



ence in our lives we must decide to avoid it. As Christians, we must do all that we can to make certain that we are truly the “light of the world” to all those around us.



Bible teaches that it can (2 Peter 2:20-22). Even so he did make a valuable point about behavior that is and is not fitting for a Christian. If there is anything that we do in our lives that we would not do if we were made visibly aware of Christ’s pres-

* Both the PowerPoint and audio files of the sermon “Things Christians Should Avoid” are available on the website. We encourage you to study them for the remaining points from the lesson.
Audio: <http://www.olsenpark.com/aud/Audio09/06-14-09-PM-mp3>
PowerPoint: <http://www.olsenpark.com/Sermons09/ChristiansAvoid.ppt>



Faithful Sayings Issue 11.25 June 21, 2009

Welcome Visitors

We are so glad that you joined us today.
Please come again.

● **Let us know if you have any questions.**

ISSUE

11.25

BULLETIN OF
THE OLSEN
PARK CHURCH
OF CHRIST

Faithful Sayings

June 21
2009

Services

Sunday: 9:30 AM
10:20 AM
6:00 PM

Wednesday: 7:00 PM

Elders:

Ken Ford
Charles Kelley
Pat Ledbetter

Deacons:

Dean Bowers
Eddie Cook
Bill Davis
Pat Goguen
Neil Ledbetter
Jeff Nunn
Fred Perez
Rusty Scott

Evangelists:

Kyle Pope
Curtis Carwile

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“Abstain from every form of evil”
1 Thess. 5:22

Things Christians Should Avoid: Sermon Footnote

by Kyle Pope

Last Sunday night I preached a lesson entitled *Things Christians Should Avoid*. The sermon began with a consideration of Jesus’ powerful charge to His disciples, “**you are the light of the world**” (Matthew 5:14). The lesson then moved to consider some occasions in which this charge calls upon us to avoid certain things.* Unfortunately time did not permit me to address two points which were in my notes. I beg the reader’s indulgence to permit me to return to this topic in written form and offer these two points as a *sermon footnote*.



If we are to be “the light of the world” it would also be fitting for us to avoid...

Things that prevent the demonstration of Christian character. The Holy Spirit led the Apostle Peter to write: **“Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul, hav-**



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ing your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation” (1 Peter 2:11,12). We sing a song from time to time that declares in the chorus, “Christ liveth in me.” This is a powerful declaration. If it is accurate, it reflects that fact that as Christians, the world can see the life, teachings, and character of Christ as it flows from our lives. However, this is only true if we allow our lives to reflect Christ’s character.

Peter’s admonition addresses the importance of the role which we play in setting an example before the world. People are watching us whether we know it or not. Some see our faith in Christ as an occasion to speak “against us as evildoers.” Such souls may be beyond the point that we can move them to faith. We certainly cannot save everyone around us—but on the Day of Judgement will our lives have made enough of an impression on those around us that they will have been able to see “Christ living” in us? On that Day will they by our “good works which they observe” glorify God?

As we consider our life and the things we do—as we make choices about what we do with our time, our money, or for entertainment we must continually ask ourselves, “does this thing demonstrate ‘Christ living in me’ or not?” If the answer is no, no matter how much we might enjoy it we should avoid such things.

Things in which we must ignore Christ’s presence in our lives.

Before Jesus returned to heaven He declared to His disciples: **“And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, ‘All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. Amen’”** (Matthew 28:18-20). In this text Jesus gives the wonderful promise, “I am with you always.” What a comforting assurance which the Christian can cherish.

There are times, however, we value this promise and times when we don’t. The fact is, we value it when we face trouble, or feel alone. Yet, when we do wrong overtly or subtly we avoid it. In sin we don’t want to imagine the Lord there witnessing the wrong we do. In our struggles to determine what we can and cannot do, we often don’t have to sort out every little detail of life concerning “should I do this thing” or “should I not do some other thing”? All we really need to as is this...

Would I do it if Christ was sitting right beside me?



I recently heard a few moments of a sermon by a denominational preacher on the radio about this very point. He explored this promise of Christ’s presence in the life a Christian, and imagined the extreme and ridiculous situation of someone taking Christ with them to a bar, or to view pornography or when doing drugs. Unfortunately the preacher tied to mesh with this the false doctrine that tries to say sin cannot compromise our fellowship with God. The