



“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

What Does God Expect of Me as a Christian?

Larry Growns

God’s word is clear in regard to His expectation of Christians (2 Peter 1:3). Often, however, we are quick to adopt the excuse making attitude exhibited by Moses when he was confronted by the angel of Jehovah at the burning bush (Exodus 3). We say, “I can’t do that because...” God however has given to each of us something which is a constant reminder of His expectations of us, that being a physical body.

God has given us EARS with which to listen.

God’s first expectation of us as Christians is that we listen to His word. God’s word says that “belief cometh of hearing and hearing by the word of Christ” (Romans 10:17). As Christians we must have the attitude of God’s people in the day of Nehemiah (Nehemiah 8) whose purpose was to hear (verse 1), who made preparation to hear (verse 3), who expended effort to understand what they heard (verses 3 and 8), and who showed respect for what they heard (verses 5 and 9).

God has given us EYES with which to see.

We are expected to use our eyes to look at the examples we are given. By so doing, the Christian gains strength to live the pattern for life he finds disclosed in God’s word. The ultimate example for all Christians is Jesus the Christ. We are directed in 1 Peter 2:21-23 to

“follow his steps.” The Bible assures us in Hebrews 4:15 that Christ has been faced with it all, yet He did not sin. Paul, the apostle, encourages us to imitate his own life even as he imitated the life of Christ (1 Corinthians 11:1). Therefore, we are not only expected to see the example of Christ but also the example of the apostles and beyond that, the examples of other faithful Christians (Philippians 3:17; Hebrews 13:7).

Further, we are expected to use our eyes to see false teachers for what they are. The warning from 2 John 10-11 is clear: “If any one cometh unto you, and bringeth not this teaching, receive him not into your house, and give him no greeting: for he that giveth him greeting partaketh in his evil works.” Brethren, there are false teachers among us (Acts 20:29-31; 2 Peter 2:1-2; Philippians 3:18-19). Do you defend false teachers? Do you give them words of encouragement? Do you support them financially? If so, you are in sin and are not meeting God’s expectation of you.

God has given us a HEAD with which to think.

The Christian is expected to think upon good things. Philippians 4:8 stands as proof that the Bible teaches mind control, not mind control that is placed upon us by others, but rather control of our own thoughts and will. Clearly, since the word of God is “quick to discern the thoughts and intents of the heart” (Hebrews 4:12), we are expected to maintain control over these thoughts and intents.

God has given us a HEART with which to feel.

The Christian is expected to feel compassion for the wayward brother (Galatians 6:1; James 5:19-20) and share in God’s desire for the alien sinner’s repentance (1 Timothy 2:4; 2 Peter 3:9). Do we love the lost? Do we hurt because we understand the eternal consequences for those who will not repent, or worse yet, for those who have never heard the gospel (2 Thessalonians 1:7-9)? Christians must feel the weight of responsibility and the urgency for action placed upon us.

God has given us FEET with which to go.

Christians are expected to use our feet to go and teach. The words of the “great commission” as recorded in Matthew 28:18-20 demonstrate that each Christian has a personal responsibility to go and teach. Do as much as you can, whenever and wherever you can to tell others about Christ. Tell your friends, your family, your co-workers, and, if the opportunity is yours, those in foreign lands about the eternal nature of man, the eternal blessing of Heaven, the eternal punishment of Hell and the Gospel plan of salvation.

God has given us a MOUTH with which to speak.

Christians are expected to use our mouths to speak the confession of our belief in Christ as the only begotten Son of God (Romans 10:10; Mathews 10:32), and in proclamation of the Word (2 Timothy 4:1-2; 1 Peter 3:15). We are also expected to speak in defense of or to “contend earnestly for the faith” (Jude 3) and to do so unashamedly (Romans 1:16). Never let anyone walk over the truth, be he an intentional false teacher or a brother in error. Remember what James wrote: “But the wisdom that is from above is *first pure*, then peaceable...” (James 3:17).

God has given us HANDS with which to do.

Again looking to the example we find in the great book of Nehemiah (4:17), God expects the Christian to use one of his hands to work by providing for the work of the church (1 Corinthians 16:1-2), by providing for our families (1 Timothy 5:8), and by providing for the needy (Ephesians 4:28). The other hand is to be filled with the greatest weapon of all, “the sword of the Spirit” (Ephesians 6:17), and with it God expects us to “Fight the good fight of the faith...” (1 Timothy 6:12).

Conclusion

A newsletter from brother Goebel Music quoted Leroy Brownlow as saying: “The medical marvel of the ages is how that so many men have lived so long without a backbone.” Truly, Christians are expected to use the blessings each has been given, our ears, our eyes, our head, our heart, our feet, our mouth, and our hands with courage and steadfastness. 1 Corinthians 15:58 says: “Wherefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, formasmuch as ye know that your labor is not vain in the Lord.”

Be the Pilot of My Soul

Harry Presley

Savior come, and walk beside me
Lead me safely through the gloom
Lest I lose the way O guide me
Where celestial splendors bloom.

Make thy dwelling ever near me
As I daily travel on
Let thy presence ever cheer me
Make on earth my heart thy throne.

Lord I need the light of Heaven
Winds of darkness o’er me blow
Let thy love be freely given
Paradise my spirit show.

Show my heart life’s path eternal
Point my feet to Heaven’s goal
From this land to realms supernal
Be the pilot of my soul.

Observations and Concerns

December 13, 2023

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

Praise in Psalm: “For thou, Lord, *art* good, and ready to forgive; and plenteous in mercy unto all them that call upon thee” (Psalm 86:5).

Declaration of Appreciation: We are thankful for all those who clean the building and prepare the communion trays each week. Your service is greatly appreciated.

We extend our sympathy to the Hunter family upon the passing of **Ralph Hunter**. There is no service being planned at this time.

Our sympathy is extended to the family of **Dewaine Orr** who perished in a fire. Dewaine is Kathy Orr’s cousin.

Remember in Prayer:

- ▶ **Sammy Gray** will be having medical tests in the upcoming weeks.
- ▶ **Darla Smith** has medical appointments to determine how to move forward after a mass she had biopsied was malignant.
- ▶ **Pat Taylor** is struggling with neck problems.
- ▶ **Gene Bishop**, friend of Doyle and Dicie, fell and had staples put in his head.
- ▶ **Ed Dindy**, father of Tia Swearingen, is scheduled to begin cancer treatments tomorrow.
- ▶ **Randall Hunter** is suffering with shingles.
- ▶ **Trayton Linton**, great-grandson of Darla Smith, is recovering at home after an auto accident.
- ▶ **Kaylee Northrop**, granddaughter of Chuck and Jody, is recovering from surgery on her foot.
- ▶ **Shawna Northrop**, daughter-in-law of Chuck and Jody, is recovering from knee surgery.
- ▶ **Bill Roach** was recently diagnosed with cancer. Bill is an elder at the Owasso congregation.

Schedule of Services	Assignments			
		Wednesday, Dec. 13	Sunday, Dec. 17 AM	Sunday, Dec. 17 PM
	Announcements	Chuck Northrop	Ross Swearingen	Doyle Jackson
	Prayer	Chuck Northrop	Ross Swearingen	Doyle Jackson
	Song Leader	Ross Swearingen	Doyle Jackson	Bill Dilks
	Lord’s Supper (speaker)		Chuck Northrop	Chris Nelson
	Lord’s Supper		Chris Nelson	
	Lesson	Doyle Jackson	Chris Nelson	Chuck Northrop
	Prayer	Chris Nelson	Bill Dilks	Ross Swearingen
	Door Attendant	Chris Nelson	Chuck Northrop	Ross Swearingen
Sundays				
Bible Classes. . . 9:30 AM				
Worship 10:30 AM				
Worship 5:00 PM				
Wednesdays				
Bible Classes. . 7:00 PM				
Website: oologahcofc.org				