

New Day

Mission Drift – Matthew 28:18-20

Mission Drift

When the church of Christ, _____ over time, _____ from its God given mission to a course of action that neglects the _____.

How do we get back on track? _____

I. Go and do what Jesus _____.

Scripture Blitz on the Master’s Plan

- Matthew 4:19 – Jesus invited a small number of men to follow.
- Mark 1:17 – Specific about His intent and expectation.
- Mark 2:1 – Disciples spent time in Jesus’ home.
- Mark 9:2-3 – Spent time teaching about the Kingdom Mission
- Luke 11:1-2 – Taught His disciples how to pray.
- Mark 6:35-37 – Prompted them to do ministry outside of their abilities and comfort zone.
- John 2:2 – Lived daily life with His disciples.
- Matthew 10:1 – Gave them authority over evil.
- Matthew 10:5-ff – Sent them out to speak and teach.
- Matthew 28:19-20 – Taught them to make disciples.

A disciple is someone who is _____ Jesus, being _____ by Jesus and is _____ to the _____ of Jesus.

II. Go and Spend time with _____.

List the things that mentors in the faith have taught you.

Jesus spent time with people so they could emerge a _____
_____ ready to _____ the mission of Jesus

III. GO AND TEACH them to _____.

The Word of God is _____. Look for things to _____.

Two Questions Everyone Should ask:

What is my life all _____?

How’s _____?



Messenger

Welcome! We are glad you chose to worship with us.

Why Do People Become Atheists? – Part One

Atheism is the belief that there is no God. People come to that conclusion based on personal experience and observation. It is important to acknowledge the reasons and to be able to understand where people are coming from.

The most popular reason given is the existence of suffering. Atheist Andrea M. Weisberger explains that there is just so much evil in the world that, if there were a good God, He would intervene. But since God permits such an incredible amount of evil in His world, then, according to Andrea, He must not exist. Here are Andrea’s words: “Where was the intelligent designer of the universe when 1.5 million children were turned into smoke by zealous Nazis? Where was the all-powerful, all knowing, wholly good Being whose very essence is radically opposed to evil, while millions of children were starved to death by Stalin, had their limbs chopped off with machetes in Rwanda, were turned into amputees by the diamond trade in Sierra Leone, and worked to death, even now, by the child slave trade that, by conservative estimates, enslaves 250 million children worldwide? Without divine justice, all of this suffering is gratuitous. How, then, can a wholly good, all-powerful God be believed to exist? [1]

It is hard to grasp the evil that people do to each other. When we read descriptions like this, it should cause all of us to feel sad and want to do something about it. Shouldn’t God want to do something about it? The way I see it, there are three possible courses of action.

First, God could simply get rid of all human evil. No more lies, no more stealing, no more abuse. Obviously, taking away all evil would also take away our ability to make meaningful moral choices. Getting rid of the possibility of human evil kind of gets rid of humanity itself; we would become a different, less human species. But that would be one way of getting rid of human evil.

Second, God could get rid of the worst kinds of human evil. For example, mass murder. As atheist Richard Carrier puts it, when a shooter starts shooting, “A loving person with godlike powers could simply turn the bullets into popcorn as they left the gun.” [2] By intervening, God could at least get rid of the most devastating instances of evil.

And third, God could fight against evil internally. In other words, God could combat human evil by transforming the human heart. (You see where we are going with this?)

Suggestions one and two are impossible if humans are to remain human. Free will and freedom to choose are part of what sets us apart. Therefore, no one wants this much change because that would mean people would have to personally change. We might agree that changing Hitler would have been beneficial, but I still want my freedom. The third option really is the best. That individuals would be able to have the freedom to change and God would work toward transforming the human heart, is a solid solution to the problem of evil.

As you might suggest, however, atheists have a problem with the third option. Atheists express anger toward a God who tells us to submit to Him. Anger toward a God who gives us commands to follow. Anger toward a God who encourages us to have faith in Him. And a lot of anger toward a God who, in the Bible, when evil got really out of hand, would send judgment to punish evil. But don’t these atheists realize that these things they are angry with God about are the very things which God does to combat evil, and they actually work?

God cares about human suffering and human freedom, just as the atheist does. The difference is, there is a track record for God’s plan, and the human efforts continue to fall short of the goal. Time after time, we observe true changes in the lives of people who try God’s plan. The results are verifiable and duplicatable. When we check our pride and emphasize humility, the human beast is tamed. If atheists could open their eyes to these virtues, they just might be able to give God a second look.

By Dennis Baker

[1] Andrea M. Weisberger, “Argument from Evil,” n *The Cambridge Companion to Atheism*, edited by Michael Martin, 166–81 (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2011), 166.

[2] Richard Carrier, “Why I Am Not a Christian,” 2006, *Internet Infidels*, http://www.infidels.org/library/modern/richard_carrier/whynotchristian.html#inertgod.

Sermon Summaries

Morning *New Day: Mission Drift – Matthew 28:18-20*

Mission Drift is a term that describes what happens to congregations that have lost track of the Christ-given mission. The Final Command of Jesus is to go and make disciples of all nations and teach them to make disciples of all nations. Over time, situations and circumstances have caused us to drift from this task. In our busyness, we have replaced the active engagement of people with the passive tactic of light shining (that is the method of letting your light shine and hoping someone notices). Disciples making disciples is not the easy method, but it was Jesus' method.

Evening *The Life of Joseph: An All-Expenses Paid Trip to God's Will – Genesis 39:1-6*

Joseph was a person of faith immersed in a world of unbelief. His brothers, in their anger and hatred, tried to destroy his life and render the Word of God null and void. That is how God looks at those who oppose the teaching of the good news. People don't want to submit to the truth and have to change how they look at things. But just because we are immersed in unbelief, doesn't mean we can't prosper in our faith. Joseph is an example of that.

Schedule of Services

Bible Class	9:30 am
Morning Worship	10:30 am
Evening Worship	6:00 pm
Wed. Ladies Class	11:00 am
(via Zoom) and at the building	
Wed. Evening Study	7:00 pm

Minister Dennis Baker

Shepherds

Gordon Gower Morris Guest
Larry Miller

Deacons

Don Dillahunt Rick Pinney
Spencer Guest Troy Trammell

mountvernonchurch.org
scripturessay.com
office@mountvernonchurch.org

(928)445-5190

OFFICE HOURS: M-Th 8am to noon

ATTENDANCE

Bible Class	54
AM Worship	86
PM Worship	32

FINANCES

Weekly Budget	\$3995
Weekly Contribution	\$

Speak Up for Jesus

One of the most amazing things we find in the book of Acts is that from a beginning with only 120 disciples, the news about Jesus spreads throughout Judea, Samaria, Syria, Asia, and into Europe and Africa. In Jerusalem alone there were over ten thousand Christians in the first years.

Without modern mass media, without social networking, without power or prestige, without much money, the gospel was spread more rapidly than it has ever been since - but how did this happen?

The Book of Acts not only details the spread, it gives clear indication of the principal means by which it was accomplished. There was public proclamation. There were discussions in synagogues. But the primary means of the spread was "talk." Acts 8:4 says those scattered by persecution "went about preaching the word," but this proclamation was not primarily from pulpits. These ordinary Christians simply shared their faith wherever they went.

We gain a little more insight from Acts 11:19-21 which says those scattered by the persecution came as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus and Antioch, "preaching the word. . . . And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number believed and turned to the Lord." The word rendered "preaching" in the English is from the Greek word, "laleo," and means, "to speak, to use the faculty of speech." So, their primary method of evangelism was speaking to others.

When Paul and Silas were in jail in Philippi, they gave their testimony in song and prayer at midnight, "and the prisoners were listening to them" (Acts 16:25). In Acts 17:17 Paul went to the marketplace in Athens where he spoke "every day with them that met him." When Paul is taken from the temple courts by Roman soldiers, he shares his faith; when he's on trial, he shares his faith; when he speaks to a king, he shares his faith; when he is on board a sinking ship, he shares his faith; when he is under house arrest in Rome, he shares his faith, even with his guards. One of the major factors in the early spread of the gospel, then, was simply the talking Christians did wherever they went. Wherever they were, whoever they met, whatever their circumstances, they found a way to turn the conversation to Christ and His church.

If making conversation about their faith worked in those early years, it will work now. Let us resolve to say more about our Lord, His church, and the salvation found only in Him when we speak with others. It will make a difference!

- R. W. McAlister Anna Church of Christ Anna, IL.

Things to Know

June Calendars

Birthday and Anniversary calendars are on the back table.

Memorial Orville Pruett

The family regrettably will need to postpone Orville's memorial.

Welcome!

Steve & Jan Deyoe would like to be recognized at part of the family here at Mt Vernon. Please take a moment to get to know them.

Here is their contact information

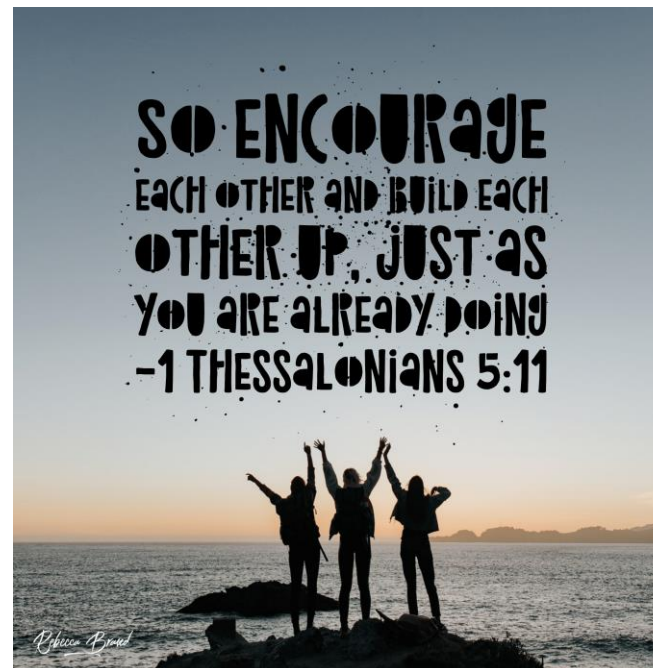
Steve & Jan Deyoe
1782 E Baker St
Prescott Valley, AZ 86314
(608)837-8740 Jan
(928)898-9018 Steve

Thank You!

Sheilah Bellew, Wanda Pruett's daughter, would like to thank everyone for lifting her mom's health up in prayer. God bless you all!

Ladies Bible Class

Class is on break until September 15th.



PRAYER REQUESTS

Bob Justice had heart surgery on Friday morning. The surgery was successful, and he will be in the hospital this week.

Theresa Miller (Larry Miller's daughter in law) will be having a hysterectomy to treat cancer.

Shirley (Denise Miller's sister) problems with her lungs and heart.

Sean Steward (friend of Barry & Millie Redden) is extremely ill with side effects from COVID.

Continual Prayers Health Reasons/Treatment

~ **Rusty & Bonnie Parker** many difficulties with Rusty's dementia

~ **Richard McDonald (Katherine Stewart's brother-in-law)** bladder cancer

~ **Suzanne Lacey (friend of the Gowers)** treatment for kidney cancer

~ **Brandy Aquafedda (Denise Miller's niece)** treatment for her brain cancer.

~ **Avery Adkins (Betty Hanna's great-granddaughter)** improvement from side effect of chemo treatments

~ **Ruthie Jarrett (Marcia Serrano's cousin)** cancer treatment, continuing chemo treatment.

~ **Carolyn Fields (friend of Larry Miller)** has terminal cancer.

~ **Daniel Tillman** brain tumor

~ **Allen Till (Dolores Buehler's son-in-law)** cancer treatment

~ **Rita Bowden (friend of Sally Guest)** stage 4 cancer.

~ **Carol Ann Burdine (former member)** chemo for new tumors.

Our Shut-ins

Marjorie Trammell

Ravenell Young

Betty McInnes (Syble Mann's mother) under hospice care.