

## FAMILY NEWS

### PRAYER LIST -

Preachers we support: Japan, Philippines, Vietnam, Canada, Mexico, Peru, & U.S.
Sick: Gary Fletcher, Tony Tolbert, Rai Starr, and Diane Willis
Shut-ins: Betty Jo Young, Billie Pennington, Shirley Cole, Mary Lou Lewis, and
Margaret Abel
Military: Logan Dickey, Kyler Sullins, Sean Potter

**FIRST SUNDAY SINGING –** Tonight is our monthly singing night. Come prepared to sing! Song leaders, come prepared to lead!

**SENTENCE SERMON** – Reflect on today's blessings, of which every man has plenty, not on your past misfortunes, of which all men have some.



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January 2, 2022

# **Three Rules**

Other than the typical rules found in every college classroom (like "No explosives allowed in the classroom" or "Students must wear shoes in the classroom"), I have three rules for all my classes: "Be here", "Do your own work", and "Don't bother anyone." I like to keep things simple and easy to understand. I rely on my students to act like adults along with everything that implies. It occurs to me that these rules might be useful in life outside my classroom as well. 1 - "Be Here!"

Your presence is required to be successful. Are you an employee? You need to be there! Are you a member of a church? You need to be there! Are you a parent? You need to be there! There is no substitute for your presence. Excuses won't change that. Other commitments won't excuse you from it. You simply must make the time for what is important. If that means you need to rearrange your schedule, then do it! If that means you need to put down the phone, then do it! If that means you need to turn off the game, then do it! It might be hard at first, but it will pay off in the long run.

#### 2 - "Do Your Work!"

Being present is the first step, but then the work begins. We've all worked with the guy who was lazy, right? Eventually those kind of people get fired and no longer earn a paycheck. What about the lazy church member? Eventually they leave or simply become part of the church decorations — visible but useless. Either way, it is bad for the soul because they are no longer worshipping or pleasing to God. What happens to lazy parents? Sadly, often nothing happens until their child grows up to be unruly, unkind, and a lazy parent themselves — then the regret sets in, but it is too late to do anything Sometimes divorce about it. happens when the other parent can't take it anymore, or just as destructive, violence in the home. Either way, the parent fails, the job is not done, and the children suffer for it. Do your work!

#### 3 - "Don't Bother Anyone"

Kindness and consideration go a long way in this life. Without it, life is miserable and difficult. With it, your job is better, your church is better, and your family is better. Peace is better than conflict, unless conflict is required to bring about peace — but that should be the exception, not the rule. It is not always the correct action to demand your rights — often it is much better to give someone else theirs first.

So, try it out, and see how it works in your life. Keep it simple and do the right thing. Oh, of course this all works even better if you regularly read and meditate on God's Word.

> - Michael J. Walls (edited for space)

# Another Perspective

### I Am a Christian

I am a disciple of Christ; I seek to learn from Him and follow Him...but I am not a Disciple of Christ.

I am a methodist; I try to follow the biblical method...but I am not a Methodist.

I am a baptist; I have been immersed in water for the forgiveness of my sins...but I am not a Baptist.

I am catholic; Christ added me to His universal church...but I am not a Catholic.

I am part of an assembly of God; we assemble each Lord's day...but I am not of the Assemblies of God.

I am presbyterian; my congregation is shepherded by elders (Greek, presbuteroi)...but I am not a Presbyterian.

I am episcopalian; my congregation is overseen by bishops (Greek, episcopoi)...but I am not an Episcopalian.

I am a member of a congregation which is Christian and independent...but I am not of the Independent Christian Church.

I am a member of the church of Christ; He built it and purchased it with His blood...but I am not Church of Christ.

I am a member of the church of God; He purposed it before the worlds began...but I am not Church of God.

By the grace of God, I am a Christian.

-- Cecil May, Dean Emeritus, Faulkner University College of Biblical Studies via Gospel Advocate, October 2019