



## BLODGETT CHURCH OF CHRIST

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### *Time of Services:*

*Sunday: 10:00 A.M. class, 11:00 A.M. worship, and 6:00 P.M. worship*

*Wednesday: 7:00 P.M. class*

### *Preacher:*

Larry Black (cell) 903-588-4253 email: [lblk@peoplescom.net](mailto:lblk@peoplescom.net)

Benevolence - Jimmy Jones: 903-767-3636

Evangelism - Heath Hines: 903-717-1423

Edification - H. L. Robertson: 903-856-5461

Building Maintenance - Dwayne Porter: 903-285-5548

Grounds & Van - John D. Porter: 903-563-5945

Finance - Larry Reynolds: 903-767-0742

Wednesday Devotional Speaker: Randy Ballard



**BLODGETT CHURCH OF CHRIST**

PUTTING YOU ON THE RIGHT PATH

# BLODGETT CHURCH of CHRIST Bulletin

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## **STANDING OUT FROM THE WORLD**

***11 For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, 12 teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age. Titus 2:11-12***

Are you worldly? We are warned in God's word not to embrace the "world". The world is not merely the material world we live in. It is, rather, the moral and spiritual practices that stand in opposition to God. All those who love and are influenced by the world are alienated from God. What are some of the warnings Christians are given concerning the world?

"DON'T BE CONFORMED TO IT." (Romans 12:2) The people of the world are constantly pressuring us to be like them. They do not want to do right, and they do not want anyone putting them to shame by doing right. They harass, ridicule, denounce, curse, and sometimes inflict bodily injury in their attempt to make the righteous conform to their standards. Paul says we must resist all such pressures in Romans 12:2, "***Do not conform to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.***" We are called to be different, holy, and counter-cultural Christians. Why should children of God let wicked people determine how we talk, how we dress, what we will do for recreation, or how we will spend our money? We have a Savior who died and is raised to become our Lord, our Ruler. If you are a Christian, Christ sets your standards. If the world dictates your behavior, you are not a Christian, regardless of how many times you go to worship, how often you read the word, how much you pray, or if you are baptized.

"DON'T BE A LOVER OF IT." (1John 2: 15-17) John makes the issue truly clear, "***(15) Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves***

***the world, love for the Father is not in them. (16) For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world. (17) The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever.***” We must make a choice between loving the world with its temptations, trinkets, and treasures and loving God. Love for the world excludes love for God, because all that the world stands for is opposed to God and will sooner or later perish.

“DON'T BE POLLUTED BY IT.” (James 1:27) Worldly behavior in a Christian will soil and stain the fabric of his life. James states “***Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.***” Worldliness prevents the practice of pure undefiled service to God. Those who engage in the sins of the world advertise a low and ignorant view of the high standards taught in the New Testament. They want to behave in the ways of the world while maintaining respectability in the Church. It cannot be that way. We cannot run with goats and not smell like them! True disciples detest worldliness.

The worldly church member not only invites the application of “hypocrite” upon himself, but upon the whole church. Let us not be worldly but transformed by the renewing of our mind (Romans 12:2). May we truly stand out from the world! God Bless! *(adapted from Russell McLaughlin)*

### **I have learned ...**

- That when you plan to get even with someone, you are only letting that person continue to hurt you.
- That love, not time, heals all wounds.
- That the easiest way for me to grow as a person is to surround myself with people smarter than I am.
- That under everyone's hard shell is someone who wants to be appreciated and loved.

### **Family News**

- **Vicki Dodson** is feeling better from her recent illness.
- **Jimmy Jones** spent a few days in the hospital and will be having heart surgery in the near future.
- **Syble Buck** is in TRMC with pneumonia.
- The niece of **Kenlea Bolton's** is having some serious health problem.
- Sunday, Jan 22 we are to conduct the devotional at the Mt. Vernon House
- HRR pantry item for January is canned green beans.

There are times we may say or write something that doesn't convey the message we are trying to send. Yet, God's word always communicates His true message. God's word is “truth” (John 17:17).

### **How Could a God of Love Let His Son Die?**

Sometimes children ask this question because they do not understand how a father could do something like that. There are those who want to understand Christianity but have a difficult time reconciling love and death. And, of course, those who do not believe in God see this as a contradiction that would disprove the concept of a loving God. This is a legitimate question to answer: how could a loving God let his only son die a horrible death on a cross?

God loves His son Jesus. That is why it must have been so painful for Him to let His son leave heaven and live on this earth. It had to be painful to watch His son suffer and die. This was a conscious decision on the part of God to send His son to earth, but God did not force Jesus to do this. Jesus made a conscious decision to obey God. But why did Jesus have to die?

The answer is because God also loves each of us and wants us to spend forever in His presence. There is only one problem with that desire: not one of us is good enough to live in the presence of the holy God. Our sin, our poor choices, and our selfishness prevent us from having a forever relationship with God. So God sent His perfect, sinless son to earth to live among us and to die on a cross for us. He paid the price for our failures because it was the only way for us to be with Him forever. So the Son He loved paid for the sins of the people He loved.

And then God raised His son from the dead. Yes, it hurt to see Him suffer, but He sent him to earth as an act of love and He raised him from the dead as an act of love. And all of us who believe in Jesus and obey what He tells us to do will be raised from the dead someday to live with God forever. *By Steve Ridgell*