

Editorial...

## Modern Day Pharisees...

*"Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her" (John 8:7)*



Daniel Seay

Jesus hung out with the wrong crowd – at least according to the religious leaders of His day. From tax collectors to prostitutes, beggars to the lame, Jesus gravitated towards those on the fringe of society. And those individuals were drawn to Jesus.

This concerned the religious leaders (Pharisees), who saw themselves as the Bible believing, conservative establishment upholding the traditional values of the Jewish people. Now, there is nothing wrong with advocating traditional values and Biblical principles, but the Pharisees took it too far. They tacked on a bunch of man-made rules and traditions aimed at keeping people in line. One example of these legalistic guidelines argued that even spending time with the “*wrong crowd*” could contaminate a person. Guilt by association took on a very real meaning which created an *US* versus *THEM* mentality. Unfortunately, this very *unbiblical* and divisive culture still exists in many religious circles today.

Jesus, however, never taught an *US* versus *THEM* faith. Jesus never taught a members-only religion (quite the opposite). Jesus describes His purpose in John chapter 12 as being a light in the darkness (verse 46) with a heart to save, not to judge (verse 47b). His heart is for everyone: both the pious, devout Jew as well as the broken, rejected “*outsider*”. And when it comes to Jesus’ heart for the “*wrong crowd?*”, Romans 5:8 sums it up: “*But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us*”.

Jesus loves us when we are struggling. He loves us before we have our lives together. He loves those of us on the fringes of society as well as those modern-day Pharisees tangled-up in legalistic theology and judgmental lifestyles. So how are you doing in loving those on the fringes of society or those who are arrogantly pious in their own self-righteousness? Are you guilty of your own modern-day Pharisee religious mentality? If so, ask God for a change of heart – ask God to make you more and more like Jesus.

## OUR PRAYER LIST

Pray specific prayers for: Rob Harris, Rob Wilson, Roger & Charlene Edgett, Ray Hearn, Kathy Collins, Gene Barnes, Billye Werner, LouAnn Gann, Kenny Gann, Janice Mishler, Jozie Thompson, and Richard Brant. *Pray fervently for each.*

*“The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.” [James 5:16b]*

## JUNE BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Birthday: Bobby Beard (13) / Anniversary: Guyot (1), Harris (20)

## Statistics

For The Week Of June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020

<i>Sunday Class</i>	9
<i>Sunday AM</i>	13
<i>Sunday PM</i>	7
<i>Wednesday PM</i>	dnm
<i>Contribution</i>	\$1083.00
<i>YTD Budget (23 x \$500)</i>	\$10,400.00
<i>Difference Year-To-Date</i>	+1130.00
<i>Savings Account Balance</i>	\$3530.81

*2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 9:12 – ‘Your generosity is doing great things*

## COMING EVENTS

June Fellowship Lunch – 1pm Today – at the McCallie’s (Steak Lunch)  
Our 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Planning Sunday is scheduled for August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020

## Agenda For Sunday, June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Theme: **RECHARGE: JOURNEY OF FAITH**

Monthly Theme: **AVOIDING FAITH’S POTHoles**

AM Class: Theme – Video Study: *Unshakable Hope*

Worship at 10:30 am: *Avoiding Becoming Pharisaical – Matthew 23*

1pm: **Lesson – Film Study at the McCallie’s-**

Wed. 7pm: Video Series *Does God Exist* - Wade McCallie, Moderating

**“A persons character is shown  
through their actions in life NOT  
where they sit on Sunday.”**