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#### Service Times

##### Sunday

Bible Class: 9:30 A.M.  
Worship: 10:30 A.M. & 5 P.M.  
Sonshiners: 4:45pm

##### Wednesday

Bible Study: 7 P.M.

##### Preacher:

Russ Earl

##### AM Sermon:

Why I Believe...

Part 2 – In the Scriptures  
**(2 Tim 3:16-17)**

##### PM Sermon

Lessons from Psalms

##### Sunday AM Bible Class:

Paul Praschnik

##### Wednesday Bible Class:

Russ Earl

##### In SEARCH of the Lord's Way

On Channel 6-2 Sundays @ 7:30 am

##### The Gospel of Christ TV Program

on Saturday @ 7:30am on Channel 53

**BibleWayMediaMedia.org**

The Oologah church of Christ only uses the **KJV, NKJV or ASV** translation of the Bible in classes & sermons.

## The Oologah Informer

### January 12<sup>th</sup>

#### Thoughts from the Preacher

#### **“Love Your Neighbor”**

The Christian who loves his fellow man  
not only will please God,  
but will also have a better opportunity  
to reach them with the Gospel.  
Love your neighbor and  
you might be able to reach your neighbor.

#### **We must learn to live with Criticism**

By Clarence Lavende

Criticism is something with which we all must learn to live. Irrational critics who are determined to leave “no turn unstoned” (yes, you read that right) can always find fault and criticize. Jesus Himself was a victim of critics. He was criticized because of His family background (Matthew 13:54-57). He was criticized regarding His home community (Luke 1:46). He was criticized for His association with sinners (Matthew 9:11). He was criticized for doing good on the Sabbath day (Mark 2:23-28). Jesus warned His disciples that criticism would be inescapable (Luke 17:1; John 16:1-3; Matthew 5:10-12).

Generally, a “loud attempt to excuse helps those who accuse.” If truth has been slandered, constructive rebuttal to “clear the air” may be necessary and wise. Note a few biblical examples of this, and please look up the pas- sage and read all the context.

1. “For this cause have I sent unto you Timotheus” (1 Corinthians 4:17-21).
2. “Am I not an apostle?” (1 Corinthians 9:1-6, 11-14).
3. “Do we begin again to commend ourselves?” (2 Corinthians 3:12).
4. “Avoiding this, that no man should blame us” (2 Corinthians 8:20-23).
5. “That I may not seem as if I would terrify you by letter” (2 Corinthians 10:9-12).
6. “For I suppose I was not a whit behind the very chiefest apostles” (2 Corinthians 11:5-10).

Brethren, we can always emerge from unjust criticism victoriously. Here is how.

1. Know its source. It is earthly, sensual, devilish (James 3:14-18). It is of- ten misguided individuals who do not know the difference between good and evil (1 Peter 3:16), or it may be from wicked men

who are not capable of sound reasoning (2 Thessalonians 3:1-3). There are some critics who are so infantile, it is a waste of time to respond to them.

2. Know its cause. Most of the time it is rooted in jealousy and envy because of your success. Brethren, the higher we set our standards, the more we will become a target for the envious and all who find comfort in thinking that they are no worse than others.
3. Know your own heart and motive. Keep our motives honorable.
4. Know God's will for your life. God is depending on you and me to represent Him to a sneering world (Philippians 2:12-16). He will overrule for our good (Romans 8:28).

Criticism will come and go as we live for the Lord. Jesus endured criticism and shame, and He died for us. What are we willing to do for Him? Is there ever a time when criticism requires a firm rebuttal? Yes indeed.