



Arlington Church of Christ

*"The churches of Christ greet you."
Romans 16:16*

The Appearance of Evil

ELDERS

John Bauer — 235-4641

Joe McCollum* — 812-571-0380

*Preacher

DEACONS

Ron Hartman — 522-3465

Jeff McCollum — 254-0412

A passage that is often misapplied is found in 1 Thess 5:22 where the Bible (KJV) says "*abstain from the very appearance of evil*". This is usually explained by saying that if it appears to be evil then we are to avoid it. The problem with this is determining who gets to say what is 'evil'. Someone may say that going to a sporting event is evil, or that the internet is evil, or that playing cards is evil – does that mean that we must avoid those things? The problem arises when we try to make a list of things that wouldn't appear evil to someone. It would be a very small list. For example, to a Mennonite not wearing black clothing would 'appear evil' or using electricity would 'appear evil', or even talking without saying thee and thou would appear to be 'evil'. Worshipping God on the first day of the week instead of Saturday 'appears evil' to Seventh Day Adventists. Calling Jesus "Messiah" appears evil to Jews. Ignoring the authority of the 'Pope' appears evil to Catholics. The problem is that there is not much that someone somewhere doesn't consider 'evil'.

Other versions translate this passage as "*abstain from every form of evil*". The NIV says "*avoid every kind of evil*", and the CEV says "*don't have anything to do with evil*". What Paul is saying is that we are to avoid things that actually are evil, not just things that may appear evil to someone.

When someone asks what is wrong with a certain activity, simply saying that it 'appears evil' is not convincing because it seems so arbitrary. We need to explain how that activity is wrong because it violates a specific command of the Lord. For example: Going out on a public beach half-naked is not wrong just because it 'appears evil' to someone, but because it violates what God said about modesty in 1 Tim 2:9. We need to explain about Jesus talking about lusting and committing adultery in the heart. (Matt 5:28) Or what about smoking – just saying that it looks wrong to some people isn't convincing, we need to talk about the dangers of drugs and addiction which the Bible clearly condemns. It takes some explanation about the word "pharmaka" (witchcraft involving mind altering drugs) from which we get the English 'pharmacy' in passages like Gal 5:20, but it follows the Bible's reasoning, not mans. Or buying a lottery ticket – The argument is made that it "helps the schools", so saying that it may 'look evil' to someone is questionable to many people. But one can talk about coveting and greed, and trying to get something for nothing at the expense of others. Col 3:5-6. And the Bible talks about being a good steward of what has given us, not just using it wastefully. If a person is really wanting to help the schools, they can just give them the money directly, but if there are other motives they will 'gamble' by buying a lottery ticket. You see, the only one who can determine what has the 'appearance of evil' is God, so we must study His word and apply His determinations if we are to please Him and live as He desires.

Sunday Bible Classes.....9:30 a.m.

Sunday Worship.....10:30 a.m.*

Sunday Worship.....5:00 p.m.

Wednesday Class.....7:00 p.m.

***Sermon audio is
posted on our website:**

Web Site: www.arlingtoncoc.com

Email: info@arlingtoncoc.com

Address: 2082 Compton Rd.
Cincinnati, Ohio 45231

Phone: 513-931-8244

Fax: 513-939-2653

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Who wrote the proverb about the
'virtuous woman' (Proverbs 31)?

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER LIST

Joe McCollum — undergoing radiation and chemo treatments for esophageal cancer

*See the caring cards list in the lobby



BIRTHDAYS

7/5 Manuel Montesclaros
 7/10 Wrajean Nauman
 7/12 Andy Claire
 7/13 Linda Whissel
 7/14 Taylor McCollum
 7/16 Sandy Brackett
 7/17 Brad Rice

"For where two or three have gathered together in My name, I am there in their midst."
 Matt 18:20

UPCOMING EVENTS

7/06 Sack Sunday (bring donations for the pantry)
 7/11 Ladies' Class noon at the building

ANNIVERSARIES

7/26 Joe & Doris McCollum
 7/28 Rob & Holly Terlau

MEN TO SERVE	6/29		7/06	
	AM	PM	AM	PM
Announcements	John Bauer	John Bauer	Michael Menard	Michael Menard
Song Leader	John Bauer	John Bauer	Michael Menard	Michael Menard
Lesson	Jeff McCollum	Joe McCollum	Joe McCollum	Joe McCollum
Opening Prayer	Walker Slater	John Bauer	Jeff Nauman	Michael Menard
Lord's Table	Jeff McCollum	John Bauer	Ron Hartman	John Bauer
Lord's Table Assist	Walker Slater	—	Brad Rice	—
Closing Prayer	Ron Hartman	Joe McCollum	John Bauer	Joe McCollum
Greeters	Joe & Doris McCollum		John & Terri Bauer	
Wednesday Devotional	(7/02) Jeff McCollum		(7/09) Michael Menard	
Wednesday Song Leader	(7/02) Michael Menard		(7/09) John Bauer	

SCRIPTURE READING

TRIVIA ANSWER

PANTRY NEEDS

	AM	PM
June 29	Job 16-18	Acts 9:1-22
June 30	Job 19, 20	Acts 9:23-43
July 1	Job 21, 22	Acts 10:1-23
July 2	Job 23-25	Acts 10:24-48
July 3	Job 26-28	Acts 11
July 4	Job 29, 30	Acts 12
July 5	Job 31, 32	Acts 13:1-23

"Blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it!"
 Luke 11:28

Over the counter medicines/aspirin
 Canned meats— fish, chicken & SPAM
 Canned Veggies— all kinds
 Boxed Potatoes
 Peanut butter and Jelly
 Breakfast Cereal
 Fruit Juice— apple, grape, pineapple, etc.
 Small- Flour and Sugar
 Laundry detergent
 Face soap & Shampoo
 Toilet Tissue & Paper Towels