

Plain Path

Weekly newsletter of the Fry Road church of Christ

Sunday, February 24 2019

Volume 23, Number 8

“Teach me thy way, O Lord, and lead me in a plain path... Wait on the Lord; be of good courage, and He shall strengthen thine heart” (Psalm 27:11-14)

THINK AGAIN - Before You Google It!

BY RUBEN AMADOR

Among the latest and popular internet services are the so-called search engines. These are powerful tools that take the searcher into known and unknown web sites or pages after feeding the engine a word or phrase. Read below what Google says about search engines:

"It is a database or website which contains links to all web pages on the Internet which help in search of information. Example is google.com, yahoo.com and bing.com. Define a search engine. A search engine refers to a web software used to search for information on the internet using keywords."

Just like any tool, gadget or device, search engines have positive and negative sides. Consider for now the invention of the tele-

phone, the landline telephone invented and patented by Alexander Graham Bell (March 3, 1847 - August 2, 1922). It was the means to communicate through an electrical system that eventually revolutionized the communication world. It served, and continues to serve, many good and excellent purposes in numerous fields around the world. Too many to even consider in this writing.

However, it also provided an avenue to communicate falsehoods, lies, rumors, innuendos, and even stuff we have no idea, and will never have an idea. The telephone quickly became a hot item in preaching, as I recall. References were made of how women and men were using the phone to gossip, misrepresent, etc. The problem was not the phone, the problem were people using the phone as a means of communicat-

ing stuff; sinful in many cases.

Today, we see and hear it said, "Google It!" To do just that, to google it, is to look it up on Google. To do just that is to ask or search for a person, a thing, an event, a recipe, a rumor, a fact, a lie, etc. in any known language. The sky is the limit!

A real problem here is that information gathered is not always true, or a fact. It is not always a lie. You really don't know. There are many web pages that feed searchers what they want to find, read and believe. The results are not trustworthy in many cases. Just look at what little we know of the fabricated web pages that influenced people to vote in our recent elections.

Human beings of all colors, sizes, languages and beliefs hunger for information, especially some juicy gossip, even embarrassing or secret detail about a friend or foe. And, since this

(Think Again continued on pg 2...)

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search - asking Google - for such information can be done in the privacy of ones' own home, no one will ever know that I have asked Google to give me the info it has on someone. Then you have the apparent "rights" to dig into any website to laugh or drool over someone's problems, illnesses, short-comings, arrests, bankruptcies, divorces - you name it.

When you Google It! - you are asking for information that in most cases is none of your business. The world has their poor and corrupt standard. The Christian has his standard set by God. There is a vast difference as we all know.

Paul wrote about the behavior

THIS WEEK'S DAILY BIBLE READINGS

NEW TESTAMENT READING

MATTHEW 26 - 28

February 24 - 26

OLD TESTAMENT READING

ECCLESIASTES 1 - 12

February 27 - March 2

I TIMOTHY 4:13

of younger women in his lifetime: *"And besides they learn to be idle, wandering about from house to house, and not only idle but also gossips and busybodies, saying things which they ought not"* (1 Tim 5:13). This behavior was not positive, but negative. It speaks of people satisfying their hunger for stuff, and even communicating info that was not theirs to pass on to others. This regardless of the media they were using back then. These folks were not idle, Paul says they learned to be idle. They had their own duties to attend to but chose to serve as "search engines" for others.

Paul also wrote admonishing Christians - *"that you also aspire to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you, that you may walk properly toward those who are outside..."* (1 Thess 4:11-12). As a Christian, my life must be dif-

ferent than the people in the crooked and perverse world we live in. Self-control and soberness are a must. The private or public business of others - friends or foes - are off limits to the Christian. Asking, passing, sharing, selling and privately consuming the business of others is sinful.

The terrible practice of many in our present society is not only to feed oneself with info through the services of public media, but to entertain oneself asking, knowing, investigating, receiving and sharing information - true or false - about someone we like or don't like. Brethren, this is sinful. It needs to stop!

Yes, use the avenues that are there for your good and the good of your faith. Use the modern technology for good and sound purposes. But stay away from using these devices and vehicles as instruments for sinning.

Christianity

BY RUBEN AMADOR

The word "Christianity" is not found in the Bible. However, it is a word used here in reference to the teachings and practices authorized by Jesus Christ, the Son of God. These are found in written form in the Bible, mainly in the New Testament; repeated by the Apostles of Christ. The first Christians made it their goal to continue steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine (Acts 2:42) - which they had received from Christ. These Christians, with their faith and works, lived and spread the teachings and

practices of Christ and were often referred to as people *"of the Way"* (Acts 9:2; 19:23). They were and remain living examples of "Christianity."

"Christianity" has distinctive qualities which sets it apart from every known or unknown religion:

- It was created by God
- It is centered in Christ
- It is guided by the Holy Spirit
- It is the doctrine of the Apostles of Christ
- It was and is made known by

(Christianity, continued on pg 3)

FAMILY NEWS & NOTES

News and Notes of Interest
to Fry Road Members

Because of the large number of visitors to our services, we would ask those wishing to identify with the congregation to do so by expressing this interest directly to the elders.

Upcoming Meetings & Events:

Gospel Meeting (Reagan McClenny)
March 31 - April 3, 2019

V.B.S.
June 24 - 27, 2019

Annual Singing
September 7, 2019

Gospel Meeting (Warren Berkley)
September 8 - 11, 2019

Sick and Shut-Ins

Sections have been removed to preserve
members' privacy

Remember to provide periodic updates on friends and relatives to the elders to keep them in the bulletin for a prolonged period of time.

Sermons:

Sunday Morning:
The Gospel of Grace – Titus
2:11-15

Sunday Evening:
Christian Homes

Order of Services:

Announcements,
Reading & Prayer
Singing
Sermon
Invitation & Song
Lord's Supper
Song & Contribution
Closing Song & Prayer

the Gospel of Christ

- It has no hidden motive
- It is not given to changes or revisions
- It is a combination of faith and works
- It requires faithfulness from those who obey

"Christianity" has an additional distinctive quality that must not be ignored. It offers only two options regarding it: accept it or reject it.

• **To accept "Christianity"** is rewarding to the soul of man! Consider: *"And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life."* John 6:40

• **To reject "Christianity"** is catastrophic to the soul of man! Consider: *"But he who does not believe will be condemned."* Mark 16:16

"Christianity" is God's purpose and plan for every individual, all the way into eternity. It is urgent to know and live it with a sincere heart.



Vacation Bible School

Teachers are needed for our VBS which is scheduled from June 24 to 27. The theme is:

Great Battles Fought By God

A sign up sheet is on the table in the foyer for the following classes:

- 2 & 3 Years Old
- 4 & 5 Years Old
- 1st Grade
- 2nd & 3rd Grades
- 4th & 5th Grades

Jr. High and High School

FOR THE RECORD

WEEKLY ASSIGNMENTS

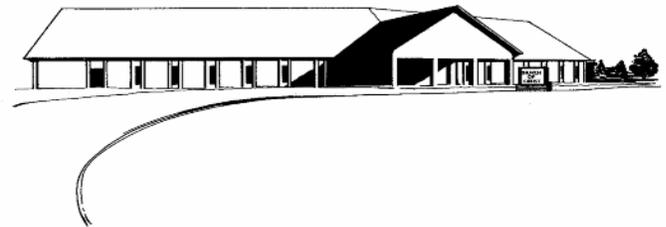
MONTHLY ASSIGNMENTS

Sections have been removed to preserve members' privacy

IN KEEPING WITH OUR LONG STANDING AGREEMENT, THOSE SERVING PUBLICLY ARE REMINDED TO PLEASE DRESS IN A MANNER RESPECTFUL

ELDERS:

Ruben Amador
John Coleman
Matthew Heaton
Steven Martin



DEACONS:

Ken Dunsmore	David Ellison
Ray Farrell	Aubrey Garner
Steve Geraci	Steve LaGrasta
Mike McMurray	Jason Mock
Glenn Tomblin	

TIMES OF SERVICES

Sunday Bible Classes	9:30 AM
Sunday Morning Assembly	10:30 AM
Sunday Evening Assembly	6:00 PM
Wednesday Bible Classes	7:30 PM