

Scores really count, and you need to make grade with God

We are a nation of people who like to keep score. We keep score on the stock market, on sporting events, even a family game of Uno (some of the most competitive events). Daily, we keep records on the weather.



steve rains

● moments from calvary

Our schools strive to produce students who are well educated and make the grades. I can remember when I was a kid, every quarter when the report card came out, I knew it was time to head for the ice cream shop. My parents would take me and allow me to get a scoop of ice cream for every A.

One thing is for sure, whether academically, financially and athletically, there is a push to be above average.

We are a competitive society that has the mindset of, "If I start my kid early then he/she will be better. They will be ahead in the game."

It is a good thing to strive for suc-

cess in our lives in those areas, but what about other areas? There is a poem that says, "Is the world a better place because of you? Do you stand among the faithful, brave and true? Do the lost see Christ in you? Does your life ring true? Is the world a better place because of you?"

Are you content with being average in any area of your life? What about spiritually? I have often heard people comparing themselves to others and saying, "I am not as bad as so and so." The reality is we are to compare ourselves to Jesus —

ough!
Jesus is our example and our standard. In Matthew 5, Jesus gives, "You have heard it said" statements, and I want to look at three of them today. Jesus had a way of just laying it out on the line and letting the cards fall where they may.

You look at these accounts and you realize that the standards just got raised. He tells us what is average and then he says what is above average. "Love one another" is average. "Loving those who hate you" is above average (5:43-44). "Do not commit adultery" is average. What is above average? "Do not even have impurities in your heart" (5:27-28). I don't want to be average. Why?

Let me give you three reasons: First, if you are average, sometimes you have to fellowship with failure. Instead of being content with the C average in our life, we need to hate the F's in our life that make us average.

Jesus said, "Average is loving those that love you. Above average is loving those who hate you. Average is not committing adultery. Above average is not even having lust in your heart."

That seems impossible doesn't it? No wonder we need a savior, because on your best day, you aren't good enough, and neither am I.

Here is a second reason we need to be better than average: We have to be better than the depraved in our world, to keep our world as good as it is. Who is going to make up for those who love evil? For those who drop the standard?

To make up for those who hate, we need to love more. To make up for those who are selfish, we need to give more. If you aren't willing to raise the standard who is going to do it? Who is going to return the extra change? Who is going to not file false tax claims?

Finally, by being average, you make your world worse. God doesn't want you to be 73 percent holy, or 86 percent holy. No, He wants you to be like Him. That may seem overwhelming, but the reality is He makes all things possible.

I had a family member ask me one time if my standards and convictions wouldn't be so high if I wasn't in the ministry. That was a good question.

My reply was that my standards and convictions aren't based on what I do; they are based on the Word of God. The reality is my

personal convictions don't amount to a whole lot if they aren't biblical.

This may seem kind of heavy this week, but the reality is we have to stop at times and look at our life. Look where we are camping and if we are allowing ourselves to be mediocre in any area of our life.

Let me leave you with a thought from Hebrews 10:19-25. First, you can have confidence of who you are as a child of God (verses 19-23). If you don't have a relationship with the Lord, I would love to talk with you. Second, make a commitment to be an "encourager" (verses 24-25). Have a great weekend!

Steve Rains is the pastor at the Calvary Gospel Church, Fourth and College. Go to the church's web site at calvarygospel.net or e-mail Rains at calvarycolumn@st-tel.net.

Don't send money to get 'free' money

Dear Attorney General Kline:

My husband and I received a phone call this week from a man who said our family had been selected to receive what he called



phill kline

● attorney general

"a substantial cash prize of several thousand dollars." All we had to do to receive the money was to pay the taxes due in advance, which amounted to several hundred dollars. We decided not to pay the taxes because something just didn't seem right.

Dear Kansas Consumer:
You and your husband absolutely did the right thing because there's no doubt this was a scam, pure and simple.

The offer of free money is a very tempting lure. While you managed to determine this was a scam, unfortunately many Kansans have lost hundreds or even thousands of dollars because of such false promises.

These scams arrive over the telephone, via e-mail, in the mailbox and even door-to-door. They may promise government grants, sweepstakes prizes, lottery winnings, secret foreign funds or recovery of long lost property. That is the bait. The hook is that the "free money" cannot arrive until taxes, duties, bribes or other costs are first paid.

Hapless victims are usually directed to wire or direct deposit funds out of the country to get the process started.

A wide variety of sweepstakes, lottery and other scams are reported to my office each week. For more information on these types of scams, you can call my Consumer Protection Division's 24-hour Information Line at (785) 296-2424, Category 1, Messages 1 through 5.

If you have lost money because of such a scam, contact the Secret Service at (816) 460-0600. You can also check out www.usps.com/postal inspectors and www.lookstoogoodtobetrue.com for more insight on these scams.

It's also a good idea to never rush

into any business venture without taking the time to research the company and the commitment required. On-line resources, the Better Business Bureau and the Attorney General's Office (in the state where the business operates) should be consulted before signing any contracts. Contracts signed at seminars in Kansas are usually subject to a three-day right to cancel. You can call the Information Line at (785) 296-2424, Category 6, Message 1 for more details.

Be skeptical of calls seeking donations, mass mailings marketing services or products, and postcard solicitations. Do not pay invoices for products or services that you did not order or receive. You should report solicitations that appear to be unethical to my Consumer Protection Division by calling toll-free (800) 432-2310.

In addition, call the Information Line at (785) 296-2424, Category 1, messages 1 through 4, and Category 3, messages 5 and 6, for more on this subject.

Again, never believe the deception that you can send money somewhere and receive free money back. Remember that if an offer sounds too good to be true, it is usually a scam.

Attorney General Phill Kline offers this public service to help you avoid becoming a victim of consumer fraud. Although some of the details have been changed, the cases appearing in this column are based on actual complaints or questions.

For information or to file a complaint, write Attorney General Phill Kline, Consumer Protection Division, 120 SW 10th Ave., Second Floor, Topeka, Kan. 66612, or call the toll-free Consumer Hotline, (800) 432-2310.

Worship warms the heart



Calvary Gospel Church

Pastor: Steve Rains, Ben Coats, youth pastor
Fourth & College • 890-3605
Sunday: Kid's Church: 10:30 am
Morning Service: 10:30 am
Evening Service: 5:00 p.m.
Wednesday: Royal Rangers Missionettes 6:30 p.m.
Adult mid-week service: 7:00 p.m.
Youth @ the Rock House: 7:00 p.m.
Small Group Ministries meets through out the week.
www.calvarygospel.net

Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Pastor: Father Norbert Diabal
307 W. 13th • 890-7205
Sacrament of Reconciliation:
4:30-5 pm Saturday or by appointment
Mass Schedule:
Saturday: 6 pm, **Sunday:** 10:30 am
Spanish Mass:
Sunday: 4 pm

Sonrise Christian Church

Ninth & Caldwell • 899-5398
Minister: Charles E. Kerr, Jr.
Sunday: Worship Service: 9:30 am
Sunday School: 10:45 am
Team Puppeteers: 6 pm
Wednesday:
Junior/Senior High Meeting: 7 pm
Adult & Children's Classes: 7 pm
Jets, 4th grade and under: 3:30 - 4:30

Word of Life Joursquare Church

10th & Clark • 899-5250
Pastor: John Coumerilh
Sunday: Worship Celebration
and Kids' Church: 10:30 am
Wednesday: K.W.A.M.!
Age 3 through grade 6, 6:30 p.m.
(during school year)

Pleasant Home Church

Serving the rural community
for over 100 years
Rt. 1, Box 180 • 694-2807 • 3190 Road 70
Pastor: Charlie Busch
694-2242
Sunday: Worship Service: 9 am
Sunday School: 10 am
Evening Service: 6 pm

Bible Baptist Church

Pastor: Michael Estep
Fifth & Broadway
890-7368
Sunday: Sunday School: 9 am
Morning Service: 10 am
Evening Service: 6:30 pm
Wednesday: Evening Bible Study: 7 pm

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints

1200 15th Street • Burlington, CO
(719) 346-7984
Sacrament Meeting: 10 am
Sunday School: 11:15 am
Priesthood/Relief Society: 12 am

Iglesia Del Dios Vivo

La Luz Del Mundo
Spanish Speaking Church
Minister: Esteban Ortiz B.
1601 Texas • 899-5275
Daily Prayer: Sunday thru
Saturday: 5 am & 6 pm
Sunday: Sunday School: 10 am

United Methodist Church Brewster:

Pastor: Dorine Chambers
Worship Service: 10:45 am CST
Sunday School: 9:45 am CST
Winona:
Minister: Sheryl Johnson
Worship Service: 9 am CST
Sunday School: 10:15 am CST

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Pastor: Rev. Ted Amos
Eighth & Arcade • 890-5233
Sunday: Worship Service: 10:30 am
Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.
Activities: Junior High & High School Youth Groups,
Adult Bible Study, Choir, Men's and Women's Groups,
Devotions Study, Monthly Fellowship
Special Notice: Handicap Accessible, Hearing
Assistance Equipment and Infant and Toddler
Nurseries Available

Kanorado United Methodist Church

Pastor: Leonard Cox
399-2468
Sunday: Sunday School: 9 am
Worship Service: 10:15 am

Church of the Nazarene

Pastor: Bob Willis
Third & Caldwell
899-2080 or 899-3797
Sunday: Sunday School: 9:45 am
Worship Service: 10:50 am
Evening Service: 6 pm
Wednesday: Evening Service: 7 pm

First United Methodist Church

1116 Sherman 899-3631
Pastor: Rev. Janet Hernandez
Saturday: Worship: 5:30 pm
Sunday: Adult Classes: 9:15 am
Worship: 10:30 am
Wednesday: Wednesday Nite Live
5:45 - 6:45 Simple Supper "Free will Offering
6:30 - 7:30 p.m. Classes for all ages

Goodland Bible Church

109 Willow Road • 899-6400
Pastor: Chad DeJong
Sunday: Sunday School: 9:30 am
Morning Worship: 10:45 am
Evening Worship: 6 pm
Wednesday: AWANA (Winter)
and prayer: 7 p.m.

First Baptist Church

Pastor: Travis Blake
Fifth & Center • 890-3450
Sunday: Sunday School for all ages:
9:15 am (Child care provided)
Morning Worship: 10:30 am
Wednesday: Bible study 7 p.m.
Call church for information
Thursday: Bible study 9:30 a.m.
Wheatridge Center

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

13th & Center
Church 890-2115 or Rectory 890-6969
Priest: Father Hal Lycett
Holy Eucharist: 10:00 a.m. Sunday
10:00 a.m. Thursday
Morning Prayer: 8:00 a.m. Wed. - Sun.
For emergencies Wed. - Sun. 890-6969
Sr. Warden for emergencies
Mon. and Tues. 890-3320

Harvest Evangelical Free Church

104 E. Hwy. 24 • 890-7918
Pastor: Brian Fugleberg
Sunday: Worship: 10:30 am
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Wednesday: Youth group
meets at 7 p.m.
at Scherlings', 827 Caldwell.

Seventh Day Adventist Church

1160 Cattletrail
Pastor: Jim Martin
Saturday: Sabbath School: 9:30 am
Worship Service: 11 am

Emmanuel Lutheran Church

13th & Sherman • 890-6161
Pastor: Scott Grimshaw
Sunday: Christian education/fellowship:
10:15 a.m.
Worship Service: 9 am
Wednesday: Confirmation: 6 pm

Church of Christ

401 Caldwell
890-6185
Sunday: Bible Study: 9:45 am
Worship Service: 10:45 am
Wednesday: Bible Study: 7 pm

The following sponsors urge YOU to attend your chosen House of Worship this Sabbath:

Short & Son Trucking Hwy. 24
Koons Funeral Chapel North Main
Good Samaritan Center 208 W. 2nd
KLOEIKKCEJKWGB
3023 W. 31

Mary Kay & Pampered Chef

Open House

10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Saturday, Nov. 25th

216 E. Hwy 24 (2 Blocks West of Pioneer Park)

Serving Autumn Beef Vegetable Stew
and other treats.

Mary Kay

Try New Cologne, Affection!
Free Gifts with \$40 or larger Purchase!
30% Discount on Lipstick.

Bring these coupons to save!

\$5 off your Mary Kay purchase of \$25 or more at my open house	\$10 off your Mary Kay purchase of \$50 or more at my open house
\$20 off your Mary Kay purchase of \$100 or more at my open house	\$50 off your Mary Kay purchase of \$200 or more at my open house

Pampered Chef

Enter drawing for door prize.
Free stackable cooling rack with \$60 or more in
purchases! (\$13.50 Value)

If you can't make it that day, call Sharon Corcoran
at (785) 890-6909 for an appointment to see new
products and receive discounts Nov. 20 to 24.

Advertising works! Call Anne at 899-2338.