

**Avoid sin and guilt.** Sin promises pleasure but brings misery. When David was entangled in sin he described it this way: "There is no soundness in my flesh because of Your anger, nor any health in my bones because of my sin. My iniquities have gone over my head; like a heavy burden they are too heavy for me" (Psalms 38:4). If we fail to avoid sin, all is not lost; we can still find happiness by finding forgiveness. This is exactly what David did. In Psalm 51:7-8 he prayed, "Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Make me hear joy and gladness, that the bones You have broken may rejoice."

**Learn to be content.** Those who trust God learn to be content with their current physical circumstances. They do not desire more than or other than what they have. The Scriptures teach, "Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, 'I will never leave you nor forsake you'" (Hebrews 13:5).

**Keep focus on spiritual things.** Earthly things will always fade away and disappoint. Our earthly achievements and possessions cannot provide lasting happiness. Faith, hope and love are three things that bring abiding joy. So, "Do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are heavenly, but the things which are not seen are eternal" (2 Corinthians 4:18).

Steve Klein, *The Beacon*, 1-1-13

Elders: Jay McCrary and Jerry Paschall  
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Comments are welcome for improving this bulletin which is published on the first Sunday of each month. Feel free to send articles you have found helpful and instructive as well. Be sure to give credit to the source so it can be properly cited. See or call Ed Williams at 662.323.9502 or

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(EW)

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## EAST COLUMBUS BULLETIN

***Lu 18:28 Then Peter said, "See, we have left all and followed You." 29 So He said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or parents or brothers or wife or children, for the sake of the kingdom of God, 30 "who shall not receive many times more in this present time, and in the age to come eternal life."***

### **Loving Family More than God**

Jesus taught a painful lesson about discipleship. He said, "Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword. For I have come to set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; and a man's enemies will be those of his own household. He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me" (Matt.10:34-37). He was defining the sacrifice every true disciple must make, when necessary. We must love and obey God, in all things, even if such devotion contradicts what our earthly family wants or practices. Since most of us love our earthly family as our own soul, this request of Jesus will be one of the heaviest of burdens to bear in carrying the cross of Christ (v. 38).

It is not uncommon for Christians to compromise with sin because of family. Some who used to preach "one Lord, one faith, one baptism" now say one faith is good as another because of their family's choices. Christians who once spoke out against divorce for reasons other than adultery are now making exceptions for family. And when it comes to church discipline, those who once supported and recognized it as God's will, now campaign against it when it applies to a family member. This spirit of compromise is even convincing some to rethink God's

## Times of Services

### Sunday

9:00 a.m. Worship  
10:00 a.m. Bible Study  
11:00 a. m. Worship

### Wednesday

7:00 p.m. Bible Study

### Other Study and Worship Opportunities

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday 2:00 p.m. Trinity Care Home Worship Service
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday 6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study –Ranch House Restaurant
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Neighborhood Bible Study 6:00 p.m. (TBA)
- Young Bible Scholars monthly meeting (TBA)
- The Pines Bible Study Sunday 8:00 p.m.; Mon. 5:00 p.m.
- Cady Hill Bible Study Sunday 8:00 p.m.; Thurs. 6:00 p.m.
- Recorded sermons and Gospel Meetings can be obtained by signing up in the foyer or going to the church website at <http://eastcolumbuschurch.com/> or contacting Steve Coburn.

### News and Notes

- **Home Bound Members:** Mike Butler, Joyce Ratcliff
- **Limited Health:** Joyce Monasco, Willena Woods, Eula Mae Harliss, Wade and Doris McCrary
- **Sick:** Wade Steinback is recovering from recent back surgery. Lee Gallop underwent knee surgery on Nov. 15<sup>th</sup>. Elbert Logan recently had skin cancer removal surgery.
- **Others to remember:** David Cote, April Green, Steve Coburn, Marilynn Lavender, Marion Butler, Wade Steinback, David Allen Williams
- **Deaths:** Jack Burks died on December 17<sup>th</sup> following complications from a stroke. Jerry Paschall recently lost an uncle and aunt December 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> respectively.

**Bible Question? What O.T. prophet foretold the birthplace of Jesus?**

**Your Answer:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Last month's answer: Jesus cast 7 demons from Mary Magdalene Mk. 16:9, Lk. 8:2**

condemnation of homosexuality, now that a child or grandchild practices it. These Christians no longer see the road to heaven as straight and narrow, but as wide and encompassing as God (in their minds) is perceived to be indifferent toward sin.

When Jesus spoke of loving Him more than family, notice that He did not list second and third cousins or distant relatives as our greatest threat. Our love for them can still influence our decisions, but our greatest threat of compromise comes from those immediate to us: parents, children, siblings and in-laws (v. 35). We can let their morals and example of disobedience become ours if we are not careful. Know this: we are to love our family in complete devotion...but our love for God should always be greater (1 John 2:13-17). Whenever we compromise truth (for anyone), we compromise our relationship with God.

**Mike Thomas, Standing Firm, Vol. 47, No. 10, Dec. 2016**

### Keys to a Happy New Year

How many times have you been wished a "Happy New Year" over the past week? If you're like me, you've heard those words a few times at least. It is a nice sentiment. But wishing for it won't make it happen. Have we ever stopped to consider what it would take for us to actually have a happy new year? Do we realize that, apart from God Himself, the one person who has the most control over how happy the coming year will be for us is the person we see when we look in the mirror? What can you and I do to make a happy new year. The Scriptures give the following suggestions:

**Serve God and others.** Jesus taught that happiness is found in serving. After He had washed the disciples feet he said, "I have given you an example that ye should do as I have done to you. . . If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them" (John 13:15, 17). The wise man said, "He who has mercy on the poor, happy is he" (Proverbs 14:21).

**Control Your Thoughts.** We can change our lives by changing our attitudes. We are what we think (cf. Proverbs 23:7). If we think things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy; meditate on these things. The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you."