

The Southeast Sower

S O U T H E A S T C H U R C H O F C H R I S T

The Southeast
church of
Christ meets
at:

35 Walnut Ct.
Mogadore, OH
44260

Phone:
330.628.7432

SERVICES:

Sunday

Bible Study:

10:00 am

Worship:

10:50 am

6:00 pm

Wednesday

Bible Study:

7:30 pm

A Users Guide To Life – Don Truex

The question was simple: “What do you want out of life?” The middle-aged businessman answered, “I’d like to live well.”

What does that mean to you? Extravagant vacations? Luxury vehicles? Recession-proof portfolio? I would imagine that most reading these lines would give far different answers. “Well, those would be nice, but I’d really like a fulfilling marriage, good friends who love me unconditionally, children who are spiritually mature, and a spiritual dimension in my life that is meaningful and not mundane.”

Clearly, God would like those things for us as well. “Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers” (2 Jn. 2). That is a legitimate, God-approved prayer. The skills for living well are

acquired from God’s revelation, a gift from the Creator to His created. The Bible calls that “wisdom.” And so the person who patterns his goals, his finances, his words, his relationships and every other aspect of his life according to the specifications of God’s word is counted “wise.”

There is wisdom in asking, “What will my life look like in five years or ten years or twenty years?” Or perhaps more telling, what would you like for your life to look like? *Financially*—Will you be out of debt? Will you be saving more? Will you be giving more? *Family*—Will your relationship with your mate be stronger, richer than it is today? What will be the spiritual condition of your children and grandchildren? *Lifestyle*—What will you be doing on a daily basis to preserve

your strength of body and mind? *Spiritually*—How will your relationship with God be better than it is today? What spiritual disciplines will be a regular part of your life?

The key to accomplishing the hope-filled answers we give to those questions was given by Solomon long ago: “Let your eyes look straight ahead; fix your gaze directly before you. Give careful thought to the paths of your feet and be steadfast in all your ways. Do not turn to the right or to the left; keep your foot from evil” (Prov. 4:25-27). In other words, we’ll never arrive at our desired destination in life by accident. A resolute spirit combined with practical application will be required.

“I Must Get Started.” Let’s be honest; it’s easier to remain in our comfortable routines

do the hard work of establishing better habits of behavior. “The lazy man say, ‘There is a lion outside! I shall be slain in the streets!’” (Prov. 22:13). It’s so easy to live in the land of “someday.” “Someday my marriage will miraculously improve. Someday my credit card company will forgive my debt. Someday the perfect person will walk into my life and take me away. Someday I’ll be a dedicated Christian.” The Proverbs refer to such people by the unflattering, indicting word, “sluggard.” Surely we can do better than that.

“I Must Take Inventory.” Just as the President takes inventory of the “State of the Union” each January, so we would do well to periodically make an honest and accurate assessment of our lives. Granted, that can be a painful proposition, but it is far better than pretending that all is well when, in fact, it is not. Solomon observed, “There is one that makes himself rich, yet has nothing; and one who makes himself poor, yet has great riches” (Prov. 13:7). The point? Appearances can be deceiving. So, honestly, what is the state of your marriage? Your finances? Your health? Your relationship with God?

“I Must Be Responsible.” There is an oft-told story about a man applying for a job. The interviewer said, “We’re looking for someone who’s responsible.” The applicant replied, “I’m your man! At my last job, every time something bad happened, they said I was responsible!” In reality, that’s a fairly healthy attitude, i.e., “I am responsible for my life. I’m here

because of the decisions I’ve made both good and bad. And in regard to the things that happen to me that are beyond my control, I’m responsible for how I react.”

So many, however, not only divert responsibility to others, they often blame God for their failures. “The foolishness of man twists his way, and his heart frets against the Lord” (Prov. 19:3). That, of course, is the ultimate blame game. And yet, as long as we see ourselves as victims and blame someone else for our situation, we’ll never take charge of our life and make positive progress.

“I Must Value My Time.” It was Moses who gave us the encouragement to “number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom” (Ps. 90:12). That is so important because your “days,” your time, will not be as valuable to others as it is to you. And so you must establish boundaries and priorities. Let’s be honest; no one else in this world will make sure that you spend your time wisely. That, along with every item noted above, is your job and yours alone.

(Note: Article taken from, “Biblical Insights,” Volume 14: Number 4, April 2014, pg., 29— I thought the article to be appropriate as we begin a new year—V. T.)

Had The Thief Been Baptized? - Ed Holcomb

No one knows whether or not the penitent thief, saved as he was dying on the cross, had been baptized or not. Why do so many people say of him, the thief was not

baptized? Why? It is because they will not accept what Jesus demands, “He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved!” Because they do not want it to be the case of “Repent and be baptized everyone of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of your sins.” It is an evil attempt to try to absolve people of sins who have not been obedient to the gospel of Christ. If their life depended upon it, they could not prove that the penitent thief had not been baptized! In fact, one could come closer to proving the thief ‘might’ have previously been baptized, than that he ‘definitely’ had not. The Bible says that, “All the country of Judea were being baptized by John” (Mk. 1:5). It also says of Jesus and His disciples, “Jesus was making and baptizing more disciples than John” (Jn. 4:1). It is however, an irrelevant matter. Christ’s law had not come into force yet (Heb. 9:16-17). The gospel of Christ, in effect now until the end of time, requires baptism as an act of faith, to obtain pardon and get into Christ (Acts 22:16; Rom. 6:3). No one can be saved like the thief on the cross!

What Must I Do To Be Saved?

Must: “Hear” the gospel (Rom. 10:17; Matt. 7:24-27).

Must: “Believe” the gospel (Heb. 11:6; Mk. 16:15-16)

Must: “Repent” (Acts 2:38; Lk. 13:3, 5; Acts 17:30-31)

Must: “Confess” belief in Christ before men (Matt. 10:32-33; Acts 8:36-37)

Must: Be “Baptized” for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38; Rom. 6:4; Mk. 16:16; Acts 22:16; 1 Pet. 3:21)

Must: “Remain Faithful” (Rev. 2:10)