

Are You One of Jesus' Sheep?

One would have thought Jesus' sayings would engender unity and love everywhere he went because that was his message, right? That was not the Jew's reaction. Their reaction was division.

In John 10:19, the apostle John wrote, "There was a division therefore again among the Jews "about Jesus" sayings. Some claimed he was possessed by a devil. Others rightly said Jesus could not be demon possessed and cure the blind.

Jesus' answer was, "I told you, and you do not believe; the works that I do in my Father's name, these testify of me. But you do not believe because you are not of my sheep" (John 10:25-26).

Then, Jesus made three statements that proved the Jews were not his sheep. They were not his sheep because they did not listen. "The sheep hear my voice" (John 10:27). To hear Jesus' voice means to do what Jesus said. "If you do not believe that I am he, you will die in your sins," Jesus said, (John 8:24). The belief Jesus wants is that belief that obeys. Listening to Jesus is vital to one who would become a sheep in Jesus' fold. A sheep that does not do what the shepherd wants is soon dead.

The second statement was, "I know them." There is no confusion or doubt here. He knows them because they know him and do what he says. John wrote, "By this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments. The one who says, 'I have come to know Him,' and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him" (1 John 2:3-4 NASB).

There are many that claim to know Jesus, but he will say he does not know them on the Day of Judgment. Jesus said, "*Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord', will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter. Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name cast out demons, and in your name perform many miracles?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you who practice lawlessness'*" (Matt. 7:21-23 NASB). Does Jesus know you?

The third statement was, "they follow me". This is the "Litmus Test" for all who would be called Christians. Those who belong to Jesus follow him. Jesus' sheep do not follow men's creeds or books, the philosophies of men, or the doctrines of men. They follow Jesus.

Are you a lamb of Jesus? You can know for sure. The apostle Paul wrote, "But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed, and having been freed from sin, you became slaves of righteousness? (Rom. 6:17-18).

Have you obeyed the form of doctrine Jesus commanded? Are you one of Jesus' sheep?

BULLETIN DIGEST
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If you have not put Christ in baptism, there is no better time than the present. Become one of His sheep today ☺

News and Notes

Senior Saints Luncheon – TODAY immediately following morning services. This is for everyone over the age of 60 years old.

Family Night Out – We will be going to Dairy Creme Corner this evening after services. Everyone is welcome. This is Dutch Treat.

Ladies Inspiration Day – All ladies are invited to attend a Ladies Inspiration Day at the Pumpkin Center Church of Christ on Saturday, September 26th. Registration begins at 9:00 AM and the program starts at 10:00 AM. Guest Speaker: Janie Craun, Editor of Christian Woman Magazine. She is from Nashville, TN. Lunch will be served.

Save the Date – Our annual Fall Festival will be held on Saturday, October 24th. Special thanks to Dave & Holly White for heading this up! We are in need of volunteers. If you can help in any way, please see them ASAP.

Ladies Retreat – October 9 & 10 at Parchment Valley Conference Center in Ripley (the same place as last year). Marsha is in need of volunteers to help with the following: someone to coordinate sessions, worship leader, decorate, coordinate three meals (Friday dinner, Saturday breakfast and lunch. Marsha has notes from last year that may be helpful in planning if someone needs to see them. Please contact Marsha ASAP if you can help. She also needs to know if you plan to attend. If we do not get enough ladies interested, we will have to cancel the retreat.

September is childhood cancer awareness month. Please remember to keep all the children going through cancer, as well as their parents and caregivers in your prayers.

Mark your calendars: the last Wednesday of this month (the 30th) we will be meeting in the lower fellowship hall for soup and sandwiches. We will have a time of fellowship and prayer on behalf of those in need of our prayers. We will not be having class upstairs that evening. We encourage everyone to come!

ENCOUNTER FALL 2015 is on Friday, September 25th at OVU with check-in at 10 AM and farewell at 4 PM. High school juniors, seniors and their families will meet OVU students, Professors and Academic Advisors, enjoy a campus walk, attend OVU chapel, meet with helpful people in Financial Aid and engage with the OVU community all day long. ENCOUNTER activities and lunch are free of charge for all family members. Our website has a listing of area hotels if needed for overnight accommodations. **Registration is required (registration closes at noon, 9/21) online at ovu.edu/encounter. Questions? Call Kay Grose at 304.865.6230.**

Prayer Requests

- ♥Keith Kisner is in need of our prayers each day.
- ♥Jerry Kerns is now home and Hospice has been called in for him as well. Keep Jerry, Bonnie, Melissa and Sheri in your prayers.
- ♥Kim Dumire had her surgery this past Thursday morning. She is now home and doing well. Thank you for all of the prayers on her behalf.
- ♥Please pray for Darrell Freeman as his condition worsens. Doris is looking to possibly move him to a nursing home.
- ♥Tom Little wishes to thank everyone for the prayers given on behalf of the Goody family.
- ♥Joe Smith's mother is now home and doing much better.
- ♥Frank Perry is scheduled for a heart cath on Monday at Ruby Memorial Hospital.
- ♥Continue to keep Baby Nash in your prayers. Mom seems to be doing very well.
- ♥Noah Miller is in Ruby Memorial with pneumonia. This is Robert Tonkery's son-in-law.