

Learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; bring justice to the fatherless, plead the widow's cause.

Isaiah 1:17

Store In My Heart

1Peter 1:13

Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

This is one of several statements by Peter that get to the heart of both his epistle and our needs as Christians. Peter tells his readers that they need to be ready to do what is necessary, they need to think clearly and with purpose about what they have been called to do for God. He also tells us that our focus must be on Jesus and what He did for us on the cross.

These are the things that will keep us in a right relationship with God and bring us into the eternal home of the faithful. Just three decades after the cross, Peter urges his brethren to keep the hope Jesus provided in His sacrifice in focus always. Looking to Jesus will help keep us faithful today.



Taking Care Of Orphans

Harold Comer

"I Would Like to Worship With an 'Anti' Church, But They Won't Take Care of Orphans"

The scene is being repeated in many places today. A better Bible student in an institutional church finally tires of the compromising, weak leadership, the softening changes of accepting things they once opposed in the increasing moral problems. They know that "anti's" are supposed to be narrow, "do-nothing," quarrelsome and bitter. However, the few contacts they have with people who describe themselves as conservative prove that at least some of them are not that way.

Furthermore, conservative churches did not have that big mess about busing and they didn't have kitchens, fellowship halls and multipurpose rooms where big social events are promoted. Youth who attend so-called "anti" churches do a lot of things together but the young people or their parents take responsibility for the planning and organizing the various activities.

Moreover, preachers which are of a conservative attitude quote more scripture and use more "Bible" in their sermons. They are not as weak or as two-faced about calling a sin a sin or a false doctrine a departure from the faith. Nor are the worship services filled with non-worship distractions ranging from novelty singing to quartets and entertainment. The congregations are not continually harassed or even nagged about giving. So, a number of mature Bible centered Christians think about the pleasure of possibly worshiping with a church which describes its attitudes as conservative. But one major doubt remains...They don't take care of Orphans.

In the past we have outlined God's plan of orphan care. It is that, first parents, then family and then you and I are responsible for the care of orphans. (James 1:27) "Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble,

Contact Us

We want opportunities to speak with others about the Lord's Kingdom.

Church of Christ
1512 Tanner Street
Malvern, AR 72104
(501) 332-8806

Find Us Online

preacher@tannerst.com

tannerst.com
FB @TannerStCoC

For Our Information

Joyce Venable has not been feeling well. She has been dealing with flu-like symptoms this past week.

Clifton Hurst is scheduled for surgery Thursday morning at Baptist hospital in Little Rock.

The Simpson family is in Star City this weekend.

Ruben Keisler is dealing with several different health issues at this time.

Pray for safety, courage & healing.

and to keep oneself unspotted from the world." If God expects you and me to care for orphans, then whatever the local congregation does, it would not relieve or free us of our personal responsibility. Likewise, having a congregational personal worker does not free us from our individual responsibility to save others. In fact, there is a great danger of being lulled into a personal "do nothing" attitude towards orphans where the preacher assures us that the congregation can do our orphan care for us and we don't feel responsible as long as the congregation sends some part of the \$300.00 per month that is required to provide institutional care for just one child. At least in a non-institutional church we would be encouraged and stimulated to do what God commands and expects us to do individually towards orphans.

Many people need to be in a congregation where the people genuinely love God's word and truly love orphans. The conscience-soothing act of throwing personal orphan care off on the congregation and then approving the building and maintaining of separate benevolent institutions to further push the troubling work of orphan care away from us is hardly the mark of a true orphan lover.

Most institutional churches do little orphan care anyway when you consider it takes an average of 1232 Christians to care for one orphan in an institutional situation. It averages out to one orphan for every 8 to 10 congregations who defend the unscriptural institutional setup.

You need to see the inaccuracies and even the lies regarding orphan care. You need to see how the facts don't live up to the brags and that even if they did, each of us still needs teaching and help to prompt us to fulfill our own responsibilities toward orphans rather than a comforting but lying assurance that we'll be all right as long as we let the elders send a few pennies a week to a distant institution.

Read James 1:27. Does it tell you what to do? Are you willing to risk your soul on the premise that you don't do what God commanded you individually to do? Your soul salvation needs the benefit of straightforward conservative teaching!

(From the East Florence Contender, July 1978)

(Though written several decades ago, the message of this article is still needed today. Often the problem we face when trying to reach our neighbors and friends is a lack of knowledge regarding what the Bible actually teaches and/or a lack of understanding of our actual beliefs and practices. I know of no member of the Lord's Body who believes we should not care for those who are in need. Helping others understand the **personal** nature of our service to God could go a long way to leading them out of the error they are following. Keep studying and teaching the Truth. DLH)

We seek only to serve God according to His Will!

