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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:

For This Reason (Eph 3:14-21)

PM Sermon

Joel – lesson 2

Sunday AM Bible Class:

Living on the Lord's side, Lesson 2
– R. Earl

Wednesday Bible Class:

Evangelism in 2021, Lesson 2 - R. Earl

The Gospel of Christ TV Program

on Saturday @ 7:30am on Channel 53

BibleWayMediaMedia.org

Daily podcasts available on our website
& mobile app

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

The Oologah Informer

March 14th, 2021

What's Your ID?

By Jack Williams

Several years ago I was at the car dealership to get some work done on my wife's car. When asked about my contact number the service manager asked, "Is it still 478-....?" I told him that was an "old" number I no longer used and then gave him my new phone number. I told him to be sure and note on the record that I had a new contact number and the old number was no longer mine. He said he would, but then said, "I know it's crazy, but that is your ID at this dealership from now on, even if you have changed your number."

I began to think about that as I left. I pondered, "How many times do we forget how our actions may give us a permanent 'ID' in the eyes of others?" We may change our "number" or manner of life, but many can't seem to forget the old "number" they once saw identified with me. *The actions and decisions I made earlier in my life are, at least to some, my "ID" from then on!*

Do you remember Paul? While yet known as Saul he was by his own admission the chiefest of sinners (1 Timothy 1:15). But on the road to Damascus Paul changed. Recognizing what he had done, he trembled as he cried out to Jesus, "What wilt thou have me to do?" (Acts 9:1-6). But because of his "old number" even when the Lord told Ananias to go to him, Ananias was afraid because, as he told the Lord, "I have heard by many of this man, how much evil he hath done to thy saints at Jerusalem" (Acts 9:10-14). It took further persuasion by the Lord for Ananias to overcome his fear of Saul and go to him, telling him how he could be saved. Though Paul didn't know it at the time – even though he was a changed man – his past "ID" was haunting him. And sadly that didn't change – he would soon confront that sad truth in a heartbreaking way. Paul arose from being baptized into Christ and became a valiant servant of God. But we read that "when Saul was come to Jerusalem, he assayed to join himself to the disciples: but they were all afraid of him, and believed not that he was a disciple" (Acts 9:26). Thankfully Barnabas was able to persuade others (including the other apostles) of the genuineness of his conversion (verse 27). Once again Paul's past "ID" was hindering his desire to do that which was right, even his desire to be with others who loved God. One can only speculate how many other times Paul was burdened with the sad fruit of his past ID. Some even speculate that Paul's past "ID" was the thorn in the flesh he prayed to God to be removed (2 Corinthians 12:7-10). How many times do you think Paul might have wished that he could make his past disappear? But we all know it just can't work that way.

But now, what of us? Each day we choose how others will know us. Our daily choices and actions are the "number" that many will use as the

permanent ID in their mind as they look at us. Let's choose wisely. As God has said, "A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches..." (Proverbs 22:1).