible Studies Graduation weekend will be July 14-16. We are very proud of our own **Corey Tackett** who will be among those graduating!

Birthdays This Week

July 2 - Carolyn Milton
July 4 - Linda Brown
July 5 - Beverly Cooke & Harrison Sloan
July 6 - Avery Dunnahoe & Peyton Jennings

Next Week

Bible Class *The Life of the Apostle Paul*

AM Sermon TBA

PM Sermon TBA

Records for June 25, 2017

Bible Class 178
AM Worship..... 220
PM Worship.....151
Wednesday..... 156
Contribution \$10,215.50

Military: Clay Bayes, Jason Book, Alston Compton, Robert Johnson, Ryan Payne, Douglas Ramsey, Ryan Stewart, & Blake Barrett

Coming Up: Q & A Panel Discussion

Sunday PM, July 16, four men from our congregation will be answering questions that have been submitted from the book of James. This discussion will complement the Wednesday Summer Series on James, and will help each of us to grow in our understanding of practical Christianity! Come and grow!

Privileged to Serve

Song Leader	Zach Drain
Opening Prayer	Rusty Owens
Communion Leader	Paul Stewart
Communion Servers	
George Schmidt	Jim Haden
Wade Braly	Aubrey Parrish
Nicholas Tooley	Thomas Saunders
Kyle Slaughter	Jimmy Horn
Eric Olsen	Michael Jones
Rusty Owens	Darwin Thomas
Brian Hand	
Closing Prayer	David Shastid
Nursery	Martha Olsen & Paige Jennings
PM Song Leader	Brody Owens
PM Opening Prayer	Micah Haden
PM Closing Prayer	Gene Steinkraus
Wed. Song Leader	Cory Myers
Wed. Summer Series	Jim Haden
July Contact Elder	Paul Slaughter