

For the Record...

Bible Study:	Weekly Giving: \$ 14,842
Sunday Worship:	Weekly Budget: \$ 13,820
Sunday Evening:	YTD Giving: \$ 96,049
Wednesday:	YTD Budget: \$ 96,738

Our Ministers

Zac George
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Our Staff

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WELCOME TO WEST SIDE!

For our visitors:
If you have any questions, if you want to get involved with our church, or if you just want to meet some of our leaders, please stop by the Starting Point kiosk in the lobby. We'd love to meet you and answer your questions. Thank you for worshipping with us today!

West Side Church of Christ
2300 West "C" Street
Russellville, AR 72801

Office Information:
Phone: 479-968-1121
Email: office@westsidear.org
Jenifer's hours Mon-Thurs 8:30-3, Fri 8:30-12

Sermon Notes



WEST SIDE CHURCH OF CHRIST

Pure Religion

by Tim Tripp

Feb.
28th

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We tend to view the word 'religion' with suspicion in our culture. To us it may mean a system of religion tied to a specific set of beliefs. The word carries with it connotations of high church ritual and practice. It is heavily structured, defined by tradition and filled with jargon that is nearly imperceptible to outsiders. Today the word often has negative connotations.

In the Bible however, it had different connotations. Especially in the New Testament, the word refers to religious service or religious acts. It means, "the things you do because you are religious." For the Jews it would have included things like tithing and offering sacrifices. It would also apply to things like helping those less fortunate and providing shelter to the homeless. Those things could also be described as "acts of righteousness."

How does that help us understand passages like James 1:27 where it says, "*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?*" I think to fully understand that verse one needs to read the verse before it. Verse 26 says, "*If anyone considers himself religious and yet does not keep a tight reign on his tongue, he deceives himself and his religion is worthless.*" ? Here James contrasts worthless religion with pure religion.

Before jumping into interpretation, let's set a little context around it. In verses 19 and 20, he talks about how anger can lead Christians away from a godly lifestyle. In verse 19 he says, *be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry.* In verse 20 he says that *man's anger does not bring about the righteous life God desires.* It seems James knows of some in his audience who were easily angered and made poor choices when angry; particularly in what they said.

After this he speaks of consistently putting into practice what they have been taught. To hear it and not practice it is hypocrisy but hearing the teachings of Jesus and putting them into practice is the goal.

Then comes verse 26, saying that if you claim to be religious and yet don't allow your faith to change how you treat people in what you say then your claims are false. You are a hypocrite. Pure religion not only treats people right in speech but also helps those in need. It goes beyond the speaking and gets to the doing.

It is not likely that someone is going to help another with whom they have spoken harshly. However, when they speak words of kindness, it is far more likely that help is going to follow kind words.

As Jesus followers we are challenged by the words of James to be in control of what we say. Whether online or in digital communication or face to face we must be vigilant to keep a watch on what we say, making sure we speak words that reflect Jesus. Even when angry we must either keep our mouths shut or have the self-control to speak words of love and honor. To do otherwise is hypocrisy. It is good to do nice things for others and help others when they need help. But helping the needy does not make up for a caustic and sharp tongue. If you want your religion to be pure, James seems to suggest that it takes both good deeds and kind words. One or the other just will not be enough.

Dios Le Bendiga! (God Bless You!)

by Aris Ortiz

Hello my West Side Family!

Our walk in this life has brought us right here where we are. For so many, those days have ceased, but for us, continue. And we are still here because there is a purpose, a plan. Most of the time, we forget about that purpose and we live our life involved or wrapped in the "business" of the daily way. Working, working and more working we pass our days and we don't notice that our life is passing in front of us. We are so busy thinking we still have all of our life in front, when we don't even know if today will be our last day. Jesus, teaching about that, mentioned a man who was planning to accumulate more than he can have for the "rest" of his life, "But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?'" Lk. 12:20 I know that we have a responsibility for our own family, but when we study and understand the Word of God, He makes it clear that it is not according to how we see and live our life that is the proper way, but it's according to His plan, his purpose. But this understudying will come only when we submit ourselves to the Lord completely and not only on those occasions when we are in need or trouble, but when we realize that we don't depend on ourselves but from the Lord. So, if God is letting us still walk in this life, it is because he has a plan for us. Let's be obedient to his voice and do his Will.

Children's Ministry Grades K - 5 Meets Sunday at 9 AM and Wednesday at 6:30 PM.

Our Raising Arrows Children's program is currently suspended until further notice in an effort to keep everyone safe and healthy.



Virtual Youth Group

Wednesdays

YOUTH GROUP - ONLINE

Download Zoom app for your device

Link to the meeting will be sent out on Social Media and Remind text.

Hangout and talk

What's going on

Devotional

Prayer requests

Games and Giveaways



College students! Find a place to belong! Join us for any and all of our regular events this semester!

House Church - 10A Sundays at the Student Center
Free Meal - 11A-1P Wednesdays at the Student Center
Midweek Multiplied - Jan 27, various times
Midweek - Feb 3, 7P at the Student Center

For more info visit renewatu.org

Adult Bible Classes

Sunday Morning:

Room 2:

Room 3

FC Classroom:

Rock:

Wednesday Night:

Room 3:

FC Classroom:

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW: Annual Pie Auction and Chili Lunch

benefiting

Camp Caudle 2021 Summer Camp

Scholarships

Mark your Calendars!!

Although we are a little later than usual we will have our Pie Auction and Chili Lunch on Sunday March 21st. It's going to look a bit different than in the past due to social distancing and covid restrictions but it is sure to be a great time!

More details coming soon!!

What we need from you!!

We need pies, cakes and cookies & Chili!!

If you can supply a dessert please contact Cindy Jones at 479-264-5390 (call or text) or on Facebook Messenger.

(Due to covid, we really must know in advance who is supplying food)

If you want to supply a pot of Chili please contact Jamie Bates at 479-747-1433 (call or text) or on Facebook Messenger.

For monetary donations please contact Jenifer Hurt at 501-425-5208 (call or text) or through the church office at 479-968-1121.

Camp Caudle Christian Camp needs this extra boost so those who cannot afford to go to camp still have an opportunity to attend.

Please be thinking and praying about how you can support this event. We are counting on you!!

Gathering Times

Please see the website for updated service times

SUNDAY

9:00 AM Bible Class

9:00 AM Clase en Español

10:00 AM Worship

10:00 AM Adoración

WEDNESDAY

6:30 PM

6:30 PM Clase en Español

7:00 PM

Family Illness and Recovery

Larry Duvall is recovering from recent knee replacement surgery. Please remember him in prayer as he continues to recover and return to work.

Helen Stephens is home now and will have physical therapy at home. Please continue to pray for her strength to increase allowing her to fully recover soon.

Pam Tyree has been moved to a rehab facility and continues to make slow improvements. Please pray for her improvement to rapidly increase.

Sympathy:

We extend our sympathy to Tomas and Marisela Garcia and family, in the loss of Marisela's mother in El Salvador. Please lift them up in prayer that they may have comfort and peace during this time of great loss

Ongoing concerns:

Sharon Johnson - terminal cancer

Chris Johnson -cancer

Niles Raines- cancer

Maynette Stroud - cancer

Mary Powell - Parkinson's disease

Note of Thanks:

Thank you so much for the beautiful peace lily you sent after our loss. Friends and family are so comforting at difficult times. The food that was prepared with love and kindness was so delicious and meant so much to us!

Love to all, Bill and Susan Lewis

RIVER VALLEY CHRISTIAN COUNSELING

West Side Church of Christ has partnered with Paul Senn of River Valley Christian Counseling to provide high quality, affordable, Christian counseling. Hourly fees are based on the client's income and services will be provided regardless of the income/insurance situation of the client.

If you would like more information, please contact Paul Senn at 479-219-3019 or rvccounseling@gmail.com.

You may also visit www.westsidear.org/rvcc for more information.

Those in Nursing Homes / Retirement Centers

Wayne Nordin - Brookdale - Rm 101

Glennette Price - Stella Manor - Rm 305

Joe Pitney - The Arbors - Apt. 308

Missions

James & Abigail Rucker

WBS Students

Paul & Noemi Crites

Military

Ethan Grace

James Cole, Jr

Micah Hunter

Charles Pitney

Carson Curtis

Expectant Mothers

Lauren Pipkin

Shelby Burke

Jolynda Bullard

A Look Ahead...

Sunday evenings - 6:30 class on Zoom

Wednesdays at 6:30 pm - West Side Church of Christ Facebook page.

WSYM - Wednesdays 6:30 pm Zoom