

CHASE PARK MESSENGER

Striving for Mediocrity

Striving for mediocrity. I think we all probably immediately understand the oxymoronic nature of that statement. When we think of striving for something, we think of striving for excellence, perfection, or superiority. Mediocrity is what happens when we don't strive for those things, when we do the minimum amount required. It doesn't require much effort to achieve mediocrity, and we certainly do not have to strive for mediocrity. Right? Well, you would think so, and yet, it seems that there are a lot of people in this world who put a great deal of effort into being mediocre. We ask questions like, "Do I have to?" or, "What's the least I can get by with?" These questions, and others like them, are designed to determine the least amount of effort or accomplishment required. Unfortunately, this type of attitude is seen all the time at work, in sports, in school, or in our relationships. Saddest of all, it is also seen in the spiritual lives of people.

The church at Laodicea (Revelation 3:14-22) was condemned by the Lord for being "lukewarm." They were comfortable with where they were in their work, their faith, and their lives. They were not asking questions like, "What more can we do to serve the Lord?" or, "How can we grow in our faith, strength, or knowledge?" They were simply content to be what they were. Because of that attitude, the Lord says that they were lukewarm—complacent, unmotivated, mediocre. This was obviously a mentality that was displeasing to the Lord as He commanded them to "be zealous and repent" lest they be rejected.

How many Christians or congregations suffer from that same mentality in today's world? They look at themselves, their faith, their lives, and their service and nod approvingly at their position. Instead of constantly striving to grow and move closer to God, they simply determine that no "striving" is needed and settle for mediocre. When challenged to reach forward to new heights, they grudgingly ask, "Do I have to?" willing only to do those things that are considered absolutely necessary. This mentality was not sufficient for the Laodiceans, and it is not sufficient for God's people today. May we determine to never settle for mediocrity in our spiritual lives, but may we always strive for excellence and holiness as we seek to serve God in faithfulness.

Rusty

Welcome, Guests

We are honored that you have chosen to visit with us today! Our time of worship together on the Lord's Day is one of the highlights of each week and we are thrilled to be able to share this special time with you.

As we worship, our desire is to do so according to the New Testament pattern and in a way that is pleasing and acceptable to God. It is also our prayer that our time together is uplifting to those who are here including you, our guests. If you have any questions about anything that you see or hear today, please feel free to ask. We would love to speak with you about those things and help you in any way that we can.



Ministers

Rusty Hills Pulpit
Pat Cowden Evangelism
Andrew Lamica Youth

Elders

Curtis Hill Dennis Lawson
Sam Kachelman Greg Parker
Barry Todd

Missionaries

Jaime Mendoza Chalco, Mexico
Liborio Encarnacion. Ecatepec, Mexico
Slava Savkovsky Ukraine
Barton Kizer Peru
Isai Cuamba Ensenada, Mexico
Dewayne Tapscott Southwest

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2018 THEME:

I AM THE CHURCH



Lamifications—*Andrew Lamica*

Coming to the realization that you are in the wrong (in the sense of sin) is not an enjoyable experience. Having difficulty admitting fault or wrongdoing seems to be a part of our human nature. Interestingly, we will all be in the wrong (committed sin) at some point in our life. Being in the wrong from time to time is part of living life as a free moral agent.

One important aspect of realizing that we have committed sin, is how we respond to it. Often times in response to our transgressions, we will try to hide them. Think about how silly that is for just a minute. While it might be true that we can hide our sins from others, is that really of any benefit to us? No. We might get away with hiding our sin from those around us but

there is a zero percent chance of successfully hiding those sins from God (Hebrews 4:13). God does not want us to try to hide them, He desires our repentance and for our hearts to be turned back to Him (2 Peter 3:9).

In addition to trying to hide our sins, another way we might respond is with anger or frustration towards God. Consider how Cain responded when his offering was rejected (Genesis 4:5). Cain was angry. Instead of having the proper heart and attitude of wanting to be right in the sight of God, Cain became angry. Not only did Cain become angry, he allowed his anger to take over and it culminated in the killing of his brother, Abel, and attempting to mislead God about what had happened. When we have our sin

brought to our attention, it should cause us to desire to make it right. The difficulty in having the right attitude toward our sin is caused by our pride. We have bought into Satan's lie that we cannot admit fault or it will ruin our reputation and image. I want to challenge each of us to worry less about our reputation on this earth and more about our relationship with God. After all, what good is a reputation built on the lie of pretending to have no sin?

As Christians, we need to do a better job of loving one another in such a way that we feel comfortable admitting fault to each other. James says we should pray for each other about our sins. What is your attitude about sin? How do you plan to improve your response to sin this week?

Outreach News—*Pat Cowden*

By the time you read this, we will have completed, Lord willing, our annual VBS. If the rest of the nights are like Sunday night, it will have been GREAT! The opportunity for our young folks and for the visitors that came to learn about God and His guiding the Israelites out of Egyptian bondage is valuable beyond measure. The teens and adults who helped were blessed as well by serving the Lord in this capacity. Thank you to all who participated and who made it happen.

Since we started a new quarter last Sunday, I wanted to share some basic thoughts again about local evangelism. We are trying to have a mindset shift that helps us to be "soul conscious." This mindset is represented by the slogan "Think Souls First" as is represented by the logo to the right of this article. This mindset helps us condition our minds and hearts to be thinking about others first rather than ourselves. It also helps us focus that attention on important, spiritual matters concerning the souls of those we know and come in contact with.

The second thing I wanted to remind us of is that: Personal Evangelism is personal because of what is at stake. The souls of everyone will spend eternity in one of two places. That makes evangelism important and that is what should make it a priority in our lives. There are risks that we take when we evangelize our friends and family. But those are risks, calculated on the fact that we may be the only person they know who can lead them to Christ. May we never be nonchalant about where people will spend eternity.

Evangelism challenge:

- Ask yourself these two questions:
 - Who was the last person I brought or invited to services?
 - When was that?

Then, reflect on how that makes you feel. Are you satisfied with the answer? Are you willing to make an effort if the answer is unsatisfactory?

Remember, I love you in the Lord and want to go to heaven with you.



News Of Interest

Sick

Regency Skilled Nursing Rehab

Leo Johnson

Home: Cindy Kachelman.

Congratulations

To **Danny and Stefanie Benson** on the birth of their son, Remington Lee, born Saturday, June 2. He weighed 11 lbs., 7 ozs., 19 3/4 " long.

Pantry Item

Canned pinto beans.

Girls Day Meeting

Today, 1:00 p.m., dining room, for all those who would like to help with sewing projects for Girls Day. See **Farrah Clark** for more information.



Today and Upcoming at Chase Park

Family Care Meeting

B and **J** meet today for potluck lunch. **B Leaders: Crabtree, Wells; J. Leader: Cothren.**

C and **E** meet Sunday, June 17. **C Leaders: Champion, Landman; E Leaders: Corder, Maples, Williams, Gransky.**

Hospital Visitation

Team #2 (**Emerson**), please pick up your assignments today after p.m. service.

Super Seniors

Wednesday, June 13. Cooks will prepare lunch.

Balance Class

Tues., June 12; Thurs., June 14; 1:30 p.m.

Worship Participants

SUNDAY AM JUNE 17, 2018	
READING	Anderson Todd
F PRAYER.....	Clay Blankenship
LS PRAYER.....	Eric Corder
C PRAYER.....	Brandon Karraker

SUNDAY PM JUNE 17, 2018	
READING	Payton Corder
F PRAYER.....	Hollis Todd
C PRAYER.....	Dan Lawrence

Happy July Birthdays

2 Steve Watson	22 Barbara Johnson
Katie Lawrence	Lisa Horst
3 Betty Meadows	Cayley Todd
6 Eddie Albright	Leo Johnson
7 Kyleigh Jones	23 Ruth Bridges
8 Erica Karraker	Jerry Dugan
Greg Emerson	24 Lena Rosenblum
10 Cloyed Steelman	Janet England
11 Rhonda Rosenblum	Michelle Heady
13 Jane Fanning	25 Helen Barker
Clara Harmon	Carl Harris
14 Mike Maples	27 Tina Jones
15 Frances Counselman	28 Rhonda Hogan
Pam Almo	29 Martha Ferguson
17 Dave Clark	30 Brandon Emperley
20 Bobby Corder	31 Nathan Hill
21 Rick Rosenblum	Donnie Sharp
Gladys Tipton	



Focus For
MAY - JUNE

*I Am A Steward
of God's Blessings*

I AM THE CHURCH



Chase Park
CHURCH of CHRIST

Summer Series begins Wednesday, June 6

"I AM THE CHURCH"

Come support and learn from some of our own men as they lead our study on Scriptures that teach us what it means to be the Lord's church.

Schedule for June/July:

June 13	Pat Cowden	2 Corinthians 5:20
June 20	Curtis Hill	1 John 3:2
June 27	Eric Corder	Galatians 2:20
July 4	Andrew Lamica	2 Corinthians 6:16

Statistics

Sunday, June 3, 2018

AM Worship	384
Month Average	384
Bible Class	NC
PM Worship	252
Wed., June 6, Bible Classes	NC
Regency Ret. Worship	38
Offering	\$19,448.33
Budget	\$18,000
Average '18	\$18,545
Over Budget for year	+\$11,980
Building Fund	\$20.00

Services

Sunday

Worship	9:00 a.m.
Bible Class	10:15 a.m.
Worship	5:00 p.m.

Wednesday

Super Seniors	10:00 a.m.
Bible Class	6:30 p.m.

Web Site Home Bible Studies

<https://www.epcofc.org/home-bible-studies>

(Lesson 1 Link)

The Bible—God's Holy Word

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