

LIFE LINES

The weekly bulletin of the Warm Springs Road Church of Christ

January 8, 2012

Loyalty to the Lord

Loyalty is an honorable trait. It is a characteristic we esteem, especially in soldiers, employees, spouses, and pets. Loyalty is often associated with faithfulness, and rightly so, because both characteristics involve actions that prove them. When our loyalties are divided, it is said we have a conflict of interests. Let us remember that our loyalty lies with Christ and no one else, and let us be involved in the actions that prove it.

A soldier must be loyal. He recognizes his superior officers and is obedient to their commands. A soldier's loyalty is based on his commander's ability to reward him. Spiritually, we are soldiers in God's army (2 Tim. 2:3). We are obedient to God's commands because we recognize His ability to reward those who are loyal to Him (2 Pet. 3:9). A mercenary is a soldier whose loyalty is purchasable. A mercenary will fight for the person who offers him money. Mercenaries are notorious deserters. Don't be a spiritual mercenary, selling out to the devil because he is offering you something shiny and attractive. Stay loyal to God because the reward He has promised us is greater than anything the devil has to offer (1 John 4:4).

It is important for employees to be loyal. An employee's loyalty is based on trust. When an employee can trust his employer, he will be motivated to work harder and longer. A worker can operate without fear knowing his boss will appreciate his hard work and give him the proper credit. Spiritually, God has called upon us to work. We are to be building up His Kingdom (Eph. 2:10; 1 Pet. 2:5; 1 Cor. 3:9-15). We can trust our employer to understand and appreciate what we go through as we labor for Him (Heb. 4:15). An employee who does not trust his boss will search out every opportunity to stab him in the back and take his place. A disloyal employee is motivated by pride. Stay loyal to God because He gives the proper credit for humble obedience (Jam. 4:10; Mat. 25:32-34).

A marriage relationship is based on loyalty. Husbands and wives must be loyal to each other through EVERY difficulty that faces them. If they truly love the Lord, then their desire will be to go to Heaven above their desire to stay married. Loyalty between a husband and wife is based on love. Not the kind of love that is "fallen into" or "fallen out of," but the kind of love that wants what is best for him or her. Loyalty to God is what is best for anyone. When the marriage relationship begins with and is founded upon the proper loyalty to God, then the marriage will remain stronger longer. When a man or woman is disloyal to his or her spouse, the result is usually divorce, the severing of that relationship. To have our relationship with God severed because of disloyalty to Him is the saddest thought I can contemplate. One who chooses to be disloyal to his or her spouse chooses to be disloyal to God and tramples underfoot the love He showed to us. Stay loyal to God by displaying the proper love for your spouse (Eph. 5:25).

A pet, especially a dog, should be known for its loyalty. Dogs are loyal because they receive from their masters the proper discipline. A disciplined dog is a loyal dog. Their complete desire is to please their masters. Spiritually, we can learn a lot from the loyalty of dogs. God disciplines those He loves (Heb. 12:6-7). Discipline is for the good of the one receiving it. Discipline is the display of agape love. Dogs at times deserve discipline. So do we. We must be willing to accept it and apply it as often as it is rendered. Response to discipline must be prompt and swift, just as a dog shows when he is rebuked. Stay loyal to God by recognizing when disciplinary action is needed in your life and quickly applying the course of action that is called for. Acceptance of spiritual discipline will increase your desire to please the Master.

Check each day when complete:

- _____ **Jan. 8** - Gen. 39-42; Mat. 13; Psa. 19-20
- _____ **Jan. 9** - Gen. 43-47; Mat. 14-15; Psa. 21-23
- _____ **Jan. 10** - Gen. 48-50; Mat. 16-17; Psa. 24-25
- _____ **Jan. 11** - Exo. 1-3; Mat. 18; Psa. 26-28
- _____ **Jan. 12** - Exo. 4-7; Mat. 19; Psa. 29-30
- _____ **Jan. 13** - Exo. 8-12; Mat. 20; Psa. 31-33
- _____ **Jan. 15** - Exo. 13-15; Mat. 21-22; Psa. 34-35

Church Announcements

1. Remember our sick and shut-ins and those that are traveling.
2. Sis. Mary Merger is at home and doing better.
3. Remember Pat Campbell, Margaret Hines, Russell Patrick, Geraldine Wilkins, June Poyner and others in your prayers.
4. We are resuming our pantry in 2012. See below for the pantry item for January.
5. There will be a Teacher Work/Organization Day on Saturday, January 14. If you are a teacher, helper, or desire to be either one, please come. It will begin at 10am.
6. Please use our website, www.wsrcoc.com on a regular basis. There will be some changes and improvements coming soon!

Pantry Item for January:
CANNED SOUP

Privileged to Serve

Sunday, January 8

Opening	G. McMurray
Singing	B. Stewart
Table & Giving	R. Nealy
Assisting	M. Foley
	M. Mendez
	J. Lemon
	M. Sizemore
Sermon AM	D. Dixon
Sermon PM	D. Dixon
Closing Prayer	L. Stewart
Alternate	E. Wilkins

Sunday, January 15

Opening	F. Youngblood
Singing	G. Kendrick
Table & Giving	B. Patrick
Assisting	G. McMurray
	J. Thompson
	C. Brown
	C. Hergett
Sermon AM	D. Dixon
Sermon PM	Singing
Closing Prayer	L. Poyner
Alternate	F. Youngblood

Wednesday, January 11

Invitation	D. Dixon
Invitation Song	A. Walker
Prayer	F. Youngblood