



westlake

news

Newsletter of the Westlake Community Church of God

Vol. 14 No. 7 July 2011



VBS 2011

JULY 11 - 15

9 AM - NOON

FROM PASTOR MIKE

Don't Love the World

Our world system is violently opposed to Christ and all He stands for. When the Bible says, "Do not love this world," the word "world" means the depraved culture of the times, the world system that's under the control of Satan. Do not love the world, then, doesn't mean we shouldn't love "worldly people"; but rather, we shouldn't be in love with the depraved systems and ways of our world that are at war with Christ. The apostle John explained the dangers of loving our depraved culture and warns Christians of three acute dangers (1 John 3:15-17).

The World's Perspective: Desirable

First, he cautioned, the world system is desirable. The word "lust" used in 1 John 2:16 literally means "desire": The desires of the flesh, and the desires of the eyes, and the pride of life.

Pleasure, possessions, and popularity are the three desires Satan uses to steal, kill, and destroy. These are his three rounds of ammunition. He uses this line of attack against everybody. Whatever the devil is doing to you or to me is some variation of this three-point tactic — the desire of the flesh, the desire of the eyes, and the pride of life. We need to learn to recognize and avoid it.

Television shows, movies, magazines, trends, styles, affluence, the ladder of success — we must always be cautious, for behind these things may be lurking the lust of unhealthy desire. We must learn to be wary.

The World's Perspective: Dulling

The second danger is that the world is dulling. Our spiritual responses are dulled by pleasure, possessions, and popularity. A prime biblical example is the man named Demas. He is mentioned three times in Scripture. In Colossians 4:14, Paul wrote, "Luke the beloved physician and Demas greet you." In Philemon 24, Paul again sent greetings from Demas, listing him as a fellow laborer. But in 2 Timothy, as the apostle Paul is imprisoned and facing execution, we find him writing these sad words: "Be diligent to come to me quickly; for Demas has forsaken me, having loved this present world" (2 Timothy 4:9-10).

Demas didn't just wake up one day and have a dramatic spiritual breakdown. Something about the

world's influences had been dulling his senses without his realizing how close he was to total spiritual collapse.

Sin is like a cancer that destroys step by step, sometimes so slowly we don't realize what's happening to us. In its desirability, we don't realize how it is dulling our spiritual senses. The unsaved person isn't aware of the spiritual dangers that lurk among the desires of the flesh and of the eyes and the pride of life; and sometimes even Christians are deceived. That's why the Bible warns believers against friendship with the world (James 4:4); being spotted by the world (James 1:27); loving the world (1 John 2:15); and being conformed to the world (Romans 12:2).

The World's Perspective: Deadly

That leads to John's third perspective. The world is deadly. Loving the world destroys our relationship with God, it denies our faith in God, and it discounts our future with God. The Bible tells us that one day this whole world is going up in a cloud of smoke. Only two things will prove to be eternal — the Word of God and the people of God. Everything else will pass away. The world and its lusts will fade to black, and only those who do the will of the Father will abide forever.

We're pilgrims and strangers on the earth. There are two worlds, two dimensions, two landscapes. Christians have a foot in each one. We're living in this world system, but we're not of it. We're living by faith in the kingdom of our Lord Jesus, and our citizenship resides there.

I'd rather be moving toward joy than moving away from it, wouldn't you? That's why I've chosen to live my life for the Lord and to walk with Him. The world and its lusts are passing away; but those who do the will of the Father abide forever.

Love,

Pastor Mike

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Prayer Ministry: Westlake is re-launching the Prayer Ministry. We are looking for a few people who would like to commit to becoming part of the Prayer Ministry. Contact Pastor Mike for more information (241-9451 or mcottrell@westlakechurch.cc).

SCRIP

So much more than gas, groceries, and gifts: Shopping with gift cards is an easy way to support Westlake every time you shop. We offer a great variety of brands in addition to your weekly gas and grocery purchases. From dining and entertainment to home improvement and beyond, we have all your shopping needs covered! Buy gift cards from these best-selling national retailers. There are so many opportunities to generate rebates for Westlake with gift cards. Sharpen your shopping skills and visit ShopWithScrip.com to find a complete list of national and regional retailers.

ShopWith Scrip.com is now on Facebook! Stay up-to-date on bonuses, special offers, ideas and more.

MISSIONS

Gleaners on a Thursday? We've set up an additional opportunity to serve at Gleaners each month. We're working on the first Thursday of the month from around 5 - 7 pm. If you or your small group are interested, please contact Mark Fleenor (MDRFLLEE@sbcglobal.net or 272-7209) for additional information and directions. Our next Thursday trip will be on *July 7*.

Volunteer at Gleaners Food Bank with the Missions Team and help sort donated items or prepare boxes for the seniors food program. Our next trip is *Saturday, July 16* at Gleaners' new facility, 3737 Waldemere Ave. We'll work from 9:30 am – noon. Please contact Mark Fleenor for directions (272-7209) or MDRflee@sbcglobal.net.

Wheelchair Ramps: If you are looking for a great way to expand past the four walls of our church, we invite you to reach out with us to a local neighbor by helping meet their needs for a wheelchair ramp. It's a great way to get involved in the community and in the church missions. There is minimal carpentry experience required. If you have any interest in helping or if you have any questions about helping please contact Justin Dempsey @ 317-856-9299 or Bill Strait @ 317-839-4017.

SPORTS MINISTRIES

A *Saturday morning fitness class* takes place at 10:00 am here at the church and lasts about an hour. All classes

are being offered for FREE! Contact Jeremy for more information at (938-3994 or melodies34hk@gmail.com).

WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

Outreach to Wayne Township Firefighters: In response to our call to serve others outside of our church's four walls, Women's Ministries will be providing dinner to our Wayne Township Firefighters on *Tuesday, July 19*. If you are willing to donate food or help prepare a dish for one of the 5 stations, please sign up on the clipboard sign-up sheet on the Women's Ministries table in the lobby. Be sure and indicate if you can help deliver the food, as well. We would like each station to have several Westlake women carrying in the meal and saying thanks to these courageous men and women who keep us safe. Food needs to be at the stations by 6:30 pm. You will be contacted by a team leader to discuss what to prepare and the arrangements for delivering the food to the team leader or to the station. At 7:00 pm that same evening, all women are invited to meet at the church for fellowship, refreshments, and a make-it-take-it workshop constructing a Healing Bible to give away to someone in your life at some point in time that needs the healing hand of God. Everyone needs to bring a Bible that you are willing to give away to someone. See Dee Ludlow if you have any questions.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

VBS 2011: Please pray that God will do mighty things as preparations are underway for a splashing good time at SONSURF BEACH BASH *July 11 - 15*, 9:00 am to noon!! It's all about Jesus! We need small, clean, baby food jars with lids. Please place them in the container in the youth center lobby. Thank you!!

Helpers - don't forget the VBS meeting on Tuesday, July 5 at 10 am.



A big THANK YOU to all those who participated in the Work Day.

We accomplished a great deal to beautify and maintain our grounds and facilities.

ATTENDANCE/FINANCIAL REPORT

		YTD
May Worship Attendance Average	353	
May Budget Giving TOTAL	\$ 62,519	\$263,572
May expenses	\$ 41,113	\$ 222,031
May Building Fund Total	\$ 15,845	\$ 51,623
Total Building Fund Pledged (2011 – 2014)	\$ 601,968	
Total Giving toward Campaign (thru 5/31/11)	\$ 7,070	
May Faith Promise Total (included in general giving total)	\$ 3,971	\$ 11,020

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank you!

Thank you for all your prayers for my sister, Darlene Bledsoe, who has been undergoing extensive chemo treatments.

Virginia Leslie

REMEMBER OUR TROOPS IN PRAYER

** Denotes active duty in the Middle East*

Jason Arnold, Bill Chastain, *Blair Diederich, Dan Gould,
Ben Hughes, Kyle McConnell, Richard Mattingly,
Drew Perez, Adam Rennick

PRAYER REQUESTS

Mary Phillips (Chris Hill's mom) – spot on lung
 Jonathon Cintas (son of friend of Dee Ludlow) – spiritual guidance
 Mary Deann Nipple – scoliosis causing intense nerve pain in legs
 Stephanie O'Bryan (James Hume's mom) – health concerns
 Jake Storm & family – in the unexpected passing of his mom
 Dave Elmore (friend of Dee Haskett) – epiglottitis, emergency surgery
 Emily Pucket (Jenny Stone's 5 month old niece) – seizures
 Zach Jenkins (friend of Brenda Pulliam) – direction and salvation
 Evon Johnson (friend of Brenda Pulliam) – top of finger amputated
 Eddie Gillespie – lymphoma in neck, undergoing radiation treatments
 Ross & Vivian McGuire (Denise Kirby's parents) – Vivian had a stroke
 Bob Perra – severe COPD, on oxygen
 Crystal Marshall – health concerns, issues resulting from two surgeries
 Linda Groves – broken wrist, insurance does not cover surgery
 Kenneth Beeker (Sandy Sowl's brother) – cancer treatments/heart issues
 Dan Montel (Judy Coble's brother) – health concerns
 Mike Nordman (Judy Coble's nephew) – incarcerated, salvation
 Dory Gross (friend of Lynn Jump) – cancer of liver, salvation
 James Pulliam – salvation, life direction
 Larry Pelletier (Kathleen Lamb's dad) – salvation
 Dennis (Sarita Fleming's son) – spiritual guidance
 Connie Clark Summe (Deb Iglecki's stepmom) – advanced ovarian cancer
 Wendi (Reed Blair's sister) – diagnosed with cancer, started chemo
 Marc Shoemaker (co-worker of Karla Rigsby) – paralyzed after fall
 George Milles (Stacey Hummel's uncle) – cancer spread to heart, re-starting chemo
 Evelyn Larrison & family (friends of Tucker's) – support for husband
 Hugo & Pat Wilkinson (friends of Judy Coble) – health/spiritual needs
 Dr. Deborah Redd (friend of Kathleen Lamb) – breast cancer
 Misty Khalifa – pregnancy complications, on bed rest
 Rosemary Chambers (Brad Lane's grandma) – dementia
 Leo Tussey – heart & kidney failure, months to live
 Angie Dowell (Geraldine McMullen's granddaughter) – liver damage
 Diana Fleenor/Sherman & Sarah Bowman/Bert Nixon – health concerns
 VBS 2011 – pray for volunteers, that kids lives will be changed and God will be glorified



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Staff

Lead Pastor Mike Cottrell
 Worship Arts Pastor James Hume
 Discipleship & Groups Pastor Craig Knisley
 Children's Pastor Sherrie Cottrell
 Youth Pastor Melissa Chastain
 Office Administrator Gail Wills

Lay Staff

Executive Pastor Jim O'Bold
 Facilities Manager Tim Ransom

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