



"This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast" - Hebrews 6:19

Welcome! We're glad you are here!

Sunday - May 21, 2023

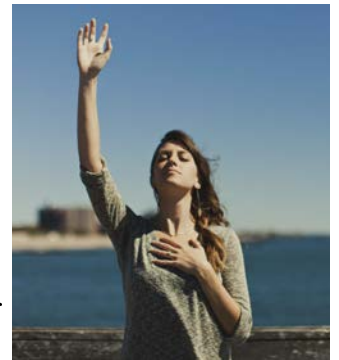
Should Christians Give Their "Testimony"?

by Troy Spradlin

In many religious circles, a common practice is one giving their own "personal testimony." Sometimes people are called on to stand up during a worship service, or are invited up front to speak to the audience and relay their personal experience in relation to their beliefs and how they "came to Jesus." Have you ever wondered why they do that and what is meant by it? Is it a Biblical practice? Should Christians, that is, members of the churches of Christ give their personal "testimony"? The answer might surprise you.

The word *testimony* means, "to give evidence that something is true." For example, in a court of law, a witness' *testimony* is "a formal statement that they make about what they saw someone do or what they know of a situation, after having promised to tell the truth." [Collins Dictionary] In denominations, giving **one's personal testimony is used to "prove" to others that one is saved.**

A person's testimony is considered evidence for how they became saved, by telling others what happened to them and how they changed. Since denominations do not practice all that the Bible has to say about being saved - because most of them believe that one is saved by "faith alone" - then, this is the method used to supposedly prove that they are a disciple of Jesus. **One's "testimony" is the measure used for salvation.**



So, how can we truly determine if someone is saved, or not? Do we just take one's word for it, as in the form of a testimony, or could there be something else? There is something else more reliable. According to the Bible, **the saved can easily be identified by simply confirming if they have "obeyed the Gospel"** (1 Peter 4:17; Romans 6:17). Obeying the Gospel involves: hearing and believing (Romans 1:17; John 3:16); repenting of one's sins (Luke 13:3); confessing that Jesus is Lord (Acts 8:37); and then being baptized (Acts 2:38, 22:16). Salvation comes by following that simple "plan," which is exactly what Jesus taught with, *"He who believes and is baptized will be saved"* (Mark 16:16). The result is the Lord forgives one's sins and then adds to the church, *"those who were being saved"* (Acts 2:47). In other words, there is a very easy method for measuring, or discerning whether or not someone is saved - did they obey the Gospel, according to the steps taught in the Bible, or not? All someone has to say is, "I heard the Gospel. I believed it and repented of my sins. I then confessed the name of Jesus and was baptized." It is a rather simple and easy metric for confirming if one is saved. Paul affirms this with, *"God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered."* (Romans 6:17)

While it is certainly fine if someone wants to give their personal testimony, but it doesn't really prove anything. All they have done is just state how they feel. If they haven't followed the examples of the first Christian converts, as found in the book of Acts, then their witness isn't true, no matter how they may feel. Even Jesus stated, *"If I bear witness of Myself, My witness is not true"* (John 5:31). In other words, Jesus is saying that one's personal testimony is nothing more than words. It may claim to be evidence, but it proves nothing. There must be a witness outside one's self that provides confirmation. For Jesus, it was John, the works He did, and the Father (John 5:32-37). For us, it is the manifestation of obedience to the Gospel

6745 Margaret Street / margarst@bellsouth.net / 850.623.8191
www.margaretstreetchurchofchrist.org

YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY



Graduation Banquet
Sunday, May 21st



Kingdom Kids
Splash Bash
June 3rd 11:00 am -1:00 pm
5318 Lakewood Drive
Milton, FL



Panhandle
Devo
Sign up by
Wednesday,
May 24
June 4



SUMMER KICKOFF
JUNE 6
SIGN UP BY WEDNESDAY, MAY 24

2023 Camp Dates

Teen Week (6-12 grades):

June 11 – 16

Jr. Week (1-5 grades):

June 25 – 29

Register @

www.gulfcoastbiblecamp.com



Save the Date:
Saturday, July 1st
Margaret St.
Church of Christ
VACATION BIBLE CAMP



NEW HOPE
MISSION TRIP
July 8-12
Sign up by Sunday, June 4



LEGACY
AT FAULKNER UNIVERSITY
Sign up & pay by May 7th
JULY 20TH-23RD, 2023

"How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to your word. With my whole heart I seek you; let me not wander from your commandments! I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you. Blessed are you, O Lord; teach me your statutes! With my lips I declare all the rules of your mouth. In the way of your testimonies I delight as much as in all riches. I will meditate on your precepts and fix my eyes on your ways. I will delight in your statutes; I will not forget your word." - Psalm 119:9-1

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER LIST

Special

- Patricia Ann* - prayers, health (MZL)
- Mark Autry - open heart surgery / recovery
- Janice Carter* - tests, waiting on results
- Gifford family - loss of Jean
- Hatcher family* - loss of mom, Rachel Sullins
- Terry Jennings - medical complication
- Linda Loftin* and family - loss of Jim*
- Eddie Longmire* - loss of brother, Sam
- Donald McGriff* - surgery/recovery
- Collin Mense - health (Pat Mense*)
- Greg Smith* family - loss of foster son
- Scott Shanahan - loss of father, Kevin
- Springer family - loss of Kayla
- Vonada family - loss of Troy*
- Gloria Vonada* - foot surgery / recovery
- Jan Whitney* - heart procedure, recovery

2023 Recently Baptized / Restored / Identified

- Brittany Parker* - Baptized
- Dawson Hitchcock - Baptized
- Olivia Gingerich - Baptized
- Lanie Scott* - Baptized
- Sharon Parker* - Baptized
- Terry & Judy Jennings - Identified
- Josh & Stephanie Jennings - Identified
- Laura Oliver* - Identified
- Jeremy & Amber Dunaway* - Identified

Mission Works

- Shanahans* - Mission Italy
- Eliezer Perez - San Lorenzo, Paraguay
- Trevor Smoot - Domestic Missions
- Sebastain Garcia - Brazil
- SRC Correctional Institute - Paul Discher

Students in College

- Seth Crider
- Stephen English
- Caitlyn Frizzell
- Jackson Lash
- Caleb Owens
- Nick Webb
- Reed Wilson
- Lexi Wildes

Other Requests / Health Issues

- Gerry Baldwin - health (J.Pace sister)
- Sharon Ates - recovery (Gallagher*)
- Bob Black - health (Lipford*)
- John & Gale Broadfoot - health
- Winston Burnham* - health
- Sherryn Canniff* - health, pain
- Sherry Davis* - health
- Fatima Deem - pregnant, problems (Nunes)
- Keturah Dickey - MS (K. Longmire*)
- Laura Elliot - (S. Lee* mom)
- Myrna Fuller* - pulmonary fibrosis
- Steve Fulton - pain, health difficulties
- Dixie Gorham
- Daphne Hamilton - surgeries, health
- Edwina Harris - health (J.Pace sister)
- Steve Hartzog - health issues (Alona's friend)
- Barbara Helms* - health
- Chris Hollis - (McGriff)
- Kenna Jackson - (Kristina P's* friend)
- Marcia Jones - (Kenya's* friend)
- Lauren Kreis* (Martin family) - prayers
- Yvonne Loomis - prayers, health (Nunes*)
- Cindy Marotta - paralyzed (Nunes*)
- Vicente Martinez - kidney transplant
- Mary McGriff* - health, asthma
- Ron Miller - esophagus infection (Ina Ruth*)
- Jeffery Norman - transplant list (Nunes*)
- Patsy Prince - (Burnham*)
- Otis & Eleanor Pollit - (Gallagher*)
- Kara Ritchie - blood disorder (M.Scott*)
- Glenn Rose - heart problems (Garcia*)
- August Smith - cleft palate (J.English*)
- Zylar Thompson - rescheduled surgery
- Julia Torpey* - health

Military

- Nick Bartell - Ft. Walton Beach
- John Bartell - Washington, DC
- Spencer England - Japan
- Spencer Gable - New London, Groton, CT
- Amya Huey* - Italy
- Ni Mack - Kentucky

Cancer

- Kandi Armand - (Bostwick*)
- Justin Barnhart - former member
- Ron Bartanen* - cancer
- Darlene Baxley* - spread to her spine (Baxley*)
- Darrell Bozeman*
- Misty Bray* - (Bird*)
- Mark Carlson - (C.Davis*)
- Tish Clark - (Hatcher*)
- Pat Deforest*
- Brenda Dunham - (J.English*)
- Eddie English - (R.English*)
- Timothy Ezzell - former member
- Chris Hendrix - (Baxley*)
- Ricky Jenning - (McGriff*)
- Lisa (Dixon) Johnson - (McGriff*)
- Tierney Lancaster - rare blood (Baxley*)
- Marie and Jeff Lorentz - (J. Bartell*)
- Peter Machon - (Torpey*)
- Darrel Mason - (D.Hill*)
- Karen Parker - (Spradlin* friend)
- Karen Pollit - (Gallagher*)
- Megan Sanders - brain cancer (Blisse*)
- Al Sherdan - bladder/prostatic cancer (Coen)
- Brooks Ann Singley* - good news!
- Mary Lee Smith - (McGriff*)
- Marlene Smith - (Fulton*)
- Donnie Turner - cancer (Helms*)
- Reynold Voeltz - (Boughton's friend)
- David Walther - brain (English*)
- Kellie (Wiggins) Ward - (former mem.)
- Daisy Jean Williams - (J.Pace)

Assisted Living / Shut-Ins / Rehab

- Sherryn Canniff - homebound
- Josie Coons - hospice (McReynolds*)
- Donna Dudley - Life Care Center (S. Davis*)
- Annie Favorite - Haven (Mary Lou's mom)
- Bobbie Garcia* - Fort Walton Beach
- Betty Lee - homebound (D. Lee's mom*)
- Linda Mann* - Shut In
- Ina Ruth Miller* - Grandview Retire Center
- Ruth Phillips* - Shut In
- Jim Pitts - Daphne, AL
- Lillian Raines* - Victorian Manor
- Mary Salinas* - Victorian Manor
- Faye Smith (Jeanna's mom) - Shut In

Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

James 5:16



SERVING WITH HONOR

SUNDAY, MAY 21

MORNING

Opening Prayer Jake Armstrong
 Song Director Paul Lipford
 Sermon Casey Bearden
 "The Lord's Prayer"
 Scripture Reading David English
 Matthew 5:13-16
 Closing Prayer Rick Bird

Serving Communion (Left ... Right):

Jeff Scott Brett Napier
 Chris Davis Justin Davis
 Dane Harrington (Balcony)
 Comments Stephen English

EVENING

Opening Prayer Matt McReynolds
 Singing Casey Bearden
 Scripture Phillip Webb
 Various
 Comments Stephen English

Worship Service and Preparation:

Communion Prep David English
 PowerPoint Lori Mense
 Greeters: Elsa Nunes
 Secure Building Casey Bearden

WEDNESDAY EVENING

Song Director Doug Lee
 Opening Prayer Rick Bird

WEEKLY ATTENDANCE REPORT:

Sunday Bible Class 178
 AM Worship 230
 PM Worship 107
 Wed. Night Bible Class 141
 Contribution \$9,919

TIMES OF SERVICES:

Sunday AM Bible Class 9:00 am
 Sunday AM Worship 10:00 am
 Sunday PM Classes, Worship ... 6:00 pm
 Wednesday PM Bible Class 6:30 pm

Visitors:

Thank you for coming!

You are our honored guest!

For more information about the church, spiritual topics, our classes, and activities, there is a tract rack at the entrance of the auditorium for your convenience.

Or, ask any member for assistance.

Please take a moment to fill out a visitors card, or sign our guest book so that we might have a record of your attendance. Thank you!

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADMINISTRATION

- Deadline for all bulletin items is Thursday, by noon.



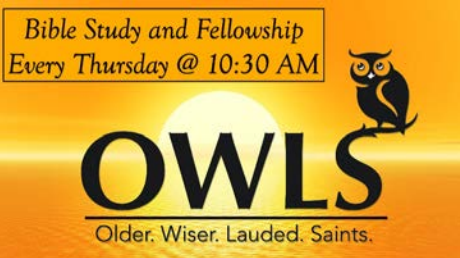
Margaret Street CHURCH OF CHRIST FOOD PANTRY

Food Pickup : 6/6 @ 9:30 AM
 Preparing Boxes: 6/8 @ 9:30 AM
 Distribution : 6/8 @ 2:30 PM

Please consider donating travel size toiletries!!

EDUCATION

- Adult and Children Bible classes available on Sundays @ 9 AM and Wednesdays @ 6:30 PM.
- Willing to teach? See Chris Davis!



Bible Study and Fellowship
 Every Thursday @ 10:30 AM

OWLS
 Older. Wiser. Lauded. Saints.

WORSHIP

- Service Rosters are available on the Welcome Desk and Margaret Street website (listed under "Archives")
- "LISTEN" devices available in the foyer, located in the Armoire.

<WiFi Password posted in Foyer>



Scan this QR Code to open webpage for online giving

STAFF

Troy Spradlin Preacher / Minister
 cell: 850-910-2868
 spradlin.troy@gmail.com
Casey Bearden Family Minister
 cell: 706-889-3222
 caseybearden@live.com
Blisse Hatcher Church Secretary
 cell: 850-625-8911
 margarstcoc@gmail.com
Scott Shanahan Missionary
 cell: 865-443-9856
 scottshanahan@hotmail.com
Trevor Smoot Domestic Missionary
 cell: 937-417-4297
 smooterii@outlook.com

ELDERS

Rick Bird 994-3148
 bird1plus3@icloud.com
Phillip Webb 232-7431
 pw_webb@hotmail.com
Joe Wilson 206-8350
 jaw@wilsonharrell.com

CONTACT FOR MAY:

Primary..... Phillip Webb
 Secondary Rick Bird

DEACONS* & MINISTRIES

Administration Troy Spradlin
 Benevolence..... Dennis Maduell
 Building & Grounds Paul Lipford*
 Education Chris Davis*
 Evangelism Troy Spradlin
 Finance
 Fellowship Jeff Scott*
 Involvement Joe Taylor*
 Lads to Leaders David English
 OWLS Stephen Fulton
 Missions Mike Scott*
 Visitation Bob Locklin
 Kingdom Kids Dane Harrington*
 Youth & Family Casey Bearden
 Worship Blake Hatcher*