

December 16 2007

Located about eight miles east of  
Disney World just beyond John  
Young Parkway on the north side.

[www.kissimmeeocfc.org](http://www.kissimmeeocfc.org)

**Bulletin and News of the  
CHURCH OF CHRIST  
That worships in Kissimmee**

921 W. Vine Street (US Highway 192): Kissimmee, FL 34741  
407-847-5749

**SUNDAY**

Bible study 9 a.m.  
Worship 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.

Working For The Lord  
Following the Sunday evening services

**WEDNESDAY**

Ladies Bible Class  
10:00 a.m.  
Bible study 7:30 p.m.

**OFFICE PHONE**

407-847-5749

**ELDERS**

Chuck Broyles 407-855-1477  
Robert Guthrie 407-892-9888

**PREACHER**

David Boren 407-593-2437  
Cell 407-922-1635

**DEACONS**

Byron Chapman 407-846-8408  
John Dunn 407-847-6158  
Joe Gannotti 407-892-3262  
Ansel Hicks 407-846-6878

**MISSIONS**

Gary Marshall, Kentucky  
Gary Wyder, Florida Prison Ministries  
Florida School of Preaching  
Memphis School of Preaching  
Truth For The World

**This morning's sermon and  
Scripture:**

"People Of God. Part II"  
1 Thes. 5:14-22

**This evening's sermon and  
Scripture:**

**TO MY CHILD:  
THINGS I CAN & CANNOT DO**

I can share your life, but I cannot live it for you.  
I can teach you things, but I cannot make you learn.  
I can give you directions, but I cannot always lead you.  
I can allow you freedom, but I cannot account for it.

I can take you to worship, but I cannot make you believe.  
I can teach you right and wrong, but I cannot decide for you.  
I can give you love, but I cannot force it upon you.  
I can teach you to be a friend, but I cannot make you one.

I can teach you to share, but I cannot make you unselfish.  
I can teach you respect, but I cannot force you to show honor.  
I can tell you the facts of life, but I cannot build your reputation.  
I can tell you about lofty goals, but I cannot achieve them for you.

I can teach you to obey, but I cannot answer for your actions.  
I can warn you about sins, but I cannot establish your morals.  
I can love you as my child, but I cannot place you in God's family.  
I can pray for you, but I cannot make you walk with God.

I can teach you about Jesus, but I cannot make Him your Savior.  
I can teach about prayer, but I cannot make you pray.  
I can tell you how to live, but I cannot give you Eternal Life.

"My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not!" (Prov. 1:10)

"Children obey your parents in the Lord; for this is right. Honor thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise; that it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth" (Eph. 6:1-3)

Author Unknown

## People Of God. Part II

(1 Thess. 5:14-22)

Discussion: As people of God, we ought to...

- I. Deepen Our Prayer Life.
  - A. 1 Thess. 5:17.
    1. Eph. 6:10-20 reminds us that prayer is to accompany all our spiritual warfare; every piece of the Christian armor is to be put on with prayer.
    2. In a very real sense, there is no “standing” in the armor of God apart from the “kneeling” in prayer (Matt. 26:31; Acts 6:4; 10:2; Phil. 4:6).
  - B. Now, to “*pray without ceasing*” has nothing to do with formulas and repetition.
    1. From an extremely literal perspective, it is impossible to carry on a constant verbal dialogue with God every moment of every day.
    2. However, prayer is not just an expression of words, it is a posture of heart and humility of mind before the Heavenly Father.
  - C. How the world and the church need to see Christian men and women living for Jesus who pray like He prayed.
- II. Exalt Christ Through Thanksgiving.
  - A. 1 Thess. 5:18. Notice, it is God’s will for us to give thanks “*in everything*.”
    1. When individuals are ungrateful, how can Christ be exalted?
    2. Christians need to be leading the way in displaying the attitude of gratitude for all of God’s blessings (Luke 17:11-19).
  - B. Brethren, there is so much for which we ought to be grateful:
    1. One thing we should constantly give thanks for is that lives can and are being changed through the gospel (1 Thess. 2:13).
    2. We should give thanks for our families.
    3. We should give thanks for material blessings (Matt. 6:25-33; 1 Tim. 6:17).
    4. We should give thanks for answered prayers (1 Peter 3:10-12).
    5. We should give thanks for the victory that is ours through Jesus (1 Cor. 15:57).
  - C. As strange as it might sound, we can even give thanks for our earthly trials and difficulties, for they remind us that our citizenship is really in Heaven (Phil. 3:20).
- III. Focus On The Spirit’s Teaching.
  - A. 1 Thess. 5:19. This passage is referring to God the Holy Spirit.
    1. While we cannot extinguish or destroy the Holy Spirit personally, we can extinguish or put out His influence within our hearts.
    2. God’s children must make sure that their lives show the Spirit’s work within them, as they “*shine*” and are “*fired up*” for Jesus: Phil. 2:15,16.
  - B. This verse has nothing at all to do with the abuses of the charismatic movement, with its extreme emphasis upon emotion, experience, and the mystical.
    1. While this passage was initially given at a time when miraculous gifts were in existence - for the purpose of confirming the gospel - there is still an obvious application for the people of God today.
    2. The Holy Spirit can still be quenched.
      - a. How is this possible?
      - b. In a word: “Sin.”
  - C. The sword of the Spirit is the word of God (Eph. 6:17).
    1. Stephen spoke to his accusers and said they “resisted” the Spirit (Acts 7:51-53).
    2. Eph. 4:30 mentions the Holy Spirit can be “grieved.”
    3. Heb. 10:29 speaks of the possibility of “insulting *the Spirit of grace*.”
      - a. Friends, the influence of the word of God, as revealed by the Holy Spirit, is not to be refused, resisted, or rebelled against.
      - b. To be guilty of such is to be guilty of “quenching” the Spirit and that is a serious matter indeed.

D. A child of God, yielding to the will of God, will inevitably demonstrate the fruit of the Spirit in his life (Gal. 5:22,23).

1. By briefly noting the “*fruit of the Spirit*” and the opposite effect of each element - making up the Spirit’s fruit - we can see in a practical way how we might quench the Spirit.
2. If we as Christians are guilty of lovelessness and hate, gloom, war and strife, anger and rage, cruelty, evil, selfishness and disloyalty, malice and are often out of control, we are guilty of “*quenching*” the Spirit.

IV. Guard Against Disregarding Truth.

A. 1 Thess. 5:20. This statement is obviously related to what was just said in v. 19. The word “*despise*” here means “to make of no account, to treat with contempt, to look down upon or to deny.”

B. While this may well have been a reference to the miraculous gift of prophecy in the early church, an application to the current scene is appropriate: 2 Peter 1:20,21.

1. Although individuals are not inspired today as were the prophets, the principle of proper respect for the message of God, contained in the Bible, is clearly the point.
2. We dare not be guilty of belittling, demeaning, or lessening the impact of God’s all-sufficient Word (cf. 1 Tim. 4:16).

V. Hold All Things Up To Scripture.

A. 1 Thess. 5:21.

1. A number of common buzz words are being used to describe the current state of the church. Words like “ change,” “transition,” and “crisis” are frequently mentioned with regard to the direction of the churches of Christ, and the usage of such terms often carries a very alarming ring.
2. During times of difficulty and stress, it is all the more necessary to draw nearer to Christ and to hold all things up to the standard of His word.
3. If we fail to maintain the proper focus, we cannot head in the proper direction.

B. A lack of direction among many children of God is only too evident.

1. Why are so many Christian homes in disarray?
2. Why are so many congregations vastly different from one another - not just in matters of expediency, but increasingly in matters of faith and practice?
3. What constitutes the greatest single threat to the people of God today?
  - a. It seems the real problem is a lack of discernment that is silently eating away the spiritual life of individual Christians and of congregations.
  - b. Proverbs 2:3-5. Discernment has to do with “the ability to rightly discriminate, evaluate, and judge.” What is involved in biblical discernment?
    1. Truly hearing what God says in His Word (Mark 4:24; Luke 8:18; Heb. 2:1).
    2. Biblical discernment requires evaluating & discriminating: Acts 17:11. There is such a thing as uncritical listening, and perhaps it is reaching epidemic proportions within the church - accepting all things without question.
    3. Discernment necessitates applying and doing the will of God in our life (James 1:22).

C. There are far too many people looking for truth in all the wrong places. It is our privilege & responsibility, as people of God, to be able to point the way to truth in Christ through the proclamation of His word and through godly living (1 Peter 3:15; Rom. 12:1,2).

VI. Involve Ourselves In Good Things (1 Thess. 5:21). Brethren, how we need to hold firmly and securely to that which is good (Prov. 23:23; Matt. 6:33).

VII. Join Not With Evil (1 Thess. 5:22). The context of vv. 21, 22 brings out the complexity of evil - “*every form*” - verses the simplicity of good - “*that which*.”

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CHURCH NEWS

Visitors and members please fill out an attendance card (located on the back of the pew in front of you) and pass it to the center aisle at the close of the service. We also ask that you please turn *off* your cell phones so they will not interfere with our wireless sound system.

Happy Anniversary to: Bill & Joyce Austin, 18<sup>th</sup>.

Please continue to remember all of those that are undergoing chemo or radiation, they include *Cherri Wright, Margaret Parnell*, the mother of Stacey Stafford, *David Sloan, Camille Hummon, Charlie Mickey* and *Amie Dumford* also please remember *Sue Jones, Carol Hubbard, Donna Roberts, Evelyn Wilson*, the sister of Ruth Mason, *Yeny*, the daughter-in-law of Nilsa Crespo, *Ruth Mason, Bernadine Koline, Bea Spurlock, Louise Davis, Terry Allison & Wilma Allison* the mother and father of Dawn Sprouse, *Paul Kendrick, Marion Stark, Betty & Calvin Woodruff, Ailiene Spurlock* and *Helen Harris*. Remember all of these with your calls, cards and especially prayers.

Betsy & Corey Hair welcomed Carson Douglas on Tuesday, December 11<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m. He weighed 7 lbs 5 oz and was 19" long. All are doing fine.

There will be an open house at the Boren's today from 2 until 5.

Ladies Bible class will meet this Wednesday December 19<sup>th</sup> and will discontinue until after the holidays.

Working for the Lord will not meet, December 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, and 30<sup>th</sup>. All work will be done by individual members at home during this period.

Mark your calendars now for our upcoming Gospel Meeting, Sunday, Feb. 17 - Wednesday, Feb. 20. The speaker will be brother Charles Boren.

There will be a Ladies day on Saturday, Feb. 16. The speaker will be sister Rita Boren. Make plans now to attend.

The Borens will be heading to Texas on Thursday, Dec. 20. They plan to return on Thursday, Jan. 3. Brother Jim Beltz will be speaking in David's absence on Sunday, Dec. 23 and 30.

**Kissimmee Church of Christ**  
921 West Vine Street  
Kissimmee, Florida 34741

Send To:

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### **Honored To Serve This Lord's Day December 16, 2007**

The elders respectfully ask all who serve in public worship to please dress appropriately

#### **-ANNOUNCEMENTS**

A.M. / P.M. Ansel Hicks

#### **-SONG LEADER**

A.M. David Herndon  
P.M. 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday singing

#### **-OPENING PRAYER**

A.M. James Maness  
P.M. John Dunn

#### **-READ SCRIPTURE**

A.M. Ray Wells  
P.M. Henry Kirkendall

#### **-SERMON**

A.M. David Boren  
P.M. Ansel Hicks

#### **-LORD'S SUPPER**

A.M. Robert Guthrie  
P.M. Byron Chapman

#### **-ASSISTING**

A.M. John Neibling  
Russ Fender  
Joseph Bernard  
David E. Miller  
P.M. Matthew Gannotti

#### **-CLOSING PRAYER**

A.M. Lawrence Hubbard  
P.M. John Sprouse

#### **-USHERS**

A.M. / P.M. Corey Hair  
Jonathan Castel

#### **-GREETING VISITORS**

J & B Craig

#### **-CHILDREN'S NURSERY**

A.M. Melissa Niebling  
Sonia Gray  
P.M. Heather Boren

#### **-PREPARE COMMUNION THIS MONTH**

Deana Bell

#### **-BAPTISMAL GARMENTS**