

The Tanner St Church of Christ meets each Lord's Day beginning with Bible classes at **9:30 AM**. We continue with our worship at **10:20 AM** and again at **5:00 PM**. We also meet each Wednesday evening at **7:00 PM** for Bible study and worship. Our meeting place is located about ¾ of a mile from I30 at 1512 Tanner St in Malvern, AR.

If you have questions about what we believe and teach, please visit our website, tannerst.com to listen to sermons or read past articles from our bulletin. Or you can contact us and we will be glad to find a convenient time to study with you.

Phone: (501) 332-8806 Email: preacher@tannerst.com

Consider: Romans 14:23

Needed News

Dolline Fain is at Encore in Room 202. **Paula Laubach** will see a podiatrist Monday about her tendonitis. **Joyce Venable** has been dealing with an above normal pain level this week. She still has not gotten results from recent tests.

Amy Simpson's father is back at home, doing well. **Ricky Ragsdale's** CT scan showed healing of the vertebrae and they were able to remove the hard brace he has been wearing. **Joyce Venable's** sister, **Daisy Nelson**, is about the same. She is in hospice care because of stage 4 cancer.

The **Simpson** family is out of town this weekend. **Phyllis Jackson** has been on the road helping care for various family members this past week. It looks like this will continue for much of this month.

John & Betty Ragsdale, Conrad Harris, Thelma Echols, and others of our number also have ongoing health difficulties. Prayers are solicited for everyone.

Our Meeting starts in 2 weeks!

Seeking His Righteousness

"...seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness.." Matthew 6:33

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Advertising For God

Dan Henderson

A young man was hired to advertise for a men's store. He was dressed in the latest fashion: an off white suit and a matching shirt with a tie selected with exquisite taste topped off with the last word in his shoes. A small but readable sign was placed in his back suggesting that his wardrobe could be purchased at the men's store, and then he was instructed to walk around town to impress prospective buyers.

As the young man walked, a passing car splashed muddy water on him from the curb. While passing through a door, he snagged a large three cornered hole in the pocket of the coat. When he sat for lunch, the chair had food spilled on it that soiled the seat, and he spilled catsup and mustard on his front while he ate. Within a short time, the clothes were soiled, torn and wrinkled, and the shoes were scuffed. The owner of the store came to see how the young man was doing. Finding him thus, the young man was fired and the sign removed, for he no longer represented the quality of the merchandise sold by that store. (Morris D. Norman, Main & Thirteenth Visitor, Blytheville, AR, Marvin Noble, editor)

The above illustration from a bulletin several years ago brings to mind three things about our life as a Christian that

we need to keep in mind.

The first thought comes from the teaching of Jesus on the mount in Matthew 5:13-16, we are the "*light of the world.*" Considering this thought in light of the above illustration we must understand that we have been prepared by God to be this light. Paul told the Ephesians that we are God's workmanship Ephesians 2:10. As he instructed the brethren in Philippi, Paul reminded them that their righteousness is from God Philippians 3:9. As with the young man in the illustration God has dressed us in the proper attire to show Him to the world Philippians 2:12-16. We are not dressed just for our own benefit, but so that the world might see in us, the children of God, the excellency of the one who called us 1Peter 2:9-12. As the store owner expected the young man to point people to his store, God expects our life of service to cause others to look to Him Matthew 5:16. We ought to live our lives as a demonstration of the power of God for salvation Matthew 5:13, Acts 16:17.

The second thought came as I read about how the young man failed to live up to the image expected by his employer. It should go without saying that the store owner expected this young man to be careful to maintain the original look. We also are to keep our self pure and holy. Image is very important in advertising and is also important as we go through this world as God's children. This is why the Scriptures constantly remind us to be careful of our thoughts and actions. We are to think on pure things Philippians 4:8. We are to live holy and blameless lives Ephesians 1:3-7. Keeping our self pure, 1Timothy 5:22, and walking as "*children of light,*" Ephesians 5:8, are necessary if we are to project God's image to those around us. We ought to

demonstrate our loyalty to God, our Father, by turning from the errors of our past, 2Timothy 2:21-22, and being diligent to keep our self from the defilements of this world, 2Corinthians 7:1; James 4:8. While some might read the events of the young man and think, "he is so unlucky," to learn from this illustration we must recognize that this young man seemed to do nothing to prevent the soiling of his image. As Christians we must constantly be on guard, watching with wisdom so that we might avoid the wickedness that surrounds us.

Finally this illustration reminds us that our image can be spoiled by the world around us if we are not careful. Scripture is abounding with warnings against falling away, 2Peter 2:20-22; 3:17. Paul consider the possibility that he might be cast away 1Corinthians 9:27. But more than just recognizing that we might be spoiled, we must understand that such spoiling will cause God to cast us out of His presence. God does not want a spoiled image. Those who fail to continue following Christ will be cast out, John 15:6. The tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down Matthew 7:19. God will gather out the offensive and cast it away to be burned, Matthew 13:41.

Have you been remade in God's image? Obedience to the Word of God will remake you in the image of the Creator and his Son, Colossians 3:10. Are you still showing for that image if you have been remade, Romans 8:29? God expects us to remain "*unspotted from the world*" James 1:27. Your image reflects your attitude, Matthew 7:15-20. The world is watching how we live. Our image must remain pure if we are to show others to God by our lives. Are you an advertisement for God?