

Truly, truly, I say to you, if anyone keeps my word, he will never see death.

John 8:51

Store In My Heart

Matthew 11:29

Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

Do we pay attention to what Jesus expects of those who would come to Him for rest?

He calls for us to "yoke" with Him. A yoke ties two beings together so that they must labor in unison. Oxen were yoked together to pull the plows in breaking ground for planting. Jesus calls us to work in unison with Him.

Second, He tells us to learn from Him. In this yoke, we are not the one with experience. We must accept our role as student. In training a new ox to pull, I understand sometimes a well behaved, experienced animal would be yoked with them so that the young animal could learn.

The promised rest depends upon our uniting with Christ and following His example.



Trivial Pursuits

Zeke Flores

Some time ago the board game "Trivial Pursuit" was introduced on the market. The game, which now has a 25th anniversary edition, became a huge success and is still enjoyed by people young and old. One can play the board game, an online version, a version for various electronic game systems including the X-Box, Play Station, and Wii, and even one for the iPod. It's been two TV game shows and even the subject of a TV movie. The game has turned into a reliable money-maker for its manufacturer Hasbro and when you go to their website, you can browse through three pages containing some 22 Trivial Pursuit related games and items. Basically, each player advances by correctly answering general knowledge and popular culture questions in different categories that are either easy, medium, or hard. I've played the game and it's a hoot.

However, my concern is not about a harmless game but whether people, Christians specifically, spend too much time in other forms of "trivial pursuit."

If you've been a Christian for any length of time, chances are you've heard a sermon or two about being faithful, having conviction, and forging ahead towards heaven. And, you'll probably hear many more like them as your life progresses. The reason is simple: We are too easily distracted.

The Bible mentions some things of weighty concern that we ought to pay attention to, but warns us that those important things can take our focus away from what should be our main purpose. Among them are family (**1Corinthians 7:32-35**), household duties (**Luke 10:38-42**), and business (**Matthew 13:22**). While these are important priorities, could it be that Christians lose their direction for far lesser things?

In our recreation driven culture, more and more people expect "me" time. We want to make sure we have fun and so we buy video

games, DVDs, computers, ATV's, plan vacations, go to the movies, etc. None of these is inherently wrong, but at what cost do we indulge our "need" for recreation? Do we sacrifice time with God through Bible study and prayer for that ever important "me" time? Jesus warned about those who are *"choked with worries and riches, and the pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to maturity"* (**Luke 8:14**).

The same could be said about worldly Christians who pursue a relationship with the opposite sex only to fall prey to the temptation of physical attraction. One of the saddest things to witness would be a young single girl coming forward at church with a slightly bulging belly and the sad confession that follows. Paul reminds, *"... this is the will of God, your sanctification, that is that you abstain from sexual immorality"* (**1Thessalonians 4:3**). Yet too many people, young and not so young, fall into the pit of satisfying this fleeting pleasure that sanctification is all but lost.

Other "trivial pursuits" could be mentioned: selfishness, covetousness, ego, social position, and disrespect (**Proverbs 28:22-27**) to name a few. But the warnings about keeping our focus sharp and our perspective clear ring loudly in Scripture: *"Seek first His kingdom and His righteousness"* (**Matthew 6:33**), *"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth ... but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven ... for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also"* (**Matthew 6:19-21**), *"One thing I have asked from the LORD, that I shall seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD and to meditate in His temple"* (**Psalms 27:4**), *"... one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus"* **Philippians 3:13-14**.

Playing Trivial Pursuit is fun, but allowing the trivial pursuits of this life to overshadow our purpose as God's people is quite another thing. Let's be a purposeful people and reach forward to heaven showing God we love Him with *"all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength."* (**Mark 12:30**)

Contact Us

We want opportunities to speak with others about the Lord.

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The CHURCH OF CHRIST
MEETS HERE

 10:20 AM • Sunday Worship Service
5:00 PM • Sunday Night Bible Study
7:00 PM • Wednesday Bible Study

For Our Information

Paula Laubach has Single Level ACDF surgery scheduled for March. She is dealing with a good bit of pain.

Sue Soliday is getting an appointment with Bone and Joint Doctor for problems with her knee following a fall a week ago.

Vickie McNees is waiting on a Doctor call about her migraine.

Shannon Soliday is working this weekend.

Barbara Atwood will have surgery in March for her cancer.

We all know many who would appreciate prayers for healing and peace. Let us pray fervently and often that God may help.

Sunday Evening - **Ezra 2:64** Wednesday - **Jude 8**

Our meeting with Reuben Prevost is scheduled for April 21-25.

We seek only to serve God according to His Will!