

"...strengthen thy brethren"



Luke 22:32

CHURCH OF CHRIST

of Genesee County

April 26, 2015

5284 Fenton Road, Flint, Michigan 48507

Welcome All:

We are thankful to have you with us today. The Lord's church here is dedicated to the restoration of New Testament Christianity, respecting both the authority and the silence of the Scriptures.

Again, thank you for worshipping God today.

Schedule of Services

Worship...	Sunday	11:00 a.m.
	Sunday	6:00 p.m.
Bible Study...	Sunday	10:00 a.m.
	Wednesday	6:00 p.m.

www.coc-gc.org

Preacher: Michael Golwitzer (810) 771-4627

P r a y e r L i s t

Al Haskell—kidney problems

Anna Okoro—had surgery on Friday

Charlene Steele—injuries

Chuck Smith—heart & Sciatic nerve

Donna Duford—Betty's daughter.

Emily Mosher—need of prayers

Helen Summers—Rm 508 Heartland Health

Care Center-Briarwood, 3011 North Center

Road, Flint, MI 48506 Phone: 810-736-0600

Janet Davis—health problems

Kim Penoyer—breathing problems

Lauren Weidner—encouragement

Leanna Coats—for strength

Marty and Joyce Stearns

Michael Golwitzer—kidney problems

Michelle, Tracy's friend, needs bone
marrow transplant

Misty Davis—health problems

Pam Bentz—has cancer

Pat Crain—health problems

Patty Lewis—Chuck's daughter

Russ and Phyllis Bateman—Russ is in Genesys
Hospital in Room 3160

Sam Jones—Vivian's brother

Scott Bateman—health problems

Stan Bozich—friend of Chuck

Wendy Penoyer and family

Wyatt Duford—need of prayers

Sermons:

AM— The Dept of the True and Living God

PM— The Way of Life

"Abstain From All Appearance of Evil"

God chose to employ human language—words—to communicate His will to people. Even though this medium of conveyance is quite adequate to achieve such an objective, misunderstanding sometimes can occur. One example of confusion is seen in Paul's admonition to the Thessalonian Christians: "Abstain from all appearance of evil" (1 Thessalonians 5:22). This verse frequently is used to assert that Christians should avoid engaging in actions that appear to be improper or sinful—even though those actions may not actually be sinful. However, the 1611 translators of the King James Version were attempting to convey the idea that one should abstain from evil in whatever form it may appear. Newer translations help to clarify the underlying Greek text by translating the verse, "Abstain from every form of evil" (NKJV). The verse is banning the practice of sin/evil in whatever form it occurs—whether lying, stealing, murdering, etc.

Contextually, verses 19-22 of chapter five form a periscope that warned first-century Christians to refrain from stifling the expression of miraculous gifts—charismata (vss. 19-20). Christians were

May 17-20 Gospel Meeting at Davison church of
Christ with Steve Woodhouse

Ted Thrasher—Gospel Meeting—Oct. 18-21, 2015

admonished to test the gifts of the Spirit for their authenticity so that they would hold to what was correct (vs. 21). As such, these verses are parallel to Ephesians 3:1-5, 4:30, Isaiah 63:10-12, and Psalm 78:40. These passages demonstrate that when individuals opposed or withstood God's miraculously endowed representatives—by rejecting the word that those emissaries presented—they grieved or quenched the Holy Spirit in the sense that they rejected His instructions, refusing to accept the teaching that would enable them to gain God's approval.

The word "quench" (sbennumi) is used in the New Testament to refer to the act of extinguishing a literal fire. However, in 1 Thessalonians 5:19 it is used metaphorically, and spotlights the idea of suppression. One does not literally suppress or quench the Spirit. Rather, one suppresses the influence of the Spirit on one's own life by resisting the Spirit's teaching via Scripture. Specifically, in context, when Paul said to abstain from the appearance of evil, he was referring to abstaining from inauthentic admonitions from those who claimed to possess miraculous gifts.

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