

Faith Of Our Youth

February 1999

"The Voice of Young Christian Faith"

Volume 6 Issue 1

"Just A. Name"

by Darrell Russell

"Wisdom of Our Elders"

EVERY "ONE"

by Bill Hensley

About two months ago, I ran across an article in the local newspaper. It was about a young man who changed his name. I don't recall what his previous name was, but he changed it to "Just A. Name". I don't know his purpose for doing this. Maybe he was trying to be cute or funny, or possibly, he was just wanting to draw attention to himself. I asked myself this question, "Was his name so meaningless and without any value that he could just up and change it?" I then asked "What is in a name?"

Is your name just a title? Is it just something a person would use to get your attention? Names do have meanings. Parents put a great amount of thought and consideration into choosing names for their children. They might choose a name that means something special to them. A name might be chosen from the Bible after a person who had good characteristics, or a person who was righteous and feared God. A parent wouldn't insult a child by giving a name such as Jezebel or Judas. My point being, we are wrong to say there isn't any meaning in a name. Ultimately, your name represents you. It represents who you are. It represents your ideals and what you stand for. It represents your personality and your characteristics. Ask yourself, "What do people think about when they hear my name?"

Let's consider the name of Jesus. What do we think of when we hear His name? We think of things such as His birth, the examples and teachings, His death, burial and resurrection. I think of the power and the authority in His name. Jesus said in Matthew 28:18 "All power is given to me in heaven and earth." We also see that salvation can only be attained through the name of Jesus. "Neither is there salvation in any other, for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved" (Acts 4:12). The scriptures also tell us that God "has put all things to the church,"

It has been said that, "the outstanding number with God is one." Everyone is very special to God! He gave each person the very best He had—a precious soul. Jesus placed the soul as the greatest part of each human. So, when we begin counting, let us begin with one person—our own body with a soul from God.

How you and I face life is very important to God the Father. In our daily activities it would be great to begin consideration with ourselves and our relationship to the Father. Think of the plus for a righteous life, if thus is truly our course for every day living.

Worship begins in the public assembly, which is where we meet with God and our brethren. That worship is enlarged when we leave that assembly and go forth into another week of Christian living. This is the presenting of our body as a living sacrifice, day by day, as we live and grow. (Rom. 12:1)

In the assembly on the Lord's Day, we begin each week by honoring God. This can have a personal bearing as we walk the daily path. God is concerned about each of his children—the young Christian and the older person in life. Both are a concern to the Almighty!

The answer Christ gave the lawyer who offered tempting question, "Which is the great commandment," is a real help in meeting the requirements of our relationship to God. Remember Jesus' words: "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind" (Matt. 22:37). All true Christians know this to be true. To practice this outstanding love is a vital link in the Christian ministry of each saint in Christ.

Remember, we express our love for God by keeping His commandments. This was the vital truth offered by Jesus as He talked to His disciples. "If ye love me, keep my commandments" (John 14:15). And again, we hear the Savior, "Ye are my friends, if you do whatsoever I command you" (John 15:14).

(See "NAME" on page 2)

(See "WISDOM" on page 3)

inside...

Our First Love
Dependence vs. Independence
Shame
Songs of Praise

by Amanda Albertson
by Kevin Ferguson
by Ben Morris
by Athena Caldwell

page 4
pages 4-5
pages 5, 8
page 6

Ephesians 1:22. This clearly points out the church, His body, must wear the name of Christ. Anything not governed or regulated by Christ, and Christ only, has no authority. Any name given to the church other than those given in the Bible are unscriptural. Giving honor to another person or name (diverting from Christ) is not right. Let's remember that simply the name of the church does not make it scriptural; rather, following His teaching and guidelines make a church scriptural.

I want to draw this down to a more personal level. When we accept Christ as our Savior, we become

part of His family. Being a Christian, we wear His name. We represent Christ and what He stands for. This puts a great responsibility on our shoulders. How are we representing Christ? Are we living in such a way as to bring glory to Christ? Does our conduct taint the name of Christ and His church. 1 Timothy 4:12 says "Let no man despise thy youth, but be an example of the believers in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity." As we go through life, let's strive to do just that and bring glory to the NAME of Christ.



Member of Brookfield Church of Christ

Are We Being the Best Christian Example We Can Be?

by Rebecca Duckstein

"And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God" (Rom. 12:2).

I would like to begin with an incident that happened at a church meeting a few years ago. The entertainment that evening was skating at a local skating rink. While I was there, I overheard a conversation with a teenager and the DJ. The teenager requested a certain song, to which the DJ responded, "Don't you think that's a little too heavy for a Christian?" I was rather embarrassed to hear someone of the world tell someone who was a Christian that it wasn't an appropriate song for Christians to hear. It sounded a little backwards to me. The verse above tells us we are to separate ourselves from the world and be changed. Also, in 1 John 2:15-17 it says, "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever."

If you have ever studied about the life of Jesus, you will find that he was always different from the world. There are lots of verses in the Bible that tell us we are to be different from the

world. You are unique and different from everyone no matter how much you would like to be like someone else. Difference as individuals is not as important as Christians being different from the world. I know it is very difficult for most people to be considered "uncool" by their peers, but is being cool really that important in the long run?

When you get to be, well, not as young as you are now, are you going to be hanging around with the same kind of people? Try to ask yourselves this, "Would Jesus be doing and saying the same things I am doing and saying?" By trying to be

"By striving to be like Jesus, we will testify that we are Christians and striving to reach Heaven when we die."

like Jesus, we will testify that we are Christians and striving to reach Heaven when we die.

The peer pressure can be pretty heavy at times, but I've always found it helpful to pray for strength and endurance. Besides, I think it makes one stronger if one can withstand temptation. In James 1:12-15 it says, "Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him. Let no man say when he is tempted,

I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death."

I think if someone is going to say they are a Christian, they need to act like it, instead of faking it on Sunday then acting just like the rest of the world during the week. For example, some teenagers like to flirt and use their bodies in ways a Christian shouldn't. Here are some verses that speak against such things: Romans 12:1, 1 Timothy 2:9, 2 Timothy 2:22, and Proverbs 6:16-19.

You may not know it, but there's a person younger than you out there who really admires you. That person is always watching you and trying to imitate what you do. They want to be just like you!! Now, wouldn't you really feel great if someone became a Christian and got to heaven just from watching you and doing what you did? We are commanded to be a good example in 1 Timothy 4:12 where it says, "let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity."

When I am having trouble, I find the best thing to do is to pray and ask God for His help and guidance (James

(See "EXAMPLE" one page 3)

1:5, 6; John 14:27). I also find it helpful to read the Bible. Some of my favorite books in the Bible are: Psalms, Proverbs, and James. I find a lot in Proverbs on how to live a good Christian life and how to be a good Christian woman--especially Proverbs 31:10-31. I really like Psalms because of the praise David gives to God even when he was having a hard time, and I like James because it has a lot in it which I enjoy.

In conclusion, I'd like to say that I am NOT perfect, so this article is as much for me as it is for you. With a lot of God's help, I hope to become the Christian young lady that He wants me to be. Finally, I would like to leave you with this verse: "For I am persuaded that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor heights, nor depth, nor any other creature shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord (Romans 8:38, 39).

◆ ◆ ◆
Member of Martensdale Church of Christ

It may seem too simple to define love as the Holy Spirit did to John. "This is the love, that we walk after his commandments" (II John 6). To total the score, we begin with our own personal life. We learn His Word, so we can know His commands. We do His commands out of fervent and genuine love. We grow daily. Like the tree, we grow up and out, toward God each day. (Psalm 1:3)

◆ ◆ ◆

Evangelist of the Church at Lawrence

Encourage Our Writers

Take time to thank those who have encouraged you.

Darrell Russell
21841 Ivy Drive
Brookfield, MO 64628

Bill Hensley
2002 Hillview Rd.
Lawrence, KS 66046

Rebecca Duckstein
2649 Kendall St.
Osceola, IA 50213

John Morris
401 E. Mount Vernon
Nixa, MO 65714

Amanda Albertson
Rt. 2, Box 105
Meadville, MO 64659

Kevin Ferguson
510 NE Park Court
Lee's Summit, MO 64086

Ben Morris
7746 Charing
St. Louis, MO 63119

Alena Caldwell
%Bakersfield Church of Christ
11704 Jared Lane
Bakersfield, CA 93308

Meditations of My Heart

Thou hast made me to glorify Thy name.

Thy joy is a heart contrite and clean,

That when Thou comest in power to glean

To take where Thou has prepared a home,

Shall find rest for its feet, never to roam.

But You only, Lord, have these mansions seen.

Through prophet's eyes do we know You have been

Among them, O Ancient of Days, the same.

Consider my soul, now, Father of Light,

For Thy sorrow worketh in me to gain

Pardon from sin, and favor in Thy sight

That a pleasing steward I may remain.

When Thy tender mercies Thou does bestow,

No yoke shall I bear, Thy peace shall I know.

◆ ◆ ◆

Evangelist-in-training from Murray Rd. Church of Christ

Our First Love

by Amanda Albertson

There was a young man, in Christ, an only child, being sent to the Vietnam War. On his trip back home, he stopped in California to call his parents. He told them he had a friend who did not have any family and had stepped on a land mine and lost his legs. He asked his parents if the friend could come home with him. Well, his parents said that his friend would find the things he needed there in California because he would be too much trouble for them. They told their son to just come home safe to them. The next day, the parents received a phone call asking them to come and identify the body of their son, because he had died. The parents were devastated and confused when they arrived at the morgue in California. They identified their son, but there was one obvious change, he did not have any legs. The parents later found out their son had thrown himself from a building the evening of the call and they came to the realization the friend he spoke of was actually himself.

This sad and tragic story is true. The young man's parents had faith that their son was okay and would come home safe and secure to them, but they did not show their faith by their works in providing for others in need. In James 2:14-18, we are told "What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and hath not works? Can faith save him? If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; not withstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; What doth it profit? Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. Yea, a man may say, Thou has faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works."

Do you remember when Christ first became a part of your life? The zeal and spark for Christ, and the willingness

to tell the world that your sins were forgiven and forgotten. Is it still there? Can you still feel the faith and love for the Lord?

I have been in the church for about a year. I have witnessed an apparent lack of faith in many long-term members. It starts out the same for everyone. The willingness to be a worker for the Lord is very real, and you can see it in their eyes. Then we seem to become as the church did in Revelation 2:4-5: "Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou has left thy first love. Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and report, and do the first works, or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent."

Why do we leave our first love? Do we have "faith" that someone else

will take care of burdensome problems that arise like the parents in the opening story? Does our love for our Savior grow weak? It takes two to love, and the Lord will never stop loving us.

Good works can be done everyday. Just look around you!! One phone call to a brother or sister saying they were missed at the last meeting, not to accuse or ask why only to mention that you missed them, could be the turning point in their life. I have heard it said though, that "Most of the time, I am just wasting my breath." Would you like to answer why you did not show your faith by your works on the day of judgment? What if it takes just that one time to send your soul into an eternal fiery grave. James 4:17 "Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin."

So these things I ask you to think upon. Let us all keep our first love in our hearts and hold him high so the world will know where we stand. I will leave you with I John 4:19 "We love him, because he first loved us." Let us pray for strength to show our faith in His love by our works.

♦ ♦ ♦

Member of Brookfield Church of Christ

Dependence

vs.

Independence

by Kevin Ferguson

Gaining independence is exciting! When the colonies declared their independence from the British in 1776, excitement swept through many of the colonists. Today such milestones of independence as getting a driver's license, graduation, and moving away from home are looked forward to with great anticipation. Whether we are of junior high, high school, college, or post-college age, increasing levels of independence is both a natural and exhilarating step. However, we should also notice that too much independence may be dangerous. The point I would like to discuss in this article is that while gaining independence is a very natural and good step in one sense, we should be very careful in our spiritual life not to grow 'independent' from God.

Let's begin this discussion by considering ourselves - first when we were babies and then as we grew into our teenage years. As infants we were totally dependent on our parents for everything. It wasn't long before we were crawling and then walking. These were some of our first steps of independence, but they also made it more likely we could hurt ourselves, or get into trouble. Likewise, in a spiritual sense, if we attempt to become independent from God, we are exposing ourselves to some major potential problems. As we continue to age and mature through our teen-age and young adult lives, finding the right balance between dependence and independence is challenging but vitally important for both the parent and child. As young people, please be patient with your parents who may not give you as much freedom as you feel you deserve. Please remember that too much independence can do more harm than good.

Finding a good balance between dependence and independence is very challenging and important for each of us at all stages of life, whether we are five, 15, or 55. One key to being happy and successful in life is learning in what areas, and times of life, to show independence and when to be dependent. As students at

(See "DEPENDENCE" one page 5)

school, we are first dependent on the teacher to explain a new concept to us and then we become more independent as we practice and master it. On a sports team, both independence and dependence are needed. For example, a basketball team needs someone willing to step up and take the clutch shot and also someone to help out on defense when a teammate is beaten. Dependence and independence may also be shown through friends and peers. For one thing, we must be independent enough to stand up against negative peer pressure. We also realize that we should be willing to depend (to a degree) on our friends. This is one reason it is very important that we choose quality friends on whom we can depend.

Now let's consider dependence and independence in our relationship with God. Probably the most important idea to bring out here is that while some independence in our relationships with our fellow man is good, it is never good in our relationship with God. We will enjoy eternal salvation only through acknowledging and living our lives in complete dependence upon God. I better appreciated what dependence truly means after reading a quote from Joni Eareckson Tada, a woman who was

paralyzed in a diving accident when she was young. A few years later she had this to say: "My focus changed from demanding an explanation from God to humbly depending on him. ... Maybe God's gift to me is dependence. I will never reach a place of self-sufficiency that crowds God out."

Self-sufficiency and independence can lead to crowding God out of our lives. Weaknesses in our life help us remember the all-important lesson to always strive to remain fully dependent upon God. Paul was reminded of this by his 'thorn in the flesh'. He requested that the Lord remove this obstacle, but God's reply was, "My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness" (II Cor. 12:9).

How will we handle this balance between dependence and independence? One of the greatest spiritual lessons we will learn is the value of our dependence upon God. Please remember this closing thought: as you grow older and your dependence upon your parents decreases, never, never, let your dependence upon God decrease.

• • •

Member of Murray Rd. Church of Christ

shame

by Ben Morris

We all can think of a time when we did something so embarrassing that all we wanted to do was find a place to hide. Maybe it was the time when you had food between your teeth. Maybe it was the time you walked into the wrong bathroom. Maybe it was the time you dripped mustard on your shirt. Maybe it was... and the list goes on. But what we do know is that in all of those situations we turned bright red. We blushed--an outward sign of an inward feeling. That feeling is shame.

When considering this from a biblical point of view, shame is the result of doing wrong; the result of sin. Ezra gives a bit of insight in a prayer found in Ezra 9:6, "O my God, I am too ashamed and humiliated to lift up my face to You, my God; for our iniquities have risen higher than our heads, and our guilt has grown up to the heavens." In very basic terms, sin causes us to be ashamed, and rightfully so. Knowing that all have sinned, (Rom. 3:23) it is easy to understand why Isaiah 45:24 tells us that "all will be ashamed." However the mode in which this happens rests entirely on our shoulders.

In order to better understand how we are responsible for our own shame, it

is good to consider two groups of people, the righteous and the unrighteous. It is said in Zeph. 3:5 that "the unjust knows no shame." At the surface, this may seem to be in direct disagreement with previous scriptures. Knowing that all will be made ashamed, how do the unrighteous not

*"To the righteous,
shame no longer has a
part in his life."*

know shame? The answer is two-fold. Either they are proud of their sins, or, they will not admit wrong. The latter is easier to understand since we all at one time have said, "What have I done?" (Jer. 8:5-6) Again Jeremiah speaks of the unjust having no shame in 6:15. "Were they ashamed when they had committed abomination? No! They were not at all ashamed; Nor did they know how to blush." Not admitting to sin, not blushing when wrong is done, and not knowing any shame are all grounded strongly in pride. Some people, even Christians, flaunt their former iniquities to others. Boasting their sins for reasons unknown

to most. Logically, a proud man would not allow shame to humble him. However, we are told by Solomon that "when pride comes, then comes shame." (Prov. 11:2) And again in Proverbs 16:18, "Pride goes before destruction, And a haughty spirit before a fall."

Even though the unrighteous may not feel their own shame, others will. The choices we make never only affect ourselves. We live in a fragile world where our actions are seen by others and may have unknown effects on them. Even more than our righteousness, our iniquities will be shone to the world (Gen 32:25), and allow them to justify their own shortcomings. Our families will be humbled (Prov. 10:5, Prov. 29:15), and ultimately we will shame the church and other christians by our sins. (I Cor. 5:1,6) And in the end we will stand in judgment for those faults; yet, others will have to endure our shame. Don't be fooled, the unjust will be made humble. Jeremiah makes this clear in 17:13. "O Lord, the hope of Israel, All who forsake you shall be ashamed." The proud will be ashamed because their pride will eventually fail (Psa. 119:78). They will gain the reward

(See "SHAME" one page 8)

Songs of Praise: A Spiritual Gift

by Alena Caldwell

I've been in that situation numerous times. You're trying to bring someone to church, and you want to tell them how special it is, what it means to you, and how much you love the Lord. How do you form words to convey the rich experience of Christian fellowship and worship?

It's difficult for me every time. In fact, I've come to the conclusion that people have to experience it for themselves to fully understand the value and power of God's design for the church. When I try to tell someone about it, I find myself thinking, "If they could only experience what we share when we're all singing together praising God. Then they would understand."

So why does a song have the ability to say what we can't? I don't think anyone can truly explain this phenomenon, and I certainly can't; but, we can all recognize that songs appeal to our emotions. Words and music flowing together, expressive and heart-felt, converging into a powerful force that causes us all to feel. Because music has this ability to intensify our feelings it is a very useful tool, and we should consider it a priority to use it in its full potential to glorify God.

I startle myself in realizing I don't always keep that a priority. I'm sitting in church, singing a song I've sung for years with the other members; yet, my mind wanders into other things. I am painfully reminded that those times were spent mouthing words instead of praising God. Even more startling is when you sing that same familiar song and suddenly realize you never really listened to the words at any time! I'm amazed at the number of truthful and compelling songs that I discover...after years of singing them.

This problem of mouthing words seemed to become less and less as I matured into a young adult, but the realization caused me to be a little more intense about praising God through music. It was as though I finally understood why God encouraged us to sing together. I paid more attention to the messages in the songs, focused more on singing with my soul, and the results were incredible. I was moved and compelled by the songs we were singing. I felt closer to God through worshipping him this way. And I wanted to share that experience with

others.

I once had a friend who was close to being committed to Christ, but hadn't taken the initiative to do it. One evening when we were singing the invitation song I felt like it had to be time for him and it needed to happen soon. I felt like leaning over and saying, "Listen, don't you hear this song is talking about you?" Yet I felt so helpless. I didn't know how to talk to my friend about it, but I was certain that he wasn't really listening to the words. I was sure that if he really applied the lyrics to himself, he would be compelled to give his life to the Lord.

"I'm amazed at the number of truthful and compelling songs that I discover...after years of singing them."

So that night, I decided to do it myself. I was moved and I felt a need to write a song that contained a "Listen!" message. So I did, but I didn't do it alone. I have no doubt that the inspiration to spread God's

loving and hopeful messages comes from God himself, and songs that our brothers and sisters write are no exception. After I wrote that song I encountered many rewards, and I was pleasantly surprised that they went beyond my initial goal in getting one person to listen. It is deeply satisfying to know that other people identify and appreciate the message that is brought to the surface in a song. If you're inspired about something and you write a song, you will probably end up inspiring others, and many Christian lives will be enriched. Indeed, it's a powerful tool.

I guess there are two things I'd like you to remember about worshipping God through music. First, in every song that you sing to the Lord, remember that someone, somewhere felt strongly enough about their own inspiration to write this for you- in hopes that you may benefit from the Lord's love as they have. Pay attention, and take it as a personal message from one Christian to another. You don't have to like it, but at least be receptive to the ideas they felt a need to share. And second, don't be afraid to give your own ideas a voice. If the Lord has inspired you, and you're feeling helpless when it comes to sharing that with others, give it a try. You may find that with the song He give you, you can reach out to others and yourself.

◆ ◆ ◆

Member of Bakersfield Church of Christ

Songs of Our Youth

Lord, I Give My Life

Lyrics: C. A. Caldwell

Music: C.A. Caldwell

DESCANT (Sung second time only)



Lord, I give my life to Thee.

Lord, I give my life to Thee, I love Thee and I praise your name.

Lord, I give my life to Thee.

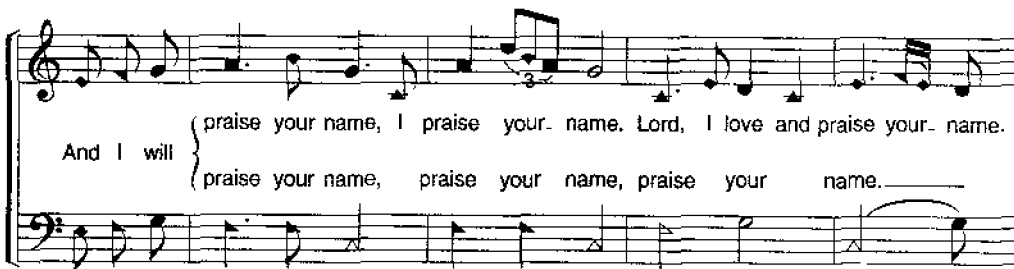
Fine



Lord, I give my life to Thee.

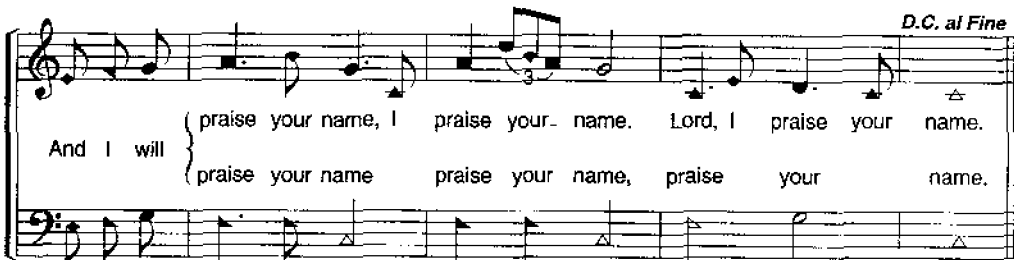
Lord I give my life to Thee, I love Thee ev - er more.

Lord I give my life to Thee.



And I will { praise your name, I praise your name. Lord, I love and praise your name.
praise your name, praise your name, praise your name.

D.C. al Fine



And I will { praise your name, I praise your name. Lord, I praise your name.
praise your name praise your name, praise your name.

C. Aiena Caldwell 2/16/95

of their deeds while the shame continues (Gal. 6:7-8, Prov. 3:35). If by chance the shame of the wicked is not visited on them here on this world, at the end of time it will. The pride of the unjust will be broken and they will be humbled to confess Christ and their sins. (Phil. 2:10-11, Rom. 14:12) Should the unjust die with the shame of sin still present, then his reward is eternal damnation. (Eze. 32:30, Dan. 12:2)

To the righteous, shame no longer has a part in his life. The godly was once where the unrighteous now are. Yet the Christian chooses to humble himself, remove the shame, and continue without need of being ashamed. Rather than being proud in our sins, or failing to admit to them, Christians should follow the teaching in James 4:10, "Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up." If we humble ourselves, then God will exalt us and we will have no need for pride (Luke 18:9-14). In Matt. 18:4, Jesus instructs us to "become as little children" in order to "enter the kingdom of heaven." Children are innocent, without need to blush for sin. The question remains then, how do we remove our shame? First, we must remove the root cause of that shame; that is, remove our sin. We can only do this through Christ; and after this, we must abide in God's will. For in God we "shall never be put to shame" (Joel 2:26, Psa. 25:1-3). Isa. 50:7 adds to this by stating, "the Lord God will help me; Therefore I will not be disgraced... and I know that I will not be ashamed." Never to be ashamed of our iniquities--not in this world and not in the age to come--because Christ

was shamed for our sins (Isa. 50:6).

Above all, when we put on Christ, we will have no need to be ashamed of Him. And we will be able to speak as Paul did, saying, "in nothing I shall be ashamed, but with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ will be magnified in my body..." (Phil. 1:20) With this new boldness we should strive to help the unjust remove their shame. Yet some Christian, for unclear or petty reasons, are fearful to teach others. Again, Paul proclaims a defense to this thinking in Rom. 1:16, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes..." Where would the church be if all Christians held this attitude? If it is that these are fearful of persecution, Peter leaves for us a reply: "Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this matter" (I Pet. 4:16). It is a small matter to suffer here for the right and receive a good reward in the end. For we know that denying Christ to others has a reward not so pleasant (Eze. 3:18, Matt. 10:33). But instead we should "abide in Him, that when he appears, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming" (I John 2:28).

The righteous have a very different reward than the unjust. Therefore humble yourselves that you may have no need to blush, and then God will exalt you.

♦ ♦ ♦

Member of Prince Rd. Church of Christ

Faith of our South

FOOY Online : <http://members.aol.com.ddeis1234.index.html>

Ozark Church of Christ
Jeremy Morris, Editor
506 W. Church
Ozark, Missouri 65721

inside...

Just A. Name
Every "One"
Are We Being the Best Example
Meditations of My Heart

by Darrell Russell
by Bill Hensley
by Rebecca Duckstein
by John Morris

pages 1-2
pages 1, 3
pages 2-3
page 3