

Would You Defend Your Family from Attack?

This is not a time for giving less time to our kids and marriages, but more. This is a time when families are falling apart and people are becoming emotionally twisted, even developing lifelong problems because of what is happening in their home. If believers don't SHOW THE WAY and act responsibly with honesty and courage... if we don't talk about the hard questions and face the uncomfortable subjects in our own homes, then who will offer help or hope for those sin-sick families? This is crucial time for doing family well.

No, our families aren't going to be perfect—to have a family is to have problems and occasional crises. The difference is in how we deal with it. In the problem, do you face it, LET GOD IN, stay committed, tough it out, ALLOW GOD TO WORK THROUGH AND IN YOU so you can work through it? Or will you run?

Marriage and family will bring you face-to-face with problems that are bigger than you. Even if you are present physically, you can leave emotionally, coexisting under the same roof. You can check-out on your kids, check-out on your spouse. Why would a dad who would defend the family from an armed attacker wimp out on a spiritual attack? DADS, YOUR ROLE AS PROTECTOR EXTENDS TO THE SOULS OF YOUR FAMILY. A Christian dad has the moral courage to face the creeping moral and spiritual problems in his house.

The problems are bigger than we are—but we know someone who is bigger than the problem: our mighty God. WE NEED STRONG MEN AND WOMEN IN OUR HOMES—who find that strength and courage in the Lord.

On the American frontier there was no real system of law enforcement, and you needed a gun to protect your family—it's different now. Today, the forces against your family are spiritual and moral.

The nature of defending your family has changed—it now involves a tremendous need for STRONG LEADERSHIP, RESPONSIBLE ACTIONS. It is a battle for the hearts of children and teens and moms and dads. It has to do with the underlying values, teachings and world view in all forms of media and entertainment. It has to do with the stories and scripts and definitions of what's normal, WHAT IS RIGHT AND WRONG and how all of this lodges itself in the hearts of our families.

WE NEED DADS AND MOMS WHO ARE SPIRITUALLY STRONG, MORALLY COURAGEOUS. Who wear out the knees of

their pants in prayer to God. Who can stare a family problem, a marriage crisis, in the eye and not blink, because they are FINDING THEIR STRENGTH IN JESUS.

Often the passivity of not making a decision can be one of the most unloving, destructive things you can do to your family—to run away by not deciding. To decide by giving up. To fail from lack of trying and decide by not deciding.

We need people of courage and faith who have learned from God how to love fiercely. Not tentatively, conditionally, with fear or cowering. Jesus “set his face” to go to Jerusalem. Have we “set our face” to do anything? Do we believe God? Do we believe his Word is not just one among many truths, but THE TRUTH?

If an act of Christ-like courage, an act of conviction and strength occurred in your home, would the kids even recognize it? “What was that?” “Wow!” “Mom believes this.” “Dad really believes this.”

*“Now fear the LORD and serve him with all faithfulness. Throw away the gods your forefathers worshipped...and serve the LORD. But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then **CHOOSE FOR YOURSELVES THIS DAY WHOM YOU WILL SERVE**, whether the gods your forefathers served...or the gods ...in whose land you are living. **BUT AS FOR ME AND MY HOUSEHOLD, WE WILL SERVE THE LORD!**”* --Joshua 24:14-15

Mark

Welcome to Ken Spence: from the Sunset Road Church of Christ who will be speaking today.

YOUTH GROUP & PARENTS: Our trip to Winterfest is this week. There will be a MEETING right after service at the front of the auditorium for all the Youth Group, their parents Chaperones & Drivers. We will be meeting at our church building on **THURSDAY**, February 19th at 11:30 PM FOR DEPARTURE.

Cathedral Kitchen Meal for Homeless: Volunteer to serve a meal at the Cathedral Kitchen in Camden. Next date is Thursday, February 26th. **See Vivian to help.** We leave from the church parking lot at 3:00PM.

New Visions Homeless Lunch: We are serving on Saturday Feb. 21st, 11:00-1:00. Their new address is 555 Atlantic Ave., Camden, NJ. *If you want a ride we will leave from the church at 10:45.*

A Ladies & Girls Tea is Sat., Feb. 28th at 1:00 PM:
Meet in the Fellowship Hall. **See Veronica for info.**

Women of Faith: PITMAN is hosting a simulcast event for women called ***Unwrap the BIBLE*** on Saturday, March 14, 8:30AM – 5:00PM. Cost is \$15 & includes an all-Day Broadcast, Light Breakfast & Lunch. Childcare is available. Registration is open. 856-589-1500

Ladies Retreat April 17th—19th

Today's Worship Leaders

Worship Leader: Carl Smith

Opening Prayer: Howard Mansdoerfer

Welcome & Scripture Tony Ceraso Jr. (Psalm 102:1-13)

Lord's Supper: Josh Henderson, Dan Swinehart, Bill C., Ben Churchill

Scripture Reading: Tim Lum (1 Peter 2:9-10)

Closing Prayer & Announcements: Chet Churchill

Nursery: Chris H. & Margaret Next Week- Tina & Renée

Green Cleaning Team Feb. 18-21

OUTREACH/MINISTRY

Mark Finn – Preacher

Church Office- (856) 854-0197

ELDERS:

Rick Boyle (856) 986-4876

Tony Ceraso, Jr. (856) 278-6276

Bret Goen (856) 996-5267

Chet Churchill (609) 560-7179

Howard Mansdoerfer (609) 790-9969

Worship 130

Bible Class 76

Wed PM..... 46

L.I.F.E. Groups 50

Contribution \$2,199

Budget Goal \$4,260

Daily Bible Readers: 36

Collingswood Church of Christ

Church Website: www.ccc123.org

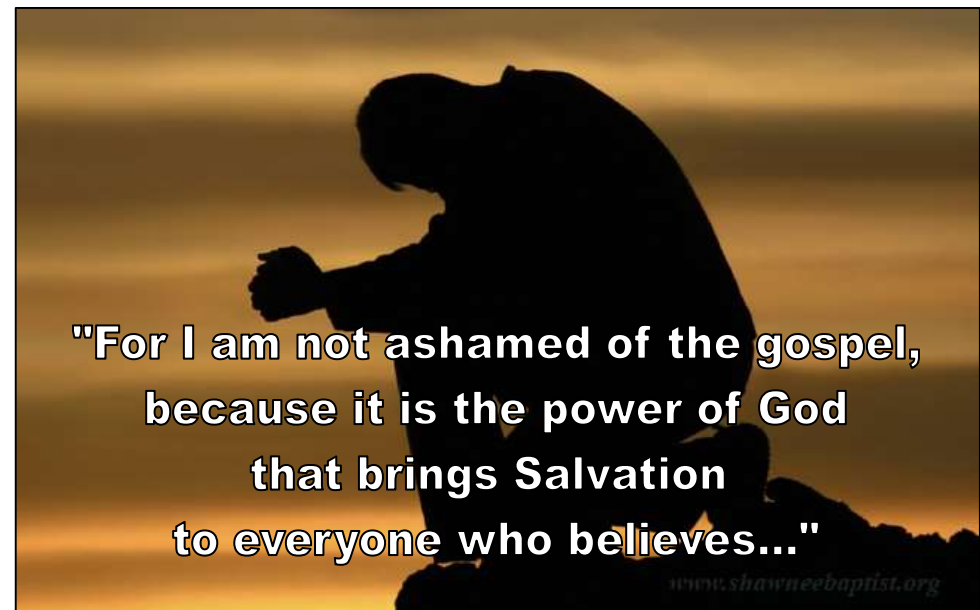
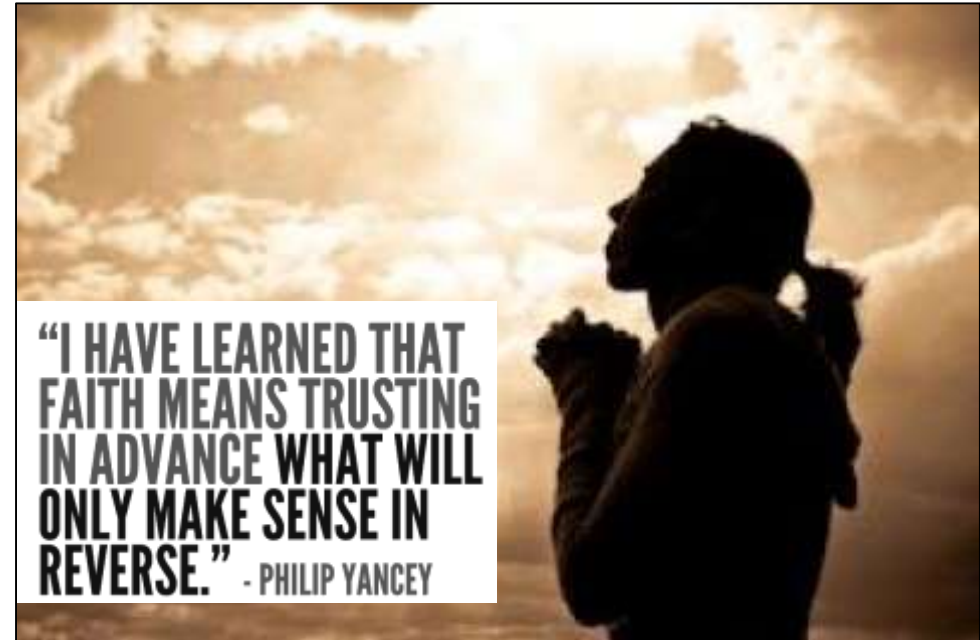
300 White Horse Pike

Collingswood, NJ 08107

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“Now faith is being **sure** of what we hope for and **certain** of what we do not see.” (Hebrews 11:1)



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