

## The Problem of the Hard Heart

by John Telgren    Leavenworth church of Christ    Leavenworth, KS

We all have felt needs. But sometimes there may come a time when a felt need is no longer felt. For instance, we usually have a felt need for food. When our body needs food, our stomach rumbles, and our body tells us it needs to be nourished. There are those that choose to ignore the hunger, and never feed their body. After awhile, the sense of hunger goes away. If this continues, the body will start to get weaker. Finally, it would not even be possible to receive nourishment because the body rejects it as though it were something foreign. It no longer recognizes what it needs. If it is not fixed, the result could be a serious illness or even death.

The same thing can happen to us spiritually. We all have spiritual needs that need to be filled with a variety of regular nourishment. We need to feed our souls with the word of God. This is not merely reading the word, but digesting it and integrating it. We also the supportive relationships of our brethren. One of the reasons Jesus established the church is we need intense, accountable, supportive fellowship for spiritual health. That is why Jesus conducted his ministry in the context of a close-knit group of disciples. It was his method for teaching, training, and encouragement.

Sometimes we get a bad piece of meat, or a bad apple. We may even break a tooth on something. Does that mean we stop eating? Of course not. Sometimes we may read something that is not pleasant because it convicts us. Sometimes someone close to us may be hard on us for our good. On the other hand, someone close to us may do evil to us and really burn us. We may feel, "who needs to be close to the brethren? It will just wind up in hurt feelings, arguments, strife, dissension, hate and discontent." So we stop nourishing our souls.

We could allow our souls to go from soft to hard. Paul speaks of having our conscience seared with a hot iron (1 Tim 4:2). The same thing could happen to our hearts. We could get burned and allow it to form a numbness on our hearts that prevents us from being emotionally available. We find ourselves withdrawing from those who are supposed to be family. We start to invest our hearts into something other than the things and people of God.

Nothing could be more devastating because the spiritual hunger is no longer felt. The problem may not manifest itself until spiritual health is at a critically low. For those of us that have experienced this, we need to pray that God will soften our hearts, and be open to each other once again. God can remove scar tissue that keeps us from being spiritually and emotionally available to each other. If not, it will steal the joy away from serving and worshipping God. It will bring lethargic spirituality.

## NEWSLETTER

Sept. 17, 2017

Mark Dailey, evangelist  
(716) 754-2752

minister@lasallechurchofchrist.org

## Schedule of Services

Sunday AM Bible Study      9:45 AM

Sunday AM Worship      11:00 AM

No Sunday PM Service

Wednesday PM Bible Study    7:00 PM

Ladies' Bible Study    Tuesday    10 AM at the building.

*La Salle*  
church of Christ

1121 N. Military Rd.  
Niagara Falls, NY 14304  
(716) 283-1214

lasallechurchofchrist.org



### We welcome all who are here today.

If you are a visitor we are honored to have you with us. Please fill out a *Visitor Card* (on the back of the pew in front of you) so we may have a record of your visit. Later in the service we will pass around a collection plate. As a visitor you are obviously not expected to give but we would like for you to place the *Visitor Card* in the collection plate. Thanks.

*There is a nursery at the rear of the auditorium up the stairs for infant care.*

**Please keep cell phones and other noise making devices silent during Bible class and worship.**

### In 2017 – Striving to:

*Grow & Sow  
Reach & Teach  
Live & Give*

*a place of worship and healing*



Potter Children's Home & Family Ministries  
2350 Nashville Rd.  
Bowling Green, KY 42101  
270 843-3038  
potterministries.org



IN  
**SEARCH**  
OF THE LORD'S WAY®

Speaker  
Phil Sanders  
www.searchtv.org

Time Warner Cable Channel 20  
Tuesday 5:30 AM  
Friday 4:30 PM

We offer a **free** Bible Correspondence Course

## ***Friendly Reminder* - BLUE LIGHT**

When the “blue light” is lit at the front of the auditorium it means **“Quiet Please”**

**Prayer List**    *In our prayers let’s praise God, recognize His greatness, and thank Him for His blessings.*

**Those that attend:** Mildred Lynam, Bill Flanagan, Anna Brink, Frank Marsden, Bill Kinney, Pat Hazlett, David Alcorn, Darlene Reed, Butts & Edie Sumner, Diane Mellott, Chris Highway, Candi Butcher, Cheryl Mellott, Joyce Cameron, Willow McFarland, Tahlia Willis, Logan Bennett, Kyra Kyle, Bev McArthur, Maria Swindlehurst, and Jean Cameron.

**People in other places:** Renee Kinney, Tim Mellott and family, T.J., Wednesday Rahelich, Jack Openshaw, Paul Stewart, Betty Leistner and also Denise Garlitz’ grandchildren, Mary Lou, Carol’s sister Holly, Frank’s niece, Tony & Eglar Grana, Susan Barrett & family, Karen Anstee, Randy Marten, Doris & Mary Jane Mess, Andrea, George Beckwith, Michelle Phillips, Red & Goldie Crow, Samantha Allee, Brenda Baptiste, Cheryl Wheeler, Karen & Joe Costanzo, Cindy, Jeanne Johns, and Emily Sestack, Levi, Loretta Gorito, Kay Ables, Lionel Weir, Glen Mueller, Mary Lou, Gloria, Gail Bodie, Linda Mudd, Dorothea Johnson, Tammy, and Rita D.

### **Updates:**

**Diane Mellott.** She had surgery for breast cancer on Friday. Surgery went well and preliminary reports are good. She will start radiation treatments later this month. She is grateful for everyone’s prayers. Let’s continue to pray for her as she recovers and goes through treatments. Let’s also remember her daughter Renee Kinney as she continues to battle cancer.

**Sonny Stine** recently tested positive for colon cancer. He has a test scheduled for Sept. 28.

**Billie Jo Potter**, a friend of Carol Jones, has health issues as well as her parents who are taking care of her.

**Michael**, Cheryl Ferguson’s significant other, suffered a stroke two years ago and is on the decline. Cheryl is a friend of Carol Jones.

**Jenna**, a friend of Matt & Lisa Nichols, is struggling with addiction.

Anna Brink’s sister will be having radiation treatments.

### **Help Needed.....**

Drivers are needed to help our Sister Diane Mellott with transportation, to and from doctors appointments in the coming weeks. Please see Audrey if you can help transport Diane and would like to be put on a rotation schedule. Your help is appreciated.

### **Hurricanes**

Let’s keep in our prayers those dealing with hurricane situations in certain parts of our country. Keith & Glory Marten are doing OK. It was reported Rick & Fran sustained some damage.

### **Upcoming Events**    *(Lord willing)*

**Sept. 17 Today.** Men’s Business Meeting after the morning worship.

**Sept. 23 CANCELED** Ladies Day Southside church of Christ. Syracuse, NY. **CANCELED**

**Sept. 29** Ladies fellowship. 6:30 PM at the building.

**Sept. 29-Oct. 01** Ladies Day. North Greece Rd. church of Christ. Please see posting.

**Sept. 30** Great Lakes Partnership Dinner. Please see posting.

Sun. AM Adult Bible Study 2 Corinthians

**Sermon Topic Today:** Sow - Come and See

**Scripture Reading:** John 4:27-30

No Sunday PM service.

Tuesday Ladies’ Bible Study 10 AM at the building.

Wed. PM Bible Study 1 & 2 Samuel



Read Me

### **Ladies**

Mark your calendars. Ladies fellowship night is Friday, September 29th, 6:30pm. All ladies are encouraged to come out and enjoy a fun and uplifting night.

**HELP NEEDED!** Our sixth issue of ***House to House/Heart to Heart*** has arrived and is ready for us to mail to our neighbors around the LaSalle church building. We have 1,000 copies of the brochure that need folding and labeling. Join us for a labeling party on **Monday, October 2nd at 10AM** at the church building. Please continue to pray for open and receptive hearts in the homes we will be mailing to.



Please check the  
“*Love One Another*” and “*Answered Prayers*”  
boards in the back of the auditorium.

## ***What Can We Give to God?***

by David Maxson Northwood church of Christ Northport, AL

### **Psalm 116:12-14**

What shall I render to the Lord for all his benefits to me?  
I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord,  
I will pay my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people.

What can you give to God? The cattle on a thousand hills is his. You cannot make him any richer by your sacrifice.

What can you give to God? What can you offer to a being who is infinite and boundless in wisdom, power, being, and glory? You cannot make him anything more or better than what he already is. Perfection does not need improvement.

What can you give to God? What the psalmist says is that we are to give him what is already his. We raise the cup of salvation he has given us. In our context as Christians, that means raising up his Son in praise and adoration.

Father, we cannot give you anything you don't already have, so we give you our praise and worship as we bow down before the Lamb!