

THE GREENWOOD BULLETIN

Church of Christ
371 W. Main Street
Greenwood, IN 46142
(317)888-8288

www.churchofchristatgreenwood.org

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SHORT SAYINGS:

Selected

The most impressive sermons are the ones that leave you wondering how the preacher knew about you.

Some people use language to express thought, some to conceal thought, and some instead of thought.

Some people think they are broad-minded just because they are too lazy to form an opinion.

A lot of people are willing to give God the credit, but few will give Him the cash.

He who talks to you about others may talk to others about you.

Sitting in a church house will no more make you a Christian than sitting in a hen house will make you a hen.

Some people's minds are like concrete; all mixed up and thoroughly set.

The devil's best work is done many times by those who claim to love the Lord.

Those who pride themselves in being hard-boiled are often only half-baked.

Churches & Restaurants -

By Larry DeVore

"For the kingdom of God is **not** food and drink, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit." (Romans 14:17).

"What! Do you not have houses to eat and drink in?" (1 Corinthians 11:22a).

I believe these two passages teach that the church is not to be in the restaurant business. Back in the 1920's and 1930's when some brethren did not have automobiles or did not have reliable transportation, a practice arose among rural churches of "Sunday Morning Preaching, Afternoon Singing, and Dinner on the Ground." No one had a problem with that practice. Brethren brought their food from home and shared it picnic style. The usually did that once a year. Perhaps in some years it would rain and they would rush inside the meetinghouse until it stopped. When their children grew up, they said why don't we just put a kitchen in the meetinghouse? And so they did.

I don't believe it is a sin to eat in the church building, *per se*. However, there is no scriptural authority for the church to be in the restaurant business, and that is what a lot of congregations are doing now. One may stop to eat in the meetinghouse, if he/she/they are cleaning it, or working on a Bible project, or making repairs on it, etc. That is only incidental to the work being done. Nowadays, brethren have to have some kind of a meal or snack served to the church every week. **There is no Bible authority for such. It is that simple and that important.**

Let the church be the church, and not a Bob Evans Restaurant!

You cannot compete with the world and win!

Growing A Local Church

By Glen Young (Revised by Don McClain)

I came across the following results of a study by a research group concerning valid principles of growth. I found them interesting and thought I would share them with you. I took the time to add Scripture where they were applicable.

Be Optimistic: We should be too busy trusting and serving our Lord to expect failures. *If God has told us to do something - He will support us in our efforts if we trust in Him, (*Numbers 13:30; 14:8,9). Do we *trust that we can do all things through Jesus Christ (Philippians 4:13).

Be People Oriented: Men seem to think they cannot accomplish a desired end without organizing some program. Eventually, the program becomes the focal point. We must focus on people, not programs (Romans 10:14-17; 2 Timothy 2:2).

Recognize the Limit of Your Duty: Goal setting is very important for a congregation. Looking to the future with realistic goals, is absolutely necessary for success. A congregation without vision is doomed to failure. (*Proverbs 29:18)

Strive to Excel: Elders, deacons, evangelists, teachers and all disciples must resolve to be the very best. (1 Corinthians 9:25). Being satisfied and failing to see the need to improve ourselves is to be spiritually dead (2 Peter 1:5-11; 3:18).

Distinguish Christianity as a Life, not a Ceremony: Christians are the Church, we do not merely attend church (Colossians 1:18; 1 Corinthians 12:12-25). Let the beauty of Christ be seen in us.

Honestly Deal with Flaws: Men have a way of pinning the sacred cow of perfectionism on the church. The church is made up of humans, and humans have flaws. *If we are to grow, we must honestly deal with our problems - not ignore them! *People sincerely striving to serve the Lord are not repugnant to the objective observer - but be assured, hypocrisy is, (Luke 18:9-14).

Encourage Everyone to Talk Up the Church: Tell your friends that you respect the elders that you appreciate the deacons, that you gain knowledge from the sermons, and that you relish the reverence the whole congregation exhibits. *(Acts 23:5; Titus 3:2; 1 Thessalonians 5:12,13)

Be Determined to Grow: Do not accept the defeatist who cries, "We can't do that here." The nay sayers would have everyone's faith to be as weak as their own (Philippians 4:13).

Address the Needs of ALL Ages: Do not neglect either the young or the old. All have spiritual needs (Philippians 2:1-4; *Titus 2:1-9).

Do Not Over-Organize: While it is necessary to have leadership and organization, spiritual bureaucracy is worse than political red tape. Both can and do strangle the ability to reach goals, (*Ephesians 4:11-16).

Demand a Strong Pulpit: The nature of the assembly pinpoints the pulpit as the key to spiritual growth. Therefore, strong Bible oriented preaching that is presented in an understandable fashion is absolutely necessary (2 Timothy 4:1-5).

Any congregation can grow. It is a matter of desire plus effort plus love for the truth of God's Word. *The Road Creek Bulletin; February 26, 2003*