

(continued from the front)

is ashamed of Me and My words, of him the Son of Man will be ashamed when He comes in His own glory, and in His Father's, and of the holy angels'" (Luke 9:23–26).

There are some in every congregation who have started down the path toward Christ, but they have stepped onto a treadmill. They attend church, hear the lessons from the Bible, and listen to the sermons, but they have not fully committed their lives to Jesus. They may feel spiritually sufficient, but they are still lost because they have not truly surrendered their lives to Him and been baptized for the remission of their sins. They are still in a lost condition and are not heaven-bound.

Others have put on Christ in baptism and may have once been spiritually energized and active. However, they have lost their fervor for our Lord over the years. They, too, have stepped onto the treadmill of inactivity. These are the Christians who may only attend some of the Sunday morning worship services and rarely come to the Wednesday evening Bible studies. They may no longer read the Bible daily and have ceased to grow in their Christianity or spread the gospel message.

The last group consists of Christians who come to services but have never placed membership with this congregation. Placing membership means being formally recognized as part of the family of Christians and coming under the authority of the local elders. Hebrews 13:17 says, "Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you." Year-round residents should prayerfully consider placing membership. Recurring winter residents should consider placing a "winter" membership with our congregation for formal recognition and oversight by the elders.

Phil Degelia



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Is Your Spiritual Walk on a Treadmill?



We are all on a spiritual walk, and it leads to a fork in the road. One may choose to go the way of the world, which leads to sin and the damnation of the soul. The other choice is to

follow the gospel and be obedient to Jesus Christ, our Savior, which results in salvation and a heavenly reward. There is no "fence-sitting." Making no choice is, in itself, a choice—the worldly path. "Then He said to them all, 'If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it. For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and is himself destroyed or lost? For whoever

Elders

Ron Akers
Phil Degelia
Tim Simmons

Deacons

Mike Fox
(Building and Grounds)
Jeff Kiel
(Building and Grounds)
Dean Rosser
(Safety)
Roland Snipes
(Benevolence)
Keith Tolbert
(Education)

Minister

Bryan Winn

Secretary

Carrie DePass

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