

St John Church of Christ

July 26, 2020

ONLINE

Children's Bible Class

10:00 A.M.

Join Pete and Penelope online at 10:00 A.M.

Adult Bible Class

10:30 - 10:45 A.M.

The Apostle Paul describes a new kind of love – Agape: Christian Love – by passing it through a prism and giving us a 15-color rainbow. Today's description concerns "Love doesn't keep score."

LIVE & ONLINE

Worship

11:00 - 11:45 A.M.

You can join us live at the building or online at:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCOOPdVv3YaCn-L1QnT2BftQA>

There are simple links to follow from our website: <https://StJohnChurchofChrist.org>.

(CCLI #244012t9)



The Fashionable Sloth



Yawn.

One of the most memorable characters from the book of Proverbs is the "sluggard." He is a lazy man. He can't leave his house because "The sluggard says, "There is a lion in the road, a fierce lion roaming the streets!"

"As a door turns on its hinges, so a sluggard turns on his bed."

"The sluggard buries his hand in the dish; he is too lazy to bring it back to his mouth" (Proverbs 26:13-16).

The sages of the middle-ages called sloth "the first deadly sin." Sloth, in modern vernacular, means "laziness." We might think of laziness as a weakness or common fault, but would we call it a sin? (See Proverbs 6:6-11.)

There are two categories of sin: sins of commission and sins of omission, the failure to act. Think about the parable of the Good Samaritan.

My first observation is that laziness doesn't necessarily mean a lack of activity. Heaven knows we're packing more and more into already too busy lives, but is it purposeful activity? Are we moving towards a goal, or are we just bouncing off the walls? Do we believe it because we've heard something so often we accept it as truth, or do we believe (and behave) because we have discovered a precious truth?

Second, sloth prevents us from escaping lazy preoccupa-

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tions and paying attention to the things that have eternal significance. For example, for the lazy of the world, love is something that “just happens.” We “fall in love,” and we “fall out of love.” Marriages are based on phileo (friendship love) or eros (erotic love) with the result when the attraction is over, so is the relationship.

Christian lovers are attracted to each other, and they are friends with each other, but marriage is based on agape (a love that is controlled by the will). Agape can never be lazy. It is proactive and involved. It works. It builds. It does. Therefore, if love is something we should do, then lazy people, who are unwilling to put forth the effort to love, should be justly condemned!

Let’s look at another example. Unfortunately, many Christians have just enough gospel to make them miserable, but not enough to make them joyful. They know enough about the biblical message to keep them from doing

those things the world is tempting them to do, but they do not have enough of a commitment to God to do those things through which they might experience the fullness of His joy! I am convinced more people will be condemned at the Judgment because of sins of omission than commission.

Tony Campolo wrote, “Sloth deadens, but the Spirit gives life. Sloth thrives on feelings of inferiority, but the Spirit assures us that we are the children of God. Sloth is self-centered, but the Spirit creates a burning desire to change the world. Sloth leaves us bored and empty, but in the Spirit, we find the fullness of God’s joy.”



**Join us online
Sundays at 11:00 a.m.**

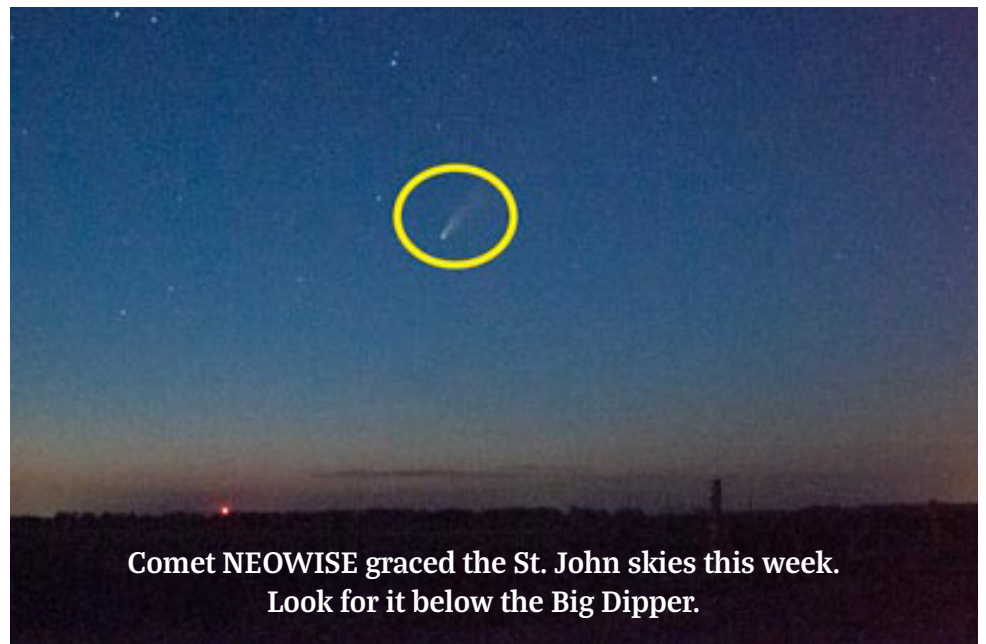
[https://
StJohnChurchOfChrist.
org/sermons](https://StJohnChurchOfChrist.org/sermons)

For Your Prayers

Please pray for our loved ones.

- Shirley fell this week and broke her hip as well as injuring her head. She was taken to Wichita for surgery.
- Carol will be having carpal tunnel surgery very soon. We pray it will ease her pain!
- We’ve been praying for little two-year old Mar-en in Great Bend. She is responding to her bone marrow transplant!
- Terry continues to recover from his hip surgery.

We also want to remember our Church family around the world, especially in Mexico and India as they face the challenges brought on by this pandemic.



Comet NEOWISE graced the St. John skies this week.
Look for it below the Big Dipper.