



REFLECTIONS FOR JUNE, 2017 by Sharon Colthurst LORD, Am I “Almost a Christian?” Part 2

What is the difference between an “Almost Christian” and an “Altogether Christian?” Jesus gave us the answer in Mark 12:30-31 and John Wesley’s answer was the same. **“...what is implied to being altogether a Christian (is this)...First, the love of God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength. Such a love as this occupies the whole heart, takes up all the affections, fills the entire capacity of the soul, and employs the utmost extent of all its faculties. One who thus loves is continually rejoicing in God. His delight is in the Lord, his Lord and his all, to whom he gives thanks in all things. All his desire is toward God and to the remembrance of His name. His heart is always crying out, “Whom have I in heaven but Thee? And there is none on earth that I desire beside Thee.”

The second thing implied in our being altogether a Christian is the love of our neighbor.” Now, really! Just any neighbor?! Well, I guess it hasn’t placed any restrictions or descriptions on what a ‘neighbor’ should be like, does it? And He (God) has said whatever we do to others we do to Him... even if it’s one of the “least of these”. So it’s LOVE that makes the difference between an ‘Almost Christian’ and an ‘Altogether Christian’! What does LOVE look like? 1 Corinthians 13 gives us the perfect description. Here it is from The Message: ...never gives up...cares more for others than self...doesn’t want what it doesn’t have...doesn’t strut...doesn’t have a swelled head...doesn’t force itself on others...isn’t always ‘me first’...doesn’t fly off the handle...doesn’t keep score of the sins of others...doesn’t revel when others grovel...takes pleasure in the flowering of the truth...puts up with anything...trusts God always...always looks for the best...never looks back...but keeps going to the end. Love never dies.

By the way, in case you’re wondering...it really is difficult to love in all these ways. In fact, it’s **IMPOSSIBLE!!** But then our God is the **God of the impossible!** With Him inside of you, and fully operative at your invitation, anything and all things are possible!!

PRAISE HIS HOLY NAME!!

**Renew My Heart...Daily Wisdom from the Writings of John Wesley, compiled by Alice Russie: ©2002 by Barbour Publishing, Inc., PO Box 719, Uhrichsville, Ohio 44683, www.barbourbooks.com

SUNDAY MORNING ADULT BIBLE STUDY. Our summer study follows the theme "God's Urgent Call". It reminds us that God continues to speak to us through the written Word. God calls ordinary people to make a difference. From the days of the judges to the prophets, God called and the faithful answered. The first months lessons "Called to Be Strong" introduce the era of the judges. The Book of Judges continues the history of Israel after Joshua's death. Empowered by God, judges delivered the people from their enemies. Please feel free to join us in the Pastor's study following the first worship service.

WEDNESDAY MORNING WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY. For the months of June, July, and August we will be on our summer schedule and meet on the second and forth Wednesday at 10:00 in fellowship hall. Over the summer we have decided to look into the books of I and II Thessalonians. For Wednesday June 14 please read the first and second chapters and we will discuss that. For June 28 we will be discussing chapters three and four.



BE Worship Camp

June 19 - 23rd

Bible Based Christ Centered Spirit Filled

Friday night Worship Set;
June 23 at 6:30 pm
Support our students as they lead us through an hour of worship with Greenhouse ministires. They will be applying all they learned at camp during this exciting set.

BE Missions News for June 2017

Our own, Ashley Bucknam, Missionary in Nepal, will be at BE on June 11th to give us an update on her missionary work in Nepal. It will be in the Fellowship Hall immediately following the second service. A light lunch will be served. Everyone is invited.

Pastor Andrei and his family, from Estonia, will be coming to visit Peoria and BE at the end of June and will be in our church to preach both services on July 9th. Pastor Vladimir Chernov from Chicago will be here to translate for him. The Chernov's have been very helpful to us every time Pastor Andrei visits. They meet them at O'Hare airport and bring him to Peoria. They have been friends for many years. Alyssa Pollock is planning his schedule, if you have any questions please contact Alyssa.

Missions is having a very busy and interesting spring and summer. Thank you for all of your support, and for the 10% of tithes that is pledged to Missions every week.

Mission Committee
Linda Daly, chair

JUNE CALENDAR

- 2 - Food Pantry 8 am
- 3 - Men's Ministry 8 am
- 4 - 9am Service Meeting 1pm
- 17 - Men's Ministry 8 am
- 19 - Worship Camp 9am
- 23 - Worship Camp's Set (All Church) 6:30 pm

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- 1 - Ayden Dawson
- 4 - Gene Colhurst
- 7 - Betty Good
- 19 - Abby Tomlins
- 21 - Brenna Zacovic
- 27 - Roberta Cruce
- 28 - Susan Silver
- 29 - Emily Dawson

ANNIVERSARIES

- 4 - Matt & Emily Dawson
Brian & Lori Pugh
- 6 - Mike & Betty Good
- 8 - Perry & Roberta Cruce
- 23 - Jim & Cindy Simmons
- 25 - Matthew & Ana Cruce
- 26 - Steven & Angela Payne

If you would like to add your name to the birthday or anniversary list, please contact Barb Luster at bjluster@aol.com or Tina at t.tomlins@comcast.net. You may also call the church office.