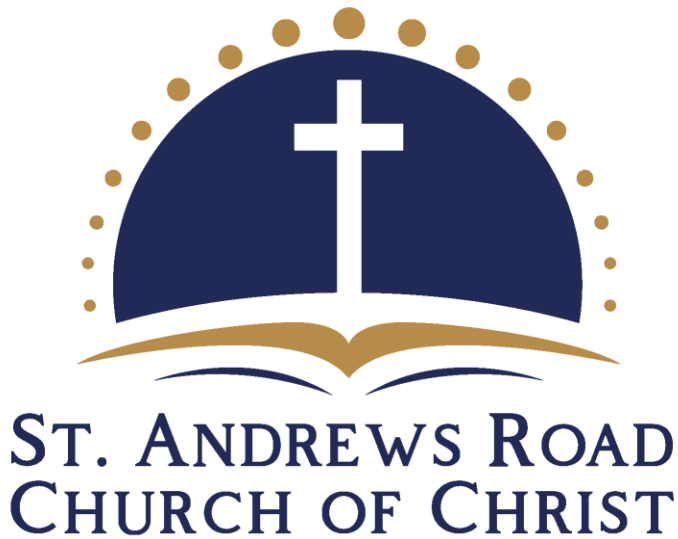


February 19, 2023

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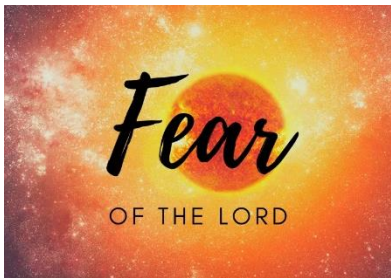
Worship Services & Bible Study

SUNDAYS	10:00 AM	Bible Class
SUNDAYS	11:00 AM	Worship
SUNDAYS	6:00 PM	Worship
WEDNESDAYS	7:00 PM	Bible Study

425 Saint Andrews Rd / Columbia, SC, 29210
803-772-0102

YouTube: Church of Christ St Andrews Rd

When Being Afraid is a Good Thing



So David said to him, "How was it you were not afraid to put forth your hand to destroy the LORD's anointed?" (2 Samuel 1:14 NKJV). He asked this of a man who claimed to have killed King Saul during the battle with the Philistines. Saul was chosen by God to be king, and Samuel anointed him as such (1 Samuel 9:17; 10:1). Later, Saul had tried to kill David being jealous of him (1 Sam. 18:7-9). But when David had an easy opportunity to kill Saul, **he said to his men, "The LORD forbid that I should do this thing to my master, the LORD's anointed, to stretch out my hand against him,**

seeing he is the anointed of the LORD." (1 Sam. 24:6). In this humble statement, we hear David's reverence for God and his will. David was not about to undo what God had done. Instead, he would leave it to God to deal with Saul.

Yet, many today are not afraid to change what God has established. Folks decide for themselves how and when to worship, what they must do to be saved, how they are to conduct ourselves, etc. Concerning marriage, for example, Jesus said, "**So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate.**" (Matthew. 19:6). But couples separate (divorce) at a high rate, even if there has been no fornication committed, which is the only reason the Lord allows for divorce. **But I say unto you, That whosoever shall put away his wife, saving for the cause of fornication, causeth her to commit adultery: and whosoever shall marry her that is divorced committeth adultery (Matthew 5:32 KJV).** Why are they not afraid to divorce for other reasons? Perhaps the reason is noted in Scripture: **Because the sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil (Ecclesiastes 8:11).** I wonder if that's why Adam ate of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, because he saw that Eve did not die speedily (Genesis 2:17; 3:6). Some day, however, the sentence will come. **For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad (2 Corinthians 5:10).**

Nadab and Abihu died immediately before God when they offered strange fire, which was an unauthorized act of worship (Leviticus 10:1-2). Ananias and Sapphira died immediately when they lied about the sales price of their land hoping to fool the apostles of Christ (Acts 5:1-11). It is interesting to observe, in the latter case, that **great fear came upon all the church and upon all who heard these things (Acts 5:11).** Nobody was about to do what this couple had done because they greatly feared of having the same sentence come upon them! We would do well to remember that God sees all. **The eyes of the LORD are in every place, beholding the evil and the good (Proverbs 15:3).** But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, "Why do you think evil in your hearts?"

Therefore, let's be like David in this regard, who was afraid to act in any way contrary to the will of God. In doing so, we can live confident lives before our God. **In the fear of the LORD there is strong confidence, and His children will have a place of refuge. The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life, to turn one away from the snares of death (Proverbs 14:26-27).**

Brotherly,
Jamie

CONCENTRATION

Phil. 3:13

A JOT FROM JOHN,

“Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before”, (text above).

I. *The three possible states of the human mind.*

1. The un-concentrated state. This is a weak mind. *“A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.” (James 1:8).* Solomon, and illustration.
2. The wrongly concentrated state. A strong mind, but its force is destructive. It plays havoc with society, with itself. Saul, the unconverted, an illustration. (Acts 9:1ff).
3. The rightly concentrated state. Also, a strong mind; but its force is constructive. Saul, the Christian, an example. *“But they had heard only, That he which persecuted us in times past now preacheth the faith which once he destroyed.” (Gal. 1:23).*

II. *What proper concentration of mind adds to life.*

1. POWER. The rays of the sun, when diffused, are relatively important; but if focused would burn the world. Steam, when diffused, is powerless; but when concentrated moves the giant locomotive; catapults the jet fighter from an aircraft carrier. The atmosphere, when diffused, is impotent; but when condensed it is strong—rends the mountain. Likewise, there is power in then centration of thought, of purpose.
2. PEACE. When our mental faculties are divided—moving in opposite ways—there can be no peace of soul; but when all the faculties flow in the same direction, there comes a peace that passes all understanding. *“Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.” (Isa. 26:3).*
3. PROSPERITY. Concentration of thought and effort brings success to business undertakings. Concentration of spiritual powers brings success to Christian endeavor. *“And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.” (Jer. 29:13).*

We accomplish wonders in the world when we give to a worthy object our undivided attention—when we love the Lord with all our heart, with all our soul, with all our mind, with all our strength.

**Onward Rejoicing,
John B. Daniels, Associate Minister**

Leadership Day

**Sunday, March 12
4:00 PM**

Our last one before
conference!

Fellowship Luncheon

**Sunday,
March 12**

TODAY

Congregational Meeting

5:00 PM

Men’s & Preachers Meeting

**Tuesday, February 21
10:00 AM**

Leadership Quarterly Planning Meeting

**Sunday, March 5
4:00 PM**

Be prepared by turning in forms
for April – June events.

Carolina Men’s Fellowship

**Saturday, March 11
4:00 PM**

All men should make plans to attend.
Please sign-up on the bulletin board if
you would like to ride in the van.

2023 SC Bible Bowl

St. Andrews Rd Team Members
Be sure to encourage these people who have been
studying the books of Ezra & Nehemiah for the past
5 months. We are very proud of them and their
dedication and courage.

Pre-Teen: Joel Byrom, Jordan Capron,
Lana Ellisor, Sasha Wo

Teen: Jada Ellisor, Daniel Hardison,
Caroline Moore, Daniel Wo

Adult: Robert Batten, Melissa Byrom,
Jason Galloway, Brace Hutchison,
Chris Regal, Jessica Williams

Seniors: David Garrett, Jackie Winston,
Linda Young