

The Encourager



Welcome Guest

We are so glad you've come for worship today! Our prayer is you will be blessed by your time with us. Please feel free to ask us any questions you may have concerning our worship.

Church of Christ

140 West 15th Street

Front Royal, VA, 22630

540 635 2613

FrontRoyalChurchofChrist.com

SimpleBibleLessons.com

Sunday Service's

Bible Study 10:00 am

Worship 11:00 am

Afternoon 2:00 pm

Wednesday 7:00 pm

Personal Bible Study

SimpleBibleLessons.com

Online & In Home

Correspondence

Food Pantry

By Appointment

Minister

John Stephen Smith

540-635-2613

ministerfrcoc@gmail.com

The Spiritual Man

Mind of the flesh
(ASV)

Romans 8:6-7, "For to be *carnally minded* is death; but to be *spiritually minded* is life and peace. Because the *carnal mind* is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be."
KJV

To be spiritually minded is truly a
matter of life and death!

WEEK 4



HIGHLIGHTS

PROMPTS

MON
GENESIS 30-31

- Jacob has More Children
- Jacob Deceives Father-in-Law
- Jacob Flees Father-in-Law

*Was Jacob right to deceive Laban?
How would you have handled it?*

TUE
GENESIS 32-34

- Jacob Prepares to Meet Esau
- Jacob Renamed Israel
- Jacob Meets Esau
- Jacob's Daughter Attacked

*Did you find Esau's response to Jacob surprising?
Why or why not?*

WED
GENESIS 35-37

- Rachel Dies in Childbirth
- Genealogy: Jacob's Sons
- Genealogy: Esau's Sons
- Joseph's Dreams
- Joseph Sold by His Brothers

*Per Joseph's brothers, why is jealousy such a dangerous & destructive force?
What or who have you been jealous of?*

THU
GENESIS 38-40

- Treacherous Family
- Joseph is Sexually Harassed & Jailed
- Joseph Interprets Two Dreams

*Joseph wound up jailed for doing the right thing.
When have you been treated unfairly for doing good? How did God help?*

FRI
GENESIS 41-42

- Joseph Interprets Pharaoh's Dream
- Joseph Succeeds as Leader
- Joseph's Brothers Go to Egypt

*Joseph's help was not immediate.
What do you think he learned in the meantime that we can also learn?*

SAT
GENESIS 43-45

- A Second Trip to Egypt
- Joseph Ensnarers His Brothers
- Joseph Reveals His Identity

What combination of emotions must Joseph have felt upon seeing his brothers?

SUN
GENESIS 46-47

- The Tribe Moves to Egypt
- Joseph Provides Well for All
- Joseph Helps Many Survive

*Joseph's forgiveness of his brothers was important to his own success.
Whom do you need to forgive?*

Sermon Notes



MY LIFE IN HIM



Because: *2 Peter 1:5*

Then Do This: *2 Peter 1:5-7*

Condition of Christians Who
Abound In These Things: *2
Peter 1:8-11*

Condition Of Christians Who
Do Not Abound In These
Things: *2 Peter 1:8-11*

Daily Devotional

MONDAY - JESUS GREW

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE: *Luke 2:52* - Today, I will...
make growing in favor with God a top priority in my
life

TUESDAY - I NEED MILK!

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE: *1 Peter 2:1-3* - Today, I will...
acknowledge the need for spiritual growth in my life
by feeding on the milk of the Word and continuing
to grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ

WEDNESDAY - SOWING & REAPING

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE: *1 Corinthians 3:1-7* - Today, I
will... allow the Word of God to take root in my

heart so that I can produce spiritual fruit in my life.

THURSDAY - BECOMING MATURE IN CHRIST

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE: *Ephesians 4:11-16* - Today, I
will... develop spiritual maturity in my life by listen-
ing to the truth and showing love to others.

FRIDAY - YOU WHO ARE SPIRITUAL

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE: *Galatians 6:1-2* - Today, I
will... show spiritual maturity in my life by gently
helping someone who has fallen



Persist

Lesson 3 of 4

Peak of the Week

Four Attributes We Must Cultivate

Persist definition: "continue firmly or obstinately in an opinion or a course of action despite difficulty, opposition, or failure."

"I wouldn't want to live without ambition. Actually, I wouldn't be able to live without it. Ambition is what keeps us at it. It rouses us from slumber, pushes us out the door, gets us reaching beyond ourselves. It calls us to sacrifice and risk-taking. Ambition is what keeps us in the fight or in the race when everything in us wants to quit." - Mark Buchanan, Leadership Journal, 2010

Ambition can be a good word or a bad word for Christians. Scripture warns us often against "selfish ambition."

Positively, Paul said in **Romans 15:20** *NKJV* *And so I have made it my aim to preach the gospel, not where Christ was named, lest I should build on another man's foundation,*

1 Corinthians 9:24-27 *NKJV* *Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it. ²⁵ And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown. ²⁶ Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air. ²⁷ But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.*

FOUR ATTRIBUTES WE MUST CULTIVATE:

1. WE NEED ^A _____.

1 Corinthians 9:24

Philippians 3:14 *NKJV* *I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.*

2 Timothy 4:7 *NKJV* *I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.*

Acts 14:20 *NKJV* *However, when the disciples gathered around him, he rose up and went into the city. And the next day he departed with Barnabas to Derbe.*

2. WE MUST HAVE ^B _____.

He said down at verse 26: "Therefore, I do not run like a man running aimlessly; I do not fight like a man beating the air."

As you look at your life – what's your aim? How is your godly ambition channeled – in what direction is it channeled?

Paul said, "I do not run like a man running aimlessly..."

Our life mission is to spend eternity with God and to take as many people with us as possible!

3. WE NEED ^C _____.

1 Corinthians 9:27

Luke 11:9 *NKJV* *"So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. Determined people find a way, long after others have quit looking, and indeed have stopped working.*

4. WE NEED ^D _____.

1 Corinthians 9:25

Bradley Nassif, a professor of biblical and theological studies at North Park University in Chicago, wrote:

"Grace is opposed to merit, but it is not opposed to effort."

In other words, we're not going to be saved by our merit – by earning our salvation, but to be useful to God, to persist in our faith – takes a determined effort



1. What are things that challenge your persistence or weaken your resolve? How does your faith in Christ push back against these challenges?
2. Do you have a positive or negative view of the word "ambition?" Why? How do you differentiate between selfish ambition, which the Bible often condemns, and godly ambition? How can we demonstrate selfish ambition even in the context of the Church? Take a few moments and write out your godly ambitions?
3. How would you describe what drove Paul's life and ministry? How do you think he maintained such drive? Why does Paul often resort to the metaphor of an athlete to describe his drive? What are some reasons that this is a good metaphor for all of us?
4. Paul said that he didn't run "aimlessly." What would you say was his aim? When you think about your life's direction, how would you describe your life's aim to someone? Your Church's aim?
5. What are some of the disciplines each of us needs in our life to ensure that we remain "in strict training?" How and when do you incorporate these into your life? If you were advising someone else about such practices, what would you say?

A Spirit-Filled Life

WHICH WOULD YOU SAY IS MORE DIFFICULT: Teaching a Sunday school lesson or loving your enemies? Helping a neighbor or practicing patience with troublesome people? Doing a good deed or holding onto joy in a crisis? Most of us find the latter in each pair more challenging and less rewarding.

Today's culture admires people who are action-oriented, and we tend to adopt the same standard in the church. There's an assumption that individuals who are doing the most are the ones filled with the Spirit, but this is not automatically true. Accomplishments do not equal spiritual maturity. The true measure of the Spirit's control is character, not abilities or achievements.

Though good works and spiritual gifts are God-given avenues for our service, the Holy Spirit is also at work, bringing about spiritual fruit in our life. His goal is an internal transformation whereby Jesus' character qualities are reproduced in us. Without the fruit described in [Galatians 5:22-23](#), all our efforts at service are WORTH nothing!

A Spirit-filled life is most readily visible in Christ-like attitudes and interactions with others. As we yield ourselves to His authority and allow God's Word to dwell richly within our being, He will transform us.





The Cracked Acorn

carson van arsdall

Information

January 17, 2020



Give your child something worth eating

When I was growing up and attending church the preacher would remind us a battle was raging. It was the battle for our souls. The pulpit was pounded, scriptures were quoted. The battle still goes on and will never stop. The enemy is very clever and does not rest as we do. While we sleep computers around the world are gathering information. Companies are interested in what we eat, wear, and buy. How we use what we buy is their main concern. They are establishing a predictable profile about our society needs. The expanded markets hope to reach all our material and spiritual desires.

You may think you are a private person. This would be true if you lived up a muddy road on the side of a 12,000 foot mountain and made and grew all you needed. Of course, you could not have a telephone or a cell phone or have any neighbors. Electricity would be a no! no! You would have to limit your connections to the outside world. The postman would put your mail in a post office box, if you knew anyone that had the P.O. address. This sounds good, no junk mail.

Information can influence the individual about what to place before the "window of our soul." I saw this in a religious book store one Christmas season. The gospel now appears in many books, and CDs and videos. I was looking for a replacement Bible. It was decided recovering was more expensive than purchasing a new one.

On this very busy mid-morning shopping day in a large store in Manassas, I was amazed by the many translations and versions that populated the one Bible stand. I was even more amazed that out of the many prospective buyers I was the only one shopping for a Bible. I could have picked one and stretched out on the floor and read it from cover to cover. All eyes were turned to LEFT BEHIND and PASSION OF THE CHRIST and books about the lives of the TV evangelists. Surely, I knew what Jesus felt when he saw what was going on in the temple. No one was interested in a good Bible. Ah, to be sure, the internet, the PC, has done its job well and spread the gospel of the vast available warehouse of sugary samples.

There's a book that surpasses the sages, A volume of wisdom divine; And the glory that gleams from its pages, No splendor of earth can outshine. "Tis the light which will guide is to glory, The Sword of the Spirit of might; And to dwell on its beautiful story Is of heaven the sweetest delight. '

Tis the bible! The bible! Our guiding star that leads from earth to heav'n,

the bible! The bible! We love the precious book of truth which god has giv'n.

(#502 sacred selections)



Prayer Request



David Born

Joel Jones

Bill Adams

Brenda Ridgeway

Craig Derflinger

Barbara Swisher/
grandmother

Jesse Mae Swisher/a
preemie.

Christy Swisher/mom

to preemie

Pam Chambers

Sue Adams

Gloria Kinney

Mildred Bean

Bobby Jo Henderson

Kenny Henderson Jr

Carol Ritenour

Rita Mullins

Pat Derflinger

Ruth Martin

Kim Wines

Remi Wines

Scott McCool

Michael Michelucci

Linda York

Missionaries

Our Nation

Our Military

Those Battling

Cancers

Debra Lawson

Aiden Thompson

Micah Brue

Haywood Seal

Shelly Long

Valerie Tewalt

Ann Derflinger

C.R. Newlin

Priscilla L.

Jeff Pingley

Wendy Willoughby

Robert Jenkins

Kathy Ludwick

Shirley Williams

Phylicia Smoot

David is slowly
recovering.



News and Notes



Please, don't forget our shut-ins at this time. David Born, Sharon Derflinger, Virginia Wright, Bob Baleskie and Jim Durand. Give them a call or write a note, or send them a card.

Let them know they are in our prayers and thoughts. Addresses and phone numbers in directory.

Fellowship Meal today as well as the 1:30 Congregational Meeting, please attend if you can. Let's make plans for the new year!



Pantry Needs:
Canned Corn
Chicken Noodle
Soup

Thermal Shelter needs are listed on the BB.



Reagan Anderson 1/9

Jane McCool 1/16

Eddie Benefit 1/17

Ann Marie Mayberry
1/20

David Born 1/22

Joel Jones 1/23

David Mayberry 1/27



Bill & Linda Adams 1/13



gg92359828 GoGraph.com

James For Beginners

Practical Christianity

Bible Talk^{TV}

Mike Mazzalongo

L 4 The Bottom Line

Intro – There has always been debate in the religious world, even in the early church.

Acts 6

Acts 15

I Cor.

I Cor. 3:10

Not agreeing doesn't mean we should give up the faith.

I. Bridge

1:16-18 is a bridge between

Vs. 16

Vs. 17 – God sends good things.

Some things are beyond debate:

Vs. 18

Don't be fooled!

II. The bottom line in Christian conduct.

The primary trademark of the Christian life is

How we determine

Response to the Word has 2 elements

The way we.

Vs. 19

Vs. 20

Vs. 21

The way we.

Vs. 22

Vs. 23-25

The Law of Liberty frees us from but not from .

Vs. 26-27 – James gives 3 examples of what the mirror can reveal and a proper response.