



Lifeline

CHURCH of CHRIST
at Galena



Where Is Your Church Going?

There are two simple alternatives to this question. We can either stay the same (which eventually results in spiritual apathy and numeric dwindling), or we can be dissatisfied with “maintenance” and press toward growth. If we evaluated churches (as the Lord did in Revelation 2-3), we would find some to be mediocre, some to be good, and some to be excellent. Some Christians are satisfied with a mediocre church. A large percentage of Christians are satisfied with a good church. But the real question is, with what is God satisfied? Surely we know that God wants excellence.

Churches that are happy to stay the same are easily identifiable. Staying the same is easy because it is so typical. Most Christians experience this kind of church and therefore never desire anything more. Characteristics of a typical stay-the-same church are:

- They exist to hold Bible classes and worship assemblies. If these have a measure of quality and the members are at peace with one another, then the goal has been accomplished. Almost all their work happens at the building.
- They stand for the truth and will not tolerate false teaching. This is the prime directive. However, of much less concern is whether this truth is shared with their neighbors.
- They are very comfortable and give each other a good feeling because they stay within the boundaries of long established habits.
- They may do quite a bit of work, but the work has to do with putting out fires and keeping things running smoothly.



On the other hand, a church pressing toward excellence is quite different:

- They see the prime directive as “proclaiming the praises of Him who called us” so that a lost world will “glorify God in the day of visitation,” 1 Peter 2:9-12. They do not leave evangelism to a few zealous members, but see it as a team effort.
- Bible classes and worship assemblies are not the goal, but are used to equip saints to do the work of building up the body of Christ, Ephesians 4:11-16. Most of their work is outside the building.
- They get the attention of the community because they are “light” and “salt.”
- Their parents recognize that it takes hard work to save their children. They do not believe “going to church” is all that it takes. They provide numerous opportunities for the spiritual growth of the younger generation.
- They do not allow the grumblers and “stay-the-same” members to stop the work. Like Nehemiah, they pray and say, “hand me another brick.”

Where is your church going? ☞

-Berry Kercheville
-FOCUS MAGAZINE
-April 2008, number 98

Raising the "Bar"

Matthew records an exchange between Jesus and His disciples in the sixteenth chapter. Jesus asked the group who the multitudes said that He was. Some were thinking Jesus was John the Baptist, others thought He might be Elijah or Jeremiah or some other prophet. Then Jesus asked the disciples, "But who do you say that I am?"

Peter answered, "Thou art the Christ, the son of the living God." And Jesus answered and said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-jona, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but My Father who is in heaven."

Christ called Peter, Simon Bar-Jona. "Bar" simply meant "son of" or "son." The Jewish culture did not identify families as we do in our culture, by a last name. Peter was not Peter Smith or Peter Jones. The Jews identified families through the lineage of the males. Peter was Peter, son-of-Jona.

Would we like to have our father's name associated with everything we do, like Peter? Consider, in every action of your life, whether you earned acclaim or suffered disgrace, your father's name would be linked to it. Whenever there was a contract to sign or a census for the government, your father's name would be there. Whether people looked at you with respect or as a fool, your father's name and reputation would be linked to you!

Yet Jesus grew up in this culture as well. Imagine the Rabbi at Synagogue calling on Jesus Bar-Joseph to read from scripture? Would Jesus bother to correct him? Did

Joseph blush a little when he heard others call his son after such a fashion?

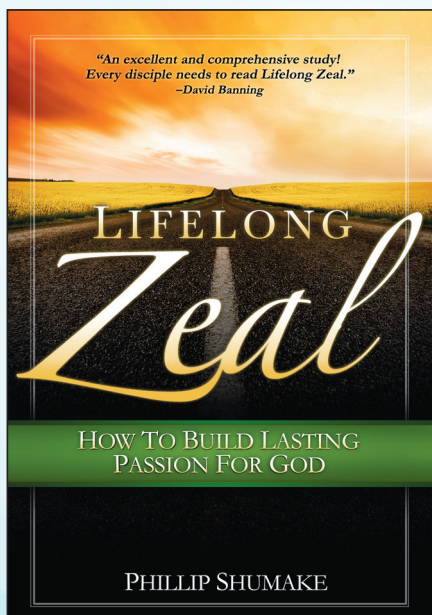
Jesus raised the "Bar." He had no earthly father. He was conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of a virgin. Jesus was the son of the living God. He was Jesus Bar-Jehovah. He was Jesus Bar-Yahweh. He was Jesus Bar-God. Like Peter, everything Jesus did carried with it the name of His Father. What Jesus taught reflected on His Father. How Jesus lived reflected on His Father. Whether or not Jesus would sin reflected on His Father. When Jesus went to the cross, it reflected on His Father.

As Christians, have we set the "Bar" high enough for ourselves? Through the blood of Christ, we have been born into the household or family of God. We are joint-heirs of eternal bliss. We are the sons and daughters of God.

Do our words reflect favorably on the Father, since our names are linked? Do our actions reflect favorably on the Father? Does our love reflect favorably on the Father? Does our reputation reflect favorably on the Father?

We may often make the mistake of determining our actions by the standards or expectations of others around us. But the "Bar" is higher for Christians because we have a Holy Father. The truth is we have a name we need to bring honor and glory to, by our conduct. It is the name of God. And we have a pattern to follow, Jesus Bar-God.

-Andrew Roberts



MARK'S QUESTION

Mark said, "I was baptized just a few years ago, but I already feel less on fire. What can I do to get my zeal back?" At the time, I told Mark I wasn't sure. I knew spending more time in prayer and Bible study would help him, but like many Christians, he was already doing those things. He deserved a more specific answer.

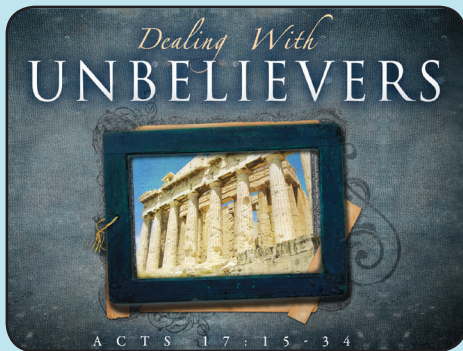
Maybe you've felt like Mark before. If so, take courage because God is eager to ignite lifelong zeal in every Christian. The Bible includes all the examples and instructions you need to live with a greater passion for God.

This study guide will help you:

- Build a spiritual fire that doesn't fizzle out.
- Discover seven steps Jesus used to enhance Peter's zeal (and yours!)
- Gain a mature understanding of zeal from over four hundred Scriptures.
- Share the good news in an even more compelling manner.
- Experience the satisfaction found in imitating Jesus' zeal.

In 1 Peter 3:12-14, God promises you have nothing to fear in this journey, so open your Bible and get started.

CLASS BEGINS WEDNESDAY, JULY 26TH!



Dealing With Unbelievers

(Acts 17:15-34)

Introduction: Paul is traveling and has recently been to Thessalonica, Berea and is now in Athens. The city of Athens attracted a lot of "sight-seers". The Greeks were famous for their art, sculptures, architecture, etc. But Paul didn't go as a sight-seer but rather as a soul-winner. When he arrived his heart was broken to see the city immersed in a cultural paganism of idolatry. What was he to do? In our day what are we to do?

LORD'S SUPPER MEDITATION



Why Did Jesus Come to Die? ...To Free Us From Our Futile Ways

"And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile, knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot."
(1 Peter 1:17-19)

I. Who Did Paul Find?

- A) Epicureans were all about _____
B) Stoics were all about _____ (vs. 18, 22-23)

II. What Did Paul Do?

- A) Provoked at the status of the religious people ideology in the city.
B) Sought to understand who they were and what they believed.
C) Started out teaching in the synagogue with the Jews (v. 17).
D) Used what they believed to teach people (vs. 18-21).

III. How Did Paul Teach Them?

- A) Our God is the God of _____ (vs. 24-25).
B) Our God is the God of personal _____ (v. 27;
Acts 7:44-50; Romans 3:16; 2 Cor. 6:16-18).
• He knows my _____ (John 10:3).
• He knows my _____ (Matthew 6:31-32, Philippians 4:19)
• He knows my _____ (Hebrews 4:14-16)
C) Our God is the God of _____ (vs. 28-30)
D) Our God is the God of _____ (v. 31)

IV. What Was their Response? (vs. 32-34)

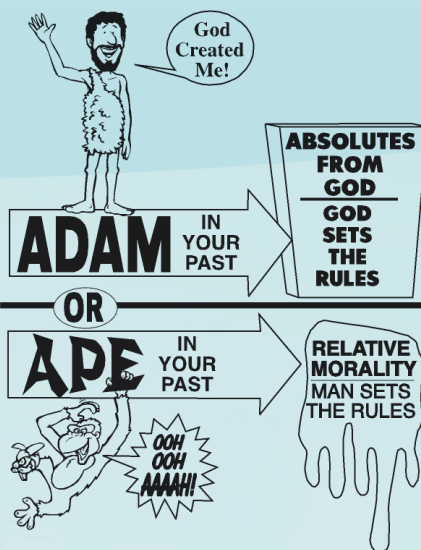
- A) Some _____
B) Some _____
C) Some _____

Conclusion: As you go out into our unbelieving world get to know people and realize that everyone believes something. Use what they believe to talk to them about the one true God and boldly proclaim the truth to them about the creator who knows them and who they really need.



(_____)

MAN, MONK OR MOUSE?



- “Where did we come from?”
- “Why are we here?”
- “Where are we going?”
- “What is the purpose of life?”

These are fundamental questions every person asks, whether they admit it or not.

There are answers to be found. The question is, “Do you have the courage to seek and accept the answers?” If “Yes,” then we can very much want to help you.

Join us regularly for a look into God’s book, the Bible, which answers these and many other questions.

With God there is truth (i.e. absolutes). Coming from God, He makes the rules, not man. Do you have the courage to obey God’s truth? We are made in God’s image, not a monkey. You’re not a monkey, so don’t be a mouse about obeying God.



Continue to Pray for...

Shut In Members:

Marjorie Dodge
Grace Singleton

Friends & Family:

Beatrice Buchanan
Stewart Dodge
Eric Foushee
Kay Gegenheimer
Ray Gilbert
Wilma Hudson
Jan King
Anne Loughmiller
Joyce Manning
Jerry Maudlin
Stacie Rothrock
Allison Unruh

Philippine Evangelists:

Leonido
Balballoza
Vicente Cay
Edwin de Pedro
David N. Varona

Evangelism Efforts:

Keep praying for Scott Mitchell and others who are planting God's word. Pray that the seed will fall on honest and good hearts.

Please tell Shannon of Additions or Changes for this List

SURGERY UPDATE...

Doris Woolbright's sister, Gwenn, had surgery last Thursday and all went well. The tumor was removed and the doctor thinks it to be benign but is sending it for a pathology report.

WEDNESDAY ADULT CLASS...

Tim Madlin will teach the class on **July 5, 12 & 19** on the subject of **"Rebounding From Adversity."**

Thanks so much to Tim for teaching. Come participate in these classes for the benefit of all.

OUT OF TOWN...

This week the **Stouts, Shaffers, Belinda and others** will be travelling for various activities and to visit friends and family for the holiday. Pray for the safety of all.

Shannon & Dana will also be gone **July 14-19th** for a marriage seminar in Alabama and Shannon is teaching at Charlestown Road on the 19th for their summer series.



New Bible Classes Begin TODAY!

2 & 3 - Carla Loughmiller & L. Barker
Preschool - Kindergarten - Emily Culver & Denise Woolbright
1 & 2 Grades - Mary Beth Maudlin & Darlene Buchanan
3rd - 5th - Dana Shaffer & Jenny Stout
6th - 8th - Dylan Culver & Bill Buchanan
HS/College - Shanon Miller & Kyle Dowling
Adults - Dale, Mike & Shannon

THIS WEEK

Barker July 2 nd	Dowling July 9 th	Loughmiller July 16 th	Mitchell July 23 rd	Scott July 30 th	Stout August 6 th
Farmer Keehn Loughmiller, B. Woolbright, Randol	Barker, Ashlyn Keehn Michell Sieg, Don	Dooley Schoenbaechler Shaffer Woolbright, Ryan	Buchanan Hudson Sieg-Swank	Bailey Miller Sieg, Donny Culver	Loughmiller, N. Maudlin McKinney Woolbright, D.

JULY SERVANTS

Building Cleaning & Communion:
Farmer & Mitchell

Benevolence Organizers:
Mitchell & Schoenbaechler



JULY

1 - Doris Woolbright	14 - Jeff & Christina Farmer ANN.
2 - Nick Loughmiller	14 - Ryan Woolbright
8 - Carla Loughmiller	25 - Lina Woolbright
9 - Daryn Barker	25 - Luke & Sarah Dooley ANN.
9 - Ashlyn Barker	28 - Shannon & Dana Shaffer ANN.
13 - Keith & Ann Keehn ANN.	31 - Dale & Denise Woolbright
13 - Scott & Tina Mitchell ANN.	

BIRTHDAYS ANNIVERSARIES

SERVING IN WORSHIP

NEXT WEEK

Sunday Morning (07/02)

Announcements: Bill Buchanan

1st Prayer: Jonathan Maudlin

Song Leader: Dylan Culver

Lord's Table: Shanon Miller (Lead)

K. Keehn, R. Scott, L. Dooley

Sermon: Shannon Shaffer

Closing Prayer: Gus Schoenbaechler

Sunday PM (07/02)

Announcements: Bill Buchanan

1st Prayer: Benny Loughmiller

Song Leader: Donny Sieg

Lord's Table: Shanon Miller (Lead)

K. Keehn

Sermon: Jeff Farmer

Closing Prayer: Nick Loughmiller

Wednesday (07/05)

Announcements: Daryn Barker

1st Prayer: Tim Maudlin

Song Leader: Ryan Woolbright

Invitation: Don Sieg

Closing Prayer: Gus Schoenbaechler

NEXT WEEK

Sunday Morning (07/09)

Announcements: Dale Woolbright

1st Prayer: Daryn Barker

Song Leader: Ryan Woolbright

Lord's Table: Mike Loughmiller (Lead)

B. Buchanan, Donny Sieg, M. Stout

Sermon: Shannon Shaffer

Closing Prayer: Jim Hudson

Sunday PM (07/09)

Announcements: Dale Woolbright

1st Prayer: Kyle Dowling

Song Leader: Jeff Farmer

Lord's Table: Mike Loughmiller (Lead)

B. Buchanan

Sermon: Shannon Shaffer

Closing Prayer: Gus Schoenbaechler

Wednesday (07/12)

Announcements: Michael Stout

1st Prayer: Randol Woolbright

Song Leader: Don Sieg

Invitation: Tim Maudlin

Closing Prayer: Evan Mitchell

Shepherds:

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CHURCH of CHRIST at Galena

Lifeline

Meeting at

5466 Featheringill Road
Greenville, IN 47124

Sunday

Worship: 9:00 AM

Bible Classes: 10:00 AM

Worship: 3:00 PM

Wednesday

Bible Classes: 7:30 PM

Website

[http://churchofChrist
inGalena.com](http://churchofChristinGalena.com)