

# Practice What You Preach

By Mike Riley

Practice what you preach! Christ, as the master teacher (John 3:2), taught his disciples not only by word but by example (John 13:15). He demonstrated by His living how they should live before their heavenly Father. After washing the disciples' feet (John 13:3-5), Christ explained to them the spiritual "benefits" of serving others (John 13:14-17). In fact, true happiness cannot be attained in any other way. What will bring true happiness in time will also bring it into eternity (Matthew 6:19-21; 1 Tim. 6:17-19). The principle of helping those who are spiritually weak (Romans 14:1; 1 Thessalonians 5:14), of weeping with those that weep (Romans 12:15), of encouraging the lowly (Luke 6:20; Gal. 2:10) and encouraging the sinful to sin no more (John 8:11), is the essential and fundamental spirit of our Lord. To cultivate the spirit and practice of doing good to others (Matthew 5:44; Acts 10:38) is the work that fits mortals for that eternal heavenly home (Colossians 1:4-5; 1 Peter 1:4).

To understand the importance of learning to practice what you preach, British-born American writer Edgar A. Guest wrote the following words:

"I'd rather see a sermon than hear one any day,  
I'd rather one walk with me than merely show the way.  
The eye's a better pupil and more willing than the ear;  
Fine counsel is confusing, but example's always clear.  
And the best of all preachers are the men who live their creeds,  
For to see the good in action is what everybody needs.  
I can soon learn how to do it if you'll let me see it done.  
I can watch your hands in action, but  
your tongue too fast may run.  
And the lectures you deliver may be very wise and true;  
But I'd rather get my lesson by observing what you do.  
For I may misunderstand you and the  
high advice you give,  
But there's no misunderstanding how  
you act and how you live."

As the master teacher, Jesus not only "told" but provided the perfect example (Hebrews 4:15; 1 Peter 2:21-22; 1 John 2:6) of how we as God's children should live before our heavenly Father and fellow man. This same principle of "practice what you preach" was demonstrated in Paul's and Peter's lives (2 Corinthians 5:15; Gal. 2:20; 1 Peter 4:1-2). Faithful Christians are to provide the proper spiritual "example" before men by the lives they lead (Matthew 5:16; Philippians 2:14-16; 1 Peter 2:12).

In our everyday living, what kind of spiritual "sermon" are we preaching before others?



**STERLINGTON**  
**Church of Christ**



P.O. Box 82  
1095 Highway 2  
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Sunday Morning Bible Classes - 9:30 AM  
Sunday Morning Worship - 10:30 AM  
Sunday Evening Worship - 5:00 PM  
Wednesday Evening Classes - 6:00 PM.

## Welcome Visitors

If you are seeking a church home, we hope that you will consider joining with us. We are a growing congregation, dedicated to worshiping in truth and spirit. Please fill out the Visitor's Card and place it in the collection plate!

## Those to Serve

### Today

**Announcements-** Paul Simpson

**Opening prayer-** Rick Cook

**Communion-** Wayne Fowler

**Closing Prayer-** Ronnie Hayes

**Sermon-** Don DeLukie

### Next Sunday

**Announcements-** Lyle Russell

**Opening prayer-** Paul Simpson

**Communion-** Rick Cook

**Closing Prayer-** Tyrese McFarland

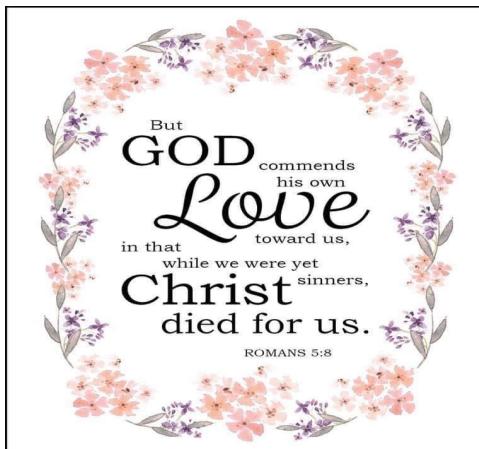
**Sermon-** Don DeLukie

## Announcements

**—Gospel Meetings:** Check the bulletin board in the foyer for local events and Gospel Meetings happening in our area.

**—Church-wide Text Message List:** If you would like to be added or removed from the Church Text Message List, Please see Kathy Manning in person or contact her at 318-805-1961.

**—Children's Home Collection:** Our congregation is collecting items for the Children's Home in Paragould, AR. Collection boxes are by the nursery. A list of needed items is in the foyer.



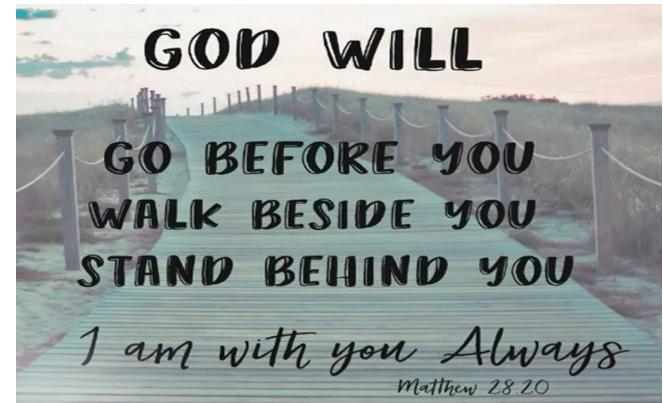
## Please Pray For:

Devante and Jasmine Sanders, Rhonda Rogers, Katie Harris, Phillip Simmons, John McDaniel, Vee Boren, Becky Baker, Luella Jacobs, Oddie Cameron, Glenda Wells, James Mardis, Mandy Purum, Jo Ellen Haltom, Lester Pinkard, Gavin McDaniel.

## Needing Long-Term Prayers:

Jo Darris Collins, Christy McDaniel, Joyce Moses, Debbie Walker, Carey Day, Leo & Shirley Goodwin, Tommy Franklin, Arthur Binford, Dan Ross Jr, Dena White, Larry & Joanne Randolph, Bettye Flowers, Dave & Linda Garris, Sharon White-Ross, Bobby Barker, Cindy Smith, Terrance Dawson, Jamie Ross.

**Bereaved:** Families of Carolyn Jones, Pam Few.



### January Birthdays

- 1 - John Chisley
- 15 - Tommy Franklin
- 21 - Gary Harris
- 24 - Buck Raus
- 26 - Arthur Binford



Scan the QR code to visit our website.

### January Anniversaries

- 6 - Debbie and Rick Cook
- 7 - Charles and Brenda Fricke

