

BIDDEFORD CHURCH OF CHRIST

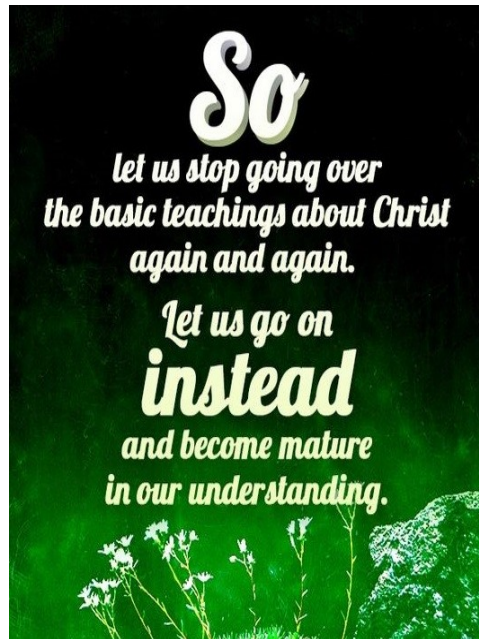
266 POOL STREET - P.O. BOX 331 - BIDDEFORD, ME 04005

DECEMBER 2, 2018

“WHY IS SPIRITUAL GROWTH SO IMPORTANT?” BY DENNIS GODIN

As the year rapidly comes to a close and our topic of spiritual growth, likewise, is replaced with a new theme, I find myself asking a simple, yet complex question; that is, why is spiritual growth so important? My attention is drawn to a text often stated when talking about growth, it is Romans 12:1-2. Consider v2 which says, “And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.” Just what does it mean to be conformed to this world? The world conform here is powerful in meaning. The idea is that a person behaves according to socially acceptable conventions or standards.

Just consider this for a moment: there was a time when living together was seen as morally wrong. That getting drunk was equally foolish (or, for the more recent times, getting high). That homosexuality was not acceptable to God. But how times have changed! Now, before I go forward, I have to admit something about that past. Those sins listed, have been in times past, treated with bigotry and distain to such a level that God’s love for the sinner couldn’t be seen through His



children. It is important to remember that all have sinned (Romans 3:23), and that includes me. That being said, we are confronted with the possible reality that the pendulum has swung in the opposite direction. Living together is seen as prudent, recreational drugs are acceptable and sexuality is none of anyone’s business. Moral truths, that were so clearly defined are now obscure and evolving.

But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

Hebrews 5:14

As God’s children, we are exhorted to “***not believe every spirit, but test the spirits***” (1st John 4:1). Some “***will depart from the faith... having their conscience seared***

SCHEDULE OF ASSEMBLIES

SUNDAY
BIBLE CLASS 9:30 A.M.

WORSHIP 10:45 A.M.

MID-WEEK STUDY

TUESDAY 7-8 P.M.
(BIDDEFORD)

Elders

Brad Shaw (207)878-4124
Tony Lemay (207)651-3369
Dennis Godin (207)651-3588

Deacons

John Carter (207)229-8516
Matt Sampson (207)251-3030

Ministry Leaders & Staff

Education - Antonio Balsamo (207)286-0514
Worship - Abe Damuth (207)608-1784
Building - Joe Romano (207)281-3929
Grounds - Lenny Spano (207)569-8800
Fin./Benev. - John Carter (207)229-8516
Fellowship - Matt Sampson (207)251-3030
Secretary - Mike Wickwar (207) 432-2272

Ladies Ministry

Debbie Godin (207)286-4821
Barbara Lemay (207)850-0084

BIDDEFORD CHURCH OF CHRIST

AS EACH PART DOES ITS WORK

How important is encouragement to you? Note someone you have not seen in worship lately and give them a call or send them a card. Who knows, your words of encouragement could make an eternal difference.

"Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" - Acts 16:30

Hear the Gospel - John 6:44-45; Romans 10:14, 17

Believe [trust in] God - John 3:16; 8:24; Ac 16:31; Heb 11:6

Repent of sins - Luke 13:1-5; Acts 2:38; 3:19; 17:30

Confess Christ - Mt 10:32-33; Ac 8:36-37; Rom 10:8-10

Be baptized - Mk 16:16; Ac 2:38; 8:36; 22:16; 1 Pet 3:21

Be faithful unto death - Mt 7:21; 10:22; Heb 5:9; Rev 2:10

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"Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved."

~ Acts 4:12 ~

Ladies Corner

Our next Ladies meeting will be during the congregational breakfast on December 8th.

Thank You,
Debbie and Barbara

Last Week's Numbers:

Attendance: 45 Contribution: \$ 1619.46

"WHY IS SPIRITUAL GROWTH SO IMPORTANT?" (CONTINUED)

with a hot iron" (1st Timothy 4:1, 2), some to such an extent that they "have lost their feeling of shame. And they use their lives doing things that are morally wrong. More and more they want to do all kinds of evil" (Ephesians 4:19, ETRV). I know that the previous text does not speak directly to the things I expressed in the previous paragraph, but they do reveal something about mankind; that is, left to ourselves, our own desires, we will deviate from God...I will deviate from God.

Hosea 14:9 reads, *"Who is wise? Let him understand these things. Who is prudent? Let him know them. For the ways of the Lord are right; the righteous walk in them. But transgressors stumble in them."* I can so relate to the stumbling side of things. Even now, I at times find myself giving way to selfish desires, and in so doing, inevitably violate God's will. It is for this reason (among others), that I should seek to grow spiritually. For I want to *"discern both good and evil,"* so I can be best equipped to fight against conformity; that is, going along with the crowd. Help me lord! Help us Lord!

Dennis

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We're on Facebook– Biddeford church of Christ is on Facebook! There is a profile, which is public, and there is a closed group, for current Biddeford church family only, where we can share photos, prayer requests, announcements, etc. The public cannot see posts in the BCOC FB group. Only members can.

Men Leading in Worship - The men who serve in worship are asked to meet in the cry room or, if it is in use, a classroom promptly at 10:30 to confirm assignments and go to God in prayer.

Building Lights - If you are the last person leaving the building, please be sure to turn off all the lights, check that all windows are shut, and the doors are locked.

Bulletin /- Prayer List - If you have a prayer request or an announcement for the bulletin, please contact Mike Wickwar at 432-2272 or email him at mickwick@yahoo.com by Friday of each week. Anything given after Friday may not make it into that Sunday's bulletin.

Reminder: Please turn off your cell phone or place it on vibrate during Bible study and worship.

We care what you think - If you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions, feel free to write them down on a piece of paper, then sign it and place it in the box. We will get back to you as soon as possible. Thanks for your help.

Monthly Bulletins– One per family, please. If you would like another copy, you can find it on our website, biddefordchurchofchrist.com. You can also listen to sermons on the website.

Updating the Prayer List - Please review the prayer list. If there is a prayer request initiated by you, it is important you contact Mike Wickwar with updates. Thank you.

Upcoming Events - Please check your calendars

Life Groups– December 2nd and December 16th.

Congregational Breakfast - December 8th at 8:30 am.

Pot Luck - December 9th and Yankee Swap.

Singing Nights - None this month due to Christmas.

Happy Birthday! David Lawrance December 4th
 Barbara Lemay December 13th

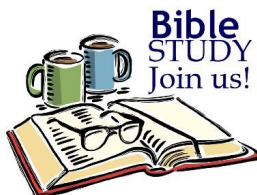
Happy Anniversary! Tom & Gabby Little December 14th

Box tops for Education - Douglas Marescot -Container Upstairs - Ongoing

*Yankee Swap
During Our Pot Luck
December 9th
After Services*

MID-WEEK BIBLE CLASSES

Biddeford
Tuesdays
7:00-8:00 p.m.



YOUR ATTENDANCE WOULD BE SUCH AN ENCOURAGEMENT!

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR TODAY

Song 648 *Stand Up, Stand Up For Jesus*

Announcements - Shepherd

Opening Prayer - Elder

Song 882 *No Tears in Heaven*

Song 538 *My Hope Is Built On Nothing Less*

Lord's Supper - John Carter, Ruffalo
Lawrance, Jacob Romano

Song 552 *Have Thine Own Way*

Contribution

Song 664 *Take My Life, And Let It Be*

Prayer - Joe Romano

Song 382 *Why Did My Savior Come To Earth?*

Scripture Reading - Lenny Spano
Deuteronomy 7:2b-5

Lesson - Dennis Godin

Why Is Spiritual Growth So Important?

Lesson Text: *Romans 12:2*

Song 853 *When We All Get To Heaven*

Closing Prayer - Shepherd



Song Leader: Antonio Balsamo

Greeter: Jessica Damuth

Communion Prep: Deborah Godin

NEXT WEEK'S SERVICE SCHEDULE:

Song Leader - Robert Balsamo

Opening Prayer - Elder

Lord's Supper - Angel Velez, Erik Cote,
TJ Balsamo

Prayer - Matthew Sampson

Scripture Reading - James Butler

Greeter - Barbara Lemay

Communion Prep - Jessica Damuth

WELCOME VISITORS



We here at the Biddeford church of Christ pray your visit with us today is enjoyable and uplifting. Please stay around after services so that we can get to know you better. We all strive to put Christ first in our lives and make the Bible our principle guide for living.

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

WWW.BIDDEFORDCHURCHOFCHRIST.COM
