

## Why Are So Many Members Of The Church Worldly?

Franklin Camp (1915-1991)

Worldliness is conforming to the world. Worldliness is anything that is opposed to being transformed. Worldliness is “world-like-ness” in anything. Worldliness is anything that is not Christ-like or that hinders “Christ-likeness.” Worldliness is sin.

After careful study, I have come to the conclusion that worldliness is the greatest threat facing the church today. I am fully convinced that the majority of our problems, individually and collectively, are rooted in this one problem. I believe that at the bottom of the problems of attendance, small contributions, and the lack of development of Christians, will be found in worldliness. Just a moment in reflection will show this is true. Who attends the services of the church faithfully —the most spiritual, or the worldly members of the church? Who is most concerned with their development in the Christian life —the spiritual, or the worldly member?

**Definition Too Limited...** I am also convinced that our definition of worldliness has been too narrow. If this is true, then I am afraid that preachers and teachers have contributed toward worldliness by leaving the wrong impression on some. Too often we have confined the term to some few things, which were certainly worldly, but were far from covering everything that should be included in the term. Many members of the church think that because they do not dance, or wear immodest clothes, and a few other similar things, they are not worldly, yet in God’s sight they are. I do not mean to suggest by this that these things are not worldly and that they should not be condemned, but we should not leave the impression that worldliness is confined to these.

Have you ever wanted any particular thing more than all else in the world; and been willing to go to any extreme to attain it? Have you decided what you want your life to count for or have you ignored such a decision? Would not either of the above be worldly when measured by God’s standard? Please consider the following points:

\* **First, I would say the cause is a failure to properly evaluate life.** Too many members of the church have not learned the real values of life. They are interested in finding happiness, but do not know where it is to be found. It has never dawned on them that happiness is determined by what one is. Look at the beatitudes and note the emphasis on character. Substitute the word “happy” for the word “blessed” and re-read the beatitudes. Someone describes Paul in prison as follows: “with life and all that men count dear behind, and with the horrors of a barbarous death before him, alone, unfriended and suckered, he is yet the happiest man in Rome. Among the millions within her wide walls, not another heart is so buoyant with hope, so lifted with you.” This was true of Paul because he had learned life’s value. He was happy because of what he was.

\* **Second cause so many members of the church are worldly, is that they have never tried to reach their potential in Christian living.** Life will not remain a vacuum. It will be filled with something. If all Christians would make a determined effort to fill their lives with good, there would not be any place for the worldly. Too many are satisfied to just “get in” the church, and then just do as little as possible! The natural result from such is to fill the void that is left with worldliness. God knew what he was doing when he said, “seek ye first the kingdom of God” (Matt. 6:33) This is not just an arbitrary command. It has as its basis the building of a life that is spiritual. The way to get worldliness out, is to put something in its place! Just as long as there are members of the church who refuse to fill their lives with service for God, there will be worldly members.

\* **Third reason for so much worldliness in the church is indifference.** This is perhaps one of the greatest hindrances to the solution of the problem. It is so much easier to travel the path of least resistance, to take the road mapped out by others, than it is to find out whether it is right or not. So many members of the church live day after day not caring that they have no influence for good and are not interested in learning why. They are afraid if they got interested it would upset their own lives and they just do not want this to happen. Let the preacher present any lesson and they refuse to give it even a passing thought.

\* **Fourth reason for worldliness in the church is that there are some who do not want to pay the price that is necessary to be spiritual.** The story is told of a young woman, who having observed the charming life and broad influence of a fine Christian woman, went to her and said, “I would give the world if I could only have your influence.” The lady replied, “that is exactly what it costs.” There is a price for everything, and spirituality is no exception. Until more Christians are willing to pay the price of spirituality, the church will be filled with worldliness.

\* **Fifth reason for worldliness in the church is that many are guided by custom rather than the Bible.** There are many members of the church who want the Bible on the plan of salvation, the church, its organization, and worship; but they do not want the Bible on worldliness. Do they ever give chapter and verse for their worldly practices? No. Their theme song is “everybody else is doing it,” “I can’t see any harm in it.” That is exactly what denominational people say about instrumental music. Why reject their plea for instrumental music and then turn right around and use their old worn-out arguments for your worldly practices? Then some say, “I can do it and it won’t hurt me.” Suppose you could. Can a conscientious Christian be happy when he knows he is giving his time and lending his influence in that which degrades more than it uplifts?

Let us face the threat of worldliness and build lives that are spiritual.

# NEWS AND NOTES

“I was sick, and ye visited me...” (Matthew 25:36)  
Remember in Prayer:

Please remember our sick with cards, prayers, and other acts of kindness.

Please check the bulletin boards for updates on the Prayer Request List.

## In Other News:

Ladies' Night Out will be Tuesday night, April 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.

Ukraine Missions is in need of shaving cream, hairbrushes, band-aids and clothing. There is a bucket in the foyer to place items in. Please see Myra Morris for details.

Directory Change: Please omit the phone number 870-932-0929 for Robert and Lanafae Stephens as they only have cell phone numbers now.

### Those Privileged To Serve April 11, 2021

#### SUNDAY MORNING

Song Leader: Mark Wooten  
Opening Prayer: J.L. May  
Closing Prayer: Ben Johns  
Bible Reading: Ryan Manley  
Preacher: J.L. May

#### LORD'S TABLE

Presiding:  
David Loggins Jerry Dodson  
Jason Garland Carlos Wood  
Donnie Gilliland Steve Stoker

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dan Nichols

#### SUNDAY EVENING

Song Leader: Scottie Blanchard  
Opening Prayer: Randy Oden  
Closing Prayer: Craig Nelson  
Preacher: Mark Brewer

#### WEDNESDAY NIGHT

April 14, 2021

Song Leader: Ben Johns  
Opening Prayer: Jerry Dodson  
Closing Prayer: James Johnson

#### DEVOTIONAL SPEAKER

April 14, 2021  
J.L. May

### NUMBERS FOR THE WEEK Week Of April 4, 2021

Sunday Bible Study	68
Sunday AM Worship	112
Sunday PM Worship	75
Wednesday Bible Study	
Contribution	\$7679

*“The father of the righteous shall greatly rejoice: and he that begetteth a wise child shall have joy of him.”*

*Proverbs 23:24*

# 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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## KeeNotes

### WHY DID WE NOT CELEBRATE EASTER?

Easter is a pagan religious holiday. Easter is the same name as "Astarte" or "Ishtar," one of the many names of the Babylonian goddess, Semeramis. *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**.

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, with all its pagan symbols, was **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 is a pagan **tradition of men** and is a fraud 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 **does not** 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). **No matter how sincere**, one will lose his soul in the vain worship of false gods.

Author Unknown

#### SHEPHERDS

Dan Nichols  
Randy Oden

#### DEACONS

Scottie Blanchard  
Jerry Dodson  
Stacy Eddleman  
Mike Felts  
Jason Garland  
Scott Pratt  
Kevin Roush  
Mark Wooten

#### MISSIONARIES

Guyana, South America  
Samrit Kammanee  
Micah Robertson, Montana  
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

"Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest." (John 4:35)

Each One Invite One  
in Twenty-One