



“Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you...” Matthew 28:20

Church of Christ • 13800 S. 4080 Road • P.O. Box 527 • Oologah, Oklahoma 74053

## Steadfast for the Lord

Charles Box

Those who were early members of the church were characterized by steadfastness. “And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers” (Acts 2:42). Steadfast means firm or immovable. To be steadfast means “to continue all the time; to persevere; to be devoted to.” Paul challenged the brethren at Corinth by saying, “my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord” (1 Corinthians 15:58).

There may be many great needs in the church, but none is greater than the need for steadfastness. Paul wrote to the Colossians and said, “though I am absent in the flesh, yet I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your good order and the steadfastness of your faith in Christ” (Colossians 2:5). Peter gave the following warning to brethren concerning the danger of falling from their steadfastness. “You therefore, beloved, since you know this beforehand, beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked” (2 Peter 3:17). Let us observe the importance of steadfastness:

**Strong Churches Have Steadfast Members.** Jesus said, “You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men,

that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven” (Matthew 5:13-16). The influence of the church can only be as strong as the members are steadfast. From Acts 2:42 we observe the early Christians were steadfast. “They continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.” This caused others to look favorably upon God’s people. “Praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved” (Acts 2:47). The challenge for every Christian is — **Be Steadfast.**

**Strong Christians Are Steadfast Members.** Christians who fail to be steadfast fail to be what God intended them to be. The member who is faithful a while and then unfaithful; can be counted on for a while and then cannot be counted on; is dependable for a while and then undependable, is a poor example of Christianity. Instead of being steadfast, the Bible calls this man unstable. “He is a doubleminded man, unstable in all his ways” (James 1:8). Strong Christians are steadfast in their service to God. “Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful” (1 Corinthians 4:2). The challenge for every Christian is — **Be Steadfast.**

**Strong Christians Understand the Principle of Being Steadfast Members.** They realize they are made partakers of Christ only by being “steadfast unto the end.” “For we have become partakers of Christ if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end” (Hebrews 3:14). Christians must be firm in their faith; set and settled in their convictions about Jesus the Christ. They must be planted, fixed, strong, anchored and faithful in their relationship with the Master. Those who are steadfast have “hope” as an anchor for the soul (Hebrews 6:19). The challenge for every Christian is — **Be Steadfast.**

**Strong Members Recognize Those Things Which Produce Steadfastness.** Christians must recognize the contribution made to steadfastness as we learn the truth. “And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free” (John 8:32). Christians must learn, know, perceive and understand God’s will. No one will be steadfast for long who does not have an ever deepening knowledge of God’s word. Peter said, “grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen” (2 Peter 3:18).

Attending “all” the services of the church is another contributing factor in our steadfastness. In order to seek God and His kingdom first, we must be faithful at every service of the church. “But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you” (Matthew 6:33). To seek God first means we think about, meditate on, crave, require and demand the kingdom be first in our lives. God and His kingdom must be first in rank or time or place in our hearts and lives. Those who willfully forsake any assembly of the church are not putting God first. “Not forsaking the assembling

of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching” (Hebrews 10:25). Why don’t we have as many for Sunday morning Bible classes, Sunday night or Wednesday night as we have for Sunday morning worship?

**Associating with Strong Christians Helps Develop Personal Steadfastness.** Those with whom we associate pull us in their direction. “Do not be deceived: Evil company corrupts good habits” (1 Corinthians 15:33). Basement people pull others down, balcony people pull others up. You can be strengthened by good men or corrupted by evil men. “He who walks with wise men will be wise, But the companion of fools will be destroyed” (Proverbs 13:20). Find those things which contribute to steadfastness to the Lord and grow in them. The challenge for every Christian is — **Be Steadfast.**

**Strong Faith Produces Steadfast Christians.** Christians must be steadfast, firm, and fixed in the faith of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. “For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures” (1 Corinthians 15:3-4). Circumstances and situations of life must never shake our faith in the glorious Gospel of Christ. Our steadfastness stands on Jesus’ resurrection. Because He lives, we can live also. Let us be unshaken in our hope of being raised incorruptible and immortal. Our steadfastness must lead us to abound in the work of the Lord. The challenge for every Christian is — **Be Steadfast.**

Being a Christian is a serious responsibility. Christianity involves your salvation. Your Christianity may effect hundreds of others. To become a Christian, you must hear the Gospel (Romans 10:17), you must believe in Jesus (Mark 16:16), repent of every sin (Acts 2:38), confess Christ (Romans 10:9-10), and be baptized to be saved (1 Peter 3:21). After baptism, the challenge for every Christian is — **Be Steadfast.**

### Control Your Anger

- Anger is to be “put off” (Colossians 3:8).
- Man is to be “slow to wrath” (James 1:19).
- “For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God” (James 1:20).
- “He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; and he that ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city” (Proverbs 16:32).
- Wrath is listed with “the works of the flesh” alongside adultery, idolatry, murder, drunkenness, and other evils (Galatians 5:19-21).

## Observations and Concerns

May 17, 2023

**Welcome Visitors!** To us, it is never a bother for you to be a part of our assembly.

“Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters” (Revelation 14:7).

**Expression of Gratitude:** Let us remember to give thanks for all the small things in life that are not actually small such as food, drink, shelter, clothes, and shoes.

**VBS:** June 11–14, 2023; Theme: Peter. Please start bringing snacks and drinks for VBS and leave them in the kitchen. Due to several of our number with severe food allergies, please make sure the snacks are store-bought and do not contain nuts or peanut butter.

There will be a **farewell potluck and reception** for the Earl family after morning services on Sunday, May 28<sup>th</sup>. Please bring your favorite finger foods. Punch and cake will be provided.

### Remember in Prayer:

- ▶ **Dicie Jackson** continues recovering. She is scheduled to meet with an oncologist on May 30<sup>th</sup>.
- ▶ **Nelda Hudson** is still struggling with heart issues and recently had a procedure to help doctors find some answers for her.
- ▶ **Sherry Carmona** is scheduled to have knee replacement surgery on June 15<sup>th</sup>.
- ▶ **Bobbye Mooney**, friend of the Nelsons, has cancer in her liver, lungs, and bones.
- ▶ **Jacob Webster**, grandson of the Hudsons, is recovering from a dog attack.

Schedule of Services	Assignments		
	Wednesday, May 17	Sunday, May 21 AM	Sunday, May 21 PM
Sundays			
Announcements	Chuck Northrop	Russ Earl	Ross Swearingen
Bible Classes . . . . . 9:30 AM			
Worship . . . . . 10:30 AM	Ross Swearingen	Doyle Jackson	Bill Dilks
Worship . . . . . 5:00 PM			
Wednesdays			
Prayer	Russ Earl	Chuck Northrop	Paul Praschnik
Lord's Supper (speaker)		Ross Swearingen	Doyle Jackson
Lord's Supper		Russ Earl	
Bible Classes . . . 7:00 PM			
Lesson	Doyle Jackson	Bill Dilks	Chuck Northrop
Website: oologahcofc.org			
Prayer / Door Attendant	Paul Praschnik	Paul Praschnik	Russ Earl