

# On Casting Our Pearls Before Swine

By Mike Riley

After condemning those who would find fault in judging others, not seeing their own faults (Matthew 7:1-5), our Lord said:

“Do not give what is holy to the dogs; nor cast your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you to pieces” (Matthew 7:6).

The terms, “give” and “cast” in Matthew 7:6, are consistent with the respective figures of “dogs” and “swine.” Dogs could not tell the differences in meats offered on the altar (Exodus 29:31-37) and meats that were not offered. If the Jews had taken a part of the sacrifice that was holy and given it to a dog, he would have had no appreciation for its holiness. If you give a piece of meat to an old hound dog, he’ll swallow it with one gulp without any discrimination regarding sacredness.

Furthermore, it is neither proper nor reasonable to cast pearls before swine, because they cannot differentiate value or appreciate beauty. Exquisite white pearls would simply be trampled into the filth of the pigpen, while the pigs would look for what satisfied their bellies. Then, being disappointed because their physical appetite was not fulfilled, they would turn against the one who offered something of far greater value than food.

There is danger in giving people what is holy, when all they want is the sensual (Jude 1:18-19). Jesus’ charge to His disciples simply means that we should not waste the precious words of Christ on those who are unfit and unworthy of priceless spiritual treasures. Not only are they unappreciative of eternal valuables, you will suffer the consequences of their resentment and abuse (Acts 7:51-60; Acts 13:44-45; cf. 1 Peter 4:4; Jude 1:10).

Some make it evident that they care not about holy things at all (Acts 7:57). They think that spiritual presentations are foolish (1 Corinthians 1:18). Lovers of sin resent the reproving of their behavior (Matthew 14:1-11; Acts 7:51-60). While it is true that we should exercise the greatest degree of patience in dealing with the weak and ignorant (1 Corinthians 9:22; Romans 15:1; Hebrews 5:1-2), when the weak prefer weakness and will not apply their minds to acquire critical knowledge, a time comes for dealing with them more firmly.

If they are treating holy things as common, Jesus basically says, “Don’t waste the Word on them” (Matthew 10:14; Acts 13:51). Our effort would be better spent with souls that are thirsting for the “water of life” (Revelation 22:17).

The Proverb writer tells us:

“Do not correct a scoffer, lest he hate you; Rebuke a wise man, and he will love you. Give instruction to a wise man and he will be still wiser. Teach a just man, and he will increase in learning” (Proverbs 9:8-9).



## STERLINGTON Church of Christ



P.O. Box 82  
1095 Highway 2  
Sterlington, Louisiana 71280  
[www.sterlingtoncoc.com](http://www.sterlingtoncoc.com)

Sunday Morning Bible Classes - 9:30 AM  
Sunday Morning Worship - 10:30 AM  
Sunday Evening Worship - 5:00 PM  
Wednesday Evening Classes - 6:00 PM.

7/25/21

# Welcome Visitors

If you are seeking a church home, we hope that you will consider joining with us. We are a growing congregation, dedicated to worshipping in truth and spirit. Please fill out the Visitor's Card and place it in the collection plate!

## Elders:

Todd Chapman  
Paul Simpson

## Deacons:

Wayne Fowler David Garris  
Billy Granger Buddy Hollis

## Preacher:

Don Delukie

# Those to Serve

## Today

**Announcements-** Paul Simpson    **Lord's Table-** Charles Fricke  
**Opening prayer-** David Reppond    **Closing Prayer -** Larry Randolph

## August 1st

**Announcements-** Wayne Fowler    **Lord's Table-** Paul Simpson  
**Opening prayer-** Travis Rogers    **Closing Prayer -** Jerry McDonald

• Communion will utilize self-contained, sealed cups available in the foyer. **Please pick one up upon arrival.**

• Giving is available at a central collection container in the foyer.

# Announcements

—**New Facebook Page:** We now have a Facebook page! Check it out.

—**New Church Website:** Check out our new church website at [www.sterlingtonchurchofchrist.com](http://www.sterlingtonchurchofchrist.com)



# Dates to Remember

**August 1** - Birthday and Anniversary Celebration

**August 15** - Potluck after AM services

## Please Pray For:

Don & Jean DeLukie, Joyce Moses, Kelli Granger, Sybil Binford, Joanne Randolph, Carlton Silmon, Clyde Wilson, Jimmy Binford, Jordan Hendrix, Trey Jennings, Bobby Fletcher, Bobby Green, Rita Huffstutter, Sonya George.

**Bereaved:** Families of Marshall Sanders, Robert Steed, Elizabeth O'Connor, Ronnie Dennis, Shirley Traylor.

## Continue to Pray For:

Shirley Goodwin, Bobby Barker, Dinky Douglas, Cyndi Powell, Betsy Culp, Heath Ray, Terrance Dawson, Ann Bolden, Jamie Ross, Charlie McDaniel Jr, Lewis Bedele, Cindy Jenny, Gay Black, Adam White.

# Weekly Bible Reading Plan

Epistles (Sunday)	The Law (Monday)	History (Tuesday)	Psalms (Wednesday)	Poetry (Thursday)	Prophecy (Friday)	Gospels (Saturday)
□ 1Thes 1-3	□ Lev 19-21	□ 2Ki 16-20	□ Ps 87-89	□ Prov. 13	□ Ezek. 37-42	□ Luke 23-24



## July birthdays

3 -Carol Granger  
4 -Jansen Chisley  
5 -Lilly Delaney  
6 -Paul Simpson  
6 -Mary Wyatt  
9 -David Reppond  
12 -Oddie Cameron

16 -Angelec Brannon  
19 -Debbie Cook  
20 -Ronnie Hayes  
22 -Ethel Ross  
23 -Randy Manning  
31 -Whitney Chapman

## July anniversaries

21 - Billy and Carol Granger  
28 - Wayne and Dana Fowler  
30 - Don and Jean Delukie



## August birthdays

2 - Larry Silmon  
4 - Brenda Fricke  
6 - Sandy Van Loon  
8 - Travis Rodgers  
20 - Leo Goodwin  
30 - David Garris

## August anniversaries

3 - Paul and Wanda Simpson  
13 - Jerry and Joyce McDonald  
14 - James and Lorene Johnson  
20 - Wes and Whitney Chapman