



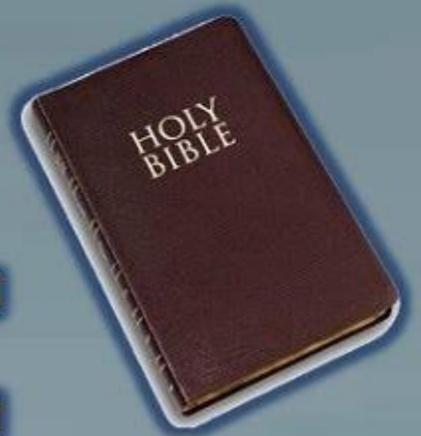
# **Welcome to Worship**

**Sanford church of Christ**



ATHEIST  
PENN  
GILLETTE

GIVEN A  
BIBLE



**Are You—or Have You  
Become—a Stumbling Block  
Hindering Others from Coming  
to Christ?**

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*21 From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. 22 And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "Far be it from you, Lord! This shall never happen to you." 23 But he turned and said to Peter, **"Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man."***

- Matthew 16:21 – 23 (ESV)

1 At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, “Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?” 2 And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them 3 and said, “Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. 4 Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. 5 “Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, 6 but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea.

-Matthew 18:1 – 6 (ESV)

7 “Woe to the world for temptations to sin! For it is necessary that temptations come, but **woe to the one by whom the temptation comes!** 8 And if your hand or your foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life crippled or lame than with two hands or two feet to be thrown into the eternal fire. 9 And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into the hell of fire.

-Matthew 18:7 – 9 (ESV)

## Ways we may be a stumbling block to others:

- Hypocrisy – saying the right things but living differently
- Harsh or unloving attitudes – truth without grace
- Silence – knowing the gospel but never sharing it
- Pride – focusing on being “right” rather than being redemptive
- Poor example – careless speech, bitterness, or divisiveness
- Traditions over truth – elevating preferences above Scripture

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**We Must Become Bridges to  
Bring Others to God!**

A person in a red jacket is walking across a suspension bridge that spans a deep valley. The bridge has a metal walkway and safety railings. The valley below is filled with dense evergreen trees, and some trees in the distance have turned yellow, suggesting autumn. The background shows a misty or hazy mountain range.

19 For though I am free from all, I have made myself a servant to all, **that I might win more of them.** 20 To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though not being myself under the law) that I might win those under the law. 21 To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (not being outside the law of God but under the law of Christ) that I might win those outside the law. 22 To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak. **I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some.** 23 I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share with them in its blessings.

-1 Corinthians 9:19 – 23 (ESV)

*7 O LORD, you have deceived me, and I was deceived; you are stronger than I, and you have prevailed. I have become a laughingstock all the day; everyone mocks me. 8 For whenever I speak, I cry out, I shout, "Violence and destruction!" For the word of the LORD has become for me a reproach and derision all day long. 9 If I say, "I will not mention him, or speak any more in his name," **there is in my heart as it were a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I am weary with holding it in, and I cannot.***

-Jeremiah 20:7 – 9 (ESV)

# A Bridge:

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- Meets people where they are
- Bears weight
- Costs something
- Exists for others to cross



A close-up photograph of a person's hands holding an open Bible. The person is wearing a dark blue long-sleeved shirt. Their right hand holds a silver pen, poised to write in the text. Their left hand holds a pair of glasses. The Bible is open to a page with dense text, including the heading "JEREMIAN 45". The background is a soft-focus green field under bright, natural light. The overall scene conveys a sense of quiet study and devotion.

**Is Your Mind Set on  
the Things of God?**