

## Need to Study Your Bible More?

We have several **Bible Correspondence Courses** for you to study and learn from. They are all free, even including the postage!

All you need to do to take advantage of this great FREE opportunity is to fill out the following, clip it out and either paste it on a Postal Card or send it in an envelope.

Please send me the new Course

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

## What is Valley Station Church?

It is a group of Christians determined to be pleasing to God. How do they do this? They do all in their power to follow the teaching of Jesus Christ with no changes, additions, subtractions or alterations.

It is a group of Christians that claim no human denominational affiliation — just Christians working and worshipping together at the Lord's word teaches. If you need Christ as your Lord and Savior, we believe you will find him among the Christians at Valley Station.

**Come and see.**

The **VALLEY TIDINGS** is published monthly by the church of Christ, meeting at 1803 Dixie Garden Drive, Valley Station, Kentucky 40272

### Elders

Wayne Byrd (502) 957-4801  
Clayton Shannon (502) 935-5278

### Deacons

Michael Bibee (502) 548-1878  
Don Boice (502) 937-5192  
Clifford Deckard (502) 937-1612  
Allan Mauldin (502) 933-3554  
Barrett Phelps (502) 935-8564

### Assemblies

Sunday Bible Class 9:30 A.M.  
Sunday Morning Worship 10:30 A.M.  
Sunday Evening Worship 6:00 P.M.  
Wednesday Bible Classes 7:30 P.M.  
Ladies Class, Thursday 10:00 A.M.

Visit Valley at [www.vscoc.org](http://www.vscoc.org)

Dudley Ross Spears, Editor and Evangelist

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Louisville, KY  
Permit 1080

**Valley Church of Christ**  
P.O. Box 72380  
1803 Dixie Garden Drive  
Valley Station, KY 40272  
(502) 937-2822

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

# Valley Tidings

**Set For The Defense of the Glad Tidings**

Volume X, April, 2009, Number 4

**Come Hear Brent Hunter**

**April 5-10—7:30 p.m. nightly (Sunday night at 6 p.m.)**

**Theme: Practical Helps for Christian Living.**

Bible class: Creative Parenting (Thinking out of the Box)

Sunday am: Loving God first.

Sunday pm. How to give and receive constructive criticism

Monday: Preparation for Marriage

Tuesday: A prayer to ignite your life! (Prayer of Jabez)

Wednesday: Four Simple things we can do to Evangelize

Thursday: Dealing with the Ball and Chain of Guilt

Friday: Passing Values onto the next generation.



# HABITS ARE HARD TO BREAK

Habits once formed are very difficult to break. Ask anyone who has used tobacco for very long how difficult it is to quit it. The same may be said of drinking “strong drink,” cursing or even neglect of the duty to assemble with the saints to worship God and study His word. Habits can become a maze. The further one goes into the habit the more difficult it is to find the exit.



A story that illustrates the point tells of a wise old man was taking a stroll through a forest with a good-for-nothing young man. The old man suddenly stopped and pointed his finger at four plants.

The first was a tiny sprout. The second was a little larger and with roots more firmly embedded in the earth. The third plant was a small shrub and the fourth grown into a small tree.

The old man said, “Pull this up,” pointing to the first. The lad obeyed. “Pull the next one up,” he instructed, and with a little effort, the plant was uprooted. When told to pull up the third one, the youth had to use both hand and

all his strength.

The old man then pointed to the young sapling, and the youth declined to try, saying, “I can’t move that.”

“Just so it is,” said the old mentor, “with our habits in life. When our habits are small and young, like the first plant, they are easily removed, but the longer we let them live and grow the harder it is to remove them. Their roots go deeper the longer they live.”

The very best time to break a habit is before it takes root. Paul said, “Abstain from all appearance of evil.” (1 Thess. 5:22). Some Bible scholars tell us that the word “appearance” also suggests the very first appearance of an evil. This is the time to shut it off by shunning it like the plague.



An old Spanish proverb says, “habits are first cobwebs, then cables.” Cobwebs are much easier to break than cables.

Some members of the body of Christ drift off into the habit of irregular attendance and eventually quit the church and are severed from Christ. Not a few get in the habit of “giving a dollar” rather than purposefully giving to the Lord as they have been prospered. All of these habits should be broken before they get such a hold on us they control us.

Habits, customs and traditions are all cousins. The Jews became tradition bound and their traditions became much more important than the law God required of them (Matt. 15:7-9). The Jews were a prototype of many today who traditionally become members of some religious organization unknown to the Lord and never leave it. As some said of a fox, “they change skins, but never habits.”

On the other hand there are good habits to form. Those that make us all that God would have us to be and do are the ones to cultivate. The serious thing about all of this is that eternal destinies are at stake. Charles Reade said, “Sow an act and you reap a habit, sow a habit and you reap a character, sow a character and you reap a destiny.”

Watch your habits--they will either make or break you.

- DRS



**The chains of habit are too weak to be felt until they are too strong to be broken. -Johnson**



Jeremiah 6:16 Thus saith Jehovah, Stand ye in the ways and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way; and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls: but they said, We will not walk therein.

