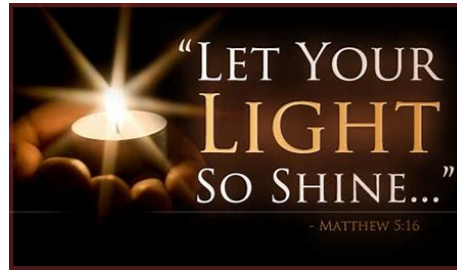




Lewiston Church of Christ

January 26, 2020



Weekly Services

Sunday Morning

Bible Study 9:45 AM

Worship 10:45 AM

Sun. Day/Evening Groups

Wed Bible Study 7:00 PM

MINISTER

Joel Solliday: 208-743-2711

ELDERS

Doyle Dawes: 208-836-5718

Cal Groen: 208-602-8165

DEACONS

Education – Rick Richardson

Fellowship – Joe Bieren

Finance – Tom Hill

Outreach – Mark Whittaker

AREAS OF SERVICE

Building – Ken Vogtman

Custodian – Ron & Cindy Roberson

Fellowship – Joe & Carrie Bieren

Grounds – Cody & Doyle Dawes

Music Ministry – Ron Roberson

Secretary – Renee' Hill

Technology – Eric Kjorness

Technology – Cody Dawes

In Harm's Way

When I read the Bible as a young man, it deeply satisfied my spiritual hunger for God's guidance. At age 65, that same satisfaction resonates in me as I read God's word. But one thing is different. Today, I have a stronger sense of how unpopular the message of the Bible has become. The Bible hasn't changed nor has my hunger for its message diminished, but our culture has changed. Today, nearly every page of Scripture sets off louder alarms in the minds of readers steeped in the culture.

When the Bible affirms our accountability to a just God, today's readers feel unloved. When the Bible delves into history, readers raised on popular entertainment fall asleep. When the Bible refers to homosexuality, today's culture-driven readers get offended. When the Bible tells us about hell, current readers who crave justice on earth, cannot relate to a God who craves justice in eternity. When the Bible refers to God's call for sinners to repent, readers with high levels of self-esteem cannot relate.

I am not saying that all culture is bad. Culture is simply what grows from the seeds people plant and cultivate. In fact, "cultivate" and "culture" share the same root meaning. As humans interact, they develop patterns for living. Just as a man first makes his habits and then his habits make the man, a people likewise form their culture, then their culture forms the people.

Christians turn to God's word for cultivation. This puts us in harm's way as we travel through a culture that takes offense at the Bible's message. Still we step forward into harm's way because God's word calls us to be "salt" and "light" in the world (Matthew 5:13-16). Instead of retreating from culture, we advance on it. We do not expect to be loved in return. Look at what they did to Jesus.

Jesus faced great hostility prior to His crucifixion. He said, "This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil." (John 3:19). So, as followers of Jesus, our natural desire to live safe and comfortable lives in today's world is something we learn to give up. But we do not give up on God and His word. We look to Him for strength and courage as we shine the light of Jesus Christ in a culture that increasingly loves darkness.

Lewiston church of Christ
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Joel Solliday

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