

Effective Christians

Author Unknown

The term “effectual” or effective can best be described as active and powerful in action, full of power to achieve results. The implication is that an effort is put forth to achieve the desired results. The opposite is true of something when it is said to be of no effect. It becomes inactive and useless. God desires that we be effective Christians (Eph 4: 16). If we are not being effective and doing our part, the growth of the body is hindered.

Did you ever notice on travel tickets and some coupons it says “not good if detached”? The ticket was made of the same material on both sides of the perforation, was printed with the same ink, distributed by the same company. But if that little piece was removed from the ticket or coupon, it’s no good. It has lost its usefulness to take you where you want to go.

If we are going to be effective Christians, we need to make sure we don’t become detached. Effective Christians are those that seek to deepen their relationship with God, to walk with God in all aspects of their lives. Effective Christians are those that continue to take every opportunity to grow in their faith. God wants us to be effective in our service to Him.

To become a truly effective Christian we must desire to know more about God. Our hearts should seek Him and we should thirst for a relationship with Him. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness (Matt 5: 6).

Those that seek to know God read His word. Read the Bible. Don’t read about the Bible. Often time people will buy books about the Bible; they will watch television shows about the Bible, and they will listen to lessons from the Bible. But they don’t read the Bible. They don’t drink from the Living Water. If they read their Bibles, it puts their lives under the spotlight of God’s word. They see a need for God’s grace, and they understand that a change is sometimes needed as we desire to grow closer to God.

Reading the Bible soothes an aching soul, reveals to us the will of God, and reminds us of the eternal hope we have through simple obedience. It also reminds us of the destiny of those who reject Christ as the Son of God and the consequences of unforgiven sin. Reading our Bibles reminds us that we cannot quench the fires of hell, nor can we live our lives by trying to combine secular things with spiritual things.

If we are going to be effective Christians, we need to take the spiritual battle as a serious thing. We must recognize that when we are confined under sin, if we don’t do something about it, Satan wins the battle for another soul. If we take the spiritual battle seriously, we need to act accordingly. We need to pray for loved ones more often who haven’t obeyed or who have fallen away. We need to find opportunity to talk more to others about Jesus. We need to be doers of the word and not just hearers. We need to seek to live a holier life and deepen our relationship with God.

Has The Bible Authorized Easter?

What is Easter? Easter is a pagan religious holiday. Easter is nothing but the name "Astarte" or "Ishtar," one of the many names of the Babylonian goddess, Semeramis. What is the origin of Easter? *Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words* notes: "The term 'Easter' is not of Christian origin. It is another form of *Astarte*, one of the titles of the Chaldean [Babylonian] goddess, the queen of heaven. . . the pagan festival of 'Easter' was quite distinct and was introduced into the apostate Western religion, as part of the attempt to adapt pagan festivals to Christianity" (W.E. Vine, 1985, "Easter"). Easter can be traced back to various pagan rituals. Also associated with Easter are the 40 days of Lent. Lent is also of pagan origin. The 40 days of Lent was celebrated by the pagans in commemoration of the death and resurrection of Tammyz who was a chief Babylonian pagan god and husband of the goddess Ishtar. The pagan worship of Tammyz had even spread to Jerusalem in about 600 BC as we read in Ezekiel 8:12-18. God calls this pagan worship an abomination, which is disgusting to Him.

God’s word says, “But then, indeed, when you did not know God, you served those which by nature are not gods. But now after you have known God, or rather are known by God, how is it that you turn again to the weak and beggarly elements, to which you desire again to be in bondage? You observe days and months and seasons and years. I am afraid for you, lest I have labored for you in vain” (Galatians 4:8-11).

Easter and Lent, with all their pagan symbols, were adopted by the Catholic Church centuries after Christ's ascension. Those who observe Easter and Lent are in reality worshipping false gods. This false worship is abhorrent to the one God of Heaven. Easter and Lent are pagan traditions of men and are actually frauds pawned off on unsuspecting and well-intentioned people. God commands us to worship Him in spirit and in truth (John 4:23-24). Only the Bible contains the truth of God's word. Simply claiming that something is Christian and is done to honor Christ doesn't make it acceptable to God. One dishonors God in observing these ancient idolatrous practices, in violating God’s explicit commands in Deuteronomy 12:29-32; 2 Corinthians 6:14-18; 7:1. Easter doesn’t represent the resurrection of Jesus Christ, but honors the pagan god, “Astarte.” In worshipping idols our worship becomes vain and useless, for Jesus says, “And in vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men” (Mark 7:7). One will lose his soul in the vain worship of false gods.

One Last Thought: While New Testament Christians do not observe Easter as a religious holiday, this does not mean we do not believe in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Far from it. Without the resurrection of Christ there would be no salvation from sin and we would be without faith (1 Corinthians 15:14-19). We oppose and resist any man and doctrine attempting to persuade others that Christ Jesus was not raised from the dead! To admit the feast of Easter is of human origin is not to put the resurrection of Jesus in doubt or force us to conclude it began in the fertile imaginations or deceptions of men. We vigorously affirm the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead as the very keystone of the gospel (Acts 2:24-31; Romans 10:9).

(copied from Northside church of Christ Bulletin, Calhoun, Georgia)

NEWS AND NOTES

"I was sick, and ye visited me..." (Matthew 25:36)

Carolyn Tinsley is in Encompass Rehab, Room 229 by the door.

Thad Mangrum came home from Encompass last Sunday.

Mark Brewer had a follow-up visit to his doctor in Memphis Monday and will be trying new medications.

Steve Stoker's test results showed 2 spots and he was to decide about a treatment option.

Miles Dodson, grandson of Jerry and Patti, has been in the hospital this week in Memphis. Surgery cannot be done until the infection in his colon is cleared up.

Billy Joe Kee, father of Terry Joe, was able to come home from the hospital last Tuesday.

Please check the bulletin boards for updates on the Prayer Request List, and inform us of any needed updates. Also be sure to read any thank you notes we have received that are on the board.

"Let all things be done unto edifying." (I Corinthians 14:26)

Please pray for *Arnold and Susan Kelley* and their family. We support their work in Laurel, Mississippi where there was a tornado last Sunday. Arnold's home was destroyed.

Congratulations to *Stella Lancaster*, who is the proud grandmother of a new baby boy: *Noah Mitchell Thomas Lancaster*. Noah was born April 14th, and is the son of Kevin and Sarah Lancaster.

"I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:14)

Here is the address for our new members, *James and Sandra Johnson*, complete with phone numbers this time. Please add them to your directories.

James and Sandra Johnson
4746 Hwy. 358
Paragould, AR 72450
James: 1-870-239-1035
Sandra: 1-870-239-1531

Those Privileged To Serve

April 19, 2020

SUNDAY MORNING

Song Leader: Scottie Blanchard
Opening Prayer: TBA
Closing Prayer: TBA
Bible Reading: TBA
Preacher: Terry Joe Kee

LORD'S TABLE

Presiding:
TBA

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Randy Oden

SUNDAY EVENING

Song Leader: Randy Oden
Opening Prayer: TBA
Closing Prayer: TBA
Preacher: Terry Joe Kee

WEDNESDAY NIGHT

Song Leader: Randy Oden
Opening Prayer: TBA
Closing Prayer: TBA

DEVOTIONAL SPEAKER

Terry Joe Kee

NUMBERS FOR THE WEEK

April 12, 2020

Sunday Bible Study
Sunday AM Worship 78
Sunday PM Worship 40
Wednesday Bible Study 37
Contribution \$6,017

SCRIPTURE OF THE WEEK:

"From the end of the earth will I cry unto thee, when my heart is overwhelmed: lead me to the rock that is higher than I."

Psalms 61:2

The Friend of Truth

Greensboro Road church of Christ

Jonesboro, Arkansas 72405

(870) 932-3920

"Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth?" (Galatians 4:16)

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April 19, 2020

KeeNotes

We are one week closer to this thing we are enduring being over. Hopefully, very soon we will be back to normalcy. We miss many who are unable to be gathered with us due to this virus. I long for better days very soon.

We rejoice that our sister in Christ, Vicki Powell, came confessing weakness and failure in her life as she works to remain faithful in all her labors in the vineyard. We love and appreciate Vicki and are so very thankful for her tender heart and her sincere desire to hear the Lord say, "Well done" one day. Keep Vicki in your daily prayers.

So many of our teachers are working so diligently to get materials to our students so that everyone can continue their spiritual growth and development in the body of Christ. We are so blessed to have such dedicated and spiritually minded teachers who give their time, even now, to help our children grow and learn from week to week.

When our faith is tested it either becomes stronger or it wanes and shrinks. Our faith is tested from time to time. The question we must ask ourselves is, Will I grow from this or die? No one remains the same. The church which meets at this place is either going to be stronger when all of this is over or we will have suffered and be required to build back. If we are stronger, we will be better prepared to reach out and to bring more to Christ, or we will begin to build again as the church has done for generations as it has gone through its ebbs and flows. How will you help and secure the church to be stronger and more vibrant than it was before?

I am missing our *Pewpackers Class*. Soon we will be reminding and rehearsing those Bible facts we have learned. I hope you are continuing to study those things and help us to be able to grow so much more as we move forward. Also my Wednesday night class needs to be continuing your study and growth each day.

SHEPHERDS

Dan Nichols
Randy Oden
Jody Pickens

DEACONS

Scottie Blanchard
Jerry Dodson
Mike Felts

Jason Garland
Marshall Lands
Mark Wooten

EVANGELIST

Terry Joe Kee

MISSIONARIES

Michael Hughes
Samrit Kammanee
Arnold Kelley
Guyana, South America
Warren, PA

SERVICES

SUNDAY

Classes 9:00 a.m.
Worship 10:00 a.m.
5:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

What Must I Do To Be Saved?

Hear the Word of God
Romans 10:17

Believe the Word of God
John 8:24

Repent of your sins
Luke 13:3

Confess your faith in Jesus
as the Son of God
Romans 10:9,10

Be Baptized for the
remission of your sins
Acts 2:38

Live faithfully
Revelation 2:10

"Where there is no vision,
the people perish..."
Proverbs 29:18

God Give Us 2020 Vision
in 2020