

By Bill Jackson 9/2/2017

Pretending AKA Hypocrisy

The game of pretense. We know that children play the game, and in their time of life it is innocent and a great deal of fun. But then, there's the grown-up world, and for those in Christ, there is the reality set forth in the Word of God. Christianity is not the religion of pretense. In mythology, and in the systems men have created, one can do a great deal of pretending because all that does exist in those forms are made up by man, but not so in the system of Christ. God is, and that is reality! ([Gen. 1:1](#)). Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God ([Matt. 16:16](#)), and that is reality! Satan and sin exist, and have their influence upon men in causing men to be separated from God, and those are realities! ([Eph. 2:1](#)). In Christ, salvation is offered to man, and that is a splendid reality! ([Eph. 1:13](#)). The saved are in Christ, in the church that Jesus built ([Acts 2:47](#)), and that is reality! Christians deal in realities.

For a Christian to be a pretender is to say, then, that he is a hypocrite. Jesus saw so much of that among the Jewish leaders of his time, and repeatedly he condemned such in [Matthew 23](#). That very word gives our word "actor," and that is exactly what a hypocrite is, for he is merely "playing a part." Above all else, the child of God must know that he is dealing with eternal realities, and cannot just pretend. It is dangerous to pretend, and foolish. We suggest some types of that foolishness:

(1) What of that preacher who still "pretends" to be God's man, but he's so careful to avoid preaching on the subjects troubling to the saints, or on those things that prominent people in the congregation might be given to? Is he not just a "pretender?" Rather than preaching the truth, and standing squarely for God, he's in the business of men-pleasing. Forceful he is, in speaking forth those things wherein all around him are in agreement, but silent as a tomb when it comes to things wherein controversy lurks. He is simply a "pretender."

(2) What of those [elders](#) who have the title, and have their names on the bulletin and on the stationery, but precious little time and effort is expended in seeing to the spiritual needs of the flock? Are they not just "pretenders?" These are charged with feeding the flock of God ([Acts 20:28](#)), and watching for souls ([Heb. 13:17](#)). Attending to those very duties would have stopped some divisive movements dead in their tracks, and the church would not have been hurt so terribly. But too often, we have known of [elders](#) who simply "put heads in the sand" and played the game of pretense — pretending there was no problem, pretending certain ones were not false teachers, pretending the problem would just die on its own, and pretending a problem would right itself.

Satan has his devices ([2 Cor. 2:11](#)), and all are calculated toward the defeat of God's cause. Satan's efforts are called "war against the Lamb ([Rev. 17:14](#)), but that conflict amounts to "war against those belonging to the Lamb" ([Rev. 12:17](#)). All of God's children are to be faithful soldiers in the Lord's army, and elders are to be such as will hold the Word in their hands and to use it in convicting the man of the contrary part ([Titus 1:9](#)). Liberalism all around us, and those known as elders just "pretend" that there is no problem? Indeed, they are just "pretenders."

(3) And what of entire congregations whose main thrust today is in the realm of the economic, or social, or entertainment of its own members? The church, like a mighty army, has been placed on the field of battle, commanded by the captain of our salvation ([Heb. 2:10](#)), and is expected to expend all in casting down and pulling down anything daring to stand in the way of the knowledge of God! ([2 Cor. 10:3-5](#)). And the church builds a gymnasium? The volley ball replaces the sword of the Spirit, the word of God? ([Eph. 6:17](#)). Given just a few years of church concern turned inward toward the members' pleasure, and those in the church will not only not desire the New Testament truth, but they will not even recognize it! But the congregation given to the social gospel and emphasis on pleasure, is that congregation not just "pretending" when it claims to be devoted to the Lord's will and claims to be working toward the salvation of souls? Indeed, just "pretending."

Again we stress the fact that the things of God are the things of reality! Accountability is real, and the coming day of [judgment](#) is real. Hell is an awful reality, and pictured in terms of reality in the Bible. Hell is too real for any of us to spend our time in this life just "pretending." We must be up and about the Father's business!

CHRISTIAN WORKER, February, 1987

GET A LITTLE BIT STRONGER... Remember your daily devotional.



Trezevant church of Christ

114 Church St.
Trezevant, TN 38258
731-669-3448

Services:

Sunday Morning
Bible Study: 9:00 a.m.
Worship: 10:00 a.m.
Evening: 5:00 p.m.
Wednesday
Bible Study: 6:30 p.m.

Elders:

Dale Aden
Cell: 731-415-
1161
David Bryant
Cell: 731-418-1311
Home: 731-669-9648
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Steve Foster
Cell: 731-225-4395
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Deacons:

David Brasher
Cell: 731-415-
0636
Greg McClain
Cell: 731-694-0766

Mark Wright
Cell: 731-571-
5606

YOUTH COORDINATOR:
Nick Bryant: Cell (731)694-
2983

Hear weekly sermons on www.trezevantchurchofchrist.org

BIRTHDAYS:

October

1-William Moore, 3-Barry Moore, 6-Linda Sydnor, 12-Margaret Barlowe, 14-Tim Rogers, 14-Wanda Smith, 17- Katie Lindsey, 17- Kellie Lindsey, 19-Zachary Chrisman, 19- Cailey Lanciloti , 21-Lori McClain, 23-Jacob Peevyhouse, 23-Scarlet Peevyhouse, 25-Ben Holmes, 28-Sharon Wright

ANNIVERSARIES:

September: 30-Dale & Rhonda Aden

October: 21-Benji & Nichole Lawrence

WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?

We must hear the word of God. Romans 10:17

We must believe the word of God. Hebrews 11:6; John 3:16; Mark 16:15-16

We must repent of our sins. Luke 13:3; Acts 2:38

We must confess Christ before men. Matthew 10:32-33; Romans 10:9-10

We must be immersed for the remission of our sins. Acts 2:38; 22:16; I Peter 3:21

We must live faithfully until death. Revelation 2:10; Romans 12:1-2

•DATES TO REMEMBER:

Oct. 6th-Annual Singing at Pleasant View, Skullbone at 7:30

Oct. 8th - Fellowship Lunch after morning services.

•THOSE TO SERVE – OCT. LIST IN FOYER (*Please check for your assignment and contact one of the Deacons if you know you are going to be absent on that date*).

Sympathy to the families of Mrs. Gerthal Leach (Mrs. Kay Greenway's sister). She passed away early Friday morning. Also, Eddie Dean Smith, who passed away Sat., the 16th; funeral was yesterday; and Doroty Burress, passed away this past week. Her funeral service was Wednesday.

SHUT-INS /NURSING HOME: Margaret Barlowe (Van Ayer Manor), Martha Nell Reed (Lakeside Retirement Community), Elvy Sauls Jr., (Life Care of Bruceton/Hollow Rock), Ruth Bennett

PRAYER LIST: Linda Ballentine (Knee Surgery), Gerthal Leach, Norris Depriest , Dalton Williams, Robert Williams, Jimmy McClain, J.T. Rogers Lois Arrington, Doris Haskell, Mary Bryant, Tim Rogers, Leona Aden, Harold Hutcherson, Charles Foster, Penny Warren, Vicki Murphy (Lexington), Mike Lane, Dustin Bryant, Lalanie Murphy ; **UPDATES:** Maddox Stover is home and much improved.

CANCER: Lynn Harrison, Keith Inman, Barry Barber, Carmen Bobbitt McCain, Sue Price (Mother of Chris Kennedy's wife, Carol); Shanna Wells; Linda Cherry; Deborah Browning; Frank Paris; J. T. Rogers; Christy Dickson (Mandy's cousin); Rhyan Loos; Hattie Berry; Christine Johnson; Jimmy Greene

October 2017 Duty Roster

Dates	Sunday Oct 1	Sunday Oct 8	Sunday Oct 15	Sunday Oct 22	Sunday Oct 29
Prepare Lord's Supper	Mark and Sharon Wright	Mark and Sharon Wright	Mark and Sharon Wright	Mark and Sharon Wright	Mark and Sharon Wright
Greet	Greg and Lori McClain	Greg and Lori McClain	Greg and Lori McClain	Greg and Lori McClain	Greg and Lori McClain
PowerPoint	Jacob Peevyhouse	Jacob Peevyhouse	Jacob Peevyhouse	Jacob Peevyhouse	Jacob Peevyhouse
Announcements	Tim Rogers	Tim Rogers	Tim Rogers	Tim Rogers	Tim Rogers
Sunday A.M. Songleader	David Bryant	David Bryant	David Bryant	David Bryant	David Bryant
Sunday P.M. Songleader	Keith Peevyhouse	Keith Peevyhouse	Keith Peevyhouse	Keith Peevyhouse	Keith Peevyhouse
Preside: Lord's Supper	Dale Aden and Terry Hall	Dale Aden and Terry Hall	Dale Aden and Terry Hall	Dale Aden and Terry Hall	Dale Aden and Terry Hall
Assist: Lord's Supper	Jacob Keen, Daniel Rogers, Jack Lawrence, Joshua Brasher	Jacob Keen, Rogers, Daniel Jack Lawrence, Joshua Brasher	Jacob Keen, Daniel Rogers, Jack Lawrence, Joshua Brasher	Jacob Keen, Daniel Rogers, Jack Lawrence, Joshua Brasher	Jacob Keen, Daniel Rogers, Jack Lawrence, Joshua Brasher
Prayer and Scripture Reading					
Sunday A.M. Opening Prayer	Dale Ballentine	Charlie Wachsmuth	Nick Bryant	Keith Peevyhouse	John Henry Long
Sunday A.M. Scripture Reading	Barry Moore	Noah Brasher	Jack Lawrence	Daniel Rogers	Norris DePreist
Sunday A.M. Closing Prayer	Peyton Lindsey	Monte Morris	Daniel Rogers	Jacob Keen	Dylan Holt
Sunday P.M. Opening Prayer	Mark Wright	Tim Rogers	Charlie Wachsmuth	Steve Foster	Greg McClain
Sunday P.M. Scripture Reading	Joshua Brasher	Steve Foster	Noah Brasher	Nick Bryant	Dylan Holt
Sunday P.M. Closing Prayer	Monte Paul Morris	Joshua Brasher	Mark Wright	David Brasher	Jacob Peevyhouse
Dates	Wednesday Oct 4	Wednesday Oct 11	Wednesday Oct 15	Wednesday Oct 25	
Wednesday P.M. Songleader	Jacob Peevyhouse	Jacob Peevyhouse	Jacob Peevyhouse	Jacob Peevyhouse	
Devotional	Tim Rogers	Dale Ballentine	Dale Aden	Nick Bryant	
Wednesday P.M. Opening Prayer	Sherrill Smith	Dale Aden	David Bryant	Charlie Wachsmuth	
Wednesday P.M. Closing Prayer	Jacob Keen	Peyton Lindsey	Noah Brasher	Daniel Rogers	