

Prayer List

Gene
Veda
Judy
The Williams' Family
Ophelia

Services:

Sunday

Bible Class 9:00 a.m.
Assembly 9:50 a.m.
Assembly 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday

Bible Class 7:00 p.m.

Pinole Tidings

www.pinolechurchofchrist.com

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Elders:

Brad Behrens - bradbehrens@pinolechurchofchrist.com
Michael Odom - MichaelOdom@pinolechurchofchrist.com
Ernie Sprinkel - preacher@pinolechurchofchrist.com

This Week's Question:

What wicked king, the son of a godly king, was buried in the garden of Uzza?

Answer To Last Week's Question:

Jehoram - 2 Kings 9:25

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“Sir, We Would See Jesus”

Sewell Hall

THE FIRST CHAPTER OF ROMANS contains a horrible description of the moral abyss into which the Gentile world had fallen when “they did not like to retain God in their knowledge.” But as is often true of generalizations concerning great masses of society, there were exceptions to the rule.

Soon after the birth of Jesus, when Herod was seeking to kill Him, “behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, saying, ‘Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him’ ” (Matthew 2:1–2).

In the last week before the greatest of passovers, while controversy, conflict and conspiracy surged all around our Lord, “there were certain Greeks among them that came up to worship at the feast: The same came therefore to Philip, which was of Bethsaida of Galilee, and desired him, saying, ‘Sir, we would see Jesus.’ ”

Wisdom of the Greeks

It was to the credit of these Greeks that they looked past the bigotry and hypocrisy of the Jews to recognize that the God of the Jews was worthy of worship. It was also to their credit that they were able to look past the ignorance, the pride and the general imperfection of the disciples to seek Jesus.

Many people in our modern world are turned off by all religion. Others, seeing the division and sham in professed Christianity have decided that among the world's religions, one is just as good as another. But there are still a few whose voices can be heard or whose hearts burn with the unspoken request: "Sir, we would see Jesus."

Sometime such people drop into our services. Sometime they read our tracts or listen to our radio programs. More often, perhaps, they watch our conduct hoping to catch a glimpse of the Savior of men. How tragic if they fail to see Him among us.

Wisdom of the Disciples

It is to the credit of the disciples that they did not try personally to satisfy the needs of these inquirers. Once before they had attempted to keep mothers and their babes from Jesus, only to be rebuked by Him. The request of these Greeks was taken directly to Jesus for His response. We have not always been so wise.

A modern slogan among us has been: "Investigate the church of Christ." The impression given is that people should find a sign reading, "CHURCH OF CHRIST" and investigate the people worshipping behind it. A very popular tract begins, "Churches of Christ—who are these people?" I will tell you who they are. They are an all-too-often proud group of weak and sinning people, many of whom are constantly disputing and dividing, and some of whom are drunkards, adulterers and liars—a pretty motley lot! No wonder we find it so difficult to get people to "become members of the church, give to the church, be loyal to the church and put the church first!" There is not very much that is attractive enough to beget such a response.

The only thing in the body of Christ worth investigating is its Head—not its members. The only thing of which the kingdom can boast is its King—not its citizens. The authority of the King must be magnified and our own ineptitude in obedience conceded. Only when all of this is clearly established are we

in position, very humbly, to invite others to join with us in our efforts to follow Jesus—to be truly a church of Christ. The apostle Paul said it this way: "We preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake" (2 Corinthians 4:5).

Showing Jesus to the World

1. In Word. There was a time when most of the religious people about us believed in Jesus and accepted His authority. About all that was necessary was to show them that they had missed His teaching on some point. This is no longer true. We must now establish the divinity of Jesus and His right to the last word on every subject. This does not require elaborate discussions of external evidence. It simply means more teaching from the gospels—more emphasis on His life and teaching. Jesus is His own best witness.

2. In Deed. The apostle Paul could write: "It is no longer I that live, but Christ liveth in me" (Galatians 2:20). Those who saw Paul saw Jesus in him. Today, Christians in whom Jesus dwells will stand out in a crowd, in a home, in a neighborhood, in a school, in an office, in a plant, even in a business transaction. These are true disciples of Jesus and it is only to such disciples that men of the world will come saying, "Sir, we would see Jesus."

In the conversation following the request of the Greeks Jesus said, "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me" (John 12:32). We would not hang Him again on the cross, but we must see that before the eyes of all men He is "openly set forth crucified" (Galatians 3:1).