TODAY'S ORDER OF WORSHIP

Welcome by: Don Taylor /Opening Prayer by: Ken Coleman

Morning Assembly Song Leader: Michael Simmons

#490 It Is Well with My Soul
#382 Why Did My Savior Come to Earth?

Scripture Reading by: Rock Cary

#387 Tell Me the Story of Jesus
Lord's Supper and Contribution

#719 Love One Another
Sermon: "Nothing But The Truth"
1 Kings 22:13-14

Let Him Have His Way With Thee
#966 Amen

Closing Prayer by: James Scott

Welcome by: Don Taylor

Evening Assembly Song Leader: Michael Simmons

#738 Take the Name of Jesus with You
#180 Jesus Is Lord

Scripture Reading: Tristan Strickhausen
Opening Prayer: Daniel Balch
#560 Living by Faith
#940 Only a Step

Sermon: Guest Speaker: Daniel Balch

#794 Unto Thee O Lord
#622 Ring Out the Message

Closing Prayer by: Wayne Noonkester

Other Opportunities For Spiritual Growth

Sunday: 9:00am — Bible Study Classes, 10:00am — Worship, 6:00pm — Worship
Wednesday: 10:00am — Ladies Bible Class, 7:00pm — Bible Study Classes

July 14, 2019

"Stand Firm in…Liberty"

Galatians 5:1

Spiritual Things NOT More Important Than Physical

I referenced this article by Wes McAdams, preacher for the McDermott Road Church of Christ in Plano, on Wednesday night and thought I would go ahead and share it with you, slightly edited for this format. If you have never read his blog "Radically Christian," I highly recommend it. BP

A paradigm shift happens when you change or correct an assumption on which other conclusions are based. Most Christians, for instance, assume spiritual things are more important than physical things. Do you? If so, there are probably many other conclusions about the Bible, salvation, Christian living, and more based on that assumption. But what if that assumption is false? Maybe it's time for a paradigm shift.

When we use the word "spiritual" we typically mean one of the following: 1) something nonmaterial, without physical attributes; 2) something religious or sacred; 3) something that affects or influences our spirit, that moves us. But the way we use the word "spiritual" is not typically the way NT uses the word. In the NT, the Greek word translated "spiritual" is, *pneumatikos.* **Nearly every time this word is used, it means animated, influenced, or empowered by God's Spirit.**

A spirit is the invisible personal presence of a person, which animates their actions and behaviors. There are, of course, evil spirits operating in the unseen (heavenly) realms that empower wickedness and evil in the world; these forces are described as "spiritual" in Ephesians 6:12. But most of the time Paul or Peter use the adjective "spiritual," they do not mean it in a generic way. **They are typically describing a person or thing empowered by the Holy Spirit.**

Paul almost always uses the word *pneumatikos* (spiritual) in contrast with *sarkikos* (fleshly or carnal). *Sarkikos* does not mean something has physical attributes. When Paul used the adjective *sarkikos* he meant things or people that are weak, wasting away, or even sinful. So, in Paul's mind, things are either empowered by God's Spirit or they are empowered by the weakness of human effort and power.

Similarly, in 1 Corinthians 15, Paul contrasts *pneumatikos* (spiritual) with *psuchikos* (natural). Paul says our current bodies are "natural" and our resurrection bodies will be "spiritual." Again, Paul does NOT mean one is material and the other is not. He means our current body is natural in the sense that it is mortal and subject to decay. By contrast, our resurrection body will be spiritual because it will be **transformed by the power of God's Spirit** to be immortal and imperishable.

The way we tend to contrast spiritual and physical sounds less like Scripture and more like pagan Greek philosophers or even Gnostics. Gnostics believed there was a stark difference between **spiritual** and **material** things in the world. According to historian Bruce L. Shelley in *Church History in Plain Language* "There were spiritual things that were regarded as inherently pure, while they regarded material

Family News & Notes

WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH YOUR CHURCH FAMILY

Our Sick

J. P. Williams is in Liberty Health Care room 605B for rehab.

Bill Lunceford is in St. Elizabeth Hospital with pneumonia.

Continued Prayers
(Need cards, phone calls & visits)

Gwen Pettit, Gary Nielsen, Harold & Geri Cryer, Steve Ward, Jackie David, Frank & Tina Garcia, Eric Davis, Dayla Hale, Minny Owen, Doris Trahan, Joe Edd Stifflemire, Phillip Cottle

Shut Ins
(Need cards, phone calls & visits)

Jim Smith, Winona Angelle, Myrtle Sheffield, Dr. Ronald Davis, Larry Hicks, Mark Wilcox

Our Missionaries

Aaron & Marisa Bailey in Mwanza, Africa, Rod Kyle in the South Pacific

Plastic Bags

The Food Bank is in need of plastic grocery bags. A barrel is in the foyer.

Upcoming Activities

Elders, Minister meeting Monday at 7:00 pm.

Singing today at Magnolia Place Health Care at 4:00pm.

Primetimers will be going to the Mast's home on Tuesday, July 16th at 5:00 pm. We will take the bus to their house. Bring finger foods. A sign up sheet is on the bulletin board.

Men's Prayer Breakfast is Saturday, July 20th at 8:00am in the family life center.

Early Bird Singing is Sunday, July 21st at 5:00pm.

Congratulations

Congratulation to Nathan & Lauren Tristan on the birth of their son, Adam Eli Tristan. He was born, Monday, July 8th weighing 8lbs 0oz and 20 inches long. Proud grandparents are Robert & Lynette Ward.

Sunny Glen Children's Home

We are collecting 200 boxes of macaroni and cheese for Sunny Glen Children's Home. A barrel has been placed in the foyer.

"Stand Firm in…Liberty"

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Website: libertycofc.org Facebook page: Liberty Church of Christ

Privilege to Serve
Sunday, July 14th

Communion Preparation: Lynette Ward
Nursery Attendants: Jane Tinkle, Rita Upton

Communion Preparation for Sunday, July 21st: Glenda Wiggins
Nursery Attendants for Sunday, July 21st: Debra Faneros, Melony Hicks

continued from front page

world and body…"

Early Christians fought tenaciously against Gnostic ideas because they were in direct contradiction to the worldview of Scripture and the Gospel itself. **After all, how can spiritual things be good and material things be evil when the fullness of God dwelt in Jesus' material body?** The Gnostics theorized that perhaps Jesus just *seemed* to have a material body, but he didn't actually come "in the flesh." The apostle John strongly refuted early versions of Gnostic heresies. In 1 John 4:2-3, he wrote, "*By this you know the Spirit of God:* ***every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God****, and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already*."

I'm afraid many modern Christians have accepted at least some of the dualism of Gnosticism.

Paul believed something could be described as "spiritual" while still having physical attributes. For instance, Paul uses the adjective "spiritual" to describe certain kinds of people (see 1 Corinthians 2:15 or Galatians 6:1). All people are, of course, physical, but some people are also spiritual because they are empowered by God's Spirit. **A mature Christian, who walks in the Spirit, is both physical and spiritual…**

Further, the biblical story is one that is tied to the redemption of God's creation. **Scripture begins with God creating a material world, which he says is "good" (Genesis 1)**. It is more in line with Gnosticism than Christianity to think the material creation is bad or unimportant. There are "carnal" things in the world that will pass away, but just because something has physical attributes does not make it carnal.

We will better understand the biblical worldview when we embrace the three truths:

1. God still believes the material world he created is "good."
2. *Spiritual* should not be contrasted with *physical*, but with *carnal* (weak or sinful) or *natural* (subject to death).
3. Something or someone is "spiritual" when influenced, empowered, or animated by a spirit (especially God's Spirit) operating in the unseen (heavenly) realms.

I hope we will embrace God's good creation. I hope we will love and do good to others, recognizing that a shoulder to cry on, a helping hand, and a table of food are all things that are both physical and spiritual when shared in the name of Jesus.