You are Invited

to a

Gospel Meeting

at the meetinghouse of the

Blue Ridge Church of Christ

with Biblical preaching by

Mark Mayberry
of Alvin, Texas

Friday, September 10th at 7:30pm
Saturday, September 11th at 4:00 & 7:00 pm
Sunday, September 12th at 9:15, 10:00 & 11:00 am

Please bring your Bible and join us for this special series of lessons!
Adorning the Doctrine

The apostle Paul told Titus to teach the older and younger men and women (2:1-6). (That covers just about everyone, doesn’t it?) But in addition to Titus’ oral teaching, Paul told the evangelist, “in all things showing yourself to be a pattern of good works” (v.7). Titus’ example needed to mirror to his listeners his own conviction about the things he was teaching.

Paul then told Titus to “exhort servants to be obedient to their own masters, …not answering back, not pilfering… that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in all things” (2:9,10). To “adorn” means “to put in proper order, that is, decorate” (Strong’s Greek Dictionary). These servants, or slaves, were to ‘decorate’ God’s word with lives that illustrated its teachings. No mere acknowledgement of the truth here -- rather, full consistency between doctrine and actions. By their good deeds even the lowliest class of society could cause the gospel to be more attractive to interested onlookers.

Looking at this from an opposite vantage point, Paul told servants that they were to eschew any behavior that would cause God’s word to be “blasphemed” (1 Timothy 6:1).

To teach our neighbor the gospel of Christ is the greatest good that we could show toward him. But if our example is not consistent with our words our good will likely be turned into the greatest harm. Paul asked, “You therefore, who teach another, do you not teach yourself? You who preach that a man should not steal, do you steal? You who say, ‘Do not commit adultery,’ do you commit adultery?... For the name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you” (Romans 2:21-24). Sadly, hypocrisy in a disciple’s life has irreparably damaged many a teaching opportunity, and has too often “shut up the kingdom of heaven against men” (see Matthew 23:13).

On the other hand, consistent righteous deeds “adorn” one’s teaching. Right doctrine coupled with a teacher’s right living make the strongest educational tool, so much that even some skeptics can be brought to “glorify God in the day of visitation” (1 Peter 2:12). Isn’t this what our Lord indicated? (Matthew 5:16)

It’s a matter that should fill us with concern (at the very least), to think that our actions will either ‘adorn’ God’s word or cause it to be ‘blasphemed.’

Perhaps you are saying, “Jimmy, I already knew this!”

Okay...

Why, then, did you allow yourself to lose your temper the other day with the cashier who didn’t get your fast food order correct?...

Why, then, did you break your word to your child last month after you told him you would help him study for a test?...

Why, then, did you allow your neighbor to see too much of your skin the other day?
You say, “When did I ever--?” … Perhaps never. But what about your actions? Are they adorning the doctrine, or detracting from it?

Beloved, let our adorning of God’s word be with lives of godly consistency. Not only will it save us in the end, it will help to save many others in that day. Don’t be fooled into thinking that others aren’t watching you -- they are! Our parents, children, siblings, friends, neighbors, brethren, and casual acquaintances need to see a life lived in harmony with our words.

Jimmy Fields

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**What Was I? Answer to Last Month’s Riddle by Eric Bridge**

I’ve killed men holy, and I’ve killed dark,
Some in the old, some new (Stephen was a righteous man but was stoned to death in Acts 7, In the Old Testament the worst offenders were to be stoned to death, i.e. Lev.20:27.)

I’m inside Peter, and in the ark,
Though Noah never knew. (Peter’s name means “a stone”, see also 1 Pet.2:4-8; The two “tablets of stone” containing the 10 commandments were inside the ark of the covenant, 1 Kings 8:9; Noah never knew about this “ark” because he preceded it.)

To eat of me you’d not desire,
But tempt him Satan did. (Satan tempted Jesus in the wilderness to turn the stones into bread in Luke 4:1-4.)

Nor would you think me weak to fire,
But into ash I fled. (On Mt. Carmel the Lord’s fire from heaven devoured even the stones of the altar itself – 1 Kings 18:38.)

Twelve times extracted, twelve times immersed,
The kids remembered too. (When Joshua and the Israelites crossed the Jordan River on dry land, they removed 12 stones from the river bed and replaced them with 12 others, as a memorial to their children – Josh 4:1-11.)

Sometimes collected, sometimes disbursed,
Just as the preacher tells you. (In Ecclesiastes “the Preacher” (1:1) says in 3:5 that there is a time both to gather and to cast away stones.)

Abel, Noah, Abram, through me,
Brought to the Lord a pleasing scent. (These three men built stone altars to God, who was pleased with their faithful sacrifices – See Gen.8:20-21.)

To work with me, by the king’s decree,
The best of Hiram’s vassals went. (1 Kings 5-7, King Hiram of Tyre sent his best craftsmen to help Solomon on both the Temple and Solomon’s own palace.)

And Jesus talked about the day,
My temple brethren I’d eschew. (Mark 13:1-2, Jesus knew that in the siege of Jerusalem the Romans would tear the temple apart stone by stone.)

On another day I’d roll away,
And Jesus knew that too. (Mark 16:1-4, The stone sealing Jesus’ grave was rolled away for His resurrection, and Jesus knew this would happen – Jn.2:19-22.)

So call me Ebenezer (“a stone of help” – I Sam.7:12),
And don’t let me offend you, (Rom.9:32-33 – We must not be offended by the stone that is Jesus Christ.)

For from day one I’m like your Maker
(technically day three of creation, if the first stones appeared at the same time as the dry land – Gen.1:9-10; Psalm 28:1 – God is our rock)

And like me He defends you. (Walls of stone have protected cities and families for thousands of years, just as God does – Ezra 9:9.)
**SEPTEMBER 2010 DUTY ROSTER**

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<th>Weekday</th>
<th>SUN</th>
<th>WED</th>
<th>FRI</th>
<th>SAT</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Date</strong></td>
<td>9/5</td>
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<td>9/26</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Opening Prayer</strong></td>
<td>James M.</td>
<td>@ 7:30</td>
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<td>Ed M.</td>
<td>Brent P.</td>
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<td>Jeremy P.</td>
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<td><strong>Morning Message</strong></td>
<td>Randy F.</td>
<td>PM</td>
<td>&amp; 7:00 PM</td>
<td>Mark M.</td>
<td>Larry P.</td>
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<td>Charlie K.</td>
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<td><strong>Announcements</strong></td>
<td>Bill A.</td>
<td>Randy F.</td>
<td>Leo R.</td>
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<td>Jimmy F.</td>
<td>Larry P.</td>
<td>Don H.</td>
<td>John M.</td>
<td>John M.</td>
<td>David T.</td>
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<td><strong>Leading Songs</strong></td>
<td>Larry P.</td>
<td>Eric B.</td>
<td>Charlie K.</td>
<td>Alan M.</td>
<td>Brad F.</td>
<td>David T.</td>
<td>Randy F.</td>
<td>Charlie K.</td>
<td>Alan M.</td>
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<td><strong>First Prayer</strong></td>
<td>Eric B.</td>
<td>David T.</td>
<td>Larry P.</td>
<td>Randy F.</td>
<td>Charlie K.</td>
<td>Matt M.</td>
<td>Tim P.</td>
<td>Alan M.</td>
<td>Michael F.</td>
<td>Leo R.</td>
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<td><strong>Lead at Lord’s Table &amp; Contribution</strong></td>
<td>John M.</td>
<td>David T.</td>
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<td>Bill A.</td>
<td>Jimmy F.</td>
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<td>Leo R.</td>
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<th>Assist</th>
<th>Brad F.</th>
<th>David T.</th>
<th>Jerry D.</th>
<th>Cody M.</th>
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<td>Michael F.</td>
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<td>Matt M.</td>
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<td><strong>Assist</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Read Scripture</strong></td>
<td>Cody M.</td>
<td>Jerry D.</td>
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<td>Bill A.</td>
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<td><strong>Preaching</strong></td>
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<td>Mark M.</td>
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<td><strong>Wed. Exhortation</strong></td>
<td>Matt M.</td>
<td>Matt. M./</td>
<td>Leo R.</td>
<td>Jimmy F.</td>
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<td><strong>Closing Prayer</strong></td>
<td>Jerry D.</td>
<td>Michael F.</td>
<td>Jimmy F.</td>
<td>Leo R.</td>
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ALL ARE WELCOME!

**Sunday**

9:15 - Morning Message
10:00 - Bible classes for all ages
11:00 - Worship

**Wednesday**

7:30 - Bible Classes for all ages

Read articles, sermons and download class material at [www.blueridgecoc.org](http://www.blueridgecoc.org)

Elders:
Jim Fields, Alan Moeller & Leo Rodrigue

Deacons:
Eric Bridge & John Malloy

Evangelist:
Brent Paschall

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