

Family Focus

SHEPHERD'S CORNER

There are many verses in the Bible that talk about being led, or directed, or following. Being led by God, Christ, or the Spirit, are good examples, while Satan, evil temptations, lust, greed, and such, are obviously bad things to follow after. Some things are neutral in and of themselves, and could be either good or bad, such as your heart, passion, or desires. While both the good and the bad things are generally self evident, the 'neutral' list can prove to be troublesome.



While we tend to think of the heart as a good thing, it can also be bad, and there are plenty of examples in the Bible of lost souls due to hardened hearts. Likewise, desire is usually deemed as a good thing, but we are cautioned often about being led astray by evil desires to destruction. Passion also is a strong emotion that has great power for good, but can destroy if it is directed in the wrong way. One needs to look no further than to the life of Paul to see each of these three used to both bad and good results.

Honest self examination is needed in our lives to be sure that we are being led down the right path, and discernment is called for when examining things that are influencing our decisions each day. Knowing who and what is leading us is vital for our spiritual growth. It can be quite easy to be led astray, slowly but surely falling away.

The same is true for the church as a whole. Are we allowing God to direct us, or hoping to find our own way by other means? Are we willing to walk the path that by prayer and discernment with the guidance of the Holy Spirit we deem the correct way even if it seems unclear, long, or difficult? Or do we continue down a path that takes only a little effort and faith, and hope that we are blessed along the way?

Perhaps at times it is like we are driving in fog. We know our destination but can not see it. But with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, trust and faith, we can see well enough and are able to continuously move forward towards the goal. What I know for certain is this. God is able, willing, and actively guiding. I certainly will try to listen and follow. How about you? How about the church?

In His Service,
Britt Newby

WELCOME MIKE COGHILL!



We are very pleased to have Mike Coghill, youth intern candidate from Oklahoma Christian University, with us this weekend. Mike spent yesterday with the Elders, ministry staff, and teens, and will be teaching the Teen Bible Class this morning.

Everyone is invited to a congregational potluck after services in the Fellowship Hall for a chance to meet and talk with Mike.

FULL FAMILY FELLOWSHIP TONIGHT YOUTH PRESENT PSALM 19

Please plan to be here this evening for Full Family Fellowship. Among other highlights of the evening, Mrs. Carpenter's 4th-5th Grade Bible Class will present Psalm 19.