

Those Serving This Week:
Announcements:
Wayne Schultz

Lord's Table:
Presiding:
Tony Ward

Serving:
Bob McAlister
Ryan Thornsberry

Song Leader:
Ron Schultz

Scripture Reading:
AM – John Shelton
PM – Song Service

Sun. Bible Study Prayer:
Jesse Phillippe

Opening Prayer:
Sun. AM – Nick Ward
Sun. PM – Bob McAlister
Wed. – Tony Ward

Closing Prayer:
Sun. AM – R.W. McAlister
Sun. PM – Nick Ward
Wed. – Wayne Schultz

Anna Church of Christ
104 Nile Street
Anna IL 62906

...continued from inside

Look at Numbers 12. We find there that Moses had married a black woman from Ethiopia. A Jew with a black woman. Miriam, the sister of Moses, threw a fit! She rebelled, she said it was awful, she objected strongly to that marriage (and also to Moses' leadership – she and Aaron wanted to share it) and do you remember what God did to Miriam? He struck her with leprosy! Moses intervened on her behalf, and because of what Moses said, God gave her leprosy for just a week. But it's obvious that God was most displeased with Miriam's attitude.

Racists have their priorities reversed. As Martin Luther King, Jr. expressed it, they make decisions according to the "color of one's skin," instead of "the content of his character"—either **against** people or **for** them.

Racism is a dangerous evil. It dishonors God's plan of development and ethnic diversity. It's judgmental. It constitutes "respect of persons" and thus is not God-like. You'll recall that Peter perceived "*that God is no respecter of persons*" (Acts 10:34); the Greek text literally reads, "God is no respecter of faces." Human beings ought not to be either.
- R.W.

Gauging Our Faith Last Week

Sunday Morning: 28

Sunday Evening: 26

Wednesday Evening: 24

Were you counted among these numbers?



Nile Street Notes

Anna Church of Christ
104 Nile Street, Anna, Illinois 62906
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Website: www.annachurchofchrist.com

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Welcome to the Anna Church of Christ

Elders

Wayne Schultz - 697-5477
John Shelton - 833-5090
Ryan Thornsberry
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Deacons

R.W. McAlister
Robert McAlister

Preacher

R.W. McAlister
618-697-0351
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Services:

Sunday

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

Wednesday

Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

Television Programs

In Search Of The Lord's Way
Ch. 49, Sunday, 7:00 a.m.
A Bible Answer
Heartland's CW (Dish ch. 9),
Sunday, 8 a.m.

Newspaper Ministry

The Preaching Pen
Gazette Democrat

Praise or Performance?

It is an awesome experience any time one comes into the august presence of the Holy One, Almighty God! This is particularly true when the worshipper gathers in His presence to worship Him, as in the public assemblies of the Lord's church. True worshippers know "God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth" (John 4:24). There are many who do not understand this truth. Some of those are in the Lord's church.

A significant portion of the worship, when the saints gather for that purpose, is given to praise. It is at this point that there is such a misunderstanding of who the audience is and what is pleasing and acceptable to that audience. According to *Vine's Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words*, praise "...denotes approbation, commendation, praise; it is used of those on account of, and by reason of, whom God's heritage, praise is to be ascribed to God, in respect of His glory (the exhibition of His character and operation) Eph. 1:6, 12, 14. The true worshipper understands, then, that God is the audience and that his acts of praise are to be directed toward Him only, and not to the worshippers who have gathered. So, praise must be directed toward God: "...I will declare thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto thee" (Hebrews 2:12). Incidentally, that praise is an expression conveyed by the fruit of the lips unto God (Hebrews 13:15).

As one observes activities which are conducted in what is called praise, it is obvious these are activities directed toward the audience gathered rather than toward God. In their design, are they not performances for the entertainment of the audience gathered?

While an audience is lifted up by songs of praise to God, the worshipper must be concerned about what pleases God, not what pleases a human audience.

- A. C. Quinn, West Main Church of Christ in Wolfe City, Texas.

The Color of Racism

Tomorrow is a holiday set aside to honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Dr. King was an ardent supporter and campaigner for equality among black and whites. In view of that, it seems that the issue of prejudice, race, and in particular, *racism*, would be appropriate for us to consider.

First, what is prejudice? The word “prejudice” actually means “pre-judgment;” that is, before the facts are considered, we’ve already made up our minds. It’s been said that prejudice is a great time saver, because you don’t have to read or hear the facts. So it doesn’t matter what the facts are, what the background is; prejudice means that we make up our minds *regardless of or before learning* the facts of the matter.

Sometimes we say, “You can’t judge a book by its cover.” A book’s cover may be visually appealing and look exciting, but when you begin reading the book, it turns out to be a bore. It’s very true in this life: you can’t judge a book by its cover; and yet, when it comes to the subject of racism, that’s basically what’s happening: judging people by the color of their skin or their ethnic characteristics. *Sometimes*, one’s outward appearance can give us a few clues about what’s important to him or her, but we must never allow outward appearance to cause us to jump to conclusions and pre-judge before getting to know the individual. Actions, speech, etc., are much better indicators of a person’s character.

Another term rapidly finding new and intensified use is “racist.” If you want to insult someone with whom you’re upset, call him a racist. No one wants to be thought of as a racist. That epithet received a celebrity boost a few years ago when former president Jimmy Carter charged that those who oppose the current president’s policies are motivated by racism and not by the fact that his policies are simply not conducive to American prosperity or in keeping with more conservative beliefs.

Racism is nearly as old as time. It probably began after the dispersing of humanity in the days after the flood. Early humanity largely neglected the Creator’s charge to “*fill the earth*” (Genesis 1:28). A sizable portion absolutely refused to do so (Gen. 11:4). As a result, God “confounded” their speech and “scattered them abroad” (Gen. 11:6ff). Being separated created the circumstances that led to the physical variations of human beings. An incredibly rich genetic pool, combined with dispersal, created just the right variety of environments for the development of various physical features.

In his book, *Human Heredity*, anthropologist Dr. Ashley Montagu, an evolutionist, admitted that “all the ethnic groups of man must have originated from a single ancestral stock... The more we study the different ethnic groups of man, the more alike they turn out to be” (1960, 184).

Secondly, how do we recognize it? Racism is not restricted to one segment of our population. It’s white, black, brown, and yellow, red, and so on.

A racist is generally a person who judges others on exterior features, such as skin pigmentation, language accent, or other externals.

A racist will resist hiring one of another race, or will hire a less qualified person over a more qualified one, to accommodate his own race.

A racist cringes to see people of different color in marriage—“People need to marry their own kind.” We’re all the same “kind.” We’re descendants of Adam and Eve. Every human cell contains DNA. DNA is the code that was programmed by the Creator for the production of different varieties of biological organisms, including the potential for differences within humankind. The responsibility for “race diversity” lies ultimately with God. *continued on back page...*

SERMON TOPICS

A.M. – “God Is Working!” Part 2
(Psalm 105:39-42)

P.M. – Song Service

Those For Whom We Are Praying:

Mellie Karraker – Lutheran Home in Cape.
Carlos Wright – in Anna Rehab, room 8.
George & Dawn Lackey
Wardell Barnhart – Difficulty breathing.
Having some vision trouble.
Brenda Phillips – Kris’ cousin. Has renal cell cancer in her lungs and trachea.
Rosemary’s family: Katie Bauer has stopped her chemotherapy. Mitchell Shock (age 4) has terminal cancer. Breanna & Kayla go back to hospital soon to complete kidney stone surgery. 1st attempt not entirely successful.
Ron Pind (friend of Cliff Thomas) – cancer.
John & Dawn Bradley – Scar tissue from appendectomy is causing Dawn some difficulty.
Larry Bell – recovering from knee surgery.
Freda Dillow
Edd Sterchi - home - recovering from prostate surgery.

Welcome! If you’re visiting with us, we extend to you a special welcome and invite you to come back at every opportunity. If our worship seems unusual to you, please let us know what you find different. We endeavor to worship “in Spirit and in truth” (Jn. 4:24) and do only what scripture authorizes (Col. 3:17, Deut. 4:2; Rev. 22:18-19).

Quotable Quote: “It is not enough to have knowledge, one must also apply it. It is not enough to have wishes, one must also accomplish.” – Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

Wisdom From Proverbs: “*It is an honour for a man to cease from strife: but every fool will be meddling*” (Prov. 20:3).

NEWS & UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

* **Please remember to mute or turn off cell phones. Also: If you must take a phone call, please step outside the building so as not to disturb those who are worshipping.**

* Items needed for the food pantry: canned meats, pineapple.

* The truck from Paragould Children’s Home will be here on the 28th to collect food donations.

* If you wish to make a change on the communion preparation list, there’s still one week to do so. If none are made, we’ll follow last year’s list.

* Sermon suggestions or Bible questions? Feel free to put them in the Question Box in the foyer.

* Ladies’ Bible class will meet Jan 22nd at Olive Garden in Cape at 6.

* Today is the third Sunday. We’ll worship in song tonight and afterward, we’ll meet for fun and food.

* **Hearing assistance available upon request.**

BIBLE QUESTION/ANSWER:

Last week’s answer: The wheels of the chariots came off & Pharaoh’s army that followed the Israelites drowned (Ex. 14).

New question: True or False: David killed Goliath with a bow and arrow?

Sentence Sermon: “A man’s action is only a picture book of his creed.”

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Wyatt Jones - 1/21