SICK
Please remember in your prayers:
Elaine Maxey, Jean Flesher, Ella Hammac, Marilyn Hall, Peggy Crowe, Madeline Graves, Linda Worley, Floy Dell Lindemith, Lucy Ayliffe, Donald Clark (Ray Foshee’s brother-in-law), Buddy Bearden (Allen Brazell’s cousin), John Pippin (Dot Lambert’s nephew), Earl Gerean (Ray Foshee’s friend), Wanda Lewis (Linda Parker’s cousin), Jean White (Joyce Brantley’s sister), Nancy Brown (Diana Brazell’s sister), Jada Wright (Tony Hall’s friend), Robert Colucci (Marilyn Hall’s great-great-nephew), and Curtis Cates.

RESTORED
Ray Dodd was restored to Christ on January 6, 2002. Please keep Ray in your prayers.

READING/INVITATION
January 16, 2002
Reading: Jim Williams
Invitation: Louis Herrington
January 23, 2002
Reading: Carl Ayliffe
Invitation: Damon Lundy

MARK THESE DATES
January 13, 2002—Visitation Group 2 assignment cards handed out.
January 13, 2002—Deacons’ meeting at 5:00 PM, in room 7.
January 20, 2002—Visitation Group 3 assignment cards handed out.

PANTRY ITEM NEEDED
Canned Fruit

Should Preachers Call Denominational Names from the Pulpit?
Lynn Parker

Some brethren are, well, squeamish when it comes to the public refutation of denominational error for fear that such will offend their relatives and neighbors. We, in some instances, are more concerned with giving offense than in allowing sin and error to run its course. Is it possible that we do not mind our friends following the broad road to hell as long as they travel it in a good humor?

The Psalmist wrote, “Through thy precepts I get understanding: therefore I hate every false way” (Psa. 119:104). A righteous indignation aimed at error is just the prescription for a brotherhood steeped in compromise. Paul was set for “the defense of the gospel” and we should be too. Jesus did not apologize when His disciples surmised that He had offended the Pharisees with His teaching (Mat. 15:12) but some of our brethren would have been turning beet red with embarrassment at the Master’s narrow truth.

Some brethren think it a crime for a preacher to mention denominational doctrines and an unpardonable breach of social etiquette to call the name of a religious group. (... (2) teach it out of a genuine love for souls. Often misused, this passage does not mean that truth never hurts. Nowhere
does the Bible teach that truth must be diluted, soft-soaped, or presented in a vague, abstract, apologetic manner. While the truth is not a whip or club for personal victory or brow-beating, it is the “sword of the Spirit” (Eph. 6:17) in the Christian’s arsenal as he battles the adversary. Improper attitudes on the part of preachers will be judged by God but let human wisdom be very careful in judging the motives of the messenger. An evangelist is not unloving, mean, cruel, tactless, or without ability just because the sermon he presents offends some hearer. Wonder if Jesus, the epitome of love, ever offended anyone (remember Mat. 15:12; Mat 23)?

The religious world is in a state of mass confusion and doctrinal chaos. Hundreds of different groups, each professing to be following the same Lord, make appealing presentations offends some hearer. Wonder if Jesus, the epitome of love, ever offended anyone (remember Mat. 15:12; Mat 23)?

The Church Universal

Every student of the New Testament knows that the word church translates the Greek ekklesia, from ek, out of, and klesis, a calling (kaleo, to call). W. E. Vine says the word “was used among the Greeks of a body of citizens gathered to discuss the affairs of State, Acts 19:39. In the Sept. [Septuagint] it is used to designate the gathering of Israel, summoned for any definite purpose, or a gathering regarded as representative of the whole nation.” Thayer (p. 196) says the word “is used in the wide church in the universal sense in Matthew 16:18, ‘I will build my church,’ and in Ephesians 4:4, Paul said, “There is one body.” These verses refer to the church in the aggregate. Due to the very nature of the case the universal church cannot meet. It has members, but no elders or deacons. Whenever one obeys the gospel of Christ (Rom. 1:16-17; 6:16-17) he becomes a member of the church universal. Man has absolutely nothing to say about it. God is in complete control at this point. No vote is to be taken, no approval is to be sought. The subsequent responsibility of the one who has obeyed the gospel to a local congregation is the next item for consideration.

The Local Church

The New Testament frequently speaks of local churches such as Jerusalem (Acts 8:1), Antioch (Acts 13:1), Rome (Rom. 1:7), Corinth (1 Cor. 1:2), Ephesus (Acts 20:17), Galatia (Gal. 1:2), Philippi (Phil. 1:1), and Thessalonica (1 Th. 1:1). Each of these churches (congregations) when fully organized will have its own cop of elders and deacons (cf., Acts 11:30; 14:23; 20:28; Phil. 1:1; 1 The. 5:12; 1 Tim. 3:1-13; Tit. 1:5). It is clear that God wills that elders be appointed out of these local churches to oversee His work, but unless people agree to meet in one place there can be no local congregation. Good order (1 Cor. 14:40) requires Christians to identify themselves or place membership with a local church so that the Lord’s work can be carried out. No local churches, no elderships. When Paul obeyed the gospel of Christ (cf., Acts 9:1-19; 22:16) he became a member of the church universal. Subsequent to his conversion he “was certain days with the disciples that were at Damascus” (Acts 9:19). After a plot to kill him failed, he came to Jerusalem. One important thing to note here is the fact that “he assayed to join himself to the disciples” (Acts 9:26). Assayed is from epeirato, which means to try, to attempt. Why did Paul attempt to affiliate himself with the other disciples? One reason has to be for the sake of advantage. It would be advantageous to the spread of the gospel for his efforts to be joined with those of the other disciples. Too, the fact that his association with the others would certainly prove that the one who had previously made havoc of the faith was now preaching it. To “place membership” or “identify oneself” with a local church is the right thing to do. It demonstrates and emphasizes the willing acceptance of responsibility upon the part of the individual. What of those who do not take this action? How does the Lord view this? Perhaps we cannot now know, but God’s judgment will make it abundantly clear. Though one’s influence does not have to be confined to one congregation, its greatest effect will always be locally felt. Letting the brethren know of our feelings to serve and be used should be our strong desire.

1331 Spring Cypress Road; Spring, TX 77373

Placing Membership

Noah Hackworth

In this article we shall deal with a question that is repeatedly asked. It involves membership in a local congregation (church). “Placing membership” is a phrase not explicitly stated in the New Testament, but it is not without biblical support. It is a term we use, for lack of a better one, to designate the responsibility of a Christian to a local congregation. It involves identification, but it does not indicate the condition of one’s heart or one’s spiritual standing before God Almighty. The phrase is perhaps comparable to another phrase we often use to designate the management of sin under the Old Testament. We sometimes say sins were “rolled forward.” This term is not explicitly state either. The exact phrase used is “there is a remembrance made of sins year by year” (Heb. 10:3). To understand the merits of membership in the Lord’s church it is necessary to understand (1) the church universal and (2) the local church.

The Church Universal

Every student of the New Testament knows that the word church translates the Greek ekklesia, from ek, out of, and klesis, a calling (kaleo, to call). W. E. Vine says the word “was used among the Greeks of a body of citizens gathered to discuss the affairs of State, Acts 19:39. In the Sept. [Septuagint] it is used to designate the gathering of Israel, summoned for any definite purpose, or a gathering regarded as representative of the whole nation.” Thayer (p. 196) says the word “is used in the wide church in the universal sense in Matthew 16:18, “I will build my church,” and in Ephesians 4:4, Paul said, “There is one body.” These verses refer to the church in the aggregate. Due to the very nature of the case the universal church cannot meet. It has members, but no elders or deacons. Whenever one obeys the gospel of Christ (Rom. 1:16-17; 6:16-17) he becomes a member of the church universal. Man has absolutely nothing to say about it. God is in complete control at this point. No vote is to be taken, no approval is to be sought. The subsequent responsibility of the one who has obeyed the gospel to a local congregation is the next item for consideration.

The Local Church

The New Testament frequently speaks of local churches such as Jerusalem (Acts 8:1), Antioch (Acts 13:1), Rome (Rom. 1:7), Corinth (1 Cor. 1:2), Ephesus (Acts 20:17), Galatia (Gal. 1:2), Philippi (Phil. 1:1), and Thessalonica (1 Th. 1:1). Each of these churches (congregations) when fully organized will have its own cop of elders and deacons (cf., Acts 11:30; 14:23; 20:28; Phil. 1:1; 1 The. 5:12; 1 Tim. 3:1-13; Tit. 1:5). It is clear that God wills that elders be appointed out of these local churches to oversee His work, but unless people agree to meet in one place there can be no local congregation. Good order (1 Cor. 14:40) requires Christians to identify themselves or place membership with a local church so that the Lord’s work can be carried out. No local churches, no elderships. When Paul obeyed the gospel of Christ (cf., Acts 9:1-19; 22:16) he became a member of the church universal. Subsequent to his conversion he “was certain days with the disciples that were at Damascus” (Acts 9:19). After a plot to kill him failed, he came to Jerusalem. One important thing to note here is the fact that “he assayed to join himself to the disciples” (Acts 9:26). Assayed is from epeirato, which means to try, to attempt. Why did Paul attempt to affiliate himself with the other disciples? One reason has to be for the sake of advantage. It would be advantageous to the spread of the gospel for his efforts to be joined with those of the other disciples. Too, the fact that his association with the others would certainly prove that the one who had previously made havoc of the faith was now preaching it. To “place membership” or “identify oneself” with a local church is the right thing to do. It demonstrates and emphasizes the willing acceptance of responsibility upon the part of the individual. What of those who do not take this action? How does the Lord view this? Perhaps we cannot now know, but God’s judgment will make it abundantly clear. Though one’s influence does not have to be confined to one congregation, its greatest effect will always be locally felt. Letting the brethren know of our feelings to serve and be used should be our strong desire.

5342 West La Vida Court; Visalia, CA 93277
does the Bible teach that truth must be diluted, soft-soaped, or presented in a vague, abstract, apologetic manner. While the truth is not a whip or club for personal victory or brow-beating, it is the “sword of the Spirit” (Eph. 6:17) in the Christian’s arsenal as he battles the adversary. Improper attitudes on the part of preachers will be judged by God but let human wisdom be very careful in judging the motives of the messenger. An evangelist is not unloving, mean, cruel, tactless, or without ability just because the sermon he presents offends some hearer. Wonder if Jesus, the epitome of love, ever offended anyone (remember Mat. 15:12; Mat 23)?

The religious world is in a state of mass confusion and doctrinal chaos. Hundreds of different groups, each professing to be following the same Lord, make appealing propaganda. They are neither reluctant or timid in advertising their names or their doctrines. Why should the defender of truth be 

hog-tied in refuting same? Too, if I preach on some matter, I should not be embarrassed to have another review the doctrine, as long as they accurately represent me.

“Don’t mention names!” one crying brother cries. Paul called the names of those who made shipwreck concerning the faith (1 Tim. 1:19-20), and he warned of Hymenaeus and Philetus, men “who concerning the truth have erred, saying that the resurrection is past already; and overthrow the faith of some” (2 Tim. 2:18). The Nicolaitans, their doctrine, and their works were the subject of explicit warning by our Lord through the penman John (Rev. 2:6, 15). “Don’t call names, John!” It appears that Jesus and John are more concerned with the salvation and protection of souls than in being socially of politically right!

There may be times that a preacher will refer to a particular doctrine, cite its adherents, and refute it from God’s Word. His responsibility is merciless to the doctrine—after all, it is a false way to be hated (Psa. 119:104). At the time, God’s preacher will seek to win the lost soul who may have been holding to the error and forewarn/forearm the brethren who may be confronted with it. Refuting error is imminently scriptural. Calling names has Bible precedent. Never be guilty of hampering a proclamation of the truth by insisting that a preacher refrain from doing what Jesus and His apostles did.

1331 Spring Cypress Road; Spring, TX 77373

Placing Membership
Noah Hackworth

In this article we shall deal with a question that is repeatedly asked. It involves membership in a local congregation (church). “Placing membership” is a phrase not explicitly stated in the New Testament, but it is not without biblical support. It is a term we use, for lack of a better one, to designate the responsibility of a Christian to a local congregation. It involves identification, but it does not indicate the condition of one’s heart or one’s spiritual standing before God Almighty. The phrase is perhaps comparable to another phrase we often use to designate the management of sin under the Old Testament. We sometimes say sins were “rolled forward.” This term is not explicitly state either. The exact phrase used is “there is a remembrance made of sins year by year” (Heb. 10:3). To understand the merits of membership in the Lord’s church it is necessary to understand (1) the church universal and (2) the local church.

The Church Universal

Every student of the New Testament knows that the word church translates the Greek ekklesia, from ek, out of, and klesis, a calling (kaleo, to call). W. E. Vine says the word “was used among the Greeks of a body of citizens gathered to discuss the affairs of State, Acts 19:39. In the Sept. [Septuagint] it is used to designate the gathering of Israel, summoned for any definite purpose, or a gathering regarded as representative of the whole nation.” Thayer (p. 196) Robinson (p. 250), Arndt & Gingrich (p. 240), et al., are in general agreement. Jesus use the word church in the universal sense in Matthew 16:18, “I will build my church,” and in Ephesians 4:4, Paul said, “There is one body.” These verses refer to the church in the aggregate. Due to the very nature of the case the universal church cannot meet. It has members, but no elders or deacons. Whenever one obeys the gospel of Christ (Rom. 1:16-17; 6:16-17) he becomes a member of the church universal. Man has absolutely nothing to say about it. God is in complete control at this point. No vote is to be taken, no approval is to be sought. The subsequent responsibility of the one who has obeyed the gospel to a local congregation is the next item for consideration.

The Local Church

The New Testament frequently speaks of local churches such as Jerusalem (Acts 8:1), Antioch (Acts 13:1), Rome (Rom. 1:7), Corinth (1 Cor. 1:2), Ephesus (Acts 20:17), Galatia (Gal. 1:2), Philippi (Phi. 1:1), and Thessalonica (1 Th. 1:1). Each of these churches (congregations) when fully organized will have its own corp of elders and deacons (cf., Acts 11:30; 14:23; 20:28; Phi. 1:1; 1 Th. 5:12; 1 Tim. 3:1-13; Tit. 1:5). It is clear that God wills that elders be appointed out of these local churches to oversee His work, but unless people agree to meet in one place there can be no local congregation. Good order (1 Cor. 14:40) requires Christians to identify themselves or place membership with a local church so that the Lord’s work can be carried out. No local churches, no elderships. When Paul obeyed the gospel of Christ (cf., Acts 9:1-19; 22:16) he became a member of the church universal. Subsequent to his conversion he “was certain days with the disciples that were at Damascus” (Acts 9:19). After a plot to kill him failed, he came to Jerusalem. One important thing to note here is the fact that “he assayed to join himself to the disciples” (Acts 9:26). Assayed is from epeirato, which means to try, to attempt. Why did Paul attempt to affiliate himself with the other disciples? One reason has to be for the sake of advantage. It would be advantageous to the spread of the gospel for his efforts to be joined with those of the other disciples. Too, the fact that his association with the others would certainly prove that the one who had previously made havoc of the faith was now preaching it. To “place membership” or “identify oneself” with a local church is the right thing to do. It demonstrates and emphasizes the willing acceptance of responsibility upon the part of the individual. What of those who do not take this action? How does the Lord view this? Perhaps we cannot now know, but God’s judgment will make it abundantly clear. Though one’s influence does not have to be confined to one congregation, its greatest effect will always be locally felt. Letting the brethren know of our feelings to serve and be used should be our strong desire.

5342 West La Vida Court; Visalia, CA 93277
SICK
Please remember in your prayers:
Elaine Maxey, Jean Flesher, Ella Hammac,
Marilyn Hall, Peggy Crowe, Madeline Graves, Linda Worley, Floy Dell Lindemith, Lucy Ayliffe, Donald Clark (Ray Foshee’s brother-in-law), Buddy Bearden (Allen Brazell’s cousin), John Pippin (Dot Lambert’s nephew), Carl Ayliffe (Ray Foshee’s friend), Wanda Lewis (Linda Parker’s cousin), Jean White (Joyce Brantly’s sister), Nancy Brown (Diana Brazell’s sister), Jada Wright (Tony Hall’s friend), Robert Colucci (Marilyn Hall’s great-great-nephew), and Curtis Cates.

RESTORED
Ray Dodd was restored to Christ on
January 6, 2002. Please keep Ray in your
prayers.

READING/INVITATION
January 16, 2002
Reading: Jim Williams
Invitation: Louis Herrington

January 23, 2002
Reading: Carl Ayliffe
Invitation: Damon Lundy

MARK THESE DATES
January 13, 2002–Visitation Group 2
assignment cards handed out.
January 13, 2002–Deacons’ meeting at 5:00
PM, in room 7.
January 20, 2002–Visitation Group 3
assignment cards handed out.

PANTRY ITEM NEEDED
Canned Fruit

Should Preachers Call Denominational Names from the Pulpit?
Lynn Parker

Some brethren are, well, squeamish when it comes to the public refutation of denominational error for fear that such will offend their relatives and neighbors. We, in some instances, are more concerned with giving offense than in allowing sin and error to run its course. Is it possible that we do not mind our friends following the broad road to hell as long as they travel it in a good humor?

The Psalmist wrote, “Through thy precepts I get understanding: therefore I hate every false way” (Psa. 119:104). A righteous indignation aimed at error is just the prescription for a brotherhood steeped in compromise. Paul was set for “the defense of the gospel” and we should be too. Jesus did not apologize when His disciples surmised that He had offended the Pharisees with His teaching (Mat. 15:12) but some of our brethren would have been turning beet red with embarrassment at the Master’s narrow truth.

Some brethren think it a crime for a preacher to mention denominational doctrines and an unpardonable breach of social etiquette to call the name of a religious group. (...2) teach it out of a genuine love for souls. Often misused, this passage does not mean that truth never hurts. Nowhere
SICK
Please remember in your prayers:
Elaine Maxey, Jean Flesher, Ella Hammac,
Marilyn Hall, Peggy Crowe, Floy Dell Lindemsith, Donald Clark (Ray Foshee’s brother-in-law), Buddy Bearden (Allen Brazell’s cousin), John Pippin (Dot Lambert’s nephew), Earl Gerean (Ray Foshee’s friend), Wanda Lewis (Linda Parker’s cousin), Jean White (Joyce Brantley’s sister), Nancy Brown (Diana Brazell’s sister), Jada Wright (Tony Hall’s friend), Robert Colucci (Marilyn Hall’s great-great-nephew), and Curtis Cates.

READING/INVITATION
January 23, 2002
Reading: Carl Ayliffe
Invitation: Damon Lundy

January 30, 2002
Reading: Elward Brantley
Invitation: Fred Stancliff

MARK THESE DATES
January 20, 2002–Visitation Group 3 assignment cards handed out.
January 20, 2002–Elders/Deacons’ meeting at 5:00 PM, in room 7.
January 30, 2002–Fifth Wednesday Singing.

PANTRY ITEM NEEDED
Canned Fruit

TITUS 2:12
“Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world.”

Deacons—Workers in the Local Congregation
Lynn Parker

If it is not broken, do not try to fix it. But what if it is broken? “And the only way you can tell we have deacons is by reading their names on the bulletin masthead.” If this sounds familiar, it may be because some misunderstand the function of deacons, or some deacons have not been given specific work to do. Perhaps the deacons are too busy with secular interests and demands to properly see to the work before them. Maybe a deacon is too lazy to do the work. And then, it could be that work goes undone due to a combination of all these factors.

What Is a Deacon?
The original word behind our English, deacon, carries the meaning of a slave. A deacon is a man who has met certain qualifications (1 Tim. 3:8ff), been appointed to a work, and then, implied in the very word, deacon, he does that work. Is it possible that some congregations have deacons who will not deac? Yes, it has been the case that some specially appointed servants will not serve. It could be that some deacons consider their position as more official than active; more title than work. The late Guy N. Woods wrote: “Men selected to be elders and deacons are appointed to a work and not to an official position” (Questions & Answers, 1:223).

Practically speaking, there are many necessary works to which the deacons might be assigned in any local congregation. Regardless of whether or not you believe the seven men of Acts 6 to be deacons (and we would not dogmatically argue the point), the work done by these virtuous men can illustrate that certain tasks need to be removed from the preacher and handled by others (Acts 6:2). Here, it was the care of needy
I Did Not Marry a Christian

Several months ago, an article appeared entitled “I Married a Christian.” I read the article with great interest and it drove home some very sobering thoughts. As I read the article I could not help but think of what a contrast my own life was, for you see, I did not marry a Christian.

No one told me of the unhappiness I was due in marrying a non-Christian. At the time I married, my parents were not faithful and consequently neither was I. I cannot put the responsibility for my actions on them though, for I was eighteen years old and knew what the Bible taught on marriage.

Now after having lived with a non-Christian for almost ten years, I have been made aware of how important it is for our young people to marry Christians. These ten years have not made me an expert on the subject, but they have made me realize that I should try to teach and/or discourage others from making the same mistake.

When I fell in love with my husband, I did not think about those things that could lie ahead. The only thing I knew was that I loved him with all my heart and that no one knew or had experienced this kind of love. Our’s was different as I felt there was nothing that could ever come between us that we could not overcome.

After we were married, I was soon to realize how our attitudes and thinking varied. We rented a small apartment and were soon entertaining other non-Christians in our home. The drinking and dancing were all part of the things I had been taught to abhor. And yet, right here in my own home I was consenting to, and becoming a part of, things that a Christian has no business doing. I was getting further and further away from the church. I knew what I should be doing as a Christian, and yet I was doing nothing to change. We were happy by most people’s standards, but I was miserable. I knew my husband did not share my love for the truth and he was not serious minded about things like that. I loved him so much and I was learning a hard, cold fact—love was not enough! I wanted to return to my “first love.” We talked about my returning to the church and I realized another fact—he had no intention of going with me in spite of his promise before marriage that he would.

I decided to wait about returning and try to work things out as best I could. In the meantime, we found out we were expecting our first child. I was elated! I also was made aware of the creation of God within me. I was soon to become a mother and have a life truly influenced by me. I was going to get my heart right with God again.

I repented of my sins and started trying to live the life I so wanted to live. It was hard. First, because I had no encouragement from my husband. Second, we still had all our non-Christian friends in and out. My Christian friends from church came by, but not too often because my husband openly did not like them. I love them and wanted them in my home. I needed them. Somewhere about this time was when the hostility began. I was seeing and hearing a different guy from that wonderful guy I married. There was a wall building between us. Out of love for my husband, I again stopped attending church services. I did not attend for months. I was miserable inside again.

After the birth of our daughter, I wanted to get started back to church. My husband’s answer was “No.” He wanted me to start going to church with him where he went as a child—a denominational church that did not follow God’s Word. We really had problems there. I knew the error they taught and I could not worship there. He insisted; I resisted.

Three and a half years ago, I repented again and started to live the Christian life. I thank God that He spared my life and let me live long enough to get back. There is no turning back for me now. We have three children now, and I want more than anything to have a Christian home for them. This presents another problem. My husband and I do not agree on how to bring up the children. We are both pulling in different directions. I believe in teaching them to put God first in their life and to be faithful. He still can see no reason to attend every service and openly overrides me when I insist the children go.

Our marriage has deteriorated greatly over the last few years. The “church problem,” as my husband puts it, has moved into every aspect of our marriage. We both keep things bottled up inside and find that we cannot talk things out anymore. I am ill with the children much too often. I know it is because things are not right between my husband and me.

My marriage has reached a disastrous point. I want to make a choice—him or the church! Those of you who are Christians know what a hard thing it is to do, to continue in the “ministry of the word” (Acts 6:4). Let the preacher and elders be expected to do everything in the congregation and you quickly have work undone or only partially done, grumbling, and burnt-out preachers and elders. The Lord’s plan calls for deacons who will put their shoulders to the wheel and stick to the job. The late L. R. Wilson, in his book, Congregational Development, summarized this point by saying:

We have already seen that they are servants. The duties of a servant are to serve. But are there any particular duties that deacons are to perform? There are. On the other hand we may say that there is hardly any service which may be needed that they may not perform (53).

Deacons may be appointed to care for benevolent cases, care for the physical property of the church, help with finances, look after the Bible class program, organize men to serve in worship assemblies, and these are just a few of numerous tasks that may be assigned to deacons.

I am ill with the children much too often. I know it is because things are not right between my husband and me.
I did not marry a Christian

Several months ago, an article appeared entitled “I Married a Christian.” I read the article with great interest and it drove home some very sobering thoughts. As I read the article I could not help but think of what a contrast my own life was, for you see, I did not marry a Christian.

No one told me of the unhappiness I was due in marrying a non-Christian. At the time I married, my parents were not faithful and consequently neither was I. I cannot put the responsibility for my actions on them though, for I was eighteen years old and knew what the Bible taught on marriage.

Now after having lived with a non-Christian for almost ten years, I have been made aware of how important it is for our young people to marry Christians. These ten years have not made me an expert on the subject, but they have made me realize that I should try to teach and/or discourage others from making the same mistake.

When I fell in love with my husband, I did not think about those things that could lie ahead. The only thing I knew was that I loved him with all my heart and that no one knew or had experienced this kind of love. Our’s was different as I felt there was nothing that could ever come between us that we could not overcome.

After we were married, I was soon to realize how our attitudes and thinking varied. We rented a small apartment and were soon entertaining other non-Christians in our home. The drinking and dancing were all part of the things I had been taught to abhor. And yet, right here in my own home I was consenting to, and becoming a part of, things that a Christian has no business doing.

I was getting further and further away from the church. I knew what I should be doing as a Christian, and yet I was doing nothing to change. We were happy by most people’s standards, but I was miserable. I knew my husband did not share my love for the truth and he was not serious minded about things like that. I loved him so much and I was learning a hard, cold fact: love was not enough! I wanted to return to my “first love.” We talked about my returning to the church and I realized another fact—he had no intention of going with me in spite of his promise before marriage that he would.

I decided to wait about returning and try to work things out as best I could. In the meantime, we found out we were expecting our first child. I was elated! I also was made aware of the creation of God within me. I was soon to become a mother and have a life truly influenced by me. I was going to get my heart right with God again.

I repented of my sins and started trying to live the life I so wanted to live. It was hard. First, because I had no encouragement from my husband. Second, we still had all our non-Christian friends in and out. My Christian friends from the church came by, but not too often because my husband openly did not like them. I love them and wanted them in my home. I needed them. Somewhere about this time was when the hostility began. I was seeing and hearing a different guy from that wonderful guy I married. There was a wall building between us. Out of love for my husband, I again stopped attending church services. I did not attend for months. I was miserable inside again.

After the birth of our daughter, I wanted to get started back to church. My husband’s answer was “No.” He wanted me to start going to church with him where he went as a child—a denominational church that did not follow God’s Word. We really had problems there. I knew the error they taught and I could not worship there. He insisted; I resisted.

Three and a half years ago, I repented again and started to live the Christian life. I thank God that He spared my life and let me live long enough to get back. There is no turning back for me now. We have three children now, and I want more than anything to have a Christian home for them. This presents another problem. My husband and I do not agree on how to bring up the children. We are both pulling in different directions. I believe in teaching them to put God first in their life and to be faithful. He still can see no reason to attend every service and openly over-rides me when I insist the children go.

Our marriage has deteriorated greatly over the last few years. The “church problem,” as my husband puts it, has moved into every aspect of our marriage. We both keep things bottled up inside and find that we cannot talk things out anymore. I am ill with the children much too often. I know it is because things are not right between my husband and me.

My marriage has reached a disastrous point. My husband has given me an ultimatum—I have to make a choice—him or the church! Those of you who are Christians know what a terrible position to be in. “Press on toward the mark of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus” (Phi. 3:14). I am so weary from being torn between my husband and the Lord.

My prayer is that this article may, in some way, make our young people, or anyone planning to marry, to marry a Christian. I cannot do mine over again, but I can teach my children and others how important it is to marry a Christian and to make that home the kind the Lord intended for it to be.

Author Unknown
SICK
Please remember in your prayers:
Elaine Maxey, Jean Flesher, Ella Hammac,
Marilyn Hall, Peggy Crowe, Floy Dell Lindemith, Donald Clark (Ray Foshee’s brother-in-law), Buddy Bearden (Allen Brazell’s cousin), John Pippin (Dot Lambert’s nephew), Earl Gerean (Ray Foshee’s friend), Wanda Lewis (Linda Parker’s cousin), Jean White (Joyce Brantley’s sister), Nancy Brown (Diana Brazell’s sister), Jada Wright (Tony Hall’s friend), Robert Colucci (Marilyn Hall’s great-great-nephew), and Curtis Cates.

READING/INVITATION
January 23, 2002
Reading: Carl Ayliffe
Invitation: Damon Lundy
January 30, 2002
Reading: Elward Brantley
Invitation: Fred Stancliff

MARK THESE DATES
January 20, 2002–Visitation Group 3 assignment cards handed out.
January 20, 2002–Elders/Deacons’ meeting at 5:00 PM, in room 7.
January 30, 2002–Fifth Wednesday Singing.

PANTRY ITEM NEEDED
Canned Fruit

TITUS 2:12
“Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world.”

Deacons—Workers in the Local Congregation
Lynn Parker

If it is not broken, do not try to fix it. But what if it is broken? “And the only way you can tell we have deacons is by reading their names on the bulletin masthead.” If this sounds familiar, it may be because some misunderstand the function of deacons, or some deacons have not been given specific work to do. Perhaps the deacons are too busy with secular interests and demands to properly see to the work before them. Maybe a deacon is too lazy to do the work. And then, it could be that work goes undone due to a combination of all these factors.

What Is a Deacon?
The original word behind our English, deacon, carries the meaning of a servant. A deacon is a man who has met certain qualification (1 Tim. 3:8ff), been appointed to a work, and then, implied in the very word, deacon, he does that work. Is it possible that some congregations have deacons who will not deac? Yes, it has been the case that some specially appointed servants will not serve. It could be that some deacons consider their position as more official than active; more title than work. The late Guy N. Woods wrote: “Men selected to be elders and deacons are appointed to a work and not to an official position” (Questions & Answers, 1:223).

Practically speaking, there are many necessary works to which the deacons might be assigned in any local congregation. Regardless of whether or not you believe the seven men of Acts 6 to be deacons (and we would not dogmatically argue the point), the work done by these virtuous men can illustrate that certain tasks need to be removed from the preacher and handled by others (Acts 6:2). Here, it was the care of needy...
SICK
Please remember in your prayers: Elaine Maxey, Jean Flesher, Ella Hammac, Marilyn Hall, Peggy Crowe, Floy Dell Lindemith, Ray Dodd, Donald Clark (Ray Foshee’s brother-in-law), Buddy Bearden (Allen Brazell’s cousin), John Pippin (Dot Lambert’s nephew), Earl Gerean (Ray Foshee’s friend), Wanda Lewis (Linda Parker’s cousin), Jean White (Joyce Brantley’s sister), Nancy Brown (Diana Brazell’s sister), Jada Wright (Tony Hall’s friend), Robert Colucci (Marilyn Hall’s great-great-nephew), and Curtis Cates.

CONGRATULATIONS
Michael Wilkes and Sarah Lollar were married on January 14, 2002. Our congratulations is extended to them.

READING/INVITATION
January 30, 2002
Reading: Elward Brantley
Invitation: Fred Stancliff

February 6, 2002
Reading: Allen Brazell
Invitation: Henry Born

MARK THESE DATES
January 30, 2002–Fifth Wednesday Singing.
February 3, 2002–Visitation Group 1 assignment cards handed out.

PANTRY ITEM NEEDED
Canned Fruit

DIRECTORY UPDATE
Michael Hatcher’s cell phone number is 261-8443. Please update your directory.

How the Devil Works
Danny Box

Peter wrote, “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour” (1 Pet. 5:8). As long as we are in this earthly body we will have Satan as our adversary. His manner is subtle, “But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtlety, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ” (2 Cor. 11:3). Not only is he subtle, he is full of tricks: “Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil” (Eph. 6:11). We also read in Ephesians 6:16 that he is constantly throwing fiery darts our way trying to get us to stumble. But how does the Devil work? What does he do? Note the following:

The Devil tries to keep every soul out of the church. The Devil does not want any one to be saved, and he knows that people are saved who have been added to the church through obedience. So what does he do? He does anything he can do to get people not to believe the truth of God’s Word. If it takes tempting people with a man-made religion, or another gospel he will do it because he knows that if a person hears the gospel preached they will be told what it takes to be saved. The Devil will try to show that being a part of the body of Christ is not essential to salvation. He will ridicule and misrepresent the church. Yes friends, he will do everything in his power to keep every responsible soul out of the church.

The Devil tries to get you back into the world. If he cannot keep you from obeying the
gospel, then he will do everything he can to get you back into the world. He does this by making the world and the things of the world appealing. He does everything he can ... from among the church to entice you. He will do whatever it takes to destroy your faith and get you back into the world.

But if he cannot keep you out of the church, and if he cannot get you back into the world, the Devil then will try to make you useless to the church. He does this by encouraging you not to study the Word so that you will not grow in the knowledge of the Lord. He tries to confuse your priorities so that they will not turn to His return to take us home to glory (Eph. 1:22-23; 5:22-32; Gal. 6:15). In other words, they have no idea what name she is to wear (Mat. 16:18; Rom. 16:16), what is involved in worship (John 4:23-24; Acts 2:42), terms of entrance (Mat. 7:21; John 8:24; Luke 13:3-5; Mat. 10:32-33; Acts 2:38, 41, 47), the organizational structure (Col. 1:18; Phi. 1:1), the work of the church (Mark 15:15-16; Eph. 4:15-16; Gal. 6:10).

Contrary to what many may say, we can “know the truth” (John 8:32) and “understanding what the will of the Lord is” (Eph. 5:17). In dealing with matters eternal, there is no room for the indifferent attitude on the part of intelligent accountable souls. Such an attitude is evidenced by such statements as: “One church is just as good as another”; “We are all trying to serve the same God, but just going about it differently”; “There is too much confusion and religious division for me to know what is right”; “How can you be so sure you are right when the scholars disagree?”; “I guess we will all just have to wait to the end to find out if we were right or not!”

The Lord’s church is important. The Lord’s church does exist. The Lord’s church can be identified. The Lord’s church is composed of those who have been obedient to the gospel of Christ, and thus a people redeemed by the precious blood of Christ (1 Pet. 1:18-19).

As one considers the world in which we live it is plain to see that religious confusion exists which is evidenced by the multiplicity of religious doctrines and systems. However, if one will with all readiness of mind searches “the scriptures” (Acts 17:11) and allows it to answer these basic questions, it will enable one to see the difference between the church of Christ and all other religious systems:

Where did the church begin, and when?
What are the terms of entrance into the church?
What name is worn by the members?
What is the organization of the church?
Is the Bible the sole guide that governs the church?
What is taught concerning the plan of salvation?
What is the name worn by the church itself?
What is the New Testament plan of worship?
What is the work of the church?

May we ever remember that Jesus said, “Every plant, which my heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up” (Mat. 15:13). There is “yet but one body” (1 Cor. 12:20)! Anything more, or anything less will not stand! In view of eternity, may all recognize the importance and have the proper regard for the Lord’s church!

1801 North Adams Street; Beeville, TX 78110

The Importance of The Lord’s Church
Bob Patterson

Ever since the establishment of the Lord’s church two thousand years ago and men were called into His kingdom (Acts 2; John 3:3-5), it has been imperative that men enter that body through obedience to His Will in order to be saved (Acts 2:41, 47; Col. 1:18; Heb. 5:8; Eph. 5:23). How thankful we should be that the Lord has clearly set forth the terms of entrance in His Word (2 The. 2:14; Rom. 1:16; Mark 16:15-16). Thus, it becomes obvious that if men are to be able to enjoy the eternal kingdom, men must use their time in this present world to prepare (Tit. 2:11-12; 2 Pet. 1:5-11). We then, as members of the body of Christ, are to submit to the headship of Christ, proudly wear His name, continue steadfastly in the work which He has given to us, and look forward to His return to take us home to glory (Eph. 1:22-23; 5:22-32; 1 Pet. 4:16; 1 Cor. 15:58; John 14:6; 2 The. 1:10).

In spite of the fact that the Lord has given clear instruction which describes His church and its work in the perfectly delivered message of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 2:9-13; 2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Pet. 1:3), it is simply amazing that there are so many who claim that they are not able to identify which church on earth belongs to Him! It is an amazing thing to me how one can miss the identifying marks of the Lord’s church if they diligently study and search the Scriptures (2 Tim. 2:15; Acts 17:11). In other words, they have no idea what your name is to be (Mat. 16:18; Rom. 16:16), what is involved in worship (John 4:23-24; Acts 2:42), terms of entrance (Mat. 7:21; John 8:24; Luke 13:3-5; Mat. 10:32-33; Acts 2:38, 41, 47), the organizational structure (Col. 1:18; Phi. 1:1), the work of the church (Mark 15:15-16; Eph. 4:15-16; Gal. 6:10).

Contrary to what many may say, we can “know the truth” (John 8:32) and “understanding what the will of the Lord is” (Eph. 5:17). In dealing with matters eternal, there is no room for the indifferent attitude on the part of intelligent accountable souls. Such an attitude is evidenced by such statements as: “One church is just as good as another”; “We are all trying to serve the same God, but just going about it differently”; “There is too much confusion and religious division for me to know what is right”; “How can you be so sure you are right when the scholars disagree?”; “I guess we will all just have to wait to the end to find out if we were right or not!”

The Lord’s church is important. The Lord’s church does exist. The Lord’s church can be identified. The Lord’s church is composed of those who have been obedient to the gospel of Christ, and thus a people redeemed by the precious blood of Christ (1 Pet. 1:18-19). The Lord’s church continues to fulfill its purpose under the authority of Christ (Mat. 28:18-20).

As one considers the world in which we live it is plain to see that religious confusion exists which is evidenced by the multiplicity of religious doctrines and systems. However, if one will with all readiness of mind searches “the scriptures” (Acts 17:11) and allows it to answer these basic questions, it will enable one to see the difference between the church of Christ and all other religious systems:

Where did the church begin, and when?
What are the terms of entrance into the church?
What name is worn by the members?
What is the organization of the church?
Is the Bible the sole guide that governs the church?
What is taught concerning the plan of salvation?
What is the name worn by the church itself?
What is the New Testament plan of worship?
What is the work of the church?

May we ever remember that Jesus said, “Every plant, which my heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up” (Mat. 15:13). There is “yet but one body” (1 Cor. 12:20)! Anything more, or anything less will not stand! In view of eternity, may all recognize the importance and have the proper regard for the Lord’s church!

1801 North Adams Street; Beeville, TX 78110

Gnaw Your Bible
Allen Webster

This will sound strange to the unmarried, and probably to the newly married, but parents of infants actually buy them books to chew on. (Or, more accurately, books that can hold up if they end up in a baby’s mouth because everything eventually ends up there!) Interestingly, as spiritual babes (1 Pet. 2:2), God wants us to gnaw on His Book. He told Joshua, “This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth” (Jos. 1:8). The angel told John to eat up the “little book” of the message from God (Rev. 10:9).

Sometimes we say, “I don’t know about that, let me chew on it for awhile” by which we mean we are going to give it careful thought. This is what God wants us to do with His Word. He wants us to chew on it day by day until we have completely digested it.

He often uses food analogies to help us understand our relationship to the Word. For instance, Peter wrote, “As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby” (1 Pet. 2:2) and Paul admonished, “For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. But strong meat becometh to them that by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil” (Heb. 5:12-14).

Develop a taste for the Book.
gospel, then he will do everything he can to get you back into the world. He does this by making the world and the things of the world appealing. He does everything he can to weaken your faith. He causes you to become discouraged. He will get your companions to corrupt you. He will rise up false teachers from among the church to entice you. He will do whatever it takes to destroy your faith and get you back into the world.

But if he cannot keep you out of the church, and if he cannot get you back into the world, the Devil then will try to make you useless to the church. He does this by encouraging you not to study the Word so that you will not grow in the knowledge of the Lord. He tries to confuse your priorities so that you will not put the kingdom of God and His righteousness first in our life. He uses any devious trick that he can to render you useless and worthless in service to the Lord. The Devil knows the working Christian is pleasing to the Lord and because of their effort, others will be converted to the Lord and the church will grow and he does not want this to happen.

10985 Country Haven
Cottondale, AL 35453

The Importance of The Lord’s Church
Bob Patterson

Ever since the establishment of the Lord’s church two thousand years ago and men were called into His kingdom (Acts 2; John 3:3-5), it has been imperative that men enter that body through obedience to His Will in order to be saved (Acts 2:41, 47; Col. 1:18; Heb. 5:8; Eph. 5:23). How thankful we should be that the Lord has clearly set forth the terms of entrance in His Word (2 Th. 2:14; Rom. 1:16; Mark 16:15-16). Thus, it becomes obvious that if men are to be able to enjoy the eternal kingdom, men must use their time in this present world to prepare (Tit. 2:11-12; 2 Pet. 1:5-11). We then, as members of the body of Christ, are to submit to the headship of Christ, proudly wear His name, continue steadfastly in the work which He has given to us, and look forward to His return to take us home to glory (Eph. 1:22-23; 5:22-32; 1 Pet. 4:16; 1 Cor. 15:58; John 14:6; 2 Th. 1:10).

In spite of the fact that the Lord has given clear instruction which describes His church and its work in the perfectly delivered message of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 2:9-13; 2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Pet. 1:3), it is simply amazing that there are so many who claim that they are not able to identify which church on earth belongs to Him! It is an amazing thing to me how one can miss the identifying marks of the Lord’s church if they diligently study and search the Scriptures (2 Tim. 2:15; Acts 17:11). In other words, they have no idea what name she is to wear (Mat. 16:18; Rom. 16:16), what is involved in worship (John 4:23-24; Acts 2:42), terms of entrance (Mat. 7:21; John 8:24; Luke 13:3-5; Mat. 10:32-33; Acts 2:38, 41, 47), the organizational structure (Col. 1:18; Phi. 1:1), the work of the church (Mark 15:15-16; Eph. 4:15-16; Gal. 6:10).

Contrary to what many may say, we can “know the truth” (John 8:32) and “understanding what the will of the Lord is” (Eph. 5:17). In dealing with matters eternal, there is no room for the indifferent attitude on the part of intelligent accountable souls. Such an attitude is evidenced by such statements as: “One church is just as good as another”; “We are all trying to serve the same God, but just going about it differently”; “There is too much confusion and religious division for me to know what is right”; “How can you be so sure you are right when the scholars disagree?”; “I guess we will all just have to wait to the end to find out if we were right or not!”

The Lord’s church is important. The Lord’s church does exist. The Lord’s church can be identified. The Lord’s church is composed of those who have been obedient to the gospel of Christ, and thus a people redeemed by the precious blood of Christ (1 Pet. 1:18-19). The Lord’s church continues to fulfill its purpose under the authority of Christ (Mat. 28:18-20).

As one considers the world in which we live it is plain to see that religious confusion exists which is evidenced by the multiplicity of religious doctrines and systems. However, if one will with all readiness of mind searches the scriptures (Acts 17:11) and allows it to answer these basic questions, it will enable one to see the difference between the church of Christ and all other religious systems:

Where did the church begin, and when?
What are the terms of entrance into the church?
What name is worn by the members?
What is the organization of the church?
Is the Bible the sole guide that governs the church?
What is taught concerning the plan of salvation?
What is the name worn by the church itself?
What is the New Testament plan of worship?
What is the work of the church?

May we ever remember that Jesus said, “Every plant, which my heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up” (Mat. 15:13). There is “yet but one body” (1 Cor. 12:20)! Everything more, or anything less will not stand! In view of eternity, may all recognize the importance and have the proper regard for the Lord’s church!

1801 North Adams Street; Beeville, TX 78112

Gnaw Your Bible
Allen Webster

This will sound strange to the unmarried, and probably to the newly married, but parents of infants actually buy them books to chew on. (Or, more accurately, books that can hold up if they end up in a baby’s mouth because everything eventually ends up there!) Interestingly, as spiritual babes (1 Pet. 2:2), God wants us to gnaw on His Book. He told Joshua, “This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth” (Jos. 1:8). The angel told John to eat up the “little book” of the message from God (Rev. 10:9).

Sometimes we say, “I don’t know about that, let me chew on it for awhile” by which we mean we are going to give it careful thought. This is what God wants us to do by His Word. He wants us to chew on it day by day until we have completely digested it.

He often uses food analogies to help us understand our relationship to the Word. For instance, Peter wrote, “As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby” (1 Pet. 2:2) and Paul admonished, “For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. But strong meat becometh them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil” (Heb. 5:12-14).

Develop a taste for the Book.

Copied
SICK
Please remember in your prayers:
Elaine Maxey, Jean Flesher, Ella Hammac, Marilyn Hall, Peggy Crowe, Floy Dell Lindemith, Ray Dodd, Donald Clark (Ray Foshee’s brother-in-law), Buddy Bearden (Allen Brazell’s cousin), John Pippin (Dot Lambert’s nephew), Earl Gerean (Ray Foshee’s friend), Wanda Lewis (Linda Parker’s cousin), Jean White (Joyce Brantley’s sister), Nancy Brown (Diana Brazell’s sister), Jada Wright (Tony Hall’s friend), Robert Colucci (Marilyn Hall’s great-great-nephew), and Curtis Cates.

CONGRATULATIONS
Michael Wilkes and Sarah Lollar were married on January 14, 2002. Our congratulations is extended to them.

READING/INVITATION
January 30, 2002
Reading: Elward Brantley
Invitation: Fred Stancliff
February 6, 2002
Reading: Allen Brazell
Invitation: Henry Born

MARK THESE DATES
January 30, 2002–Fifth Wednesday Singing.
February 3, 2002–Visitation Group 1 assignment cards handed out.

PANTRY ITEM NEEDED
Canned Fruit

DIRECTORY UPDATE
Michael Hatcher’s cell phone number is 261-8443. Please update your directory.

How the Devil Works
Danny Box

Peter wrote, “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour” (1 Pet. 5:8). As long as we are in this earthly body we will have Satan as our adversary. His manner is subtle, “But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtlety, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ” (2 Cor. 11:3). Not only is he subtle, he is full of tricks: “Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil” (Eph. 6:11). We also read in Ephesians 6:16 that he is constantly throwing fiery darts our way trying to get us to stumble. But how does the Devil work? What does he do? Note the following:
The Devil tries to keep every soul out of the church. The Devil does not want any one to be saved, and he knows that people are saved who have been added to the church through obedience. So what does he do? He does anything he can do to get people not to believe the truth of God’s Word. If it takes tempting people with a man-made religion, or another gospel he will do it because he knows that if a person hears the gospel preached they will be told what it takes to be saved. The Devil will try to show that being a part of the body of Christ is not essential to salvation. He will ridicule and misrepresent the church. Yes friends, he will do everything in his power to keep every responsible soul out of the church.

The Devil tries to get you back into the world. If he cannot keep you from obeying the
SICK
Please remember in your prayers: Elaine Maxey, Jean Flesher, Ella Hammac, Marilyn Hall, Peggy Crowe, Floy Dell Lindemsith, Ray Dodd, Lucy Ayliffe, Jacqueline Ayliffe (Carl and Tim Ayliffe’s mother), Bob Stancliff (Fred and Rheda Stancliff’s son).

READING/INVITATION
February 6, 2002
Reading: Allen Brazell
Invitation: Henry Born
February 13, 2002
Reading: Jerry Caine
Invitation: Paul Brantley

MARK THESE DATES
February 3, 2002–Visitation Group 1 assignments cards handed out.
February 10, 2002–Visitation Group 2 assignments cards handed out.
February 10, 2002–Deacons’ meeting at 5:00 PM, in room 7.
February 17, 2002–Visitation Group 3 assignments cards handed out.
February 17, 2002–Elders/Deacons’ meeting at 5:00 PM, in room 7.

PANTRY ITEM NEEDED
Canned Fruit

ROMANS 11:22
“Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, if thou continue in his goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off.”

You’ve Got to be Kidding!

Tyler Young

John had only been a Christian for a few years, but despite his newness in the faith, everyone at the business meeting that night was anxious to hear what he had to say.

The subject of improving the quality of the worship services came up for discussion, and when it was his turn to speak, he addressed the men with such confidence and enthusiasm that none could help but give him careful attention.

“I have a suggestion to present to the congregation which is guaranteed to dramatically improve our worship services,” he said, and then added, “but everyone must be willing to get behind it and help put it into effect.”

The men all agreed that, if it would really make our worship better, then surely the congregation would gladly support it. “What is it you have in mind, brother John?” asked one of the men. “Do you think we should get a sound system?” At that point several of the others spoke out, saying that a better amplifier and new speakers would greatly enhance the worship.

“No, that’s not what I was thinking of,” said John. Before he could continue another brother said, “You must be talking about the need for new songbooks.” A number of the men agreed that the old books were in bad shape. Someone else spoke up, “What really needs to be done is to knock out that back wall, expand the auditorium, and lower the ceiling.” This suggestion caused a wave of support to come across the room. Some said the church should take out a loan to make the improvements, others suggested a special collection could be taken, still others
said that appeals could be made to other churches to raise the needed funds and the members could all help in the work.

After a few minutes John stood up and this time he was even more enthusiastic than before. “No, no that’s not what I have in mind. Whatever John had in mind they were ready to do it. “This sounds too good to be true, brother. Tell us, what is it you have in mind?”

All eyes were fixed on John. He looked at each one of them and with gleaming eyes and an earnest tone he carefully spoke. “Let’s have everyone sit in the center section of the auditorium, close to the front and close together. This will greatly improve our singing and every other aspect of our assembly.” Grinning innocently, he leaned back in his chair, and waited for what he thought would be overwhelming support.

The room, however, was as silent as a tomb. The tension was high as the men awkwardly looked around and peered at each other out of the corners of their eyes. For a moment it seemed like everyone would simultaneously break out into hysterical laughter.

After what seemed like an eternal silence, broken only once or twice by the sound of clearing throats, one of the older members, embarrassed for poor John for naively making such a ridiculous suggestion, finally spoke up.

“Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost” (Acts 2:38).

“You’re a young man, John,” he said calmly, patronizing him, “We appreciate your enthusiasm, but as you grow you will learn that you just don’t ask brethren to do things like that.”

The meeting was quickly adjourned with a brief prayer, and long after everyone left the room John just sat there, bewildered.

Of course, just as the older brother said, John will understand one day. Yes, it’s true that Christ demands we love each other so much we would give our lives for one another (1 John 3:16), and yes, it’s true He expects us to make whatever sacrifices are necessary to help His church (Mat. 6:33). And yes, He even expects us to endure torture and death, if need be. But move up front? Sit together? That is a sacrifice God would surely require anyone to make. Oh sure, it won’t cost the church a single penny, but it won’t cost the church a single penny. John will come to accept that some just do not care about what would be best for our worship, and no force in Heaven above or hell below will move them up front or ... little John will see that moving up from the back of the auditorium is simply too great of a sacrifice for some to make.

1211 North Granbury St; Cleburne, TX 76031

Is Baptism A Condition Of Salvation?

Franklin Camp

1. If baptism is not a condition of salvation why did Peter mention baptism since he was answering the question of what to do to be saved (Acts 2:37)?

2. If baptism comes after salvation, would not repentance also follow salvation, since they are joined by the conjunction “and”? Is salvation in the world or in Christ (2 Tim. 2:10)?

“Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost” (Acts 2:38).

2. If baptism comes after salvation, would not repentance also follow salvation, since they are joined by the conjunction “and”? Is salvation in the world or in Christ (2 Tim. 2:10)?

“Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost” (Acts 2:38).

2. If baptism comes after salvation, would not repentance also follow salvation, since they are joined by the conjunction “and”? Is salvation in the world or in Christ (2 Tim. 2:10)?

“Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost” (Acts 2:38).

2. If baptism comes after salvation, would not repentance also follow salvation, since they are joined by the conjunction “and”? Is salvation in the world or in Christ (2 Tim. 2:10)?

“Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost” (Acts 2:38).

2. If baptism comes after salvation, would not repentance also follow salvation, since they are joined by the conjunction “and”? Is salvation in the world or in Christ (2 Tim. 2:10)?

“Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost” (Acts 2:38).

2. If baptism comes after salvation, would not repentance also follow salvation, since they are joined by the conjunction “and”? Is salvation in the world or in Christ (2 Tim. 2:10)?

“Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost” (Acts 2:38).

2. If baptism comes after salvation, would not repentance also follow salvation, since they are joined by the conjunction “and”? Is salvation in the world or in Christ (2 Tim. 2:10)?

“Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost” (Acts 2:38).
said that appeals could be made to other churches to raise the needed funds and the members could all help in the work.

After a few minutes John stood up and this time he was even more enthusiastic than before. “No, no that’s not what I have in mind. What I’m talking about will make our worship better than any of those things, and it is simpler and easier, and it won’t cost the church a single penny!”

Now everyone was really excited. Whatever John had in mind they were ready to do it. “This sounds too good to be true, brother. Tell us, what is it you have in mind?”

All eyes were fixed on John. He looked at each one of them and with gleaming eyes and an earnest tone he carefully spoke. “Let’s have everyone sit in the center section of the auditorium, close to the front and close together. This will greatly improve our singing and every other aspect of our assembly.” Grinning innocently, he leaned back in his chair, and waited for what he thought would be overwhelming support.

The room, however, was as silent as a tomb. The tension was high as the men awkwardly looked around and peered at each other out of the corners of their eyes. For a moment it seemed like everyone would simultaneously break out into hysterical laughter.

After what seemed like an eternal silence, broken only once or twice by the sound of clearing throats, one of the older members, embarrassed for poor John for naively making such an ridiculous suggestion, finally spoke up.

“You’re a young man, John,” he said calmly, patronizing him, “We appreciate your enthusiasm, but as you grow you will learn that you just don’t ask brethren to do things like that.”

The meeting was quickly adjourned with a brief prayer, and long after everyone left the room John just sat there, bewildered.

Of course, just as the older brother said, John will understand one day. Yes, it’s true that Christ demands we love each other so much we would give our lives for one another (1 John 3:16), and yes, it’s true that Jesus shed His blood because men were already saved (Mat. 26:28).

Is Baptism A Condition Of Salvation?

Franklin Camp

1. If baptism is not a condition of salvation why did Peter mention baptism since he was answering the question of what to do to be saved (Acts 2:38)?

2. If baptism comes after salvation, would not repentance also follow salvation, since they are joined by the conjunction “and”?

3. Are not repentance and baptism in this verse both for the same purpose?

4. If salvation comes before baptism, why does Peter say it is for the remission of sins?

5. If the phrase, “for the remission of sins” in Acts 2:38 means “because of” remission, would not the same phrase in Matthew 26:28 means “because of” remission of sins?

6. Did Jesus shed His blood because men were already saved (Mat. 26:28)?

7. If Christ did not shed His blood because men were already saved, would it not follow that men are not baptized because they are already saved? The phrases in Matthew 26:28 and Acts 2:38 are identical in both the Greek and English.

8. Would it not be a false doctrine to teach that Christ shed His blood because men were already saved?

9. Likewise, is it not a false doctrine to teach that men are baptized because they are already saved?

10. If the people on Pentecost were saved before they were baptized, why were they not added to the church until they were baptized, since such as should be saved were added to the church (Acts 2:47)?

11. The word church means “the called out” and only those baptized were added to the church. If one is saved before he is baptized, would he be saved before he is called out of the world?

12. Is salvation in the world or in Christ (2 Tim. 2:10)?

“Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost” (Acts 2:38).

1211 North Granbury St; Cleburne, TX 76031
SICK

Please remember in your prayers:
Elaine Maxey, Jean Flesher, Ella Hammac,
Marilyn Hall, Peggy Crowe, Floy Dell Lindemith, Ray Dodd, Lucy Ayliffe,
Jacqueline Ayliffe (Carl and Tim Ayliffe’s mother), Bob Stancliff (Fred and Rheba Stancliff’s son).

READING/INVITATION
February 6, 2002
Reading: Allen Brazell
Invitation: Henry Born
February 13, 2002
Reading: Jerry Caine
Invitation: Paul Brantley

MARK THESE DATES
February 3, 2002–Visitation Group 1
assignments cards handed out.
February 10, 2002–Visitation Group 2
assignments cards handed out.
February 10, 2002–Deacons’ meeting at
5:00 PM, in room 7.
February 17, 2002–Visitation Group 3
assignments cards handed out.
February 17, 2002–Elders/Deacons’
meeting at 5:00 PM, in room 7.

PANTRY ITEM NEEDED
Canned Fruit

ROMANS 11:22
“Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, if thou continue in his goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off.”

You’ve Got to be Kidding!

Tyler Young

John had only been a Christian for a few years, but despite his newness in the faith, everyone at the business meeting that night was anxious to hear what he had to say.

The subject of improving the quality of the worship services came up for discussion, and when it was his turn to speak, he addressed the men with such confidence and enthusiasm that none could help but give him careful attention.

“I have a suggestion to present to the congregation which is guaranteed to dramatically improve our worship services,” he said, and then added, “but everyone must be willing to get behind it and help put it into effect.”

The men all agreed that, if it would really make our worship better, then surely the congregation would gladly support it. “What is it you have in mind, brother John?” asked one of the men. “Do you think we should get a sound system?” At that point several of the others spoke out, saying that a better amplifier and new speakers would greatly enhance the worship.

“No, that’s not what I was thinking of,” said John. Before he could continue another brother said, “You must be talking about the need for new songbooks.” A number of the men agreed that the old books were in bad shape. Someone else spoke up, “What really needs to be done is to knock out that back wall, expand the auditorium, and lower the ceiling.” This suggestion caused a wave of support to come across the room. Some said the church should take out a loan to make the improvements, others suggested a special collection could be taken, still others
SICK
Please remember in your prayers:
Elaine Maxey, Jean Flesher, Ella Hammac,
Marilyn Hall, Peggy Crowe, Floy Dell Lindemsith, Lucy Ayliffe, Dot Lambert,
and Bob Stancliff (Fred and Rheba Stancliff’s son).

SYMPATHY
Our deepest sympathy is extended to
Dot Lambert in the death of her nephew,
John Pippin. Please keep Dot in your prayers.

RESTORED
Marilyn Hall was restored to Christ on
February 3, 2002. Please keep her in your prayers.

READING/INVITATION
February 13, 2002
Reading: Jerry Caine
Invitation: Paul Brantley
February 20, 2002
Reading: Jeremy Caine
Invitation: Bill Busch

MARK THESE DATES
February 10, 2002–Visitation Group 2
assignments cards handed out.
February 10, 2002–Deacons’ meeting at
5:00 PM, in room 7.
February 17, 2002–Visitation Group 3
assignments cards handed out.
February 17, 2002–Elders/Deacons’
meeting at 5:00 PM, in room 7.

PANTRY ITEM NEEDED
Vegetable and Chicken Soups

Give Me One Soul Today
Tom Wacaster

I pulled out my file on personal work recently
and thumbed through the mountain of material I
have on the subject so as to stir my thinking
along this line. I noticed as I flipped through, that
not only have I filed away numerous articles on
personal work and evangelism, but that through
the years I have preached some two dozen
sermons on the subject (and some of those more
than once). The bulletins that come through the
mail and cross my desk quite frequently touch on
the great need to reach the lost. Workshops,
gospel meetings, cottage classes, new books,
tracts, etc. are all geared toward saving souls.
And so it seems to me that our realization of the
need for evangelism is very acute. We know
people are lost without Christ. We know that the
gospel is the power of God unto salvation. We
know that if men are to be won to Christ it will
take our efforts and united talents. There seems
to be the deep longing within every congregation
I have worked with to “do something.” People
are just not satisfied with “keeping house.”
It also seems to me that our problem is not
methodology. The open Bible studies, film strips,
video tapes, correspondence courses, etc. have
been proven to be very effective tools for teach-
ing the lost. Each individual must adapt whatever
method might best suit his teaching abilities.
Obviously, I have one particular tool that I
consider most effective, but I am not shackled to
that one method of teaching. Whatever tool you
might use, just make sure that it meets the need
in the most effective way.
Now the question: Why are we not baptizing
more souls into Christ? Those who have done
research tell us that the last couple of decades
MATTHEW 26:26-28

“And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body. And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.”

Transubstantiation
Mel Futrell

Transubstantiation is a big word, one that may not be in your vocabulary. And understandably so, since it is not a Bible doctrine. Our title term has reference to a 13th century (1215) Roman Catholic doctrine which was first proclaimed by Pope Innocent the Third. This false doctrine says that in partaking of the bread and fruit of the vine (many erroneously call it the wine) these elements are converted (trans—“moves across”) into the substance of the body and blood of Christ. With only the external appearance of the bread and fruit of the vine remaining. Listen to one Catholic writer’s explanation of this process:

“...They look like bread and wine, taste like bread and wine, smell like bread and wine, and feel like bread and wine. If we dropped them, they would sound like bread and wine (R. C. Sproul, Not A Chance, Baker Books, 1994, p. 111).

In Matthew’s account of the institution of the Lord’s Supper we read that Jesus, “took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body” (Mat. 26:26-28). Let me ask you a few questions. When Jesus took the bread and broke it, was it His own literal body which He held in His hands, and which He Himself broke into pieces? Are we supposed to believe it was His actual body He held in His hands? When Jesus gave them the bread and they ate it were they actually and literally eating the flesh of Jesus? Did Jesus have less flesh after the supper than before, due to their eating His body? Of course, all of this is absurd. But it seems to me that the doctrine of transubstantiation, as promoted by Catholicism, cries out cannibalism and I am not alone in this assessment. The late brother G. K. Wallace, who was a staunch defender of the faith, once said in debate:

“Brethren, one need not have the wisdom of Solomon to know that if transubstantiation is true then there is a miracle wrought in participating in the Lord’s Supper. But there are no miracles being wrought today (1 Cor. 13:8-12) so a commitment to transubstantiation requires one to distort reality. One well known religious writer in criticizing the miracle in the mass belief has said: They are clearly perceived as bread and wine. They look like bread and wine, taste like bread and wine, smell like bread and wine, and feel like bread and wine. If we dropped them, they would sound like bread and wine (R. C. Sproul, Not A Chance, Baker Books, 1994, p. 111).

In Matthew’s account of the institution of the Lord’s Supper we read that Jesus, “took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body” (Mat. 26:26-28). Let me ask you a few questions. When Jesus took the bread and broke it, was it His own literal body which He held in His hands, and which He Himself broke into pieces? Are we supposed to believe it was His actual body He held in His hands? When Jesus gave them the bread and they ate it were they actually and literally eating the flesh of Jesus? Did Jesus have less flesh after the supper than before, due to their eating His body? Of course, all of this is absurd. But it seems to me that the doctrine of transubstantiation, as promoted by Catholicism, cries out cannibalism and I am not alone in this assessment. The late brother G. K. Wallace, who was a staunch defender of the faith, once said in debate:

“Brethren, one need not have the wisdom of Solomon to know that if transubstantiation is true then there is a miracle wrought in participating in the Lord’s Supper. But there are no miracles being wrought today (1 Cor. 13:8-12) so a commitment to transubstantiation requires one to distort reality. One well known religious writer in criticizing the miracle in the mass belief has said: They are clearly perceived as bread and wine. They look like bread and wine, taste like bread and wine, smell like bread and wine, and feel like bread and wine. If we dropped them, they would sound like bread and wine (R. C. Sproul, Not A Chance, Baker Books, 1994, p. 111).

In Matthew’s account of the institution of the Lord’s Supper we read that Jesus, “took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body” (Mat. 26:26-28). Let me ask you a few questions. When Jesus took the bread and broke it, was it His own literal body which He held in His hands, and which He Himself broke into pieces? Are we supposed to believe it was His actual body He held in His hands? When Jesus gave them the bread and they ate it were they actually and literally eating the flesh of Jesus? Did Jesus have less flesh after the supper than before, due to their eating His body? Of course, all of this is absurd. But it seems to me that the doctrine of transubstantiation, as promoted by Catholicism, cries out cannibalism and I am not alone in this assessment. The late brother G. K. Wallace, who was a staunch defender of the faith, once said in debate:

“Brethren, one need not have the wisdom of Solomon to know that if transubstantiation is true then there is a miracle wrought in participating in the Lord’s Supper. But there are no miracles being wrought today (1 Cor. 13:8-12) so a commitment to transubstantiation requires one to distort reality. One well known religious writer in criticizing the miracle in the mass belief has said: They are clearly perceived as bread and wine. They look like bread and wine, taste like bread and wine, smell like bread and wine, and feel like bread and wine. If we dropped them, they would sound like bread and wine (R. C. Sproul, Not A Chance, Baker Books, 1994, p. 111).

In Matthew’s account of the institution of the Lord’s Supper we read that Jesus, “took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body” (Mat. 26:26-28). Let me ask you a few questions. When Jesus took the bread and broke it, was it His own literal body which He held in His hands, and which He Himself broke into pieces? Are we supposed to believe it was His actual body He held in His hands? When Jesus gave them the bread and they ate it were they actually and literally eating the flesh of Jesus? Did Jesus have less flesh after the supper than before, due to their eating His body? Of course, all of this is absurd. But it seems to me that the doctrine of transubstantiation, as promoted by Catholicism, cries out cannibalism and I am not alone in this assessment. The late brother G. K. Wallace, who was a staunch defender of the faith, once said in debate:

“Brethren, one need not have the wisdom of Solomon to know that if transubstantiation is true then there is a miracle wrought in participating in the Lord’s Supper. But there are no miracles being wrought today (1 Cor. 13:8-12) so a commitment to transubstantiation requires one to distort reality. One well known religious writer in criticizing the miracle in the mass belief has said: They are clearly perceived as bread and wine. They look like bread and wine, taste like bread and wine, smell like bread and wine, and feel like bread and wine. If we dropped them, they would sound like bread and wine (R. C. Sproul, Not A Chance, Baker Books, 1994, p. 111).

In Matthew’s account of the institution of the Lord’s Supper we read that Jesus, “took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body” (Mat. 26:26-28). Let me ask you a few questions. When Jesus took the bread and broke it, was it His own literal body which He held in His hands, and which He Himself broke into pieces? Are we supposed to believe it was His actual body He held in His hands? When Jesus gave them the bread and they ate it were they actually and literally eating the flesh of Jesus? Did Jesus have less flesh after the supper than before, due to their eating His body? Of course, all of this is absurd. But it seems to me that the doctrine of transubstantiation, as promoted by Catholicism, cries out cannibalism and I am not alone in this assessment. The late brother G. K. Wallace, who was a staunch defender of the faith, once said in debate:
MATTHEW 26:26-28

“And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body. And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.”

Transubstantiation

Mel Futrell

Transubstantiation is a big word, one that may not be in your vocabulary. And understandably so, since it is not a Bible doctrine. Our title term has reference to a 13th century (1215) Roman Catholic doctrine which was first proclaimed by Pope Innocent the Third. This false doctrine says that in partaking of the bread and fruit of the vine (many erroneously call it the wine) these elements are converted (trans—“moves across”) into the substance of the body and blood of Christ. With only the external appearance of the bread and fruit of the vine remaining. Listen to one Catholic writer’s explanation of this process:

Question: But How Can Bread and Wine Become Christ’s Body and Blood?

Christ’s presence in the form of bread and wine, and how it comes to be that way, is part of the mystery of faith we call the Holy Eucharist. The official Catholic teaching is that Christ is really present in the consecrated elements. The explanation known as “transubstantiation” says that the substance of bread and wine is changed into Christ’s Body and Blood, leaving only the appearance, taste, and so on of bread and wine. Transubstantiation sheds light on the change that takes place, and goes farther toward expressing the faith of the Church than do some other theories about it (Philip St. Roman, Catholic Answers To Fundamentalists’ Questions, Liguori Publications, 1984, pp. 33-34).

Now if that explanation seems unbelievable to you then join the club. When folks start relegating things to “the mystery of faith” category you can pretty much know that there is a problem with it.

Brethren, one need not have the wisdom of Solomon to know that if transubstantiation is true then there is a miracle wrought in participating in the Lord’s Supper. There are no miracles being wrought today (1 Cor. 13:8-12) so a commitment to transubstantiation requires one to distort reality. One well known religious writer in criticizing the miracle in the mass belief has said: They are clearly perceived as bread and wine. They look like bread and wine, taste like bread and wine, smell like bread and wine, and feel like bread and wine. If we dropped them, they would sound like bread and wine (R. C. Sproul, Not A Chance, Baker Books, 1994, p. 111).

In Matthew’s account of the institution of the Lord’s Supper we read that Jesus, “took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, this is my body” (Matt. 26:26-28). Let me ask you a few questions. When Jesus took the bread and broke it, was it His own literal body which He held in His hands, and which He Himself broke into pieces? Are we supposed to believe it was His actual body He held in His hands? When Jesus gave them the bread and they ate it were they actually and literally eating the flesh of Jesus? Did Jesus have less flesh after the supper than before, due to their eating His body? Of course, all of this is absurd. But it seems to me that the doctrine of transubstantiation, as promoted by Catholicism, cries out cannibalism and I am not alone in this assessment. The late brother G. K. Wallace, who was a staunch defender of the faith, once said in debate: The Lord’s Supper is not a cannibalistic service where we either take the body of Christ straight or make a sandwich of it. To teach that you eat the actual, natural flesh and blood of Christ is to maintain a cannibalistic service.

The Lord’s supper is a communion service (1 Cor.10:16). The bread, when blessed, does not become the true body and the true blood of the Lord to the one partaking, but it becomes to him a communion with the body and the blood of the Lord. The bread and the cup do not become the actual body and blood of the Lord. To us, it is a communion of the body and the blood of the Lord (Wallace-Stauffer Debate, DeHoff Publications, 1946, pp. 96-98).

Although that ought to settle the matter for all concerned, especially New Testament Christians, unfortunately it has not. I have personally had to confront brethren and contend with them over their introduction of this Catholic heresy during sermons at the Lord’s table. And on occasion have become their enemy because I told them the truth (Gal. 4:16). Believe me, it is a sad day when brothers in Christ resort to such denominational practices.

Some 450 years ago the Reformation leader Martin Luther, who was certainly not a New Testament Christian, opposed Catholicism’s doctrine of transubstantiation. His opposition was on the basis that it required the miraculous to be true. All of that leads me to ask: if the founder of Protestantism felt constrained to oppose the gross error of transubstantiation why wouldn’t a brother in Christ do the same? Furthermore, when brethren feel comfortable throwing matters like transubstantiation into the realm of indifference, during the Lord’s Supper no less, you can be certain the liberal flood gates are open. Brethren, transubstantiation is a sick doctrine and all brethren, most certainly preachers and elders, ought to oppose it strongly! 450 Harleston Road Irmo, SC 29063

have seen a decline in effective personal evangelism on the local level. According to statistics, it takes 100 members of the Lord’s church to reach one soul for Christ in one year. This does not include our own children. Thus, on the average, a congregation of 200 can only expect to baptize 2 people in one year’s time. I do not know how that strikes you, but it makes me gag. We have the tools, the awareness of the lost-ness of humanity, and the desire to see the body grow. Where, then, lies the deficiency? To excuse the lack of growth on the disinterest of those around us is not an adequate answer. I think the problem lies in our conviction. The early church, though driven from their homes, their cities, and even their families, still “went every where preaching the word” (Acts 8:1-4). Perhaps our greatest problem has to do with the things that surround us.
SICK
Please remember in your prayers:
Elaine Maxey, Jean Flesher, Ella Hammac,
Marilyn Hall, Peggy Crowe, Floy Dell Lindemith, Lucy Ayliffe, Dot Lambert,
and Bob Stancliff (Fred and Rheda Stancliff’s son).

SYMPATHY
Our deepest sympathy is extended to
Dot Lambert in the death of her nephew,
John Pippin. Please keep Dot in your
prayers.

RESTORED
Marilyn Hall was restored to Christ on
February 3, 2002. Please keep her in your
prayers.

READING/INVITATION
February 13, 2002
Reading: Jerry Caine
Invitation: Paul Brantley
February 20, 2002
Reading: Jeremy Caine
Invitation: Bill Busch

MARK THESE DATES
February 10, 2002–Visitation Group 2
assignments cards handed out.
February 10, 2002–Deacons’ meeting at
5:00 PM, in room 7.
February 17, 2002–Visitation Group 3
assignments cards handed out.
February 17, 2002–Elders/Deacons’
meeting at 5:00 PM, in room 7.

PANTRY ITEM NEEDED
Vegetable and Chicken Soups

Give Me One Soul Today
Tom Wacaster

I pulled out my file on personal work recently
and thumbed through the mountain of material I
have on the subject so as to stir my thinking
along this line. I noticed as I flipped through, that
not only have I filed away numerous articles on
personal work and evangelism, but that through
the years I have preached some two dozen
sermons on the subject (and some of those more
than once). The bulletins that come through the
mail and cross my desk quite frequently touch on
the great need to reach the lost. Workshops,
gospel meetings, cottage classes, new books,
tracts, etc. are all geared toward saving souls.
And so it seems to me that our realization of the
need for evangelism is very acute. We know
people are lost without Christ. We know that the
gospel is the power of God unto salvation. We
know that if men are to be won to Christ it will
take our efforts and united talents. There seems
to be the deep longing within every congregation
I have worked with to “do something.” People
are just not satisfied with “keeping house.”
It also seems to me that our problem is not
methodology. The open Bible studies, film strips,
video tapes, correspondence courses, etc. have
been proven to be very effective tools for teach-
ing the lost. Each individual must adapt whatever
method might best suit his teaching abilities.
Obviously, I have one particular tool that I
consider most effective, but I am not shackled to
that one method of teaching. Whatever tool you
might use, just make sure that it meets the need
in the most effective way.
Now the question: Why are we not baptizing
more souls into Christ? Those who have done
research tell us that the last couple of decades

Give Me One Soul Today
Tom Wacaster

I pulled out my file on personal work recently
and thumbed through the mountain of material I
have on the subject so as to stir my thinking
along this line. I noticed as I flipped through, that
not only have I filed away numerous articles on
personal work and evangelism, but that through
the years I have preached some two dozen
sermons on the subject (and some of those more
than once). The bulletins that come through the
mail and cross my desk quite frequently touch on
the great need to reach the lost. Workshops,
gospel meetings, cottage classes, new books,
tracts, etc. are all geared toward saving souls.
And so it seems to me that our realization of the
need for evangelism is very acute. We know
people are lost without Christ. We know that the
gospel is the power of God unto salvation. We
know that if men are to be won to Christ it will
take our efforts and united talents. There seems
to be the deep longing within every congregation
I have worked with to “do something.” People
are just not satisfied with “keeping house.”
It also seems to me that our problem is not
methodology. The open Bible studies, film strips,
video tapes, correspondence courses, etc. have
been proven to be very effective tools for teach-
ing the lost. Each individual must adapt whatever
method might best suit his teaching abilities.
Obviously, I have one particular tool that I
consider most effective, but I am not shackled to
that one method of teaching. Whatever tool you
might use, just make sure that it meets the need
in the most effective way.
Now the question: Why are we not baptizing
more souls into Christ? Those who have done
research tell us that the last couple of decades

Give Me One Soul Today
Tom Wacaster

I pulled out my file on personal work recently
and thumbed through the mountain of material I
have on the subject so as to stir my thinking
along this line. I noticed as I flipped through, that
not only have I filed away numerous articles on
personal work and evangelism, but that through
the years I have preached some two dozen
sermons on the subject (and some of those more
than once). The bulletins that come through the
mail and cross my desk quite frequently touch on
the great need to reach the lost. Workshops,
gospel meetings, cottage classes, new books,
tracts, etc. are all geared toward saving souls.
And so it seems to me that our realization of the
need for evangelism is very acute. We know
people are lost without Christ. We know that the
gospel is the power of God unto salvation. We
know that if men are to be won to Christ it will
take our efforts and united talents. There seems
to be the deep longing within every congregation
I have worked with to “do something.” People
are just not satisfied with “keeping house.”
It also seems to me that our problem is not
methodology. The open Bible studies, film strips,
video tapes, correspondence courses, etc. have
been proven to be very effective tools for teach-
ing the lost. Each individual must adapt whatever
method might best suit his teaching abilities.
Obviously, I have one particular tool that I
consider most effective, but I am not shackled to
that one method of teaching. Whatever tool you
might use, just make sure that it meets the need
in the most effective way.
Now the question: Why are we not baptizing
more souls into Christ? Those who have done
research tell us that the last couple of decades

SICK
Please remember in your prayers: Elaine Maxey, Jean Flesher, Marilyn Hall, Peggy Crowe, Floy Dell Lindemith, Lucy Ayliffe, Ray Dodd, Richard Parker, and Bob Stancliff (Fred and Rheba Stancliff’s son).

RESTORED
Trina Ayliffe was restored to Christ on February 10, 2002. Please keep Trina in your prayers.

READING/INVITATION
February 20, 2002
Reading: Jeremy Caine
Invitation: Bill Busch
February 27, 2002
Reading: Bill Gallaher
Invitation: Bill Cline

MARK THESE DATES
February 17, 2002–Visitation Group 3 assignments cards handed out.
February 17, 2002–Elders/Deacons’ meeting at 5:00 PM, in room 7.

PANTRY ITEM NEEDED
Vegetable and Chicken Soups

ROMANS 6:17-18
"Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness? But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness."

Teaching the Church to Give
Lynn Parker

The new babe in Christ came up from the baptistery and had barely dried off the water when he asked, “Now that I’m a Christian, how much should I give?” Here was a sincere question asked by one truly converted. He wanted to know. He was looking for instruction and guidance. He was eager to please his Lord. What would you tell him? What would the example of the church as a whole teach him? If he knew the incomes of the various families in the church along with the amount the families contribute, he might be awfully surprised and discouraged. So that we can please God, set the proper example, and help the work of the church, let us examine some common errors made in regard to giving.

Some Errors Examined
Error #1: “My money is my business—no one else is to know my finances.” Wrong! Certainly we are not to give to receive glory from men. Jesus stated, “Take heed that ye do not your alms before men, to be seen of them: otherwise ye have no reward of your Father which is in heaven” (Mat. 6:1). At the same time, the Bible teaches that the church is to withdraw fellowship from a brother who is covetous and refuses to repent (1 Cor. 5:11). Biblically, the use of one’s money might very well be the business of other brethren. From a practical standpoint, someone else does indeed know what you give. Several men pass a collection plate and take up the money. Someone counts the monies contributed. Someone makes the deposits. Are these brethren in sin for seeing the cash or check cast in the plate by the many members of the congregation? Of course not.

Error #2: “The amount is not important just as
long as I give cheerfully.” The amount is important to God. In fact, the proper attitude along with proper teaching will produce a proper amount. Even the dried-up, wrinkled old heart of the miser can force a smile when he drops a mere dollar into the collection plate and all the while could have given a hundred. The Bible teaches that one is to give “as God hath prospered him” (1 Cor. 16:2). In addition to giving proportionately, one must be a liberal giver.

But this I say, “He which sowerth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which sowerth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver” (2 Cor. 9:6-7).

The faithful saints of a previous dispensation gave no less than (and quite a bit more than) a tenth of what they had. Are we not to learn from their examples (Rom. 15:4)? Living under the New Testament is not an excuse to do less.

A family might make $25,000 a year and yet give only $25 a week. That is approximately five percent of the yearly income. If a man’s yearly income is $50,000 and he gives $50 weekly that is still just a hair above 5%. The latter, at $50,000 yearly, would need to give $96.15 weekly just to be at ten percent of his income. Someone asked a thought-provoking question on percentages: “Could you survive if God took your contribution, multiplied it by ten, and gave that to you as your total income?”

Remember too, that as income increases, so should your contribution. Bonuses are not exempt. Pay raises need to be taken into account when purposing our giving. And it never hurts when we increase our giving even without a raise.

Giving is not only an obligation but also a privilege. As a Christian, you are part of the precious blood-bought body of God’s Son. Your giving is an indicator of just how important the church is in your life. Your Lord is watching the hand and the heart that contributes this Sunday. 1331 Spring Cypress Road Spring, TX 77373

The Greatest Challenge

Marvin L. Weir

Make plans to attend:

27TH ANNUAL BELTVIEW LECTURES
BEATTITUDES
JUNE 8 - 12, 2002

The greatest challenge does not always come from without! Yes, it is true that this world and its agents can serve up persecutions and hurts in double portions. This is one reason we are warned to “Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world” (1 John 2:15). Satan is always busy using worldly things in an attempt to devoure us (1 Pet. 5:8). “Ungodliness and worldly lusts” (Tit. 2:12) certainly have to be denied by the child of God on a daily basis. The impression must not be left that this world and Satan are not formidable foes. They will, as long as this world stands, present a continuous challenge to every living soul.

The greatest challenge, however, facing the child of God may very well come from within. It is not easy to crucify the old man (Rom. 6:6), die to self (Gal. 2:20), and be content for the “old things are passed away” (2 Cor. 5:17). Unless a transformation takes place, the “old man” will never become a “new creature.”

Our Lord admonishes, “If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me” (Mat. 16:24). Luke adds the word daily (9:23). It is a daily, not weekly or monthly task of taking up one’s cross as a Christian. The cost of discipleship is self-denial! The comforts, pleasures, and conveniences that are so prevalent in this life must take a back seat when it comes to serving God. Many choose not to bear a burden, make a sacrifice, or give up a comfort for the cause of Christ. It is easy to see that one who possesses such an attitude has not mastered the art of “denying self.”

One question is of paramount importance. Are you a willing child of God? Think about it seriously because it is indeed serious! What are you willing to do for the Lord and His church? What sacrifices are you now making for the cause of Christ? Do you see that the greatest challenge may indeed come from within?

Let us ask other questions that perhaps will cause even the blind to see! Can the local congregation where you are a member count on you to be present each Lord’s day? Can they count on your contribution so the Lord’s work might continue? Can they count on your help and service in needed areas? If you never attend services again, would the local congregation need to make immediate adjustments to fill the void—or would there be no void to fill?

If you and I miss heaven it will be because we have chosen to do so. Yes, the greatest challenge often comes from within!
long as I give cheerfully.” The amount is important to God. In fact, the proper attitude along with proper teaching will produce a proper amount. Even the dried-up, wrinkled old heart of the miser can force a smile when he drops a mere dollar into the collection plate and all the while could have given a hundred. The Bible teaches that one is to give “as God hath prospered him” (1 Cor. 16:2). In additional giving proportionately, one must be a liberal giver.

But this I say, “He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, shall reap of the same.” (Gal. 6:7). The faithful saints of a previous dispensation gave no less than (and quite a bit more than) a tenth of what they had. Are we not to learn from their examples (Rom. 15:4)? Living under the New Testament is not an excuse to do less.

A family might make $25,000 a year and yet give only $25 a week. That is approximately five percent of the yearly income. If a man’s yearly income is $50,000 and he gives $50 weekly that is still just a hair above 5%. The latter, at $50,000 yearly, would need to give $96.15 weekly just to be at ten percent of his income. Someone asked a thought-provoking question on percentages: “Could you survive if God took your contribution, multiplied it by ten, and gave that to you as your total income?”

Remember too, that as income increases, so should your contribution. Bonuses are not exempt. Pay raises need to be taken into account when purposing our giving. And it never hurts when we up our giving even without a raise.

Giving is not only an obligation but also a privilege. As a Christian, you are part of the precious blood-bought body of God’s Son. Your giving is an indicator of just how important the church is in your life. Your Lord is watching the hand and the heart that contributes this Sunday.

The greatest challenge does not always come from without! Yes, it is true that this world and its agents can serve up persecutions and hurts in double portions. This is one reason we are warned to “Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world” (1 John 2:15). Satan is always busy using worldly things in an attempt to devour us (1 Pet. 5:8); “Ungodliness and worldly lusts” (Tit. 2:12) certainly have to be denied by the child of God on a daily basis. The impression must not be left that this world and Satan are not formidable foes. They will, as long as this world stands, present a continuous challenge to every living soul.

The greatest challenge, however, facing the child of God may very well come from within. It is not easy to crucify the old man (Rom. 6:6), die to self (Gal. 2:20), and be content for the “old things are passed away” (2 Cor. 5:17). Unless a transformation takes place, the “old man” will never become a “new creature.”

Our Lord admonishes, “If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me” (Mat. 16:24). Luke adds the word daily (9:23). It is a daily, not weekly or monthly task of taking up one’s cross as a Christian. The cost of discipleship is self-denial! The comforts, pleasures, and conveniences that are so prevalent in this life must take a back seat when it comes to serving God. Many choose not to bear a burden, make a sacrifice, or give up a comfort for the cause of Christ. It is easy to see that one who possesses such an attitude has not mastered the art of “denying self.”

One question is of paramount importance. Are you a willing child of God? Think about it seriously because it is indeed serious! What are you willing to do for the Lord and His church? What sacrifices are you making for the cause of Christ? Do you see that the greatest challenge may indeed come from within?

Let us ask other questions that perhaps will cause even the blind to see! Can the local congregation where you are a member count on you to be present each Lord’s day? Can they count on your contribution so the Lord’s work might continue? Can they count on your help and service in needed areas? If you never attend services again, would the local congregation need to make immediate adjustments to fill the void—or would there be no void to fill?

If you and I miss heaven it will be because we have chosen to do so. Yes, the greatest challenge often comes from within!
SICK
Please remember in your prayers:
Elaine Maxey, Jean Flesher, Marilyn Hall,
Peggy Crowe, Floy Dell Lindemsmith, Lucy
Ayliffe, Ray Dodd, Richard Parker, and
Bob Stancliff (Fred and Rheba Stancliff’s
son).

RESTORED
Trina Ayliffe was restored to Christ on
February 10, 2002. Please keep Trina in
your prayers.

READING/INVITATION
February 20, 2002
Reading: Jeremy Caine
Invitation: Bill Busch
February 27, 2002
Reading: Bill Gallaher
Invitation: Bill Cline

MARK THESE DATES
February 17, 2002–Visitation Group 3
assignments cards handed out.
February 17, 2002–Elders/Deacons’
meeting at 5:00 PM, in room 7.

PANTRY ITEM NEEDED
Vegetable and Chicken Soups

ROMANS 6:17-18
"Know ye not, that to whom ye yield
yourselves servants to obey, his servants
ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin
unto death, or of obedience unto righ-
teousness? But God be thanked, that ye
were the servants of sin, but ye have
obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine
which was delivered you. Being then made
free from sin, ye became the servants of
righteousness."

The new babe in Christ came up from the
baptistery and had barely dried off the water
when he asked, “Now that I’m a Christian, how
much should I give?” Here was a sincere ques-
tion asked by one truly converted. He wanted to
know. He was looking for instruction and guid-
ance. He was eager to please his Lord. What
would you tell him? What would the example of
the church as a whole teach him? If he knew the
incomes of the various families in the church
along with the amount the families contribute, he
might be awfully surprised and discouraged.
So that we can please God, set the proper example,and help the work of the church, let us examine
some common errors made in regard to giving.

SOME ERRORS EXAMINED
Error #1: “My money is my business—no one
else is to know my finances.” Wrong! Certainly
we are not to give to receive glory from men.
Jesus stated, “Take heed that ye do not your alms
before men, to be seen of them: otherwise ye
have no reward of your Father which is in
heaven” (Mat. 6:1). At the same time, the Bible
teaches that the church is to withdraw fellowship
from a brother who is covetous and refuses to
repent (1 Cor. 5:11). Biblically, the use of one’s
money might very well be the business of other
brethren. From a practical standpoint, someone
else does indeed know what you give. Several
men pass a collection plate and take up the
money. Someone counts the monies contributed.
Someone makes the deposits. Are these brethren
in sin for seeing the cash or check cast in the
plate by the many members of the congregation?
Of course not.

Error #2: “The amount is not important just as
SICK
Please remember in your prayers: Elaine Maxey, Jean Flesher, Marilyn Hall, Peggy Crowe, Floy Dell Lindesmith, Lucy Ayliffe, Ray Dodd, Dot, Lambert, Bob Stancliff (Fred and Rheba Stancliff’s son), and Curtis Cates.

RESTORED
Dale Cunningham and Tony Hall were restored to Christ on February 17, 2002. Please keep them in your prayers.

SYMPATHY
Our deepest sympathy is extended to Marilyn Hall in the death of her brother-in-law, Tony Costazo, on February 17, 2002. Please keep Marilyn and her family in your prayers.

READING/INVITATION
February 27, 2002
Reading: Bill Gallaher
Invitation: Bill Cline

March 6, 2002
Reading: Andrew Hatcher
Invitation: Bill Crowe

MARK THESE DATES
March 3, 2002–Visitation Group 1 assignment cards handed out.
March 10, 2002–Visitation Group 2 assignment cards handed out.
March 10, 2002–Deacons’ meeting at 5:00 PM, in room 7.
March 17, 2002–Visitation Group 3 assignment cards handed out.

PANTRY ITEM NEEDED
Vegetable and Chicken Soups

Qualities of a Great Bible Teacher
Charles Box

The Bible emphasizes the need for teachers. “And the things which thou hast heard from me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also” (2 Tim. 2:2). Teaching God’s Word is of great importance because people are saved through teaching. “No man can come to me, except the Father that sent me draw him: and I will raise him up in the last day. It is written in the prophets, And they shall all be taught of God. Every one that hath heard from the Father, and hath learned, cometh unto me” (John 6:44-45).

A Great Bible Teacher Is a Person Who Is Truly Converted. The teacher must first be a student. “And the things which thou hast heard from me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also” (2 Tim. 2:2). The most powerful teacher is the one in whom Christ is formed. “My little children, of whom I again in travail until Christ be formed in you” (Gal. 4:19). A person faithful in Christ is the person capable of being a great Bible teacher.

A Great Bible Teacher Is a Person Who Is Sound in the Faith. It is the duty of the Christian teacher to be sound in the faith. “But speak thou the things which befit the sound doctrine” (Tit. 2:1). Pure and uncorrupted gospel leads to eternal life. “Then are ye truly my disciples; and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free” (John 8:31-32). Let us be great Bible teachers and contend earnestly for “the faith.” “Beloved, while I was giving all dili-
A Great Bible Teacher Is a Person Who Has a Good Knowledge of the Bible. The teacher must read God’s Word. “The cloak that I left at Troas with Carpus, bring when thou comest, and the books, especially the parchments” (2 Tim. 4:13). Great teachers are diligent to properly divide and apply God’s Word. “Give diligence to present thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, handling aright the word of truth” (2 Tim. 2:15). The great Bible teacher must read to learn what to believe and then he or she must teach what to do.

A Great Bible Teacher Is a Person Who Loves People. Paul, as a great teacher, exhibited a tremendous love for his people. “Brethren, my heart’s desire and my supplication to God is for them, that they may be saved” (Rom. 10:1). Paul wanted his people saved from the wrath to come.

A Great Bible Teacher Is a Person Who Has a Willingness to Work. The life of a great Bible teacher is a life of labor and suffering. Hear Paul’s words:

Faithful is the saying, and worthy of all acceptation. For to this end we labor and strive, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Saviour of all men, specially of them that believe. These things command and teach. Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an ensample to them that believe, in word, in manner of life, in love, in faith, in purity. Till I come, give heed to reading, to exhortation, to teaching. Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery. Be diligent in these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy progress may be manifest unto all. Take heed to thyself, and to thy teaching. Continue in these things; for in doing this thou shalt save both thyself and them that hear thee (1 Tim. 4:9-16).

A Great Bible Teacher Is a Person Who Perseveres. The teaching is done at easy times and difficult times. “Preach the word; be urgent in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching” (2 Tim. 4:2). The business of the great teacher is to preach or teach God’s Word. Stick with teaching and be careful not to corrupt God’s Word. “For we are not as the many, corrupting the word of God: but as of sincerity, but as of God, in the sight of God, speak we in Christ” (2 Cor. 2:17).

As you think of teaching remember: “They will not seek, they must be sought. They will not come, they must be brought. They will not learn unless they are taught.” Christians teach because they love Christ, desire to obey His commands, and have a deep concern for others.

New Bible Classes Beginning

Bible classes for the summer quarter will begin Sunday, March 3. Make plans now to attend these classes.

Sunday Schedule

| Adults I | Church History I | Michael Hatcher |
| Adults II | 1 & 2 Thessalonians, Philemon | Jim Loy |
| Adults III | Ephesians, Colossians, Philippians | Paul Brantley |
| New Converts | Studies In Christian Doctrine And Practical Christian Living | Bill Cline/ |
| Wednesday Schedule | | Bill Gallaher |

| Adults I | Esther | Damon Lundy |
| Adults II | Job | Ray Foshee |
| Adults III | Psalms | Michael Hatcher |
| New Converts | Studies In Christian Doctrine And Practical Christian Living | Bill Cline/ |

Just a Bible Class

I dreamed the pearly gates were opened wide, And I had entered in, for I had died And now must give account for all my acts; I saw a Book there opened with these facts.

I thought, “My role upon this earth was small— Just teaching in a Bible School, my call.” For I saw all the saint of God up there, And mine was, at most, a meager share.

I heard the Master call for my report: I stood afraid, for mine was short; I trembled and felt I would not pass, Then whispered, “I just taught a Bible class.”

And from the throne I heard His voice, “Well done, Come in and share eternal life, my son; Although your place was humble and obscure, You led the thirsty to the waters pure.”

And then it seemed that from eternal plains, There came the sound of voices in refrain That rolled across the mighty sea of glass, “These are the great—the teachers of a class.”

When I awoke, I thought of those I’d taught, And in their lives, what glory God had wrought. I prayed to God, and all that I could say, “Make me a better teacher day by day.”

And you who teach this Christian way to live, May feel sometimes you’re asked too much to give; But some day you will reap eternal joys, Because you led to Christ, girls and boys.

“Inspire,” Jacksonville Church of Christ
gence to write unto you of our common sal-
vation, I was constrained to write unto you ex-
horting you to contend earnestly for the faith
which was once for all delivered unto the saints”
(Jude 3).

A Great Bible Teacher Is a Person Who
Has a Good Knowledge of the Bible. The
teacher must read God’s Word. “The cloak that
I left at Troas with Carpus, bring when thou
comest, and the books, especially the parch-
ments” (2 Tim. 4:13). Great teachers are diligent
to properly divide and apply God’s Word. “Give
generous to write unto you of our common sal-
vation, I was constrained to write unto you ex-
horting you to contend earnestly for the faith
which was once for all delivered unto the saints”
(Jude 3).

A Great Bible Teacher Is a Person Who
Has a Good Knowledge of the Bible. The
teacher must read God’s Word. “The cloak that
I left at Troas with Carpus, bring when thou
comest, and the books, especially the parch-
ments” (2 Tim. 4:13). Great teachers are diligent
to properly divide and apply God’s Word. “Give
give diligence to present thyself approved unto God,
a workman that needeth not to be ashamed,
handling aright the word of truth” (2 Tim. 2:15).
The great Bible teacher must read to learn what
to believe and then he or she must teach what to
do.

A Great Bible Teacher Is a Person Who
Loves People. Paul, as a great teacher, exhibited
a tremendous love for his people. “Brethren, my
heart’s desire and my supplication to God is for
them, that they may be saved” (Rom. 10:1). Paul
wanted his people saved from the wrath to come.

God’s servants must be able to teach. “And the
Lord’s servant must not strive, but be gentle
towards all, apt to teach, forbearing” (2 Tim.
2:24).

A Great Bible Teacher Is a Person Who
Has a Willingness to Work. The life of a great
Bible teacher is a life of labor and suffering. Hear
Paul’s words:
Faithful is the saying, and worthy of all accep-
tation. For to this end we labor and strive, be-
cause we have our hope set on the living God,
who is the Saviour of all men, specially of
them that believe. These things command and

teach. Let no man despise thy youth; but be
thou an ensample to them that believe, in
word, in manner of life, in love, in faith, in
purity. Till I come, give heed to reading, to
exhortation, to teaching. Neglect not the gift
that is in thee, which was given thee by prophec,
y with the laying on of the hands of the
presbytery. Be diligent in these things; give
thyself wholly to them; that thy progress may
be manifest unto all. Take heed to thyself, and
to thy teaching. Continue in these things; for in
doing this thou shalt save both thyself and
them that hear thee (1 Tim. 4:9-16).

A Great Bible Teacher Is a Person Who
Perseveres. The teaching is done at easy times
and difficult times. “Preach the word; be urgent
in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort,
with all longsuffering and teaching” (2 Tim. 4:2).
The business of the great teacher is to preach or
teach God’s Word. Stick with teaching and be
careful not to corrupt God’s Word. “For we are
not as the many, corrupting the word of God: but
as of sincerity, but as of God, in the sight of God,
speak we in Christ” (2 Cor. 2:17).

As you think of teaching remember: “They
will not seek, they must be sought. They will not
come, they must be brought. They will not learn
unless they are taught.” Christians teach because
they love Christ, desire to obey His commands,
and have a deep concern for others.

PO Box 551; Greenville, AL 36037

New Bible Classes Beginning
Bible classes for the summer quarter will begin Sunday, March 3. Make plans now to attend
these classes.

**Sunday Schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Adults I</th>
<th>Church History I</th>
<th>Michael Hatcher</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adults II</td>
<td>1 &amp; 2 Thessalonians, Philemon</td>
<td>Jim Loy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adults III</td>
<td>Ephesians, Colossians, Philippians</td>
<td>Paul Brantley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Converts</td>
<td>Studies In Christian Doctrine And Practical Christian Living</td>
<td>Bill Cline/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Bill Gallaher</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Wednesday Schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Adults I</th>
<th>Esther</th>
<th>Damon Lundy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adults II</td>
<td>Job</td>
<td>Ray Foshee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adults III</td>
<td>Psalms</td>
<td>Michael Hatcher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Converts</td>
<td>Studies In Christian Doctrine And Practical Christian Living</td>
<td>Bill Cline/</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A Great Bible Teacher Is a Person Who
Perseveres. The teaching is done at easy times
and difficult times. “Preach the word; be urgent
in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort,
with all longsuffering and teaching” (2 Tim. 4:2).
The business of the great teacher is to preach or
teach God’s Word. Stick with teaching and be
careful not to corrupt God’s Word. “For we are
not as the many, corrupting the word of God: but
as of sincerity, but as of God, in the sight of God,
speak we in Christ” (2 Cor. 2:17).

As you think of teaching remember: “They
will not seek, they must be sought. They will not
come, they must be brought. They will not learn
unless they are taught.” Christians teach because
they love Christ, desire to obey His commands,
and have a deep concern for others.

Just a Bible Class
I dreamed the pearly gates were opened wide,
And I had entered in, for I had died
And now must give account for all my acts;
I saw a Book there opened with these facts.

I thought, “My role upon this earth was small—
Just teaching in a Bible School, my call.”
For I saw all the saint of God up there,
And mine was, at most, a meager share.

I heard the Master call for my report:
I stood afraid, for mine was short;
I trembled and felt I would not pass,
Then whispered, “I just taught a Bible class.”

And from the throne I heard His voice, “Well done,
Come in and share eternal life, my son;
Although your place was humble and obscure,
You led the thirsty to the waters pure.”

And then it seemed that from eternal plains,
There came the sound of voices in refrain
That rolled across the mighty sea of glass,
“These are the great—the teachers of a class.”

When I awoke, I thought of those I’d taught,
And in their lives, what glory God had wrought.
I prayed to God, and all that I could say,
“Make me a better teacher day by day.”

And you who teach this Christian way to live,
May feel sometimes you’re asked too much to give;
But some day you will reap eternal joys,
Because you led to Christ, girls and boys.

“Inspire,” Jacksonville Church of Christ
SICK
Please remember in your prayers:
Elaine Maxey, Jean Flesher, Marilyn Hall,
Peggy Crowe, Floy Dell Lindesmith, Lucy
Ayliffe, Ray Dodd, Dot, Lambert, Bob
Stancliff (Fred and Rheba Stancliff’s son),
and Curtis Cates.

RESTORED
Dale Cunningham and Tony Hall were
restored to Christ on February 17, 2002.
Please keep them in your prayers.

SYMPATHY
Our deepest sympathy is extended to
Marilyn Hall in the death of her brother-in-
law, Tony Costazo, on February 17, 2002.
Please keep Marilyn and her family in your
prayers.

READING/INVITATION
February 27, 2002
Reading: Bill Gallaher
Invitation: Bill Cline
March 6, 2002
Reading: Andrew Hatcher
Invitation: Bill Crowe

MARK THESE DATES
March 3, 2002–Visitation Group 1
assignment cards handed out.
March 10, 2002–Visitation Group 2
assignment cards handed out.
March 10, 2002–Deacons’ meeting at 5:00
PM, in room 7.
March 17, 2002–Visitation Group 3
assignment cards handed out.

PANTRY ITEM NEEDED
Vegetable and Chicken Soups

Qualities of a Great Bible Teacher
Charles Box

The Bible emphasizes the need for teachers.
“And the things which thou hast heard from me
among many witnesses, the same commit thou to
faithful men, who shall be able to teach others
also” (2 Tim. 2:2). Teaching God’s Word is of
great importance because people are saved
through teaching. “No man can come to me,
except the Father that sent me draw him: and I
will raise him up in the last day. It is written in
the prophets, And they shall all be taught of God.
Every one that hath heard from the Father, and
hath learned, cometh unto me” (John 6:44-45).

A Great Bible Teacher Is a Person Who Is
Truly Converted. The teacher must first be a
student. “And the things which thou hast heard
from me among many witnesses, the same com-
mitt thou to faithful men, who shall be able to
teach others also” (2 Tim. 2:2). The most power-
tful teacher is the one in whom Christ is formed.
“My little children, of whom I am again in travail
until Christ be formed in you” (Gal. 4:19). A per-
son faithful in Christ is the person capable of
being a great Bible teacher.

A Great Bible Teacher Is a Person Who Is
Sound in the Faith. It is the duty of the
Christian teacher to be sound in the faith. “But
speak thou the things which befit the sound
doctrine” (Tit. 2:1). Pure and uncorrupted gospel
leads to eternal life. “Then are ye truly my dis-
ciples; and ye shall know the truth, and the truth
shall make you free” (John 8:31-32). Let us be
great Bible teachers and contend earnestly for
“the faith.” “Beloved, while I was giving all dili-
SICK
Please remember in your prayers:
Elaine Maxey, Jean Flesher, Marilyn Hall,
Floy Dell Lindemith, Lucy Ayliffe, Ray
Dodd, Richard Parker, Bob Stancliff (Fred
and Rheba Stancliff’s son), Lilian Hilburn
(Marge Williams’ step-mother), and Curtis
Cates.

READING/INVITATION
March 6, 2002
Reading: Andrew Hatcher
Invitation: Bill Crowe
March 13, 2002
Reading: Daniel Hatcher
Invitation: Dale Cunningham

MARK THESE DATES
March 3, 2002–Visitation Group 1
assignment cards handed out.
March 10, 2002–Visitation Group 2
assignment cards handed out.
March 10, 2002–Deacons’ meeting at 5:00
PM, in room 7.
March 17, 2002–Visitation Group 3
assignment cards handed out.
March 17, 2002–Elders/Deacons’ meeting
at 5:00 PM, in room 7.

PANTRY ITEM NEEDED
Vegetable and Chicken Soups

PROVERBS 27:1-2
“Boast not thyself of to morrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth. Let another man praise thee, and not thine own mouth; a stranger, and not thine own lips.”

Ignorance and Apathy Destroy the Church
Douglas Hoff

A troubled church asked its members to identify the problems they faced. The survey had only one question: “In your opinion, what are the two biggest problems this congregation must solve?” One man wrote, “I don’t know and I don’t care.” How right he was! Ignorance and apathy keep people enslaved to the devil and his ways.

The devil would like people to remain ignorant of the Bible because then they would have no power to overcome him. Thomas Gray (1716-1771) wrote poetic words that have been quoted out of context and misused for years. Many have heard the catchy phrase, “Ignorance is bliss.” Gray said that in this life sorrow is an all too familiar reality and happiness swiftly flies away. Focusing on troubles only serves to destroy any chance for contentment. As such he wrote, “Where ignorance is bliss, ’tis folly to be wise.” However, this should not be taken as a blanket endorsement of ignorance!

Another familiar cliche is “What you don’t know can’t hurt you.” Oh, but it can! This is especially true in spiritual matters. In fact, when people do not know God in the sense of understanding His nature and obeying His commandments they will be destroyed. The Lord said, “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee” (Hos. 4:6). When Jesus comes again He will be “revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ” (2 Th. 1:7-8). It has often been said that ignorance of the law is no excuse. The
Lord created within each person a drive to know God (Acts 17:24-27). Mankind is without excuse (Rom. 1:20). Ignorance is a curse from which each individual must free himself to attain heaven.

Apathy is another one of Satan’s tools for destroying souls and keeping them in his power. It is much like inertia to the soul. Overcoming the initial resistance takes work many are unwilling to put forth. Apathy has tragic consequences though. Edmund Burke once said, “The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing.” Do nothing and you will lose your soul (Mat. 15:24-30). In his speech on the right of election John Philpot Curran once remarked, “The condition upon which God hath given liberty to man is eternal vigilance, which condition if he break, servitude is at once the consequence of his crime and the punishment of his guilt.” Though this was spoken concerning political freedom, it is equally true of spiritual freedom.

There is a story about a new minister who was trying to motivate the congregation to become more spiritually minded. He wanted them to be better Christians who were busy doing the work of the Lord. Thinking about how best to accomplish this task, he preached sermons on the love of God and how He sent His Son Jesus to die in your place. Yet, your lives have not changed. I was beginning to wonder if any of you realize the danger you are in because of apathy. Why is that when I yell, ‘Fire!’ you take action but when I preach on the reality of Judgment Day no one moves a muscle?

To escape the cruel taskmaster of sin requires effort and perseverance. Jesus showed both ignorance and apathy must be overcome when He told some Jews who already believed on Him, “If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free” (John 8:31-32). Read, study and obey the Bible.

Months passed and the preacher became a bit discouraged. Finally, he decided to use a different approach to motivate and warn the church. The following Sunday when he got into the pulpit he cried out, “Fire!” The preacher’s expression was so convincing that people jumped up and heads turned in fear but no flames were seen. After a while people sat back down and a buzz rippled through the auditorium. Questions abounded. One of the older members asked the minister why he had pulled such a stunt during a worship service. It seemed totally inappropriate he said.

The preacher sadly said, “For months I have been teaching all of you about the dangers of hellfire. I have been preaching on the love of God and how He sent His Son Jesus to die in your place. Yet, your lives have not changed. I was beginning to wonder if any of you realize the danger you are in because of apathy. Why is that when I yell, ‘Fire!’ you take action but when I preach on the reality of Judgment Day no one moves a muscle?”

To escape the cruel taskmaster of sin requires effort and perseverance. Jesus showed both ignorance and apathy must be overcome when He told some Jews who already believed on Him, “If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free” (John 8:31-32). Read, study and obey the Bible.

8th Annual Bellview Lectures
Beatitudes

Be a Better Student
Neal Pollard

1. Be familiar with the textbook (2 Tim. 2:15).
2. Get to know the instructor personally (Hos. 6:3; Phi. 3:10; cf., John 8:32).
3. Take copious notes (cf., Deu. 6:7-9).
4. Do not drop out of the course (2 Tim. 4:7).
5. Consider the long-term benefits of the study (1 Tim. 4:16).
7. Be prepared to share your knowledge with others (1 Pet. 3:15).
8. Use your knowledge when it is time for tests (Jam. 1:2-5).
9. Make it personal through dedication (2 Tim. 3:14-15).
10. Study with alertness and zealousness to eliminate laboriousness (Heb. 2:1).

10985 Country Haven; Cottondale, AL 35453

Make plans to attend:
27th Annual Bellview Lectures
Beatitudes

10985 Cold Harbor Rd; Mechanicsville, VA 23111

Having on the Right Shoes
Danny Box

From Deuteronomy 33:24-25 we read the following, “And of Asher he said, Let Asher be blessed with children; let him be acceptable to his brethren, and let him dip his foot in oil. Thy shoes shall be iron and brass; and as thy days, so shall thy strength be.” This passage is from the blessings of Moses on the tribes of Israel before his death, and it concerned the portion that each tribe was going to have in the Promise Land. The portion of Asher was partly the rocky northern coast and partly the fertile lands stretching to the base of Lebanon. The entreaty by Moses was that since his portion was located in the rocky seacoast, having rough roads to travel, Asher and his people needed to have on the right shoes. And brethren and friends, that entreaty holds true to us today.

There may be rough and rocky paths that we will have to travel in our life. If so, we need to have our feet shod with thick soled shoes. These shoes will help us travel over the toughest times and still remain faithful to God. We can climb over the rocks of doubt and fear, temptation and trouble; grief and despair and still complete our journey home.

At times we might need to have on our track shoes. When we wear these shoes we can effectively go from one member to another trying to help them faithfully serve the Lord. We should also wear these shoes when we are doing personal work so that we can take the Gospel to a greater number of people. These shoes will also help us jump all of the hurdles that Satan may put before us in doing what is right, and will help us run from the very appearance of evil.

Often times we need to put on our hip boots. Because of all the sin and corruption that is polluting the world we have to wear our hip boots to keep ourselves from becoming spoiled by the world. Sometimes we need to wear our hip boots even to church, because due to efforts of some, many congregations have become like the world.

And finally, we must wear our dress shoes. We put our very best and assemble with the saints at the appointed times. These shoes help us put our best foot forward and let people know that we love the Lord and are giving Him our first fruits. But also we put on our dress shoes at death. If we have lived a faithful life, we are now strolling down that “narrow way” prepared by the Lord. Brethren, see how important it is to have on the right shoes!

1019 E. Gordon Ave
Effingham, IL 62401

Be a Better Student

1. Be familiar with the textbook (2 Tim. 2:15).
2. Get to know the instructor personally (Hos. 6:3; Phi. 3:10; cf., John 8:32).
3. Take copious notes (cf., Deu. 6:7-9).
4. Do not drop out of the course (2 Tim. 4:7).
5. Consider the long-term benefits of the study (1 Tim. 4:16).
7. Be prepared to share your knowledge with others (1 Pet. 3:15).
8. Use your knowledge when it is time for tests (Jam. 1:2-5).
9. Make it personal through dedication (2 Tim. 3:14-15).
10. Study with alertness and zealousness to eliminate laboriousness (Heb. 2:1).

10985 Country Haven; Cottondale, AL 35453

Make plans to attend:
27th Annual Bellview Lectures
Beatitudes

10985 Cold Harbor Rd; Mechanicsville, VA 23111
Lord created within each person a drive to know God (Acts 17:24-27). Mankind is without excuse (Rom. 1:20). Ignorance is a curse from which each individual must free himself to attain heaven.

Apathy is another one of Satan’s tools for destroying souls and keeping them in his power. It is much like inertia to the soul. Overcoming the initial resistance takes work many are unwilling to put forth. Apathy has tragic consequences though. Edmund Burke once said, “The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing.” Do nothing and you will lose your soul (Mat. 15:24-30). In his speech on the right of election John Philpot Curran once remarked, “The condition upon which God hath given liberty to man is eternal vigilance, which condition if he break, servitude is at once the consequence of his crime and the punishment of his guilt.” Though this was spoken concerning political freedom, it is equally true of spiritual freedom.

There is a story about a new minister who was trying to motivate the congregation to become more spiritually minded. He wanted them to be better Christians who were busy doing the work of the Lord. Thinking about how best to accomplish this task, he preached sermons on the love of God and how He sent His Son Jesus to die in your place. Yet, your lives have not changed. I was beginning to wonder if any of you realize the danger you are in because of apathy. Why is that when I yell, ‘Fire!’ you take action but when I preach on the reality of Judgment Day no one moves a muscle?

To escape the cruel taskmaster of sin requires effort and perseverance. Jesus showed both ignorance and apathy must be overcome when He told some Jews who already believed on Him, “If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free” (John 8:31-32). Read, study and obey the Bible.

There may be rough and rocky paths that we will have to travel in our life. If so, we need to have our feet shod with thick soled shoes. These shoes will help us travel over the toughest times and still remain faithful to God. We can climb over the rocks of doubt and fear, temptation and trouble, grief and despair and still complete our journey home.

At times we might need to have on our track shoes. When we wear these shoes we can effectively go from one member to another trying to help them faithfully serve the Lord. We should also wear these shoes when we are doing personal work so that we can take the Gospel to a greater number of people. These shoes will also help us jump all of the hurdles that Satan may put before us in doing what is right, and will help us run from the very appearance of evil.

Often times we need to put on our hip boots. Because of all the sin and corruption that is polluting the world we need to have on our hip boots to keep ourselves from becoming spoiled by the world. Sometimes we need to wear our hip boots even to church, because due to efforts of some, many congregations have become like the world.

And finally, we must wear our dress shoes. We put our very best and assemble with the saints at the appointed times. These shoes help us put our best foot forward and let people know that we love the Lord and are giving Him our first fruits. But also we put on our dress shoes at death. If we have lived a faithful life, we now are strolling down that “narrow way” prepared by the Lord. Brethren, see how important it is to have on the right shoes!

Bonnie T. Weir
10985 Country Haven; Cottondale, AL 35453

---

Be a Better Student
Neal Pollard

1. Be familiar with the textbook (2 Tim. 2:15).
2. Get to know the instructor personally (Hos. 6:3; Phi. 3:10; cf., John 8:32).
3. Take copious notes (cf., Deu. 6:7-9).
4. Do not drop out of the course (2 Tim. 4:7).
5. Consider the long-term benefits of the study (1 Tim. 4:16).
7. Be prepared to share your knowledge with others (1 Pet. 3:15).
8. Use your knowledge when it is time for tests (Jam. 1:2-5).
9. Make it personal through dedication (2 Tim. 3:14-15).
10. Study with alertness and zealfulness to eliminate laboriousness (Heb. 2:1).

---

Make plans to attend:

27th Annual Bellview Lectures
Beatitudes

6856 Cold Harbor Rd; Mechanicsville, VA 23111
SICK
Please remember in your prayers: Elaine Maxey, Jean Flesher, Marilyn Hall, Floy Dell Lindemsmith, Lucy Ayliffe, Ray Dodd, Richard Parker, Bob Stancliff (Fred and Rheba Stancliff’s son), Lillian Hilburn (Marge Williams’ step-mother), and Curtis Cates.

READING/INVITATION
March 6, 2002
Reading: Andrew Hatcher
Invitation: Bill Crowe
March 13, 2002
Reading: Daniel Hatcher
Invitation: Dale Cunningham

MARK THESE DATES
March 3, 2002—Visitation Group 1 assignment cards handed out.
March 10, 2002—Visitation Group 2 assignment cards handed out.
March 10, 2002—Deacons’ meeting at 5:00 PM, in room 7.
March 17, 2002—Visitation Group 3 assignment cards handed out.
March 17, 2002—Elders/Deacons’ meeting at 5:00 PM, in room 7.

PANTRY ITEM NEEDED
Vegetable and Chicken Soups

PROVERBS 27:1-2
“Boast not thyself of to morrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth. Let another man praise thee, and not thine own mouth; a stranger, and not thine own lips.”

Ignorance and Apathy Destroy the Church
Douglas Hoff
A troubled church asked its members to identify the problems they faced. The survey had only one question: “In your opinion, what are the two biggest problems this congregation must solve?” One man wrote, “I don’t know and I don’t care.” How right he was! Ignorance and apathy keep people enslaved to the devil and his ways.

The devil would like people to remain ignorant of the Bible because then they would have no power to overcome him. Thomas Gray (1716-1771) wrote poetic words that have been quoted out of context and misused for years. Many have heard the catchy phrase, “Ignorance is bliss.” Gray said that in this life sorrow is an all too familiar reality and happiness swiftly flies away. Focusing on troubles only serves to destroy any chance for contentment. As such he wrote, “Where ignorance is bliss, ’tis folly to be wise.” However, this should not be taken as a blanket endorsement of ignorance!

Another familiar cliche is “What you don’t know can’t hurt you.” Oh, but it can! This is especially true in spiritual matters. In fact, when people do not know God in the sense of understanding His nature and obeying His commandments they will be destroyed. The Lord said, “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee” (Hos. 4:6). When Jesus comes again He will be “revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ” (2 Th. 1:7-8). It has often been said that ignorance of the law is no excuse. The
SICK

Please remember in your prayers:
Elaine Maxey, Jean Flesher, Marilyn Hall,
Floy Dell Lindesmith, Lucy Ayliffe, Dot
Lambert, Bob Stancliff (Fred and Rheba
Stancliff’s son), Lillian Hilburn (Marge
Williams’ step-mother), and Curtis Cates.

READING/INVITATION
March 13, 2002
Reading: Daniel Hatcher
Invitation: Dale Cunningham
March 20, 2002
Reading: Brantley Johnson
Invitation: Ray Dodd

MARK THESE DATES
March 10, 2002–Visitation Group 2
assignment cards handed out.
March 10, 2002–Deacons’ meeting at 5:00
PM, in room 7.
March 17, 2002–Visitation Group 3
assignment cards handed out.
March 17, 2002–Elders/Deacons’ meeting
at 5:00 PM, in room 7.
April 7, 2002–Dinner on the Grounds and
Singing after the morning service. A
covered-dish meal will follow the
morning service. Congregational
singing will follow the meal.
April 7-11, 2002–Gospel Meeting at Foley
Church of Christ, Foley, AL, with
Clifford Newell from Bristol, VA,
speaking. Sunday at 9:00 and 10:00
AM, 6:00 PM, and Monday-Thursday
at 7:30 PM.

PANTRY ITEM NEEDED
Canned Meat

Young People, It’s Your First Test!
Rob Whitacre

The first spiritual test most Christian young
people face is at school. The devil will do all in
his power to convince young people that their
school work is more important, their friendships
more significant, their social groups more
precious, and their school activities are more
valuable than their loyalty and commitment to
the Lord. The “humanists” (those who believe we
are the only standard for right and wrong) would
love to see our young people make any one of
those things their goal. For almost 13 years the
state will have their opportunity to discredit the
Lord and to push the acceptance of sin. How
should young people prepare for such
challenges?

First, prepare yourself spiritually. Resolve in
your mind to be faithful to the Lord. If you
develop good habits now, they will be easier to
keep as an adult. Never allow any person or any
event to keep you away from your spiritual
obligations (Mat. 6:33). Yes, it would be easier
to attend practice, study, or sleep while the saints
are assembled, but think of the good you are
doing when you come. You are strengthening
your spirit, encouraging your brethren,
worshiping your God, and letting the world know
how important Jesus is in your life.

Second, prepare yourself scholastically. We
are not talking about making good grades,
although every Christian should study hard and
set a good example. We are talking about Bible
academics. Be prepared to defend the gospel
against denominationalism and atheism (1 Pet.
3:15). When evolution is taught in the classroom,
do not ignore it or be afraid to speak against it.
Confront the teacher/class in a loving way and

EASTER

The Easter message is to keep faith.
Keep the faith that Jesus is alive!
Keep the faith that Jesus will return
soon!
Keep the faith that Jesus will come
again!
present the truth. Do not allow your faith to be ridiculed and mocked. Defend your Lord as you would defend your family name.

Third, prepare yourself mentally. One of the keys to high test scores is mental attitude. If you desire a high score and are mentally prepared for the challenges, then you will succeed. Prepare your mind for the devil’s tests. Do not be afraid to say, “No.” Do not be afraid to stand up for the Lord. Keep the Word of God near to your heart (Psa. 119:11), and it will guard your body and soul from sin.

Fourth, prepare yourself morally. “Flee also youthful lusts” (2 Tim. 2:22). For most young people, sin is always knocking at the door. It provides both opportunity and short term pleasures everyday. The devil will always offer young people avenues for gossip, lies, lust, fornication, dancing, drinking, drugs, and immmoderate apparel. Young people, these are tests that have severe consequences. One failure can cause your life to change forever. A recent study has shown that one out of every three young people by the age of 24 have contracted a sexually transmitted disease. It just takes one of these sins to destroy your mind, alter your life, corrupt your body, and kill the soul. “Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you” (1 Cor. 6:19).

I have known many young people who worked part-time, maintained solid grades, played sports, went out with their friends, and were faithful to every service of the church. Yes, there were occasions when their “social and school life” came into conflict with their spiritual obligations. It was then that their faith was tested. It was then that they had to make a choice. Indeed, faithfulness to God is worth more than an “A,” more than a goal (touchdown, run, or basket), more than a “paycheck,” and more than any “friend.”

May all young people understand the tests of their faith are the most important lessons they will learn while at school. It is more important to graduate as a faithful child of God with average grades than to graduate as the head of the class, super star, and unfaithful. Remember what Solomon said, “Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them” (Ecc. 12:1). May all young people prepare for the Lord. Keep the Word of God near to your heart (Psa. 119:11), and it will guard your body and soul from sin.

Bellview Lectures

The Twenty-seventh Annual Bellview Lectures, Beatitudes, will be held June 8-12, 2002. Twenty-nine men will be speaking: Jeff Archey, Danny Box, David Brown, Curtis Cates, Harrell Davidson, Lee Davis, Guss Eoff, Stacey Grant, Michael Hatcher, Ronnie Hayes, David Jones, Bobby Liddell, Michael Light, Keith Mosher, Mark Mosher, Clifford Newell, Lynn Parker, Ken Ratcliff, Jason Roberts, James Rogers, Jason Rollo, Stanley Ryan, Michael Shepherd, Wesley Simons, Tim Smith, Toney Smith, Don Walker, Joel Wheeler, and Eddie Whitten. The following men will be writing lessons for the lectureship book but will not be speaking: Daniel Denham, Preston Silcox, Gary Summers, Paul Vaughn, John West, and Rob Whittacre.

The lecture topics include: Beatitudes; “Blessed Are Those Dying In The Lord—Rev. 1:3; Blessed Are Those Who Believe—John 20:29; Blessed Is The Man Who Is A Doer Of The Work—Jam. 1:25; and Devil’s Beatitudes.

The lessons will be available in hardcover book form, on computer CD in PDF format, and on audio/video tapes. Further information will be provided later. Pricing information will be published soon.

If you are planning on attending the Bellview Lectures be sure to make your motel reservations now. Comfort Inn (8690 Pine Forest Road) offers the following price (tax not included) $59—1 to 2 people per room. Their phone number is 850/476-8989. When calling for reservations be sure to tell them you will be attending the Bellview Lectures.

Pensacola is a great place to take your summer vacation and at the same time attend the Bellview Lectures. For further information please contact the office by phone, mail, or at our e-mail address (bellview@bellviewcoc.com). Check out our web site listed below for more information. We hope to see you in June.

(http://www.bellviewcoc.com)

What I Could Do If I Really Wanted To

If I wanted to, I could help make this church the most wide awake and working church in the world.

If I wanted to, I could visit the members who are sick or home bound and find other ways of helping them.

If I wanted to, I could attend Bible classes regularly and encourage much more good from the services myself.

If I wanted to, I could show more devotion in worship and receive much more good from the services myself.

If I wanted to, I could profit more from the sermon by not resenting the truth when it reveals some of my weaknesses.

If I wanted to, I could tell others about Christ and His church and lead them to Him.

Of course, this all depends on what I want to do. I could be an honored servant of the greatest of all kings. I have the ability—if I really wanted to.

Author Unknown

James 4:17

“Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.”
present the truth. Do not allow your faith to be ridiculed and mocked. Defend your Lord as you would defend your family name.

Third, prepare yourself mentally. One of the keys to high test scores is mental attitude. If you desire a high score and are mentally prepared for the challenges, then you will succeed. Prepare your mind for the devil’s tests. Do not be afraid to say, “No.” Do not be afraid to stand up for the Lord. Keep the Word of God near to your heart (Psa. 119:11), and it will guard your body and soul from sin.

Fourth, prepare yourself morally. “Flee also youthful lusts” (2 Tim. 2:22). For most young people, sin is always knocking at the door. It provides both opportunity and short term pleasures everyday. The devil will always offer young people avenues for gossip, lies, lust, fornication, dancing, drinking, drugs, and immorality. Young people, these are test that have severe consequences. One failure can cause your life to change forever. A recent study has shown that one out of every three young people by the age of 24 have contracted a sexually transmitted disease. It just takes one of these sins to destroy your mind, alter your life, corrupt your body, and kill the soul. “Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you” (1 Cor. 6:19).

I have known many young people who worked part-time, maintained solid grades, played sports, went out with their friends, and were faithful to every service of the church. Yes, there were occasions when their “social and school life” came into conflict with their spiritual obligations. It was then that their faith was tested. It was then that they had to make a choice. Indeed, faithfulness to God is worth more than an “A,” more than a goal (touchdown, run, or basket), more than a “paycheck,” and more than any “friend.”

May all young people understand the tests of their faith are the most important lessons they will learn while at school. It is more important to graduate as a faithful child of God with average grades than to graduate as the head of the class, super star, and unfaithful. Remember what Solomon said, “Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years drawn nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them” (Ecc. 12:1).

May all young people understand that the tests of their faith are the most important lessons they will learn while at school. It is more important to graduate as a faithful child of God with average grades than to graduate as the head of the class, super star, and unfaithful. Remember what Solomon said, “Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years drawn nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them” (Ecc. 12:1).

What I Could Do If I Really Wanted To

If I wanted to, I could help make this church the most wide awake and working church in the world.

If I wanted to, I could visit the members who are sick or home bound and find other ways of helping them.

If I wanted to, I could attend Bible classes regularly and encourage much more good from the services myself.

If I wanted to, I could show more devotion in worship and receive much more good from the services myself.

If I wanted to, I could profit more from the sermon by not resenting the truth when it reveals some of my weaknesses.

If I wanted to, I could tell others about Christ and His church and lead them to Him.

Of course, this all depends on what I want to do. I could be an honored servant of the greatest of all kings. I have the ability—if I really wanted to.

Author Unknown

James 4:17

“Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.”
SICK
Please remember in your prayers:
Elaine Maxey, Jean Flesher, Marilyn Hall,
Floy Dell Lindesmith, Lucy Ayliffe, Dot
Lambert, Bob Stancliff (Fred and Rheba
Stancliff’s son), Lilian Hilburn (Marge
Williams’ step-mother), and Curtis Cates.

READING/INVITATION
March 13, 2002
Reading: Daniel Hatcher
Invitation: Dale Cunningham
March 20, 2002
Reading: Brantley Johnson
Invitation: Ray Dodd

MARK THESE DATES
March 10, 2002–Visitation Group 2
assignment cards handed out.
March 10, 2002–Deacons’ meeting at 5:00
PM, in room 7.
March 17, 2002–Visitation Group 3
assignment cards handed out.
March 17, 2002–Elders/Deacons’ meeting
at 5:00 PM, in room 7.
April 7, 2002–Dinner on the Grounds and
Singing after the morning service. A
covered-dish meal will follow the
morning service. Congregational
singing will follow the meal.
April 7-11, 2002–Gospel Meeting at Foley
Church of Christ, Foley, AL, with
Clifford Newell from Bristol, VA,
speaking. Sunday at 9:00 and 10:00
AM, 6:00 PM, and Monday-Thursday
at 7:30 PM.

PANTRY ITEM NEEDED
Canned Meat

Young People, It’s Your First Test!
Rob Whitacre

The first spiritual test most Christian young
people face is at school. The devil will do all in
his power to convince young people that their
school work is more important, their friendships
more significant, their social groups more
precious, and their school activities are more
valuable than their loyalty and commitment to
the Lord. The “humanists” (those who believe we
are the only standard for right and wrong) would
love to see our young people make any one of
those things their god. For almost 13 years the
state will have their opportunity to discredit the
Lord and to push the acceptance of sin. How
should young people prepare for such
challenges?

First, prepare yourself spiritually. Resolve in
your mind to be faithful to the Lord. If you
keep as an adult. Never allow any person or any
event to keep you away from your spiritual
obligations (Mat. 6:33). Yes, it would be easier
to attend practice, study, or sleep while the saints
are assembled, but think of the good you are
doing when you come. You are strengthening
your spirit, encouraging your brethren,
worshiping your God, and letting the world know
how important Jesus is in your life.

Second, prepare yourself scholastically. We
are not talking about making good grades,
although every Christian should study hard and
set a good example. We are talking about Bible
academics. Be prepared to defend the gospel
against denominationalism and atheism (1 Pet.
3:15). When evolution is taught in the classroom,
do not ignore it or be afraid to speak against it.
Confront the teacher/class in a loving way and
SICK
Please remember in your prayers:
Elaine Maxey, Jean Flesher, Marilyn Hall,
Floy Dell Lindesmith, Dot Lambert,
Lillian Hilburn (Marge Williams’ step-
mother), Pearl Weaver (Henry Born’s aunt),
Diane Newell (Clifford Newell’s wife).

READING/INVITATION
March 20, 2002
Reading: Brantley Johnson
Invitation: Ray Dodd
March 27, 2002
Reading: Bryan Loy
Invitation: Ray Foshee

MARK THESE DATES
March 17, 2002–Visitation Group 3
assignment cards handed out.
March 17, 2002–Elders/Deacons’ meeting
at 5:00 PM, in room 7.
April 7, 2002–Dinner on the Grounds and
Singing after the morning service.
April 7, 2002–Dinner on the Grounds and
Singing after the morning service. A
covered-dish meal will follow the
morning service. Congregational sing-
ing will follow the meal.
April 7-11, 2002–Gospel Meeting at Foley
Church of Christ, Foley, AL, with
Clifford Newell from Bristol, VA,
speaking. Sunday at 9:00 and 10:00
AM, 6:00 PM, and Monday-Thursday
at 7:30 PM.

PANTRY ITEM NEEDED
Canned Meat

Three Bridges the Evolutionist Cannot Cross
Barry M. Grider
Evolutionists contend that the earth is billions
of years old and has evolved to its present form
and shape. According to Charles Darwin: “All
the organic things which ever lived on this earth
may be descended from one primordial form”
(n.p.). Creationists, on the other hand, contend
for a much younger earth, brought into being by
the work of a greater Power, as per Genesis 1. As
Bible believers, we vigorously defend the
Genesis account, and rightly so.

There are three bridges which the evolutionist
cannot cross. First, consider the origin of life. They
cannot explain how non-life produced life.

Second, consider the fixity of the species. In
Genesis 1, God created certain kinds of animals
and species; and they never become another.

Sweeping through a junkyard might assemble a
Boeing 747 from the materials therein” (n.p.)
More and more, scientists realize they are being
dishonest when they claim non-living matter
produced living matter, violating one of the basic
laws of science—the Law of Biogenesis. This
law, stating that life comes only from pre-ex-
isting life, was firmly established long before
modern evolutionary theories. As evolutionist
Loren Eiseley observed, with regard to spontan-
eous generation, “science created a mythology of
its own” (201-202). Life begets life!
emphasize enough the seriousness of fornication. Paul stated that it was a sin against one's own physical body! Every single time the sins of fornication and homosexuality are committed, one's body is dishonored. Our body is the temple of the Holy Spirit. Thus, we ought to keep it pure!

Works Cited

Anonymous. “Lord, Forgive Me For Lying...” Anonymous

Oh, Lord, I lied when I said, “No one spoke to me at church,” for I spoke to no one and left the building in haste.

Oh, Lord, I lied when I blame my absence on the children, for when I want to go some place other than worship, I take them.

Oh, Lord, I lied when I said no one cared if I were absent, for a number called and tried to get us to come back to church.

Oh, Lord, I lied about the sin of lying, for all liars shall have their part in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone (Rev. 21:8). Remember: “All things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do” (Heb. 4:13).

Bellview Lectures

The Twenty-seventh Annual Bellview Lectures, Beatitudes, will be held June 8-12, 2002.

The lessons will be available in hardcover book form, on computer CD in PDF format, and on audio/video tapes. Further information will be provided later. Pricing information will be published soon.

If you are planning on attending the Bellview Lectures be sure to make your motel reservations now. Comfort Inn (8690 Pine Forest Road) offers the following price (tax not included) $59–1 to 2 people per room. Their phone number is 850/476-8989. When calling for reservations be sure to tell them you will be attending the Bellview Lectures.

For further information please contact the office by phone, mail, or at our e-mail address (bellview@bellviewcoc.com). Check out our web site listed below for more information. We hope to see you in June.

(www.bellviewcoc.com)

Dishonoring the Body

Tracy Dugger

In a local gym, a group was standing aside observing the dedication and devotion of one particular man. His daily rigorous work-out lasted three hours as he toned each muscle. His diet was likewise after a strict regiment. In the eyes of many he held his body in high esteem; he honored his body.

When our society thinks of dishonoring one’s body they mostly think of being overweight, not practicing good personal hygiene, or even self-mutilation. Certainly we would agree that he who cares nothing for the physical body can be guilty of rendering dishonor to it. However, the Bible highlights differing activities when referring to a “dishonoring of the body.”

In Romans 1:24, Paul stated of the Gentiles that “God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves.” How had they dishonored their bodies? Verses 26 and 27 hold the answer: “For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet.” Homosexuality is clearly a dishonor to one’s body!!! Until our society views it in this light, we will continue to be wandering in the dark wondering why we have so many serious social problems.

Another example found in inspiration regarding the dishonoring of the physical body is found in 1 Corinthians 6. In verses 18-20, Paul wrote, “Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body. What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s.” We do not emphasize enough the seriousness of fornication. Paul stated that it was a sin against one’s own physical body!

Every single time the sins of fornication and homosexuality are committed, one’s body is dishonored. Our body is the temple of the Holy Spirit. Thus, we ought to keep it pure!

520 Thicket Lane; Kyle, TX 78640

Where did man get his appreciation for beauty, music, art, morality, etc? Why does he have a hungering for God? Evolution... to this universe that brought it all into existence. “In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth” (Gen. 1:1).
Where did man get his appreciation for beauty, music, art, morality, etc? Why does he have a hungering for God? Evolutionists cannot explain the nonphysical properties found in creation.

Dishonoring the Body
Tracy Dugger

In a local gym, a group was standing aside observing the dedication and devotion of one particular man. His daily rigorous work-out lasted three hours as he toned each muscle. His diet was likewise after a strict regimen. In the eyes of many he held his body in high esteem; he honored his body.

When our society thinks of dishonoring one’s body they mostly think of being overweight, not practicing good personal hygiene, or even self-mutilation. Certainly we would agree that he who cares nothing for the physical body can be guilty of rendering dishonor to it. However, the Bible highlights differing activities when referring to a “dishonoring of the body.”

In Romans 1:24, Paul stated of the Gentiles that “God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonor their own bodies between themselves.” How had they dishonored their bodies? Verses 26 and 27 hold the answer: “For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompense of their error which was meet.” Homosexuality is clearly a dishonor to one’s body!!! Until our society views it in this light, we will continue to be wandering in the dark wondering why we have so many serious social problems.

Another example found in inspiration regarding the dishonoring of the physical body is found in 1 Corinthians 6. In verses 18-20, Paul wrote, “Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body. What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s.” We do not emphasize enough the seriousness of fornication.

Oh, Lord, I lied when I said, “No one spoke to me at church,” for I spoke to no one and left the building in haste.

Oh, Lord, I lied when I blame my absence on the children, for when I want to go some place other than worship, I take them.

Oh, Lord, I lied when I said no one cared if I were absent, for a number called and tried to get us to come back to church.

Oh, Lord, forgive me of the sin of lying, for I was only searching for an excuse to justify my indifference...but I lied! I lied about being sick on Sunday morning, for I went visiting Sunday afternoon.

Oh, Lord, I lied about my work keeping me tied down, for I go to everything else I want to, except church services.

Oh, Lord, I lied about my contribution, for I spend ten times as much as I give to thee for shows, tobacco, sports, recreation, and downright foolishness.

Oh, Lord, I lied about not having clothes good enough to wear to worship for I go to much larger gatherings in public.
SICK
Please remember in your prayers: Elaine Maxey, Jean Flesher, Marilyn Hall, Floy Dell Lindesmith, Dot Lambert, Lillian Hilburn (Marge Williams’ step-mother), Pearl Weaver (Henry Born’s aunt), Diane Newell (Clifford Newell’s wife).

READING/INVITATION
March 20, 2002
Reading: Brantley Johnson
Invitation: Ray Dodd
March 27, 2002
Reading: Bryan Loy
Invitation: Ray Foshee

MARK THESE DATES
March 17, 2002–Visitati on Group 3 assignment cards handed out.
March 17, 2002–Elders/Deacons’ meeting at 5:00 PM, in room 7.
April 7, 2002–Dinner on the Grounds and Singing after the morning service.
April 7, 2002–Dinner on the Grounds and Singing after the morning service. A covered-dish meal will follow the morning service. Congregational singing will follow the meal.
April 7-11, 2002–Gospel Meeting at Foley Church of Christ, Foley, AL, with Clifford Newell from Bristol, VA, speaking. Sunday at 9:00 and 10:00 AM, 6:00 PM. WORSHIP WEDNESDAY: 7:00 P.M.

PANTRY ITEM NEEDED
Canned Meat

Three Bridges the Evolutionist Cannot Cross
Barry M. Grider
Evolutionists contend that the earth is billions of years old and has evolved to its present form and shape. According to Charles Darwin: “All the organic things which ever lived on this earth may be descended from one primordial form” (n.p.). Creationists, on the other hand, contend for a much younger earth, brought into being by the work of a greater Power, as per Genesis 1. As Bible believers, we vigorously defend the Genesis account, and rightly so.

There are three bridges which the evolutionist cannot cross. First, consider the origin of life. They cannot explain how non-life produced life. Even renowned British astronomer, Sir Fred Hoyle, an avid evolutionist, conceded in light of the creationist’s argument from design that “the chance that higher forms have emerged in this way is comparable with the chance that a tornado sweeping through a junk yard might assemble a Boeing 747 from the materials therein” (n.p.). More and more, scientists realize they are being dishonest when they claim non-living matter produced living matter, violating one of the basic laws of science—the Law of Biogenesis. This law, stating that life comes only from pre-existing life, was firmly established long before modern evolutionary theories. As evolutionist Loren Eisley observed, with regard to spontaneous generation, “science created a mythology of its own” (201-202). Life begets life!

Second, consider the fixity of the species. In Genesis 1, God created certain kinds of animals and species; and they never become another. There is mutation within a species, but never transmutation. Genesis 1:11 is a very scientific statement, “And God said, Let the earth bring
Sick
Please remember in your prayers:
Elaine Maxey, Jean Flesher, Marilyn Hall, Floy Dell Lindesmith, Dot Lambert, Diana Brazell, Pearl Weaver (Henry Born’s aunt), and Diane Newell.

Reading/invitation
March 27, 2002
Reading: Bryan Loy
Invitation: Ray Foshee
April 3, 2002
Reading: Jim Loy
Invitation: Louis Herrington

Mark These Dates
April 7, 2002–Visitation Group 1 assignment cards handed out.
April 7, 2002–Dinner on the Grounds and Singing after the morning service. A covered-dish meal will follow the morning service. Congregational singing will follow the meal.
April 7-11, 2002–Gospel Meeting at Foley Church of Christ, Foley, AL, with Clifford Newell from Bristol, VA, speaking. Sunday at 9:00 and 10:00 AM, 6:00 PM, and Monday-Thursday at 7:30 PM.
April 14, 2002–Visitation Group 2 assignment cards handed out.
April 14, 2002–Deacons’ meeting at 5:00 PM, in room 7.
April 21, 2002–Visitation Group 3 assignment cards handed out.
April 21, 2002–Elders/Deacons’ meeting at 5:00 PM, in room 7.

Pantry Item Needed
Canned Meat

“We Are the Army of the Lord”
Neal Pollard

All of our elders served in the military during war-time. Each of them tell so many interesting, inspiring stories about those days and times. One brother was overheard making many comparisons of the military battlefield with the spiritual battlefield on which every Christian is to fight (cf., Eph. 6:10ff; 1 Cor. 9:7; 2 Tim. 2:3-4; et al.). His musings brought to mind the following observations.

Some of our brethren are MIA. They are “missing in action.” It may be regarding attending all the services of the saints, participating in the work of the church, or giving liberally of their means. When there is work to do, these brethren are not to be found. Are you “MIA”?

Some brethren are, similarly, AWOL. They are “absent without leave.” In other words, they are conspicuously absent without “providential cause” (sickness, certain occupational situations, etc.). They are the ones to whom reference is made when the question is asked, “Where has the ______ family been lately?” When they leave town for a few weeks, no one knows. No one knows when and if they are sick. While elders and preachers may and should phone, how much easier it is when those who are hurting or ill let the church know where they are. Have you been “AWOL”?

Some brethren are POWs. They are “prisoners of war.” The aforementioned battle is with Satan and worldliness, but some Christians have defected to the side of that enemy. Their deeds align them with the dark forces of evil, but they have not carefully considered that “the other side” is going to “lose big” some day. The stakes are eternally high (cf., Mat. 25:46). Yet, such
The Home Teaching Reverence in Public Worship

Irreverence in public worship services of the Lord’s church today should be considered as one of the tragedies of our generation. It is tragic in that the irreverent: does not engage in worship, hinders those in the same general area in their attempts to worship, and many times hinders the overall worship by distracting and discouraging others who are worshiping or leading in worship. Obviously, you cannot look at an individual and determine whether he or she is worshiping acceptably in God’s eyes, but, there can be serious doubts concerning the attitude and participation in worship of those who: play, talk, court, blow bubble gum, play with children, fix finger nails, write notes, etc.

Why Do We Have the Problem of Irreverence?
The problem of irreverence may exist for a number of reasons. The irreverent:

1. May not understand what worship is.

2. May not realize the necessity or value of worship.

3. May not be aware of who is being worshiped.

4. May not know how to worship.

5. May not understand the meaning of reverence.

Whatever the reason, irreverence is a manifestation of an unconverted heart, and the individual should be lovingly taught whatever is needed to make up the spiritual deficiency.

What Can the Home Do Concerning Irreverence?

Teach the proper concept of God. Jehovah God is the creator of all, and is the sustainer of all life (Heb. 1:1-3). God desires for His creatures to live eternally with Him in heaven (John 14:1-4). To make this possible, He gave His only begotten Son as a sacrifice for man (John 3:16; Rom. 5:8-9; Heb. 10:1-12). In this we learn the undeniable fact that God is love (1 John 4:16)! These facts alone should be sufficient to motivate any creatures of God to love, honor, and adore the God of the universe. There is, however, another characteristic of God which should be taught; it is the justice of God. The Word of God points out man’s choices; and, where his decisions will lead him. Deluded is the man who believes he can turn his back on God’s way, and be acceptable to Him at the judgment. When the home instills in children the love and justice of God, a knowledge of what the sinner’s salvation cost God, and that all good gifts are from our heavenly Father (Jam. 1:17; Eph. 1:3), it will go far in creating a feeling of dependence and reverence toward the God of heaven.

Teach the proper concepts of worship. It is almost a universal belief among members of the body of Christ that worship is gathering with those who are worshiping. Acceptable worship unto God does not simply involve assembling with worshipers or participating in certain outward acts. Acceptable worship must be in spirit and truth (John 4:24). The apostle Peter points out in 1 Peter 2:9: “But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.” Each Christian is a priest and must offer his own worship (as a priest) unto God. This worship must be in spirit and truth (John 4:24), and it must be in a spirit of reverence. No one can worship for you! Acceptable worship demands that the worshiper participate in the acts of worship with the inner man.

Develop and nurture within children the characteristic of reverence. Reverence is defined as honor or respect felt for or manifested, and profound respect mingled with love and awe. When we instill in our children the proper concept of God and worship, it will go far in ex-plaining the who, why, and how of worship. While there is a certain level of respect, honor, love, and awe which we exhibit toward our Creator and Him alone, there is a measure of respect (reverence) that individuals should have toward themselves, life, and their fellow man.

The individual should respect himself as the temple of the Holy Spirit, one who has been bought with the precious blood of the lamb (1 Cor. 6:19-20). The same respect should be developed in each area of our lives, and will contribute to our all important relationship with God.

The home should provide periods of worship in which individual family members can practice the principles which have been gleaned from God’s Word. Parents, in the home situation, should encourage their children to be reverent during public worship and guide them to sit with their parents or close to the front of the auditorium where they will not be tempted to participate in irreverent activities.

Conclusion

The home can do much to improve the reverential attitude in the public worship service of the church. As parents, let us do our best to train our children in this very vital area of worship, and be a reverent example in worship unto God.

Irreverence in public worship services of the Lord’s church today should be considered as one of the tragedies of our generation. It is tragic in that the irreverent: does not engage in worship, hinders those in the same general area in their attempts to worship, and many times hinders the overall worship by distracting and discouraging others who are worshiping or leading in worship. Obviously, you cannot look at an individual and determine whether he or she is worshiping acceptably in God’s eyes, but, there can be serious doubts concerning the attitude and participation in worship of those who: play, talk, court, blow bubble gum, play with children, fix finger nails, write notes, etc.

Why Do We Have the Problem of Irreverence?
The problem of irreverence may exist for a number of reasons. The irreverent:

1. May not understand what worship is.
POWs can and must willingly leave the enemy’s camp. Others can have a part in their escape, but ultimately they have to want to leave the devil’s ranks. Are you a “POW”?

Some brethren have Battle Fatigue. They are getting weary in well-doing (cf., Gal. 6:9). Perhaps they are ready to give up the fight (cf., 1 Tim. 6:12). God wants those enlisted in His army to “war a good warfare” (cf., 1 Tim. 1:18), but that will require “endurance” (2 Tim. 4:6, 8). The adversary sometimes is all too clearly seen, and he looks intimidating (1 Pet. 5:8). Most of the world is on his side (Mat. 7:13-14). Bible studies often do not end with the student obeying the Gospel, fellow-soldiers can disappoint, involvement by brethren can at times seem so limited, and personal adversities can hinder. But it all can be “overcome” by “faith” (1 John 5:4). Those who endure will be rewarded in unparalleled fashion (Jam. 1:12).

Let us be like those who “waxed valiant in fight” (Heb. 11:34), aware of those things which “war against the soul” (1 Pet. 2:11). Endurance is the key to victory! Maybe you have given up, or you feel like giving up the battle. The battle may seem long, but the victory promises to be the sweetest ever experienced (Rev. 2:10). Keep fighting!

The Home Teaching Reverence in Public Worship

Thomas F. Eaves

Irreverence in public worship services of the Lord’s church today should be considered as one of the tragedies of our generation. It is tragic in that the irreverent: does not engage in worship, hinders those in the same general area in their attempts to worship, and many times hinders the overall worship by distracting and discouraging others who are worshiping or leading in worship. Obviously, you cannot look at an individual and determine whether he or she is worshiping acceptably in God’s eyes, but, there can be serious doubts concerning the attitude and participation in worship of those who: play, talk, court, blow bubble gum, play with children, fix finger nails, write notes, etc.

Why Do We Have the Problem of Irreverence?
The problem of irreverence may exist for a number of reasons. The irreverent:

1. May not understand what worship is.

2. May not realize the necessity or value of worship.

3. May not be aware of who is being worshiped.

4. May not know how to worship.

5. May not understand the meaning of reverence.

Whatever the reason, irreverence is a manifestation of an unconverted heart, and the individual should be lovingly taught whatever is needed to make up the spiritual deficiency.

What Can the Home Do Concerning Irreverence?

Teach the proper concept of God. Jehovah God is the creator of all, and is the sustainer of all life (Heb. 1:1-3). God desires for His creatures to live eternally with Him in heaven (John 14:1-4). To make this possible, He gave His only begotten Son as a sacrifice for man (John 3:16; Rom. 5:8-9; Heb. 10:1-12). In this we learn the undeniable fact that God is love (1 John 4:16)! These facts alone should be sufficient to motivate any creatures of God to love, honor, and adore the God of the universe. There is, however, another characteristic of God which should be taught; it is the justice of God. The Word of God points out man’s choices; and, where his decisions will lead him. Deluded is the man who believes he can turn his back on God’s way, and be acceptable to Him at the judgment. When the home instills in children the love and justice of God, a knowledge of what the sinner’s salvation cost God, and that all good gifts are from our heavenly Father (Jam. 1:17; Eph. 1:3), it will go far in creating a feeling of dependence and reverence toward the God of heaven.

Teach the proper concepts of worship. It is almost a universal belief among members of the body of Christ that worship is gathering with those who are worshiping. Acceptable worship unto God does not simply involve assembling with worshipers or participating in certain outward acts. Acceptable worship must be in spirit and truth (John 4:24). The apostle Peter points out in 1 Peter 2:9: “But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.” Each Christian is a priest and must offer his own worship (as a priest) unto God. This worship must be in spirit and truth (John 4:24), and it must be in a spirit of reverence. No one can worship for you! Acceptable worship demands that the worshiper participate in the acts of worship with the inner man.

Develop and nurture within children the characteristic of reverence. Reverence is defined as honor or respect felt for or manifested, and profound respect mingled with love and awe. When we instill in our children the proper concept of God and worship, it will go far in explaining the who, why, and how of worship. While there is a certain level of respect, honor, love, and awe which we exhibit toward our Creator and Him alone, there is a measure of respect (reverence) that individuals should have toward themselves, life, and their fellow man.

The individual should respect himself as the temple of the Holy Spirit, one who has been bought with the precious blood of the lamb (1 Cor. 6:19-20). The same respect should be developed in each area of our lives, and will contribute to our all-important relationship with God.

The home should provide periods of worship in which individual family members can practice the principles which have been gleaned from God’s Word. Parents, in the home situation, should encourage their children to be reverent during public worship and guide them to sit with their parents or close to the front of the auditorium where they will not be tempted to participate in irreligious activities.

Conclusion

The home can do much to improve the reverential attitude in the public worship service of the church. As parents, let us do our best to train our children in this very vital area of worship, and be a reverent example in worship unto God.
Sick
Please remember in your prayers:
Elaine Maxey, Jean Flesher, Marilyn Hall,
Floy Dell Lindesmith, Dot Lambert, Diana Brazell,
Pearl Weaver (Henry Born’s aunt), and Diane Newell.

Reading/invitation
March 27, 2002
Reading: Bryan Loy
Invitation: Ray Foshee
April 3, 2002
Reading: Jim Loy
Invitation: Louis Herrington

Mark These Dates
April 7, 2002–Visititation Group 1 assignment cards handed out.
April 7, 2002–Dinner on the Grounds and Singing after the morning service. A covered-dish meal will follow the morning service. Congregational singing will follow the meal.
April 7-11, 2002–Gospel Meeting at Foley Church of Christ, Foley, AL, with Clifford Newell from Bristol, VA, speaking. Sunday at 9:00 and 10:00 AM, 6:00 PM, and Monday-Thursday at 7:30 PM.
April 14, 2002–Visititation Group 2 assignment cards handed out.
April 14, 2002–Deacons’ meeting at 5:00 PM, in room 7.
April 21, 2002–Visititation Group 3 assignment cards handed out.
April 21, 2002–Elders/Deacons’ meeting at 5:00 PM, in room 7.

Pantry Item Needed
Canned Meat

“We Are the Army of the Lord”
Neal Pollard

All of our elders served in the military during war-time. Each of them tell so many interesting, inspiring stories about those days and times. One brother was overheard making many comparisons of the military battlefield with the spiritual battlefield on which every Christian is to fight (cf., Eph. 6:10ff; 1 Cor. 9:7; 2 Tim. 2:3-4; et al.). His musings brought to mind the following observations.

Some of our brethren are MIA. They are “missing in action.” It may be regarding attending all the services of the saints, participating in the work of the church, or giving liberally of their means. When there is work to do, these brethren are not to be found. Are you “MIA”?

Some brethren are, similarly, AWOL. They are “absent without leave.” In other words, they are conspicuously absent without “providential cause” (sickness, certain occupational situations, etc.). They are the ones to whom reference is made when the question is asked, “Where has the ______ family been lately?” When they leave town for a few weeks, no one knows. No one knows when and if they are sick. While elders and preachers may and should phone, how much easier it is when those who are hurting or ill let the church know where they are. Have you been “AWOL”?

Some brethren are POWs. They are “prisoners of war.” The aforementioned battle is with Satan and worldliness, but some Christians have defected to the side of that enemy. Their deeds align them with the dark forces of evil, but they have not carefully considered that “the other side” is going to “lose big” some day. The stakes are eternally high (cf., Mat. 25:46). Yet, such
Sick
Please remember in your prayers:
Elaine Maxey, Jean Flesher, Marilyn Hall,
Floy Dell Lindesmith, Dot Lambert, Diana
Brazell, Tia McLeod, Pearl Weaver (Henry
Born’s aunt), Diane Newell, Ian Denham,
and Connie Denham.

Reading/invitation
April 3, 2002
Reading: Jim Loy
Invitation: Louis Herrington
April 10, 2002
Reading: Horace Myrick
Invitation: Damon Lundy

Mark These Dates
April 7, 2002–Visitation Group 1
assignment cards handed out.
April 7-11, 2002–Gospel Meeting at Foley
Church of Christ, Foley, AL, with
Clifford Newell from Bristol, VA,
speaking. Sunday at 9:00 and 10:00
AM, 6:00 PM, and Monday-Thursday
at 7:30 PM.
April 14, 2002–Visitation Group 2
assignment cards handed out.

New Arrival
Fred and Rheba Stancliff are pleased to
announce the arrival of their great-
grandson, Ian William Denham, born on
March 19, 2002, to Shawn and Connie
Denham. The grandparents are Daniel and
Barbara Denham. Ian weighed in at 8 lbs.
15 ozs. and was 21 inches long. Our con-
gratulations are extended to everyone.

Pantry Item Needed
Canned Meat

“I Can’t See Any Harm in It”
Bill Jackson

Here are some guidelines whereby one can
examine any matter to see if it is right or wrong.
Very often, young people desire answers to
things confronting them, and we recommend
these study areas to them. We recommend
them to all saints as they weigh any matter at all, and
if they have some reservations about a course of
action they have entertained, or a habit they are
cultivating, etc., the areas are many, but these
tests can help.

The Personal Test: Will doing this make me
a better or worse Christian?

The Social Test: Will doing it influence
others, and especially the weak, to be better or
worse Christians?

The Practical Test: Will the results of my
doing this be desirable? What are the fruits of my
actions?

The Universal Test: If everyone should do
this, would it improve or degrade society? If all
Christians do it, will it improve or degrade the
kingdom?

The Scriptural Test: Does the Bible endorse
it, or forbid it? Does the tenor or tone of the
Bible, if the thing contemplated is not expressly
dealt with, speak toward endorsing it or con-
demning it?

The Stewardship Test: Will my doing this
constitute a waste of talent and/or goods for
which I am accountable to the Lord?

The Character Test: What will be the in-
fluence of my life and spirituality as others now
see me in this particular behavior?

The Family Test: Will it bring discredit and
dishonor to my family, and embarrass them? Is it
something that I can recommend to all of my
A Peculiar People

Bobby O’Dell

Peter called upon Christians to be a peculiar people when he wrote, “But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light” (1 Pet. 2:9). Notice now some characteristics of those who are peculiar.

Praying people: “Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints” (Eph. 6:18).

Earnest people: “Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip” (Heb. 2:1).

Consecrated people: “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service” (Rom. 12:1).

United people: “Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace” (Eph. 4:3).

Loving people: “And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling savour” ( Eph. 5:2).

Influential people: “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven” (2 Cor. 4:4). One must know and prepare to deal with Satan every day. One must know how to spoil his temptations and trials that we all face. What does Satan do?

He Deceives. Genesis chapter 3 reveals to us that Satan deceived Eve into eating the forbidden fruit (1 Tim. 2:14). He deceives millions with alcohol, drugs, sexual activity outside the marriage bond, gambling, and other vices. He has the power to deceive nations (Rev. 20:3).

He Insinuates Doubt. Genesis chapter 3 reveals to us that Satan deceived Eve into eating the forbidden fruit (1 Tim. 2:14). He deceives millions with alcohol, drugs, sexual activity outside the marriage bond, gambling, and other vices. He has the power to deceive nations (Rev. 20:3).

He Traps. “Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without; lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil” (1 Tim. 3:7). The snare of the devil is a devastating device in which many have lost their soul. The word literally means “to catch with a noose.” Satan’s snare is ready to catch us as quickly as it can. The Lord warned us about this deadly trap.

He Seeks to Make You Proud. Satan will fill you with vainglory. The apostle John warns about the “pride of life” in which comes from the philosophies of the world (1 John 2:16). The devil tempted the Lord in the wilderness with the pride of life (Mat. 4:1-11), yet the Lord resisted. Peter says that God resists the proud, therefore we must resist the devil (1 Pet. 5:4-9). Pride was the downfall of the Edomites, the Egyptians, the Assyrians, and other wicked nations.

We must resist Satan and all of his devices because our eternal destination is at stake. James says, “Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you” (Jam. 4:7-8).

makE PLANS TO ATTEND:

27th Annual Bellview Lectures
Theme: Beatitudes
June 8 - 12, 2002

Peter called upon Christians to be a peculiar people when he wrote, “But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light” (1 Pet. 2:9). Notice now some characteristics of those who are peculiar.

Praying people: “Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints” (Eph. 6:18).

Earnest people: “Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip” (Heb. 2:1).

Consecrated people: “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service” (Rom. 12:1).

United people: “Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace” (Eph. 4:3).

Loving people: “And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling savour” ( Eph. 5:2).

Influential people: “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven” (2 Cor. 4:4). One must know and prepare to deal with Satan every day. One must know how to spoil his temptations and trials that we all face. What does Satan do?

He Deceives. Genesis chapter 3 reveals to us that Satan deceived Eve into eating the forbidden fruit (1 Tim. 2:14). He deceives millions with alcohol, drugs, sexual activity outside the marriage bond, gambling, and other vices. He has the power to deceive nations (Rev. 20:3).

He Insinuates Doubt. Genesis chapter 3 reveals to us that Satan deceived Eve into eating the forbidden fruit (1 Tim. 2:14). He deceives millions with alcohol, drugs, sexual activity outside the marriage bond, gambling, and other vices. He has the power to deceive nations (Rev. 20:3).

He Traps. “Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without; lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil” (1 Tim. 3:7). The snare of the devil is a devastating device in which many have lost their soul. The word literally means “to catch with a noose.” Satan’s snare is ready to catch us as quickly as it can. The Lord warned us about this deadly trap.

He Seeks to Make You Proud. Satan will fill you with vainglory. The apostle John warns about the “pride of life” in which comes from the philosophies of the world (1 John 2:16). The devil tempted the Lord in the wilderness with the pride of life (Mat. 4:1-11), yet the Lord resisted. Peter says that God resists the proud, therefore we must resist the devil (1 Pet. 5:4-9). Pride was the downfall of the Edomites, the Egyptians, the Assyrians, and other wicked nations.

We must resist Satan and all of his devices because our eternal destination is at stake. James says, “Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you” (Jam. 4:7-8).

makE PLANS TO ATTEND:

27th Annual Bellview Lectures
Theme: Beatitudes
June 8 - 12, 2002

P.O. Box 714
Foley, AL 36536

family members?

The Publicity Test: Would I be willing for friends, fellow-Christians, the elders, the preacher, etc., to know about this action?

The Common Sense Test: Does it agree with just plain, ordinary, and everyday common sense, remembering that beyond common sense we must be guided by revealed sense—the Bible?

The Fairness Test: Is it honest, and is it practicing the golden rule?

The Second Coming Test: Is this something I would not mind, as a Christian, the Lord finding me doing when He next appears, to then take me to judgment?

Dinner on the Grounds and Singing
after the morning service.
April 7, 2002

A covered-dish meal will follow the morning service and afterwards there will be congregational singing. Make plans now to attend.
Dinner on the Grounds and Singing
after the morning service.
April 7, 2002
A covered-dish meal will follow the morning service and afterwards there will be congregational singing. Make plans now to attend.

A Peculiar People
Bobby O’Dell

Peter called upon Christians to be a peculiar people when he wrote, “But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him which hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light” (1 Pet. 2:9). Notice now some characteristics of those who are peculiar.

Praying people: “Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints” (Eph. 6:18).

Earnest people: “Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip” (Heb. 2:1).

Consecrated people: “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service” (Rom. 12:1).

United people: “Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace” (Eph. 4:3).

Loving people: “And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling savour” (Eph. 5:2).

Influential people: “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven” (Mat. 5:16).

Active people: “Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord” (1 Cor. 15:58).

Righteous people: “For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him” (2 Cor. 5:21).

We must resist Satan and all of his devices because our eternal destination is at stake. James says, “Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you” (Jam. 4:7-8).
Please remember in your prayers:
Elaine Maxey, Jean Flesher, Marilyn Hall,
Floy Dell Lindesmith, Dot Lambert, Diana
Brazell, Tia McLeod, Pearl Weaver (Henry
Born’s aunt), Diane Newell, Ian Denham,
and Connie Denham.

Reading/invitation
April 3, 2002
Reading: Jim Loy
Invitation: Louis Herrington

April 10, 2002
Reading: Horace Myrick
Invitation: Damon Lundy

Mark These Dates
April 7, 2002–Visitation Group 1
assignment cards handed out.
April 7-11, 2002–Gospel Meeting at Foley
Church of Christ, Foley, AL, with
Clifford Newell from Bristol, VA,
speaking. Sunday at 9:00 and 10:00
AM, 6:00 PM, and Monday-Thursday
at 7:30 PM.
April 14, 2002–Visitation Group 2
assignment cards handed out.

Fred and Rheba Stancliff are pleased to
announce the arrival of their great-grandson, Ian William Denham, born on
March 19, 2002, to Shawn and Connie
Denham. The grandparents are Daniel and
Barbara Denham. Ian weighed in at 8 lbs.
15 ozs. and was 21 inches long. Our con-gratulations are extended to everyone.

Canned Meat

Here are some guidelines whereby one can
examine any matter to see if it is right or wrong. Very often, young people desire answers to things confronting them, and we recommend these study areas to them. We recommend them to all saints as they weigh any matter at all, and if they have some reservations about a course of action they have entertained, or a habit they are cultivating, etc., the areas are many, but these tests can help.

The Personal Test: Will doing this make me a better or worse Christian?

The Social Test: Will doing it influence others, and especially the weak, to be better or worse Christians?

The Practical Test: Will the results of my actions be desirable? What are the fruits of my actions?

The Universal Test: If everyone should do this, would it improve or degrade society? If all Christians do it, will it improve or degrade the kingdom?

The Scriptural Test: Does the Bible endorse it, or forbid it? Does the tenor or tone of the Bible, if the thing contemplated is not expressly dealt with, speak toward endorsing it or con-demning it?

The Stewardship Test: Will my doing this constitute a waste of talent and/or goods for which I am accountable to the Lord?

The Character Test: What will be the in-fluence of my life and spirituality as others now see me in this particular behavior?

The Family Test: Will it bring discredit and dishonor to my family, and embarrass them? Is it something that I can recommend to all of my
Please remember in your prayers:
Elaine Maxey, Jean Flesher, Marilyn Hall,
Dot Lambert, Diana Brazell, Tia McLeod,
Joyce Brantley, Pearl Weaver (Henry Born’s aunt), Ian Denham (Fred and Rheda Stancliff’s great-grandson), Melba Lamb (Tim Lamb’s mother), and Diane Newell.

Reading/invitation
April 10, 2002
Reading: Horace Myrick
Invitation: Damon Lundy
April 17, 2002
Reading: Shelby Nall
Invitation: Fred Stancliff

Mark These Dates
April 7, 2002–Visitation Group 1 assignment cards handed out.
April 7, 2002–Dinner on the Grounds and Singing after the morning service, in the general purpose building.
April 7-11, 2002–Gospel Meeting at Foley Church of Christ, Foley, AL, with Clifford Newell from Bristol, VA, speaking. Sunday at 9:00 and 10:00 AM, 6:00 PM, and Monday-Thursday at 7:30 PM.

Pantry Item Needed
Canned Vegetables

Daylight Saving Time
Daylight Saving Time begins April 7.
Set your clocks ahead one hour before going to bed on Saturday.

Sick

The devil would like nothing more than for one to believe that it does not cost to be a Christian. Some well-meaning folks will even declare that after one becomes a child of God, his troubles are over. Those who expect their problems and sorrows to disappear after obeying the gospel are then discouraged when the devil attacks with all his fury. One must remember the Word of God that warns: “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour” (1 Pet. 5:8). The devil will not desire to discourage the non-Christian, as he is already in his service. But when Satan loses a soul because of one’s obedience to the gospel, he will unleash his fury in seeking to tempt the new convert to apostatize from the faith.

If people are taught and realize that Christianity is costful, it will be more difficult for Satan to sow seeds of discouragement. Let us consider some of the costs of becoming a Christian.

First, one must be willing to give up the pleasures of sin. Not all are willing to turn from certain sins, and the devil will do all in his power to convince one not to forsake the wickedness that brings temporary pleasure. This is why many folks continue to live in and enjoy an adulterous relationship, because they do not desire to forsake that which is pleasurable! The Bible, however, encourages all to imitate Moses. God’s Word says, “By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter; Choosing rather to suffer affliction
Characteristics of a Soul Winning Church

Gary L. Grizzell

Solomon said, “he that winneth souls is wise” (Pro. 11:30). Jesus taught the importance and influence of not only the individual disciple, but of the whole church (Mat. 5:13-16). Just as Jerusalem at night was a bright city set on a hill, so the church of Christ is to be a spiritual force in a world of darkness.

A soul winning church is a soul-conscious church. God is concerned about the physical needs of man, but He places the spiritual needs above the physical needs. Jesus said, “For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?” (Mat. 16:26). The faithful Christian is always alert to a receptive lost soul who is hungering for the truth of the Bible.

A soul winning church has the necessary ingredient of zeal! The first century church was on fire, and they marched across the Roman Empire holding high the name of Christ because of bold zeal. The church in the imperial city of Rome had so much zeal that their faith was known throughout the Roman Empire (Rom. 1:8). Zeal says, “Even though it is midnight and I must go to work in the morning, I will go downto the meeting house to see a baptism and encourage a babe in Christ.”

A soul winning church has a knowledge of God’s Word. Zeal without knowledge is a dangerous thing (imagine a child with a power saw)! Romans 10:1-2 reveals that Paul desired for his fellow Jews to be saved, but their problem was zeal without knowledge. I cannot pray knowledge in; I must study it in (2 Tim. 2:15).

Last, the characteristic of faith is necessary for success in seeking and saving the lost. Second Corinthians 5:7 says, “For we walk by faith, not by sight.” It is not what faith says in regard to leading a soul to Christ: “I can do all thingsthrough Christ which strengtheneth me” (Phi. 4:13).

While other characteristics such as hope, joy, and fellowship with God’s family may also be noted, is it not interesting that all of these soulwinning characteristics were first possessed by our Lord Jesus Christ while He was here on this earth almost 2,000 years ago? Since Jesus is the example for every disciple of Christ (1 Pet. 2:21), may all who name His name seek to put on these marvelous traits. “For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost” (Luke 19:10).
Characteristics of a Soul Winning Church

Gary L. Grizzell

Solomon said, “he that winneth souls is wise” (Pro. 11:30). Jesus taught the importance and influence of not only the individual disciple, but of the whole church (Mat. 5:13-16). Just as Jerusalem at night was a bright city set on a hill, so the church of Christ is to be a spiritual force in a world of darkness.

A soul winning church is a soul-conscious church. God is concerned about the physical needs of man, but He places the spiritual needs above the physical needs. Jesus said, “For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?” (Mat. 16:26). The faithful Christian is always alert to a receptive lost soul who is hungering for the truth of the Bible.

A soul winning church has the necessary ingredient of zeal! The first century church was on fire, and they marched across the Roman Empire holding high the name of Christ because of bold zeal. The church in the imperial city of Rome had so much zeal that their faith was known throughout the Roman Empire (Rom. 1:8). Zeal says, “Even though it is midnight and I must go to work in the morning, I will go down to the meeting house to see a baptism and encourage a babe in Christ.”

A soul winning church has a knowledge of God’s Word. Zeal without knowledge is a dangerous thing (imagine a child with a power saw)! Romans 10:1-2 reveals that Paul desired for his fellow Jews to be saved, but their problem was zeal without knowledge. I cannot pray knowledge in; I must study it in (2 Tim. 2:15).

Last, the characteristic of faith is necessary for success in seeking and saving the lost. Second Corinthians 5:7 says, “For we walk by faith, not by sight.” It is not ... faith says in regard to leading a soul to Christ: “I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me” (Phi. 4:13).

Characteristics of a Soul Winning Church

First, one must be willing to surrender to the will of God. Even the majority of the religious world has no desire to turn from their man-made doctrines and surrender to God’s plan of salvation. Jesus said, “If ye love me, keep my commandments” (John 14:15). Countless thousands say they love Christ, but their actions speak louder than their words! So many claim to believe in and accept Christ but reject the command to be baptized for remission of sins (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; 22:16).

The truth is that many people today are related to the Pharisees of Jesus’ day. John stated, “Nevertheless among the chief rulers also many believed on him; but because of the Pharisees they did not confess him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue: For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God” (John 12:42-43).

One must be a “doer” and not a “hearer only” (Jam. 1:22). Third, one must be willing to separate from the world. The apostle Paul said, “But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world” (Gal. 6:14; cf., Gal. 2:20). Paul taught the brethren at Corinth:

Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you (2 Cor. 6:14-17).

If a man is in love with the world, the love of the Father is not in him (1 John 2:15-17).

Fourth, one must pay the cost of self-denial. Many determine this is too high a price to pay as they will not say “No” to themselves. The Lord taught, “And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me” (Luke 9:23).

It is true that it costs to be a faithful Christian, but the costs are greater when one rejects Christianity. Can you afford to live your life in such a way that it costs you your soul, heaven, and eternal fellowship with God and those of like precious faith? The cost is great to be a Christian, but the cost is far greater to be a servant of Satan.
Please remember in your prayers: Elaine Maxey, Jean Flesher, Marilyn Hall, Dot Lambert, Diana Brazell, Tia McLeod, Joyce Brantley, Pearl Weaver (Henry Born’s aunt), Ian Denham (Fred and Rheba Stancliff’s great-grandson), Melba Lamb (Tim Lamb’s mother), and Diane Newell.

Reading/invitation
April 10, 2002
Reading: Horace Myrick
Invitation: Damon Lundy
April 17, 2002
Reading: Shelby Nall
Invitation: Fred Stancliff

Mark These Dates
April 7, 2002–Visitation Group 1 assignment cards handed out.
April 7, 2002–Dinner on the Grounds and Singing after the morning service, in the general purpose building.
April 7-11, 2002–Gospel Meeting at Foley Church of Christ, Foley, AL, with Clifford Newell from Bristol, VA, speaking. Sunday at 9:00 and 10:00 AM, 6:00 PM, and Monday-Thursday at 7:30 PM.

Pantry Item Needed
Canned Vegetables

Daylight Saving Time
Daylight Saving Time begins April 7. Set your clocks ahead one hour before going to bed on Saturday.

Christians Is Costful
Marvin L. Weir

The devil would like nothing more than for one to believe that it does not cost to be a Christian. Some well-meaning folks will even declare that after one becomes a child of God, his troubles are over. Those who expect their problems and sorrows to disappear after obeying the gospel are then discouraged when the devil attacks with all his fury. One must remember the Word of God that warns: “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour” (1 Pet. 5:8). The devil will not desire to discourage the non-Christian, as he is already in his service. But when Satan loses a soul because of one’s obedience to the gospel, he will unleash his fury in seeking to tempt the new convert to apostatize from the faith.

If people are taught and realize that Christianity is costful, it will be more difficult for Satan to sow seeds of discouragement. Let us consider some of the costs of becoming a Christian.

First, one must be willing to give up the pleasures of sin. Not all are willing to turn from certain sins, and the devil will do all in his power to convince one not to forsake the wickedness that brings temporary pleasure. This is why many folks continue to live in and enjoy an adulterous relationship, because they do not desire to forsake that which is pleasurable! The Bible, however, encourages all to imitate Moses. God’s Word says, “By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter; Choosing rather to suffer affliction...
Sick

Please remember in your prayers: Elaine Maxey, Jean Flesher, Marilyn Hall, Dot Lambert, Diana Brazell, Joyce Brantley, Pearl Weaver (Henry Born’s aunt), Ian Denham (Fred and Rheba Stancliff’s great-grandson), and Diane Newell.

Reading/Invitation
April 17, 2002
Reading: Shelby Nall
Invitation: Fred Stancliff
April 24, 2002
Reading: Richard Parker
Invitation: Henry Born

Mark These Dates
April 14, 2002–Visitation Group 2 assignment cards handed out.
April 14, 2002–Deacons’ meeting at 5:00 PM, in room 7.
April 21, 2002–Visitation Group 3 assignment cards handed out.
April 21, 2002–Elders/Deacons’ meeting at 5:00 PM, in room 7.

Pantry Item Needed
Canned Vegetables

Hebrews 11:1-3
“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. For by it the elders obtained a good report. Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.”

Full of Deadly Poison
Alan E. Highers

James says of the tongue: “it is a restless evil, it is full of deadly poison” (Jam. 3:8). It is interesting to note that with the tongue we may praise God, we may proclaim the gospel of peace, we may utter prayer, we may sing with the spirit and with the understanding, or we may curse, we may swear, we may lie, or we may use the name of God in vain, we may be tale-bearers and rumor-mongers. The tongue is the instrument of either great good or tragic harm, all depending upon how it is used.

James further stated, “And the tongue is a fire: the world of iniquity among our members is the tongue, which defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the wheels of nature, and is set on fire by hell” (Jam. 3:6). It would seem with such a severe warning as this that people would be extremely cautious in using the tongue, but such is not always the case. James goes on to show the dual use of the tongue: “Therewith bless we the Lord and Father; and... God: out of the same mouth cometh blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be” (Jam. 3:9-10).

Sowers of Discord

In Proverbs 6:16-19 there is a list of seven things which “Jehovah hateth.” Three of the seven (nearly half) involve the tongue: “a lying tongue... A false witness that uttereth lies, And he that soweth discord among brethren.” One of the condemnations of Diotrephes was that he was guilty of “prating against us with wicked words” (3 John 10). Paul warned Titus that “there are many unruly men, vain talkers and deceivers...whose mouths must be stopped” (Tit.
The psalmist, in striking language, describes those “Who have whet their tongue like a sword, And have aimed their arrows, even bitter words” (Ps. 64:3). Again, in Psalm 73:9: we read of those whose “tongue walketh through the earth.” In answer to the question as to who would dwell in the holy hill of God, David said, “He that slandereth not with his tongue, Nor doeth evil to his friend, Nor taketh up a reproach against his neighbor” (Ps. 15:3). Little wonder that the psalmist said, “I said, I will take heed to my ways, That I sin not with my tongue” (Psa. 39:1).

Three Wrongs

1. It is wrong to tell that which is false, “lie not one to another” (Col. 3:9). One has an obligation to know that what he speaks is the truth. The Scriptures are extremely severe upon one who has no regard for the truth. “All liars...shall be in the lake that burneth with fire and brimstone” (Rev. 21:8). “Without are the dogs, and the sorcerers, and the fornicators, and the murderers, and the idolaters, and every one that loveth and maketh a lie” (Rev. 22:15). It seems strange that anyone would love a lie, but some would rather tell a falsehood than to tell the truth.

2. It is wrong to repeat that which is false. This is what the Bible calls talebearers, where one spreads a slander which he has heard from someone else. People sometimes endeavor to justify talebearing by saying, “I am just telling what someone told me.” But the law said, “Thou shalt not go up and down as a talebearer among thy people” (Lev. 19:16). The wise man said, “He that goeth about as a tale-bearer revealeth secrets; But he that is of a faithful spirit concealeth a matter” (Pro. 11:13). Listen further to the wisdom of these words: “Where no wood is, there the fire goeth out; so where there is no tale-bearer, the strife ceaseth” (Pro. 26:20—KJV). It appears that some are always willing to add wood to the fire: the best way to kindle strife is to be a talebearer.

3. It is wrong to receive that which is false. You recall that the young prophet lost his life not because he told a lie, but because he tolled a lie as the truth (1 Kin. 18:21). “He that giveth ear to a mischievous tongue” (Pro. 17:4). Notice especially the teaching of the Scriptures with reference to the character of the one who listens as well as the one who speaks.

The Church That Pleases God

Charles Box

The book of Acts gives a great deal of information about the church. Only that church described in the New Testament pleases God. Acts 2:36-47 and Acts 4:32-35 are two brief sections of Scripture from which much information concerning the nature of the church can be learned. Please study these passages carefully.

The church which pleases God is the New Testament church: It is not enough to be in “a” church. We must be in “the” church which is in the Bible. If we are to please God we must be the New Testament church (Mat. 16:18). Let us learn to appreciate the church by observing the price paid for it (Acts 20:28; Eph. 5:25). Let us also learn what it means to be added by the Lord to this church (Acts 2:47).

How Do You Taste to God?

Josh Webster

The monarch butterfly is a beautiful creature. Its bright colors will catch your eye and hold your attention. Its colors also make it vulnerable to prey. Birds see the butterfly and think it is a tasty meal. In reality, when they eat the butterfly it makes them very sick. The bird then learns that those colors do not mean a good meal but rather a thing to stay away from. You see the butterfly looked real good on the outside, but on the inside it was full of poison.

I wonder how many Christians are like the monarch butterfly? They look good, they act like a Christian, but how do they taste on the inside? This was the way the Pharisees were in the days of Christ. In Matthew the twenty-third chapter Jesus says they are like whitened tombs, that look beautiful without, but within are full of dead men’s bones. The Pharisees had their religion all wrong. They were religious for the wrong reasons. Maybe they were like so many folks today who think serving God is simply coming to church on Sunday morning. The Pharisees did not pay attention to the outside. They forgot about the heart of man.

When we look at our heart are we truly following Christ like we should? Christ wants us to give Him all or none. Either follow Him with your whole being or not at all. “I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth” (Rev. 3:15-16). Either hot or cold, all or none. How do you taste to God?
The psalmist, in striking language, describes those “Who have whet their tongue like a sword, And have aimed their arrows, even bitter words” (Psa. 64:3). Again, in Psalm 73:9: we read of those whose “tongue walketh the earth.” In answer to the question as to who would dwell in the holy hill of God, David said, “He that slieth not with his tongue, Nor doeth evil to his friend, Nor taketh up a reproach against his neighbor” (Psa. 15:3). Little wonder that the psalmist said, “I said, I will take heed to my ways, That I sin not with my tongue” (Psa. 39:1).

Three Wrongs

1. It is wrong to tell that which is false, “lie not one to another” (Col. 3:9). One has an obligation to know that what he speaks is the truth. The Scriptures are extremely severe upon one who has no regard for the truth. “All liars...shall be in the lake that burneth with fire and brimstone” (Rev. 21:8). “Without are the dogs, and the sorcerers, and the fornicators, and the murderers, and the idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie” (Rev. 22:15). It seems strange that anyone would love a lie, but some would rather tell a falsehood than to tell the truth.

2. It is wrong to repeat that which is false. This is what the Bible calls talebearers, where one spreads a slander which he has heard from someone else. People sometimes endeavor to justify talebearing by saying, “I am just telling what someone told me.” But the law said, “Thou shalt not go up and down as a talebearer among thy people” (Lev. 19:16). The wise man said, “He that goeth about as a tale-bearer revealeth secrets; But he that is of a faithful spirit concealeth a matter” (Pro. 11:13). Listen further to the wisdom of these words: “Where no wood is, there the fire goeth out: so where there is no talebearer, the strife ceaseth” (Pro. 26:20—21—KJV). It appears that some are always willing to add wood to the fire: the best way to kindle strife is to be a talebearer.

3. It is wrong to receive that which is false. You recall that the young prophet lost his life not because he told a lie, but because he told a lie as the truth (1 Kin. 18:21). The Lord wants the church to grow spiritually and in number (2 Pet. 3:18; Acts 2:47). When Christians put God first in life and then preach the Word everywhere, the church will grow. “And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ” (Acts 5:42). Let us understand and act upon the “Great Commission” (Mark 16:15—16).

The church which pleases God is steadfast: “And they continued stedfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers” (Acts 2:42). We must see the need for (1) The apostles’ doctrine, (2) Fellowship, (3) Breaking bread, and (4) Prayer. Let us work, worship, pray, and give so the Word of God can be preached everywhere and poor people can be ministered to.

To be a part of the church which please God we must study, learn, obey, and live by New Testament teaching. We must be steadfast, praying, giving, and evangelistic. May God help us all be able to recognize the New Testament church and to be a faithful member of it.

How Do You Taste to God?

Josh Webster

The monarch butterfly is a beautiful creature. Its bright colors will catch your eye and hold your attention. Its colors also make it vulnerable to prey. Birds see the butterfly and think it is a tasty meal. In reality, when they eat the butterfly it makes them very sick. The bird then learns that those colors do not mean a good meal but rather a thing to stay away from. You see the butterfly looked real good on the outside, but on the inside it was full of poison.

I wonder how many Christians are like the monarch butterfly? They look good, they act like a Christian, but how do they taste on the inside? This was the way the Pharisees were in the days of Christ. In Matthew the twenty-third chapter Jesus says they are like whitened tombs, that look beautiful without, but within are full of dead men’s bones. The Pharisees had their religion all wrong. They were religious for the wrong reasons. Maybe they were like so many folks today who think serving God is simply coming to church on Sunday morning. The Pharisees did not pay attention to the inside. They forgot about the heart of man.

When we look at our heart are we truly following Christ like we should? Christ wants us to give Him all or none. Either follow Him with your whole being or not at all. “I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth” (Rev. 3:15—16). Either hot or cold, all or none. How do you taste to God?

The Church That Pleases God

Charles Box

The book of Acts gives a great deal of information about the church. Only that church described in the New Testament pleases God. Acts 2:36—47 and Acts 4:32—35 are two brief sections of Scripture from which much information concerning the nature of the church can be learned. Please study these passages carefully.

The church which pleases God is the New Testament church: It is not enough to be in “a” church. We must be in “the” church which is in the Bible. If we are to please God we must be the New Testament church (Mat. 16:18). Let us learn to appreciate the church by observing the price paid for it (Acts 20:28; Eph. 5:25). Let us also learn what it means to be added by the Lord to this church (Acts 2:47).
Sick
Please remember in your prayers: Elaine Maxey, Jean Flesher, Marilyn Hall, Dot Lambert, Diana Brazell, Joyce Brantley, Pearl Weaver (Henry Born’s aunt), Ian Denham (Fred and Rheba Stancliff’s great-grandson), and Diane Newell.

Reading/Invitation
April 17, 2002
Reading: Shelby Nall
Invitation: Fred Stancliff

April 24, 2002
Reading: Richard Parker
Invitation: Henry Born

Mark These Dates
April 14, 2002–Visitation Group 2 assignment cards handed out.
April 14, 2002–Deacons’ meeting at 5:00 PM, in room 7.
April 21, 2002–Visitation Group 3 assignment cards handed out.
April 21, 2002–Elders/Deacons’ meeting at 5:00 PM, in room 7.

Pantry Item Needed
Canned Vegetables

Hebrews 11:1-3
“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. For by it the elders obtained a good report. Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.”

Full of Deadly Poison
Alan E. Highers

James says of the tongue: “it is a restless evil, it is full of deadly poison” (Jam. 3:8). It is interesting to note that with the tongue we may praise God, we may proclaim the gospel of peace, we may utter prayer, we may sing with the spirit and with the understanding, or we may curse, we may swear, we may lie, or we may use the name of God in vain, we may be tale-bearers and rumor-mongers. The tongue is the instrument of either great good or tragic harm, all depending upon how it is used.

James further stated, “And the tongue is a fire: the world of iniquity among our members is the tongue, which defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the wheel ... It would seem with such a severe warning as this that people would be extremely cautious in using the tongue, but such is not always the case. James goes on to show the dual use of the tongue: “Therewith bless we the Lord and Father; and ... God: out of the same mouth cometh forth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be” (Jam. 3:9-10).

Sowers of Discord
In Proverbs 6:16-19 there is a list of seven things which “Jehovah hateth.” Three of the seven (nearly half) involve the tongue: “a lying tongue... A false witness that uttereth lies, And he that soweth discord among brethren.” One of the condemnations of Diotrephes was that he was guilty of “prating against us with wicked words” (3 John 10). Paul warned Titus that “there are many unruly men, vain talkers and deceivers...whose mouths must be stopped” (Tit.
Sick
Please remember in your prayers:
Elaine Maxey, Jean Flesher, Marilyn Hall,
Diana Brazell, Joyce Brantley, Madeline Graves, Ian Denham (Fred and Rheba Stancliff’s great-grandson), Pearl Weaver (Henry Born’s aunt), and Diane Newell.

Reading/Invitation
April 24, 2002
Reading: Richard Parker
Invitation: Henry Born
May 1, 2002
Reading: Joshua Wilkes
Invitation: Paul Brantley

Mark These Dates
April 21, 2002–Visitation Group 3 assignment cards handed out.
April 21, 2002–Elders/Deacons’ meeting at 5:00 PM, in room 7.

Pantry Item Needed
Canned Vegetables

Teach Your Child
Before your child has come to seven
Teach him the way to Heaven.
Better still the Truth will thrive
If he knows it when he is five.
Better yet if on your knee
He learns it when he’s only three.
Best of all is when you have begun
To teach him of God before he is one.
Author Unknown

BEACON
VOL. XXXI APRIL 15, 2002 NO. 15
A PUBLICATION OF BELLVIEW CHURCH OF CHRIST
4850 Saufley Field Road; Pensacola, FL 32526
(850) 455-7595; Fax (850) 455-9940
Internet Web Page: http://www.bellviewcoc.com
E-mail: bellview@bellviewcoc.com

MEETING TIMES
SUNDAY:
9:00 A.M. BIBLE CLASSES
10:00 A.M., 6:00 P.M. WORSHIP
WEDNESDAY: 7:00 P.M.

BISHOPS: Paul Brantley, Bill Gallaher, Fred Stancliff
MINISTER: Michael Hatcher
DEACONS: Henry Born, Elward Brantley, Jerry Caine, Bill Crowe, Louis Herrington, James Loy, Richard Parker
MISSIONARY: Lee Davis

Gladly Receiving the Word
Preston Silcox

Since the dawn of time, man has reacted to the Word of God in all sorts of ways. Adam and Eve reacted with disobedience (Gen. 3), Pharaoh with stubbornness (Exo. 9:34-35), and Felix with procrastination (Acts 24:25), just to name a few. Rather than focusing attention on such negative responses to the Truth, however, consider the positive reaction of those on the first Pentecost after Christ’s resurrection. Acts 2:41 says, “Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.” Notice a few important points about these glad receivers of the Word.

First, they willingly heard the Word proclaimed (Acts 2:14-40). To many individuals, the words preach and sermon are bad. Not so to those on Pentecost; they appreciated the sounding out of God’s Word and obviously listened with great interest.

Second, they accepted the evidence which was presented (Acts 2:14-40). With great preciseness, the apostles reasoned from the Scriptures, clearly showing that Jesus was and is the Messiah, that His resurrection was apparent and undeniable, and that the events of that very Pentecost were a fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy. If only modern skeptics were as honest with the facts.

Third, they admitted their guilt (Acts 2:37). Rather than pointing their fingers, dodging the issue, or excusing their actions, those under consideration took full responsibility for their sins. Many souls will miss heaven because they are too proud to admit wrong. Indeed: “Pride goeth before destruction” (Pro. 16:18).
Finally, they consented to God’s requirements (Acts 2:38-41). Instead of submitting to the plain and simple instructions of God, countless individuals throughout history have attempted to tell God what they think He really meant to say. As a result, these wrested the Scriptures to their own destruction while inventing faulty systems of salvation. Those on Pentecost, however, accepted the inspired words of the apostles without debate or dispute.


4006 Sunset Street; Muskogee, OK 74403

Beatitudes

June 8 - 12, 2002

Bellview Lectures Information

Housing
Free housing in the homes of Christians will be provided on a “first come, first served” basis (call our office at: 850/455-7595, or write us at: 4850 Saufley Field Road, Pensacola, FL 32526). The Comfort Inn (8690 Pine Forest Road) is providing a special rate for those attending the Bellview Lectures. The price (tax not included) is $59—1 to 2 people per room. Their phone number is 850/476-8989. Tell them you are attending the Bellview Lectures when making your reservations.

Meals
The women of the Bellview Church of Christ will provide a free lunch Monday through Wednesday. For all other meals, a list of restaurants and a map will be available at the registration table in the foyer.

Exhibits
Limited reservations will be accepted subject to approval of the Bellview elders and available space. Exhibits are expected from schools, children’s homes, bookstores, publications, and other projects of general interest to the brotherhood.

Audio and Video Tapes
All lectures will be recorded on cassette audio tapes and video tapes. These tapes may be purchased during the Bellview Lectures or by mail order afterwards. Order blanks and price information will be available during the Bellview Lectures or by mail upon request. (We request the cooperation of all who attend the Bellview Lectures in keeping the pulpit area free of privately-owned recorders and microphones.) If you would like to make your own recordings, please see one of our sound technicians in the sound room.

Books
The lectureship book, Beatitudes will be available to those attending the Bellview Lectures at a reduced rate of $10. Others may purchase the book at the pre-publication price of $11 prior to June 30, 2002, or afterwards at the regular price of $12. It will contain thirty-five chapters and approximately 400 pages. Everyone will want to purchase a personal copy and perhaps additional copies for gifts.

Transportation
If you will be flying to the Pensacola Regional Airport and will need transportation, please call or write our office. We will arrange to meet you, at no charge, if we know when, where, airline, flight number, and the number in your party.

Check our web site at: http://www.bellviewwoc.com

Saturday, June 8
7:00 PM Beatitudes
7:45 PM All Families Blessed In Abraham; Gen. 12:3

Sunday, June 9
9:00 AM “Blessed Are The Peacemakers”; Mat. 5:9
10:00 AM Blessed Are Those Who Are Watching; Luke 12:37-38
Lunch Break
2:00 PM The Blessed Man; Psa. 1
3:00 PM Blessed Are Those Of The First Resurrection; Rev. 20:6
Dinner Break
7:00 PM “Blessed Are The Pure In Heart”; Mat. 5:8
7:45 PM Blessed Are The Readers And Hearers; Rev. 1:3

Monday, June 10
9:00 AM “Blessed Are They Which Are Persecuted For Righteousness’s Sake”; Mat. 5:10-12
10:00 AM “Blessed Are The Peacemakers”; Mat. 5:9
11:00 AM Blessed Are The Givers; Acts 20:35
Lunch Break
1:30 PM Blessed Is The Man Who Is Forgiven; Psa. 32:1-2
2:30 PM Blessed Is The Man Who Considers The Poor; Psa. 41:1
3:30 PM Open Forum
Dinner Break
7:00 PM Blessed He Who Watches And Keeps His Garments; Rev. 16:15
7:45 PM Blessed Are Those Called To The Marriage Feast; Rev. 19:9

Tuesday, June 11
9:00 AM Blessed Are Those Keeping The Sayings, Do His Commands; Rev. 22:7, 14
10:00 AM Blessed Is The Man Who Endures Temptation; Jam. 1:12
11:00 AM Blessed Is The Man Who Dwells In The Lord’s House; Psa. 84:4
Lunch Break
1:30 PM Blessed Is The Man Who Trusts In The Lord; Psa. 2:12
2:30 PM Blessed Is The Man Who Fears The Lord; Psa. 112:1
3:30 PM Open Forum
Dinner Break
7:00 PM “Blessed Are They Which Do Hunger And Thirst After Righteousness”; Mat. 5:6
7:45 PM Blessed Are Those Who Rebuke Sinners; Pro. 24:25

Wednesday, June 12
9:00 AM “Blessed Are The Merciful”; Mat. 5:7
10:00 AM “Blessed Are They That Mourn”; Mat. 5:4
11:00 AM “Blessed Is The Man Whose Strength Is In Jehovah”; Psa. 84:5
Lunch Break
1:30 PM Blessed Are Those Dying In The Lord; Rev. 14:13
2:30 PM “Blessed Are The Poor In Spirit”; Mat. 5:3
3:30 PM Open Forum
Dinner Break
7:00 PM Blessed Are Those Who Keep Judgment; Psa. 106:3
7:45 PM Blessed Are Those Who Are Not Offended In Christ; Luke 7:23
Finally, they consented to God’s requirements (Acts 2:38-41). Instead of submitting to the plain and simple instructions of God, countless individuals throughout history have attempted to tell God what they think He really meant to say. As a result, these wrested the Scriptures to their own destruction while inventing faulty systems of salvation. Those on Pentecost, however, accepted the inspired words of the apostles without debate or dispute.


4006 Sunset Street; Muskogee, OK 74403

Beatitudes
June 8 - 12, 2002

Saturday, June 8
7:00 PM Beatitudes
7:45 PM All Families Blessed In Abraham; Gen. 12:3

Sunday, June 9
9:00 AM “Blessed Are The Meek”; Mat. 5:5
10:00 AM Blessed Are Those Who Are Watching; Luke 12:37-38
Lunch Break
2:00 PM The Blessed Man; Psa. 1
3:00 PM Blessed Are Those Of The First Resurrection; Rev. 20:6
Dinner Break
7:00 PM “Blessed Are The Pure In Heart”; Mat. 5:8
7:45 PM Blessed Are The Readers And Hearers; Rev. 1:3

Monday, June 10
9:00 AM Blessed Are They Which Are Persecuted For Righteousness’s Sake”; Mat. 5:10-12
10:00 AM “Blessed Are The Peacemakers”; Mat. 5:9
11:00 AM Blessed Are The Givers; Acts 20:35
Lunch Break
1:30 PM Blessed Is The Man Who Is Forgiven; Psa. 32:1-2
2:30 PM Blessed Is The Man Who Considers The Poor; Psa. 41:1
3:30 PM Open Forum
Dinner Break
7:00 PM Blessed Is He Who Watches And Keeps His Garments; Rev. 16:15
7:45 PM Blessed Are Those Called To The Marriage Feast; Rev. 19:9

Tuesday, June 11
9:00 AM Blessed Are Those Keeping The Sayings, Do His Commands; Rev. 22:7, 14
10:00 AM Blessed Is The Man Who Endures Temptation; Jam. 1:12
11:00 AM Blessed Is The Man Who Dwells In The Lord’s House; Psa. 84:4
Lunch Break
1:30 PM Blessed Is The Man Who Trusts In The Lord; Psa. 2:12
2:30 PM Blessed Is The Man Who Fears The Lord; Psa. 112:1
3:30 PM Open Forum
Dinner Break
7:00 PM “Blessed Are They Which Do Hunger And Thirst After Righteousness”; Mat. 5:6
7:45 PM Blessed Are Those Who Rebuke Sinners; Pro. 24:25

Wednesday, June 12
9:00 AM “Blessed Are The Merciful”; Mat. 5:7
10:00 AM “Blessed Are They That Mourn”; Mat. 5:4
11:00 AM Blessed Is The Man Whose Strength Is In Jehovah; Psa. 84:5
Lunch Break
1:30 PM Blessed Are Those Dying In The Lord; Rev. 14:13
2:30 PM “Blessed Are The Poor In Spirit”; Mat. 5:3
3:30 PM Open Forum
Dinner Break
7:00 PM Blessed Are Those Who Keep Judgment; Psa. 106:3
7:45 PM Blessed Are Those Who Are Not Offended In Christ; Luke 7:23

Bellview Lectures Information

Housing
Free housing in the homes of Christians will be provided on a “first come, first served” basis (call our office at: 850/455-7595, or write at: 4850 Saufley Field Road, Pensacola, FL 32526). The Comfort Inn (8690 Pine Forest Road) is providing a special rate for those attending the Bellview Lectures. The price (tax not included) is $59—1 to 2 people per room. Their phone number is 850/476-8989. Tell them you are attending the Bellview Lectures when making your reservations.

Meals
The women of the Bellview Church of Christ will provide a free lunch Monday through Wednesday. For all other meals, a list of restaurants and a map will be available at the registration table in the foyer.

Exhibits
Limited reservations will be accepted subject to approval of the Bellview elders and available space. Exhibits are expected from schools, children’s homes, bookstores, publications, and other projects of general interest to the brotherhood.

Audio and Video Tapes
All lectures will be recorded on cassette audio tapes and video tapes. These tapes may be purchased during the Bellview Lectures or by mail order afterwards. Order blanks and price information will be available during the Bellview Lectures or by mail upon request. (We request the cooperation of all who attend the Bellview Lectures in keeping the pulpit area free of privately-owned recorders and microphones.) If you would like to make your own recordings, please see one of our sound technicians in the sound room.

Books
The lectureship book, Beatitudes will be available to those attending the Bellview Lectures at a reduced rate of $10. Others may purchase the book at the pre-publication price of $11 prior to June 30, 2002, or afterwards at the regular price of $12. It will contain thirty-five chapters and approximately 400 pages. Everyone will want to purchase a personal copy and perhaps additional copies for gifts.

Transportation
If you will be flying to the Pensacola Regional Airport and will need transportation, please call or write our office. We will arrange to meet you, at no charge, if we know when, where, airline, flight number, and the number in your party.

Check our web site at: http://www.bellviewwoc.com

Bellview Lectures Information

Housing
Free housing in the homes of Christians will be provided on a “first come, first served” basis (call our office at: 850/455-7595, or write at: 4850 Saufley Field Road, Pensacola, FL 32526). The Comfort Inn (8690 Pine Forest Road) is providing a special rate for those attending the Bellview Lectures. The price (tax not included) is $59—1 to 2 people per room. Their phone number is 850/476-8989. Tell them you are attending the Bellview Lectures when making your reservations.

Meals
The women of the Bellview Church of Christ will provide a free lunch Monday through Wednesday. For all other meals, a list of restaurants and a map will be available at the registration table in the foyer.

Exhibits
Limited reservations will be accepted subject to approval of the Bellview elders and available space. Exhibits are expected from schools, children’s homes, bookstores, publications, and other projects of general interest to the brotherhood.

Audio and Video Tapes
All lectures will be recorded on cassette audio tapes and video tapes. These tapes may be purchased during the Bellview Lectures or by mail order afterwards. Order blanks and price information will be available during the Bellview Lectures or by mail upon request. (We request the cooperation of all who attend the Bellview Lectures in keeping the pulpit area free of privately-owned recorders and microphones.) If you would like to make your own recordings, please see one of our sound technicians in the sound room.

Books
The lectureship book, Beatitudes will be available to those attending the Bellview Lectures at a reduced rate of $10. Others may purchase the book at the pre-publication price of $11 prior to June 30, 2002, or afterwards at the regular price of $12. It will contain thirty-five chapters and approximately 400 pages. Everyone will want to purchase a personal copy and perhaps additional copies for gifts.

Transportation
If you will be flying to the Pensacola Regional Airport and will need transportation, please call or write our office. We will arrange to meet you, at no charge, if we know when, where, airline, flight number, and the number in your party.

Check our web site at: http://www.bellviewwoc.com
Sick
Please remember in your prayers:
Elaine Maxey, Jean Flesher, Marilyn Hall,
Diana Brazell, Joyce Brantley, Madeline Graves,
Ian Denham (Fred and Rheba Stancliff’s great-grandson),
Pearl Weaver (Henry Born’s aunt), and Diane Newell.

Reading/Invitation
April 24, 2002
Reading: Richard Parker
Invitation: Henry Born
May 1, 2002
Reading: Joshua Wilkes
Invitation: Paul Brantley

Mark These Dates
April 21, 2002–Visitation Group 3
assignment cards handed out.
April 21, 2002–Elders/Deacons’ meeting
at 5:00 PM, in room 7.
June 8-12, 2002–27th Annual Bellview
Lectures. Theme: Beatitudes. Make
plans now to attend.

Pantry Item Needed
Canned Vegetables

Teach Your Child
Before your child has come to seven
Teach him the way to Heaven.
Better still the Truth will thrive
If he knows it when he is five.
Better yet if on your knee
He learns it when he’s only three.
Best of all is when you have begun
To teach him of God before he is one.
Author Unknown

Gladly Receiving the Word
Preston Silcox

Since the dawn of time, man has reacted to
the Word of God in all sorts of ways. Adam and
Eve reacted with disobedience (Gen. 3), Pharaoh
with stubbornness (Exo. 9:34-35), and Felix with
procrastination (Acts 24:25), just to name a few.
Rather than focusing attention on such negative
responses to the Truth, however, consider the
positive reaction of those on the first Pentecost
after Christ’s resurrection. Acts 2:41 says, “Then
they that gladly received his word were baptized:
and the same day there were added unto them
about three thousand souls.” Notice a few im-
portant points about these glad receivers of the
Word.

First, they willingly heard the Word pro-
claimed (Acts 2:14-40). To many individuals, the
words preach and sermon are bad. Not so to
those on Pentecost; they appreciated the
sounding out of God’s Word and obviously
listened with great interest.

Second, they accepted the evidence which
was presented (Acts 2:14-40). With great pre-
ciseness, the apostles reasoned from the Scrip-
tures, clearly showing that Jesus was and is the
Messiah, that His resurrection was apparent and
undeniable, and that the events of that very
Pentecost were a fulfillment of Old Testament
prophecy. If only modern skeptics were as honest
with the facts.

Third, they admitted their guilt (Acts 2:37).
Rather than pointing their fingers, dodging the
issue, or excusing their actions, those under con-
sideration took full responsibility for their sins.
Many souls will miss heaven because they are
too proud to admit wrong. Indeed: “Pride goeth
before destruction” (Pro. 16:18).
Sick
Please remember in your prayers: Elaine Maxey, Jean Flesher, Marilyn Hall, Diana Brazell, Joyce Brantley, Neva Bryant, Pearl Weaver (Henry Born’s aunt), Ian Denham (Fred and Rheba Stancliff’s great-grandson), George Herbert (Pam Busch’s father), Melba Lamb (Tim Lamb’s mother), and Diane Newell.

Placed Membership
Ruby Bowman has placed membership with the Bellview congregation. Her address is 3205 Mariners Drive; Pensacola, FL 32526. The telephone number is 455-4350. Please update your directory.

Reading/Invitation
May 1, 2002
Reading: Joshua Wilkes
Invitation: Paul Brantley
May 8, 2002
Reading: Carl Ayliffe
Invitation: Bill Busch

Mark These Dates
April 29, 2002–Visitation Group Get-together in the general purpose building. A covered-dish meal will precede the meeting.
May 5, 2002–Visitation Group 1 assignment cards handed out.

Pantry Item Needed
Canned Vegetables

Directory Change
Dale Cunningham’s telephone number is 944-6808. Please update your directory.

“Thy Speech Betrayeth Thee”
Bob Petterson

Most will recognize this statement recorded in Matthew 26:73-74: “And after a while came unto him they that stood by, and said to Peter, Surely thou also are one of them; for thy speech betrayeth thee. Then began he to curse and to swear, saying, I know not the man. And immediately the cock crew.” After this third denial, Peter remembered what the Lord had said concerning that which had just taken place and “he went out, and wept bitterly” (Mat. 26:75).

Borrowing a thought from this text, for a moment let us consider ourselves from the viewpoint of those in the world. The word betrayeth means “to make manifest, evident.” Thus, in considering those that we come in contact with, our friends, our neighbors, our loved ones (and knowing that our lives are going to be carefully examined and scrutinized by one and all), would they be able to say concerning us: “Thy speech betrayeth thee?” Thus, meaning by that, that we are not at all what we claim to be!

Here are some areas for each one of us to consider in this regard. Does “thy speech betrayeth thee”:
1. When I try to tell others about the importance of spiritual matters; yet I seldom attend the regular assemblies of the church (Mat. 6:33; Heb. 10:23-27)?
2. When I stress the importance of knowing God’s Word, but I am not able “to give an answer” (1 Pet. 3:15) because I have not given myself to “study” (2 Tim. 2:15)?
3. When I say my “citizenship is in heaven” (Phil. 3:20), but I have my “treasures upon earth”?
(Mat. 7:19-21)?
4. When I teach on modesty, but engage in mixed swimming, dancing, and dress inappropriately (too short, too tight, too skimpy, and see-through clothing) myself (1 Tim. 2:9; 1 Pet. 3:1-4; Gal. 5:19-21)?
5. When they see me goof-off on the job (Eph. 6:5; Col. 2:22-23)?
6. When they hear me tell the smutty joke (Eph. 4:29; 5:3-4)?
7. By excusing, rather than properly dealing with the matter of sin committed by anyone (Mat. 18:15-21; Gal. 6:1; Eph. 5:11; Rom. 16:17-18; 2 Th. 3:6; 14-15)?
8. When I “seek to please men” and God (Gal. 1:10)?
9. When I claim to be a member of the Lord’s church, but I am not involved in any of the work of the church (Eph. 4:14-16; 1 Cor. 12:14-27; Heb. 13:17)?
10. When I claim to be a soldier in God’s army (1 Tim. 2:3-4; Eph. 6:10-18), but they can obviously see from the things that I am involved in that my desire is “friendship of the world” (Jam. 4:4)?
11. When I express concern about the breakdown of the home, and yet I do not respect God’s pattern for the home in my own particular role as a member of the family unit (Gen. 2:18-25; Eph. 5:1-6:4; Col. 3:18-23)?
12. When I talk about God’s love for men, and yet I erect barriers and show disrespect of persons (John 3:16; Rom. 5:6-8; Acts 10:34; Jam. 2:1-9)?
13. When I am not truthful in all things (Mat. 5:37; Eph. 4:25; Col. 3:9)?
14. When I am seen to be a “receiver” rather than a “giver” (Acts 20:35)?
15. When I speak of the preciousness of the Beatitudes
1. When I teach on modesty, but engage in mixed swimming, dancing, and dress inappropriately (too short, too tight, too skimpy, and see-through clothing) myself (1 Tim. 2:9; 1 Pet. 3:1-4; Gal. 5:19-21)?
5. When they see me goof-off on the job (Eph. 6:5; Col. 2:22-23)?
6. When they hear me tell the smutty joke (Eph. 4:29; 5:3-4)?
7. By excusing, rather than properly dealing with the matter of sin committed by anyone (Mat. 18:15-21; Gal. 6:1; Eph. 5:11; Rom. 16:17-18; 2 Th. 3:6; 14-15)?
8. When I “seek to please men” and God (Gal. 1:10)?
9. When I claim to be a member of the Lord’s church, but I am not involved in any of the work of the church (Eph. 4:14-16; 1 Cor. 12:14-27; Heb. 13:17)?
10. When I claim to be a soldier in God’s army (1 Tim. 2:3-4; Eph. 6:10-18), but they can obviously see from the things that I am involved in that my desire is “friendship of the world” (Jam. 4:4)?
11. When I express concern about the breakdown of the home, and yet I do not respect God’s pattern for the home in my own particular role as a member of the family unit (Gen. 2:18-25; Eph. 5:1-6:4; Col. 3:18-23)?
12. When I talk about God’s love for men, and yet I erect barriers and show respect of persons (John 3:16; Rom. 5:6-8; Acts 10:34; Jam. 2:1-9)?
13. When I am not truthful in all things (Mat. 5:37; Eph. 4:25; Col. 3:9)?
14. When I am seen to be a “receiver” rather than a “giver” (Acts 20:35)?
15. When I speak of the preciousness of the Beatitudes

Beatitudes
June 8 - 12, 2002

Saturday, June 8
7:00 PM Beatitudes
7:45 PM All Families Blessed In Abraham; Gen. 12:3

Sunday, June 9
9:00 AM “Blessed Are The Meek”; Mat. 5:5
10:00 AM Blessed Are Those Who Are Watching; Luke 12:37-38
Lunch Break
2:00 PM The Blessed Man; Psa. 1
3:00 PM Blessed Are Those Of The First Resurrection; Rev. 20:6
Dinner Break
7:00 PM “Blessed Are The Pure In Heart”; Mat. 5:8
7:45 PM Blessed Are The Readers And Hearers; Rev. 1:3

Monday, June 10
9:00 AM “Blessed Are Which Are Persecuted For Righteousness’s Sake”; Mat. 5:10-12
10:00 AM “Blessed Are The Peacemakers”; Mat. 5:9
11:00 AM Blessed Are The Givers; Acts 20:35
Lunch Break
1:30 PM Blessed Is The Man Who Is Forgiven; Psa. 32:1-2
2:30 PM Blessed Is The Man Who Considers The Poor; Psa. 41:1
3:30 PM Open Forum
Dinner Break
7:00 PM Blessed Is He Who Watches And Keeps His Garments; Rev. 16:15
7:45 PM Blessed Are Those Called To The Marriage Feast; Rev. 19:9

Tuesday, June 11
9:00 AM Blessed Are Those Keeping The Sayings, Do His Commands; Rev. 22:7, 14
10:00 AM Blessed Is The Man Who Endures Temptation; Jam. 1:12
11:00 AM Blessed Is The Man Who Dwells In The Lord’s House; Psa. 84:4
Lunch Break
1:30 PM Blessed Is The Man Who Trusts In The Lord; Psa. 2:12
2:30 PM Blessed Is The Man Who Fears The Lord; Psa. 112:1
3:30 PM Open Forum
Dinner Break
7:00 PM “Blessed Are They Which Do Hunger And Thirst After Righteousness”; Mat. 5:6
7:45 PM Blessed Are Those Who Rebuke Sinners; Psa. 24:25

Wednesday, June 12
9:00 AM “Blessed Are The Merciful”; Mat. 5:7
10:00 AM “Blessed Are They That Mourn”; Mat. 5:4
11:00 AM Blessed Is The Man Whose Strength Is In Jehovah; Psa. 84:5
Lunch Break
1:30 PM Blessed Are Those Dying In The Lord; Rev. 14:13
2:30 PM “Blessed Are The Poor In Spirit”; Mat. 5:3
3:30 PM Open Forum
Dinner Break
7:00 PM Blessed Are Those Who Keep Judgment; Psa. 106:3
7:45 PM Blessed Are Those Who Are Not Offended In Christ; Luke 7:23

Bellview Lectures Information

Free housing in the homes of Christians will be provided on a “first come, first served” basis (call our office at: 850/455-7595, or write at: 4850 Saufley Field Road, Pensacola, FL 32526). The Comfort Inn (8690 Pine Forest Road) is providing a special rate for those attending the Bellview Lectures. The price (tax not included) is $59—1 to 2 people per room. Their phone number is 850-476-8989. Tell them you are attending the Bellview Lectures when making your reservations.

The lectureship book, Beatitudes will be available to those attending the Bellview Lectures at a reduced rate of $10. Others may purchase the book at the pre-publication price of $11 prior to June 30, 2002, or afterwards at the regular price of $12. It will contain thirty-five chapters and approximately 400 pages.

The lessons will be available not only on audio/video tapes but on DVD disks. The cost of the audio tapes are $1/tape plus postage, video tapes are $6/tape plus postage, and DVD disks are $10/disk plus postage. The 2000/2001 lectures are also available in DVD. Payment will be by invoice. If you have any questions please contact the office.

1801 North Adams Street; Beeville, TX 78102

Bellview Lectures
Keith Mosher
Curtis Cates
Lee Davis
Jason Rollo
Michael Hatcher
Clifford Newell
Stanley Ryan
Michael Shepherd
Joel Wheeler
Eddie Whitten
Ken Ratcliff
Jeff Arche
Tim Smith
Lynn Parker
Bobby Liddell
James Rogers
Wesley Simons
Mark Mosher
Stacey Grant
Dub McClish
David Brown
Harrel Davidson
Danny Box
Jason Roberts
David Jones
Guss Eoff
Don Walker
Michael Light
Ronnie Hayes
pattern for the home in my own particular role as a member of the family unit (Gen. 2:18-25; Eph. 5:1-6; Col. 3:18-23)?

12. When I talk about God’s love for men, and yet I erect barriers and show respect of persons (John 3:16; Rom. 5:6-8; Acts 10:34; Jam. 2:1-9)?

13. When I am not truthful in all things (Mat. 5:37; Eph. 4:25; Col. 3:9)?

14. When I am seen to be a “receiver” rather than a “giver” (Acts 20:35)?

15. When I speak of the preciousness of the “one body,” and yet they see the bickering and backbiting that takes place between me and the brethren because I am only concerned about my things and getting my own way (Eph. 4:4; 2 Cor. 12:20; Jam. 4:1; Phil. 2:3-4)?

16. When I “seek to please men” and God (Gal. 1:10)?

17. When I claim to be a member of the Lord’s church, but I am not involved in any of the work of the church (Eph. 4:14-16; 1 Cor. 12:14-27; Heb. 13:17)?

18. When I express concern about the breakdown of the home, and yet I do not respect God’s

Bellview Lectures Information

Free housing in the homes of Christians will be provided on a “first come, first served” basis (call our office at: 850/455-7595, or write at: 4850 Saufley Field Road, Pensacola, FL 32526). The Comfort Inn (8690 Pine Forest Road) is providing a special rate for those attending the Bellview Lectures. The price (tax not included) is $59—1 to 2 people per room. Their phone number is 850-476-8989. Tell them you are attending the Bellview Lectures when making your reservations.

The lectureship book, Beatitudes will be available to those attending the Bellview Lectures at a reduced rate of $10. Others may purchase the book at the pre-publication price of $11 prior to June 30, 2002, or afterwards at the regular price of $12. It will contain thirty-five chapters and approximately 400 pages.

The lessons will be available not only on audio/video tapes but on DVD disks. The cost of the audio tapes are $1/tape plus postage, video tapes are $6/tape plus postage, and DVD disks are $10/disk plus postage. The 2000/2001 lectures are also available in DVD. Payment will be by invoice. If you have any questions please contact the office.

Beatitudes
June 8 - 12, 2002

Saturday, June 8
7:00 PM Beatitude Keith Mosher
7:45 PM All Families Blessed In Abraham; Gen. 12:3 Curtis Cates
Sunday, June 9
9:00 AM “Blessed Are The Meek”; Mat. 5:5 Lee Davis
10:00 AM Blessed Are Those Who Are Watching; Luke 12:37-38 Jason Rollo
Lunch Break
2:00 PM The Blessed Man; Psa. 1 Michael Hatcher
3:00 PM Blessed Are Those Of The First Resurrection; Rev. 20:6 Clifford Newell
Dinner Break
7:00 PM “Blessed Are The Pure In Heart”; Mat. 5:8 Stanley Ryan
7:45 PM Blessed Are The Readers And Hearers; Rev. 1:3 Michael Shepherd
Monday, June 10
9:00 AM “Blessed Are They Which Are Persecuted For Righteousness’s Sake”; Mat. 5:10-12 Joel Wheeler
10:00 AM “Blessed Are The Peacemakers”; Mat. 5:9 Eddie Whitten
11:00 AM Blessed Are The Givers; Acts 20:35 Ken Ratcliff
Lunch Break
1:30 PM Blessed Is The Man Who Is Forgiven; Psa. 32:1-2 Jeff Archey
2:30 PM Blessed Is The Man Who Considers The Poor; Psa. 41:1 Tim Smith
3:30 PM Open Forum
Dinner Break
7:00 PM Blessed Is He Who Watches And Keeps His Garments; Rev. 16:15 Lynn Parker
7:45 PM Blessed Are Those Called To The Marriage Feast; Rev. 19:9 Bobby Liddell
Tuesday, June 11
9:00 AM Blessed Are Those Keeping The Sayings, Do His Commands; Rev. 22:7, 14 James Rogers
10:00 AM Blessed Is The Man Who Endures Temptation; Jam. 1:12 Wesley Simons
11:00 AM Blessed Is The Man Who Dwells In The Lord’s House; Psa. 84:4 Mark Mosher
Lunch Break
1:30 PM Blessed Is The Man Who Trusts In The Lord; Psa. 2:12 Stacey Grant
2:30 PM Blessed Is The Man Who Fears The Lord; Psa. 112:1 Dub McClish
3:30 PM Open Forum
Dinner Break
7:00 PM “Blessed Are They Which Do Hunger And Thirst After Righteousness”; Mat. 5:6 David Brown
7:45 PM Blessed Are Those Who Rebuke Sinners; Psa. 24:25 Harrell Davidson
Wednesday, June 12
9:00 AM “Blessed Are The Merciful”; Mat. 5:7 Danny Box
10:00 AM “Blessed Are They That Mourn”; Mat. 5:4 Jason Roberts
11:00 AM Blessed Is The Man Whose Strength Is In Jehovah; Psa. 84:5 David Jones
Lunch Break
1:30 PM Blessed Are Those Dying In The Lord; Rev. 14:13 Guss Eoff
2:30 PM “Blessed Are The Poor In Spirit”; Mat. 5:3 Don Walker
3:30 PM Open Forum
Dinner Break
7:00 PM Blessed Are Those Who Keep Judgment; Psa. 106:3 Michael Light
7:45 PM Blessed Are Those Who Are Not Offended In Christ; Luke 7:23 Ronnie Hayes
Sick
Please remember in your prayers:
Elaine Maxey, Jean Flesher, Marilyn Hall,
Diana Brazell, Joyce Brantley, Neva Bryant, Pearl Weaver (Henry Born’s aunt),
Ian Denham (Fred and Rheba Stancliff’s great-grandson), George Herbert (Pam Busch’s father),
Melba Lamb (Tim Lamb’s mother), and Diane Newell.

Placed Membership
Ruby Bowman has placed membership
with the Bellview congregation. Her address is 3205 Mariners Drive; Pensacola, FL 32526. The telephone number is 455-4350. Please update your directory.

Reading/Invitation
May 1, 2002
Reading: Joshua Wilkes
Invitation: Paul Brantley
May 8, 2002
Reading: Carl Ayliffe
Invitation: Bill Busch

Mark These Dates
April 29, 2002—Visitation Group Get-together in the general purpose building. A covered-dish meal will precede the meeting.
May 5, 2002—Visitation Group 1 assignment cards handed out.

Pantry Item Needed
Canned Vegetables

Directory Change
Dale Cunningham’s telephone number
is 944-6808. Please update your directory.

Most will recognize this statement recorded in Matthew 26:73-74: “And after a while came unto him they that stood by, and said to Peter, Surely thou also are one of them; for thy speech betrayeth thee. Then began he to curse and to swear, saying, I know not the man. And immediately the cock crew.” After this third denial, Peter remembered what the Lord had said concerning that which had just taken place and “he went out, and wept bitterly” (Mat. 26:75).

Borrowing a thought from this text, for a moment let us consider ourselves from the viewpoint of those in the world. The word betrayeth means “to make manifest, evident.” Thus, in considering those that we come in contact with, our friends, our neighbors, our loved ones (and knowing that our lives are going to be carefully examined and scrutinized by one and all), would they be able to say concerning us: “Thy speech betrayeth thee?” Thus, meaning by that, that we are not at all what we claim to be!

Here are some areas for each one of us to consider in this regard. Does “thy speech betrayeth thee”:

1. When I try to tell others about the importance of spiritual matters; yet I seldom attend the regular assemblies of the church (Mat. 6:33; Heb. 10:23-27)?
2. When I stress the importance of knowing God’s Word, but I am not able “to give an answer” (1 Pet. 3:15) because I have not given myself to “study” (2 Tim. 2:15)?
3. When I say my “citizenship is in heaven” (Phi. 3:20), but I have my “treasures upon earth”?
Sick
Please remember in your prayers:
Elaine Maxey, Jean Flesher, Marilyn Hall,
Diana Brazell, Joyce Brantley, Neva
Bryant, George Herbert (Pam Busch’s
father), Melba Lamb (Tim Lamb’s
mother), and Jacqueline Ayliffe (Carl and
Tim Ayliffe’s mother).

Placed Membership
Rubye Bailey has placed membership
with the Bellview congregation. Her
address is 4060 Alvar Drive; Pensacola,
FL 32504. The telephone number is 433-
7102. Please update your directory.

Reading/Invitation
May 8, 2002
Reading: Carl Ayliffe
Invitation: Bill Busch
May 15, 2002
Reading: Elward Brantley
Invitation: Bill Cline

Mark These Dates
May 5, 2002–Visitation Group 1
assignment cards handed out.
May 12, 2002–Visitation Group 2
assignment cards handed out.
May 12, 2002–Deacons’ meeting at 5:00
PM, in room 7.
May 19, 2002–Visitation Group 3
assignment cards handed out.
May 19, 2002–Elders/Deacons’ meeting at
5:00 PM, in room 7.
May 29, 2002–Fifth Wednesday Singing.

Pantry Item Needed
Canned Vegetables

Rules for Happy Living
Paul Sain

Do you desire a “Happy Life”? Follow these
rules and you will enjoy happiness that cannot be
found in things of this world.

1. Count your blessings, not your troubles.
   Though we have problems in this life, we are still
   richly blessed. The plaque on the wall stated, “I
   grumbled and complained because I had no
   shoes, until I saw a man who had no feet.”

2. Live one day at a time. Regardless of what
   Satan may throw at you, it can be handled “one
day at a time” (Jam. 4:13-15). You can control
   and conquer if you will take on the obstacles a
day at a time.

3. Learn to say, “I love you” to those near
   and dear. Break the shackles and learned
   restraints and express your love and appreciation
to as many as possible each day (Mark. 14:3-6).

4. Be a giver, not a getter. Often if you fail
to get out of life what you want, it is because you
are expecting to get instead of give (Luke 6:38).

5. Seek good in everyone and everything.
   Be a good seeker. Try hard not to be a “fault
   finder.” When faults are present, deal with them
   lovingly.

6. Pray every day. Always take time to
   express to God your appreciation for blessings
   and ask Him for guidance (Luke 18:1).

7. Do a good deal each day. The “grandest
   intention” is not as good as the “smallest deed.”
   Follow the Lord’s example (Acts 10:38).

8. Watch your priorities. Keep the important
   things in first place (Mat. 6:33).
9. Fill your life with good. Throw away the trash from your life and replace it with good thoughts and deeds (Phi. 4:8).
10. Laugh and cry. Laughter is good medicine. A good sense of humor overcomes many “ills and problems” of life.
11. Learn to practice the happiness habit.

It Was His Birthday
Wayne Price

It was grand-father’s birthday. He was seventy-nine. He got up early, shaved, showered, combed his hair and put on his Sunday best so that he could look his best when they came.

He skipped his daily walk to the town café where he always had coffee with his cronies. He wanted to be home when they came. He put his chair on the sidewalk so he could get a better view of the street where they would drive up to help him celebrate his birthday.

At noon, he got tired, but decided to forgo his nap so that he could be there when they came. The rest of the afternoon he spent near the telephone so he could answer it when they called.

He had five married children, thirteen grandchildren, and three great grandchildren. One son and daughter live within ten miles of his place. They had not visited him in a long time. But today was his birthday, and they were sure to come.

At supper time, he left the cake untouched so they could have dessert with him. After supper, he sat on the porch waiting.

At eight thirty, he went to his room to prepare for bed. Before retiring, he left a note on the door; “Be sure to wake me when you come!”

It was grand-father’s birthday. He was seventy-nine.

I copied this article (noted above) from Wayne Price who used it in a sermon in the Cleveland, Oklahoma Lectureships. I was impressed with the powerful message which it contains. It very well may be a made-up story, but I think that all too often the story is played out in American homes today. If we are not really careful, we get too busy with daily things to remember the things that are important. We would do well to make home-life the important life.

Homes that are founded upon God’s Word are the basis of a strong church and the redemption of a floundering nation. If we would remember the important things, the other things will be added (Mat. 6:33). We all would do well to answer the following question: “If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?” (Psa. 11:3).

Ephesians 6:1-3
“Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;) That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.”

Beatitudes
June 8 - 12, 2002

Saturday, June 8
7:00 PM Beatitudes
7:45 PM All Families Blessed In Abraham; Gen. 12:3

Sunday, June 9
9:00 AM “Blessed Are The Meek”; Mat. 5:5
10:00 AM Blessed Are Those Who Are Watching; Luke 12:37-38
Lunch Break
2:00 PM The Blessed Man; Psa. 1
3:00 PM Blessed Are Those Of The First Resurrection; Rev. 20:6
Dinner Break
7:00 PM “Blessed Are The Pure In Heart”; Mat. 5:8
7:45 PM Blessed Are The Readers And Hearers; Rev. 1:3

Monday, June 10
9:00 AM “Blessed Are They Which Are Persecuted For Righteousness’s Sake”; Mat. 5:10-12
10:00 AM “Blessed Are The Peacemakers”; Mat. 5:9
11:00 AM Blessed Are The Givers; Acts 20:35
Lunch Break
1:30 PM Blessed Is The Man Who Is Forgiven; Psa. 32:1-2
2:30 PM Blessed Is The Man Who Considers The Poor; Psa. 41:1
3:30 PM Open Forum
Dinner Break
7:00 PM Blessed Is He Who Watches And Keeps His Garments; Rev. 16:15
7:45 PM Blessed Are Those Called To The Marriage Feast; Rev. 19:9

Tuesday, June 11
9:00 AM Blessed Are Those Keeping The Sayings, Do His Commands; Rev. 22:7, 14
10:00 AM Blessed Is The Man Who Endures Temptation; Jam. 1:12
11:00 AM Blessed Is The Man Who Dwells In The Lord’s House; Psa. 84:4
Lunch Break
1:30 PM Blessed Is The Man Who Trusts In The Lord; Psa. 2:12
2:30 PM Blessed Is The Man Who Fears The Lord; Psa. 112:1
3:30 PM Open Forum
Dinner Break
7:00 PM “Blessed Are They Which Do Hunger And Thirst After Righteousness”; Mat. 5:6
7:45 PM Blessed Are Those Who Rebuke Sinners; Psa. 24:25

Wednesday, June 12
9:00 AM “Blessed Are The Merciful”; Mat. 5:7
10:00 AM “Blessed Are They That Mourn”; Mat. 5:4
11:00 AM Blessed Is The Man Whose Strength Is In Jehovah; Psa. 84:5
Lunch Break
1:30 PM Blessed Are Those Dying In The Lord; Rev. 14:13
2:30 PM “Blessed Are The Poor In Spirit”; Mat. 5:3
3:30 PM Open Forum
Dinner Break
7:00 PM Blessed Are Those Who Keep Judgment; Psa. 106:3
7:45 PM Blessed Are Those Who Are Not Offended In Christ; Luke 7:23

Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;) That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.”
9. Fill your life with good. Throw away the trash from your life and replace it with good thoughts and deeds (Phi. 4:8).

10. Laugh and cry. Laughter is good medicine. A good sense of humor overcomes many “ills and problems” of life.

11. Learn to practice the happiness habit.

It Was His Birthday
Wayne Price

It was grand-father’s birthday. He was seventy-nine. He got up early, shaved, showered, combed his hair and put on his Sunday best so that he could look his best when they came.

He skipped his daily walk to the town café where he always had coffee with his cronies. He wanted to be home when they came. He put his chair on the sidewalk so he could get a better view of the street where they would drive up to help him celebrate his birthday.

At noon, he got tired, but decided to forgo his nap so that he could be there when they came. The rest of the afternoon he spent near the telephone so he could answer it when they called. He had five married children, thirteen grand-children, and three great-grand-children. One son and daughter live within ten miles of his place. They had not visited him in a long time. But today was his birthday, and they were sure to come.

At supper time, he left the cake untouched so they could have desert with him. After supper, he sat on the porch waiting.

At eight thirty, he went to his room to prepare for bed. Before retiring, he left a note on the door; “Be sure to wake me when you come!”

It was grand-father’s birthday. He was seventy-nine.

Copied

I copied this article (noted above) from Wayne Price who used it in a sermon in the Cleveland, Oklahoma Lectureships. I was impressed with the powerful message which it contains. It very well may be a made-up story, but I think that all too often the story is played out in American homes today. If we are not really careful, we get too busy with daily things to remember the things that are important. We would do well to make home-life the important life.

Homes that are founded upon God’s Word are the basis of a strong church and the redemption of a floundering nation. If we would remember the important things, the other things will be added (Mat. 6:33). We all would do well to answer the following question: “If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?” (Psa. 11:3). Toney Smith

Ephesians 6:1-3

“Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;) That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.”
Sick
Please remember in your prayers: Elaine Maxey, Jean Flesher, Marilyn Hall, Diana Brazell, Joyce Brantley, Neva Bryant, George Herbert (Pam Busch’s father), Melba Lamb (Tim Lamb’s mother), and Jacqueline Ayliffe (Carl and Tim Ayliffe’s mother).

Placed Membership
Rubye Bailey has placed membership with the Bellview congregation. Her address is 4060 Alvar Drive, Pensacola, FL 32504. The telephone number is 433-7102. Please update your directory.

Reading/Invitation
May 8, 2002
Reading: Carl Ayliffe
Invitation: Bill Busch
May 15, 2002
Reading: Elward Brantley
Invitation: Bill Cline

Mark These Dates
May 5, 2002–Visitation Group 1 assignment cards handed out.
May 12, 2002–Visitation Group 2 assignment cards handed out.
May 12, 2002–Deacons’ meeting at 5:00 PM, in room 7.
May 19, 2002–Visitation Group 3 assignment cards handed out.
May 19, 2002–Elders/Deacons’ meeting at 5:00 PM, in room 7.
May 29, 2002–Fifth Wednesday Singing.

Pantry Item Needed
Canned Vegetables

Rules for Happy Living
Paul Sain
Do you desire a “Happy Life”? Follow these rules and you will enjoy happiness that cannot be found in things of this world.

1. Count your blessings, not your troubles. Though we have problems in this life, we are still richly blessed. The plaque on the wall stated, “I grumbled and complained because I had no shoes, until I saw a man who had no feet.”

2. Live one day at a time. Regardless of what Satan may throw at you, it can be handled “one day at a time” (Jam. 4:13-15). You can control and conquer if you will take on the obstacles a day at a time.

3. Learn to say, “I love you” to those near and dear. Break the shackles and learned restraints and express your love and appreciation to as many as possible each day (Mark. 14:3-6).

4. Be a giver, not a getter. Often if you fail to get out of life what you want, it is because you are expecting to get instead of give (Luke 6:38).

5. Seek good in everyone and everything. Be a good seeker. Try hard not to be a “fault finder.” When faults are present, deal with them lovingly.

6. Pray every day. Always take time to express to God your appreciation for blessings and ask Him for guidance (Luke 18:1).

7. Do a good deal each day. The “grandest intention” is not as good as the “smallest deed.” Follow the Lord’s example (Acts 10:38).

8. Watch your priorities. Keep the important things in first place (Mat. 6:33).
Sick
Please remember in your prayers: Elaine Maxey, Jean Flesher, Marilyn Hall, Diana Brazell, Neva Bryant, Tim Lamb, Jacqueline Aylliffe (Carl and Tim Aylliffe’s mother), and Debra, Jenny, and Steve Hillburn (Marge Williams’ cousins).

Reading/Invitation
May 15, 2002
Reading: Elward Brantley
Invitation: Bill Cline
May 22, 2002
Reading: Allen Brazell
Invitation: Bill Crowe

Mark These Dates
May 12, 2002–Visitation Group 2 assignment cards handed out.
May 12, 2002–Deacons’ meeting at 5:00 PM, in room 7.
May 19, 2002–Visitation Group 3 assignment cards handed out.
May 19, 2002–Elders/Deacons’ meeting at 5:00 PM, in room 7.

Pantry Item Needed
Peanut Butter and Jelly

Graduates
Our congratulations is extended to the following students who will be graduating this year: Rebecca Cline, B.S. degree in elementary education, Freed-Hardeman University; Daniel Hatcher, High School Home School Program; Autumn Johnson, Tate High School; and, Kristin Caine, Tate High School.

The Danger of Liberal Churches
Barry M. Grider

Satan is busy at work trying to snatch the souls of our youth (1 Pet. 5:8). He cunningly seduces them through humanism, paganism, and materialism. However, one of his most subtle and dangerous mediums is liberalism in the church. Many parents remain in liberal churches simply because their children can be entertained and enjoy a social circle in a “Christian” environment. Regrettably, the child also comes under the influence of damnable doctrine, and his precious soul is placed in jeopardy. While these same parents are willing to sacrifice time, money, and energy to secure their children’s secular education, the same concern is not given to their biblical training.

When we identify someone as a religious liberal, what do we mean? On one occasion, I attended a preachers’ luncheon and a faithful evangelist mentioned the liberal practices of a certain congregation. Another preacher almost came out of his seat, charging the faithful evangelist with slander for identifying a congregation as liberal. This brother was not guilty of slander, but stating the obvious truth. A congregation that is liberal simply loses what God has bound. Liberals are irreverent in their attitude toward the Bible. They do not appreciate book, chapter, and verse preaching. They often promote false doctrines that faithful brethren of the past debunked in debates with denominationalists.

Interestingly, however, is what is taking place in mainstream denominationalism. A fight is underway between liberal and conservative elements within these bodies. For example, care-
fully read the following quotation from Adrian Rogers, “pastor” of the mammoth Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis, Tennessee:

“The Danger of Liberal Churches”

My heart goes out to children whose parents attend liberal churches. It is dangerous for a child to attend a liberal church where they do not believe that the Bible is the inerrant, infallible Word of God. It is dangerous for a child to attend a church where the full deity of Jesus is not taught. His virgin birth and His vicarious death and His visible return is not taught. I am amazed that sometimes people will send [sic] their child across the nation to get a secular education and will not even drive across town to get them in a Bible-preaching church. May God have mercy.

You say, well our church wasn’t always this way. Our church used to be a Bible-believing church and Grandma is buried in the church cemetery in the back yard. Well, Grandma would get up and leave if she could, I guarantee you. Because Grandma believed in the old time-religion. I’m telling you that people ought to be a member of a Christ-honoring, Bible-believing church. It’s dangerous for children to be sent to liberal churches that deny the very fundamentals of the faith.

While I certainly do not endorse Mr. Rogers’ Baptist doctrine, I do concur with his sentiments expressed in the above statement. It is dangerous for a child to remain in a congregation where the Bible is not respected, the true gospel is not preached, and hearts and lives are not prepared to meet Christ in the judgement. Yes, indeed, if Grandma were living, she would get up and leave. Why then do her children stay? Parents, do not risk losing your souls and the souls of your youth by remaining in liberal churches. Get out today!

3950 Forest Hill Irene Road
Memphis, TN 38125

Are You Active?
Author Unknown

Are you an active member
The kind that would be missed,
Or are you just content that
Your name is on the list?
Do you attend our services?
And mingle with the crowd,
Or would you rather stay at home
And complain both long and loud?
Do you give a little time
And help to make things click,
Or leave the work to just a few
And talk about the “clique?”

There’s quite a program scheduled
To bring glory to GOD, if done
And it can be accomplished
With the help of everyone.
So, come on to all the services
With your Bible in your hand and Jesus in your heart
Don’t just be another member
But take an active part.
Think it over member,
Are you right or wrong?
Are you an active member
Or do you just belong?

Beatitudes
June 8 - 12, 2002

Saturday, June 8
7:00 PM Beatitudes
7:45 PM All Families Blessed In Abraham; Gen. 12:3

Sunday, June 9
9:00 AM “Blessed Are The Meek”; Mat. 5:5
10:00 AM Blessed Are Those Who Are Watching; Luke 12:37-38
Lunch Break
2:00 PM The Blessed Man; Psa. 1
3:00 PM Blessed Are Those Of The First Resurrection; Rev. 20:6
Dinner Break
7:00 PM “Blessed Are The Pure In Heart”; Mat. 5:8
7:45 PM Blessed Are The Readers And Hearers; Rev. 1:3

Monday, June 10
9:00 AM “Blessed Are They Which Are Persecuted For Righteousness’s Sake”; Mat. 5:10-12
10:00 AM “Blessed Are The Peacemakers”; Mat. 5:9
11:00 AM Blessed Are The Givers; Acts 20:35
Lunch Break
1:30 PM Blessed Is The Man Who Is Forgiven; Psa. 32:1-2
2:30 PM Blessed Is The Man Who Considers The Poor; Psa. 41:1
3:30 PM Open Forum
Dinner Break
7:00 PM Blessed Is He Who Watches And Keeps His Garments; Rev. 16:15
7:45 PM Blessed Are Those Called To The Marriage Feast; Rev. 19:9

Tuesday, June 11
9:00 AM Blessed Are Those Keeping The Sayings, Do His Commands; Rev. 22:7, 14
10:00 AM Blessed Is The Man Who Endures Temptation; Jam. 1:12
11:00 AM Blessed Is The Man Who Dwells In The Lord’s House; Psa. 84:4
Lunch Break
1:30 PM Blessed Is The Man Who Trusts In The Lord; Psa. 2:12
2:30 PM Blessed Is The Man Who Fears The Lord; Psa. 112:1
3:30 PM Open Forum
Dinner Break
7:00 PM “Blessed Are They Which Do Hunger And Thirst After Righteousness”; Mat. 5:6
7:45 PM Blessed Are Those Who Rebuke Sinners; Psa. 24:25

Wednesday, June 12
9:00 AM “Blessed Are The Mercyful”; Mat. 5:7
10:00 AM “Blessed Are They That Mourn”; Mat. 5:4
11:00 AM Blessed Is The Man Whose Strength Is In Jehovah; Psa. 84:5
Lunch Break
1:30 PM Blessed Are Those Dying In The Lord; Rev. 14:13
2:30 PM “Blessed Are The Poor In Spirit”; Mat. 5:3
3:30 PM Open Forum
Dinner Break
7:00 PM Blessed Are Those Who Keep Judgment; Psa. 106:3
7:45 PM Blessed Are Those Who Are Not Offended In Christ; Luke 7:23
fully read the following quotation from Adrian Rogers, “pastor” of the mammoth Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis, Tennessee:

“The Danger of Liberal Churches”

My heart goes out to children whose parents attend liberal churches. It is dangerous for a child to attend a liberal church where they do not believe that the Bible is the inerrant, infallible Word of God. It is dangerous for a child to attend a church where the blood atonement is not taught. Where the full deity of Jesus is not taught. His virgin birth and His vicarious death and His visible return is not taught.

I am amazed that sometimes people will send [sic] their child across the nation to get a secular education and will not even drive across town to get them in a Bible-preaching church. May God have mercy.

You say, well our church wasn’t always this way. Our church used to be a Bible-believing church and Grandma is buried in the church cemetery in the back yard. Well, Grandma would get up and leave if she could, I guarantee you. Because Grandma believed in the old time-religion. I’m telling you that people ought to be a member of a Christ-honoring, Bible-believing church.

While I certainly do not endorse Mr. Rogers’ Baptist doctrine, I do concur with his sentiments expressed in the above statement. It is dangerous for a child to remain in a congregation where the Bible is not respected, the true gospel is not preached, and hearts and lives are not prepared to meet Christ in the judgement. Yes, indeed, if Grandma were living, she would get up and leave. Why then do her children stay? Parents, do not risk losing your souls and the souls of your youth by remaining in liberal churches.

Get out today!

3950 Forest Hill Irene Road
Memphis, TN 38125

Are You Active?
Author Unknown

Are you an active member
The kind that would be missed,
Or are you just content that
Your name is on the list?

Do you attend our services?
And mingle with the crowd,
Or would you rather stay at home
And complain both long and loud?

Do you give a little time
And help to make things click,
Or leave the work to just a few
And talk about the “clique”?

Beatitudes
June 8 - 12, 2002

Saturday, June 8
7:00 PM Beatitudes
7:45 PM All Families Blessed In Abraham; Gen. 12:3

Sunday, June 9
9:00 AM “Blessed Are The Meek”; Mat. 5:5
10:00 AM Blessed Are Those Who Are Watching; Luke 12:37-38

Lunch Break
2:00 PM The Blessed Man; Psa. 1
3:00 PM Blessed Are Those Of The First Resurrection; Rev. 20:6

Dinner Break
7:00 PM “Blessed Are The Pure In Heart”; Mat. 5:8
7:45 PM Blessed Are The Readers And Hearers; Rev. 1:3

Monday, June 10
9:00 AM “Blessed Are They Which Are Persecuted For Righteousness’s Sake”; Mat. 5:10-12
10:00 AM “Blessed Are The Peacemakers”; Mat. 5:9
11:00 AM Blessed Are The Givers; Acts 20:35

Lunch Break
1:30 PM Blessed Is The Man Who Is Forgiven; Psa. 32:1-2
2:30 PM Blessed Is The Man Who Considers The Poor; Psa. 41:1
3:30 PM Open Forum

Dinner Break
7:00 PM Blessed Is He Who Watches And Keeps His Garments; Rev. 16:15
7:45 PM Blessed Are Those Called To The Marriage Feast; Rev. 19:9

Tuesday, June 11
9:00 AM Blessed Are Those Keeping The Sayings, Do His Commands; Rev. 22:7, 14
10:00 AM Blessed Is The Man Who Endures Temptation; Jam. 1:12
11:00 AM Blessed Is The Man Who Dwells In The Lord’s House; Psa. 84:4

Lunch Break
1:30 PM Blessed Is The Man Who Trusts In The Lord; Psa. 2:12
2:30 PM Blessed Is The Man Who Fears The Lord; Psa. 112:1
3:30 PM Open Forum

Dinner Break
7:00 PM “Blessed Are They Which Do Hunger And Thirst After Righteousness”; Mat. 5:6
7:45 PM Blessed Are Those Who Rebuke Sinners; Psa. 24:25

Wednesday, June 12
9:00 AM “Blessed Are The Merciful”; Mat. 5:7
10:00 AM “Blessed Are They That Mourn”; Mat. 5:4
11:00 AM Blessed Is The Man Whose Strength Is In Jehovah; Psa. 84:5

Lunch Break
1:30 PM Blessed Are Those Dying In The Lord; Rev. 14:13
2:30 PM “Blessed Are The Poor In Spirit”; Mat. 5:3
3:30 PM Open Forum

Dinner Break
7:00 PM Blessed Are Those Who Keep Judgment; Psa. 106:3
7:45 PM Blessed Are Those Who Are Not Offended In Christ; Luke 7:23

Are you an active member
The kind that would be missed,
Or are you just content that
Your name is on the list?

Do you attend our services?
And mingle with the crowd,
Or would you rather stay at home
And complain both long and loud?

Do you give a little time
And help to make things click,
Or leave the work to just a few
And talk about the “clique”?

There’s quite a program scheduled
To bring glory to GOD, if done
And it can be accomplished
With the help of everyone.

So, come on to all the services
With your Bible in your hand and Jesus in your heart
Don’t just be another member
But take an active part.

Think it over member,
Are you right or wrong?
Are you an active member
Or do you just belong?
The Danger of Liberal Churches

Barry M. Grider

Satan is busy at work trying to snatch the souls of our youth (1 Pet. 5:8). He cunningly seduces them through humanism, paganism, and materialism. However, one of his most subtle and dangerous mediums is liberalism in the church. Many parents remain in liberal churches simply because their children can be entertained and enjoy a social circle in a “Christian” environment. Regrettably, the child also comes under the influence of damnable doctrine, and his precious soul is placed in jeopardy. While these same parents are willing to sacrifice time, money, and energy to secure their children’s secular education, the same concern is not given to their biblical training.

When we identify someone as a religious liberal, what do we mean? On one occasion, I attended a preachers’ luncheon and a faithful evangelist mentioned the liberal practices of a certain congregation. Another preacher almost came out of his seat, charging the faithful evangelist with slander for identifying a congregation as liberal. This brother was not guilty of slander, but stating the obvious truth. A congregation that is liberal simply loosens where God has bound. Liberals are irreverent in their attitude toward the Bible. They do not appreciate book, chapter, and verse preaching. They often promote false doctrines that faithful brethren of the past debunked in debates with denominationalists.

Interestingly, however, is what is taking place in mainstream denominationalism. A fight is underway between liberal and conservative elements within these bodies. For example, care-
Sick

Please remember in your prayers:
Elaine Maxey, Jean Flesher, Marilyn Hall, Diana Brazell, Neva Bryant, Rubyce Bailey, Dot Lambert, Jacqueline Ayliffe (Carl and Tim Ayliffe’s mother), Debra, Jenny, and Steve Hillburn (Marge Williams’ cousins), Melba Lamb (Tim Lamb’s mother)

Reading/Invitation
May 22, 2002
Reading: Allen Brazell
Invitation: Bill Crowe
May 29, 2002
Reading: Jerry Caine
Invitation: Dale Cunningham

Mark These Dates
May 19, 2002–Visitation Group 3 assignment cards handed out.
May 19, 2002–Elders/Deacons’ meeting at 5:00 PM, in room 7.
May 29, 2002–Fifth Wednesday Singing at 7:00 PM.

Pantry Item Needed
Peanut Butter and Jelly

Graduate
Our congratulations is extended to Damon Lundy upon his graduation from Pensacola Junior College with an Associate of Applied Science degree.

Mark These Dates
May 19, 2002–Visitation Group 3 assignment cards handed out.
May 19, 2002–Elders/Deacons’ meeting at 5:00 PM, in room 7.
May 29, 2002–Fifth Wednesday Singing at 7:00 PM.

Pantry Item Needed
Peanut Butter and Jelly

Graduate
Our congratulations is extended to Damon Lundy upon his graduation from Pensacola Junior College with an Associate of Applied Science degree.

Drawing Men to Christ
Israel Crocker

Man has an inclination to worship. The object of an individual’s worship will always vary from others, yet he will worship something or someone. Often money is an object of worship for some, and others will elevate famous people. Accordingly, these worldly objects have a drawing interest to some people.

What should draw one to the worship of God?
Jesus provides us with the answer: “And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me” (John 12:32). Let us now examine the drawing power of the cross.

Many congregations of the Lord’s church no longer look to the cross as their method of evangelism (i.e., these do not consider the Gospel powerful enough to interest the sinner). Dear reader, is this not an insult to God? The blood of Jesus Christ, they demonstrate, is not important enough for the lost. So, they have moved to other methods of drawing the crowds, such as entertainment. Congregations are turning to gymnasiums, family-life centers, and youth activities for attraction.

Parents who cater to the entertainment needs of their children (which is especially common) will attend congregations for this reason, should consider the placement of value they are portraying to their children. In effect these parents are saying to their children, “Do not be interested or even feel indebted to Christ. Worry about your own selfish wants.” Isaiah chided the Israelites: “And I will give children to be their...
princes, and babes shall rule over them” (Isa. 3:4). Some parents today look to their children for spiritual guidance (Mat. 10:34-37).

The cross of Christ alone is to be that which draws men and women to the church. Why? Because Christ shed His blood for the church (Acts 20:28) providing the only way of salvation for us; gymnasiums and family-life centers never did a thing for us.

The misconception of drawing people by giving them what they desire is similar to the use of idols of biblical times. God mocked the Israelites for their passion with these idols. The people had overlooked how much of a burden these idols were to them. “They bear him upon the shoulder, they carry him, and set him in his place, and he standeth; from his place shall he not remove: yea, one shall cry unto him, yet can he not answer, nor save him out of his trouble” (Isa. 46:7). The people had to carry the idols around and invest costly materials to build them (Jer. 10:1-5). Their idols could not speak to them, nor do anything for them. Yet, the Israelites thought their idols were allowed, for they believed God was in the idols (Isa. 57).

If some congregations could only realize that the same happens with the entertainment paraphernalia and programs. They use the Lord’s money to construct costly buildings with costly maintenance, just like the idols of old times; and sadly, these congregations believe that the Lord ispleased with their “efforts of evangelism.” If they would use the Lord’s money for mission efforts that are biblical, they would discover that one genuinely converted person is worth more than all of the persons gained by entertainment. For the person drawn to the worship assembly by entertainment has no commitment to the church. Rather, he will easily seek better programs and bigger buildings that offer more for his entertainment needs.

Christ told the Jews what draws people to Him: “No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day. It is written; Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me” (John 6:44-45).

It is still the “good old Jerusalem Gospel” that will draw a person to the cross of Christ (cf., Rom. 1:16; 1 Cor. 1:18).

703 Amberwood CV Jonesboro, AR 72401

Bellview Lectures

The 27th Annual Bellview lectureship book, Beatitudes, will be available to those attending the Bellview Lectures at a reduced rate of $10. The book can also be purchased at the pre-publication price of $11 plus $.20 for postage/handling prior to June 30, 2002, or afterwards at the regular price of $12 plus postage. It will contain thirty-five chapters and approximately 400 pages.

The lessons will be available not only on audio/video tapes but on DVD disks. The cost of the audio tapes are $1/tape plus postage, video tapes are $6/tape plus postage, and DVD disks are $10/disk plus postage. Eventually, the Bellview lectures from 1978 to the present will be available in DVD format. Some of the lectures are available now. Contact the office for details. The 1988-2002 lectures are also available on CD in PDF format. The disk also includes the 1989-2001 Defender. Payment will be by invoice. If you have any questions please contact the office. See our web page for more information.

Beatitudes

June 8 - 12, 2002

Saturday, June 8
7:00 PM  Beatitudes  Keith Mosher
7:45 PM  All Families Blessed In Abraham; Gen. 12:3  Curtis Cates

Sunday, June 9
9:00 AM  “Blessed Are The Meek”; Mat. 5:5  Lee Davis
10:00 AM  Blessed Are Those Who Are Watching; Luke 12:37-38  Jason Rollo

Lunch Break
2:00 PM  “Blessed Are The Merciful”; Mat. 5:7  Damon Lundy
3:00 PM  Blessed Are Those Of The First Resurrection; Rev. 20:6  Clifford Newell

Dinner Break
7:00 PM  “Blessed Are The Pure In Heart”; Mat. 5:8  Stanley Ryan
7:45 PM  Blessed Are The Readers And Hearers; Rev. 1:3  Michael Shepherd

Monday, June 10
9:00 AM  “Blessed Are They Which Are Persecuted For Righteousness’s Sake”; Mat. 5:10-12  Joel Wheeler
10:00 AM  “Blessed Are The Peacemakers”; Mat. 5:9  Eddie Whitten
11:00 AM  Blessed Are The Givers; Acts 20:35  Ken Ratcliff

Lunch Break
1:30 PM  Blessed Is The Man Who Is Forgiven; Psa. 32:1-2  Jeff Archey
2:30 PM  Blessed Is The Man Who Considers The Poor; Psa. 41:1  Tim Smith
3:30 PM  Open Forum

Dinner Break
7:00 PM  Blessed Is He Who Watches And Keeps His Garments; Rev. 16:15  Lynn Parker
7:45 PM  Blessed Are Those Called To The Marriage Feast; Rev. 19:9  Bobby Liddell

Tuesday, June 11
9:00 AM  Blessed Are Those Keeping The Sayings, Do His Commands; Rev. 22:7, 14  James Rogers
10:00 AM  Blessed Is The Man Who Endures Temptation; Jam. 1:12  Wesley Simons
11:00 AM  Blessed Is The Man Who Dwells In The Lord's House; Psa. 84:4  Mark Mosher

Lunch Break
1:30 PM  Blessed Is The Man Who Trusts In The Lord; Psa. 2:12  Stacey Grant
2:30 PM  Blessed Is The Man Who Fears The Lord; Psa. 112:1  Dub McClish
3:30 PM  Open Forum

Dinner Break
7:00 PM  “Blessed Are They Which Do Hunger And Thirst After Righteousness”; Mat. 5:6  David Brown
7:45 PM  Blessed Are Those Who Rebuke Sinners; Pro. 24:25  Harrel Davidson

Wednesday, June 12
9:00 AM  The Blessed Man; Psa. 1  Michael Hatcher
10:00 AM  “Blessed Are They That Mourn”; Mat. 5:4  Jason Roberts
11:00 AM  Blessed Is The Man Whose Strength Is In Jehovah; Psa. 84:5  David Jones

Lunch Break
1:30 PM  Blessed Are Those Dying In The Lord; Rev. 14:13  Guss Eoff
2:30 PM  “Blessed Are The Poor In Spirit”; Mat. 5:3  Don Walker
3:30 PM  Open Forum

Dinner Break
7:00 PM  Blessed Are Those Who Keep Judgment; Psa. 106:3  Michael Light
7:45 PM  Blessed Are Those Who Are Not Offended In Christ; Luke 7:23  Ronnie Hayes
princes, and babes shall rule over them” (Isa. 3:4). Some parents today look to their children for spiritual guidance (Mat. 10:34-37).

The cross of Christ alone is to be that which draws men and women to the church. Why? Because Christ shed His blood for the church (Acts 20:28) providing the only way of salvation for us; gymnasiums and family-life centers never did a thing for us.

The misconception of drawing people by giving them what they desire is similar to the use of idols of biblical times. God mocked the Israelites for their fascination with these idols. The people had overlooked how much of a burden these idols were to them. “They bear him upon the shoulder, they carry him, and set him in his place, and he standeth; from his place shall he not remove: yea, one shall cry unto him, yet can he not answer, nor save him out of his trouble” (Isa. 46:7). The people had to carry the idols around and invest costly materials to build them (Jer. 10:1-5). Their idols could not speak to them, nor do anything for them. Yet, the Israelites thought their idols were allowed, for they believed God was in the idols (Isa. 57).

If some congregations could only realize that the same happens with the entertainment paraphernalia and programs. They use the Lord’s money to construct costly buildings with costly maintenance, just like the idols of old times; and sadly, these congregations believe that the Lord is pleased with their “efforts of evangelism.” If they would use the Lord’s money for mission efforts that are biblical, they would discover that one genuinely converted person is worth more than all of the persons gained by entertainment. For the person drawn to the worship assembly by entertainment has no commitment to the church. Rather, he will easily seek better programs and bigger buildings that offer more for his entertainment needs.

Christ told the Jews what draws people to Him: “No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day. It is written, ‘Blessed are the pure in heart; for theirs is the kingdom of heaven’” (John 6:44-45). It is still the “good old Jerusalem Gospel” that will draw a person to the cross of Christ (cf., Rom. 1:16; 1 Cor. 1:18).

Bellview Lectures

The 27th Annual Bellview Lectureshhip book, Beatitudes, will be available to those attending the Bellview Lectures at a reduced rate of $10. The book can also be purchased at the pre-publication price of $11 plus $2.10 for postage/handling prior to June 30, 2002, or afterwards at the regular price of $12 plus postage. It will contain thirty-five chapters and approximately 400 pages.

The lessons will be available not only on audio/video tapes but on DVD disks. The cost of the audio tapes are $1/tape plus postage, video tapes are $6/tape plus postage, and DVD disks are $10/disk plus postage. Eventually, the Bellview lectures from 1978 to the present will be available in DVD format. Some of the lectures are available now. Contact the office for details. The 1988-2002 lectures are also available on CD in PDF format. The disk also includes the 1989-2001 Defender. Payment will be by invoice. If you have any questions please contact the office. See our web page for more information.

Beatitudes

June 8 - 12, 2002

Saturday, June 8
7:00 PM Beatitudes
7:45 PM All Families Blessed In Abraham; Gen. 12:3

Sunday, June 9
9:00 AM “Blessed Are The Meek”; Mat. 5:5
10:00 AM Blessed Are Those Who Are Watching; Luke 12:37-38

Lunch Break
2:00 PM “Blessed Are The Merciful”; Mat. 5:7
3:00 PM Blessed Are Those Of The First Resurrection; Rev. 20:6

Dinner Break
7:00 PM “Blessed Are The Pure In Heart”; Mat. 5:8
7:45 PM Blessed Are The Readers And Hearers; Rev. 1:3

Monday, June 10
9:00 AM “Blessed Are They Which Are Persecuted For Righteousness’s Sake”; Mat. 5:10-12
10:00 AM “Blessed Are The Peacemakers”; Mat. 5:9
11:00 AM Blessed Are The Givers; Acts 20:35

Lunch Break
1:30 PM Blessed Is The Man Who Is Forgiven; Psa. 32:1-2
2:30 PM Blessed Is The Man Who Considers The Poor; Psa. 41:1
3:30 PM Open Forum

Dinner Break
7:00 PM Blessed Is He Who Watches And Keeps His Garments; Rev. 16:15
7:45 PM Blessed Are Those Called To The Marriage Feast; Rev. 19:9

Tuesday, June 11
9:00 AM Blessed Are Those Keeping The Sayings, Do His Commands; Rev. 22:7, 14
10:00 AM Blessed Is The Man Who Endures Temptation; Jam. 1:12
11:00 AM Blessed Is The Man Who Dwells In The Lord’s House; Psa. 84:4

Lunch Break
1:30 PM Blessed Is The Man Who Trusts In The Lord; Psa. 2:12
2:30 PM Blessed Is The Man Who Fears The Lord; Psa. 112:1
3:30 PM Open Forum

Dinner Break
7:00 PM “Blessed Are They Which Do Hunger And Thirst After Righteousness”; Mat. 5:6
7:45 PM Blessed Are Those Who Rebuke Sinners; Pro. 24:25

Wednesday, June 12
9:00 AM The Blessed Man; Psa. 1
10:00 AM “Blessed Are They That Mourn”; Mat. 5:4
11:00 AM Blessed Is The Man Whose Strength Is In Jehovah; Psa. 84:5

Lunch Break
1:30 PM Blessed Are Those Dying In The Lord; Rev. 14:13
2:30 PM “Blessed Are The Poor In Spirit”; Mat. 5:3
3:30 PM Open Forum

Dinner Break
7:00 PM Blessed Are Those Who Keep Judgment; Psa. 106:3
7:45 PM Blessed Are Those Who Are Not Offended In Christ; Luke 7:23
Sick

Please remember in your prayers:
Elaine Maxey, Jean Flesher, Marilyn Hall,
Diana Brazell, Neva Bryant, Ruby Bailey,
Dot Lamberti, Jacqueline Ayliffe (Carl and Tim Ayliffe’s mother), Debra, Jenny, and
Steve Hillburn (Marge Williams’ cousins),
Melba Lamb (Tim Lamb’s mother)

Reading/Invitation
May 22, 2002
Reading: Allen Brazell
Invitation: Bill Crowe
May 29, 2002
Reading: Jerry Caine
Invitation: Dale Cunningham

Mark These Dates
May 19, 2002–Visitation Group 3
assignment cards handed out.
May 19, 2002–Elders/Deacons’ meeting at
5:00 PM, in room 7.
May 29, 2002–Fifth Wednesday Singing at
7:00 PM.
June 8-12, 2002–27th Annual Bellview
Lectures. Theme: Beatitudes. Make
plans now to attend.

Pantry Item Needed
Peanut Butter and Jelly

Graduate

Our congratulations is extended to
Damon Lundy upon his graduation from
Pensacola Junior College with an
Associate of Applied Science degree.

BISHOPS: Paul Brantley, Bill Gallaher, Fred Stancliff
MINISTER: Michael Hatcher
DEACONS: Henry Born, Elward Brantley, Jerry Caine,
Bill Crowe, Louis Herrington, James Loy,
Richard Parker
MISSIONARY: Lee Davis

MEETING TIMES
SUNDAY:
9:00 A.M. BIBLE CLASSES
10:00 A.M., 6:00 P.M. WORSHIP
WEDNESDAY: 7:00 P.M.

Drawing Men to Christ
Israel Crocker

Man has an inclination to worship. The object
of an individual’s worship will always vary from
others, yet he will worship something or someone.
Often money is an object of worship for some,
and others will elevate famous people. Acc-
cordingly, these worldly objects have a drawing
interest to some people.

What should draw one to the worship of
God?

Jesus provides us with the answer: “And I, if I be
lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto
me” (John 12:32). Let us now examine the
drawing power of the cross.

Many congregations of the Lord’s church no
longer look to the cross as their method of evan-
gelism (i.e., these do not consider the Gospel
powerful enough to interest the sinner). Dear
reader, is this not an insult to God? The blood of
Jesus Christ, they demonstrate, is not important
efficient for the lost. So, they have moved to other
methods of drawing the crowds, such as enter-
tainment. Congregations are turning to gymna-
siums, family-life centers, and youth activities
for attraction.

Parents who cater to the entertainment needs
of their children (which is especially common)
will attend congregations for this reason, should
consider the placement of value they are
portraying to their children. In effect these
parents are saying to their children, “Do not be
interested or even feel indebted to Christ. Worry
about your own selfish wants.” Isaiah chided the
Israelites: “And I will give children to be their
Sick

Please remember in your prayers:
Elaine Maxey, Jean Flesher, Marilyn Hall, Diana Brazell, Neva Bryant, Ruby Bailey, Dot Lambert, Jacqueline Ayliffe (Carl and Tim Ayliffe’s mother), Debra, Jenny, and Steve Hillburn (Marge Williams’ cousins), Melba Lamb (Tim Lamb’s mother), and Buffy Hoffay (Karen Ayliffe’s daughter-in-law).

Reading/Invitation

May 29, 2002
Reading: Jerry Caine
Invitation: Dale Cunningham

June 5, 2002
Reading: Jeremy Caine
Invitation: Ray Dodd

Mark These Dates

May 29, 2002–Fifth Wednesday Singing at 7:00 PM.
June 2, 2002–Visitation Group 2 assignment cards handed out. Please note that Groups 1 and 2 are swapping dates for this month only:
June 16, 2002–Visitation Group 1 assignment cards handed out.
June 16, 2002–Deacons’ meeting at 5:00 PM, in room 7.
June 23, 2002–Visitation Group 3 assignment cards handed out.
June 23, 2002–Elders/Deacons’ meeting at 5:00 PM, in room 7.

Pantry Item Needed
Peanut Butter and Jelly

Perplexing Facts

Don McWhorter

That human reasoning is capricious and often defies explanation can be easily demonstrated. Look at the following, only a handful of such fine examples that could be cited:

We fine a man for dumping garbage in a public place but would pay the same man a huge sum for dumping mental garbage on the public.
We force a man to clean up the filth on his property and to properly dispose of the garbage. This is a matter of law. At the same time the law protects a man and guarantees him the right to keep pornographic filth on the magazine racks of his store.
We must isolate and quarantine a man who carries a disease germ but we protect the rights of freedom of circulation of those who propagate filth, and who corrupt healthy minds and morals with all forms of unhealthy and immoral filth.

It is mandatory to protect our children from all manner of disease. Inoculations are demanded or children will not be permitted to go to school and parents will be jailed. Yet, the law demands that sexual perverts be given the opportunity to associate with and teach our children and that special courses be taught that expose them to all manner of sexual perversions.

We lawfully prohibit the distribution of Christian literature in numerous places but cannot control the publication and distribution of pornography. We are forbidden by law to do so.

We rise up in rage at a processor who packages his goods carelessly and thus exposes...
people to danger of disease and yet many argue for the legalized sale of drugs for recreation. The drugs are by far the greater danger.

We abhor rape and curse the rapist while we glorify the styles and fashions which incite him. Even churches sponsor parties and activities where the human body is undressed and shown off to the opposite sex, where the body is wiggled and squiggled in every kind of sexually exciting way.

We piously mourn the blind, the maimed, the mentally retarded who are innocent victims of venereal disease, and yet we destroy all moral restraints which might help keep those diseases in check and under control. We institutionalize the tubercular person and turn the venereally diseased back on the public and guarantee his right by law to continue to infect others if he so desires. He can be arrested for spitting in a public place but not for sexual promiscuity.

We count sacred the life of the snail darter, the baby seal, the whooping crane, and many other species of beings. Some would even prohibit slaying animals for food whether by hunting or in a processing plant. Yet, the same people are trying to force legislation which not only legalizes but would involve our government in subsidizing slaughter of innocent little babies.

We endorse 55 MPH speed limits on our highways because it saves lives. Then we guarantee the rights of people to make, sell, and consume alcohol which accounts for more than 50% of all highway deaths.

We work hard for a cleaning up of the air and water around us because they pollute the body. At the same time we pander the lewd and lascivious writers, producers, and performers who use motion pictures, television, the stage, and the printed page to totally pollute the mind and disease the morals of our nation.

We endorse our government insubsidizing slaughter of innocent little babies.

The Beatitudes

**Saturday, June 8**

7:00 PM Beatitude

7:45 PM All Families Blessed In Abraham; Gen. 12:3

**Sunday, June 9**

9:00 AM “Blessed Are The Meek”; Mat. 5:5

10:00 AM Blessed Are Those Who Are Watching; Luke 12:37-38

**Lunch Break**

2:00 PM “Blessed Are The Merciful”; Mat. 5:7

3:00 PM Blessed Are Those Of The First Resurrection; Rev. 20:6

**Dinner Break**

7:00 PM “Blessed Are The Pure In Heart”; Mat. 5:8

7:45 PM Blessed Are The Readers And Hearers; Rev. 1:3

**Monday, June 10**

9:00 AM “Blessed Are They Which Are Persecuted For Righteousness’s Sake”; Mat. 5:10-12

10:00 AM “Blessed Are The Peacemakers”; Mat. 5:9

11:00 AM Blessed Are The Givers; Acts 20:35

**Lunch Break**

1:30 PM Blessed Is The Man Who Is Forgiven; Psa. 32:1-2

2:30 PM Blessed Is The Man Who Considers The Poor; Psa. 41:1

3:30 PM Open Forum

**Dinner Break**

7:00 PM Blessed Is He Who Watches And Keeps His Garments; Rev. 16:15

7:45 PM Blessed Are Those Called To The Marriage Feast; Rev. 19:9

**Tuesday, June 11**

9:00 AM Blessed Are Those Keeping The Sayings, Do His Commands; Rev. 22:7, 14

10:00 AM Blessed Is The Man Who Endures Temptation; Jam. 1:12

11:00 AM Blessed Is The Man Who Dwells In The Lord’s House; Psa. 84:4

**Lunch Break**

1:30 PM Blessed Is The Man Who Trusts In The Lord; Psa. 2:12

2:30 PM Blessed Is The Man Who Fears The Lord; Psa. 112:1

3:30 PM Open Forum

**Dinner Break**

7:00 PM “Blessed Are They Which Do Hunger And Thirst After Righteousness”; Mat. 5:6

7:45 PM Blessed Are Those Who Rebuke Sinners; Pro. 24:25

**Wednesday, June 12**

9:00 AM The Blessed Man; Psa. 1

10:00 AM “Blessed Are They That Mourn”; Mat. 5:4

11:00 AM Blessed Is The Man Whose Strength Is In Jehovah; Psa. 84:5

**Lunch Break**

1:30 PM Blessed Are Those Dying In The Lord; Rev. 14:13

2:30 PM “Blessed Are The Poor In Spirit”; Mat. 5:3

3:30 PM Open Forum

**Dinner Break**

7:00 PM Blessed Are Those Who Keep Judgment; Psa. 106:3

7:45 PM Blessed Are Those Who Are Not Offended In Christ; Luke 7:23

**Copied**
people to danger of disease and yet many argue for the legalized sale of drugs for recreation. The drugs are by far the greater danger. We abhor rape and curse the rapist while we glorify the styles and fashions which incite him. Even churches sponsor parties and activities where the human body is undressed and shown off to the opposite sex, where the body is wiggled and squiggled in every kind of sexually exciting way. We piously mourn the blind, the maimed, the mentally retarded who are innocent victims of venereal disease, and yet we destroy all moral restraints which might help keep those diseases in check and under control. We institutionalize the tubercular person and turn the venereally diseased back on the public and guarantee his right by law to continue to infect others if he so desires. He can be arrested for spitting in a public place but not for sexual promiscuity. We count sacred the life of the snail darter, the baby seal, the whooping crane, and many other species of beings. Some would even prohibit slaying animals for food whether by hunting or in a processing plant. Yet, the same people are trying to force legislation which not only legalizes but would involve our government in subsidizing slaughter of innocent little babies. We endorse 55 MPH speed limits on our highways because it saves lives. Then we guarantee the rights of people to make, sell, and consume alcohol which accounts for more than 50% of all highway deaths. We work hard for a cleaning up of the air and water around us because they pollute the body. At the same time we pander the lewd and lascivious writers, producers, and performers who use motion pictures, television, the stage, and the printed page to totally pollute the mind and disease the morals of our nation. Prayer is legally eliminated from our schools but atheists and communists which purvey ideologies that totally destroy our freedom are made professors at our universities and we are taxed to pay their salaries. The list could be continued ad nauseam. However, these should be sufficient to validate the saying: “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?” (Jer. 17:9).
Sick

Please remember in your prayers: Elaine Maxey, Jean Flesher, Marilyn Hall, Diana Brazell, Neva Bryant, Ruby Bailey, Dot Lambert, Jacqueline Ayliffe (Carl and Tim Ayliffe’s mother), Debra, Jenny, and Steve Hillburn (Marge Williams’ cousins), Melba Lamb (Tim Lamb’s mother), and Buffy Hoffay (Karen Ayliffe’s daughter-in-law).

Mark These Dates

May 29, 2002–Fifth Wednesday Singing at 7:00 PM.
June 2, 2002–Visitation Group 2 assignment cards handed out. Please note that Groups 1 and 2 are swapping dates for this month only.
June 16, 2002–Visitation Group 1 assignment cards handed out.
June 16, 2002–Deacons’ meeting at 5:00 PM, in room 7.
June 23, 2002–Visitation Group 3 assignment cards handed out.
June 23, 2002–Elders/Deacons’ meeting at 5:00 PM, in room 7.

Pantry Item Needed
Peanut Butter and Jelly

Perplexing Facts

Don McWhorter

That human reasoning is capricious and often defies explanation can be easily demonstrated. Look at the following, only a handful of such fine examples that could be cited:

We fine a man for dumping garbage in a public place but would pay the same man a huge sum for dumping mental garbage on the public.

We must isolate and quarantine a man who carries a disease germ but we protect the rights of freedom of circulation of those who propagate filth, and who corrupt healthy minds and morals with all forms of unhealthy and immoral filth.

It is mandatory to protect our children from all manner of disease. Inoculations are demanded or children will not be permitted to go to school and parents will be jailed. Yet, the law demands that sexual perverts be given the opportunity to associate with and teach our children and that special courses be taught that expose them to all manner of sexual perversions.

We lawfully prohibit the distribution of Christian literature in numerous places but cannot control the publication and distribution of pornography. We are forbidden by law to do so.

We rise up in rage at a processor who packages his goods carelessly and thus exposes...
Sick
Please remember in your prayers: Elaine Maxey, Jean Flesher, Marilyn Hall, Diana Brazell, Neva Bryant, Ruby Bailey, Buffy Hoflay (Karen Ayliffe’s daughter-in-law), and Ina Ryan (Stanley Ryan’s mother).

Sympathy
Our deepest sympathy is extended to Carl and Tim Ayliffe and their families in the death of their mother, Jacqueline Ayliffe, on May 21, 2002. Please keep the Ayliffe families in your prayers.

Reading/Invitation
June 5, 2002
Reading: Jeremy Caine
Invitation: Ray Dodd
June 12, 2002
Bellview Lectures

Mark These Dates
June 2, 2002–Visitation Group 2 assignment cards handed out. Please note that Groups 1 and 2 are swapping dates for this month only.
June 16, 2002–Visitation Group 1 assignment cards handed out.
June 16, 2002–Deacons’ meeting at 5:00 PM, in room 7.
June 23, 2002–Visitation Group 3 assignment cards handed out.
June 23, 2002–Elders/Deacons’ meeting at 5:00 PM, in room 7.

Pantry Item Needed
Peanut Butter and Jelly

Adultery And Repentance
Steve Higginbotham

One of the most tragic and consequential sins in which man can engage is adultery. It destroys families, lives, and destroys within some people the hope of heaven. Because we live in a time when adultery and divorce are so prevalent, it becomes incumbent upon us to state the truth contained in God’s Word about this sin and its consequences.

Let us suppose that a person divorces and remarries without the scriptural grounds of fornication (Mat. 19:9). Let us suppose that this person begins a new life with his new wife. They build a wonderful relationship, are happy, and have three children. As time progresses, they desire to become Christians or return to faithfulness if they already were baptized. Question: Does their baptism or their prayer allow them to pick up where they are and continue together in a sexual relationship? Has their prior adulterous relationship suddenly become a sanctified and holy relationship? In response to these questions some today are eager and vocal in answering in the affirmative. However, let us examine several points.

First, there is no question that baptism or prayer will wash away one’s sins (providing one repents of his sins). But repentance demands a resolve to cease from a sinful activity. A couple in an adulterous relationship must resolve to cease from the sinful sexual activity in which they engage if they desire the forgiveness that comes through repentance.

Some suggest that baptism washes away their former adulterous relationship and allows them...
to continue together after baptism. However, does baptism or prayer for that matter, sanction as holy that which prior to baptism or prayer was unholy? Can you name one thing that is sinful before baptism, but which after baptism is not sinful? What was sinful before baptism is still sinful after baptism. Baptism or prayer is not some kind of magic that performs marriage ceremonies for adulterers.

Some have suggested that such a position on adultery makes the Gospel “bad news” rather than “good news” to a great and growing number of divorced and remarried people. However, to suggest that the gospel would not be good news to a couple living in adultery is very short sighted. The message of salvation is always good news! At times, it might require some very difficult decisions to be made, but it is still good news. Could one not also argue that the Gospel would be “bad news” to the drunkard, homosexual, and liar? Would it be considered bad news for a doctor to tell a concerned patient that with a few weeks of radiation (which will have some painful side effects) he can be totally cured?

Some will also claim that God could not possibly ask a man and a woman to break up their relationship if children were involved. While I would never attempt to minimize the difficulty of such situations, the hardship cannot be allowed to determine what is right or wrong. One must remember that the hardship was not brought on by God, but by man’s disobedience to God’s warning. In the past, God has demanded such separations: “Now therefore make confession unto the LORD God of your fathers, and do his pleasure: and separate yourselves from the people of the land, and from the strange wives” (Ezra 10:11). “Now therefore make confession unto the LORD God of your fathers, and do his pleasure: and separate yourselves from the people of the land, and from the strange wives” (Ezra 10:44).

Since the Scriptures teach that when one divorces and remarries without the cause being fornication he commits adultery, as long as he remains in that sexual relationship he remains an adulterer. Since this is the case, it becomes imperative to get the message out—to teach people what God said on this important subject. We need to inform the world of God’s law regarding marriage, divorce, and remarriage before they find themselves entangled in this sin, because to a large extent, people will turn their backs on God before they will their mate.

Copied

Bellview Lectures

The 27th Annual Bellview lectureship book, Beattitudes, will be available to those attending the Bellview Lectures at a reduced rate of $10. The book can also be purchased at the pre-publication price of $11 plus $2.10 for postage/handling prior to June 30, 2002, or afterwards at the regular price of $12 plus postage.

The lessons will be available not only on audio/video tapes but on DVD disks. The cost of the audio tapes are $1/tape plus postage, video tapes are $6/tape plus postage, and DVD disks are $10/disk plus postage. Some of the former lectures are available now. Contact the office for details. The 1988-2002 lectures are also available on CD in PDF format. The disk also includes the 1989-2001 Defender and the Hatcher-Schweitzer Exchange (an exchange of letters between Michael Hatcher and Keith Schweitzer, a Lutheran minister. Payment will be by invoice. If you have any questions please contact the office. See our web page for more information.

Make plans now to attend the lectures.

Beatitudes
June 8 - 12, 2002

Saturday, June 8
7:00 PM Beattitudes  
7:45 PM All Families Blessed In Abraham; Gen. 12:3  

Sunday, June 9
9:00 AM “Blessed Are The Meek”; Mat. 5:5  
10:00 AM Blessed Are Those Who Are Watching; Luke 12:37-38  
Lunch Break  
2:00 PM “Blessed Are The Merciful”; Mat. 5:7  
3:00 PM Blessed Are Those Of The First Resurrection; Rev. 20:6  
Dinner Break  
7:00 PM “Blessed Are The Pure In Heart”; Mat. 5:8  
7:45 PM Blessed Are The Readers And Hearers; Rev. 1:3

Monday, June 10
9:00 AM “Blessed Are They Which Are Persecuted For Righteousness’s Sake”; Mat. 5:10-12  
10:00 AM “Blessed Are The Peacemakers”; Mat. 5:9  
11:00 AM Blessed Are The Givers; Acts 20:35  
Lunch Break  
1:30 PM Blessed Is The Man Who Is Forgiven; Psa. 32:1-2  
2:30 PM Blessed Is The Man Who Considers The Poor; Psa. 41:1  
3:30 PM Open Forum  
Dinner Break  
7:00 PM Blessed Is He Who Watches And Keeps His Garments; Rev. 16:15  
7:45 PM Blessed Are Those Called To The Marriage Feast; Rev. 19:9

Tuesday, June 11
9:00 AM Blessed Are Those Keeping The Sayings, Do His Commands; Rev. 22:7, 14  
10:00 AM Blessed Is The Man Who Endures Temptation; Jam. 1:12  
11:00 AM Blessed Is The Man Who Dwells In The Lord's House; Psa. 84:4  
Lunch Break  
1:30 PM Blessed Is The Man Who Trusts In The Lord; Psa. 2:12  
2:30 PM Blessed Is The Man Who Fears The Lord; Psa. 112:1  
3:30 PM Open Forum

Dinner Break  
7:00 PM “Blessed Are They Which Do Hunger And Thirst After Righteousness”; Mat. 5:6  
7:45 PM Blessed Are Those Who Rebuke Sinners; Prov. 24:25

Wednesday, June 12
9:00 AM The Blessed Man; Psa. 1  
10:00 AM “Blessed Are They That Mourn”; Mat. 5:4  
11:00 AM Blessed Is The Man Whose Strength Is In Jehovah; Psa. 84:5  
Lunch Break  
1:30 PM Blessed Are Those Dying In The Lord; Rev. 14:13  
2:30 PM “Blessed Are The Poor In Spirit”; Mat. 5:3  
3:30 PM Open Forum

Dinner Break  
7:00 PM Blessed Are Those Who Keep Judgment; Psa. 106:3  
7:45 PM Blessed Are Those Who Are Not Offended In Christ; Luke 7:23
to continue together after baptism. However, does baptism or prayer for that matter, sanction as holy that which prior to baptism or prayer was unholy? Can you name one thing that is sinful before baptism, but which after baptism is not sinful? What was sinful before baptism is still sinful after baptism. Baptism or prayer is not some kind of magic that performs marriage ceremonies for adulterers.

Some have suggested that such a position on adultery makes the Gospel “bad news” rather than “good news” to a great and growing number of divorced and remarried people. However, to suggest that the gospel would not be good news to a couple living in adultery is very short sighted. The message of salvation is always good news! At times, it might require some very difficult decisions to be made, but it is still good news. Could one not also argue that the Gospel would be “bad news” to the drunkard, homosexual, and liar? Would it be considered bad news for a doctor to tell a concerned patient that with a few weeks of radiation (which will have some painful side effects) he can be totally cured?

Some will also claim that God could not possibly ask a man and a woman to break up their relationship if children were involved. While I would never attempt to minimize the difficulty of such situations, the hardship cannot be allowed to determine what is right or wrong. One must remember that the hardship was not brought on by God, but by man’s disobedience to God’s warning. In the past, God has demanded such separations: “Now therefore make confession unto the Lord God of your fathers, and do his pleasure: and separate yourselves from the people of the land, and from the strange wives” (Ezra 10:11). “Now therefore make confession unto the Lord God of your fathers, and do his pleasure: and separate yourselves from the people of the land, and from the strange wives” (Ezra 10:44).

Since the Scriptures teach that when one divorces and remarries without the cause being fornication he commits adultery, as long as he remains in that sexual relationship he remains an adulterer. Since this is the case, it becomes imperative to get the message out—to teach people what God said on this important subject. We need to inform the world of God’s law regarding marriage, divorce, and remarriage before they find themselves entangled in this sin, because to a large extent, people will turn their backs on God before they will their mate.

Bellview Lectures

The 27th Annual Bellview lectureship book, Beatitudes, will be available to those attending the Bellview Lectures at a reduced rate of $10. The book can also be purchased at the pre-publication price of $11 plus $2.10 for postage/handling prior to June 30, 2002, or afterwards at the regular price of $12 plus postage.

The lessons will be available not only on audio/video tapes but on DVD disks. The cost of the audio tapes are $1/tape plus postage, video tapes are $6/tape plus postage, and DVD disks are $10/disk plus postage. Some of the former lectures are available now. Contact the office for details. The 1988-2002 lectures are also available on CD in PDF format. The disk also includes the 1989-2001 Defender and the Hatcher-Schweitzer Exchange (an exchange of letters between Michael Hatcher and Keith Schweitzer, a Lutheran minister. Payment will be by invoice. If you have any questions please contact the office. See our web page for more information. Make plans now to attend the lectures.

Beatitudes

June 8 - 12, 2002

Saturday, June 8
7:00 PM Beatitudes
7:45 PM All Families Blessed In Abraham; Gen. 12:3

Sunday, June 9
9:00 AM “Blessed Are The Meek”; Mat. 5:5
10:00 AM Blessed Are Those Who Are Watching; Luke 12:37-38
Lunch Break
2:00 PM “Blessed Are The Merciful”; Mat. 5:7
3:00 PM Blessed Are Those Of The First Resurrection; Rev. 20:6

Dinner Break
7:00 PM “Blessed Are The Pure In Heart”; Mat. 5:8
7:45 PM Blessed Are The Readers And Hearers; Rev. 1:3

Monday, June 10
9:00 AM “Blessed Are They Which Are Persecuted For Righteousness’s Sake”; Mat. 5:10-12
10:00 AM “Blessed Are The Peacemakers”; Mat. 5:9
11:00 AM Blessed Are The Givers; Acts 20:35

Lunch Break
1:30 PM Blessed Is The Man Who Is Forgiven; Psa. 32:1-2
2:30 PM Blessed Is The Man Who Considers The Poor; Psa. 41:1
3:30 PM Open Forum

Dinner Break
7:00 PM Blessed Is He Who Watches And Keeps His Garments; Rev. 16:15
7:45 PM Blessed Are Those Called To The Marriage Feast; Rev. 19:9

Tuesday, June 11
9:00 AM “Blessed Are They Who Are Persecuted For Righteousness’s Sake”; Mat. 5:10-12
10:00 AM Blessed Is The Man Who Endures Temptation; Jam. 1:12
11:00 AM Blessed Is The Man Who Dwells In The Lord’s House; Psa. 84:4

Lunch Break
1:30 PM Blessed Is The Man Who Trusts In The Lord; Psa. 2:12
2:30 PM Blessed Is The Man Who Fears The Lord; Psa. 112:1
3:30 PM Open Forum

Dinner Break
7:00 PM “Blessed Are They Which Do Hunger And Thirst After Righteousness”; Mat. 5:6
7:45 PM Blessed Are Those Who Rebuke Sinners; Pro. 24:25

Wednesday, June 12
9:00 AM The Blessed Man; Psa. 1
10:00 AM “Blessed Are They That Mourn”; Mat. 5:4
11:00 AM Blessed Is The Man Whose Strength Is In Jehovah; Psa. 84:5

Lunch Break
1:30 PM Blessed Are Those Dying In The Lord; Rev. 14:13
2:30 PM “Blessed Are The Poor In Spirit”; Mat. 5:3
3:30 PM Open Forum

Dinner Break
7:00 PM Blessed Are Those Who Keep Judgment; Psa. 106:3
7:45 PM Blessed Are Those Who Are Not Offended In Christ; Luke 7:23

Copied
Sick
Please remember in your prayers: Elaine Maxey, Jean Flesher, Marilyn Hall, Diana Brazell, Neva Bryant, Ruby Bailey, Buffy Hoffay (Karen Ayliffe’s daughter-in-law), and Ina Ryan (Stanley Ryan’s mother).

Sympathy
Our deepest sympathy is extended to Carl and Tim Ayliffe and their families in the death of their mother, Jacqueline Ayliffe, on May 21, 2002. Please keep the Ayliffe families in your prayers.

Reading/Invitation
June 5, 2002
Reading: Jeremy Caine
Invitation: Ray Dodd
June 12, 2002
Bellview Lectures

Mark These Dates
June 2, 2002–Visitation Group 2 assignment cards handed out. Please note that Groups 1 and 2 are swapping dates for this month only.
June 16, 2002–Visitation Group 1 assignment cards handed out.
June 16, 2002–Deacons’ meeting at 5:00 PM, in room 7.
June 23, 2002–Visitation Group 3 assignment cards handed out.
June 23, 2002–Elders/Deacons’ meeting at 5:00 PM, in room 7.

Pantry Item Needed
Peanut Butter and Jelly

Adultery And Repentance
Steve Higginbotham

One of the most tragic and consequential sins in which man can engage is adultery. It destroys families, lives, and destroys within some people the hope of heaven. Because we live in a time when adultery and divorce are so prevalent, it becomes incumbent upon us to state the truth contained in God’s Word about this sin and its consequences.

Let us suppose that a person divorces and remarries without the scriptural grounds of fornication (Mat. 19:9). Let us suppose that this person begins a new life with his new wife. They build a wonderful relationship, are happy, and have three children. As time progresses, they desire to become Christians or return to faithfulness if they already were baptized. Question: Does their baptism or their prayer allow them to pick up where they are and continue together in a sexual relationship? Has their prior adulterous relationship suddenly become a sanctified and holy relationship? In response to these questions some today are eager and vocal in answering in the affirmative. However, let us examine several points.

First, there is no question that baptism or prayer will wash away one’s sins (providing one repents of his sins). But repentance demands a resolve to cease from a sinful activity. A couple in an adulterous relationship must resolve to cease from the sinful sexual activity in which they engage if they desire the forgiveness that comes through repentance.

Some suggest that baptism washes away their former adulterous relationship and allows them...
Sick
Please remember in your prayers: Elaine Maxey, Jean Flesher, Marilyn Hall, Diana Brazell, Neva Bryant, Ruby Bailey, Nancy Travis, Pearl Weaver (Henry Born’s aunt), Buffy Hoffay (Karen Ayliffe’s daughter-in-law), and Ina Ryan (Stanley Ryan’s mother).

Reading/Invitation
June 12, 2002
Bellview Lectures
Reading: Bill Gallaher
Invitation: Ray Foshee

Mark These Dates
June 16, 2002–Visitation Group 1 assignment cards handed out.
June 16, 2002–Deacons’ meeting at 5:00 PM, in room 7.
June 23, 2002–Visitation Group 3 assignment cards handed out.
June 23, 2002–Elders/Deacons’ meeting at 5:00 PM, in room 7.

Pantry Item Needed
Canned Fruit

Romans 6:16-17
"Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness? But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you."

The Kind of Preaching Needed Today
Andrew M. Connally

In his book, The Heart Of The New Testament (Vol. II), I. Hester depicts the preaching of John the Baptist by saying:

What must have been the reactions of the multitudes as they heard this fiery prophet cry out to the scribes and priests of Jerusalem, “You offspring of vipers, who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?” It was plain to see that a man as well as a prophet had appeared in Israel, one who stood unabashed before those in high stations, who understood the weaknesses of the men of his day, and who had the courage to lay them bare. A new era had dawned, a time of pulsing reality instead of dry rabbinism or vague apocalypticism.

John struck the moral nerve and it twitched.

Yes, John was God’s kind of preacher! Like the prophets of old, his message was pointed and powerful. He preached on sin and righteousness, judgment and repentance, forgiveness and conviction. He plucked the strings of the human heart and it twitched!

Men today need boldly to oppose the hedonistic philosophy of our times. We need to challenge the axioms and lives of our brethren and the world. We need to use the Word of God to comfort the afflicted and to afflict the comfortable!

So much of the clap-trap coming from pulpits is nothing more than warmed over pablum and it is nauseating to adults! We need “strong meat” to be men.

Like John, our preaching needs to arouse the people. “Ye offspring of vipers, who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?” (Mat. 3:7—
ASV). We need to get a response from our audiences. They may react in anger or with tears—so be it! Either way, the job is getting done. Good hearts will repent, evil ones will harden and the line is drawn. Men will search their consciences and obey or disobey, but they will have confronted God in their lives and that is what preaching is all about.

We need to expose error. If truth is not polemical, then half its power is gone. A lot of men say, “That’s just not my way”: well, it was the way of John, the Prophets and the Lord! What greater preaching has ever been done than this? A lot of preachers are afraid of their elders, members, wives, and children, and, therefore, they refuse to fight the error they know exists in their own congregations, deceiving themselves and thereby deceiving others and all go tripping into hell together. Shake ‘em up, wake ‘em up, move ‘em out, so God’s will and way can be clear in an age of foggy, dim, and unclear thoughts, doctrines and ideals. Christianity is not myopic, mysterious mysticism. It is plain, clear, bold, aggressive, daring, and logical. And may the Devil take those who teach otherwise, for they misrepresent the truth. No one denies or would overlook the “truth spoken in love,” but this demands we speak the truth, all the truth, and only the truth, so help us God! It emphatically does not teach the pseudo-unity in diversity claptrap of our day or the insipid indefiniteness so often heard.

Time-servers, crowd-pleasers, actors, P.R. men, and pep-rally enthusiasts are not Prophets or Preachers. They are what their names imply—and they are hirelings! But God’s men touch the heart, prick the conscience, step on toes, “root up and destroy” every evil, error, and untruth they confront. They are true to the book and in a hurry! Their time is limited and they have a job to do that they can never get done and they know it. They must strengthen and build as strongly and as fast as humanly possible, for their part in the great drama of life will soon be over. Like John, and so many before them, their time may be shortened and they must fulfill their ministry, accomplish their work, and finish their course.

Jesus’ evaluation of John was: “Of men born of women, none was greater” than John! What a glorious tribute to a great preacher. We can ask for nothing more than to be found numbered among such great men.

May God help us to be His preachers of the hour.

Deceased

Why Should God Bless America Again?
Leon Cole

It had been a while, but the other day I heard again the country song “God Bless America Again.” It is a pretty song and presents some good thoughts. Yet, as I was listening my thought was why should He bless America again?

America is a country where a serious crime is committed every nine minutes. America is a country where one out of ten babies are born out of wedlock. America is a country where a monster is born every eight minutes. America is a country that not only permits but encourages the murder of its babies. And we have the audacity to ask God to bless us again!

This land is in a far greater depression than the economic crisis of the 1930s. A mere glance at the magazine stands exposes one to the rankest of depravity. Language that would bring brushes to the inhabitants of Hell is now heard in the living rooms of America via the television. The picture of this nation’s moral condition is paralleled only by Paul’s description of the Gentile world in Romans 1:18-30. And this is what we want God to bless?

There is a key for receiving God’s blessing. “If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land” (2 Chr. 7:14). On the other hand, it should not be forgotten: “The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God (Psa. 9:17).

If we want God’s blessings there are conditions to be met. There must be a humbling of ourselves. That is asking a lot of proud America. We tend to take credit for ourselves and leave God out. Many who do acknowledge God put Him only on our level as they speak of how “God is my co-pilot.” No God is our pilot—period. We look only to Him for guidance.

God’s blessings too come as a result of prayer. It will be a bit hard for God to bless America again when prayer to Him has been banished from the classroom. There must be a seeking of God’s face. There is the difficulty, for this involves forsaking sin: “Your sins have hid his face from you” (Isa. 59:2).

When these conditions are met God will bless America again. He will hear from heaven, forgive our sins and heal our land. Unless we are willing to meet these conditions, pleas for God’s blessings are nothing more than vain repetitions.

America has been great because she has been good. It has been noted by great historians that the average great democracies of the past have lasted only two hundred years. America is over the average. Where are we headed? The “warped personalities” created by the advice of Dr. Benjamin Spock instead of the advice of God’s Word now bear rule. The vilest of men are now exalted. We should not forget God’s unchanging law: “Whatsoever a man soweth that shall he also reap.” That law applies to nations too.

New Bible Classes Beginning

Bible classes for the summer quarter began Sunday, June 3. Make plans attend these classes.

Sunday Schedule

| Adults I | Church History II | Paul Brantley |
| Adults II | Church History I | Michael Hatcher |
| Adults III | 1 & 2 Thessalonians, Philoemen | Jim Loy |
| New Converts | Studies In Christian Doctrine And Practical Christian Living | Bill Cline/Bill Gallaher |

Wednesday Schedule

| Adults I | Job | Ray Foshee |
| Adults II | Psalms | Michael Hatcher |
| Adults III | Proverbs & Song of Solomon | Damon Lundy |
| New Converts | Studies In Christian Doctrine And Practical Christian Living | Bill Cline/Bill Gallaher |
ASV). We need to get a response from our audiences. They may react in anger or with tears—so be it! Either way, the job is getting done. Good hearts will repent, evil ones will harden and the line is drawn. Men will search their consciences and obey or disobey, but they will have confronted God in their lives and that is what preaching is all about.

We need to expose error. If truth is not polemic, then half its power is gone. A lot of men say, “That’s just not my way”: well, it was the way of John, the Prophets and the Lord! What greater preaching has ever been done than this? A lot of preachers are afraid of their elders, members, wives, and children, and, therefore, they refuse to fight the error they know exists in their own congregations, deceiving themselves and thereby deceiving others and all go tripping into hell together. Shake ‘em up, wake ‘em up, move ‘em out, so God’s will and way can be clear in an age of foggy, dim, and unclear thoughts, doctrines and ideals. Christianity is not myopic, mysterious mysticism. It is plain, clear, bold, aggressive, daring, and logical. And may the Devil take those who teach otherwise, for they misrepresent the truth. No one denies or would overlook the “truth spoken in love,” but this demands we speak the truth, all the truth, and only the truth, so help us God! It emphatically does not teach the pseudo-unity in diversity clap-trap of our day or the insipid indefiniteness so often heard.

Time-servers, crowd-pleasers, actors, P.R. men, and pep-rally enthusiasts are not Prophets or Preachers. They are what their names imply—and they are hirelings! But God’s men touch the heart, prick the conscience, step on toes, “root up and destroy” every evil, error, and untruth they confront. They are true to the book and in a hurry! Their time is limited and they have a job to do that they can never get done and they know it. They must strengthen and build as strongly and as fast as humanly possible, for their part in the great drama of life will soon be over. Like John, and so many before them, their time may be shortened and they must fulfill their ministry, accomplish their work, and finish their course.

Jesus’ evaluation of John was: “Of men born of women, none was greater” than John! What a glorious tribute to a great preacher. We can ask for nothing more than to be found numbered among such great men.

May God help us to be His preachers of the hour.

Deceased

Why Should God Bless America Again?
Leon Cole

It had been a while, but the other day I heard again the country song “God Bless America Again.” It is a pretty song and presents some good thoughts. Yet, as I was listening my thought was why should He bless America again?

America is a country where a serious crime is committed every nine minutes. America is a country where one out of ten babies are born out of wedlock. America is a country where the sins of Sodom are paraded, glorified, and endorsed by the rulers of the land. America is a country that not only permits but encourages the murder of its babies. And we have the audacity to ask God to bless us again?

This land is in a far greater depression than the economic crisis of the 1930s. A mere glance at the magazine stands exposes one to the rankest of depravity. Language that would bring brushes to the inhabitants of Hell is now heard in the living rooms of America via the television. The picture of this nation’s moral condition is paralleled only by Paul’s description of the Gentile world in Romans 1:18-30. And this is what we want God to bless?

There is a key for receiving God’s blessing. “If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land” (2 Chr. 7:14). On the other hand, it should not be forgotten: “The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God (Psa. 9:17).

If we want God’s blessings there are conditions to be met. There must be a humbling of ourselves. That is asking a lot of proud America. We tend to take credit for ourselves and leave God out. Many who do acknowledge God put Him only on our level as they speak of how “God is my co-pilot.” No God is our pilot—period. We look only to Him for guidance.

God’s blessings too come as a result of prayer. It will be a bit hard for God to bless America again when prayer to Him has been banished from the classroom. There must be a seeking of God’s face. There is the difficulty, for this involves forsaking sin: “Your sins have hid his face from you” (Isa. 59:2).

When these conditions are met God will bless America again. He will hear from heaven, forgive our sins and heal our land. Unless we are willing to meet these conditions, pleas for God’s blessings are nothing more than vain repetitions.

America has been great because she has been good. It has been noted by great historians that the average great democracies of the past have lasted only two hundred years. America is over the average. Where are we headed? The “warped personalities” created by the advice of Dr. Benjamin Spock instead of the advice of God’s Word now bear rule. The vilest of men are now exalted. We should not forget God’s unchanging law: “Whosoever a man soweth that shall he also reap.” That law applies to nations too.

New Bible Classes Beginning

Bible classes for the summer quarter began Sunday, June 3. Make plans attend these classes. Sunday Schedule

| Adults I | Church History I | Paul Brantley |
| Adults II | Church History II | Michael Hatcher |
| Adults III | 1 & 2 Thessalonians, Philemon | Jim Loy |
| New Converts | Studies In Christian Doctrine And Practical Christian Living | Bill Cline/Bill Gallaher |

Wednesday Schedule

| Adults I | Job | Ray Foshee |
| Adults II | Psalms | Michael Hatcher |
| Adults III | Proverbs & Song of Solomon | Damon Lundy |
| New Converts | Studies In Christian Doctrine And Practical Christian Living | Bill Cline/Bill Gallaher |
Sick
Please remember in your prayers: Elaine Maxey, Jean Flesher, Marilyn Hall, Diana Brazell, Neva Bryant, Rubye Bailey, Nancy Travis, Pearl Weaver (Henry Born’s aunt), Buffy Hoffman (Karen Ayliffe’s daughter-in-law), and Ina Ryan (Stanley Ryan’s mother).

Reading/Invitation
June 12, 2002
Bellview Lectures
June 19, 2002
Reading: Bill Gallaher
Invitation: Ray Foshee

Mark These Dates
June 16, 2002–Visitation Group 1 assignment cards handed out.
June 16, 2002–Deacons’ meeting at 5:00 PM, in room 7.
June 23, 2002–Visitation Group 3 assignment cards handed out.
June 23, 2002–Elders/Deacons’ meeting at 5:00 PM, in room 7.

Pantry Item Needed
Canned Fruit

Romans 6:16-17
“Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness? But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you.”

The Kind of Preaching Needed Today
Andrew M. Connally

In his book, *The Heart Of The New Testament* (Vol. II), I. Hester depicts the preaching of John the Baptist by saying:

What must have been the reactions of the multitudes as they heard this fiery prophet cry out to the scribes and priests of Jerusalem, “You off-spring of vipers, who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?” It was plain to see that a man as well as a prophet had appeared in Israel, one who stood unabashed before those in high stations, who understood the weaknesses of the men of his day, and who had the courage to lay them bare. A new era had dawned, a time of pulsing reality instead of dry rabbinism or vague apocalypticism. *John struck the moral nerve and it twitched.*

Yes, John was God’s kind of preacher! Like the prophets of old, his message was pointed and powerful. He preached on sin and righteousness, judgment and repentance, forgiveness and conviction. He plucked the strings of the human heart and it twitched!

Men today need boldly to oppose the hedonistic philosophy of our times. We need to challenge the axioms and lives of our brethren and the world. We need to use the Word of God to comfort the afflicted and to afflict the comfortable!

So much of the clap-trap coming from pulpits is nothing more than warmed over pablum and it is nauseating to adults! We need “strong meat” to be men.

Like John, our preaching needs to arouse the people. “Ye offspring of vipers, who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?” (Mat. 3:7—
Sick
Please remember in your prayers: Elaine Maxey, Jean Flesher, Marilyn Hall, Diana Brazell, Neva Bryant, and Ruby Bailey.

Baptized
Garrett Fillingim was baptized on June 9, 2002. Please keep Garrett in your prayers and offer him encouragement.

Sympathy
Our deepest sympathy is extended to Henry Born and his family in the death of his aunt, Pearl Weaver, on June 12. Please keep them in your prayers.

Reading/Invitation
June 19, 2002
Reading: Bill Gallaher
Invitation: Ray Foshee
June 26, 2002
Reaching: Andrew Hatcher
Invitation: Louis Herrington

Mark These Dates
June 16, 2002—Visitation Group 1 assignment cards handed out.
June 16, 2002—Deacons’ meeting at 5:00 PM, in room 7.
June 23, 2002—Visitation Group 3 assignment cards handed out.
June 23, 2002—Elders/Deacons’ meeting at 5:00 PM, in room 7.

Pantry Item Needed
Canned Fruit

Restrain Thy Child
Bob Howton

Every serious Bible student knows the sad story of Eli, the Priest and Judge of Israel. Eli had two sons who were described in Holy Writ as follows: “Now the sons of Eli were sons of Belial; they knew not the LORD” (1 Sam. 2:12). (Belial means a word of contempt, meaning worthless, reckless, or lawless—Smith’s Bible Dictionary.)

It should be noted that they were sons of Eli by birth, but were sons of Belial by their manner of life. The narrative of their lives is a progressive illustration of children who were not properly restrained. Oh! Yes! Eli certainly did try to reason with them about their duty, but he failed miserably in exercising the parental authority, and punitive measures which would most likely have brought the desired results.

Look at the following observation: Eli’s failing, and it’s penalty are a warning to all parents, even religious ones, and all in authority, to guard against laxity in ruling children and subordinates in the fear of the Lord, punishing strictly, though in love, all sin, jealous for God’s honor even at the cost of offending man and of paining natural parental feeling. Condoning sin is cruel to children as well as dishonoring to God (Fausset’s Bible Dictionary).

The only thing I know of which is worse than a child who thinks he has to have any and everything he wants, when he wants it, is a set of parents who think he should, too! Life holds great sorrow and heartache for such a child. In a
humorous vein, brother E. C. McKenzie, in his book, 14,000 Quips and Quotes says: “Children are natural mimics; they act like their parents in spite of every effort to teach them good manners.”

Over the years we have all seen a time when a child, left unrestrained, disturbs everyone in earshot, and completely wrecks any semblance of reverence, honor, or concern for others. Such does not reflect upon the child nearly so much as upon the parent who sits blithely by and allows it to go on and on. This nullifies any effort from the pulpit, to teach the wayward, or encourage the back-sliders. The preacher can spend hours preparing his text, and have it rendered useless by one child who is allowed to whine, and throw tantrums with not so much as a disapproving glance from the doting parents.

Young people can rejoice even when the world stands against them. This is vividly seen as David’s agonizing heart turns to great joy and confidence in God: “How long wilt thou forget me, O L ORD? for ever? how long wilt thou hide thy face from me? How long shall I take counsel in my soul, having sorrow in my heart daily? How long shall mine enemy be exalted over me? Consider and hear me, O L ORD my God: lighten mine eyes, lest I sleep the sleep of death; Lest mine enemy say, I have prevailed against him; and those that trouble me rejoice when I am moved. But I have trusted in thy mercy; my heart shall rejoice in thy salvation” (Psa. 13:1-5).

Second, Solomon reminds today’s youth to live a life of remembrance. “Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth” (Ecc. 12:1). There are several things worthy of consideration from Solomon’s admonition. First, there is urgency of remembering our Creator. “Remember now thy creator.” Remembering one’s Creator earlier in life will help one remember his Creator when the twilight years come—yes, even when the curtain of his or her life is about to be drawn to a close (vv. 2-7). We have young people who are not ashamed to remember their Creator when they are at school, when they are on the job, when they start dating, and when they get married. Thank God for their dedication to remember the One from whom all blessings flow! Second,

A Warning from the past
F. B. Srygley

“Fighting for the truth is almost a lost art. Men who are enjoying the benefits of the gospel unmixed with human error, are enjoying these benefits because our fathers fought for the truth. Every inch of ground from that mysterious way of being saved, which was better felt than told, to the plain conditions of pardon as taught in the New Testament, was fought out for us by our fathers.

If someone before us had not fought for the truth, most of us might yet be in the fog of denominational teaching. This is not the time to temporize or make friends with error.”

Copied
humorous vein, brother E. C. McKenzie, in his book, *14,000 Quips and Quotes* says: “Children are natural mimics; they act like their parents in spite of every effort to teach them good manners.”

Over the years we have all seen a time when a child, left unrestrained, disturbs everyone in earshot, and completely wrecks any semblance of reverence, honor, or concern for others. Such does not reflect upon the child nearly so much as upon the parent who sits blithely by and allows it to go on and on. This nullifies any effort from the pulpit, to teach the wayward, or encourage the back-sliders. The preacher can spend hours preparing his text, and have it rendered useless by one child who is allowed to whine, and throne tantrums with not so much as a disapproving glance from the doting parents.

Such should never be allowed! Children should be taught early on that God’s House is a place of reverence, quiet, and respectful silence as we are in the presence of the Lord. Of course! Children are going to be children. No one expects differently! But they should never be allowed to think that this is just a big playhouse and this is fun time. If they disturb, take them to the nursery, but not to play! It is a place to teach them! Your seat should not be known by the amount of trash and food crumbs your children throw there. The wonderful mothers who consider others and love their children, already practice these things.

**What Is Right with Our Youth?**

Jason R. Roberts

Much of our preaching and writing is directed toward what is wrong with our youth. Often we are quick to point out their mistakes, and in doing so we sometimes fail to praise their achievements. We want to reverse that order here and focus on what is right with our youth.

The wise man Solomon had some praise-worthy things to say regarding youth. Even though his sentiments were specifically written to admonish young people to manifest these virtuous qualities in their lives, they still remind us that many of our young people are exhibiting these same qualities on a day to day basis.

*First, Solomon reminds today’s youth to live a life of rejoicing.* “Rejoice, O young man, in thy youth; and let thy heart cheer thee in the days of thy youth, and walk in the ways of thine heart, and in the sight of thine eyes” (Ecc. 11:9). It is God’s intent for young people to be happy—to live life to the fullest—within the framework of righteousness. Youth is a time to be happy, a time to discover, a time to “launch out into the deep” and to Carpe Diem (seize the day)! It is a time to learn, a time to laugh, a time to live. And it is encouraging to see so many of our young people doing this very thing—living the abundant life that God wants them to live—physically and spiritually speaking (cf., John 10:10).

Solomon wrote, “A merry heart maketh a cheerful countenance” (Pro. 15:15). Again, he said, “A merry heart doeth good like a medicine” (Pro. 17:22). Young people have so much for which to rejoice: (1) They have their names written in the book of life (Phi. 4:3-4). (2) They have the privilege of prayer: Paul connected rejoicing and prayer together (Rom. 12:12). (3) They have the presence of God. Providentially speaking, the Lord is with them every step of the way. It is interesting that when the apostle Paul wrote, “Rejoice in the Lord” (Phi. 4:4), he gave a strong incentive to do so in the very next verse—“the Lord is at hand [near]” (v. 5).

**Second, Solomon reminds today’s youth to live a life of remembrance.** “Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth” (Ecc. 12:1). There are several things worthy of consideration from Solomon’s admonition. First, there is urgency of remembering our Creator. “Remember now thy creator.” Remembering one’s Creator earlier in life will help one remember his Creator when the twilight years come—yes, even when the curtain of his or her life is about to be drawn to a close (vv. 2-7). We have young people who are not ashamed to remember their Creator when they are at school, when they are on the job, when they start dating, and when they get married. Thank God for their dedication to remember the One from whom all blessings flow! Second, young people can rejoice even when the world stands against them. This is vividly seen as David’s agonizing heart turns to great joy and confidence in God: “How long wilt thou forget me, O Lord? for ever? how long wilt thou hide thy face from me? How long shall I take counsel in my soul, having sorrow in my heart daily? How long shall mine enemy be exalted over me? Consider and hear me, O Lord my God: lighten mine eyes, lest I sleep the sleep of death; Lest mine enemy say, I have prevailed against him; and those that trouble me rejoice when I am moved. But I have trusted in thy mercy; my heart shall rejoice in thy salvation” (Psa. 13:1-5).

**A Warning from the past**

F. B. Srygley

“Fighting for the truth is almost a lost art. Men who are enjoying the benefits of the gospel unmixed with human error, are enjoying these benefits because our fathers fought for the truth. Every inch of ground from that mysterious way of being saved, which was better felt than told, to the plain conditions of pardon as taught in the New Testament, was fought out for us by our fathers.

If someone before us had not fought for the truth, most of us might yet be in the fog of denominational teaching. This is not the time to temporize or make friends with error.”

*Deceased*
Sick
Please remember in your prayers: Elaine Maxey, Jean Flesher, Marilyn Hall, Diana Brazell, Neva Bryant, and Rubye Bailey.

Baptized
Garrett Fillingim was baptized on June 9, 2002. Please keep Garrett in your prayers and offer him encouragement.

Sympathy
Our deepest sympathy is extended to Henry Born and his family in the death of his aunt, Pearl Weaver, on June 12. Please keep them in your prayers.

Reading/Invitation
June 19, 2002
Reading: Bill Gallaher
Invitation: Ray Foshee
June 26, 2002
Reaching: Andrew Hatcher
Invitation: Louis Herrington

Mark These Dates
June 16, 2002–Visitation Group 1 assignment cards handed out.
June 16, 2002–Deacons’ meeting at 5:00 PM, in room 7.
June 23, 2002–Visitation Group 3 assignment cards handed out.
June 23, 2002–Elders/Deacons’ meeting at 5:00 PM, in room 7.

Pantry Item Needed
Canned Fruit

Restrain Thy Child
Bob Howton

Every serious Bible student knows the sad story of Eli, the Priest and Judge of Israel. Eli had two sons who were described in Holy Writ as follows: “Now the sons of Eli were sons of Belial; they knew not the Lord” (1 Sam. 2:12).

(Belial means a word of contempt, meaning worthless, reckless, or lawless—Smith’s Bible Dictionary.)

It should be noted that they were sons of Eli by birth, but were sons of Belial by their manner of life. The narrative of their lives is a progressive illustration of children who were not properly restrained. Oh! Yes! Eli certainly did try to reason with them about their duty, but he failed miserably in exercising the parental authority, and punitive measures which would most likely have brought the desired results.

Look at the following observation: Eli’s failing, and it’s penalty are a warning to all parents, even religious ones, and all in authority, to guard against laxity in ruling children and subordinates in the fear of the Lord, punishing strictly, though in love, all sin, jealous for God’s honor even at the cost of offending man and of paining natural parental feeling. Condoning sin is cruel to children as well as dishonoring to God (Fausset’s Bible Dictionary).

The only thing I know of which is worse than a child who thinks he has to have any and everything he wants, when he wants it, is a set of parents who think he should, too! Life holds great sorrow and heartache for such a child. In a
Sick
Please remember in your prayers:
Elaine Maxey, Jean Flesher, Marilyn Hall,
Diana Brazell, Neva Bryant, Ruby Bailey,
and Jennette Nall.

Reading/Invitation
June 26, 2002
Reading: Andrew Hatcher
Invitation: Louis Herrington
July 3, 2002
Reading: Daniel Hatcher
Invitation: Damon Lundy

Mark These Dates
June 23, 2002–Visitation Group 3 assignment cards handed out.
June 23, 2002–Elders/Deacons’ meeting at 5:00 PM, in room 7.
July 7, 2002–Visitation Group 1 assignment cards handed out.
July 14, 2002–Visitation Group 2 assignment cards handed out.
July 14, 2002–Deacons’ meeting at 5:00 PM, in room 7.
July 21, 2002–Elders/Deacons’ meeting at 5:00 PM, in room 7.
July 29, 2002–Visitation Group Get-together at 6:00 PM, in the general purpose building. A covered-dish meal will precede the meeting.
July 31, 2002–Fifth Wednesday Singing at 7:00 PM.

Pantry Item Needed
Canned Fruit

Excuses???
Tim Smith

Many offer what they call excuses for absenting themselves from active and faithful service in the Lord’s church. Some give reasons for not working and worshiping as God instructed them to do. But, in reality, there is no excuse or reason for not being obedient to the most holy faith. The word excuse means, “1. A statement made or a reason given as a ground for being excused. 2. A cause, factor, or circumstance that frees from blame, etc.” (Funk & Wagnalls Standard Desk Dictionary). Is there anything that can free us from blame for ignoring God’s commandments? The word reason is defined as follows: “A reason seeks to explain or justify an action by citing facts, circumstances, inducement, and the like, together with the workings of the mind upon them” (Funk & Wagnalls Standard Desk Dictionary). Is there something that justifies our neglect of the perfect law of liberty?

When one considers the excuses and reasons given by many they quickly realize that they neither excuse the offense committed nor are reasonable. Some have left faithful service (?) through the years because the song leader led only old songs and that bored them; others left because the song leader led only new songs that they did not know and were confused. Some have gone out from among us because the song leader led too many songs, others because not enough were led. Some left because the prayers were too long, others because the prayers had no heart and were merely short recitations of tired phrases. Some left because the Lord’s Supper...
was served before preaching, others because it
was served after. Some did not like the an-
nouncements, they were too long, and besid-
esthat, all the information was given in the
bulletin... others did not think enough was men-
tioned in the announcements. Some became
angry because the elders and preacher did not
visit them often enough, others because the
elders and preacher would not leave them alone.
Some left because they were sick no one
came to see them, others become angry because
people do come around and they do not feel like
company. Some think the sermons are too
long and complicated, others think, them too short
and simple. Some do not like the way the preacher
combs his hair or presents himself. Others do
cannot like the hypocrites in the church, while
still others do not feel worthy of the name
“Christian.” Some feel that the gospel is too
tough on young people, others bemoan the lib-
erties of modern society and Christianity.
Regardless of the reason, there is no
excuse for you not being faithful to God. The church is
composed of human beings, and there will be
flaws in it from time to time; but those same
flaws are in each of us. If you are looking for an
excuse, you may find one that satisfies you, but
you will never find one that satisfies God. Think
of our Lord as he walked among us, teaching
and preaching to a people who rejected and scorned
him at every turn. Think of his compassion and
love as he hung, suspended between heaven and
earth on the cruel cross, and said, “Father,
forgive.” Think of the apostles as they were
imprisoned, beaten, threatened and the like; yet
they did not stop. They refused to let others
dictate their eternal destination. When people are
rude to you, try to ignore it. If they have no
control over your actions, kindly ignore their
suggestions and live right in God’s sight. Try to
love them. Try to remember that we all have
imperfections. Never forget that the crown is
given after the race is finished, and never before
(2 Tim. 4:6-8). Instead of offering excuses to
leave the Lord, find a real reason to abide with
him.

A Double Minded Man
Johnie Scaggs, Jr.

James is a book written in order to instruct us
in some very practical ways of living. The truths
which are found in this small but powerful book
will aid one in living a better life and will help
him in his dealings with both his brother and
sister in Christ and those folks who live in and
for the world. One of the great truths which
James wrote was this: “A double minded man
is unstable in all his ways” (Jam. 1:8).
Let us ask this question and then answer it in
this short article: Who is a “double minded
man?”

1. A “double minded man” is one who does
not keep his eyes focused in the right direction.
Instead of always looking to Jesus when he
makes decisions he will sometimes look to others
who pull him in their direction. He will allow his
friends and even family to cause him to make
decisions that are not good for the cause of the
Lord.

2. A “double minded man” is one who
looks to power in making his decisions. He likes
to think that he alone has the rule and that all
others must do as he says, and if they do not
agree with him then he will devise a plan to bring
them down to their knees. He is ruled by his need
for power instead of his need to follow Jesus.

3. A “double minded man” is one who lets
money stand in his way of making right de-
cisions. Many times people have been pulled into
the wrong direction simply because they lost
sight of the Lord and began to look to the riches
of this old world and thus they became double
minded.

4. A “double minded man” is one who does
not always tell the truth! He is one who is pulled
in two or more directions by different things and
or people. His decisions will sometimes be made
based upon his love for his family and friends
rather than his love for the Lord.

One who finds himself/herself in this sinful
condition of being a “double minded man” is
said by James to be “unstable in all his ways.”
Why is this true? Because the one who is
“double minded” is one who cannot be trusted
in anything whatsoever. As Luke wrote, “He that
is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in
much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust
also in much. If therefore ye have not been
faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will
commit to your trust the true riches? And if ye
have not been faithful in that which is another
man’s, who shall give you that which is your
own?” (Luke 16:10-12). If you cannot be trusted
to make decisions based upon the Lord and His
righteousness, instead of the things of this world
such as money, friends, power, and family, then
you cannot be entrusted with heavenly things and
thus you are called “unstable in all your ways.”
May God help us to always say and do the
right thing based on our love for God and not our
love for man and the things of this world.

1272 Enon Road
Webb, AL 36376

Time: A Precious Commodity
Paul D. Kearby

Time is precious. It was created by God for
man’s wise use. Consider five minutes. It does
not seem like much, but look what can happen in
that time:

- In five minutes the earth revolves 6,000
  miles in its orbit.
- In five minutes an electric current travels
  around the earth 3,000 times.
- In five minutes a ray of light travels 55.9
  million miles.

Now consider what five minutes can do in the
realm of spirituality:

- Five minutes of prayer each day will
greatly influence your life.
- Five minutes spent on the phone to a shut-
in can be rewarding to both them and you.
- Five minutes spent making personal visits
can sow the seed of kindness and friend-
ship.
- Five minutes encouraging a new Christian
can influence them for eternity.
- Five minutes spent visiting the sick will
spread some love where it is needed most.
- Five minutes spent reading the Bible will
allow you to read through each of the
following books: Joel, Obadiah, Jonah,
Nahum, Habakkuk, Haggai, Malachi,
Titus, Philemon, 2 Peter & 3 John, and
Jude.

So much can be accomplished in five short
minutes: Let us wisely use the time God gives
and try to make every moment count toward
giving Him the glory and serving His people.

1272 Enon Road
Webb, AL 36376

Time is precious. It was created by God for
man’s wise use. Consider five minutes. It does
not seem like much, but look what can happen in
that time:

- In five minutes the earth revolves 6,000
  miles in its orbit.
- In five minutes an electric current travels
  around the earth 3,000 times.
- In five minutes a ray of light travels 55.9
  million miles.

Now consider what five minutes can do in the
realm of spirituality:

- Five minutes of prayer each day will
greatly influence your life.
- Five minutes spent on the phone to a shut-
in can be rewarding to both them and you.
- Five minutes spent making personal visits
can sow the seed of kindness and friend-
ship.
- Five minutes encouraging a new Christian
can influence them for eternity.
- Five minutes spent visiting the sick will
spread some love where it is needed most.
- Five minutes spent reading the Bible will
allow you to read through each of the
following books: Joel, Obadiah, Jonah,
Nahum, Habakkuk, Haggai, Malachi,
Titus, Philemon, 2 Peter & 3 John, and
Jude.

So much can be accomplished in five short
minutes: Let us wisely use the time God gives
and try to make every moment count toward
giving Him the glory and serving His people.
was served before preaching, others because it was served after. Some did not like the announcements, they were too long, and besides that, all the information was given in the bulletin...; others did not think enough was mentioned in the announcements. Some became angry because the elders and preacher did not visit them often enough, others because the elders and preacher would not leave them alone. Some left because they were sick and no one came to see them, others become angry because people do come around and they do not feel like company. Some think the sermons are too long and complicated, others think, them too short and simple. Some do not like the way the preacher combs his hair or presents himself. Others do not like the hypocrites in the church, while still others do not feel worthy of the name “Christian.” Some feel that the gospel is too tough on young people, others bemoan the liberties of modern society and Christianity. Regardless of the reason, there is no excuse for you not being faithful to God. The church is composed of human beings, and there will be flaws in it from time to time; but those same flaws are in each of us. If you are looking for an excuse, you may find one that satisfies you, but you will never find one that satisfies God. Think of our Lord as he walked among us, teaching and preaching to a people who rejected and scorned him at every turn. Think of his compassion and love as he hung, suspended between heaven and earth on the cruel cross, and said, “Father, forgive.” Think of the apostles as they were imprisoned, beaten, threatened and the like; yet they did not stop. They refused to let others dictate their eternal destination. When people are rude to you, try to ignore it. If they have no control over your actions, kindly ignore their suggestions and live right in God’s sight. Try to love them. Try to remember that we all have imperfections. Never forget that the crown is given after the race is finished, and never before (2 Tim. 4:6-8). Instead of offering excuses to leave the Lord, find a real reason to abide with him.

1272 Enon Road
Webb, AL 36376

A Double Minded Man
Johnie Scaggs, Jr.

James is a book written in order to instruct us in some very practical ways of living. The truths which are found in this small but powerful book will aid one in living a better life and will help him in his dealings with both his brother and sister in Christ and those folks who live in and for the world. One of the great truths which James wrote was this: “A double minded man is unstable in all his ways” (Jam. 1:8).

Let us ask this question and then answer it in this short article: Who is a “double minded man?”

1. A “double minded man” is one who does not keep his eyes focused in the right direction. Instead of always looking to Jesus when he makes decisions he will sometimes look to others who pull him in their direction. He will allow his friends and even family to cause him to make decisions that are not good for the cause of the Lord.

2. A “double minded man” is one who looks to power in making his decisions. He likes to think that he alone has the rule and that others must do as he says, and if they do not agree with him then he will devise a plan to bring them down to their knees. He is ruled by his need for power instead of his need to follow Jesus.

3. A “double minded man” is one who lets money stand in his way of making right decisions. Many times people have been pulled into the wrong direction simply because they lost sight of the Lord and began to look to the riches of this old world and thus they became double minded.

4. A “double minded man” is one who does not always tell the truth! He is one who is pulled in two or more directions by different things and or people. His decisions will sometimes be made based upon his love for his family and friends rather than his love for the Lord.

One who finds himself/herself in this sinful condition of being a “double minded man” is said by James to be “unstable in all his ways.” Why is this true? Because the one who is “double minded” is one who cannot be trusted in anything whatsoever. As Luke wrote, “He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much. If therefore ye have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches? And if ye have not been faithful in that which is another man’s, who shall give you that which is your own?” (Luke 16:10-12). If you cannot be trusted to make decisions based upon the Lord and His righteousness, instead of the things of this world such as money, friends, power, and family, then you cannot be entrusted with heavenly things and thus you are called “unstable in all your ways.”

May God help us to always say and do the right thing based on our love for God and not our love for man and the things of this world.

11407 CR 6710
West Plains, MO 65775

Time: A Precious Commodity
Paul D. Kearby

Time is precious. It was created by God for man’s wise use. Consider five minutes. It does not seem like much, but look what can happen in that time:

- In five minutes the earth revolves 6,000 miles in its orbit.
- In five minutes an electric current travels around the earth 3,000 times.
- In five minutes a ray of light travels 55.9 million miles.
- In five minutes the earth revolves 6,000 miles in its orbit.

Now consider what five minutes can do in the realm of spirituality:

- Five minutes of prayer each day will greatly influence your life.
- Five minutes spent on the phone to a shut-in can be rewarding to both them and you.
- Five minutes spent making personal visits can sow the seed of kindness and friendship.
- Five minutes encouraging a new Christian can influence them for eternity.
- Five minutes spent making personal visits can sow the seed of kindness and friendship.
- Five minutes spent visiting the sick will spread some love where it is needed most.
- Five minutes spent reading the Bible will allow you to read through each of the following books: Joel, Obadiah, Jonah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Haggai, Malachi, Titus, Philemon, 2 Peter, & 3 John, and Jude.

So much can be accomplished in five short minutes: Let us wisely use the time God gives and try to make every moment count toward giving Him the glory and serving His people.

11407 CR 6710
West Plains, MO 65775

Copied
Sick
Please remember in your prayers: Elaine Maxey, Jean Flesher, Marilyn Hall, Diana Brazell, Neva Bryant, Ruby Bailey, and Jennette Nall.

Reading/Invitation
June 26, 2002
Reading: Andrew Hatcher
 Invitation: Louis Herrington
July 3, 2002
Reading: Daniel Hatcher
 Invitation: Damon Lundy

Mark These Dates
June 23, 2002–Visitation Group 3 assignment cards handed out.
June 23, 2002–Elders/Deacons’ meeting at 5:00 PM, in room 7.
July 7, 2002–Visitation Group 1 assignment cards handed out.
July 14, 2002–Visitation Group 2 assignment cards handed out.
July 14, 2002–Deacons’ meeting at 5:00 PM, in room 7.
July 21, 2002–Elders/Deacons’ meeting at 5:00 PM, in room 7.
July 29, 2002–Visitation Group Get-together at 6:00 PM, in the general purpose building. A covered-dish meal will precede the meeting.
July 31, 2002–Fifth Wednesday Singing at 7:00 PM.

Pantry Item Needed
Canned Fruit

Excuses???
Tim Smith

Many offer what they call excuses for absenting themselves from active and faithful service in the Lord’s church. Some give reasons for not working and worshiping as God instructed them to do. But, in reality, there is no excuse or reason for not being obedient to the most holy faith. The word excuse means, “1. A statement made or a reason given as a ground for being excused. 2. A cause, factor, or circumstance that frees from blame, etc.” (Funk & Wagnalls Standard Desk Dictionary). Is there anything that can free us from blame for ignoring God’s commandments? The word reason is defined as follows: “A reason seeks to explain or justify an action by citing facts, circumstances, inducement, and the like, together with the workings of the mind upon them” (Funk & Wagnalls Standard Desk Dictionary). Is there something that justifies our neglect of the perfect law of liberty?

When one considers the excuses and reasons given by many they quickly realize that they neither excuse the offense committed nor are reasonable. Some have left faithful service (?) through the years because the song leader led only old songs and that bored them; others left because the song leader led only new songs that they did not know and were confused. Some have gone out from among us because the song leader led too many songs, others because not enough were led. Some left because the prayers were too long, others because the prayers had no heart and were merely short recitations of tired phrases. Some left because the Lord’s Supper
Sick
Please remember in your prayers: Elaine Maxey, Jean Flesher, Marilyn Hall, Diana Brazell, Neva Bryant, and Ruby Bailey.

Reading/Invitation
July 3, 2002
Reading: Daniel Hatcher
Invitation: Damon Lundy
July 10, 2002
Reading: Brantley Johnson
Invitation: Fred Stancliff

Mark These Dates
July 7, 2002–Visitation Group 1 assignment cards handed out.
July 14, 2002–Visitation Group 2 assignment cards handed out.
July 14, 2002–Deacons’ meeting at 5:00 PM, in room 7.
July 21, 2002–Elders/Deacons’ meeting at 5:00 PM, in room 7.
July 29, 2002–Visitation Group Get-together at 6:00 PM. A covered-dish meal will precede the meeting.

Address Update
Michael Wilkes’ address is: AB Michael Wilkes; 321 TRS/FLT 522 Dorm B7; PSC #4; 1015 Truemper Street Unit 364022; Lackland AFB, TX 78236-6040. Please write to Michael while he is in Air Force basic training.

Pantry Item Needed
Canned Fruit

BY FAITH NOAH, BEING WARNED OF GOD OF THINGS NOT SEEN AS YET, MOVED WITH FEAR, PREPARED AN ARK TO THE SAVING OF HIS HOUSE; BY THE WHICH HE CONDEMned THE WORLD, AND BECAME HEIR OF THE RIGHTEOUSNESS WHICH IS BY FAITH (HEB. 11:7).

A “Gopher Wood” Christian
David P. Brown

Most of us are familiar with the story of Noah in Genesis 6. We remember how the Almighty decided to destroy the earth by water because “God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually” (Gen. 6:5). But we also remember that “Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD” (Gen. 6:8), because “Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God” (Gen. 6:9). Thus, to provide salvation for Noah and his family, God commanded him to build an ark, and gave Noah exact instructions concerning how it was to be built (Gen. 6:14-16). Of Noah it is said, “Thus did Noah; according to all that God commanded him, so did he” (Gen. 6:22). Concerning Noah, the Hebrews’ writer declared, “By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith” (Heb. 11:7).

Noah was a faithful “gopher wood” preacher and man of God. God told Noah to use gopher wood in the building of the ark, and this Noah did. God authorized no other wood out of which to build the ark. Thus, the only wood acceptable is gopher wood. All other wood is excluded because there is no authorization for it. This is known as the “law of exclusion.” It is a law that Noah understood and a law that we use everyday, but at times many conveniently ignore this law.

When we go to the café and order a hamburger and fries, we do not have to go through
the whole menu telling the waitress what we do not want; we simply tell her what we want and that excludes all else. That is the law of exclusion! When we send our children to the store for a loaf of bread and a gallon of milk, we do not tell them all we do not want, but simply tell them what we do want and that excludes all else. That is the law of exclusion! We may not have known what this law was called, but we do use it each day of our lives. If it were not for this law we would spend our whole life telling people what we do not want.

In like manner, when God told Noah to use gopher wood to build the ark, that excluded any other kind of wood. That is the law of exclusion! In the New Testament when God said to use unleavened bread and fruit of the vine in the Lord’s Supper (Mat. 26:26-29) that excluded milk and cookies, water and cornbread, or any thing else. When the Lord said that we must sing in our worship to Him (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16) that excluded mechanical instruments of music, humming, or anything else of that nature. Faithful “gopher wood” Christians know this and practice this. Remember: “And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him” (Col. 3:17).

But, today, there are a host of people who conveniently ignore the law of exclusion when it will help them acquire what they want. When a mother sends a child to the store after a loaf of bread and a gallon of milk and the child comes back with cookies and ice cream, the mother will be pleased and will likely say, “I didn’t say you could get cookies and ice cream!” The child might then reply, “But mom, you didn’t say I couldn’t.” Parents will not put up with that type of reasoning and neither will God.

When the denominational world asks us why we do not use mechanical instruments of music in worship, we will say that we have no biblical authority to do so. Many will then reply, “But the Bible doesn’t say that you can’t.” Oh, but it does my dear friend, in the law of exclusion. When God said to sing that automatically eliminated all other kinds of music. We understand the law of exclusion in our everyday walks of life, why can we not understand it in religion?

We need more “gopher wood” Christians in the church today, those who will speak where the Bible speaks (1 Pet. 4:11) and who will do Bible things in Bible ways (Col. 3:17), not adding to nor taking away from the word of truth (Rev. 22:18-19). What we like or dislike is not to be our authority in religion, for Solomon declared, “There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death” (Pro. 14:12). Now that is simple, and that is plain and you can understand it!

25403 Lancewood; Spring, TX 77373

Do What You Can Today

In Elmer Bendliner’s book, The Fall of Fortresses, he describes one bombing run over the German city of Kassel:

Our B-17 (“The Tondelayo”) was barraged by flack from Nazi antiaircraft guns. That was not unusual, but on this particular occasion our gas tanks were hit. Later as I reflected on the wonder of a twenty-millimeter shell piercing the fuel tank without touching off an explosion, our pilot, Bohn Fawkes, told me it was not quite that simple. On the morning following the raid, Bohn had gone down to ask our crew chief for that shell as a souvenir of unbelievable luck. The crew chief said that not just one shell but eleven had been found in the gas tanks—eleven unexploded shells where only one was sufficient to blast us out of the sky. It was as if the sea had been parted for us.

Even after thirty-five years, so awesome and event leaves me shaken, especially after I heard the rest of the story from Bohn. He was told that the shells had been sent to the armors to be defused. The armors told him that Intelligence had picked them up. They could not say why at that time, but Bohn eventually sought the answer. Apparently when the armors opened each of those shells, they found no explosive charge. They were as clean as a whistle and just as harmless. Empty? Not all of them. One contained a carefully rolled piece of paper. On it was a scrawl in Czech. The Intelligence people scoured our base for a man who could read Czech. Eventually, they found one to decipher the note. It set us marveling. Translated, the note read: “This is all we can to for you now.” (Scott Wenig, Leadership, Vol. 4, No. 2).

We may not be able to do any great thing for Christ today, but if we will do the little things we can do, they may mean something to someone else down the road.

Author Unknown

Brotherly Love

Josh Webster

Eric was a great kid. His parents loved him dearly. He had just turned sixteen and to celebrate his parents let him have the car keys. Thirty minutes later they received a phone call that Eric was seriously injured in a car accident. When they arrived at the hospital they learned that Eric was cut up real bad and he needed some blood. The problem was that he had a very rare blood type. They called all their relatives and had them come in to be tested to see if they had Eric’s blood type. They found a match in Eric’s younger brother, Wes. Eric’s father talked to Wes to explain the situation. Wes broke out in tears but eventually agreed to go along. The doctors took the family in and put Wes on the table. Wes was still crying heavily. His father’s efforts to calm him did not work. The father finally asked Wes “What is wrong?” Wes explained, “I don’t want to die.” Wes thought that giving blood meant you had to give your life too.

“Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends” (John 15:13). The amazing thing is that Wes was prepared to give up his life for his brother, because he loved his brother. “For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus” (Gal. 3:26-28). We are all brothers and sisters in Christ. John writes, “By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren” (1 John 3:16). You will probably never find yourself in a situation where you would be asked to, but would you do it?

“Bear ye one another’s burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ” (Gal. 6:2). We should be willing to go that extra mile for our brothers and sisters. “And all that believed were together, and had all things common, as every man had need” (Acts 2:44-46). Are you prepared to go that extra mile for your brethren?

In Elmer Bendliner’s book, The Fall of Fortresses, he describes one bombing run over the German city of Kassel:

Our B-17 (“The Tondelayo”) was barraged by flack from Nazi antiaircraft guns. That was not unusual, but on this particular occasion our gas tanks were hit. Later as I reflected on the wonder of a twenty-millimeter shell piercing the fuel tank without touching off an explosion, our pilot, Bohn Fawkes, told me it was not quite that simple. On the morning following the raid, Bohn had gone down to ask our crew chief for that shell as a souvenir of unbelievable luck. The crew chief said that not just one shell but eleven had been found in the gas tanks—eleven unexploded shells where only one was sufficient to blast us out of the sky. It was as if the sea had been parted for us.

Even after thirty-five years, so awesome and event leaves me shaken, especially after I heard the rest of the story from Bohn. He was told that the shells had been sent to the

Do What You Can Today

In Elmer Bendliner’s book, The Fall of Fortresses, he describes one bombing run over the German city of Kassel:

Our B-17 (“The Tondelayo”) was barraged by flack from Nazi antiaircraft guns. That was not unusual, but on this particular occasion our gas tanks were hit. Later as I reflected on the wonder of a twenty-millimeter shell piercing the fuel tank without touching off an explosion, our pilot, Bohn Fawkes, told me it was not quite that simple. On the morning following the raid, Bohn had gone down to ask our crew chief for that shell as a souvenir of unbelievable luck. The crew chief said that not just one shell but eleven had been found in the gas tanks—eleven unexploded shells where only one was sufficient to blast us out of the sky. It was as if the sea had been parted for us.

Even after thirty-five years, so awesome and event leaves me shaken, especially after I heard the rest of the story from Bohn. He was told that the shells had been sent to the

Do What You Can Today

In Elmer Bendliner’s book, The Fall of Fortresses, he describes one bombing run over the German city of Kassel:

Our B-17 (“The Tondelayo”) was barraged by flack from Nazi antiaircraft guns. That was not unusual, but on this particular occasion our gas tanks were hit. Later as I reflected on the wonder of a twenty-millimeter shell piercing the fuel tank without touching off an explosion, our pilot, Bohn Fawkes, told me it was not quite that simple. On the morning following the raid, Bohn had gone down to ask our crew chief for that shell as a souvenir of unbelievable luck. The crew chief said that not just one shell but eleven had been found in the gas tanks—eleven unexploded shells where only one was sufficient to blast us out of the sky. It was as if the sea had been parted for us.

Even after thirty-five years, so awesome and event leaves me shaken, especially after I heard the rest of the story from Bohn. He was told that the shells had been sent to the
the whole menu telling the waitress what we do not want; we simply tell her what we want and that excludes all else. That is the law of exclusion! When we send our children to the store for a loaf of bread and a gallon of milk, we do not tell them all we do not want, but simply tell them what we do want and that excludes all else. That is the law of exclusion! We may not have known what this law was called, but we do use it each day of our lives. If it were not for this law we would spend our whole life telling people what we do not want.

In like manner, when God told Noah to use gopher wood to build the ark, that excluded any other kind of wood. That is the law of exclusion! In the New Testament when God said to use unleavened bread and fruit of the vine in the Lord’s Supper (Matt. 26:26-29) that excluded milk and cookies, water and cornbread, or any thing else. When the Lord said that we must sing in our worship to Him (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16) that excluded mechanical instruments of music, humming, or anything else of that nature. Faithful “gopher wood” Christians know this and practice this. Remember: “And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him” (Col. 3:17).

But, today, there are a host of people who conveniently ignore the law of exclusion when it will help them acquire what they want. When a mother sends a child to the store after a loaf of bread and a gallon of milk and the child comes back with cookies and ice cream, the mother will be displeased and will likely say, “I didn’t say you could get cookies and ice cream!” The child might then reply, “But mom, you didn’t say I couldn’t.” Parents will not put up with that type of reasoning and neither will God.

When the denominational world asks us why we do not use mechanical instruments of music in worship, we will say that we have no biblical authority to do so. Many will then reply, “But the Bible doesn’t say that you can’t.” Oh, but it does my dear friend, in the law of exclusion. When God said to sing that automatically eliminated all other kinds of music. We understand the law of exclusion in our everyday walks of life, why can we not understand it in religion?

We need more “gopher wood” Christians in the church today, those who will speak where the Bible speaks (1 Pet. 4:11) and who will do Bible things in Bible ways (Col. 3:17), not adding to nor taking away from the word of truth (Rev. 22:18-19). What we like or dislike is not to be our authority in religion, for Solomon declared, “There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death” (Prov. 14:12). Now that is simple, and that is plain and you can understand it!

25403 Lancewood; Spring, TX 77373

Do What You Can Today

In Elmer Bendlin’s book, The Fall of Fortresses, he describes one bombing run over the German city of Kassel:

Our B-17 (“The Tondelayo”) was barraged by flack from Nazi antiaircraft guns. That was not unusual, but on this particular occasion our gas tanks were hit. Later as I reflected on the wonder of a twenty-millimeter shell piercing the fuel tank without touching off an explosion, our pilot, Bohn Fawkes, told me it was not quite that simple. On the morning following the raid, Bohn had gone down to ask our crew chief for that shell as a souvenir of unbelievable luck. The crew chief said that not just one shell but eleven had been found in the gas tanks—eleven unexploded shells where only one was sufficient to blast us out of the sky. It was as if the sea had been parted for us. Even after thirty-five years, so awesome and event leaves me shaken, especially after I heard the rest of the story from Bohn. He was told that the shells had been sent to the for you are all one in Christ Jesus” (Gal. 3:26-28). We are all brothers and sisters in Christ. John writes, “By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren” (1 John 3:16). You will probably never find yourself in a situation where you would be asked to, but would you do it?

“Bear ye one another’s burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ” (Gal. 6:2). We should be willing to go that extra mile for our brethren and sisters.” And all that believed were together, and had all things common; And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need” (Acts 2:44-46). Are you prepared to go that extra mile for your brethren?

Brotherly Love

Josh Webster

Eric was a great kid. His parents loved him dearly. He had just turned sixteen and to celebrate his parents let him have the car keys. Thirty minutes later they received a phone call that Eric was seriously injured in a car accident. When they arrived at the hospital they learned that Eric was cut up real bad and he needed some blood. The problem was that he had a very rare blood type. They called all his relatives and had them come in to be tested to see if they had Eric’s blood type. They found a match in Eric’s younger brother, Wes. Eric’s father talked to Wes to explain the situation. Wes broke out in tears but eventually agreed to go along. The doctors took the family in and put Wes on the table. Wes was still crying heavily. His father’s efforts to calm him did not work. The father finally asked Wes “What is wrong?” Wes explained, “I don’t want to die.” Wes thought that giving blood meant you had to give your life too.

“Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends” (John 15:13). The amazing thing is that Wes was prepared to give up his life for his brother, because he loved his brother. “For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus” (Gal. 3:26-28). We are all brothers and sisters in Christ. John writes, “By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren” (1 John 3:16). You will probably never find yourself in a situation where you would be asked to, but would you do it?

“Bear ye one another’s burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ” (Gal. 6:2). We should be willing to go that extra mile for our brethren and sisters.” And all that believed were together, and had all things common; And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need” (Acts 2:44-46). Are you prepared to go that extra mile for your brethren? 

Copied
Sick
Please remember in your prayers: Elaine Maxey, Jean Flesher, Marilyn Hall, Diana Brazell, Neva Bryant, and Ruby Bailey.

Reading/Invitation
July 3, 2002
Reading: Daniel Hatcher
Invitation: Damon Lundy
July 10, 2002
Reading: Brantley Johnson
Invitation: Fred Stancliff

Mark These Dates
July 7, 2002—Visitation Group 1
assignment cards handed out.
July 14, 2002—Visitation Group 2
assignment cards handed out.
July 14, 2002—Deacons’ meeting at 5:00
PM, in room 7.
July 21, 2002—Visitation Group 3
assignment cards handed out.
July 21, 2002—Elders/Deacons’ meeting at
5:00 PM, in room 7.
July 29, 2002—Visitation Group Get-
together at 6:00 PM. A covered-dish
meal will precede the meeting.

Address Update
Michael Wilkes’ address is: AB
Michael Wilkes; 321 TRS/FLT 522 Dorm
B7; PSC #4; 1015 Truemper Street Unit
364022; Lackland AFB, TX 78236-6040.
Please write to Michael while he is in Air
Force basic training.

Pantry Item Needed
Canned Fruit

A “Gopher Wood” Christian
David P. Brown
Most of us are familiar with the story of Noah in Genesis 6. We remember how the Almighty decided to destroy the earth by water because “God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually” (Gen. 6:5). But we also remember that “Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD” (Gen. 6:8), because “Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God” (Gen. 6:9). Thus, to provide salvation for Noah and his family, God commanded him to build an ark, and gave Noah exact instructions concerning how it was to be built (Gen. 6:14-16). Of Noah it is said, “Thus did Noah; according to all that God commanded him, so did he” (Gen. 6:22). Concerning Noah, the Hebrews’ writer declared, “By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousnes which is by faith” (Heb. 11:7).

Noah was a faithful “gopher wood” preacher and man of God. God told Noah to use gopher wood in the building of the ark, and this Noah did. God authorized no other wood out of which to build the ark. Thus, the only wood acceptable is gopher wood. All other wood is excluded because there is no authorization for it. This is known as the “law of exclusion.” It is a law that Noah understood and a law that we use everyday, but at times many conveniently ignore this law. When we go to the café and order a hamburger and fries, we do not have to go through...
Sick

Please remember in your prayers: Elaine Maxey, Jean Flesher, Marilyn Hall, Diana Brazell, Neva Bryant, Ruby Bailey, and Vonceil Kittell (Ella Hammac’s sister-in-law).

Reading/Invitation
July 10, 2002
Reading: Brantley Johnson
Invitation: Fred Stancliff

July 17, 2002
Reading: Jim Loy
Invitation: Henry Born

Mark These Dates
July 7, 2002–Visitation Group 1 assignment cards handed out.
July 14, 2002–Visitation Group 2 assignment cards handed out.
July 14, 2002–Deacons’ meeting at 5:00 PM, in room 7.
July 21, 2002–Elders/Deacons’ meeting at 5:00 PM, in room 7.
July 29, 2002–Visitation Group Get-together at 6:00 PM. A covered dish meal will precede the meeting.
July 31, 2002–Fifth Wednesday Singing at 7:00 PM.

Pantry Item Needed
Canned Meat

1 John 1:10
“If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.”

The Right Attitude
Danny Box

The book of Romans is one of the most profound documents known to man. Its theme deals with man’s righteousness before God. Its thesis sets out the only means of standing righteous before Him—through the Gospel. A number of matters are dealt with throughout its sixteen chapters. A study of its contents will profit one immensely.

Although Romans contains matters which are, at times, difficult to understand, it also contains material of a very practical nature. The first few verses of chapter 12 constitute such a section. In these verses one can find teaching concerning his attitude in four vital areas. Notice these areas:

Man’s attitude toward GOD (Rom. 12:1). In this verse Paul speaks of one’s “reasonable service.” The presentation of one’s self as a “living sacrifice” constitutes that “reasonable service.” Certainly it is reasonable that, if God gave His Son for me, I should be willing to live for Him. The right attitude toward God is that I am His and I am willing to dedicate myself to His service!

Man’s attitude toward the WORLD (Rom. 12:2). A refusal to be conformed to its standards is the proper attitude which one should have toward the world. The standards of the world are fickle and change with the moods of man and the trends of society. Paul said, “Be not conformed to this world; but be ye transformed.” In order for transformation to take place a refusal of conformation must be maintained. The right
What Is Spiritual Worship?
Lennie Reagan

Frustration may be one word to describe how many folks may feel about their efforts to determine what true spiritual worship is and what it is not. To some people spirituality is nothing more than raw emotionalism; whether it is a display of tears or an holy laughter which is used to define the depth of one’s “spirituality.” Others will suggest that true spiritual worship is a feeling, an holy nudge that God is speaking to me (apart from His Word). To these folks, it is a better felt than told experience. In their estimation, the “really spiritual people” have those kinds of manifestations to demonstrate the depth and genuineness of their religion.

The Bible does not teach that concept of spirituality. While Christianity is not void of emotions, we should not be deceived into equating spirituality with emotional lumps in our throat or with mystical things that go bump in the night. We must have a correct concept of what it means to be spiritual, and the Bible does guide us to a proper understanding regarding popular misunderstanding. While brethren attempt to be ambiguous in their teaching and writing and while these brethren attempt to change the definitions of words to suit their purpose, Bible spirituality is not a mystery.

The words of Christ provide a natural outline for this study: “God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth” (John 4:24). When we understand what true worship is, we can understand that true worship demands participation. We, as Christians, are the participants, not the spectators. We also learn that we are not the audience with the song leader, the preacher, the one who leads us in congregational prayer, or the men who serve around the Lord’s table as the main performers of the day. Rather, God is the audience: God is the recipient of our worship.

It is so sad; but, evidently true, that many come to the worship services as if they are going to attend a theatrical performance. If the actors do not perform to the desired expectations, dis-appointment sets in and we hear comments like, “I just didn’t get anything out of services today!” Or, we hear criticisms that worship has become boring, monotonous: “We concentrate too much on ‘decency and order.’” We hear suggestions that worship services today need to be spontaneous, worship needs to be spirit moving in order to be a “truly spiritual experience.” O, how our speech betrays us.

True, spiritual worship is a giving of praise, honor, and adoration to God rather than a totally receiving experience. However, that is not to suggest that worship is to be offered by mere robots. Our participation in worship does proffer spiritual benefits for the participants: We are edified in worship, we know the joy of fellowship with our church family, we have the memorial of the Lord’s supper, we have the blessing of prayer, we are encouraged and admonished in singing, we are taught the Word of God, and many other blessings are ours as the participants of true, spiritual worship. Please notice, however, that it is only in “truth and spirit” worship that we receive those blessings (John 4:24). When we seek to be entertained or when we seek an emotional experience, we have reversed the roles and the recipients of worship.

Is it possible that sometimes we equate attendance with worship. In other words, “I’m here (physically at the building), so I’m worshiping.” Well, we must come nigh the building, in that we must assemble with the saints (Heb. 10:25); but, we must also draw near to God with our hearts. In order for us to worship in spirit and truth, we must participate in worship. As B. J. Clarke asked, “After all, which does God frown upon with greater disapproval, I-D-O-L worship or I-D-L-E worship?”

The psalmist observed that men become like the object they worship. In Psalm 115, the inspired author describes the failure of the idols created by men, those idols men had made with their own hands. In verse 8 he sums up the relationship of the idols and those who make them: “They that make them are like unto them; so is every one that trusteth in them” (Psa. 115:8). So, when we participate in true worship, we partake of the attributes and nature of God. God is the audience of our worship.

Indeed, some people have grown apathetic and aloof in their worship; but, is that a problem which calls for changes to the pattern which God demands in worship, or is it a problem which must be remedied by those individuals who have become lukewarm in worship? Changing what God commands is not the medicine to solve a problem of the heart. Repentance and reconciliation is the proper response. Spiritual worship is according to the truth of God’s Word and with the proper attitude revealed in the Word of God. Those who are spiritual seek, not to change, but to obey what God has taught in His Word.

PO Box 321
Coldwater, MS 38618

Visitation

It should be remembered that you do not have to be on the “visitation team” to visit. Just turn off your television, turn off the lights, get into your car, start the engine, put the transmission in “D” and head out. We have lots of people in our congregation who would enjoy a visit. Your visit will make you feel good as well as the people you visit.
What Is Spiritual Worship?

Lennie Reagan

Frustration may be one word to describe how many folks may feel about their efforts to determine what true spiritual worship is and what it is not. To some people spirituality is nothing more than raw emotionalism; whether it is a display of tears or an holy laughter which is used to define the depth of one’s “spirituality.” Others will suggest that true spiritual worship is a feeling, an holy nudge that God is speaking to me (apart from His Word). To these folks, it is a better felt than told experience. In their estimation, the “really spiritual people” have those kinds of manifestations to demonstrate the depth and genuineness of their religion.

The Bible does not teach that concept of spirituality. While Christianity is not void of emotions, we should not be deceived into equating spirituality with emotional lumps in our throat or with mystical things that go bump in the night. We must have a correct concept of what it means to be spiritual, and the Bible does guide us to a proper understanding regarding popular misunderstanding. While brethren attempt to be ambiguous in their teaching and writing and while these brethren attempt to change the definitions of words to suit their purpose, Bible spirituality is not a mystery.

The words of Christ provide a natural outline for this study: “God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth” (John 4:24). When we understand what true worship is, we can understand that true worship demands participation. We, as Christians, are the participants, not the spectators. We also learn that we are not the audience with the song leader, the preacher, the one who leads us in congregational prayer, or the men who serve around the Lord’s table as the main performers of the day. Rather, God is the audience: God is the recipient of our worship.

It is so sad; but, evidently true, that many come to the worship services as if they are going to attend a theatrical performance. If the actors do not perform to the desired expectations, disappointment sets in and we hear comments like, “I just didn’t get anything out of services today!” Or, we hear criticisms that worship has become boring, monotonous: “We concentrate too much on ‘decency and order.’” We hear suggestions that worship services today need to be spontaneous, worship needs to be spirit moving in order to be a “truly spiritual experience.” O, how our speech betrays us.

True, spiritual worship is a giving of praise, honor, and adoration to God rather than a totally receiving experience. However, that is not to suggest that worship is to be offered by mere robots. Our participation in worship does proffer spiritual benefits for the participants: We are edified in worship, we know the joy of fellowship with our church family, we have the memorial of the Lord’s supper, we have the blessing of prayer, we are encouraged and admonished in singing, we are taught the Word of God, and many other blessings are ours as the participants of true, spiritual worship. Please notice, however, that it is only in “truth and spirit” worship that we receive those blessings (John 4:24). When we seek to be entertained or when we seek an emotional experience, we have reversed the roles and the recipients of worship.

Is it possible that sometimes we equate attendance with worship. In other words, “I’m here (physically at the building), so I’m worshiping.” Well, we must come nigh the building, in that we must assemble with the saints (Heb. 10:25); but, we must also draw near to God with our hearts. In order for us to worship in spirit and truth, we must participate in worship. As B. J. Clarke asked, “After all, which does God frown upon with greater disapproval, I-D-O-L worship or I-D-L-E worship?”

The psalmist observed that men become like the object they worship. In Psalm 115, the inspired author describes the failure of the idols created by men, those idols men had made with their own hands. In verse 8 he sums up the relationship of the idols and those who make them: “They that make them are like unto them; so is every one that trusteth in them” (Psa. 115:8). So, when we participate in true worship, we partake of the attributes and nature of God. God is the audience of our worship.

Indeed, some people have grown apathetic and aloof in their worship; but, is that a problem which calls for changes to the pattern which God demands in worship, or...?
Sick
Please remember in your prayers: Elaine Maxey, Jean Flesher, Marilyn Hall, Diana Brazell, Neva Bryant, Ruby Bailey, and Vonceil Kittell (Ella Hammac’s sister-in-law).

Reading/Invitation
July 10, 2002
Reading: Brantley Johnson
Invitation: Fred Stancliff
July 17, 2002
Reading: Jim Loy
Invitation: Henry Born

Mark These Dates
July 7, 2002–Visitation Group 1 assignment cards handed out.
July 14, 2002–Visitation Group 2 assignment cards handed out.
July 14, 2002–Deacons’ meeting at 5:00 PM, in room 7.
July 21, 2002–Elders/Deacons’ meeting at 5:00 PM, in room 7.
July 29, 2002–Visitation Group Get-together at 6:00 PM. A covered-dish meal will precede the meeting.
July 31, 2002–Fifth Wednesday Singing at 7:00 PM.

Pantry Item Needed
Canned Meat

1 John 1:10
“If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.”

The Right Attitude
Danny Box

The book of Romans is one of the most profound documents known to man. Its theme deals with man’s righteousness before God. Its thesis sets out the only means of standing righteous before Him—through the Gospel. A number of matters are dealt with throughout its sixteen chapters. A study of its contents will profit one immensely.

Although Romans contains matters which are, at times, difficult to understand, it also contains material of a very practical nature. The first few verses of chapter 12 constitute such a section. In these verses one can find teaching concerning his attitude in four vital areas. Notice these areas:

Man’s attitude toward GOD (Rom. 12:1):
In this verse Paul speaks of one’s “reasonable service.” The presentation of one’s self as a “living sacrifice” constitutes that “reasonable service.” Certainly it is reasonable that, if God gave His Son for me, I should be willing to live for Him. The right attitude toward God is that I am His and I am willing to dedicate myself to His service!

Man’s attitude toward the WORLD (Rom. 12:2):
A refusal to be conformed to its standards is the proper attitude which one should have toward the world. The standards of the world are fickle and change with the moods of man and the trends of society. Paul said, “Be not conformed to this world; but be ye transformed.” In order for transformation to take place a refusal of conformation must be maintained. The right
Sick
Please remember in your prayers:
Elaine Maxey, Jean Flesher, Marilyn Hall,
Diana Brazell, Neva Bryant, Ruby Bailey,
and Voncie Kittell (Ella Hammac’s sister-in-law).

Reading/Invitation
July 17, 2002
Reading: Jim Loy
Invitation: Henry Born
July 24, 2002
Reading: Shelby Nall
Invitation: Paul Brantley

Mark These Dates
July 14, 2002–Visitation Group 2 assignment cards handed out.
July 14, 2002–Deacons’ meeting at 5:00 pm, in room 7.
July 20, 2002–4th Annual Ladies’ Day at Westside Church of Christ; 900 North “J” Street; 9:00 am to 12 noon. Registration 8:00-9:00 am. For further information call (850) 438-3881.
July 21-26, 2002–Gospel meeting at Westside Church of Christ with Stacey Grant from Macon, Georgia speaking. Sunday at 9:45, 11:00 am, and 3:00 pm, Monday-Friday evenings at 7:30 pm.
July 21, 2002–Elders/Deacons’ meeting at 5:00 pm, in room 7.

Pantry Item Needed
Canned Meat

Are We Authorized to Call Names?
Noah A. Hackworth

I could say yes and end this article right here, but I will not. Instead, it will be in the best interest of truth to fully explore the subject. As usual there are two sides to every issue and this one is no exception. First, it is not always necessary to publicly call someone by name in order to correct error. Next, we have brethren who find “name-calling” so distasteful that they simply refuse to do it under any circumstance. Then we have others who are too dogmatic and harsh in their practice of “naming” people and things, and if this is all such brethren can find to do, we suggest they find another occupation. Finally, there are times and circumstances when referring to a person by name is justified provided it is done in the interest of truth (Eph. 4:15). There are times, we believe, when it is necessary to publicly identify false teachers, but it must be remembered that there is never a time when we are justified in misrepresenting another person; such is unethical and inexcusable. The thing to do in this case, as in any other, is examine the Sacred Text for evidence that establishes truth.

Get Thee Behind Me, Satan
It was a few months (according to one chronologist) before Jesus finished His earthly ministry that He promised to build His church (Mat. 16:18). He subsequently forbade His disciples to tell anyone that He was the Christ (v. 20). At this point Jesus begins to tell His disciples of the necessity of going to Jerusalem, to suffer...
many things of the elders, chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and the third day raised up. Matthew’s record says, “And Peter took him, and began to rebuke him, saying, Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall never be unto thee. But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art a stumbling-block unto me: for thou mindest not the things of God, but the things of men” (Mat. 16:22-23). Peter here followed the path of rebuke and contradiction and was censured by the Lord for so doing. Perhaps Peter’s comments were founded on his supposition that Christ should not be exposed to the things He had just mentioned. If this was the case Peter was allowing himself to be used by Satan for his evil purposes. There are times when a point has to be clearly and unmistakably made in behalf of the truth. The Lord used the right designation in His rebuke of Peter.

Scribes and Pharisees

Matthew 23:13-33 is perhaps the most severe example of name-calling on record, and this was done by the Lord Himself. His words were always accurate because He “knew what was in the hearts of men;” unfortunately we do not. It is not likely that any Gospel preacher could “get away” with addressing an audience with such expressions as “hypocrites,” “serpents,” and “vipers,” though it is likely that in any audience some can be found who are given over to hypocrisy, subtlety, and insincerity. Every audience to which a speaker is privileged to speak deserves every consideration possible, but in the event someone needs to be “single-out” for some sinful act, the Bible certainly authorizes such to be done. A great statesman once said, “Let the people of this country know the truth and the country is safe.” Is there a legitimate reason why this philosophy will not work in our own brotherhood? If we let the church know the truth, will that not keep the church safe? If not, why not? The apostle John warned the church about a man who loved to have the preeminence. The apostle not only issued a warning about this man, he called him by name: He is Diotrephes (3 John 9). It may not have been pleasant for Diotrephes to have his name publicly mentioned, but John, the apostle of love, found it needful to do so.

Euodias and Syntyche

When the epistle to the Philippians was penned (ca. A.D. 62), Paul expressed his love and concern for them and admonished them to “stand fast in the Lord” (Phil. 4:1). This admonition was followed by an exhortation to two individuals to be of the same mind (v. 2). He specifically urged Euodia and Syntyche to resolve their difficulties. They may have been estranged. They may have been good women in the church at Philippi, but both women were involved in some kind of mishap and were both held responsible. Paul could have encouraged the whole congregation to be of one mind, but he deemed it necessary to call out two names in particular followed by instructions to correct the fault. What biblical principle was violated by naming these two individuals? None. Neither would it be improper or untruthful to presently follow the same path. Personal confrontations are sometimes necessary.

Hymenaeus and Alexander

Paul had charged Timothy, his child in the faith, to war the good warfare as well as hold faith and a good conscience (1 Tim. 1:18-19). Some had made shipwreck of the faith, of whom were Hymenaeus and Alexander. Paul had delivered them unto Satan, that they might be taught not to blaspheme (v. 20). There is no evidence that Paul intended to publicly ridicule these men, but at the same time they were involved in the sin of blasphemy. Paul wanted them to learn a lesson. He wanted them to abandon the course they were pursuing.

In conclusion, we can, with no regret, say that when it is necessary in the interest of truth and the salvation of souls to publicly refer to some-
many things of the elders, chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and the third day raised up. Matthew’s record says, “And Peter took him, and began to rebuke him, saying, Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall never be unto thee. But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art a stumbling-block unto me: for thou mindest not the things of God, but the things of men” (Mat. 16:22-23). Peter here followed the path of rebuke and contradiction and was censured by the Lord for so doing. Perhaps Peter’s comments were founded on his supposition that Christ should not be exposed to the things He had just mentioned. If this was the case Peter was allowing himself to be used by Satan for his evil purposes. There are times when a point has to be clearly and unmistakably made in behalf of the truth. The Lord used the right designation in His rebuke of Peter.

Scribes and Pharisees

Matthew 23:13-33 is perhaps the most severe example of name-calling on record, and this was done by the Lord Himself. His words were always accurate because He “knew what was in the hearts of men”; unfortunately we do not. It is not likely that any Gospel preacher could “get away” with addressing an audience with such expressions as “hypocrites,” “serpents,” and “vipers,” though it is likely that in any audience some can be found who are given over to hypocrisy, subtlety, and insincerity. Every audience to which a speaker is privileged to speak deserves every consideration possible, but in the event someone needs to be “single-out” for some sinful act, the Bible certainly authorizes such to be done. A great statesman once said, “Let the people of this country know the truth and the country is safe.” Is there a legitimate reason why this philosophy will not work in our own brotherhood? If we let the church know the truth, will that not keep the church safe? If not, why not? The apostle John warned the church about a man who loved to have the preeminence. The apostle not only issued a warning about this man, he called him by name: He is Diotrephes (3 John 9). It may not have been pleasant for Diotrephes to have his name publicly mentioned, but John, the apostle of love, found it needful to do so.

Euodias and Syntyche

When the epistle to the Philippians was penned (ca. A.D. 62), Paul expressed his love and concern for them and admonished them to “stand fast in the Lord” (Phil. 4:1). This admonition was followed by an exhortation to two individuals to be of the same mind (v. 2). He specifically urged Euodia and Syntyche to resolve their difficulties. They had been estranged. They may have been good women in the church at Philippi, but both women were involved in some kind of mishap and were both held responsible. Paul could have encouraged the whole congregation to be of one mind, but he deemed it necessary to call out two names in particular followed by instructions to correct the fault. What biblical principle was violated by naming these two individuals? None. Neither would it be improper or unethical to presently follow the same path. Personal confrontations are sometimes necessary.

Hymenaeus and Alexander

Paul has charged Timothy, his child in the faith, to war the good warfare as well as hold faith and a good conscience (1 Tim. 1:18-19). Some had made shipwreck of the faith, of whom were Hymenaeus and Alexander. Paul had delivered them unto Satan, that they might be taught not to blaspheme (v. 20). There is no evidence that Paul intended to publicly ridicule these men, but at the same time they were involved in the sin of blasphemy. Paul wanted them to learn a lesson. He wanted them to abandon the course they were pursuing.

In conclusion, we can, with no regret, say that when it is necessary in the interest of truth and the salvation of souls to publicly refer to some-one by name, it is biblically and ethically permissible to do so. It is shameful to allow false teachers to wander through the brotherhood without correction.

Christ Made Disciples

Charles Box

Those who became disciples of Jesus learned His doctrine and followed Him as teacher. “When therefore the Lord knew how the Pharisees had heard that Jesus made and baptized more disciples than John, (Though Jesus himself baptized not, but his disciples,) He left Judaea, and departed again into Galilee. And he must needs go through Samaria” (John 4:1-4). Christ must be viewed as Master and His followers must be learners or disciples.

Those Who Would Be Disciples must Fall at Jesus’ Feet for Forgiveness: Forgiveness is only in and through Jesus and only on His terms. The message of salvation is the message of the cross. The desire of Jesus is to make disciples. “And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen” (Mat. 28:18-20). In humble obedience all should fall at Jesus’ feet for forgiveness. “And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him” (Heb. 5:9).

Those Who Would Be Disciples must Be Fashioned and Formed to Jesus’ Likeness: A disciple of Jesus is a person who has been formed and fashioned to His will. “But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord” (2 Cor. 3:18). Let us learn Jesus’ will and be formed in His likeness. It is God’s desire that Christians conform to the image of His Son (Rom. 8:29).

Those Who Would Be Disciples must Be Fitted for Service to the Master: Once converted one becomes profitable to God and others. Such was the case as Paul wrote to Philemon concerning Onesimus: “Which in time past was to thee unprofitable, but now profitable to thee and to me” (Phm. 11). Only a true and faithful disciple is fit for service to Jesus. Come to Jesus to be forgiven. Stay with Jesus to be formed and fashioned to His will. Go for Jesus as one fitted for His service. “Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds; And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him” (Col. 3:9-10).

Those who have allowed their lives to be transformed from an old life to a new and conformed to the image of Christ are useful disciples. Are you fit for the Master’s use?

Copied
Sick
Please remember in your prayers: Elaine Maxey, Jean Flesher, Marilyn Hall, Diana Brazell, Neva Bryant, Ruby Bailey, and Vonceil Kittell (Ella Hammac’s sister-in-law).

Reading/Invitation
July 17, 2002
Reading: Jim Loy
Invitation: Henry Born
July 24, 2002
Reading: Shelby Nall
Invitation: Paul Brantley

Mark These Dates
July 14, 2002–Visitation Group 2 assignment cards handed out.
July 14, 2002–Deacons’ meeting at 5:00 pm, in room 7.
July 20, 2002–4th Annual Ladies’ Day at Westside Church of Christ; 900 North “J” Street; 9:00 am to 12 noon. Registration 8:00-9:00 am. For further information call (850) 438-3881.
July 21-26, 2002–Gospel meeting at Westside Church of Christ with Stacey Grant from Macon, Georgia speaking. Sunday at 9:45, 11:00 am, and 3:00 pm, Monday-Friday evenings at 7:30 pm.
July 21, 2002–Elders/Deacons’ meeting at 5:00 pm, in room 7.

Pantry Item Needed
Canned Meat

Are We Authorized to Call Names?
Noah A. Hackworth

I could say yes and end this article right here, but I will not. Instead, it will be in the best interest of truth to fully explore the subject. As usual there are two sides to every issue and this one is no exception. First, it is not always necessary to publicly call someone by name in order to correct error. Next, we have brethren who find “name-calling” so distasteful that they simply refuse to do it under any circumstance. Then we have others who are too dogmatic and harsh in their practice of “naming” people and things, and if this is all such brethren can find to do, we suggest they find another occupation. Finally, there are times and circumstances when referring to a person by name is justified provided it is done in the interest of truth (Eph. 4:15). There are times, we believe, when it is necessary to publicly identify false teachers, but it must be remembered that there is never a time when we are justified in misrepresenting another person; such is unethical and inexcusable. The thing to do in this case, as in any other, is examine the Sacred Text for evidence that establishes truth.

Get Thee Behind Me, Satan
It was a few months (according to one chronologist) before Jesus finished His earthly ministry that He promised to build His church (Mat. 16:18). He subsequently forbade His disciples to tell anyone that He was the Christ (v. 20). At this point Jesus begins to tell His disciples of the necessity of going to Jerusalem, to suffer...
Sick
Please remember in your prayers: Elaine Maxey, Jean Flesher, Marilyn Hall, Diana Brazell, Neva Bryant, Rubye Bailey, and Vonceil Kittell (Ella Hammac’s sister-in-law).

Reading/Invitation
July 24, 2002
Reading: Shelby Nall
Invitation: Paul Brantley
July 31, 2002
Reading: Richard Parker
Invitation: Bill Busch

Mark These Dates
July 20, 2002–4th Annual Ladies’ Day at Westside Church of Christ; 900 North “J” Street; 9:00 am to 12 noon. Registration 8:00-9:00 am. For further information call (850) 438-3881.
July 21-26, 2002–Gospel meeting at Westside Church of Christ with Stacey Grant from Macon, Georgia speaking. Sunday at 9:45, 11:00 am, and 3:00 pm, Monday-Friday evenings at 7:30 pm.
July 21, 2002–Elders/Deacons’ meeting at 5:00 pm, in room 7.

Address Changes
Damon and Vaydra Lundy’s address is: 4227 Crosswinds Drive; Milton, FL 32583. Rebecca Cline’s address is: 4740 Highway 51 Apt. 12-207; Southaven, MS 38671. We wish Rebecca best wishes in her first teaching position.

In recognition of our proper place in the world, the child of God is most assuredly aware of the fact that “we are in the world, but not of the world” (John 18:38; Phi. 3:20). In our awareness of that fact, we are very conscious of the pressure that is being applied on us by those of the world to conform to their morals, standards, principles, and way of life (??) Brethren, we dare not give in! Christ did not! In Luke 2:52, we are told that “Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.” That is, Jesus grew intellectually, physically, spiritually, and socially. In every area of growth and development our Lord provided us with the proper example of one who always did that which was pleasing to the Father (John 8:29), who was “in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin” (Heb. 4:15), and His continual desire was to glorify the Father (John 12:28). Thus, our Lord refused to allow the society in which He lived (the world) to determine the kind of life that He would lead. Obviously, this is one reason why He was “despised and rejected of men” (Isa. 53:3). He told the disciples in John 15:18-19: “If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, therefore the world hateth you.”

For the child of God today, the pressures are still there to conform and fashion ourselves according to the world. Yes, worldly people want us to pattern our speech, dress, morals, habits, desires, and conduct after their loose, profligate,
and ungodly ways! As a matter of fact, as Peter says, “they think it strange that ye run not with them to the same excess of riot, speaking evil of you” (1 Pet. 4:4). It is not strange to the child of God because he knows:

• “No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon” (Mat. 6:24).

• “For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved. But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God” (John 3:20-21).

• “Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these: Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatries, witchcraft, hatred, variances, emulations, strife, seditions, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God” (Gal. 5:19-21).

• “Know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? Whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God” (Jam. 4:4).

• “Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever” (1 John 2:15-17).

Thus, if we would follow the example of Jesus, we will “come out from among them, and be ye separate” (2 Cor. 6:17). We will do so, so that we can indeed be “blameless and harmless, sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world; holding forth the word of life” (Phi. 2:15-16). Let us take heed to the appeal of the apostle Peter concerning the call and allure of the world, and the proper affect we can have on those “of the world” when he said, “Dearely beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul; Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation” (1 Pet. 2:11-12).

P. O. Box 690
Sapulpa, OK 74067

Indifference Will “Close Her Up!”
Toney L. Smith

Someone once said the greatest danger to a congregation comes from indifference. It comes from members who just do not care. It is born from the lack of interest, unconcern, and a desire for neutrality. It is summed up in Revelation 3:16: “So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.”

The devil is seeking to close the doors of the church. And he will use every device at his disposal (Gen. 3:1-6). The enemies of the church have their work made easier when members become indifferent.

Zeal is to characterize every child of God (Tit. 2:14). The Christian is to “earnestly contend” for the faith (Jude 3). Both of these attributes are exactly the opposite of indifference. The church will fail, only when we as members fail!

The Reproach of America
Al Brown

“Righteousness exalteth a nation; But sin is a reproach to any people” (Pro. 14:34).

Some may not wish it so, but this ancient truth is still as valid today as when it was first written. We live in a time when righteousness, truth, and goodness are demeaned; and wickedness, lying, and brutality are glorified and applauded. God’s standard of morality has never been more blatantly ignored and even ridiculed. Many pay lip service to God. Some even profess to be a part of “Christendom” while utterly ignoring His will. Jesus says such people are headed for torment (Mat. 7:21-23).

The Lord does not allow anyone to compartmentalize his life, doing the will of God at times and then utterly ignoring it at other times when it is not convenient. Every person, whether he/she is a Christian or not, will be held responsible for what he does in this life (2 Cor. 5:10; Rev. 20:11-15). God revealed His will to us so we can know how to live, treat other people, and worship God. Changing, replacing, or perverting His will (the Scriptures) will not excuse anyone at the Judgment (Gal. 1:6-9).

Most people in this country may not know the place where a moral principle is found in the Bible, but they know if a thing is wrong or not. Pure Christianity has impacted the world to that degree. James’ warning applies to all people—not just Christians: “To him therefore that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin” (Jam. 4:17). When Americans put a stamp of approval on sin—any sin—this passage condemns them whether they ever acknowledge it or not.

All this means every person of accountable age must live by God’s standard of righteousness or pay the eternal consequences. Showing approval for a lifestyle that God condemns (homosexuality) is immoral (Rom. 1:26-27). Pursuing candidates who enact laws legalizing such sin is immoral. These sins and others are why America is in deep moral decline.

Deceased

The Library has added several new books for members of the congregation to check out. Those books are: Is the “Lads To Leaders/Leaderettes, Inc.” Really Good For Our Children? by Mark Mosher; Freed-Hardeman Lectures (1953-2002) CD; The Bible the Saint & The Liquor Industry by Jim McGuiggan; Sacred Didactics by J. W. McGarvey; The Outline Bible by Harold L. Willmington; Tyndale Handbook of Bible Charts & Maps (with CD) by Neil S. Wilson and Linda K. Taylor; The Authorship of Deuteronomy by J. W. McGarvey; English Study Bible by Harold Littrell (translator); Modern King James Version of the Holy Bible; Then And Now Bible Maps; and The Parables Of Our Lord, Vol. 1 & 2; Louis Rushmore. Reference books can only be used in the library.

Book Corner

517 Gaylord Rd; Dresden, TN 38225

17 Gaylord Rd; Dresden, TN 38225
and unholy ways! As a matter of fact, as Peter says, “they think it strange that ye run not with them to the same excess of riot, speaking evil of you” (1 Pet. 4:4). It is not strange to the child of God because he knows:

- “No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon” (Matt. 6:24).
- “For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved. But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God” (John 3:20-21).
- “Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you” (Gal. 5:19-21).
- “Know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God” (Jam. 4:4).

- “Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever” (1 John 2:15-17).

Thus, if we would follow the example of Jesus, we will “come out from among them, and be ye separate” (2 Cor. 6:17). We will do so, so that we can indeed be “blameless and harmless, sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world; holding forth the word of life” (Phil. 2:15-16). Let us take heed to the appeal of the apostle Peter concerning the call and the allure of the world, and the proper affect we can have on those “of the world” when he said, “Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul; Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation” (1 Pet. 2:11-12).

The Lord does not allow anyone to compartmentalize his life, doing the will of God at times and then utterly ignoring it at other times when it is not convenient. Every person, whether he/she is a Christian or not, will be held responsible for what he does in this life (2 Cor. 5:10; Rev. 20:11-15). God revealed His will to us so we can know how to live, treat other people, and worship God. Changing, replacing, or perverting His will (the Scriptures) will not excuse anyone at the Judgment (Gal. 1:6-9).

The devil is seeking to close the doors of the church. And he will use every device at his disposal (Gen. 3:1-6). The enemies of the church have worked more easily when members become indifferent.

Zeal is to characterize every child of God (Tit. 2:14). The Christian is to “earnestly contend” for the faith (Jude 3). Both of these attributes are exactly the opposite of indifference. The church will fail, only when we as members fail!

The Reproach of America

Al Brown

Most people in this country may not know the place where a moral principle is found in the Bible, but they know if a thing is wrong or not. Pure Christianity has impacted the world to that degree. James’ warning applies to all people—not just Christians. “To him therefore that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin” (Jam. 4:17). When Americans put a stamp of approval on sin—any sin—this passage condemns them whether they ever acknowledge it or not.

All this means every person of accountable age must live by God’s standard of righteousness or pay the eternal consequences. Showing approval for a lifestyle that God condemns (homosexuality) is immoral (Rom. 1:26-27; 1 Cor. 6:9-10). Approving the murder of unborn children is immoral (Exo. 21:22-25). “No fault” divorce is immoral (Mat. 19:9). Endorsing and voting for political candidates who enact laws legalizing such sin is immoral. These sins and others, are why America is in deep moral decline.

Deceased

Indifference Will “Close Her Up!”

Toney L. Smith

Someone once said the greatest danger to a congregation comes from indifference. It comes from members who just do not care. It is born from the lack of interest, unconcern, and a desire for neutrality. It is summed up in Revelation 3:16: “So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.”

Toney L. Smith

The library has added several new books for members of the congregation to check out. Those books are: Is The “Lads To Leaders/Leaderettes, Inc.” Really Good For Our Children? by Mark Mosher; Freed-Hardeman Lectures (1953-2002) CD; The Bible The Saint & The Liquor Industry by Jim McGuiggan; Sacred Didactics by J. W. McGarvey; The Outline Bible by Harold L. Willmington; Tyndale Handbook of Bible Charts & Maps (with CD) by Neil S. Wilson and Linda K. Taylor; The Authorship of Deuteronomy by J. W. McGarvey; English Study Bible by Harold Littrell (translator); Modern King James Version of the Holy Bible; Then And Now Bible Maps; and The Parables Of Our Lord, Vol. 1 & 2; Louis Rushmore. Reference books can only be used in the library.

Book Corner

517 Gaylord Rd; Dresden, TN 38225

517 Gaylord Rd; Dresden, TN 38225

517 Gaylord Rd; Dresden, TN 38225

517 Gaylord Rd; Dresden, TN 38225

517 Gaylord Rd; Dresden, TN 38225

517 Gaylord Rd; Dresden, TN 38225

517 Gaylord Rd; Dresden, TN 38225

517 Gaylord Rd; Dresden, TN 38225

517 Gaylord Rd; Dresden, TN 38225

517 Gaylord Rd; Dresden, TN 38225

517 Gaylord Rd; Dresden, TN 38225


Sick
Please remember in your prayers: Elaine Maxey, Jean Flesher, Marilyn Hall, Diana Brazell, Neva Bryant, Ruby Bailey, and Voncile Kittell (Ella Hammac’s sister-in-law).

Reading/Invitation
July 24, 2002
Reading: Shelby Nall
Invitation: Paul Brantley
July 31, 2002
Reading: Richard Parker
Invitation: Bill Busch

Mark These Dates
July 20, 2002—4th Annual Ladies’ Day at Westside Church of Christ; 900 North “J” Street; 9:00 am to 12 noon. Registration 8:00-9:00 am. For further information call (850) 438-3881.
July 21-26, 2002—Gospel meeting at Westside Church of Christ with Stacey Grant from Macon, Georgia speaking. Sunday at 9:45, 11:00 am, and 3:00 pm, Monday-Friday evenings at 7:30 pm.
July 21, 2002—Visitation Group 3 assignment cards handed out.
July 21, 2002—Elders/Deacons’ meeting at 5:00 pm, in room 7.

Address Changes
Damon and Vaydra Lundy’s address is: 4227 Crosswinds Drive; Milton, FL 32583. Rebecca Cline’s address is: 4740 Highway 51 Apt. 12-207; Southaven, MS 38671. We wish Rebecca best wishes in her first teaching position.

We Are To Be Different!
Bob Patterson

In recognition of our proper place in the world, the child of God is most assuredly aware of the fact that “we are in the world, but not of the world” (John 18:38; Phi. 3:20). In our awareness of that fact, we are very conscious of the pressure that is being applied on us by those of the world to conform to their morals, standards, principles, and way of life (??) Brethren, we dare not give in! Christ did not! In Luke 2:52, we are told that “Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.” That is, Jesus grew intellectually, physically, spiritually, and socially. In every area of growth and development our Lord provided us with the proper example of one who always did that which was pleasing to the Father (John 8:29), who was “in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin” (Heb. 4:15), and His continual desire was to glorify the Father (John 12:28). Thus, our Lord refused to allow the society in which He lived (the world) to determine the kind of life that He would lead. Obviously, this is one reason why He was “despised and rejected of men” (Isa. 53:3). He told the disciples in John 15:18-19: “If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, therefore the world hateth you.”

For the child of God today, the pressures are still there to conform and fashion ourselves according to the world. Yes, worldly people want us to pattern our speech, dress, morals, habits, desires, and conduct after their loose, profligate,
Sick
Please remember in your prayers: Elaine Maxey, Jean Flesher, Marilyn Hall, Diana Brazell, Neva Bryant, and Vonceil Kittell (Ella Hammac’s sister-in-law).

Baptized
Matthew Allman was baptized into Christ on July 17, 2002. His address is 5643 Ventura Lane; Pensacola, FL 32526. Please keep Matthew in your prayers and offer him encouragement.

Reading/Invitation
July 31, 2002
Reading: Richard Parker
Invitation: Bill Busch

August 7, 2002
Reading: Joshua Wilkes
Invitation: Bill Cline

Mark These Dates
July 21, 2002–Elders/Deacons’ meeting at 5:00 pm, in room 7.
July 31, 2002–Fifth Wednesday Singing at 7:00 pm.

Pantry Item Needed
Canned Meat

Address Change
Autumn Johnson’s address while at college is: 3316 Pea Ridge Road, Apt. 227; Brewton, AL 36426.

Back to Bible Baptism
Charles Box

The importance of baptism is set forth in Scripture. “And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord” (Acts 22:16). Baptism is a burial in water so that one may enter Christ and His church. “For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ” (Gal. 3:27).

Is Baptism Really Important? Baptism is a very important and often misunderstood subject. Baptism is important because it is commanded by Christ. “And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned” (Mark 16:15-16). Baptism is to be done by the authority of Jesus with its purpose being remission of sins. “Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost” (Acts 2:38).

The blood of Jesus was shed in His death. “But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out blood and water” (John 19:34). Baptism is important because it brings one into contact with the death and blood of Jesus. “Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in
Baptism is important because it puts one into Christ. “For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ” (Gal. 3:26-27). The Bible teaches that baptism is necessary for our salvation. There is also an anti-type which now saves us—“baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), by the resurrection of Jesus Christ” (1 Pet. 3:21).

Every command of God is important and baptism is a command of God. “And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then prayed they him to tarry certain days” (Acts 10:48). It is very clearly taught that baptism is essential to one’s salvation. Have you been baptized as the Lord commanded?

**Must I Be Baptized for the Right Purpose?**

There is a definite reason for every command of Christ. This is true of the command to observe the Lord’s Supper. It must be done in the way and for the reason commanded by God. “Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord” (1 Cor. 11:27). Unless we obey for the proper purpose our obedience is not acceptable. This is also true of God’s commandment to be baptized. Baptism must be done for the purpose Christ intended. Following faith, repentance, and confession one must be baptized to be saved. “He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned” (Mark 16:16). Christ places salvation after baptism, not before.

Baptism brings about the new birth. The new life begins after baptism. “Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life” (Rom. 6:4).

Baptism puts one into the body or church of Christ. The body is the church (Col. 1:18). By the direction of the Holy Spirit through the word of God people are baptized into Christ’s one body or church. “For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit” (1 Cor. 12:13).

The purpose of baptism is clear and man must not corrupt it. One must be baptized to be saved. Have you been baptized according to the Scriptures?

**Who May Be Baptized?**

The doctrines of men say babies may be baptized. The Bible says those who gladly receive the Word were baptized. “Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls” (Acts 2:41). The Bible teaches that those who repent may be baptized. Repentance is a change of heart leading to a change of life. “Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost” (Acts 2:38).

Men and women were baptized, but babies were never baptized. “But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized” (Acts 8:12).

The Bible teaches that baptism is essential to one’s salvation. Have you been baptized according to the Lord’s commands? If not, you should be. “And now why tarryest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord” (Acts 22:16).

**Is Baptism Immersion, Sprinkling or Pouring?**

The method of baptism is just as important as the purpose. Bible baptism is a burial in water. Jesus was baptized by going down into the water and coming up out of the water: “And John also was baptizing in Aenon near to Salim, because there was much water there: and they came, and were baptized” (John 3:23). When John baptized people “much water” was required. “And John also was baptizing in Aenon near to Salim, because there was much water there; and they came, and were baptized” (John 3:23).

On two occasions the Bible plainly says baptism is a burial. Paul wrote to the Romans and said, “Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life” (Rom. 6:4). To the Colossians he said, “Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead” (Col. 2:12).

Man has several methods of baptism, but God has only one. Bible baptism is always a burial in water for salvation. Have you been baptized according to the Scriptures?

**Must I Be Baptized for the Right Purpose?**

There is a definite reason for every command of Christ. This is true of the command to observe the Lord’s Supper. It must be done in the way and for the reason commanded by God. “Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord” (1 Cor. 11:27). Unless we obey for the proper purpose our obedience is not acceptable. This is also true of God’s commandment to be baptized. Baptism must be done for the purpose Christ intended. Following faith, repentance, and confession one must be baptized to be saved. “He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned” (Mark 16:16). Christ places salvation after baptism, not before.

Baptism brings about the new birth. The new life begins after baptism. “Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life” (Rom. 6:4).

Baptism puts one into the body or church of Christ. The body is the church (Col. 1:18). By the direction of the Holy Spirit through the word of God people are baptized into Christ’s one body or church. “For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit” (1 Cor. 12:13).

The purpose of baptism is clear and man must not corrupt it. One must be baptized to be saved. Have you been baptized according to the Scriptures?

**Who May Be Baptized?**

The doctrines of men say babies may be baptized. The Bible says those who gladly receive the Word were baptized. “Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls” (Acts 2:41). The Bible teaches that those who repent may be baptized. Repentance is a change of heart leading to a change of life. “Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost” (Acts 2:38).

Men and women were baptized, but babies were never baptized. “But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized” (Acts 8:12).

The Bible teaches that baptism is essential to one’s salvation. Have you been baptized according to the Lord’s commands? If not, you should be. “And now why tarryest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord” (Acts 22:16).

**Is Baptism Immersion, Sprinkling or Pouring?**

The method of baptism is just as important as the purpose. Bible baptism is a burial in water. Jesus was baptized by going down into the water and coming up out of the water: “And John also was baptizing in Aenon near to Salim, because there was much water there: and they came, and were baptized” (John 3:23). When John baptized people “much water” was required. “And John also was baptizing in Aenon near to Salim, because there was much water there; and they came, and were baptized” (John 3:23).

On two occasions the Bible plainly says baptism is a burial. Paul wrote to the Romans and said, “Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life” (Rom. 6:4). To the Colossians he said, “Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead” (Col. 2:12).

Man has several methods of baptism, but God has only one. Bible baptism is always a burial in water for salvation. Have you been baptized according to the Scriptures?

**Who May Be Baptized?**

The doctrines of men say babies may be baptized. The Bible says those who gladly receive the Word were baptized. “Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls” (Acts 2:41). The Bible teaches that those who repent may be baptized. Repentance is a change of heart leading to a change of life. “Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost” (Acts 2:38).

Men and women were baptized, but babies were never baptized. “But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized” (Acts 8:12).

The Bible teaches that baptism is essential to one’s salvation. Have you been baptized according to the Lord’s commands? If not, you should be. “And now why tarryest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord” (Acts 22:16).

Copied
Baptism puts one into the body or church of Christ. The body is the church (Col. 1:18). By the direction of the Holy Spirit through the word of God people are baptized into Christ’s one body or church. “For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit” (1 Cor. 12:13).

The purpose of baptism is clear and man must not corrupt it. One must be baptized to be saved. Have you been baptized according to the Scriptures?

Is Baptism Immersion, Sprinkling or Pouring?
The method of baptism is just as important as the purpose. Bible baptism is a burial in water. Jesus was baptized by going down into the water and coming up out of the water: “And John also was baptizing in Aenon near to Salim, because there was much water there: and they came, and were baptized” (John 3:23).

On two occasions the Bible plainly says baptism is a burial. Paul wrote to the Romans and said, “Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life” (Rom. 6:4).

Baptism brings about the new birth. The new life begins after baptism. “Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life” (Rom. 6:4).

Visitation Group Get-together
July 29, 2002
6:00 PM in the general purpose building
A covered-dish meal will precede the meeting.
Make plans now to attend and help support our visitation program.

If You Were a Visitor
Darwin Hunter

If you were a visitor, how would you feel if:
1. You were ignored by the church members?
2. You were not greeted and warmly received?
3. You saw members acting disinterested and bored?
4. You observed members not participating in songs of praise?
5. You noticed many sleepy-eyed members dragging in late?
6. You saw several who got up and left early?
7. You saw many sleepers during the preaching?
8. You could hardly concentrate on what was being said because of the members nearby who liked to talk the whole time?

If you were the only example of New Testament Christianity a visitor had, would it leave a favorable impression? Would they want to comeback? Would they report to their friends that God is indeed among those people (1 Cor. 14:25)? Would they believe that they had seen true New Testament Christianity for the first time in their lives?
Sick
Please remember in your prayers: Elaine Maxey, Jean Flesher, Marilyn Hall, Diana Brazell, Neva Bryant, and Vonceil Kittell (Ella Hammac’s sister-in-law).

Baptized
Matthew Allman was baptized into Christ on July 17, 2002. His address is 5643 Ventura Lane; Pensacola, FL 32526. Please keep Matthew in your prayers and offer him encouragement.

Reading/Invitation
July 31, 2002
Reading: Richard Parker
Invitation: Bill Busch

August 7, 2002
Reading: Joshua Wilkes
Invitation: Bill Cline

Mark These Dates
July 21, 2002–Elders/Deacons’ meeting at 5:00 pm, in room 7.
July 31, 2002–Fifth Wednesday Singing at 7:00 pm.

Pantry Item Needed
Canned Meat

Address Change
Autumn Johnson’s address while at college is: 3316 Pea Ridge Road, Apt. 227; Brevont, AL 36426.

Back to Bible Baptism
Charles Box

The importance of baptism is set forth in Scripture. “And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord” (Acts 22:16). Baptism is a burial in water so that one may enter Christ and His church. “For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ” (Gal. 3:27).

Is Baptism Really Important?
Baptism is a very important and often misunderstood subject. Baptism is important because it is commanded by Christ. “And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned” (Mark 16:15-16). Baptism is to be done by the authority of Jesus with its purpose being remission of sins. “Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost” (Acts 2:38).

The blood of Jesus was shed in His death. “But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out blood and water” (John 19:34). Baptism is important because it brings one into contact with the death and blood of Jesus. “Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in
Sick
Please remember in your prayers: Elaine Maxey, Jean Flesh, Marilyn Hall, Diana Brazell, Neva Bryant, and Vonceil Kittell (Ella Hammac’s sister-in-law).

Reading/Invitation
August 7, 2002
Reading: Joshua Wilkes
Invitation: Bill Cline
August 14, 2002
Reading: Carl Ayliffe
Invitation: Bill Crowe

Mark These Dates
July 31, 2002–Fifth Wednesday Singing at 7:00 pm.
August 4, 2002–Visitation Group 1 assignment cards handed out.
August 11, 2002–Visitation Group 2 assignment cards handed out.
August 11, 2002–Deacons’ meeting at 5:00 pm in room 7.
August 18, 2002–Visitation Group 3 assignment cards handed out.
August 18, 2002–Elders/Deacons’ meeting at 5:00 pm in room 7.

Pantry Item Needed
Canned Meat

Address Change
Fred and Rheba Stancliff’s new address is: 5480 Bradley Street; Pensacola, FL 32526. There telephone number remains the same. Please update your directory.

Whatever Happened to Volunteers?
Kevin Beard

Who makes a better worker, a draftee or a volunteer? Under most circumstances, volunteers would seem to make the better workers. When people are allowed to volunteer for service, they enter that service willingly, and they enter service in which they feel qualified, or in which they are willing to learn. Volunteers are great. The problem is, they seem to be hard to come by sometimes.

The Lord’s church is populated entirely with volunteers. Never did the Lord go out and draft anyone into His service against that person’s will. That is the way the Lord wants it. He said, “Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light” (Mat. 11:28-30). Notice that He left the decision completely up to us. He wants us to come to Him, but He will not force anyone to come. So everyone who accepts the Lord’s invitation does so of his own free will; he is a volunteer for the Lord’s service.

Here is the problem, though. All those who volunteer to enter the Lord’s service do not maintain that spirit of volunteerism. Have you ever heard an announcement made asking for someone to volunteer to do something? Maybe a request is made for someone to teach a particular Bible class for the next quarter. Maybe there is a need for some special work on the church building or the grounds. Maybe workers are needed to rearrange tables and chairs, or address envelopes...
What Have You Done Lately?

His name was Fleming, and he was a poor Scottish farmer. One day, while trying to eke out a living for his family, he heard a cry for help coming from a nearby bog. He dropped his tools and ran to the bog. There, mired to his waist in black muck, was a terrified boy, screaming and struggling to free himself. Farmer Fleming saved the lad from what could have been a slow and terrifying death.

The next day, a fancy carriage pulled up to the Scot'sman's sparse surroundings. An elegant-ly dressed nobleman stepped out and introduced himself as the father of the boy Farmer Fleming had saved. “I want to repay you,” said the nobleman. “You saved my son’s life.” “No, I can’t accept payment for what I did,” the Scottish farmer replied, waving off the offer. At that moment, the farmer’s own son came to the door of the family hovel. “Is that your son?” the nobleman asked. “Yes,” the farmer replied proudly. “I’ll make you a deal. Let me take him and give him a good education. If the lad is anything like his father, he’ll grow to a man you can be proud of.”

And that he did. In time, Farmer Fleming’s son graduated from St. Mary’s Hospital Medical School in London, and went on to become known throughout the world as the noted Sir Alexander Fleming, the discoverer of Penicillin.

Years afterward, the nobleman’s son was stricken with pneumonia. What saved him? Penicillin. The name of the nobleman? Lord Randolph Churchill. His son’s name? Sir Winston Churchill.

Someone once said: What goes around comes around. Christ said it this way: “And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise” (Luke 6:31).

Author Unknown

Rap and Death Metal Music

Joseph Holman

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rap Music</th>
<th>Death Metal Music</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>“gonna shoot both those @!# when I get out [of jail]”</td>
<td>“lord Satan rules”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“on with the body count!”</td>
<td>“die before you see the light”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“shoot the police...”</td>
<td>“worship the beast”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“steal the car”</td>
<td>“the demon will rape you”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“go out and get !@#”</td>
<td>“kill the children”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“mess with me and I’ll off em [kill em]”</td>
<td>“take your life”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“gonna die in the penitentiary”</td>
<td>“spill the blood”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Satan often rejoices in the music young people hear. And why not? Many popular songs praise him and teach his ways. Parents have underestimated the seriousness of the situation. Today’s music is a serious subject because the message of debauchery the songs contain is real! (See above).

Humans are easily affected by the things they see and hear. This is why Solomon said, “Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life” (Pro. 4:23).

How does music affect the motivations of the young? By means of information. Parents must beware of Death Metal groups such as, W.A.S.P. (We Are Satan’s People), King Diamond, Slayer, Marilyn Manson, Iron Maiden, and an untold number of other henchmen from Hell, who are preaching a message of suicide and Satanism? Rap groups like Puff Daddy, Run DMC, 2 Live Crew, Digital Underground, and such like, to my knowledge, sing the praises of low life, ghetto morals, and glorify the deeply depraved. “The end of those things is death” (Rom. 6:21).

P.O. Box 638; Hillsboro, TX 76645
for a special mailing, or prepare the Lord’s Supper for the next month. In a church full of volunteers, you might think that such requests would be met with overwhelming amounts of volunteers to do the work. But what often happens is this: if anyone does volunteer, it is the same few who volunteer for everything; or else no one volunteers and the work either goes undone or someone has to start making personal requests.

Do you want to know how widespread the problem is? The next time you are in Bible class where the teacher calls out a Bible verse and then says, “someone read that, please,” notice what happens. In many classes there may be several moments of silence before someone finally decides to read the verse, or (in extremely bad cases) the teacher himself may have to read the verse. Notice how the pattern continues throughout the course of the class session. There will probably be a handful of people who will read when the teacher asks, but that handful of readers is only a small percentage of the entire class.

Why is this a problem when we volunteered for service to begin with? Have we forgotten that we were saved to serve? Paul encouraged the Corinthians to be “stedfast, ...” He saw a vision of God’s throne and heard the Lord say, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” (Isa. 6:8). His courageous answer was: “Here am I, sent me” (Isa. 6:8). The Lord still needs servants with that kind of attitude today. There is an old song based on Isaiah’s statement. It says:

There is much to do, there’s work on every hand. Hark! The cry for help comes ringing through the land; Jesus calls for reapers, I must active be. What wilt Thou, O Master? Here and I, send me.

What a great asset it is to the cause of Christ when Christians realize their responsibility to do their Master’s bidding. How wonderful it is when requests for help are met by more volunteers than are needed to accomplish the task. If we really want to bring glory and honor to God, let us be serious about our service to Him. Let us rediscover that volunteer spirit that responded to the Lord’s invitation in the past. Will we respond with a willing attitude, and the next time there is a call for workers, let us be the first in line to say: “Here am I, send me.”

Copied

What Have You Done Lately?

His name was Fleming, and he was a poor Scottish farmer. One day, while trying to eke out a living for his family, he heard a cry for help coming from a nearby bog. He dropped his tools and ran to the bog. There, mired to his waist in black muck, was a terrified boy, screaming and struggling to free himself. Farmer Fleming saved the lad from what could have been a slow and terrifying death.

The next day, a fancy carriage pulled up to the Scotsman’s sparse surroundings. An elegantly dressed nobleman stepped out and introduced himself as the father of the boy Farmer Fleming had saved. “I want to repay you,” said the nobleman. “You saved my son’s life.” “No, I can’t accept payment for what I did,” the Scottish farmer replied, waving off the offer. At that moment, the farmer’s own son came to the door of the family hovel. “Is that your son?” the nobleman asked. “Yes,” the farmer replied proudly. “I’ll make you a deal. Let me take him and give him a good education. If the lad is anything like his father, he’ll grow to a man you can be proud of.”

And that he did. In time, Farmer Fleming’s son graduated from St. Mary’s Hospital Medical School in London, and went on to become known throughout the world as the noted Sir Alexander Fleming, the discoverer of Penicillin. Years afterward, the nobleman’s son was stricken with pneumonia. What saved him? Penicillin. The name of the nobleman? Lord Randolph Churchill. His son’s name? Sir Winston Churchill.

Someone once said: What goes around comes around. Christ said it this way: “And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise” (Luke 6:31).

Author Unknown

Rap and Death Metal Music

Joseph Holman

Rap Music

Death Metal Music

“gonna shoot both those @!# when I get out of jail”
“lord Satan rules”

“on with the body count!”
“die before you see the light”

“shoot the police...”
“worship the beast”

“steal the car”
“the demon will rape you”

“go out and get @!@”
“kill the children”

“mess with me and I’ll off em [kill em]”
“take your life”

“gonna die in the penitentiary”
“spill the blood”

Satan often rejoices in the music young people hear. And why not? Many popular songs praise him and teach his ways. Parents have underestimated the seriousness of the situation. Today’s music is a serious subject because the message of debauchery the songs contain is real! (See above).

Humans are easily affected by the things they see and hear. This is why Solomon said, “Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life” (Pro. 4:23).

How does music affect the motivations of the young? By means of information. Parents must beware of Death Metal groups such as, W.A.S.P. (We Are Satan’s People), King Diamond, Slayer, Marilyn Manson, Iron Maiden, and an untold number of other henchmen from Hell, who are preaching a message of suicide and Satanism? Rap groups like Puff Daddy, Run DMC, 2 Live Crew, Digital Underground, and such like, to my knowledge, sing the praises of lowlife, ghetto morals, and glorify the deeply depraved. “The end of those things is death” (Rom. 6:21).
Whole Happened to Volunteers?

Kevin Beard

Who makes a better worker, a draftee or a volunteer? Under most circumstances, volunteers would seem to make the better workers. When people are allowed to volunteer for service, they enter that service willingly, and they enter service in which they feel qualified, or in which they are willing to learn. Volunteers are great. The problem is, they seem to be hard to come by sometimes.

The Lord’s church is populated entirely with volunteers. Never did the Lord go out and draft anyone into His service against that person’s will. That is the way the Lord wants it. He said, “Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light’ (Mat. 11:28-30). Notice that He left the decision completely up to us. He wants us to come to Him, but He will not force anyone to come. So everyone who accepts the Lord’s invitation does so of his own free will; he is a volunteer for the Lord’s service.

Here is the problem, though. All those who volunteer to enter the Lord’s service do not maintain that spirit of volunteerism. Have you ever heard an announcement made asking for someone to volunteer to do something? Maybe a request is made for someone to teach a particular Bible class for the next quarter. Maybe there is a need for some special work on the church building or the grounds. Maybe workers are needed to rearrange tables and chairs, or address envelopes.
Sick
Please remember in your prayers: Elaine Maxey, Jean Flesher, Marilyn Hall, Diana Brazell, and Neva Bryant. Rheba Stancliff is scheduled for surgery on August 7.

Reading/Invitation
August 14, 2002
Reading: Carl Ayliffe
Invitation: Bill Crowe
August 21, 2002
Reading: Elward Brantley
Invitation: Dale Cunningham

Mark These Dates
August 11, 2002–Visitation Group 2 assignment cards handed out.
August 11, 2002–Deacons’ meeting at 5:00 pm, in room 7.
August 18, 2002–Visitation Group 3 assignment cards handed out.
August 18, 2002–Elders/Deacons’ meeting at 5:00 pm, in room 7.
September 8, 2002–Attendance Drive and Dinner on the Grounds after the morning service, in the general purpose building. Plan now to attend and bring someone with you.
September 29-October 4, 2002–Gospel meeting with Preston, Silcox of Muskogee, OK.

Pantry Item Needed
Canned Vegetables

Jesus First
Tim Smith

That Jesus is to be first in our lives is not a question to the serious student of the Word of God. He is to come before all others, at whatever cost. He has done for us that which no other could; to Him we owe our very existence. Without Him we would be nothing. Intellectually we recognize this great truth, but do we apply it? What is involved in the question? Perhaps there is more than has heretofore met the eye.

Our Lord said, “He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me” (Mat. 10:37). Is it the case that we love Jesus more than father, mother, son, or daughter? If so, we will stand for Him and His way even when it means that we must oppose father, mother, son, or daughter. When their lives are lived in contradiction to the teachings of the Bible, we must side with the Bible and refuse to approve that which is wrong. This may well make for an uncomfortable situation when it comes to family relations, but will not the alternative make for a much more uncomfortable situation when it comes to final judgment? If a parent sees a child doing that which is wrong, if the parent truly loves the child the parent will confront the child with the Truth, kindly and lovingly indeed, but confront no less. It may anger the child, but if you truly love that child you will be more interested in helping him/her go to heaven than worried about risking angering them. I have seen many cases of parents who
chose to forsake the true and living way in preference to defending an unfaithful and erring child. When this happens, the parent does not truly act in the best interest of the child. Right is right, no matter who sides with it or against it. Let us put Jesus first when it comes to family relations.

Our Lord said again:

Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment? Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they? Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature? And why take you thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith? Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek;) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof (Mat. 6:19-21, 25-34).

Is it the case that Jesus comes before earthly wealth in our lives? Do we choose Him over dishonest business practices? Do we choose Him when selecting a job? Often we are faced with the temptation to pursue “extra wealth” at the expense of attending worship and Bible classes. When that happens, which do we choose? What matters most is not what we do or get in this life; it is how we prepare for the next life. Let us put Jesus first when it comes to earthly wealth.

The disciple whom Jesus loved wrote, “Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever” (1 John 2:15-17). Do we love Jesus more than what this world has to offer? Do we love Him more than we love sports or entertainment? Do we prove this when it comes to our church attendance? Do we love Him more than we love everything in this world?

Our Lord said, “Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity” (Mat. 7:21-23). Do we love Jesus more than false religions? Think about it: others come to us with some new thing (religiously speaking)—do we go along with it to avoid “hurting their feelings”? The simple truth is that unless the truth is believed and obeyed, man is lost. No matter how much one longs for a thing, if it is wrong it is wrong. Do we love the Lord enough to say so? No one will be saved without sincerity, but sincerity alone simply is not enough.

Right now, this very minute, is there anything in your life that means more than Jesus? If so, get rid of it! Love Him with all of your heart, soul, mind, and strength. Serve Him faithfully in all things in all ways. He longs to save you, and even died on the Cross to do so. Will you not come to Him in obedience to His Word and receive salvation (cf., Heb. 5:8-9)? We stand ready to assist you in obeying the gospel or being restored.

1272 Enon Road
Webb, AL 36376

My Drug Problem...

It is not easy owning up to this. I am very reluctant to expose a problem that started in my childhood, but if confession is good for the soul, maybe I will feel better.

I cannot really say when my problem started because it seems it has always been with me. When I was less than a year old, my father walked out on my mother, leaving her with four children. Dad and his live-in-lover ate. We did not.

Maybe the poverty had something to do with it. The thing I remember is, being poor was very inexpensive, but it had drawbacks. We could not even afford electricity. I was the only one on our block who had a kerosene stereo.

Another thing about those hated times is mother could not buy Dr. Spock’s book on child raising and I could not hire an attorney to sue for separation, so we did with what we had and used the Holy Bible as a guide. That is very likely where the drug problem started.

As a child, I was drug to Sunday School, drug to Sunday evening service, and drug to Wednesday evening Bible study. And when we had revival meetings, my cruel mother drug me to church nightly.

I will always believe my life is forever marked by a childhood incident at the grocerystore. I gave into temptation and stole a handful of candy only to have my sin revealed. I felt like a dope when mother drug me to the owner of the store, I acknowledged my wrongdoing and paid for my sin.

I cannot remember the entire episode, or the speech that followed, but it seems like she said something about values and respecting what other people owned. She said, “The Bible says, ‘Thou shalt not steal.’ If you want things, learn to work for them. Don’t steal from someone else.” With that I was saddled with yet another lifetime burden: a work ethic.

I really should mention how my ego suffered irreparable damage by not having my way all the time. Numerous times I was drug to the woodshed for an attitude adjustment. The altering instrument was from a cottonwood tree in the backyard beret of its lower limbs.

Actually, I really should not be reluctant to talk about such drug problems because they have spared me heartache throughout all of my adult life. They have shaped my values and given me a sense of responsibility. Instead of being desensitized, I have learned respect for others and myself. And though I am not so vain as to make a claim of moral perfection, I will always be grateful for the good influences of the drugs. Traces of them are still in my veins.

Author Unknown
chose to forsake the true and living way in preference to defending an unfaithful and erring child. When this happens, the parent does not truly act in the best interest of the child. Right is right, no matter who sides with it or against it. Let us put Jesus first when it comes to family relations.

Our Lord said again:

Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither death nor moth shall corrupt, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. Therefore say I unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment? Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they? Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature? And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith? Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek;) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof (Mat. 6:19-21, 25-34).

Is it the case that Jesus comes before earthly wealth in our lives? Do we choose Him before dishonest business practices? Do we choose Him when selecting a job? Often we face the temptation to pursue “extra wealth” at the expense of attending worship and Bible class. When that happens, which do we choose? What matters most is not what we do or get in this life; it is how we prepare for the next life. Let us put Jesus first when it comes to earthly wealth.

The disciple whom Jesus loved wrote, “Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: But he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever” (1 John 2:15-17). Do we love Jesus more than what this world has to offer? Do we love Him more than we love sports or entertainment? Do we prove this when it comes to our church attendance? Do we love Him more than we love everything in this world?

Our Lord said, “Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not worked in thy name? and in thy name have we cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity” (Mat. 7:21-23). Do we love Jesus more than false religions? Think about it: others come to us with some new thing (religiously speaking)—do we go along with it to avoid “hurting their feelings”? The simple truth is that unless the truth is believed and obeyed, man is lost. No matter how much one longs for a thing, if it is wrong it is wrong. Do we love the Lord enough to say so? No one will be saved without sincerity, but sincerity alone simply is not enough.

Right now, this very minute, is there anything in your life that means more than Jesus? If so, get rid of it! Love Him with all of your heart, soul, mind, and strength. Serve Him faithfully in all things in all ways. He longs to save you, and even died on the Cross to do so. Will you not come to Him in obedience to His Word and receive salvation (cf., Heb. 5:8-9)? We stand ready to assist you in obeying the gospel or being restored.

My Drug Problem...

It is not easy owning up to this. I am very reluctant to expose a problem that started in my childhood, but if confession is good for the soul, maybe I will feel better.

I cannot really say when my problem started because it seems it’s always been with me. When I was less than a year old, my father walked out on my mother, leaving her with four children. Dad and his live-in-lover ate. We did not.

Maybe the poverty had something to do with it. The thing I remember is, that being poor was very inexpensive, but it had drawbacks. We could not even afford electricity. I was the only one on our block who had a kerosene stereo.

Another thing about those hated times is mother could not buy Dr. Spock’s book on child raising and I could not hire an attorney to sue for separation, so we did with what we had and used the Holy Bible as a guide. That is very likely where the drug problem started.

As a child, I was drug to Sunday School, drug to Sunday evening service, and drug to Wednesday evening Bible study. And when we had revival meetings, my cruel mother drug me to church nightly.

I will always believe my life is forever marked by a childhood incident at the grocerystore. I gave into temptation and stole a handful of candy only to have my sin revealed. I felt like a dope when mother drug me to the owner of the store, I acknowledged my wrongdoing and paid for my sin.

I cannot remember the entire episode, or the speech that followed, but it seems like she said something about values and respecting what other people owned. She said, “The Bible says, ‘Thou shalt not steal.’ If you want things, learn to work for them. Don’t steal from someone else.” With that I was saddled with yet another lifetime burden: a work ethic.

I really should mention how my ego suffered irreparable damage by not having my way all the time. Numerous times I was drug to the woodshed for an attitude adjustment. The altering instrument was from a cottonwood tree in the backyard bereft of its lower limbs.

Actually, I really should not be reluctant to talk about such drug problems because they have spared me heartache throughout all of my adult life. They have shaped my values and given me a sense of responsibility. Instead of being desensitized, I have learned respect for others and myself. And though I am not so vain as to make a claim of moral perfection, I will always be grateful for the good influences of the drugs. Traces of them are still in my veins.

Author Unknown
Sick
Please remember in your prayers: Elaine Maxey, Jean Flesher, Marilyn Hall, Diana Brazell, and Neva Bryant. Rheba Stancliff is scheduled for surgery on August 7.

Reading/Invitation
August 14, 2002
Reading: Carl Ayliffe
Invitation: Bill Crowe
August 21, 2002
Reading: Elward Brantley
Invitation: Dale Cunningham

Mark These Dates
August 11, 2002–Visitation Group 2 assignment cards handed out.
August 11, 2002–Deacons’ meeting at 5:00 pm, in room 7.
August 18, 2002–Visitation Group 3 assignment cards handed out.
August 18, 2002–Elders/Deacons’ meeting at 5:00 pm, in room 7.
September 8, 2002–Attendance Drive and Dinner on the Grounds after the morning service, in the general purpose building. Plan now to attend and bring someone with you.
September 29-October 4, 2002–Gospel meeting with Preston, Silcox of Muskogee, OK.

Pantry Item Needed
Canned Vegetables

Jesus First
Tim Smith
That Jesus is to be first in our lives is not a question to the serious student of the Word of God. He is to come before all others, at whatever cost. He has done for us that which no other could; to Him we owe our very existence. Without Him we would be nothing. Intellectually we recognize this great truth, but do we apply it? What is involved in the question? Perhaps there is more than has heretofore met the eye.

Our Lord said, “He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me” (Mat. 10:37). Is it the case that we love Jesus more than father, mother, son, or daughter? If so, we will stand for Him and His way even when it means that we must oppose father, mother, son, or daughter. When their lives are lived in contradiction to the teachings of the Bible, we must side with the Bible and refuse to approve that which is wrong. This may well make for an uncomfortable situation when it comes to family relations, but will not the alternative make for a much more uncomfortable situation when it comes to final judgment? If a parent sees a child doing that which is wrong, if the parent truly loves the child the parent will confront the child with the Truth, kindly and lovingly indeed, but confront no less. It may anger the child, but if you truly love that child you will be more interested in helping him/her go to heaven than worried about risking angering them. I have seen many cases of parents who...
Sick
Please remember in your prayers: Elaine Maxey, Jean Flesher, Marilyn Hall, Diana Brazell, Neva Bryant, and Rheba Stancliff.

Placed Membership
Ray and Ethel Pierce have placed membership with the Bellview congregation. Their address is: 5960 Pawnee Drive, Pensacola, FL 32526. The telephone number is 944-3672. Please make them feel welcome.

Reading/Invitation
August 21, 2002
Reading: Elward Brantley
Invitation: Dale Cunningham
August 28, 2002
Reading: Jerry Caine
Invitation: Ray Dodd

Mark These Dates
August 18, 2002–Visitation Group 3 assignment cards handed out.
August 18, 2002–Elders/Deacons’ meeting at 5:00 pm, in room 7.
September 8, 2002–Attendance Drive and Dinner on the Grounds after the morning service, in the general purpose building.

Pantry Item Needed
Canned Vegetables

Address Change
Tim and Lucy Ayliffe’s address is: 106 South Mount Tom Road; Mio, MI 48647.

Does Morality Still Exist?
Noah Hackworth

One of the things that effected the fall of the Roman Empire was the collapse of morality. If ancient Rome declined and fell, due in part to the death of morality, that same thing could effect the death of any nation, including America. The Bible says, “Righteousness exalteth a nation; but sin is a reproach to any people” (Pro. 14:34). One of the things any immoral nation or people must do is repent. God’s instructions to ancient Israel are still apropos: “If my people, who are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land” (2 Chr. 7:14).

In a recent bulletin that came to my attention (Ridgedale Reminder) there is mention made of a book titled, The Day America Told The Truth. The book represents what Americans had to say about themselves. The article was originally written by a brother in Ponca City, Oklahoma. The following statistics are some of the results of the survey.

1. 74% of the respondents said that they would steal from those who wouldn’t miss it.
2. 64% said they would lie when it suited them, as long as it didn’t cause any real damage.
3. 56% said they would drink and drive if they felt they could handle it. They all felt they knew their own limits.
4. 50% said they procrastinate at work and do...
absolutely nothing for the equivalent of about one day in every five.

3. 30% said they would cheat on their taxes... to a point.

4. 31% said they would put their lover at risk of disease by sleeping around a bit.

5. 93% said they, and nobody else, determined what is and isn’t moral in their lives.

6. 84% confessed that they would violate the established rules of their religion.

7. 81% said they would violate a civil law if they thought it was wrong in their own lives.

8. When asked if there was anything that they would die for, 48% said “No!”

9. 52% said that the Bible has some right to tell them right from wrong. The Bible followed behind spouse (77%), parents (71%), grandparents and best friends (52%).

If the above statistics are accurate, they are a sad commentary on the “morality” of a great many people. To whatever level it may degenerate, we must keep in mind that morality, because it is not an invention of society, does exist. The Bible says, “Be not deceived: Evil companionships corrupt good morals” (1 Cor. 15:33). If there was no standard of morality, good morals could not exist. But there is a standard and good morals do exist. They are possessed by people who have retained God in their knowledge (cf., Rom. 1:28). There has never been any moral standard higher than the Bible; it is the ultimate basis for all thought and being. God has “given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness” (2 Pet. 1:3). We are complete in Him (Col. 2:9). The Scriptures furnish us unto every good work (2 Tim. 3:17).

“Forgiveness”

George DeHoff

Oftentimes trouble between folks comes up over little things which really do not amount to anything.

In Estill County, Kentucky, at the little village of Irvine, the county seat, the following incident occurred. A doctor remarked concerning two young men—roommates home from college who had just left his office—“The Taylor boy is a brighter boy than the Williams boy.” A lady in the office overheard it and went and told Mrs. Williams before going home. She also told other people that the doctor said the Taylor boy was a brighter boy than the Williams boy. These two families had been friends in years gone by. Their sons were roommates at college, but this little remark on the part of the doctor was magnified until the two families had a falling out. The boys returned to college, but they would not room together anymore. They graduated from college. One became a lawyer, the other a doctor. They settled in the village of Irvine. One August when the election had grown quite hot, these two young men met on the street and engaged in an argument. One drew his pistol and shot the other. That one, as he fell, drew his pistol and killed the one who shot him. Both boys were killed. One of them, just before he died, said, “How foolish... how foolish... how foolish.”

These two mothers, broken-hearted, continued to live in the little village of Irvine. A short time later one of the mothers said, “I am going over to see the other lady.” Her husband said, “She’ll spit in our face if you go over there.” She prepared some rose cuttings, went over to see that lady and said, “I am going to plant some rose cuttings. I am going to plant one on your boy’s grave. I want you to plant one on my boy’s grave.” The mothers wept... They embraced. Together they went to the cemetery and planted their roses. But how late they waited! How great was the trouble caused by a wagging tongue and an unforgiving spirit! (Dehoff, “Forgiveness,” Gospel Sermons, 200-201).
absolutely nothing for the equivalent of about one day in every five.
5. 30% said they would cheat on their taxes... to a point.
6. 31% said they would put their lover at risk of disease by sleeping around a bit.
7. 93% said they, and nobody else, determined what is and isn't moral in their lives.
8. 84% confessed that they would violate the established rules of their religion.
9. 81% said they would violate a civil law if they thought it was wrong in their own lives.
10. When asked if there was anything that they would die for, 48% said "No!"
11. 52% said that the Bible has some right to tell them right from wrong. The Bible followed behind spouse (77%), parents (71%), grandparents and best friends (52%).

If the above statistics are accurate, they are a sad commentary on the “morality” of a great many people. To whatever level it may degenerate, we must keep in mind that morality, because it is not an invention of society, does exist. The Bible says, “Be not deceived: Evil companionships corrupt good morals” (1 Cor. 15:33). If there was no standard of morality, good morals could not exist. But there is a standard and good morals do exist. They are possessed by people who have retained God in their knowledge (cf., Rom. 1:28). There has never been any moral standard higher than the Bible; it is the ultimate basis for all thought and being. God has “given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness” (2 Pet. 1:3). We are complete in Him (Col. 2:9). The Scriptures furnish us unto every good work (2 Tim. 3:17).

5342 West La Vida Court; Visalia, CA 93277

Same Soap—Different Lather
Robert Howton

When the late and beloved Marshall Keeble was 18 years old he worked for the Cassity Coal Company, where he operated a soap press. Years later, he laughingly related that they pressed three different bars from the same stock. We colored, shaped, and perfumed it differently, but it was all from the same stuff. There was (1) Tokyo, (2) Clairmax, and (3) Cracker Jack he said, but all from the same stock. Some swore by one, some by another. Each had his own reason for liking his bar best (J. E. Choate, Roll Jordan Roll, 17).

People and things have changed very little, it seems, although many years have ensued. If one should make a concerted study of the ideas and attitudes concerning the saving Gospel, over the last few decades, it would soon become apparent that all start off with the same Gospel (in one way or another), but, it does not take very long for someone to change the Shape, Color, or Smell, to suit their own personal fancy.

Think of what has been done to the original idea of Baptism. At first it was thought to be scriptural only if done for the remission of sins, in the form of an immersion, and infant baptism, sprinkling, and pouring were thought to be anathema. What happened? Someone decided to shape it a bit differently, give it another form, and make it smell more appealing to the masses by saying that it was an outward sign of an inward grace (not found in the Bible!). Some contended that it was mandatory (as the Bible does!), some said one did not have to be baptized (contradicts plain biblical teaching!), some said one has to be baptized for the remission of sins (a clear biblical teaching!), but some said one should be baptized because his sins have already been forgiven (certainly not a biblical truth!).

Look at the Shaping, Coloring, and Perfuming done to biblical faith. Bible students know “faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God” (Rom. 10:17). Yet, there are legions who misconstrue their own formulation of “Faith” without regard to the clear teachings found in God’s Holy Word. Masses proclaim that one’s personal faith is the summation of whatever one believes, and that it is different for each individual. Look at what the Psalmist had to say about devising one’s own kind of faith: “There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death” (Pro. 14:12).

Mankind must be double sure that it does not incur the wrath of a vengeful God who has plainly indicated that a man has no right in trying to “aid” or “abet” God as noted in the following verse: “Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God” (2 John 9). Otherwise, at Judgment, we could appear as ignorant as the Arkansas fellow who scribbled this note to the local Library: Please send a good book on personal hygiene, I think I may have caught it! 19990 Country Haven; Cottondale, AL 35453

“Forgiveness”
George DeHoff

Oftentimes trouble between folks comes up over little things which really do not amount to anything.

In Estill County, Kentucky, at the little village of Irvine, the county seat, the following incident occurred. A doctor remarked concerning two young men—roommates home from college who had just left his office—“The Taylor boy is a brighter boy than the Williams boy.” A lady in the office overheard it and went and told Mrs. Williams before going home. She also told other people that the doctor said the Taylor boy was a brighter boy than the Williams boy. These two families had been friends in years gone by. Their sons were roommates at college, but this little remark on the part of the doctor was magnified until the two families had a falling out. The boys returned to college, but they would not room together anymore. They graduated from college. One became a lawyer, the other a doctor. They settled in the village of Irvine. One August when the election had grown quite hot, these two young men met on the street and engaged in an argument. One drew his pistol and shot the other. That one, as he fell, drew his pistol and killed the one who shot him. Both boys were killed. One of them, just before he died, said, “How foolish... how foolish... how foolish... how foolish.”

These two mothers, broken-hearted, continued to live in the little village of Irvine. A short time later one of the mothers said, “I am going over to see the other lady.” Her husband said, “She’ll spit in our face if you go over there.” She prepared some rose cuttings, went over to see that lady and said, “I am going to plant some rose cuttings. I am going to plant one on your boy’s grave. I want you to plant one on my boy’s grave.” The mothers wept...They embraced. Together they went to the cemetery and planted their roses. But how late they waited! How great was the trouble caused by a wagging tongue and an unforgiving spirit! (Dehoff, “Forgiveness,” Gospel Sermons, 200-201).
Sick
Please remember in your prayers: Elaine Maxey, Jean Flesher, Marilyn Hall, Diana Brazell, Neva Bryant, and Rheba Stancliff.

Placed Membership
Ray and Ethel Pierce have placed membership with the Bellview congregation. Their address is: 5960 Pawnee Drive; Pensacola, FL 32526. The telephone number is 944-3672. Please make the feel welcome.

Reading/Invitation
August 21, 2002
Reading: Elward Brantley
Invitation: Dale Cunningham
August 28, 2002
Reading: Jerry Caine
Invitation: Ray Dodd

Mark These Dates
August 18, 2002–Visitation Group 3 assignment cards handed out.
August 18, 2002–Elders/Deacons’ meeting at 5:00 pm, in room 7.
September 8, 2002–Attendance Drive and Dinner on the Grounds after the morning service, in the general purpose building.

Pantry Item Needed
Canned Vegetables

Address Change
Tim and Lucy Ayliffe’s address is: 106 South Mount Tom Road; Mio, MI 48647.

Does Morality Still Exist?
Noah Hackworth

One of the things that effected the fall of the Roman Empire was the collapse of morality. If ancient Rome declined and fell, due in part to the death of morality, that same thing could effect the death of any nation, including America. The Bible says, “Righteousness exalteth a nation; But sin is a reproach to any people” (Pro. 14:34). One of the things any immoral nation or people must do is repent. God’s instructions to ancient Israel are still apropos: “If my people, who are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land” (2 Chr. 7:14).

In a recent bulletin that came to my attention (Ridgedale Reminder) there is mention made of a book titled, The Day America Told The Truth. The book represents what Americans had to say about themselves. The article was originally written by a brother in Ponca City, Oklahoma. The following statistics are some of the results of the survey.

1. 74% of the respondents said that they would steal from those who wouldn’t miss it.
2. 64% said they would lie when it suited them, as long as it didn’t cause any real damage.
3. 56% said they would drink and drive if they felt they could handle it. They all felt they knew their own limits.
4. 50% said they procrastinate at work and do...
Sick
Please remember in your prayers: Elaine Maxey, Jean Flesher, Marilyn Hall, Diana Brazell, Neva Bryant, Rheba Stancliff, and Ella Hammac.

Placed Membership
Ruth Bamber, Ashley, and John have placed membership with the Bellview congregation. Their address is Villager Lodge; 1953 Nortacross Lane; Pensacola, FL 32514. The telephone number is 477-2554. Please welcome them.

Reading/Invitation
August 28, 2002
Reading: Jerry Caine
Invitation: Ray Dodd

September 4, 2002
Reading: Bill Gallaher
Invitation: Ray Foshee

Mark This Date
September 8, 2002–Attendance Drive and Dinner on the Grounds after the morning service, in the general purpose building. Plan now to attend and bring someone with you.

New Arrival
Dot Lambert is please to announce the birth of her great-grandson, Dale Stanley Meacham, born on July 17, 2002, to Richard and Lisa Meachum. Dale weighed in at 6 pounds 13 ounces and was 18 ½ inches long. Our congratulation is extended to all.

Pantry Item Needed
Canned Vegetables

Christians Become Soul-Winners When…
Charles Box

May God help all who are New Testament Christians become soul-winners. May we all realize the need for reproducing ourselves many times in the Christian life. “When in the better land before the bar we stand, How deeply grieved our souls will be; If any lost one there should cry in deep despair, ‘You never mentioned Him to me,’ You never mentioned Him to me, you helped me not the light to see; You met me day by day and knew I was astray, yet never mentioned Him to me.” Christians must become soul-winners.

Christians Become Soul-winners When They Are What They Should Be.

Christians are Christ-like people who have a great message for the world. It is a message of good tidings and great joy. There is no greater joy than the joy of sharing Christ with the world (Luke 2:11-12). Christians Become Soul-winners When They Believe the Word of God. The message of Ezekiel 33:7-9 should move every Christian to be a soul-winner. “So thou, O son of man, I have set thee a watchman unto the house of Israel; therefore thou shalt hear the word at my mouth, and warn them from me. When I say unto the wicked, O wicked man, thou shalt surely die; if thou dost not speak to warn the wicked from his way, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand. Nevertheless, if thou warn the wicked of his way to turn from it; if he do not turn from his way, he shall die in his iniquity; but thou hast delivered
If we believe the Word of God we will deliver God’s message to a lost world in order to deliver our soul. 

Christians Become Soul-winners When They Believe the Great Commission Applies to Them. Teaching all nations or preaching the Gospel to every creature applies to all Christians (Mat. 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-16). Every Christian has the responsibility of preaching or teaching repentance and remission of sins in the name of Jesus (Luke 24:46-47). Each Christian is sent by Jesus Christ with the message of hope for a lost world (John 20:21). The Great Commission applies to every Christian.

Christians Become Soul-winners When They Are in Love with the Lord Jesus Christ. The thing that gets people into the temple daily and from house-to-house teaching the Word of God is the love that they have for Jesus Christ. “Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins” (1 John 4:10). We love God because He first loved us and gave Jesus for our sins.

If you have not yet done so, please obey the gospel of Jesus Christ through faith, repentance, confession, and baptism. After your baptism arise to be a soul-winner for Jesus.

 Covered-dish meal will be provided at 6:00 P.M. by the Visitation Groups as follows:

- Visitation Group 1 - Monday
- Visitation Group 2 - Tuesday
- Visitation Group 3 - Wednesday
- All groups - Thursday

Visitors are invited to every meal.

Mrs. Morgan—and Others

Bill Jackson

From thirty years ago, we have church bulletins carrying an article entitled: “What’s Wrong With Mrs. Morgan?” This lady, from Augusta, Georgia, had not missed Bible classes nor worship in 2,314 Sundays—44 years! Indeed, what’s wrong with her? Doesn’t she ever have company to arrive and hinder her? Doesn’t she ever go any place on Sunday night, and thus is too tired for Sunday’s services? Doesn’t she ever have headaches, colds, indigestion or nervous spells? Doesn’t she ever sleep late on Sundays? Doesn’t she know that it rains hard some Sundays, or is extremely cold on others? Doesn’t she ever get her feelings hurt by something someone says in the church? Doesn’t she ever get mad at the preacher, or one of the teachers? What’s wrong with this woman, anyway? Why was this lady always present? She wanted to!

Two items from the Robertsdale, AL, bulletin: (1) One member of the church—an elder—lived in New Orleans, and at one time or the other was president of 33 different business/civic concerns, and owned a chain of restaurants, and he made all of the services of the church! Why? He wanted to! Then this: (2) A well-known obstetrician, in Nashville, TN, is also an elder in the church, and made arrangements to be at all services over 36 years, with but two or three exceptions when emergency conditions arose. How was he able to do this? He wanted to!

And, we remember, in the late 50s, when “the singing rage, Miss Patti Page!” had a prime-time Wednesday night television program. One couple, members of the church, had never seen the program at all, because it was on Wednesday nights, and they were in Bible study! And, they were Patti Page’s parents! Why did they put the kingdom first, not even being able to view their own daughter’s television program? They wanted to!

Remembered here is a long-standing rule, permanently fixed: We can do what we want to do! All with problems in the area of carelessness, neglect, absence, attitude, worldliness, etc., can do better and can become more spiritual when they are ready!

It’s all a matter of wanting to!
thy soul.” If we believe the Word of God we will deliver God’s message to a lost world in order to deliver our soul.

Christians Become Soul-winners When

They Believe the Great Commission Applies to Them. Teaching all nations or preaching the Gospel to every creature applies to all Christians (Mat. 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-16). Every Christian has the responsibility of preaching or teaching repentance and remission of sins in the name of Jesus (Luke 24:46-47). Each Christian is sent by Jesus Christ with the message of hope for a lost world (John 20:21). The Great Commission applies to every Christian.

Christians Become Soul-winners When They Are in Love with the Lord Jesus Christ. The thing that gets people into the temple daily and from house-to-house teaching the Word of God is the love that they have for Jesus Christ (Acts 5:42). “Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins” (1 John 4:10). We love God because He first loved us and gave Jesus for our sins.

Every Christian should be a soul-winner. If you have not yet done so, please obey the gospel of Jesus Christ through faith, repentance, confession, and baptism. After your baptism arise to be a soul-winner for Jesus.

Mrs. Morgan—and Others

Bill Jackson

From thirty years ago, we have church bulletins carrying an article entitled: “What’s Wrong With Mrs. Morgan?” This lady, from Augusta, Georgia, had not missed Bible classes nor worship in 2,314 Sundays—44 years! Indeed, what’s wrong with her? Doesn’t she ever have company to arrive and hinder her? Doesn’t she ever go anywhere at all on Sunday night, and thus is too tired for Sunday’s services? Doesn’t she ever have headaches, colds, indigestion or nervous spells? Doesn’t she ever sleep late on Sundays? Doesn’t she know that it rains hard some Sundays, or is extremely cold on others? Doesn’t she ever get her feelings hurt by something someone says in the church? Doesn’t she ever get mad about the preacher, or one of the teachers? What’s wrong with this woman, anyway? Why was this lady always present? She wanted to!

Two items from the Robertsdale, AL, bulletin: (1) One member of the church—an elder—lived in New Orleans, and at one time or the other was president of 33 different business/civic concerns, and owned a chain of restaurants, and he made all of the services of the church! Why? He wanted to! Then this: (2) A well-known obstetrician, in Nashville, TN, is also an elder in the church, and made arrangements to be at all services over 36 years, with but two or three exceptions when emergency conditions arose. How was he able to do this? He wanted to!

And, we remember, in the late 50s, when “the singing rage, Miss Patti Page!” had a prime-time Wednesday night television program. One couple, members of the church, had never seen the program at all, because it was on Wednesday nights, and they were in Bible study! And, they were Patti Page’s parents! Why did they put the kingdom first, not even being able to view their own daughter’s television program? They wanted to!

Remembered here is a long-standing rule, permanently fixed: We can do what we want to do! All with problems in the area of carelessness, neglect, absence, attitude, worldliness, etc., can do better and can become more spiritual when they are ready!

It’s all a matter of wanting to!
Christians Become Soul-Winners When…

Charles Box

May God help all who are New Testament Christians become soul-winners. May we all realize the need for reproducing ourselves many times in the Christian life. “When in the better land before the bar we stand, How deeply grieved our souls will be; If any lost one there should cry in deep despair, ‘You never mentioned Him to me,’ You never mentioned Him to me, you helped me not the light to see; You met me day by day and knew I was astray, yet never mentioned Him to me.” Christians must become soul-winners.

Christians Become Soul-winners When They Are What They Should Be.

Christians are Christ-like people who have a great message for the world. It is a message of good tidings and great joy. There is no greater joy than the joy of sharing Christ with the world (Luke 2:11-12).

Christians Become Soul-winners When They Believe the Word of God.
The message of Ezekiel 33:7-9 should move every Christian to be a soul-winner. “So thou, O son of man, I have set thee a watchman unto the house of Israel; therefore thou shalt hear the word at my mouth, and warn them from me. When I say unto the wicked, O wicked man, thou shalt surely die; if thou dost not speak to warn the wicked from his way, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand. Nevertheless, if thou warn the wicked of his way to turn from it; if he do not turn from his way, he shall die in his iniquity; but thou hast delivered
Sick
Please remember in your prayers: Elaine Maxey, Jean Flesher, Marilyn Hall, Diana Brazell, Neva Bryant, Rheba Stancliff, and Ella Hammac.

Reading/Invitation
September 4, 2002
Reading: Bill Gallaher
Invitation: Ray Foshee

September 11, 2002
Reading: Andrew Hatcher
Invitation: Louis Herrington

Mark These Dates
September 1, 2002–Visitation Group 1 assignment cards handed out.
September 8, 2002–Visitation Group 2 assignment cards handed out.
September 8, 2002–Deacons’ meeting at 5:00 PM in room 7.
September 8, 2002–Attendance Drive and Dinner on the Grounds. A covered dish meal will be held after the morning service in the general purpose building. Plan now to attend and bring someone with you.

September 15, 2002–Visitation Group 3 assignment cards handed out.
September 15, 2002–Elders/Deacons’ meeting at 5:00 PM in room 7.
September 29-October 4, 2002–Gospel meeting with Preston, Silcox of Muskogee, OK.

Pantry Item Needed
Canned Vegetables

Borderline Christians

B. C. Goodpasture

There is a story of a county superintendent of education who had three applications to fill one vacancy among school bus drivers. He devised this scheme for selecting the proper man.

The superintendent took the first applicant to a sharp curve on a steep grade along the road and asked, “How close can you drive the bus to the edge of the road without going over the cliff with the children?”

The interested driver looked and replied, “I believe I can go to within two inches and still be safe.”

The second person who had applied for the job heard the same proposition. He checked the curve and told the county official, “I believe I can drive within one inch of the edge and not go over the precipice.”

When the superintendent took the third driver to the same highway scene and made a similar proposition to him, the applicant immediately asked, “Do you think I am crazy? I’ll be trying to see how far I can keep away from the danger line with the bus.”

He received the job.

There is a borderline between the church and the world for the Christian. The church means “the called out from the kingdom of sin.” John said, “Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him” (1 John 2:15).

One who seeks to stay just as near the world
Bellview Church of Christ
Gospel Meeting
September 29-October 4, 2002
Sunday Morning: 9:00 & 10:00 A.M.
Sunday - Friday Evenings: 7:30 P.M.

with

Preston Silcox
Muskogee, Oklahoma

Speaking on: “Christianity”

Sunday Bible Class: Christianity: Ringing Out The Message
Sunday A.M. Worship: Christianity: Reviewing The Savior
Sunday P.M. Worship: Christianity: Reasons For Consideration
Monday Evening: Christianity: Requirements For Entrance
Tuesday Evening: Christianity: Responsibilities Of Membership
Wednesday Evening: Christianity: Results Of Faithfulness
Thursday Evening: Christianity: Rejections Of The Way
Friday Evening: Christianity: Reviving The Commitment

Covered-dish meal will be provided at 6:00 P.M. by the Visitation Groups as follows:
Visitation Group 1 - Monday; Visitation Group 2 - Tuesday;
Visitation Group 3 - Wednesday; All groups - Thursday
Visitors are invited to every meal.

Where Is Johnny?

A family gathers around the dinner table. Little Mary looks up and says, “You know, I just noticed something, Johnny isn’t here.”

Her brother Tom answered, “You mean you hadn’t noticed before now? He hasn’t been here for several weeks. By the way Dad, where is Johnny anyway?”

“Why I don’t know, son. I noticed him in the yard a few weeks ago. Your mother should know. Margaret, where is Johnny? The children say he hasn’t been here for some time now.”

Mother ponders for a moment and at last the vacant look leaves her face as she remembers. “Oh yes. Johnny, our son Johnny. No, I don’t know where he is. But don’t worry. He will probably come back someday. Let’s all be a happy family and eat our meal. I’ll put Johnny’s plate away until he comes back. I wonder what could have happened to him?”

The church gathers around the Lord’s table each Sunday. Think carefully and prayerfully. How many “Johnny’s do you know that are not at the table? What can you do about it?”

Via “The Informer”; Lebanon, MO

New Bible Classes Beginning
Bible classes for the fall/winter quarters begin Sunday, September 1. Make plans to attend these classes.

Sunday Schedule
(September-November 2002)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Young Adults</th>
<th>Great Commission</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adults I</td>
<td>Church History II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adults II</td>
<td>Church History I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Converts</td>
<td>Studies In Christian Doctrine And Practical Christian Living</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Young Adults</th>
<th>Morals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adults I</td>
<td>Proverbs &amp; Song of Solomon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adults II</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Converts</td>
<td>Studies In Christian Doctrine And Practical Christian Living</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

of sin as possible and remain a Christian has the wrong attitude. An individual, as the driver, should stay just as far away from the danger zone as possible. Paul wrote, “Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good” (Rom. 12:9).
of sin as possible and remain a Christian has the wrong attitude. An individual, as the driver, should stay just as far away from the danger zone as possible. Paul wrote, “Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good” (Rom. 12:9).

Deceased

Where Is Johnny?

A family gathers around the dinner table. Little Mary looks up and says, “You know, I just noticed something, Johnny isn’t here.”

Her brother Tom answered, “You mean you hadn’t noticed before now? He hasn’t been here for several weeks. By the way Dad, where is Johnny anyway?”

“Why I don’t know, son. I noticed him in the yard a few weeks ago. Your mother should know. Margaret, where is Johnny? The children say he hasn’t been here for some time now.”

Mother ponders for a moment and at last the vacant look leaves her face as she remembers. “Oh yes. Johnny, our son Johnny. No, I don’t know where he is. But don’t worry. He will probably come back someday. Let’s all be a happy family and eat our meal. I’ll put Johnny’s plate away until he comes back. I wonder what could have happened to him?”

The church gathers around the Lord’s table each Sunday. Think carefully and prayerfully. How many “Johnny’s do you know that are not at the table? What can you do about it?”

Via “The Informer”; Lebanon, MO

New Bible Classes Beginning

Bible classes for the fall/winter quarters begin Sunday, September 1. Make plans to attend these classes.

**Sunday Schedule**
(September-November 2002)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Instructor(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Young Adults</td>
<td>Great Commission</td>
<td>Bill Cline</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adults I</td>
<td>Church History II</td>
<td>Jerry Caine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adults II</td>
<td>Church History I</td>
<td>Paul Brantley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Converts</td>
<td>Studies In Christian Doctrine And Practical Christian Living</td>
<td>Michael Hatcher</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Wednesday Schedule**
(September 2002-February 2003)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Instructor(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Young Adults</td>
<td>Morals</td>
<td>Michael Hatcher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adults I</td>
<td>Proverbs &amp; Song of Solomon</td>
<td>Jerry Caine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adults II</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes</td>
<td>Bill Crowe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Converts</td>
<td>Studies In Christian Doctrine And Practical Christian Living</td>
<td>Fred Stancliff</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Covered-dish meal will be provided at 6:00 P.M. by the Visitation Groups as follows:

Visitation Group 1 - Monday; Visitation Group 2 - Tuesday; Visitation Group 3 - Wednesday; All groups - Thursday

Visitors are invited to every meal.
Sick
Please remember in your prayers:
Elaine Maxey, Jean Flesher, Marilyn Hall,
Diana Brazell, Neva Bryant, Rheba Stancliff, and Ella Hammac.

Reading/Invitation
September 4, 2002
Reading: Bill Gallaher
Invitation: Ray Foshee
September 11, 2002
Reading: Andrew Hatcher
Invitation: Louis Herrington

Mark These Dates
September 1, 2002–Visitation Group 1
assignment cards handed out.
September 8, 2002–Visitation Group 2
assignment cards handed out.
September 8, 2002–Deacons’ meeting at
5:00 PM in room 7.
September 8, 2002–Attendance Drive and
Dinner on the Grounds. A covered dish meal will be held after the morning service in the general purpose building. Plan now to attend and bring someone with you.
September 15, 2002–Visitation Group 3
assignment cards handed out.
September 15, 2002–Elders/Deacons’
meeting at 5:00 PM in room 7.
September 29–October 4, 2002–Gospel
meeting with Preston, Silcox of Muskogee, OK.

Pantry Item Needed
Canned Vegetables

Borderline Christians
B. C. Goodpasture

There is a story of a county superintendent of education who had three applications to fill one vacancy among school bus drivers. He devised this scheme for selecting the proper man.

The superintendent took the first applicant to a sharp curve on a steep grade along the road and asked, “How close can you drive the bus to the edge of the road on the curve without going over the cliff with the children?”

The interested driver looked and replied, “I believe I can go to within two inches and still be safe.”

The second person who had applied for the job heard the same proposition. He checked the curve and told the county official, “I believe I can drive within one inch of the edge and not go over the precipice.”

When the superintendent took the third driver to the same highway scene and made a similar proposition to him, the applicant immediately asked, “Do you think I am crazy? I’ll be trying to see how far I can keep away from the danger line with the bus.”

He received the job.

There is a borderline between the church and the world for the Christian. The church means “the called out from the kingdom of sin.” John said, “Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him” (1 John 2:15).

One who seeks to stay just as near the world
Sick

Please remember in your prayers: Elaine Maxey, Jean Flesher, Marilyn Hall, Diana Brazell, Neva Bryant, John Bamber, Ella Hammac, Darrell Worley (Linda Worley’s brother-in-law), and Toni DeVito (Joyce Brantley’s friend, under Hospice care).

Reading/Invitation
September 11, 2002
Reading: Andrew Hatcher
Invitation: Louis Herrington

September 18, 2002
Reading: Daniel Hatcher
Invitation: Dale Cunningham

Mark These Dates
September 8, 2002–Visitation Group 2 assignment cards handed out.
September 8, 2002–Deacons’ meeting at 5:00 PM in room 7.
September 15, 2002–Visitation Group 3 assignment cards handed out.
September 15, 2002–Elders/Deacons’ meeting at 5:00 PM in room 7.

Please Write
Martha Wilcoxson’s new address is: The Park at Riverchase; 1851 Data Drive, Apt. 130; Hoover, AL 35244. Please write to Martha.

Pantry Item Needed
Fruit Juice

Why Resist Baptism?

Marvin Rickett

Nearly all denominations resist the Bible’s doctrine of baptism in one manner or another. Some resist it by saying it is not essential to salvation. One can be saved without ever being baptized. Others resist it by teaching that one is saved before he is baptized. He is saved at the point of belief, then he is baptized as the first Christian “good work.” One hears the proponents of this view speak of “believers’ baptism,” (as if there were such a thing as unbeliever’s baptism!). Another religious group resists baptism by substituting sprinkling and pouring for baptism (which is immersion). Why do they not simply take the Bible’s teaching on baptism just like it says?

What does the Bible say? It says baptism is essential to salvation: One must be baptized to be saved. “He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved” (Mark 16:16). “Baptism doth also now save us” (1 Pet. 3:21). It says one must be baptized before he can receive salvation. “Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins” (Acts 2:38). “Arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins” (Acts 22:16). It shows that baptism is a burial in water, not a sprinkling or pouring on of water. “Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God” (Col. 2:12). “Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death” (Rom. 6:4).

Why resist baptism? It is simple to understand what the Bible says about it. It is easy to do. Why are there so many who have perverted this
There are several reasons. Perhaps the most prominent one is based on a basic misunderstanding of God’s grace, saving faith, and man’s works. They contend, and rightly so, that we are saved by grace. But they are mistaken when they say grace excludes any response on man’s part. They aver, and rightly so, that we are saved through faith. They are mistaken, though, when they say man is saved by faith only. They assert, and rightly so, that we are not saved by works. However, they are mistaken when they say these works exclude any response or action on man’s part to appropriate the free gift of salvation (see Eph. 2:8-10).

In a word, most of those who resist baptism reason that baptism is a work, we are not saved by works, therefore baptism can have nothing to do with one’s being saved. Yet, it is mentioned so prominently in Scripture that they try to fit it in some way. In fitting it in, they belittle its significance and pervert its place in God’s scheme of redemption.

Where in the Bible does it classify baptism as a work? Sure, it is man’s activity, the preacher actively immerses the penitent believer, who is passive in the act. Does that make baptism a work of merit? What can one possibly be “earning” by submitting to baptism (Tit. 3:5)? Furthermore, baptism is not a work of the Law of Moses (Rom. 3:20). It is a part of the new covenant of Jesus Christ. It is works of merit and works of the Law of Moses which are excluded. Salvation by grace through faith does not exclude works of obedience (Rom. 6:16-18; 10:13-16). Baptism is an action of obedience which the Lord placed between believing and salvation (Mark 16:16). Why resist it? Why not simply submit?

**He Won’t Break**

As the Union Pacific Railroad was being constructed, an elaborate trestle bridge was built across a large canyon in the West. Wanting to test the bridge, the builder loaded a train with enough extra cars and equipment to double its normal payload. The train was then driven to the middle of the bridge, where it stayed an entire day. One worker asked, “Are you trying to break this bridge?”“No,” the builder replied, “I’m trying to prove that the bridge won’t break.”

In like manner, hardships and disappointments do not come of the faithful child of God to see if he will “break”—but to prove that he does not have to break unless he wants to. A faithful child can stand up under anything if they will only rely on their Lord (Phil. 4:13).

Remember, “And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose” (Rom. 8:28). Think About It!  

**Author Unknown**

---

**Attendance Drive & Dinner on the Grounds**  
**September 8**

A covered-dish meal will be held after the morning service. Bring someone to services and then invite them to stay for Christian fellowship. Make plans now!
essential doctrine?

There are several reasons. Perhaps the most prominent one is based on a basic misunderstanding of God’s grace, saving faith, and man’s works. They contend, and rightly so, that we are saved by grace. But they are mistaken when they say grace excludes any response on man’s part. They aver, and rightly so, that we are saved through faith. They are mistaken, though, when they say man is saved by faith only. They assert, and rightly so, that we are not saved by works. However, they are mistaken when they say these works exclude any response or action on man’s part to appropriate the free gift of salvation (see Eph. 2:8-10).

In a word, most of those who resist baptism reason that baptism is a work, we are not saved by works, therefore baptism can have nothing to do with one’s being saved. Yet, it is mentioned so prominently in Scripture that they try to fit it in some way. In fitting it in, they belittle its significance and pervert its place in God’s scheme of redemption.

Where in the Bible does it classify baptism as a work? Sure, it is man’s activity, the preacher actively immerses the penitent believer, who is passive in the act. Does that make baptism a work of merit? What can one possibly be “earning” by submitting to baptism (Tit. 3:5)? Furthermore, baptism is not a work of the Law of Moses (Rom. 3:20). It is a part of the new covenant of Jesus Christ. It is works of merit and works of the Law of Moses which are excluded. Salvation by grace through faith does not exclude works of obedience (Rom. 6:16-18; 10:13-16). Baptism is an action of obedience which the Lord placed between believing and salvation (Mark 16:16). Why resist it? Why not simply submit?

Copied

He Won’t Break

As the Union Pacific Railroad was being constructed, an elaborate trestle bridge was built across a large canyon in the West. Wanting to test the bridge, the builder loaded a train with enough extra cars and equipment to double its normal payload. The train was then driven to the middle of the bridge, where it stayed an entire day. One worker asked, “Are you trying to break this bridge?” “No,” the builder replied, “I’m trying to prove that the bridge won’t break.”

In like manner, hardships and disappointments do not come of the faithful child of God to see if he will “break”—but to prove that he does not have to break unless he wants to. A faithful child can stand up under anything if they will only rely on their Lord (Phi. 4:13). Remember, “And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose” (Rom. 8:28). Think About It!

Author Unknown

Attendance Drive & Dinner on the Grounds
September 8
A covered-dish meal will be held after the morning service. Bring someone to services and then invite them to stay for Christian fellowship. Make plans now!

Bellview Church of Christ
Gospel Meeting
September 29 - October 4, 2002
Sunday Morning: 9:00 & 10:00 A.M.
Sunday - Friday Evenings: 7:30 P.M.
with
Preston Silcox
Muskogee, Oklahoma

Speaking on: “Christianity”

Sunday Bible Class: Christianity: Ringing Out The Message
Sunday A.M. Worship: Christianity: Reviewing The Savior
Sunday P.M. Worship: Christianity: Reasons For Consideration
Monday Evening: Christianity: Requirements For Entrance
Tuesday Evening: Christianity: Responsibilities Of Membership
Wednesday Evening: Christianity: Results Of Faithfulness
Thursday Evening: Christianity: Rejections Of The Way
Friday Evening: Christianity: Reviving The Commitment

Covered-dish meal will be provided at 6:00 P.M. by the Visitation Groups as follows:
Visitation Group 1 - Monday; Visitation Group 2 - Tuesday;
Visitation Group 3 - Wednesday; All groups - Thursday
Visitors are invited to every meal.
**Sick**

Please remember in your prayers: Elaine Maxey, Jean Flesher, Marilyn Hall, Diana Brazell, Neva Bryant, John Bamber, Ella Hammac, Darrell Worley (Linda Worley’s brother-in-law), and Toni DeVito (Joyce Brantley’s friend, under Hospice care).

**Reading/Invitation**

September 11, 2002
Reading: Andrew Hatcher
Invitation: Louis Herrington

September 18, 2002
Reading: Daniel Hatcher
Invitation: Dale Cunningham

**Mark These Dates**

September 8, 2002—Visitation Group 2
assignment cards handed out.

September 8, 2002—Deacons’ meeting at 5:00 PM in room 7.

September 15, 2002—Visitation Group 3
assignment cards handed out.

September 15, 2002—Elders/Deacons’ meeting at 5:00 PM in room 7.

**Please Write**

Martha Wilcoxson’s new address is:
The Park at Riverchase; 1851 Data Drive, Apt. 130; Hoover, AL 35244. Please write to Martha.

**Pantry Item Needed**

Fruit Juice

---

**Why Resist Baptism?**

*Marvin Rickett*

Nearly all denominations resist the Bible’s doctrine of baptism in one manner or another. Some resist it by saying it is not essential to salvation. One can be saved without ever being baptized. Others resist it by teaching that one is saved before he is baptized. He is saved at the point of belief, then he is baptized as the first Christian “good work.” One hears the proponents of this view speak of “believers’ baptism,” (as if there were such a thing as unbeliever’s baptism!). Another religious group resists baptism by substituting sprinkling and pouring for baptism (which is immersion). Why do they not simply take the Bible’s teaching on baptism just like it says?

What does the Bible say? It says baptism is essential to salvation: One must be baptized to be saved. “He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved” (Mark 16:16). “Baptism doth also now save us” (1 Pet. 3:21). It says one must be baptized before he can receive salvation. “Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins” (Acts 2:38). “Arise, and be baptized, and wash away your sins” (Acts 22:16). It shows that baptism is a burial in water, not a sprinkling or pouring on of water. “Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God” (Col. 2:12). “Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death” (Rom. 6:4).

Why resist baptism? It is simple to understand what the Bible says about it. It is easy to do. Why are there so many who have perverted this
Sick
Please remember in your prayers: Elaine Maxey, Jean Flesher, Marilyn Hall, Diana Brazell, Neva Bryant, Ella Hammac, Floy Dell Lindesmith, Ulay Wise (Shelby Nall’s uncle), and Gay Mathis.

Reading/Invitation
September 18, 2002
Reading: Daniel Hatcher
Invitation: Dale Cunningham

September 25, 2002
Reading: Brantley Johnson
Invitation: Fred Stancliff

Mark These Dates
September 15, 2002–Visitation Group 3 assignment cards handed out.
September 15, 2002–Elders/Deacons’ meeting at 5:00 PM in room 7.
September 29-October 4, 2002–Gospel meeting with Preston, Silcox of Muskogee, OK.

Pantry Item Needed
Fruit Juice

“One hundred years from now it will make no difference to you whether you ate steak or beans, whether you live in a mansion or a shack, whether you slept on a nice bed or a cot, whether you drove a Cadillac or a rattle trap—but it will make a difference in the world whether or not you were a Faithful Christian.”

Author Unknown

We Will Save Some
Charles Box

Possibly no Christian has had a greater desire to save the lost than the apostle Paul. He said, “I made myself servant unto all, that I might gain the more. And unto the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might gain the Jews; to them that are under the law, as under the law, that I might gain them that are under the law; To them that are without law, as without law, (being not without law to God, but under the law to Christ,) that I might gain them that are without law. To the weak became I as weak, that I might gain the weak: I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some” (1 Cor. 9:19-22). Nothing should cut our hearts any deeper than a world lost in sin. May God help us to have the spirit of Paul and do what it takes to win some!

We Will Win Some When We Really Be-
lost person? Is there a member of your family or a neighbor that you would like to see become a New Testament Christian? Why not put forth every effort to win them to Christ? Remember, all who are outside of Christ are lost (Eph. 2:12).

We Will Win Some When We Set Aside Time for Soul-winning. You do not win souls by accident. There is no better way to redeem the time than by redeeming it through soul-winning (Eph. 5:16). One of the reasons we are not winning more souls for Christ is that we do not take time to talk to people face-to-face about Jesus Christ and His church!

May God help us to want to save some while we have opportunity. Let us teach people how to get into Christ. Let us show people it takes hearing (Rom. 10:17), believing (Heb. 11:6), repenting (Luke 13:3), confessing (Mat. 10:32), being baptized (Acts 22:16), and staying faithful (1 Cor. 15:58).

Do It Later

- If you are planning to leave town...do it later!
- If you are planning to get sick...do it later!
- If you are planning to have guests...do it later!
- If you are planning to do your homework...do it later!
- If you are planning to a ball game...do it later!
- If you are planning to work overtime...do it later!
- If you are planning on a fishing trip...do it later!
- If you are planning to clean house...do it later!
- If you are planning to make excuses...do it later!

But not the week of our Gospel Meeting! Our Gospel Meeting starts on September 29 and runs through October 4. This meeting is not just a token effort, for the cause of Christ is far to great for us to be satisfied with mediocrity.

This is a tremendous opportunity for touching people's lives, but the heart of the matter is—a great Gospel Meeting depends upon you!

- Your attendance (Psa. 122:1; Heb. 10:25).
- Your prayers (2 The. 3:1-2; Eph. 6:18-19).
- Your enthusiasm (Rom. 12:8-11; Col. 3:23).
- Your encouragement (Heb. 10:24).
- Your interest (Col. 3:1-2; Phi. 2:3-4).
- Your open Bible (Acts 17:11).
- Your friendliness (Pro. 17:17; Eph. 4:25).
- Your singing (1 Cor. 14:15; Eph. 5:19).
- Your love (Mark 12:30; Gal. 5:6).
- Your priorities (Mat. 6:33; Luke 14:25-33).
- Your attitude (Phi. 4:8).

Author Unknown—Modified

Matthew 6:33

“But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.”

Bellview Church of Christ Gospel Meeting September 29 - October 4, 2002
Sunday Morning: 9:00 & 10:00 A.M.
Sunday - Friday Evenings: 7:30 P.M.

with

Preston Silcox
Muskogee, Oklahoma

Speaking on: “Christianity”

Sunday Bible Class: Christianity: Ringing Out The Message
Sunday A.M. Worship: Christianity: Reviewing The Savior
Sunday P.M. Worship: Christianity: Reasons For Consideration
Monday Evening: Christianity: Requirements For Entrance
Tuesday Evening: Christianity: Responsibilities Of Membership
Wednesday Evening: Christianity: Results Of Faithfulness
Thursday Evening: Christianity: Rejections Of The Way
Friday Evening: Christianity: Reviving The Commitment

Covered-dish meal will be provided at 6:00 P.M. by the Visitation Groups as follows:
Visitation Group 1 - Monday; Visitation Group 2 - Tuesday;
Visitation Group 3 - Wednesday; All groups - Thursday
Visitors are invited to every meal.
lost person? Is there a member of your family or a neighbor that you would like to see become a New Testament Christian? Why not put forth every effort to win them to Christ? Remember, all who are outside of Christ are lost (Eph. 2:12).

We Will Win Some When We Set Aside Time for Soul-winning. You do not win souls by accident. There is no better way to redeem the time than by redeeming it through soul-winning (Eph. 5:16). One of the reasons we are not winning more souls for Christ is that we do not take time to talk to people face-to-face about Jesus Christ and His church!

May God help us to want to save some while we have opportunity. Let us teach people how to get into Christ. Let us show people it takes hearing (Rom. 10:17), believing (Heb. 11:6), repenting (Luke 13:3), confessing (Mat. 10:32), being baptized (Acts 22:16), and staying faithful (1 Cor. 15:58).

Matthew 6:33
“But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.”

Do It Later

- If you are planning to leave town...do it later!
- If you are planning to get sick...do it later!
- If you are planning to have guests...do it later!
- If you are planning to do your homework...do it later!
- If you are planning to a ball game...do it later!
- If you are planning to work overtime...do it later!
- If you are planning on a fishing trip...do it later!
- If you are planning to clean house...do it later!
- If you are planning to make excuses...do it later!

But not the week of our Gospel Meeting!

Our Gospel Meeting starts on September 29 and runs through October 4. This meeting is not just a token effort, for the cause of Christ is far too great for us to be satisfied with mediocrity.

This is a tremendous opportunity for touching people’s lives, but the heart of the matter is—a great Gospel Meeting depends upon you!

- Your attendance (Psa. 122:1; Heb. 10:25).
- Your prayers (2 The. 3:1-2; Eph. 6:18-19).
- Your enthusiasm (Rom. 12:8-11; Col. 3:23).
- Your encouragement (Heb. 10:24).
- Your interest (Col. 3:1-2; Phi. 2:3-4).
- Your open Bible (Acts 17:11).
- Your friendliness (Pro. 17:17; Eph. 4:25).
- Your singing (1 Cor. 14:15; Eph. 5:19).
- Your love (Mark 12:30; Gal. 5:6).
- Your priorities (Mat. 6:33; Luke 14:25-33).
- Your attitude (Phi. 4:8).

Author Unknown—Modified

Bellview Church of Christ
Gospel Meeting
September 29 - October 4, 2002

Sunday Morning: 9:00 & 10:00 A.M.
Sunday - Friday Evenings: 7:30 P.M.

with

Preston Silcox
Muskogee, Oklahoma

Speaking on: “Christianity”

Sunday Bible Class: Christianity: Ringing Out The Message
Sunday A.M. Worship: Christianity: Reviewing The Savior
Sunday P.M. Worship: Christianity: Reasons For Consideration
Monday Evening: Christianity: Requirements For Entrance
Tuesday Evening: Christianity: Responsibilities Of Membership
Wednesday Evening: Christianity: Results Of Faithfulness
Thursday Evening: Christianity: Rejections Of The Way
Friday Evening: Christianity: Reviving The Commitment

Covered-dish meal will be provided at 6:00 P.M. by the Visitation Groups as follows:
Visitation Group 1 - Monday; Visitation Group 2 - Tuesday;
Visitation Group 3 - Wednesday; All groups - Thursday
Visitors are invited to every meal.
Sick

Please remember in your prayers: Elaine Maxey, Jean Flesher, Marilyn Hall, Diana Brazell, Neva Bryant, Ella Hammac, Floy Dell Lindesmith, Ulay Wise (Shelby Nall’s uncle), and Gay Mathis.

Reading/Invitation
September 18, 2002
Reading: Daniel Hatcher
Invitation: Dale Cunningham
September 25, 2002
Reading: Brantley Johnson
Invitation: Fred Stancliff

Mark These Dates
September 15, 2002–Visitation Group 3
assignment cards handed out.
September 15, 2002–Elders/Deacons’
meeting at 5:00 PM in room 7.
September 29-October 4, 2002–Gospel
meeting with Preston, Silcox of Muskogee, OK.

Pantry Item Needed
Fruit Juice

“One hundred years from now it will
make no difference to you whether you ate
steak or beans, whether you live in a
mansion or a shack, whether you slept on
a nice bed or a cot, whether you drove a
Cadillac or a rattle trap—but it will make
a difference in the world whether or not
you were a Faithful Christian.”
Author Unknown

We Will Save Some
Charles Box

Possibly no Christian has had a greater desire
to save the lost than the apostle Paul. He said, “I
made myself servant unto all, that I might gain
the more. And unto the Jews I became as a Jew,
that I might gain the Jews; to them that are under
the law, as under the law, that I might gain them
that are under the law; To them that are without
law, as without law, (being not without law to
God, but under the law to Christ,) that I might
gain them that are without law. To the weak
became I as weak, that I might gain the weak: I
am made all things to all
men
, that I might by all
means save some” (1 Cor. 9:19-22).

We Will Win Some When We Really Be-
come Interested in People. The church is in the
people business! Paul looked at people and saw
them lost in sin. It broke his heart (Rom. 9:1-3).
His desire was very strong that Israel might be
saved (Rom. 10:1). Because of his interest in lost
people he became “all things to all men, that I
might by all means save some” (1 Cor. 9:22).

We Will Win Some When We Understand
That Soul-winning Is the Business of Every
Christian. The soul-winner is described in Pro-
verbs 11:30 as a wise person. If we fail to bear
fruit for God we will be burned up (John 15:2).
You can be a soul-winner! You can be involved
in the greatest work in all the world.

We Will Win Some When We Truly Face
the Fact That Many We Know Are Lost (Mat.
7:13-14). Are you praying specifically for some
Sick
Please remember in your prayers: Elaine Maxey, Jean Flesher, Marilyn Hall, Diana Braziel, Neva Bryant, Ella Hammac, and Ulay Wise (Shelby Nall’s uncle).

Sympathy
Our deepest sympathy is extended to Debra and Denise Mowery in the death of their nephew, Craig Smith, on September 13, 2002. Please keep them and their sister’s family in your prayers.

Reading/Invitation
September 25, 2002
Reading: Brantley Johnson
Invitation: Fred Stancliff
October 2, 2002
Gospel Meeting

Mark These Dates
October 6, 2002–Visitation Group 1 assignment cards handed out.
October 13, 2002–Visitation Group 2 assignment cards handed out.
October 13, 2002–Deacons’ meeting at 5:00 PM, in room 7.
October 20, 2002–Visitation Group 3 assignment cards handed out.
October 20, 2002–Elders/Deacons’ meeting at 5:00 PM, in room 7.
October 30, 2002–Fifth Wednesday Singing at 7:00 PM.

Pantry Item Needed
Fruit Juice

Assembling With the Saints
Tom Moore
Attending worship services faithfully is of the utmost importance. Many a strong Christian has become weak, and many a weak Christian has totally fallen away because at some point they began to miss worship services and Bible study on a regular basis. A Christian’s attendance of the worship services, as been rightfully declared by many, as a thermometer indicating one’s fervor for the Lord. One cannot truthfully say he is a faithful child of God if he does not attend worship services regularly. Consider now the following reasons why we must attend worship services faithfully. The Hebrews writer penned the following passage giving us several reasons for not forsaking the assembly of the saints.

“Let us consider one another to provoke unto love and good works; not forsaking our own assembling together, as the custom of some is, but exhorting one another; and so much the more, as ye see the day drawing nigh” (Heb. 10:24-25). Our assembling together for worship services stimulates the brethren to love and good works, and exorts and encourages us to greater Christian enthusiasm. It is important, because of the trials, temptation, and heartaches we face each week as Christians, to assemble together at each opportunity so that we might be stimulated and encouraged, and to do the same for others. It is reassuring to be around those of “like precious faith” (2 Pet. 1:1). We all need encouragement, but we must attend worship services and Bible study to receive this precious privilege.

Another reason we should attend worship services and Bible study faithfully is seen in
Hebrews 10:25—it is a command of God. Jesus said, “If ye love me, ye will keep my commandments” (John 14:15). Furthermore, we also need to remember, “For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous” (1 John 5:3). The Lord informs us that we must assemble at every opportunity with the saints. If this were the only reason for attending worship regularly—it would be enough. If you really love the Lord you will keep His commandments.

Still another reason we should attend worship services regularly is that we must be a good example to others. Peter declared, “For hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, that ye should follow his steps” (1 Pet. 2:21). Jesus left us innumerable examples of how we should live. One of these examples is that he kept the Law of Moses perfectly, which included attending all of the different feasts and special days of the Jewish religion. We, too, learning from the example of Jesus, should regularly attend all of the worship services as well as all other gatherings for the purpose of study and edification. We should do this to please God, but also to set good examples for others. Paul said that we are to be “an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity” (1 Tim. 4:12). What kind of example do you think we set for the non-believer by our apathetic attendance, or for the weak Christian? Not a good one I assure you.

Would one consider a car faithful if it only starts every other time? Would you consider your spouse faithful if she cheated on your marriage once a month? Of course not! Then what makes us think that we can be faithful Christians if we are not attending worship services regularly? It is vital that we are faithful in attendance—our eternal destiny is hanging in the balances. We are not condemning those who are ill at home, or having to care for a sick loved one—we speak to those who have no reason for not coming other than being deficient in concern for spiritual matters. We love you and hope to see you in our next scheduled meeting time.

Copied

ABC’s of a Good Meeting

A... 1. Advertise the meeting.  
   2. All members attend all services.  
   3. Absorb all the lessons possible.  
   4. Always pray daily for the meeting.  
   5. Arrange in every good work—the meeting is a good work.  
   6. Accept your responsibility. 
B... 1. Bring as many as you can to every service.  
   2. Be on time to every service.  
   3. Be reverent.  
   4. Believe and apply each lesson.  
   5. Be courteous to all visitors.  
   6. Be enthusiastic and cheerful. 
C... 1. Call all your friends and invite them.  
   2. Center your thoughts on spiritual things.  
   3. Cooperate in all the work.  
   4. Create a friendly atmosphere.  
   5. Correct all things amiss in your life.  
   6. Cancel all other engagements. 

The great and grand apostle Paul wrote, “As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all” (Gal. 6:10). Such an opportunity is before us.

Author Unknown

Bellview Church of Christ Gospel Meeting September 29 - October 4, 2002 Sunday Morning: 9:00 & 10:00 A.M. Sunday - Friday Evenings: 7:30 P.M. with Preston Silcox Muskogee, Oklahoma Speaking on: “Christianity”


Covered-dish meal will be provided at 6:00 P.M. by the Visitation Groups as follows: Visitation Group 1 - Monday; Visitation Group 2 - Tuesday; Visitation Group 3 - Wednesday; All groups - Thursday 

Visitors are invited to every meal.
Hebrews 10:25—itis a command of God. Jesus said, “If ye love me, ye will keep my commandments” (John 14:15). Furthermore, we also need to remember, “For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous” (1 John 5:3). The Lord informs us that we must assemble at every opportunity with the saints. If this were the only reason for attending worship regularly—it would be enough. If you really love the Lord you will keep His commandments.

Still another reason we should attend worship services regularly is that we must be a good example to others. Peter declared, “For hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, that ye should follow his steps” (1 Pet. 2:21). Jesus left us innumerable examples of how we should live. One of these examples is that he kept the Law of Moses perfectly, which included attending all of the different feasts and special days of the Jewish religion. We, too, learning from the example of Jesus, should regularly attend all of the worship services as well as all other gathering for the purpose of study and edification. We should do this to please God, but also to set good examples for others. Paul said that we are to be “an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity” (1 Tim. 4:12). What kind of example do you think we set for the non-believer by our apathetic attendance, or for the weak Christian? Not a good one I assure you.

Would one consider a car faithful if it only starts every other time? Would you consider your spouse faithful if she cheated on your marriage once a month? Of course not! Then what makes us think that we can be faithful Christians if we are not attending worship services regularly? It is vital that we are faithful in attendance—our eternal destiny is hanging in the balances. We are not condemning those who are ill at home, or having to care for a sick loved one—we speak to those who have no reason for not coming other than being deficient in concern for spiritual matters. We love you and hope to see you in our next scheduled meeting time.

Copied

**ABC’s of a Good Meeting**

A... 1. Advertise the meeting.
2. All members attend all services.
3. Absorb all the lessons possible.
4. Always pray daily for the meeting.
5. Abound in every good work—the meeting is a good work.
6. Accept your responsibility.
B... 1. Bring as many as you can to every service.
2. Be on time to every service.
3. Be reverent.
4. Believe and apply each lesson.
5. Be courteous to all visitors.
6. Be enthusiastic and cheerful.

C... 1. Call all your friends and invite them.
2. Center your thoughts on spiritual things.
3. Cooperate in all the work.
4. Create a friendly atmosphere.
5. Correct all things amiss in your life.
6. Cancel all other engagements.

The great and grand apostle Paul wrote, “As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all” (Gal. 6:10). Such an opportunity is before us.
Sick
Please remember in your prayers: Elaine Maxey, Jean Flesher, Marilyn Hall, Diana Brazell, Neva Bryant, Ella Hammac, and Ulay Wise (Shelby Nall’s uncle).

Sympathy
Our deepest sympathy is extended to Debra and Denise Mowery in the death of their nephew, Craig Smith, on September 13, 2002. Please keep them and their sister’s family in your prayers.

Reading/Invitation
September 25, 2002
Reading: Brantley Johnson
Invitation: Fred Stancliff
October 2, 2002
Gospel Meeting

Mark These Dates
October 6, 2002–Visitation Group 1 assignment cards handed out.
October 13, 2002–Visitation Group 2 assignment cards handed out.
October 13, 2002–Deacons’ meeting at 5:00 PM, in room 7.
October 20, 2002–Visitation Group 3 assignment cards handed out.
October 20, 2002–Elders/Deacons’ meeting at 5:00 PM, in room 7.
October 30, 2002–Fifth Wednesday Singing at 7:00 PM.

Pantry Item Needed
Fruit Juice

Assembling With the Saints
Tom Moore
Attending worship services faithfully is of the utmost importance. Many a strong Christian has become weak, and many a weak Christian has totally fallen away because at some point they began to miss worship services and Bible study on a regular basis. A Christian’s attendance of the worship services, as been rightfully declared by many, as a thermometer indicating one’s fervor for the Lord. One cannot truthfully say he is a faithful child of God if he does not attend worship services regularly. Consider now the following reasons why we must attend worship services faithfully. The Hebrews writer penned the following passage giving us several reasons for not forsaking the assembly of the saints.

“Let us consider one another to provoke unto love and good works; not forsaking our own assembling together, as the custom of some is, but exhorting one another; and so much the more, as ye see the day drawing nigh” (Heb. 10:24-25). Our assembling together for worship services stimulates the brethren to love and good works, and exhorts and encourages us to greater Christian enthusiasm. It is important, because of the trials, temptation, and heartaches we face each week as Christians, to assemble together at each opportunity so that we might be stimulated and encouraged, and to do the same for others. It is reassuring to be around those of “like precious faith” (2 Pet. 1:1). We all need encouragement, but we must attend worship services and Bible study to receive this precious privilege.

Another reason we should attend worship services and Bible study faithfully is seen in
Suggestions for a Successful Gospel Meeting

Preston Silcox

The time is right around the corner that we shall be laboring together in a gospel meeting. I always look forward to opportunities of being with you and this occasion is certainly no exception. It is always a pleasure to enjoy fellowship and engage in Bible study with you. Since the event that will bring us together this time is a gospel meeting, I have a few suggestions that I think will help make the meeting a success.

Pray for the meeting. Since gospel meetings focus on reaching the lost and strengthening the saved, surely we want to pray for the success of such. Remember, “the effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much” (Jam. 5:16). Pray, then, for great attendance and great responses!

Invite others to attend. While the selected sermons are designed to encourage and instruct the saved, they are also very evangelistic in nature. With this and the great commission of Christ in mind, I encourage you to invite all the friends, relatives, neighbors, co-workers, and even strangers that you possibly can. God’s Word has the power to save the lost (Rom. 1:16; Heb. 4:12), but we must get the lost in hearing distance of that word.

Determine to be at every service. One of the greatest hindrances to any gospel meeting is the lack of attendance by local members. If we love God, respect His Word, and hold Christ in mind, we should not miss a single service. The attitude we display toward such congregational efforts influences those around us—for good or
for bad. Resolve to be a stepping-stone, not a stumbling block.

While there are a number of other ways to help make the upcoming meeting a success, these are a few of the most important. I believe that much good will come out of our labors together, and I look forward to seeing the results.

4006 Sunset Street; Muskogee, OK 74403

Why Should God Bless America Again?

Leon Cole

It had been a while, but the other day I heard again the country song “God Bless America Again.” It is a pretty song and presents some good thoughts. Yet, as I was listening my thought was why should He bless America again?

America is a country where a serious crime is committed every nine minutes. America is a country where the sins of Sodom are paraded, glorified, and endorsed by the rulers of the land. America is a country that not only permits but encourages the murder of its babies. And we have the audacity to ask God to bless us again!

This land is in a far greater depression than the economic crisis of the 1930s. A mere glance at the magazine stands exposes one to the rankest of depravity. Language that would bring blushes to the inhabitants of Hell is now heard in the living rooms of America via the television. The picture of this nation’s moral condition is paralleled only by Paul’s description of the Gentile world in Romans 1:18-30. And this is what we want God to bless?

There is a key for receiving God’s blessing. “If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land” (2 Chr. 7:14). On the other hand, it should not be forgotten: “The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God” (Psa. 9:17). If we want God’s blessings, there are conditions to be met. There must be a humbling of ourselves. That is asking a lot of proud America. We tend to take credit for ourselves and leave God out. Many who do acknowledge God put Him only on our level as they speak of how “God is my co-pilot.” No, God is our pilot—period. We look only to Him for guidance.

God’s blessings too come as a result of prayer. It will be a bit hard for God to bless America again when prayer to Him has been banished from the classroom. There must be a seeking of God’s face. There is the difficulty for this involves forsaking sin. “Your sins have hid his face from you” (Isa. 59:2).

When these conditions are met, God will bless America again. He will hear from heaven, forgive our sins, and heal our land. Unless we are willing to meet these conditions pleas for God’s blessings are nothing more than vain repetitions.

America has been great because she has been good. It has been noted by great historians that the average great democracies of the past have lasted only two hundred years. America is over the average. Where are we headed? The “warped personalities” created by the advice of Dr. Benjamin Spock instead of the advice of God’s Word now bear rule. The vilest of men are now exalted. We should not forget God’s unchanging law: “Whatsoever a man soweth that shall he also reap.” That law applies to nations too.

Copied

Bellview Church of Christ
Gospel Meeting
September 29 - October 4, 2002

Sunday Morning: 9:00 & 10:00 A.M.
Sunday - Friday Evenings: 7:30 P.M.

with

Preston Silcox
Muskogee, Oklahoma

Speaking on: “Christianity”

Sunday Bible Class: Christianity: Ringing Out The Message
Sunday A.M. Worship: Christianity: Reviewing The Savior
Sunday P.M. Worship: Christianity: Reasons For Consideration
Monday Evening: Christianity: Requirements For Entrance
Tuesday Evening: Christianity: Responsibilities Of Membership
Wednesday Evening: Christianity: Results Of Faithfulness
Thursday Evening: Christianity: Rejections Of The Way
Friday Evening: Christianity: Reviving The Commitment

Covered-dish meal will be provided at 6:00 P.M. by the Visitation Groups as follows:
Visitation Group 1 - Monday; Visitation Group 2 - Tuesday;
Visitation Group 3 - Wednesday; All groups - Thursday
Visitors are invited to every meal.

Copied
for bad. Resolve to be a stepping-stone, not a stumbling block.

While there are a number of other ways to help make the upcoming meeting a success, these are a few of the most important. I believe that much good will come out of our labors together, and I look forward to seeing the results.

4006 Sunset Street; Muskogee, OK 74403

Why Should God Bless America Again?

Leon Cole

It had been a while, but the other day I heard again the country song “God Bless America Again.” It is a pretty song and presents some good thoughts. Yet, as I was listening my thought was why should He bless America again?

America is a country where a serious crime is committed every nine minutes. America is a country where the sins of Sodom are paraded, glorified, and endorsed by the rulers of the land. America is a country that not only permits but encourages the murder of its babies. And we have the audacity to ask God to bless us again?

This land is in a far greater depression than the economic crisis of the 1930s. A mere glance at the magazine stands exposes one to the rankest of depravity. Language that would bring blushes to the inhabitants of Hell is now heard in the living rooms of America via the television. The picture of this nation’s moral condition is paralleled only by Paul’s description of the Gentile world in Romans 1:18-30. And this is what we want God to bless?

The Bible says, “If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and heal their land” (2 Chr. 7:14). On the other hand, it should not be forgotten: “The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God” (Psa. 9:17).

If we want God’s blessings, there are conditions to be met. There must be a humility of ourselves. That is asking a lot of proud America. We tend to take credit for ourselves and leave God out. Many who do acknowledge God put Him only on our level as they speak of how “God is my co-pilot.” No, God is our pilot—period. We look only to Him for guidance.

God’s blessings too come as a result of prayer. It will be a bit hard for God to bless America again when prayer to Him has been banished from the classroom. There must be a seeking of God’s face. There is the difficulty for this involves forsaking sin. “Your sins have hid his face from you” (Isa. 59:2).

When these conditions are met, God will bless America again. He will hear from heaven, forgive our sins, and heal our land. Unless we are willing to meet these conditions pleas for God’s blessings are nothing more than vain repetitions.

Covered-dish meal will be provided at 6:00 P.M. by the Visitation Groups as follows:

Covered-dish meal will be provided at 6:00 P.M. by the Visitation Groups as follows:

Covered-dish meal will be provided at 6:00 P.M. by the Visitation Groups as follows:

Covered-dish meal will be provided at 6:00 P.M. by the Visitation Groups as follows:

Covered-dish meal will be provided at 6:00 P.M. by the Visitation Groups as follows:

Covered-dish meal will be provided at 6:00 P.M. by the Visitation Groups as follows:

Covered-dish meal will be provided at 6:00 P.M. by the Visitation Groups as follows:

Covered-dish meal will be provided at 6:00 P.M. by the Visitation Groups as follows:

Covered-dish meal will be provided at 6:00 P.M. by the Visitation Groups as follows:

Covered-dish meal will be provided at 6:00 P.M. by the Visitation Groups as follows:

Covered-dish meal will be provided at 6:00 P.M. by the Visitation Groups as follows:

Covered-dish meal will be provided at 6:00 P.M. by the Visitation Groups as follows:

Covered-dish meal will be provided at 6:00 P.M. by the Visitation Groups as follows:

Covered-dish meal will be provided at 6:00 P.M. by the Visitation Groups as follows:

Covered-dish meal will be provided at 6:00 P.M. by the Visitation Groups as follows:

Covered-dish meal will be provided at 6:00 P.M. by the Visitation Groups as follows:

Covered-dish meal will be provided at 6:00 P.M. by the Visitation Groups as follows:

Covered-dish meal will be provided at 6:00 P.M. by the Visitation Groups as follows:

Covered-dish meal will be provided at 6:00 P.M. by the Visitation Groups as follows:

Covered-dish meal will be provided at 6:00 P.M. by the Visitation Groups as follows:

Covered-dish meal will be provided at 6:00 P.M. by the Visitation Groups as follows:

Covered-dish meal will be provided at 6:00 P.M. by the Visitation Groups as follows:

Covered-dish meal will be provided at 6:00 P.M. by the Visitation Groups as follows:

Covered-dish meal will be provided at 6:00 P.M. by the Visitation Groups as follows:

Covered-dish meal will be provided at 6:00 P.M. by the Visitation Groups as follows:

Covered-dish meal will be provided at 6:00 P.M. by the Visitation Groups as follows:

Covered-dish meal will be provided at 6:00 P.M. by the Visitation Groups as follows:

Covered-dish meal will be provided at 6:00 P.M. by the Visitation Groups as follows:

Covered-dish meal will be provided at 6:00 P.M. by the Visitation Groups as follows:

Covered-dish meal will be provided at 6:00 P.M. by the Visitation Groups as follows:

Covered-dish meal will be provided at 6:00 P.M. by the Visitation Groups as follows:

Covered-dish meal will be provided at 6:00 P.M. by the Visitation Groups as follows:

Covered-dish meal will be provided at 6:00 P.M. by the Visitation Groups as follows:

Covered-dish meal will be provided at 6:00 P.M. by the Visitation Groups as follows:

Copied
Suggestions for a Successful Gospel Meeting

Preston Silcox

The time is right around the corner that we shall be laboring together in a gospel meeting. I always look forward to opportunities of being with you and this occasion is certainly no exception. It is always a pleasure to enjoy fellowship and engage in Bible study with you. Since the event that will bring us together this time is a gospel meeting, I have a few suggestions that I think will help make the meeting a success.

Pray for the meeting. Since gospel meetings focus on reaching the lost and strengthening the saved, surely we want to pray for the success of such. Remember, “the effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much” (Jam. 5:16). Pray, then, for great attendance and great responses!

Invite others to attend. While the selected sermons are designed to encourage and instruct the saved, they are also very evangelistic in nature. With this and the great commission of Christ in mind, I encourage you to invite all the friends, relatives, neighbors, co-workers, and even strangers that you possibly can. God’s Word has the power to save the lost (Rom. 1:16; Heb. 4:12), but we must get the lost in hearing distance of that word.

Determine to be at every service. One of the greatest hindrances to any gospel meeting is the lack of attendance by local members. If we love God, respect His Word, and care for other Christians, and long to save the lost, then we will desire and determine to not miss a single service. The attitude we display toward such congregational efforts influences those around us—for good or
**Sick**

Please remember in your prayers: Elaine Maxey, Jean Flesher, Marilyn Hall, Diana Brazell, Neva Bryant, Ella Hammack, Marge Williams, Gay Mathis, and Annette Cates.

**Reading/Invitation**

October 9, 2002
Reading: Tim Lamb
Invitation: Henry Born

October 16, 2002
Reading: Bryan Loy
Invitation: Paul Brantley

**Mark These Dates**

October 6, 2002–Visitation Group 1 assignment cards handed out.
October 13, 2002–Visitation Group 2 assignment cards handed out.
October 13, 2002–Deacons’ meeting at 5:00 PM, in room 7.
October 20, 2002–Visitation Group 3 assignment cards handed out.
October 20, 2002–Elders/Deacons’ meeting at 5:00 PM, in room 7.
October 23, 2002–Fourth Wednesday Video Series for Adult Classes in the auditorium at 7:00 PM.
October 30, 2002–Fifth Wednesday Singing at 7:00 PM.

**Pantry Item Needed**

Fruit Juice

---

**One Year Later: America Still Slumbers**

**Preston Silcox**

For weeks and even months following last year’s terrorist attacks on America, sermons, classes, and articles overflowed with references to the horrific events that robbed thousands of lives and forever altered the landscapes of New York City, Washington D.C., and Pennsylvania. Many hoped that the tragedies of September 11 would turn the course of American morality and move the hearts of American people to seek the Truth. Now, a year later, all indications point to no real change for the better. The awakening was temporary at best and it even backfired at worst. Recent surveys reveal that since the attacks, church attendance and involvement experienced no long-term changes and that Islam witnessed more conversions in America than ever before.

According to the Barna Research Group (an inter-denominational marketing research company), levels of Bible reading, church attendance, prayer, and Bible class attendance rose by only 1 to 3 percent. BRG found that even though attendance spiked for several weeks, “levels were back to normal by November.” This same group found that “Almost nine out of ten Americans say the terrorist attacks have had no lasting impact on their faith, though millions of adults (roughly half of the US adult population) claim to have turned to their faith to help them personally process the tragedies.”

An additional survey by Knight-Ridder (a communications company engaged primarily in newspaper and internet publishing) revealed that...
“favorable feelings toward Muslim-Americans” grew from 45 percent in early 2001 to 60 percent in August 2002. While “favorable feelings” toward individuals are good and right, this change in view apparently went well beyond merely liking the people. Consider the following tidbit by W. L. Cati, a former Muslim: “Do you know there have been more converts to Islam since 9-11 here in America than ever before? [That is] because they have run with it.” Cati places a part of the blame on the American media, saying, “[The terrorist attacks on 9-11] did more for their evangelism cause than anything else—they were on every single talk-show there was.”

Has much changed for the better since that dark day one year ago? Not hardly. Has anything been altered for the worse? No doubt. Even though evil minds and sinful plots characterized the human side of 9-11, one has to wonder whether or not God was using those men and their motives to wake up a nation that was slumbering in an ivory bed of immoral indulgence. Ignoring the sound of the alarm, America’s sleepy eyes apparently could not be pried open. So just what is “the conclusion of the whole matter”? Preach the Gospel, pray for a national awakening, and prepare for Divine retribution!

4006 Sunset Street; Muskogee, OK 74403

Selling Out

One of the leaders of the early church was Polycarp. He was brought to trial by the authorities and told he must renounce his Christian faith. He replied, “Fourscore and six years have I served him, and he never did me wrong: how then can I revile my King, my Savior?” They took him out and put him to death. Later, when the Christians wrote their history of that period, they said, “Polycarp was martyred, Statius Quadratus being proconsul of Asia, and Jesus Christ being King forever!”

Today many are “selling out”—renouncing their faith, and becoming a servant of the god of this world. What wrong has our Lord done to mankind that they would treat him so? Beloved, Jesus has given us the greatest gift of all—his own life, that we might have eternal life with him. What are we willing to sacrifice for our Lord—our lives, our money, our time? The words of John still ring true: “be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life” (Rev. 2:10). Think About It!

Author Unknown

Soul Winning

Is there anything else that is better worth, As long life’s way we plod, Than to find some wandering soul on earth, And bring him home to God. I would rather find a soul that’s lost, And bring him home again. Than to own all that earth’s acres cost,

Of all the wealth of men. How glad I’d be when day is done, In taking my last breath, To know a word of mine had won, And saved a soul from death.

Author Unknown

Bellview Church of Christ
Gospel Meeting
September 29 - October 4, 2002
Sunday Morning: 9:00 & 10:00 A.M.
Sunday - Friday Evenings: 7:30 P.M.
with

Preston Silcox
Muskogee, Oklahoma

Speaking on: “Christianity”

Sunday Bible Class: Christianity: Ringing Out The Message
Sunday A.M. Worship: Christianity: Reviewing The Savior
Sunday P.M. Worship: Christianity: Reasons For Consideration
Monday Evening: Christianity: Requirements For Entrance
Tuesday Evening: Christianity: Responsibilities Of Membership
Wednesday Evening: Christianity: Results Of Faithfulness
Thursday Evening: Christianity: Rejections Of The Way
Friday Evening: Christianity: Reviving The Commitment

Covered-dish meal will be provided at 6:00 P.M. by the Visitation Groups as follows: Visitation Group 1 - Monday; Visitation Group 2 - Tuesday; Visitation Group 3 - Wednesday; All groups - Thursday
Visitors are invited to every meal.
“favorable feelings toward Muslim-Americans” grew from 45 percent in early 2001 to 60 percent in August 2002. While “favorable feelings” toward individuals are good and right, this change in view apparently went well beyond merely liking the people. Consider the following tidbit by W. L. Cat, a former Muslim: “Do you know there have been more converts to Islam since 9-11 here in America than ever before? [That is] because they have run with it.” Cat places a part of the blame on the American media, saying, “[The terrorist attacks on 9-11] did more for their evangelism cause than anything else—they were on every single talk-show there was.”

Has much changed for the better since that dark day one year ago? Not hardly. Has anything been altered for the worse? No doubt. Even though evil minds and sinful plots characterized the human side of 9-11, one has to wonder whether or not God was using those men and their motives to wake up a nation that was slumbering in an ivory bed of immoral indulgence. Ignoring the sound of the alarm, America’s sleepy eyes apparently could not be pried open. So just what is “the conclusion of the whole matter”? Preach the Gospel, pray for a national awakening, and prepare for Divine retribution!

4006 Sunset Street; Muskogee, OK 74403

Selling Out

One of the leaders of the early church was Polycarp. He was brought to trial by the authorities and told he must renounce his Christian faith. He replied, “Fourscore and six years have I served him, and he never did me wrong: how then can I revile my King, my Savior?” They took him out and put him to death. Later, when the Christians wrote their history of that period, they said, “Polycarp was martyred, Statius Quadratus being proconsul of Asia, and Jesus Christ being King forever!”

Today many are “selling out”—renouncing their faith, and becoming a servant of the god of this world. What wrong has our Lord done to mankind that they would treat him so? Beloved, Jesus has given us the greatest gift of all—his own life, that we might have eternal life with him. What are we willing to sacrifice for our Lord—our lives, our money, our time? The words of John still ring true: “be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life” (Rev. 2:10). Think About It!

Author Unknown

Soul Winning

Is there anything else that is better worth,
As long life’s way we plod,
Than to find some wandering soul on earth,
And bring him home to God.
I would rather find a soul that’s lost,
And bring him home again.
Than to own all that earth’s acres cost,
Of all the wealth of men.
How glad I’d be when day is done,
In taking my last breath,
To know a word of mine had won,
And saved a soul from death.

Author Unknown
Sick
Please remember in your prayers: Elaine Maxey, Jean Flesher, Marilyn Hall, Diana Brazell, Neva Bryant, Ella Hammac, Marge Williams, Gay Mathis, and Annette Cates.

Reading/Invitation
October 9, 2002
Reading: Tim Lamb
Invitation: Henry Born
October 16, 2002
Reading: Bryan Loy
Invitation: Paul Brantley

Mark These Dates
October 6, 2002—Visitation Group 1 assignment cards handed out.
October 13, 2002—Visitation Group 2 assignment cards handed out.
October 13, 2002—Deacons’ meeting at 5:00 PM, in room 7.
October 20, 2002—Visitation Group 3 assignment cards handed out.
October 20, 2002—Elders/Deacons’ meeting at 5:00 PM, in room 7.
October 23, 2002—Fourth Wednesday Video Series for Adult Classes in the auditorium at 7:00 PM.
October 30, 2002—Fifth Wednesday Singing at 7:00 PM.

Pantry Item Needed
Fruit Juice

One Year Later: America Still Slumbers

Preston Silcox

For weeks and even months following last year’s terrorist attacks on America, sermons, classes, and articles overflowed with references to the horrific events that robbed thousands of lives and forever altered the landscapes of New York City, Washington D.C., and Pennsylvania. Many hoped that the tragedies of September 11 would turn the course of American morality and move the hearts of American people to seek the Truth. Now, a year later, all indications point to no real change for the better. The awakening was temporary at best and it even backfired at worst. Recent surveys reveal that since the attacks, church attendance and involvement experienced no long-term changes and that Islam witnessed more conversions in America than ever before.

According to the Barna Research Group (an inter-denominational marketing research company), levels of Bible reading, church attendance, prayer, and Bible class attendance rose by only 1 to 3 percent. BRG found that even though attendance spiked for several weeks, “levels were back to normal by November.” This same group found that “Almost nine out of ten Americans say the terrorist attacks have had no lasting impact on their faith, though millions of adults (roughly half of the US adult population) claim to have turned to their faith to help them personally process the tragedies.”

An additional survey by Knight-Ridder (a communications company engaged primarily in newspaper and internet publishing) revealed that...
Sick
Please remember in your prayers: Elaine Maxey, Jean Flesher, Marilyn Hall, Diana Brazell, Neva Bryant, Ella Hammac, Marge Williams, Gay Mathis, and Mark Bass.

Reading/Invitation
October 16, 2002
Reading: Bryan Loy
Invitation: Paul Brantley
October 23, 2002
Reading: Jim Loy
Invitation: Bill Busch

Mark These Dates
October 13, 2002–Visitation Group 2 assignment cards handed out.
October 13, 2002–Deacons’ meeting at 5:00 PM, in room 7.
October 20, 2002–Visitation Group 3 assignment cards handed out.
October 20, 2002–Elders/Deacons’ meeting at 5:00 PM, in room 7.
October 23, 2002–Fourth Wednesday Video Series for Adult Classes in the auditorium at 7:00 PM.
October 30, 2002–Fifth Wednesday Singing at 7:00 PM.

Pantry Item Needed
Vegetable and Chicken Soups

A religion that does not depend completely upon the power of the Gospel, the adequacy of Scripture, and the effectiveness of preaching cannot result in the salvation and sanctification of souls.

Author Unknown

———

“Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother. But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican” (Mat. 18:15-17).

The issue addressed in this passage is the proper handling of personal offences. Though often misunderstood and misused, the passage appears to be simple enough: when one Christian sins personally against another Christian the offended Christian is to take the issue to the offender and address it. If that fails, the offended is to take one or two others and address the same issue. Should that fail, tell it to the church (presumably in an effort to get them to address the issue). Should that fail, fellowship is to be broken (presumably pending repentance on the part of the offender).

The key to understanding this is in the type of sin it addresses. It is a personal sin concerning two Christians. Should I sin against you personally—perhaps by speaking improperly to you, striking you, taking your property, etc.—this is

———

If Thy Brother Shall Trespass Against Thee

Tim Smith

———
the guiding principle by which you are to address the matter. Tell me about it. If that fails, bring a couple with you and tell me again. If that fails, send the church to me. If, on the other hand, my sin is known to (and places in danger) innumerable people, address that sin immediately. Make your address as widely known as my offence. For example, should I begin to teach religious error (false doctrine), while I am sinning against you, it is not a private and personal matter between the two of us; it is a hazard to the public in general. If I teach error and others accept and obey it I will go to hell and so will they. In that case I should be marked and avoided (Rom. 16:17-18), reproved and rebuked (2 Tim. 4:1-4), and treated as an heretic (Tit. 3:10-11).

You may choose to address me personally about false teaching, but you have an obligation to warn others of my error publicly. Should I teach false doctrine on these pages, for example, and should you be located in some place far removed from Southeast Alabama, must you come to me first and talk to me about my error? Suppose that my articles were being used in the church bulletin where you preach and you learn of my false teaching. Must you either make a trip to Webb, Alabama, and talk to me face to face or phone me before telling the elders where you worship of my error? No. Neither Matthew 18 nor any other passage so requires. Your obligation in such a case is twofold: first and foremost, the truth must be defended; second, you must address the one guilty of abandoning the truth. I have found, through the years, that those who rebuke error publicly usually also address the false teacher privately and are genuinely concerned about his/her soul. The fact that the error is addressed first is only indicative of their love for the purity of the gospel and not indicative of a lack of love for the soul of the false teacher.

May we be careful to apply this passage properly.

1272 Enon Road
Webb, AL 36376

Anti-Bible Bias in College Textbooks

Gary W. Summers

One of our college students, a conscientious one who actually reads the textbook, was shocked to discover the following at the very beginning of her history book. In answer to the heading question “Was Columbus the first to believe the earth was round?” the writer, Gloria Deak, comments:

Not at all. Every educated man in his day believed it was a sphere, and every European university taught the concept in geography classes. There were, of course, some who clung to the ancient biblical notions that the earth was a flat disk with Jerusalem in the center and that one could fall off the edge (3).

Our Nation’s Heritage, edited by Larry G. Bowman and Randolph B. Campbell, and published in 1997 by American Heritage-Custom Publishing, a division of Forbes, Inc., 60 Fifth Avenue, New York, New York 10011. The editors, in their glowing praise of Ms. Deak prior to the chapter’s beginning, comment that “she provides her readers sensible answers to some of the more persistent misconceptions concerning Columbus’ adventures” (1). It would appear, from the editors’ comments and the writers’ remarks, that academia is in sad shape. Graduate students are taught to document their facts. Their introductory (and obligatory) research course requires about ten to fifteen hours a week in the library. When the instructor assigns questions, he expects documented answers. At least, ten years ago that was the way the system operated. Apparently, those who write textbooks (“opinion books” might be more appropriate) are exempt from such petty scholarly annoyances.

Deak makes two unsubstantiated statements:

1. That all the elite minds of Europe knew the world was round; (2) That only Bible-believers (obviously ignorant souls) believed the earth was flat with Jerusalem in the center. The inaccuracy of the latter statement forces one to question the former—or anything else this writer says. The student should ask some questions at this point.

What source is cited to establish what every European university taught about geography? Could the writer not list even one book that gives a summary of the beliefs of European university professors, with specific quotations? Ms. Deak has heard of footnotes, has she not?

To what ancient “biblical” notions does the writer refer? Presumably, if they are “biblical” notions, they could be traced to the Bible. Exactly what verse says the Earth is a flat disk? One cannot turn to Isaiah 40:22 for that information. God is described as “He that sits above the circle of the earth.”

And what passage proclaims Jerusalem to be the center of the Earth? Students can only hope that Ms. Deak knows history better than she knows the Bible (which she has obviously not studied).

But the real damage is that a number of young people (who have never read the Scriptures) will take courses (filled with prejudices) and emerge from them convinced that the Bible is full of superstitions and myths. How ironic that, in an age of information, ignorance such as Deak’s is propagated in the name of higher education!

Remember the Scars

John B. Gordon was one of the best generals of the South during the Civil War. He led the last official attack on the Union at Appomattox that Sunday morning in April 1865, when Lee surrendered to Grant. General Gordon later became a candidate for the U.S. Senate. A man who had served under him in the Confederate army became angry over some political incident, and as a member of the legislature, vowed to do everything in his power to defeat him.

When the convention convened, he stormed down the aisle with his anti-Gordon vote in his hand. On the platform sat his old commander with a once handsome face, now disfigured by the scars of battle. As he saw Gordon, memories of the old days came back and he was overcome with emotion. Tears streaming down his cheeks he said, “It’s no use, boys, I can’t do it! Here goes my vote for John B. Gordon.” Then turning to the general he said, “Forgive me General, I had forgotten the scars!” If you are one of those who once marched and won victories under the banner of Jesus, now fighting against Him, read Luke 23. Then you may say, “Forgive me Father, I had forgotten the scars” (Mat. 22:37). Jesus said unto him: “Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind” (Mat. 22:38). This is the first and great commandment (Mat. 22:39). And the second is like unto it: “Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself” (Mat. 22:39). On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

Author Unknown
the guiding principle by which you are to address the matter. Tell me about it. If that fails, bring a couple with you and tell me again. If that fails, send the church to me. If, on the other hand, my sin is known to (and places in danger) innumerable people, address that sin immediately. Make your address as widely known as my offence. For example, should I begin to teach religious error (false doctrine), while I am sinning against you, it is not a private and personal matter between the two of us; it is a hazard to the public in general. If I teach error and others accept and obey I will go to hell and so will they. In that case I should be marked and avoided (Rom. 16:17-18), reproved and rebuked (2 Tim.4:1-4), and treated as an heretic (Tit. 3:10-11).

You may choose to address me personally about false teaching, but you have an obligation to warn others of my error publicly. Should I teach false doctrine on these pages, for example, and should you be located in some place far removed from Southeast Alabama, must you come to me first and talk to me about my error? Suppose that my articles were being used in the church bulletin where you preach and you learn of my false teaching. Must you either make a trip to Webb, Alabama, and talk to me face to face or phone me before telling the elders where you worship of my error? No. Neither Matthew 18 nor any other passage so requires. Your obligation in such a case is twofold: first and foremost, the truth must be defended; second, you must address the one guilty of abandoning the truth. I have found, through the years, that those who rebuke error publicly usually also address the false teacher privately and are genuinely concerned about his/her soul. The fact that the error is addressed first is only indicative of their love for the purity of the gospel and not indicative of a lack of love for the soul of the false teacher.

May we be careful to apply this passage properly.

1272 Enon Road
Webb, AL 36376

Anti-Bible Bias in College Textbooks

Gary W. Summers

One of our college students, a conscientious one who actually reads the textbook, was shocked to discover the following at the very beginning of her history book. In answer to the heading question “Was Columbus the first to believe the earth was round?” the writer, Gloria Deak, comments:

Not at all. Every educated man in his day believed it was a sphere, and every European university taught the concept in geography classes. There were, of course, some who clung to the ancient biblical notions that the earth was a flat disk with Jerusalem in the center and that one could fall off the edge. Ms. Deak has heard of footnotes, has she not?

2. To what ancient “biblical” notions does the writer refer? Presumably, if they are “biblical” notions, they could be traced to the Bible. Exactly what verse says the Earth is a flat disk? One cannot turn to Isaiah 40:22 for that information. God is described as “He that sits above the circle of the earth.”

3. And what passage proclaims Jerusalem to be the center of the Earth? Students can only hope that Ms. Deak knows history better than she knows the Bible (which she has obviously not studied).

John B. Gordon was one of the best generals of the South during the Civil War. He led the last official attack on the Union at Appomattox that Sunday morning in April 1865, when Lee surrendered to Grant. General Gordon later became a candidate for the U.S. Senate. A man who had served under him in the Confederate army became angry over some political incident, and as a member of the legislature, vowed to do everything in his power to defeat him.

When the convention convened, he stormed down the aisle with his anti-Gordon vote in his hand. On the platform sat his old commander with a once handsome face, now disfigured by the scars of battle. As he saw Gordon, memories of the old days came back and he was overcome with emotion. Tears streaming down his cheeks he said, “It’s no use, boys, I can’t do it! Here goes my vote for John B. Gordon.” Then turning to the general he said, “Forgive me General, I had forgotten the scars!” If you are one of those who once marched and won victories under the banner of Jesus, now fighting against Him, read Luke 23. Then you may say, “Forgive me Father, I had forgotten the scars” (Mat. 22:37). Jesus said unto him: “Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind” (Mat. 22:38). This is the first and great commandment (Mat. 22:39). And the second is like unto it: “Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself” (Mat. 22:39). On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

Author Unknown
Sick
Please remember in your prayers: Elaine Maxey, Jean Flesher, Marilyn Hall, Diana Brazell, Neva Bryant, Ella Hammac, Marge Williams, Gay Mathis, and Mark Bass.

Reading/Invitation
October 16, 2002
Reading: Bryan Loy
Invitation: Paul Brantley

October 23, 2002
Reading: Jim Loy
Invitation: Bill Busch

Mark These Dates
October 13, 2002–Visitation Group 2 assignment cards handed out.
October 13, 2002–Deacons’ meeting at 5:00 PM, in room 7.
October 20, 2002–Visitation Group 3 assignment cards handed out.
October 20, 2002–Elders/Deacons’ meeting at 5:00 PM, in room 7.
October 23, 2002–Fourth Wednesday Video Series for Adult Classes in the auditorium at 7:00 PM.
October 30, 2002–Fifth Wednesday Singing at 7:00 PM.

Pantry Item Needed
Vegetable and Chicken Soups

A religion that does not depend completely upon the power of the Gospel, the adequacy of Scripture, and the effectiveness of preaching cannot result in the salvation and sanctification of souls.  
*Author Unknown*

“Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother. But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican” (Mat. 18:15-17).

The issue addressed in this passage is the proper handling of personal offences. Though often misunderstood and misused, the passage appears to be simple enough: when one Christian sins personally against another Christian the offended Christian is to take the issue to the offender and address it. If that fails, the offended is to take one or two others and address the same issue. Should that fail, tell it to the church (presumably in an effort to get them to address the issue). Should that fail, fellowship is to be broken (presumably pending repentance on the part of the offender).

The key to understanding this is in the type of sin it addresses. It is a personal sin concerning two Christians. Should I sin against you personally—perhaps by speaking improperly to you, striking you, taking your property, etc.—this is
Sick
Please remember in your prayers: Elaine Maxey, Jean Flesher, Marilyn Hall, Diana Brazell, Neva Bryant, Ella Hammac, and Mark Bass.

Reading/Invitation
October 23, 2002
Reading: Jim Loy
Invitation: Bill Busch
October 30, 2002
Reading: Horace Myrick
Invitation: Bill Cline

Mark These Dates
October 20, 2002–Visitation Group 3 assignment cards handed out.
October 20, 2002–Elders/Deacons’ meeting at 5:00 PM, in room 7.
October 23, 2002–Fourth Wednesday Video Series for Adult Classes in the auditorium at 7:00 PM.
October 30, 2002–Fifth Wednesday Singing at 7:00 PM.

Pantry Item Needed
Vegetable and Chicken Soups

New Arrival
Our congratulations is extended to Jerry and Sharon Caine in the birth of their grandson, Caleb James Kimmons, to Kelly and Jimmy Kimmons on October 6, 2002. He weighed 8 pounds 2 ounces and was 21 inches long.

Spare the Rod and Spoil the Child
Michael Light

Proverbs 13:24 says, “He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes.” This passage quite clearly teaches that a person who does not correct his child really does not love him. If a father loves his son he will discipline him. No one in his right mind will leave a child to his own devices. If one fails to punish his children and to teach them right from wrong, he cannot expect them to do right; nor can he expect them to ever have any respect for authority (Pro. 29:1).

When parents do not discipline their children they are setting themselves and their children up for a life of heartache (Pro. 29:15). A child who has no respect for authority is destined to have a life of trouble. It will begin at a young age and continue throughout their lives. Let us now examine some problems that can occur as a result of a child that does not respect the powers that be. First, as the child begins his life as a young student he will have many problems, most of which could have been avoided had his parents reared him correctly. He or she will not know how to get along with other children. They will not respect the rights of others, because in their own minds they are the only ones who really count. In the past if schools had administered the appropriate punishment, after a few years they could have most of these children corrected. Today physical punishment is all but unheard of in our public schools, and because of this the youngster continues to go undisciplined. This
fact almost always leads to more trouble in the child’s life.
In high school it is almost a certainty that the child is going to have trouble with his teachers. This should be no surprise because he does not know how to deal with authority, and has no respect for it. Today any correction in high school will have little effect, primarily because we have “taken the teeth” out of the correction. It is usually during this time period that these “lawless” children have their first run-in with the law. Once again it should not be surprising, because they have no respect for, or fear of the law. If they fail to learn from these first mistakes they will usually end up on probation, in prison, or worse.
Our penal system has also lost its sting. Prison is no longer really a place of severe chastisement. In fact, it can actually be viewed as a place of security. The inmates are given three meals a day, nice rooms, telephones, pool tables, video games, movies, and many other privileges that they might not be able to afford on “the outside.” (Or at least not without a lot of hard work, which is exactly what many are trying to avoid.)
In summation when parents refuse to take the time, or to exert the effort needed to direct their children, they are actually adding to some of the problems that we have in our society today. The solution is simple, to give more time and energy to the rearing of our children. We must remember that they are gifts from God, and we are to rear them in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. The rearing of our children in the Lord includes strict discipline. As well as teaching them the difference between right and wrong. We also need to teach them to respect authority (Mat. 28:18; Col. 3:17). If we do this we can save our children as well as ourselves some heartache. Failure to do so will also put our souls in jeopardy. May God help us to be better and more devoted parents.

Who is Lord of Your Reasonings?
Troy M. Cummings

In the crucial tests of life, who or what is really supreme in your reasonings in reaching conclusions?
Perhaps many Christians will quickly say: “I am a Christian, and of course God and His written Word are supreme in my life and in my thoughts in reaching decisions.”
This answer is all fine, and correct, theoretically. But, in actual practice, do we carry it out successfully? Do we really have sufficient knowledge and wisdom in God’s Word—His “whole” counsel, not just a few scattered favorite passages—to know how to test every idea or doctrine which we face? Also, do we really have the spiritual strength, the moral courage, to make firm moral decisions that are unpopular, and to stay with them through opposition?
One of the impressive passages on this subject is the Spirit’s message through Paul in 2 Corinthians 10:3-5: “For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh (for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but mighty before God to the casting down of strongholds), casting down imaginations, and every high thing that is exalted against the knowledge of God, and bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ” (ASV).
Talking about a relevant spiritual message, could anything be more relevant to this present world with its many “high things” of man’s vaulted “imaginations” or “reasonings”?
Millions of people today, consciously or unconsciously, are worshiping at the shrines of the gods of man’s “imaginations,” doctrines, ideas, and philosophies which are indeed “exalted against the knowledge of God.”
But the special point here is that multitudes have been deceived into believing these many “high things” in various intellectual areas of life, because they are now popular.
But even more to the point, a good many in the Lord’s own church have been poisoned to some degree in their “reasonings” and conclusions concerning various moral and spiritual matters, largely because of the great intellectual weight and influence of modern higher education in America, which, though containing much of great value, also has its areas of false teaching in such subjects as evolution, anthropology, geology, psychology, psychiatry, psychoanalysis, religion, the social sciences, the biological sciences, etc.
For example, in the church today even some gospel preachers have been so led astray by their fascination for psychology and related areas of men’s reasonings, that they no longer speak as the oracles of God (1 Pet. 4:11) on such biblical subjects as drunkenness and homosexuality (Gal. 5:19-21; 1 Cor. 6:9-11; Rom. 1:24-28).
Instead of dealing with these practices as sins only, and sins which will bring God’s wrath and eternal condemnation (if not repented of), these liberals today talk not of “drunkenness,” but only of alcoholism, and deal with it exclusively or predominately as a sickness, which needs only “treatment, understanding, and compassion.” The same is true of the sin of homosexuality.

Could the Evolutionist Be Right?

Maybe there is something to this idea of evolution! Maybe people did “descend” from lower animals. Some church folk are:
As stubborn as mules about church work.
As sly as a fox in their business dealings.
As busy as bees in spreading the latest gossip.
As quiet as a mouse in spreading the gospel.
Have eyes like a hawk to see the mote in a brother’s eye.
As noisy as crows for the church to advance; but as slow as snails in visiting the wayward or sinners.
Many are night owls on Saturday night; but bedbugs on Sunday morning.
As slippery as eels on Sunday evening; and as scarce as hen’s teeth on Wednesday night.

Author Unknown
fact almost always leads to more trouble in the child’s life.

In high school it is almost a certainty that the child is going to have trouble with his teachers. This should be no surprise because he does not know how to deal with authority, and has no respect for it. Today any correction in high school will have little effect, primarily because we have “taken the teeth” out of the correction. It is usually during this time period that these “lawless” children have their first run-in with the law. Once again it should not be surprising, because they have no respect for, or fear of the law. If they fail to learn from these first mistakes they will usually end up on probation, in prison, or worse.

Our penal system has also lost its sting. Prison is no longer really a place of severe chastisement. In fact, it can actually be viewed as a place of security. The inmates are given three meals a day, nice rooms, telephones, pool tables, video games, movies, and many other privileges that they might not be able to afford on “the outside.” (Or at least not without a lot of hard work, which is exactly what many are trying to avoid.)

In summation when parents refuse to take the time, or to exert the effort needed to direct their children, they are actually adding to some of the problems that we have in our society today. The solution is simple, to give more time and energy to the rearing of our children. We must remember that they are gifts from God, and we are to rear them in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. The rearing of our children in the Lord includes strict discipline. As well as teaching them the difference between right and wrong. We also need to teach them to respect authority (Mat. 28:18; Col. 3:17). If we do this we can save our children as well as ourselves some heartache. Failure to do so will also put our souls in jeopardy. May God help us to be better and more devoted parents.

P.O. Box 158; Bangs, TX 76823

Who is Lord of Your Reasonings?

Troy M. Cummings

In the crucial tests of life, who or what is really supreme in your reasonings in reaching conclusions?

Perhaps many Christians will quickly say: “I am a Christian, and of course God and His written Word are supreme in my life and in my thoughts in reaching decisions.”

This answer is all fine, and correct, theoretically. But, in actual practice, do we carry it out successfully? Do we really have sufficient knowledge and wisdom in God’s Word—His “whole” counsel, not just a few scattered favorite passages—to know how to test every idea or doctrine which we face? Also, do we really have the spiritual strength, the moral courage, to make firm moral decisions that are unpopular, and to stay with them through opposition?

One of the impressive passages on this subject is the Spirit’s message through Paul in 2 Corinthians 10:3-5: “For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh (for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but mighty before God to the casting down of strongholds), casting down imaginations, and every high thing that is exalted against the knowledge of God, and bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ” (ASV).

Talking about a relevant spiritual message, could anything be more relevant to this present world with its many “high things” of man’s vaulted “imagination” or “reasonings”?

Millions of people today, consciously or unconsciously, are worshiping at the shrines of the gods of man’s “imagination,” doctrines, ideas, and philosophies which are indeed “exalted against the knowledge of God.”

But the special point here is that multitudes have been deceived into believing these many “high things” in various intellectual areas of life, because they are now popular. But even more to the point, a good many in the Lord’s own church have been poisoned to some degree in their “reasonings” and conclusions concerning various moral and spiritual matters, largely because of the great intellectual weight and influence of modern higher education in America, which, though containing much of great value, also has its areas of false teaching in such subjects as evolution, anthropology, geology, psychology, psychiatry, psychoanalysis, religion, the social sciences, the biological sciences, etc.

For example, in the church today even some gospel preachers have been so led astray by their fascination for psychology and related areas of men’s reasonings, that they no longer speak as the oracles of God (1 Pet. 4:11) on such biblical subjects as drunkenness and homosexuality (Gal. 5:19-21; 1 Cor. 6:9-11; Rom. 1:24-28).

Instead of dealing with these practices as sins only, and sins which will bring God’s wrath and eternal condemnation (if not repented of), these liberals today talk not of “drunkenness,” but only of “treatment, understanding, and compassion.” The same is true of the sin of homosexuality.

Brethren, who is right, some (not all) modern psychologists and psychiatrists, or God and His Word? Who is Lord of your reasonings? Have you let the foolishness of man’s ideas contradict God? Have you really brought “every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ”?

Could the Evolutionist Be Right?

Maybe there is something to this idea of evolution! Maybe people did “descend” from lower animals. Some church folk are:

As stubborn as mules about church work.
As sly as a fox in spreading the latest gossip.
As blind as a bat to the world’s needs.
As quiet as a mouse in spreading the gospel.

As noisy as crows for the church to advance; but as slow as snails in visiting the wayward or sinners.

As busy as bees in spreading the latest gossip.
As as small as teeth on Wednesday night.
As slippery as eels in visiting the wayward or sinners.

As loud as a hawk to see the mote in a brother’s eye.
As as small as teeth on Wednesday night; and as scarce as hen’s teeth on Sunday night.

Author Unknown
Sick
Please remember in your prayers: Elaine Maxey, Jean Flesher, Marilyn Hall, Diana Brazell, Neva Bryant, Ella Hammac, and Mark Bass.

Reading/Invitation
October 23, 2002
Reading: Jim Loy
Invitation: Bill Busch
October 30, 2002
Reading: Horace Myrick
Invitation: Bill Cline

Mark These Dates
October 20, 2002–Visitation Group 3 assignment cards handed out.
October 20, 2002–Elders/Deacons’ meeting at 5:00 PM, in room 7.
October 23, 2002–Fourth Wednesday Video Series for Adult Classes in the auditorium at 7:00 PM.
October 30, 2002–Fifth Wednesday Singing at 7:00 PM.

Pantry Item Needed
Vegetable and Chicken Soups

New Arrival
Our congratulations is extended to Jerry and Sharon Caine in the birth of their grandson, Caleb James Kimmons, to Kelly and Jimmy Kimmons on October 6, 2002. He weighed 8 pounds 2 ounces and was 21 inches long.

Spare the Rod and Spoil the Child
Michael Light
Proverbs 13:24 says, “He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes.” This passage quite clearly teaches that a person who does not correct his child really does not love him. If a father loves his son he will discipline him. No one in his right mind will leave a child to his own devices. If one fails to punish his children and to teach them right from wrong, he cannot expect them to do right; nor can he expect them to ever have any respect for authority (Pro. 29:1).

When parents do not discipline their children they are setting themselves and their children up for a life of heartache (Pro. 29:15). A child who has no respect for authority is destined to have a life of trouble. It will begin at a young age and continue throughout their lives. Let us now examine some problems that can occur as a result of a child that does not respect the powers that be. First, as the child begins his life as a young student he will have many problems, most of which could have been avoided had his parents reared him correctly. He or she will not know how to get along with other children. They will not respect the rights of others, because in their own minds they are the only ones who really count. In the past if schools had administered the appropriate punishment, after a few years they could have most of these children corrected. Today physical punishment is all but unheard of in our public schools, and because of this the younger continues to go undisciplined. This
Sick
Please remember in your prayers:
Elaine Maxey, Jean Flesher, Marilyn Hall,
Neva Bryant, and Ella Hammac.

Reading/Invitation
October 30, 2002
Reading: Horace Myrick
Invitation: Bill Cline
November 6, 2002
Reading: Shelby Nall
Invitation: Bill Crowe

Mark These Dates
October 23, 2002–Fourth Wednesday
Video Series for Adult Classes in the auditorium at 7:00 PM.
October 30, 2002–Fifth Wednesday
Singing at 7:00 PM.
November 3, 2002–Visitation Group 1
assignment cards handed out.
November 10, 2002–Visitation Group 2
assignment cards handed out.
November 10, 2002–Deacons’ meeting at 5:00 PM, in room 7.
November 17, 2002–Visitation Group 3
assignment cards handed out.
November 17, 2002–Elders/Deacons’
meeting at 5:00 PM, in room 7.

Pantry Item Needed
Vegetable and Chicken Soups

Daylight Saving Time Ends
Daylight Saving Time
ends on October 27. Set
your clocks back one hour
before going to bed on
Saturday.

Marble Soup
Geoff Litke

Pure chance produced the marble soup. Then
an anomaly produced the marble amoeba which
begat the marble fish, which begat the marble
snake, which begat the marble bird, which begat
the marble mammal, which begat the marble lion
which begat the marble sphinx which begat the
marble “masterpiece” statue of a man which was
dug up in Athens by archeologists this year
The Washington Post carried a story an-
nouncing the triumph of discovering a statue
which “appears to be another masterpiece by an
acclaimed—but anonymous-ancient artist”
(Associated Press, Saturday, May 11, 2002; 2:48
AM).

This statue “bears the stylistic hallmarks of
works attributed to a sculptor known only as
Dipylus." The new statue was discovered with
two lion sculptors and a sphinx. The article in
which this discovery is told confidently declares,
“similarities in facial features, hair and body type
among all the finds have led experts to believe
they were created by the same artist or
workshop.”
A sphinx is a mythical creature with the body
of a lion and the head of a man. This sounds
strangely like a “linking creature” or “transitory
form.” Typically in archeology when you find
things with similarity in design you presuppose
a common ancestor not a common creator or
designer. We are told that is simple and bad
science. Every evolutionary scientist wants what
these men have dug up, the link between two
different forms. I am curious why the
archeologist did not stick with their principles
and interpret this as a finding of an evolved statue form.

The fact of the matter is, that "The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God" (Psa. 14:1). They realize when it comes to art taken out of the ground that the evidence of design demands a designer. “Every house is builded by some man; but he that built all things is God” (Heb. 3:4). They understand how utterly foolish it would be to come out saying that the marble “just happened” and then evolved into ... be to suppose that just because there is similarity then the items have come from one another. Instead they see that the common design demands a common designer.

It is a gross understatement to say that the true human form is more complex. David said, “I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made” (Psa. 139:14). In the face of these facts, year in and year out the archeologist faces one inconsistency after another. They pull replicas of man out of the ground and praise the creator. However, they pull the remains of real men out of the ground and are amazed at what pure chance could do. They find similarities in the bodies of man and his surroundings and conclude that he came from them, yet without one single transitory form? Were someone to dig up a real sphinx they might gain some clout for their arguments, but there never was, and never will be any transitory forms, because in the beginning God made them “male and female” (Mat. 19:4). That male and that female were created by a special act of God (Gen. 1:26; 2:21-23). This man and woman were none other than Adam and Eve (1 Tim. 2:13).

God created all things according to His will (Gen. 1:1; John 1:1-3). Denying this is denying the obvious (Psa. 19:1). If these things were not so, then Jesus and the apostles were confused or misinformed and in either case the conclusion would be that the message is not from God, Christ is not our redeemer, and we are yet in our sins. How great it is to behold all creation and know that God has made all things. There is no excuse for believing otherwise (Rom. 1:20-21).

What I Owe My Home Congregation

Frank L. Cox

Unto the church of my Lord in every locality, I am under solemn obligation to the extent of my ability; but unto my home congregation I am under special obligation.

1. **I want my home congregation to radiate a wholesome influence in the community. Therefore, I owe it the example of a good life.** For it must “live soberly, righteously, and godly” (Tit. 2:12).

2. **No congregation can make progress without faithful and efficient leaders.** To a certain extent, the members of the church make or break their leaders. To the end that our leaders may be stronger and more efficient, I must give them my support. I must pray for them. As long as they are true men, I must not embarrass them in their work (1 Tim. 5:19).

3. **My home congregation has financial obligations which are due at regular intervals.** Whether I give or do not give, these obligations must be paid. If it is right for my congregation to pay its obligations each week, it is right for me to give each week. Though circumstances may force me to be absent at times, my contributions should find their way to the treasury of the church (1 Cor. 16:1-2).

4. **I know that the very existence of my congregation depends upon the attendance of its members.** In fact, the attendance is the life of the church. For this reason, I must attend the services—all the services I can. For all that I have, I would not have it said that my congregation perished because I would not attend the meetings (Heb. 10:25).

5. **I want my home congregation to grow, to multiply in members.** Therefore, I must set myself to the noble work of winning souls for Christ. This I can do by preaching and persuading; this I can do by persistent effort; this I can do by bringing them to our meeting. Wishing to be honest, I must meet my obligation to the best of my ability. I must, with the help that God gives, play my part in the incomparable work of building up the body of Christ.
and interpret this as a finding of an evolved statue form.

The fact of the matter is, that “The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God” (Psa. 14:1). They realize when it comes to art taken out of the ground that the evidence of design demands a designer. “Every house is builded by some man; but he that built all things is God” (Heb. 3:4). They understand how utterly foolish it would be to come out saying that the marble “just happened” and then evolved into ... be to suppose that just because there is similarity then the items have come from one another. Instead they see that the common design demands a common designer.

It is a gross understatement to say that the true human form is more complex. David said, “I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made” (Psa. 139:14). In the face of these facts, year in and year out the archeologist faces one inconsistency after another. They pull replicas of man out of the ground and praise the creator. However, they pull the remains of real men out of the ground and are amazed at what pure chance could do. They find similarities in the bodies of man and his surroundings and conclude that he came from them, yet without one single transitory form? Were someone to dig up a real sphinx they might gain some clout for their arguments, but there never was, and never will be any transitory forms, because in the beginning God made them “male and female” (Mat. 19:4). That male and that female were created by a special act of God (Gen. 1:26; 2:21-23). This man and woman were none other than Adam and Eve (1 Tim. 2:13).

God created all things according to His will (Gen. 1:1; John 1:1-3). Denying this is denying the obvious (Psa. 19:1). If these things were not so, then Jesus and the apostles were confused or misinformed and in either case the conclusion would be that the message is not from God, Christ is not our redeemer, and we are yet in our sins. How great it is to behold all creation and know that God has made all things. There is no excuse for believing otherwise (Rom. 1:20-21).

What I Owe My Home Congregation

Frank L. Cox

Unto the church of my Lord in every locality, I am under solemn obligation to the extent of my ability; but unto my home congregation I am under special obligation.

1. I want my home congregation to radiate a wholesome influence in the community. Therefore, I owe it the example of a good life. For it must “live soberly, righteously, and godly” (Tit. 2:12).

2. No congregation can make progress without faithful and efficient leaders. To a certain extent, the members of the church make or break their leaders. To the end that our leaders may be stronger and more efficient, I must give them my support. I must pray for them. As long as they are true men, I must not embarrass them in their work (1 Tim. 5:19).

3. My home congregation has financial obligations which are due at regular intervals. Whether I give or do not give, these obligations must be paid. If it is right for my congregation to pay its obligations each week, it is right for me to give each week. Though circumstances may force me to be absent at times, my contributions should find their way to the treasury of the church (1 Cor. 16:1-2).

4. I know that the very existence of my congregation depends upon the attendance of its members. In fact, the attendance is the life of the church. For this reason, I must attend the services—all the services I can. For all that I have, I would not have it said that my congregation perished because I would not attend the meetings (Heb. 10:25).

5. I want my home congregation to grow, to multiply in members. Therefore, I must set myself to the noble work of winning souls for Christ. This I can do by preaching and persuading; this I can do by persistent effort; this I can do by bringing them to our meeting.

Wishing to be honest, I must meet my obligation to the best of my ability. I must, with the help that God gives, play my part in the incomparable work of building up the body of Christ.

Copied
Sick
Please remember in your prayers: Elaine Maxey, Jean Flesher, Marilyn Hall, Neva Bryant, and Ella Hammac.

Reading/Invitation
October 30, 2002
Reading: Horace Myrick
Invitation: Bill Cline
November 6, 2002
Reading: Shelby Nall
Invitation: Bill Crowe

Mark These Dates
October 23, 2002—Fourth Wednesday
Video Series for Adult Classes in the auditorium at 7:00 PM.
October 30, 2002—Fifth Wednesday
Singing at 7:00 PM.
November 3, 2002—Visitation Group 1
assignment cards handed out.
November 10, 2002—Visitation Group 2
assignment cards handed out.
November 10, 2002—Deacons’ meeting at 5:00 PM, in room 7.
November 17, 2002—Visitation Group 3
assignment cards handed out.
November 17, 2002—Elders/Deacons’
meeting at 5:00 PM, in room 7.

Pantry Item Needed
Vegetable and Chicken Soups

Daylight Saving Time Ends
Daylight Saving Time ends on October 27. Set your clocks back one hour before going to bed on Saturday.

Marble Soup
Geoff Litke

Pure chance produced the marble soup. Then an anomaly produced the marble amoeba which begat the marble fish, which begat the marble snake, which begat the marble bird, which begat the marble mammal, which begat the marble lion which begat the marble sphinx which begat the marble “masterpiece” statue of a man which was dug up in Athens by archeologists this year. The Washington Post carried a story announcing the triumph of discovering a statue which “appears to be another masterpiece by an acclaimed—but anonymous-ancient artist” (Associated Press, Saturday, May 11, 2002; 2:48 AM).

This statue “bears the stylistic hallmarks of works attributed to a sculptor known only as Dipylus.” The new statue was discovered with two lion sculptors and a sphinx. The article in which this discovery is told confidently declares, “similarities in facial features, hair and body type among all the finds have led experts to believe they were created by the same artist or workshop.”

A sphinx is a mythical creature with the body of a lion and the head of a man. This sounds strangely like a “linking creature” or “transitory form.” Typically in archeology when you find things with similarity in design you presuppose a common ancestor not a common creator or designer. We are told that is simple and bad science. Every evolutionary scientist wants what these men have dug up, the link between two different forms. I am curious why the archeologist did not stick with their principles.
Sick
Please remember in your prayers: Elaine Maxey, Jean Flesher, Marilyn Hall, Neva Bryant, and Ella Hammac.

Reading/Invitation
November 6, 2002
Reading: Shelby Nall
Invitation: Bill Crowe
November 13, 2002
Reading: Richard Parker
Invitation: Dale Cunningham

Mark These Dates
November 3, 2002–Visitation Group 1
assignment cards handed out.

November 10, 2002–Visitation Group 2
assignment cards handed out.

November 10, 2002–Deacons’ meeting at
5:00 PM, in room 7.

November 17, 2002–Visitation Group 3
assignment cards handed out.

November 17, 2002–Elders/Deacons’
meeting at 5:00 PM, in room 7.

November 27, 2002–Fourth Wednesday
Video Series for Adult Classes in the
auditorium at 7:00 PM.

Pantry Item Needed
Vegetable and Chicken Soups

Proverbs 16:7-9
“When a man’s ways please the LORD,
he maketh even his enemies to be at peace
with him. Better is a little with righteous-
ness than great revenues without right. A
man’s heart deviseth his way: but the LORD
directeth his steps.”

Is it Not Worth the Effort?
Andrew Connally

So often the old Devil seeks to discourage us
by hindering the Lord’s work. He is a master at
discouraging the brethren. He knows every trick
and every ploy. So often godly saints wants to
quit and say, “It is not worth the effort.”

Often elders grow discouraged because sheep
stray and reject all efforts to restore them. Many
members could not care less that brethren grow
weak and die spiritually, so they become grounds
of discouragement by hindering the reclamation
and discipline of lost members. Elders often feel:
“it is not worth the effort.”

Often deacons grow discouraged because so
few will cooperate with them in getting the job
done. Other deacons do not bear their fair share
of the load and this discourages too. They say, “It
is not worth the effort.”

Often Bible school teachers grow dis-
couraged. Students do not study their lessons,
and if comments are made, half are wrong or off
the point! Many act as if Bible study is an “op-
tional expedient” instead of “growth unto sal-
vation.” Then the old expression arises, “It is not
worth the effort.”

Often preachers despair. People often fail to
react as they should to the Word. Preacher’s
words and actions are often misunderstood, mis-
represented, or actually opposed, so he becomes
discouraged. After years of study, application
and faithful service, a handful of brethren can
destroy the preacher’s work by getting the ear of
the eldership, so the preacher says, “It is not
worth the effort.”

All of us have felt this on occasions about
something we are doing for the Lord’s cause. But through it all we must remember that what we do, we do for God! Many times it takes tremendous effort to persevere in our work in the kingdom. Only those who have been there really understand the unremitting toil, sacrifice, time, and effort, and even money it takes to continually achieve for the Master (in any of the above roles). No one else may even notice, much less sympathize or help.

But God notices. God cares. God is concerned, and God will ultimately make it right. It may not be worth the effort if it is for money we serve or for favor or popularity or for any of a hundred other reasons. But for God it is worth it! Hand in there!

Deceased

“In Season and out of Season”
Tom Wacaster

Growth! We long for the increase. We pray frequently and work fervently to this end, beseeching our God that He might give us the increase. So, why is it that our efforts bear so little fruit? Why are we not reaping at the seams? I can well remember the 1960s (with occasional flash-backs into the 50s), when cottage classes were not only popular, they were powerful and profitable! Even into the 1970s our evangelistic efforts produced a harvest of souls to the glory of our God. But somewhere along the way, things began to change, and it became increasingly difficult to find that good and honest heart willing to listen and ready to obey. In addition, the seeds of liberalism were sown in the 50s and 60s, and we are now reaping the harvest of the tares sown by the enemies of God. Back then we did not have such blatant denial of authority, fellowship with the denominations, and the appeal to the flesh that now plagues our Lord’s church. There was a far greater respect for the Scriptures, and a deeper interest in a study of the same on the part of members of the Lord’s church. Add to this the full harvest of humanism and we begin to see why growth has slowed and interest in spiritual things has tapered off.

I recently read of a brother in Christ who has been a Christian since 1939. Baptized at a young age, he immediately became active in teaching others while growing in the grace and knowledge of our Lord. His observation is strikingly familiar. He observed that it has become increasingly more difficult to interest the lost in a study of the Bible. Yes, the devil has done his work, and we are the less fortunate for it. It should also be observed that fewer individuals are willing to make a deep seated commitment to Christ. Often studies are cancelled partway through because the student can see where the studies are leading, and what it will cost them with regard to change. How shall we react to this changing atmosphere? Paul stated it clearly when he told Timothy: “I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine” (2 Tim. 4:1-2). One old preacher paraphrased that passage: “Preach it when they want it, and when they don’t want it.” Our obligation is to preach and teach. We must leave the numbers business in the denominations, let us determine that we will not only walk in those old paths, but that we will proclaim it unto others.

We must never forget that there are three important factors when it comes to saving the lost. There is the will of God, Who does not want any to perish. There is the will of the teacher, who longs for the increase and salvation of those near and dear to him. Finally, there is the will of the lost individual. It is the last which has changed in the past twenty years.

When Should I Speak?
Sam Willcut

Claude Flynn correctly said, “I believe our nation is suffering from an overabundance of verbiage.” We can observe this by talk shows on television twenty-four hours per day. So many people want to speak, but very few people want to listen. Some great advice to answer the above question would be: “Think before you speak.” Playing off the word *think*, notice the following acronym.

I should speak when it is **True**. God should not find falsehood among His people. A “lying tongue” is one of the six things our Lord hates (Pro. 6:17). “Lying lips are abomination to the LORD” (Pro. 12:22). Paul says, “Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another” (Eph. 4:25).

I should speak when it is **Helpful**. If my words are not helpful, then why speak? Paul said, “Let your speech be alway with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man” (Col. 4:6). We are to be a people with words that help; those that do not help do not bring solutions, but only make problems worse.

I should speak when it is **Important**. We are encouraged to speak words “fitly spoken” (Pro. 25:11). Solomon also says, “Seest thou a man that is hasty in his words? there is more hope of a fool than of him” (Pro. 29:20). Hasty words spoken without thought are usually not important after all. The Jews were notorious with their many words concerning swearing, which Jesus shows were unimportant: “But let your communication be, Yea, yea; Nay, nay: for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil” (Mat. 5:37).

I should speak when it is **Necessary**. Solomon said, “He that hath knowledge spereth his words: and a man of understanding is of an excellent spirit” (Pro. 17:27). If we have to say is not necessary, then silence should be our choice. This is why James said, “Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath” (Jam. 1:19). If words are not necessary, then they must be in vain. Job said, “Shall vain words have an end? or what emboldeneth thee that thou answerest” (Job 16:3). The Gentiles were known by their unnecessary words spoken in prayer (Mat. 6:7).

I should speak when it is **Kind**. My Mother’s message spoken years ago is so true: “If you do not have anything kind to say, then do not say anything at all.” Solomon describes the virtuous woman thus: “She openeth her mouth with wisdom: and in her tongue is the law of kindness” (Pro. 31:26). Cruel words hurt; kind words soothe and heal.

The next time you have an opportunity to say something, *think* and ask yourself these five questions: Is it true? Is it helpful? Is it important? Is it necessary? Is it kind? Think before you speak!
something we are doing for the Lord’s cause. But through it all we must remember that what we do, we do for God! Many times it takes tremendous effort to persevere in our work in the kingdom. Only those who have been there really understand the unremitting toil, sacrifice, time, and effort, and even money it takes to continually achieve for the Master (in any of the above roles). No one else may even notice, much less sympathize or help. But God notices. God cares. God is concerned, and God will ultimately make it right. It may not be worth the effort if it is for money we serve or for favor or popularity or for any of a hundred other reasons. But for God it is worth it! Hand in there!

“In Season and out of Season”
Tom Wacaster

Growth! We long for the increase. We pray frequently and work fervently to this end, beseeching our God that He might give us the increase. So, why is it that our efforts bear so little fruit? Why are we not bursting at the seams? I can well remember the 1960s (with occasional flash-backs into the 50s), when cottage classes were not only popular, they were powerful and profitable! Even into the 1970s our evangelistic efforts produced a harvest of souls to the glory of our God. But somewhere along the way, things began to change, and it became increasingly difficult to find that good and honest heart willing to listen and ready to obey. In addition, the seeds of liberalism were sown in the 50s and 60s, and we are now reaping the harvest of the tares sown by the enemies of God. Back then we did not have such blatant denial of authority, fellowship with the denominations, and the appeal to the flesh that now plagues our Lord’s church. There was a far greater respect for the Scriptures, and a deeper interest in a study of the same on the part of members of the Lord’s church. Add to this the full harvest of humanism and we begin to see why growth has slowed and interest in spiritual things has tapered off. I recently read of a brother in Christ who has been a Christian since 1939. Baptized at a young age, he immediately became active in teaching others while growing in the grace and knowledge of our Lord. His observation is strikingly familiar. He observed that it has become increasingly more difficult to interest the lost in a study of the Bible. Yes, the devil has done his work, and we are the less fortunate for it. It should also be observed that fewer individuals are willing to make a deep seated commitment to Christ. Often studies are cancelled partway through because the student can see where the studies are leading, and what it will cost them with regard to change. How shall we react to this changing atmosphere? Paul stated it clearly when he told Timothy: “I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine” (2 Tim. 4:1-2). One old preacher paraphrased that passage: “Preach it when they want it, and when they don’t want it.” Our obligation is to preach and teach. We must leave the numbers business in the denominations, let us determine that we will not only walk in those old paths, but that we will proclaim it unto others.

We must never forget that there are three important factors when it comes to saving the lost. There is the will of God, Who does not want any to perish. There is the will of the teacher, who longs for the increase and salvation of those near and dear to him. Finally, there is the will of the lost individual. It is the last which has changed in the past twenty years.

When Should I Speak?
Sam Willcut

Claude Flynn correctly said, “I believe our nation is suffering from an overabundance of verbiage.” We can observe this by talk shows on television twenty-four hours per day. So many people want to speak, but very few people want to listen. Some great advice to answer the above question would be: “Think before you speak.” Playing off the word think, notice the following acronym. I should speak when it is True. God should not find falsehood among His people. A “lying tongue” is one of the six things our Lord hates (Pro. 6:17). “Lying lips are abomination to the Lord” (Pro. 12:22). Paul says, “Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another” (Eph. 4:25).

I should speak when it is Helpful. If my words are not helpful, then why speak? Paul said, “Let your speech be alway with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man” (Col. 4:6). We are to be a people with words that help; those that do not help do not bring solutions, but only make problems worse.

I should speak when it is Important. We are encouraged to speak words “fitly spoken” (Pro. 25:11). Solomon also says, “Seest thou a man that is hasty in his words? there is more hope of a fool than of him” (Pro. 29:20). Hasty words spoken without thought are usually not important after all. The Jews were notorious with their many words concerning swearing, which Jesus shows were unimportant: “But let your communication be, Yea, yea; Nay, nay: for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil” (Mat. 5:37).

I should speak when it is Necessary. Solomon said, “He that hath knowledge spareth his words: and a man of understanding is of an excellent spirit” (Pro. 17:27). If we have to say is not necessary, then silence should be our choice. This is why James said, “Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath” (Jam. 1:19). If words are not necessary, then they must be in vain. Job said, “Shall vain words have an end? or what emboldeneth thee that thou answerest?” (Job 16:3). The Gentiles were known by their unnecessary words spoken in prayer (Mat. 6:7).

I should speak when it is Kind. My Mother’s message spoken years ago is so true: “If you do not have anything kind to say, then do not say anything at all.” Solomon describes the virtuous woman thus: “She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness” (Pro. 31:26). Cruel words hurt; kind words soothe and heal.

The next time you have an opportunity to say something, think and ask yourself these five questions: Is it true? Is it helpful? Is it important? Is it necessary? Is it kind? Think before you speak!

Copied
Sick
Please remember in your prayers: Elaine Maxey, Jean Flesher, Marilyn Hall, Neva Bryant, and Ella Hammac.

Reading/Invitation
November 6, 2002
Reading: Shelby Nall
Invitation: Bill Crowe
November 13, 2002
Reading: Richard Parker
Invitation: Dale Cunningham

Mark These Dates
November 3, 2002–Visitation Group 1
assignment cards handed out.
November 10, 2002–Visitation Group 2
assignment cards handed out.
November 10, 2002–Deacons’ meeting at
5:00 PM, in room 7.
November 17, 2002–Visitation Group 3
assignment cards handed out.
November 17, 2002–Elders/Deacons’
meeting at 5:00 PM, in room 7.
November 27, 2002–Fourth Wednesday
Video Series for Adult Classes in the
auditorium at 7:00 PM.

Pantry Item Needed
Vegetable and Chicken Soups

Proverbs 16:7-9
“When a man’s ways please the LORD, he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him. Better is a little with righteousness than great revenues without right. A man’s heart deviseth his way: but the LORD directeth his steps.”

Is it Not Worth the Effort?
Andrew Connally

So often the old Devil seeks to discourage us by hindering the Lord’s work. He is a master at discouraging the brethren. He knows every trick and every ploy. So often godly saints wants to quit and say, “It is not worth the effort.”

Often elders grow discouraged because sheep stray and reject all efforts to restore them. Many members could not care less that brethren grow weak and die spiritually, so they become grounds of discouragement by hindering the reclamation and discipline of lost members. Elders often feel: “it is not worth the effort.”

Often deacons grow discouraged because so few will cooperate with them in getting the job done. Other deacons do not bear their fair share of the load and this discourages too. They say, “It is not worth the effort.”

Often Bible school teachers grow discouraged. Students do not study their lessons, and if comments are made, half are wrong or off the point! Many act as if Bible study is an “optional expedient” instead of “growth unto salvation.” Then the old expression arises, “It is not worth the effort.”

Often preachers despair. People often fail to react as they should to the Word. Preacher’s words and actions are often misunderstood, misrepresented, or actually opposed, so he becomes discouraged. After years of study, application and faithful service, a handful of brethren can destroy the preacher’s work by getting the ear of the eldership, so the preacher says, “It is not worth the effort.”

All of us have felt this on occasions about
Sick
Please remember in your prayers: Elaine Maxey, Jean Flesher, Marilyn Hall, Neva Bryant, and Ella Hammac.

Reading/Invitation
November 13, 2002
Reading: Richard Parker
Invitation: Dale Cunningham
November 20, 2002
Reading: Joshua Wilkes
Invitation: Ray Dodd

Mark These Dates
November 10, 2002–Visitation Group 2 assignment cards handed out.
November 10, 2002–Deacons’ meeting at 5:00 PM, in room 7.
November 17, 2002–Visitation Group 3 assignment cards handed out.
November 17, 2002–Elders/Deacons’ meeting at 5:00 PM, in room 7.
November 27, 2002–Fourth Wednesday Video Series for Adult Classes in the auditorium at 7:00 PM.

Pantry Item Needed
Canned Meat

Address Change
Ruth Bamber’s new address is 2003 Woodbury Drive; Cantonment, FL 32533. Her telephone number is 968-6927. Please update your directories.

Mailing Address
Remember to send us your new address when you move, if you wish to continue receiving the Beacon.

Not Afraid
Bob Howton

A young American journalist was on assignment in Russia, following the collapse of Communism in that country. He and his cameraman were on the streets to get pictures and try to talk with some of the native Russians, for a story. Almost immediately, as he looked at the milling crowds, his attention was drawn to the downcast and worried looks upon the face of most of the people. He moved from one place to another, but the outlook was the same. Everyone seemed to be burdened with an ominous foreboding of doom. Then, he noticed something which really bothered him. Everywhere he went, it appeared that everyone was staring at him. The more he noticed, the more evident this became. He finally asked his interpreter why everyone was staring at him so intently, and was told, “They’re staring at you because you’re the only one on the street who doesn’t seem to be afraid.”

Is that not a sad commentary on a country and its people? The Russians had gone through years of tyranny and oppression, with an economy which was rock-bottom, and the bleak outlook was exacerbated by high unemployment and short food supplies. To magnify this tragic set of circumstances, the great majority of them had not the slightest idea that they were lost spiritually, because of their godless rejection of Almighty God. In summary, they had no hope here, or hereafter! How very pitiful.

In our affluent country most people have at least one copy of the Bible, and there are page after page of classified ads posting notices of jobs available, in local newspapers. We go our
merry ways, but in a very different way to the Russians. There are from two to five automobiles in every front yard, with four wheelers, motorboats, go carts, personal water craft, and any kind of pleasure vehicles and gadgets one could wish for. Anyone who does not have a job is either lazy as a dog, dilatory, or plain sorry, as a general rule. (Of course, there are exceptions!) Inside our houses there are endless gadgets and things which exist only for our pleasure, and which by no stretch of the imagination, are necessary for our well being. In short, we are reveling in our prosperity, and there is no trace of fear upon our brows. We have got it made! That is, things are going well for us here, but many times there is no thought being given to the hereafter. We, like the pig under the tree, just keep gobbling up the acorns, with no thought or concern for where the food comes from.

“If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable” (1 Cor. 15:19). The Russians were somber and afraid because they had no hope!

We have much hope and pleasure in this life, but we have no fear, because we often fail to consider what comes after death. “It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment” (Heb. 9:27). “Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid: for the LORD JEHovah is my strength and my song” (Isa. 12:2).

“God out of Government”—The New Testament church is not a political structure; its business is not politics. The Bible authorizes civil government (Rom. 13), ... is dishonored, life becomes cheap and science an early victim, or it survives in destructive form.” Herbert L. Willett said, “The Bible is the Magna Charta of human liberty; the Declaration of Independence from the oppression of ignorance and superstition; the Emancipation of Proclamation of the soul of man.” He again declared, The passion for social righteousness, democracy, industrial liberty, universal education, equal suffrage, child welfare, civic purity, and international brotherhood are all inspired by the Bible. The reformatory movements, which have removed much of the blight of inhumanity to children, women, criminals, and animals, of intemperance, and the social vices that gnaw at the vitals of the world, owe their inception and progress to the same book.

“God out of Religion”—Modernists and liberals have long sought to remove God from the realm of religion. Religion is formed from re “back” and lego “to bind.” Hence religion binds man back to God. It is difficult to see why men would want to remove God from the very system designed to bring them back to God. Attempts to get God out of religion involve (1) rejection of the Bible as the verbally inspired Word of God, (2) rejection of the authority of Christ, (3) denial of the virgin birth, and (4) repudiation of biblical miracles. We are reminded of what happened in the first century: There was no room for Christ in the inn, among His own people, in the Roman empire, or among His disciples, and there is very little room for the Lord in the religion of today.

In a horse-pulling contest at a county fair the first-place horse moved a sled weighing 4,500 pounds. The runner-up pulled 4,000 pounds. The owners of the two horses wondered how much the animals could pull if they worked together. So they hitched them up and loaded the sled. To everyone’s surprise, the horses were able to pull 12,000 pounds.

Sometimes in the Lord’s work we try to pull the weight of a job all by ourselves. However, when we team up with others we work with greater efficiency and can accomplish so much more.

I am reminded of Ecclesiastes 4:9-12: “Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour. For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow: but woe to him that is alone when he falleth; for he hath not another to help him up. Again, if two lie together, then they have heat: but how can one be warm alone? And if one prevail against him, two shall withstand him; and a threefold cord is not quickly broken.” Think about it!
merry ways, but in a very different way to the Russians. There are from two to five automobiles in every front yard, with four wheelers, motorboats, go carts, personal water craft, and any kind of pleasure vehicles and gadgets one could wish for. Anyone who does not have a job is either lazy as a dog, dilatory, or plain sorry, as a general rule. (Of course, there are exceptions!) Inside our houses there are endless gadgets and things which exist only for our pleasure, and which by no stretch of the imagination, are necessary for our well being. In short, we are reveling in our prosperity, and there is no trace of fear upon our brows. We have got it made! That is, things are going well for us here, but many times there is no thought being given to the hereafter. We, like the pig under the tree, just keep gobbling up the acorns, with no thought or concern for where the food comes from.

“In this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable” (1 Cor. 15:19). The Russians were somber and afraid because they had no hope!

We have much hope and pleasure in this life, but we have no fear, because we often fail to consider what comes after death. “It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment” (Heb. 9:27). “Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid: for the LORD JEHOVAH is my strength and my song” (Isa. 12:2).

“God out of Religion—Modernists and liberals have long sought to remove God from the realm of religion. Religion is formed from re “back” and lego “to bind.” Hence religion binds man back to God. It is difficult to see why men would want to remove God from the very system designed to bring them back to God. Attempts to get God out of religion involve (1) rejection of the Bible as the verbally inspired Word of God, (2) rejection of the authority of Christ, (3) denial of the virgin birth, and (4) repudiation of biblical miracles. We are reminded of what happened in the first century: There was no room for Christ in the inn, among His own people, in the Roman empire, or among His disciples, and there is very little room for the Lord in the religion of today.

“God out of Government—The New Testament church is not a political structure; its business is not politics. The Bible authorizes civil government (Rom. 13), but the separation of church and state must always be understood (cf., Rom. 14:17). The church does not administer the affairs of state. The state does not administer the affairs of the church (Mat. 22:21). However, it is our perpetual hope that those who administer the affairs of state would be people who at least acknowledge the existence of a Supreme Being as well as subscribe to a high standard of morals. Dr. Howard A. Kelly, physician and radiologist said, “Where the Bible is disdained, life becomes cheap and science an early victim, or itsurvives in destructive form.” Herbert L. Willett said, “The Bible is the Magna Charta of human liberty; the Declaration of Independence from the oppression of ignorance and superstition; the Emancipation of Proclamation of the soul of man.” He again declared, The passion for social righteousness, democracy, industrial liberty, universal education, equal suffrage, child welfare, civic purity, and international brotherhood are all inspired by the Bible. The reformatory movements, which have removed much of the blight of inhumanity to children, women, criminals, and animals, of intemperance, and the social vices that gnaw at the vitals of the world, owe their inception and progress to the same book.

“God out of Education—While we are not saying that the public school classroom is the place to teach spiritual principles, a great percentage of educators in our public schools are not influenced by a Higher Power, and this is one reason (a large one) why “Christian” schools and “home” schools exist. Western civilization is founded upon the Bible; our ideas, our wisdom, our philosophy, our literature, our art, our ideals, come more from the Bible than from all other books put together. It is a revelation of divinity and of humanity; it contains the loftiest religious aspiration along with a candid representation of all that is earthly, sensual, and devilish. I thoroughly believe in a university education for both men and women; but I believe a knowledge of the Bible without a college course is more valuable than a college course without the Bible (William Lyon Phelps).

“God out of Religion—Modernists and liberals have long sought to remove God from the realm of religion. Religion is formed from re “back” and lego “to bind.” Hence religion binds man back to God. It is difficult to see why men would want to remove God from the very system designed to bring them back to God. Attempts to get God out of religion involve (1) rejection of the Bible as the verbally inspired Word of God, (2) rejection of the authority of Christ, (3) denial of the virgin birth, and (4) repudiation of biblical miracles. We are reminded of what happened in the first century: There was no room for Christ in the inn, among His own people, in the Roman empire, or among His disciples, and there is very little room for the Lord in the religion of today.

“God out of Religion—Modernists and liberals have long sought to remove God from the realm of religion. Religion is formed from re “back” and lego “to bind.” Hence religion binds man back to God. It is difficult to see why men would want to remove God from the very system designed to bring them back to God. Attempts to get God out of religion involve (1) rejection of the Bible as the verbally inspired Word of God, (2) rejection of the authority of Christ, (3) denial of the virgin birth, and (4) repudiation of biblical miracles. We are reminded of what happened in the first century: There was no room for Christ in the inn, among His own people, in the Roman empire, or among His disciples, and there is very little room for the Lord in the religion of today.

“God out of Religion—Modernists and liberals have long sought to remove God from the realm of religion. Religion is formed from re “back” and lego “to bind.” Hence religion binds man back to God. It is difficult to see why men would want to remove God from the very system designed to bring them back to God. Attempts to get God out of religion involve (1) rejection of the Bible as the verbally inspired Word of God, (2) rejection of the authority of Christ, (3) denial of the virgin birth, and (4) repudiation of biblical miracles. We are reminded of what happened in the first century: There was no room for Christ in the inn, among His own people, in the Roman empire, or among His disciples, and there is very little room for the Lord in the religion of today.
Sick
Please remember in your prayers: Elaine Maxey, Jean Flesher, Marilyn Hall, Neva Bryant, and Ella Hammac.

Reading/Invitation
November 13, 2002
Reading: Richard Parker
Invitation: Dale Cunningham
November 20, 2002
Reading: Joshua Wilkes
Invitation: Ray Dodd

Mark These Dates
November 10, 2002–Visitation Group 2 assignment cards handed out.
November 10, 2002–Deacons’ meeting at 5:00 PM, in room 7.
November 17, 2002–Visitation Group 3 assignment cards handed out.
November 17, 2002–Elders/Deacons’ meeting at 5:00 PM, in room 7.
November 27, 2002–Fourth Wednesday Video Series for Adult Classes in the auditorium at 7:00 PM.

Pantry Item Needed
Canned Meat

Address Change
Ruth Bamber’s new address is 2003 Woodbury Drive; Cantonment, FL 32533. Her telephone number is 968-6927. Please update your directories.

Mailing Address
Remember to send us your new address when you move, if you wish to continue receiving the Beacon.

Reading/Invitation
November 13, 2002
Reading: Richard Parker
Invitation: Dale Cunningham
November 20, 2002
Reading: Joshua Wilkes
Invitation: Ray Dodd

Mark These Dates
November 10, 2002–Visitation Group 2 assignment cards handed out.
November 10, 2002–Deacons’ meeting at 5:00 PM, in room 7.
November 17, 2002–Visitation Group 3 assignment cards handed out.
November 17, 2002–Elders/Deacons’ meeting at 5:00 PM, in room 7.
November 27, 2002–Fourth Wednesday Video Series for Adult Classes in the auditorium at 7:00 PM.

Pantry Item Needed
Canned Meat

Address Change
Ruth Bamber’s new address is 2003 Woodbury Drive; Cantonment, FL 32533. Her telephone number is 968-6927. Please update your directories.

Mailing Address
Remember to send us your new address when you move, if you wish to continue receiving the Beacon.

Reading/Invitation
November 13, 2002
Reading: Richard Parker
Invitation: Dale Cunningham
November 20, 2002
Reading: Joshua Wilkes
Invitation: Ray Dodd

Mark These Dates
November 10, 2002–Visitation Group 2 assignment cards handed out.
November 10, 2002–Deacons’ meeting at 5:00 PM, in room 7.
November 17, 2002–Visitation Group 3 assignment cards handed out.
November 17, 2002–Elders/Deacons’ meeting at 5:00 PM, in room 7.
November 27, 2002–Fourth Wednesday Video Series for Adult Classes in the auditorium at 7:00 PM.

Pantry Item Needed
Canned Meat

Address Change
Ruth Bamber’s new address is 2003 Woodbury Drive; Cantonment, FL 32533. Her telephone number is 968-6927. Please update your directories.

Mailing Address
Remember to send us your new address when you move, if you wish to continue receiving the Beacon.

Not Afraid
Bob Howton

A young American journalist was on assignment in Russia, following the collapse of Communism in that country. He and his cameraman were on the streets to get pictures and try to talk with some of the native Russians, for a story. Almost immediately, as he looked at the milling crowds, his attention was drawn to the downcast and worried looks upon the face of most of the people. He moved from one place to another, but the outlook was the same. Everyone seemed to be burdened with an ominous foreboding of doom. Then, he noticed something which really bothered him. Everywhere he went, it appeared that everyone was staring at him. The more he noticed, the more evident this became. He finally asked his interpreter why everyone was staring at him so intently, and was told, “They’re staring at you because you’re the only one on the street who doesn’t seem to be afraid.”

Is that not a sad commentary on a country and its people? The Russians had gone through years of tyranny and oppression, with an economy which was rock-bottom, and the bleak outlook was exacerbated by high unemployment and short food supplies. To magnify this tragic set of circumstances, the great majority of them had not the slightest idea that they were lost spiritually, because of their godless rejection of Almighty God. In summary, they had no hope here, or hereafter! How very pitiful.

In our affluent country most people have at least one copy of the Bible, and there are page after page of classified ads posting notices of jobs available, in local newspapers. We go our
Sick
Please remember in your prayers: Elaine Maxey, Jean Flesher, Marilyn Hall, Neva Bryant, and Ella Hammac.

Reading/Invitation
November 20, 2002
Reading: Joshua Wilkes
Invitation: Ray Dodd
November 27, 2002
Reading: Ray Williams
Invitation: Ray Foshee

Mark These Dates
November 17, 2002–Visitation Group 3 assignment cards handed out.
November 17, 2002–Elders/Deacons’ meeting at 5:00 PM, in room 7.
November 27, 2002–Fourth Wednesday Video Series for Adult Classes in the auditorium at 7:00 PM.

Pantry Item Needed
Canned Meat

New Arrivals
Jane and Louis Herrington and Joan and Bobby Liddell are proud to announce the birth of their granddaughter, Abbey Rose, born to Vanessa and Tony Liddell on November 4. Abbey Rose weighed 8 pounds 7 ounces and was 21 inches long.

Phyllis and Paul Brantley are proud to announce the birth of their granddaughter, Curry Christine, born to Tanya and Preston Silcox, on November 5. Curry Christine weighed 7 pounds 15 ounces and was 19 1/2 inches long.

Our congratulations is extended to all.

Righteousness and Christian Living
Joseph D. Meador

The Book of Philippians was penned by the apostle Paul in about A.D. 61 from the imperial city of Rome. Paul was at this time a prisoner on behalf of Jesus Christ, yet he maintained an attitude of Christ-likeness and joy which he exhorted every Christian to have. In Philippians chapter four Paul encourages each faithful believer to strive for a truly righteous Christian life. It is the biblical idea of righteousness that becomes important for us to properly understand.

In Philippians 3:9 Paul wrote, “And be found in him, not having a righteousness of mine own.” This righteousness refers literally to “a straight line” which is God’s standard or will (cf., Gal. 6:16). Paul affirms in Philippians 3:9 that we cannot be righteous on our own merits, nor can we be righteous on our own terms. Rather, we must rely upon the standard for righteousness which is God’s revealed will (cf., Rom. 1:15-17; 1 John 2:4).

Further, in Philippians 4:1-9 the apostle Paul clearly shows that righteousness and Christian living go hand-in-hand together. Indeed, this four-fold formula for righteous Christian living is an integral part of living acceptably unto God. Yet, we must accept the fact that God Himself, through His inspired Word, has settled His objective standard for what constitutes righteousness.

The Exhortation to Be Righteous (4:1-3)
First, Paul admonished his readers to be in a right relationship with God through Jesus Christ. How can we stress to others the benefits of living the Christian life if we ourselves are not in a right
It was in support of the Levitical priesthood that stood for God’s provision and care for the people along with His promise to redeem them. The money was to be used for the poor and the needy. She was concerned for others. Think about giving all that she had to help someone else. (3) She gave out of the abundance of which they really did not need to begin with.

We need to think about this for a moment. Does our giving involve some sacrifice on our part? Are we out of the abundance doing our giving? The widow’s gift was motivated out of love for God and needy people. One needs to understand what the giving was for.

Harrell Davidson

Chapter divisions are sometimes out of place. Luke 21 is such a place. The chapter should have begun after verse 4. Verses 1-4 belong to chapter 20. Jesus had warned of the scribes that wore long robes. He told how they loved greetings in the markets and synagogues also the chief rooms of feasts. They were devouring widow’s houses. They made a public show of prayer. Jesus said that “the same shall receive greater damnation” (Luke 20:47). It is in this context that Jesus saw people casting into the treasury.

It was then that He “saw also a certain poor widow casting in thither two mites. And he said, Of a truth I say unto you, that this poor widow hath cast in more than they all: For all these have of their abundance cast in unto the offerings of God: but she of her penury hath cast in all the living that she had” (Luke 21: 2-4).

One cannot read these verses without noticing the contrast between the scribes, Pharisees, and this poor widow. The widow is a demonstration of how God intended for the Jewish system to affect people. Instead they were interested in ritual. Their religion was totally subjective and had no heart and soul in it. Jesus saw rich men casting into the treasury. Here is the contrast between the rich and the poor. The word abundance in verse 4 literally means to give “above and beyond” of that which they really did not need to begin with.

We need to think about this for a moment. Does our giving involve some sacrifice on our part? Are we out of the abundance doing our giving? The widow’s gift was motivated out of love for God and needy people. One needs to understand what the giving was for.

**Exhortation to Be Righteous in Prayer (4:4-7)**

Second, if there is one area where many Christians fall short it is the absence of regular prayer to God. Paul admonishes us to be active in prayer. This is a spiritual must. The avenue of prayer is open to every faithful member of the Lord’s church, and we must take advantage of the spiritual growth which prayer affords.

One of the great results of prayer is found in Philippians 4:7. “And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall guard your hearts and your thoughts in Christ Jesus.” Humanistic psychiatrist and counseling psychologist cannot adequately explain the peace of Christian living, yet this is one of the unexplained realities of God. Only by being right with God and being regular in prayer do we know the depth of this true peace. Brethren, we must pray right!

**The Exhortation to Be Righteous in Our Deeds (4:9)**

Finally, Paul affirmed: “The things which ye both learned and received and heard and saw in me, these things do: and the God of peace shall be with you.” Notice that Paul mentions four things which were a divine demonstration of a righteous life (i.e., “learned,” “received,” “heard,” and “saw”). We are to put the Christian life to the test by actually applying the will of God to our lives. Brethren, we must do right!

**The Exhortation to Be Righteous in Thought (4:8)**

Third, Paul encourages his readers to be righteous in thought. In fact, we are to meditate, think, or contemplate upon only those things which are: “True,” “Honorableness,” “Just,” “Pure,” “Lovely,” and of a “Good Report.” Do we really live for these things? Are our minds truly centered upon these facets of Christian thinking? The Hebrews’ Scriptures rightly affirm: “As a man thinketh in his heart; so is he” (Pro. 23:7), and “Keep thy heart with all diligence; For out of it are the issues of life” (Pro. 4:23). Here, Solomon urges us to Keep or “protectively guard” our very minds. Indeed, the Hebrews’ Scriptures again teach: “I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes” (Psa. 101:3). How appropriate in consideration of Philippians 4:8.

The Exhortation to Be Righteous in Our Deeds (4:9)

Finally, Paul affirmed: “The things which ye both learned and received and heard and saw in me, these things do: and the God of peace shall be with you.” Notice that Paul mentions four things which were a divine demonstration of a righteous life (i.e., “learned,” “received,” “heard,” and “saw”). We are to put the Christian life to the test by actually living it! This is so novel to some, yet if we fail to make a personal application of the will of God to our lives what is the point? Finally brethren, we must do right!

Top Ten Things You Never Hear in Church...

1. Hey! It’s my turn to sit in the front pew.
2. Preacher, we’d like to send you to this Lectureship in the Bahamas.
3. Since we’re all here, let’s start the service early.
4. I love it when we sing hymns I’ve never heard before!
5. I was so enthralled; I never noticed your sermon went 25 minutes over time.
6. Personally I find teaching others about Christ much more enjoyable than golf.
7. I’ve decided to contribute the $500 a month I used to spend on my hobbies.
8. I volunteer to be the permanent teacher for the Junior High Bible class.
9. I was so enthralled; I never noticed your sermon went 25 minutes over time.
10. I love it when we sing hymns I’ve never heard before!

Keep guard our very minds. Indeed, the Hebrews’ Scriptures again teach: “I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes” (Psa. 101:3). How appropriate in consideration of Philippians 4:8. Think right with God. We must stand fast (cf., 1 Cor. 15:58) and we must do so “in the Lord,” that is, in a right relationship with Him. This is accomplished when we obey the Gospel and remain faithful to the teachings of Jesus Christ. Brethren, we must be right!
relationship with God? Paul wrote, “Stand fast in the Lord, my beloved.” We must stand fast (cf., 1 Cor. 15:58) and we must do so “in the Lord,” that is, in a right relationship with Him. This is accomplished when we obey the Gospel and remain faithful to the teachings of Jesus Christ. Brethren, we must be right!

Exhortation to Be Righteous in Prayer (4:4-7)

Second, if there is one area where many Christians fall short it is the absence of regular prayer to God. Paul admonishes us to be active in prayer. This is a spiritual must. The avenue of prayer is open to every faithful member of the Lord’s church, and we must take advantage of the spiritual growth which prayer affords.

One of the great results of prayer is found in Philippians 4:7. “And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall guard your hearts and your thoughts in Christ Jesus.” Humanistic psychiatrist and counseling psychologist cannot adequately explain the peace of Christian living, yet this is one of the unexplained realities of God. Only by being right with God and being regular in prayer do we know the depth of this true peace. Brethren, we must pray right!

The Exhortation to Be Righteous in Thought (4:8)

Third, Paul encourages his readers to be righteous in thought. In fact, we are to meditate, think, or contemplate upon only those things which are: “True,” “HONorable,” “Just,” “Pure,” “Lovely,” and of a “Good Report.” Do we really live for these things? Are our minds truly centered upon these facets of Christian thinking? The Hebrews’ Scriptures rightly affirm: “As a man thinketh in his heart; so is he” (Pro. 23:7), and “Keep thy heart with all diligence; For out of it are the issues of life” (Pro. 4:23). Here, Solomon urges us to keep or “protectively guard” our very minds. Indeed, the Hebrews’ Scriptures again teach: “I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes” (Psa. 101:3). How appropriate in consideration of Philippians 4:8. Let us purpose to keep, guard, and protect our minds as we reflect only upon that which God would have us to meditate upon. Brethren, we must think right!

The Exhortation to Be Righteous in Our Deeds (4:9)

Finally, Paul affirmed: “The things which ye both learned and received and heard and saw in me, these things do: and the God of peace shall be with you.” Notice that Paul mentions four things which were a divine demonstration of a righteous life (i.e., “learned,” “received,” “heard,” and “saw”). We are to put the Christian life to the test by actually doing these deeds. We are to test our knowledge and our hearing. We are to do what we have learned. If we fail to make a personal application of the will of God to our lives what is the point? Finally brethren, we must do right!

Giving from the Widow’s Perspective

Harrell Davidson

Chapter divisions are sometimes out of place. Luke 21 is such a place. The chapter should have begun after verse 4. Verses 1-4 belong to chapter 20. Jesus had warned of the scribes that wore long robes. He told how they loved greetings in the markets and synagogues also the chief rooms of feasts. They were devouring widow’s houses. They made a public show of prayer. Jesus said that “the same shall receive greater damnation” (Luke 20:47). It is in this context that Jesus saw people casting into the treasury.

It was then that He “saw also a certain poor widow casting in thither two mites. And he said, Of a truth I say unto you, that this poor widow hath cast in more than they all: For all these have of their abundance cast in unto the offerings of God: but she of her penury hath cast in all the living that she had” (Luke 21: 2-4).

One cannot read these verses without noticing the contrast between the scribes, Pharisees, and this poor widow. The widow is a demonstration of how God intended for the Jewish system to affect people. Instead they were interested in ritual. Their religion was totally subjective and had no heart and soul in it. Jesus saw rich men casting into the treasury. Here is the contrast between the rich and the poor. The word abundance in verse 4 literally means to give “above and beyond” of that which they really did not need to begin with.

We need to think about this for a moment. Does our giving involve some sacrifice on our part? Are we out of the abundance doing our giving? The widow gave out of deficiency! The words used to convey this thought are “that in which she had labored hard.” The widow’s gift was motivated out of love for God and needy people. One needs to understand what the giving was for.

Top Ten Things You Never Hear in Church...

1. Nothing inspires me and strengthens my relationship with God? Paul wrote, “Stand fast in the Lord, my beloved.” We must stand fast (cf., 1 Cor. 15:58) and we must do so “in the Lord,” that is, in a right relationship with Him. This is accomplished when we obey the Gospel and remain faithful to the teachings of Jesus Christ. Brethren, we must be right!

Exhortation to Be Righteous in Prayer (4:4-7)

Second, if there is one area where many Christians fall short it is the absence of regular prayer to God. Paul admonishes us to be active in prayer. This is a spiritual must. The avenue of prayer is open to every faithful member of the Lord’s church, and we must take advantage of the spiritual growth which prayer affords.

One of the great results of prayer is found in Philippians 4:7. “And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall guard your hearts and your thoughts in Christ Jesus.” Humanistic psychiatrist and counseling psychologist cannot adequately explain the peace of Christian living, yet this is one of the unexplained realities of God. Only by being right with God and being regular in prayer do we know the depth of this true peace. Brethren, we must pray right!

The Exhortation to Be Righteous in Thought (4:8)

Third, Paul encourages his readers to be righteous in thought. In fact, we are to meditate, think, or contemplate upon only those things which are: “True,” “HONorable,” “Just,” “Pure,” “Lovely,” and of a “Good Report.” Do we really live for these things? Are our minds truly centered upon these facets of Christian thinking? The Hebrews’ Scriptures rightly affirm: “As a man thinketh in his heart; so is he” (Pro. 23:7), and “Keep thy heart with all diligence; For out of it are the issues of life” (Pro. 4:23). Here, Solomon urges us to keep or “protectively guard” our very minds. Indeed, the Hebrews’ Scriptures again teach: “I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes” (Psa. 101:3). How appropriate in consideration of Philippians 4:8. Let us purpose to keep, guard, and protect our minds as we reflect only upon that which God would have us to meditate upon. Brethren, we must think right!

The Exhortation to Be Righteous in Our Deeds (4:9)

Finally, Paul affirmed: “The things which ye both learned and received and heard and saw in me, these things do: and the God of peace shall be with you.” Notice that Paul mentions four things which were a divine demonstration of a righteous life (i.e., “learned,” “received,” “heard,” and “saw”). We are to put the Christian life to the test by actually doing these deeds. We are to test our knowledge and our hearing. We are to do what we have learned. If we fail to make a personal application of the will of God to our lives what is the point? Finally brethren, we must do right!

Giving from the Widow’s Perspective

Harrell Davidson

Chapter divisions are sometimes out of place. Luke 21 is such a place. The chapter should have begun after verse 4. Verses 1-4 belong to chapter 20. Jesus had warned of the scribes that wore long robes. He told how they loved greetings in the markets and synagogues also the chief rooms of feasts. They were devouring widow’s houses. They made a public show of prayer. Jesus said that “the same shall receive greater damnation” (Luke 20:47). It is in this context that Jesus saw people casting into the treasury.

It was then that He “saw also a certain poor widow casting in thither two mites. And he said, Of a truth I say unto you, that this poor widow hath cast in more than they all: For all these have of their abundance cast in unto the offerings of God: but she of her penury hath cast in all the living that she had” (Luke 21: 2-4).

One cannot read these verses without noticing the contrast between the scribes, Pharisees, and this poor widow. The widow is a demonstration of how God intended for the Jewish system to affect people. Instead they were interested in ritual. Their religion was totally subjective and had no heart and soul in it. Jesus saw rich men casting into the treasury. Here is the contrast between the rich and the poor. The word abundance in verse 4 literally means to give “above and beyond” of that which they really did not need to begin with.

We need to think about this for a moment. Does our giving involve some sacrifice on our part? Are we out of the abundance doing our giving? The widow gave out of deficiency! The words used to convey this thought are “that in which she had labored hard.” The widow’s gift was motivated out of love for God and needy people. One needs to understand what the giving was for.

(1) It was in support of the Levitical priesthood that stood for God’s provision and care for the people along with His promise to redeem them. (2) The money was to be used for the poor and the needy. She was concerned for others. Think about giving all that she had to help someone else. (3) She gave out of a love of God. She was grateful that she could give. Look again now—how are we giving? Is it out of abundance or are we really making sacrifices to give? How grateful are we for our blessings? (4) It was a gift of faith. She gave what she had so there was trust. She believed that God would provide her needs. (5) She had an undivided heart. She had two mites and she gave both of them and in so doing showed that her heart was undivided. Are we that loyal to God?

Many fine lessons have been taught about the widow’s mites, but how many have you heard taught that used this in its context, which are the scribes and Pharisees. This is the point that was being made. This shows that religion on one side that does not please God that is selfish and it consumed them. Look at the words devour and show. What are these about? Selfishness. What is the end? Damnation.

P.O. Box 358; Obion, TN 38240

Top Ten Things You Never Hear in Church...

10. Hey! It’s my turn to sit in the front pew.
9. I was so enthralled; I never noticed your sermon went 25 minutes over time.
8. Personally I find teaching others about Christ much more enjoyable than golf.
7. I’ve decided to contribute the $500 a month I used to spend on my hobbies.
6. I volunteer to be the permanent teacher for the Junior High Bible class.
5. Forget the minimum salary; let’s pay our preacher so he can live like we do.
4. I love it when we sing hymns I’ve never heard before!
3. Since we’re all here, let’s start the service early.
2. Preacher, we’d like to send you to this Lectureship in the Bahamas.
1. Nothing inspires me and strengthens my commitment like a good old-fashioned sermon on giving!

Author Unknown
Sick
Please remember in your prayers: Elaine Maxey, Jean Flesher, Marilyn Hall, Neva Bryant, and Ella Hammac.

Reading/Invitation
November 20, 2002
Reading: Joshua Wilkes
Invitation: Ray Dodd
November 27, 2002
Reading: Ray Williams
Invitation: Ray Foshee

Mark These Dates
November 17, 2002–Visitation Group 3 assignment cards handed out.
November 17, 2002–Elders/Deacons’ meeting at 5:00 PM, in room 7.
November 27, 2002–Fourth Wednesday Video Series for Adult Classes in the auditorium at 7:00 PM.

Pantry Item Needed
Canned Meat

New Arrivals
Jane and Louis Herrington and Joan and Bobby Liddell are proud to announce the birth of their granddaughter, Abbey Rose, born to Vanessa and Tony Liddell on November 4. Abbey Rose weighed 8 pounds 7 ounces and was 21 inches long.
Phyllis and Paul Brantley are proud to announce the birth of their granddaughter, Curry Christine, born to Tanya and Preston Silcox, on November 5. Curry Christine weighed 7 pounds 15 ounces and was 19 1/2 inches long.
Our congratulations is extended to all.

Righteousness and Christian Living
Joseph D. Meador

The Book of Philippians was penned by the apostle Paul in about A.D. 61 from the imperial city of Rome. Paul was at this time a prisoner on behalf of Jesus Christ, yet he maintained an attitude of Christ-likeness and joy which he exhorted every Christian to have. In Philippians chapter four Paul encourages each faithful believer to strive for a truly righteous Christian life. It is the biblical idea of righteousness that becomes important for us to properly understand.

In Philippians 3:9 Paul wrote, “And be found in him, not having a righteousness of mine own.” This righteousness refers literally to “a straight line” which is God’s standard or will (cf., Gal. 6:16). Paul affirms in Philippians 3:9 that we cannot be righteous on our own merits, nor can we be righteous on our own terms. Rather, we must rely upon the standard for righteousness which is God’s revealed will (cf., Rom. 1:15-17; 1 John 2:4).

Further, in Philippians 4:1-9 the apostle Paul clearly shows that righteousness and Christian living go hand-in-hand together. Indeed, this four-fold formula for righteous Christian living is an integral part of living acceptably unto God. Yet, we must accept the fact that God Himself, through His inspired Word, has settled His objective standard for what constitutes righteousness.

The Exhortation to Be Righteous (4:1-3)
First, Paul admonished his readers to be in a right relationship with God through Jesus Christ. How can we stress to others the benefits of living the Christian life if we ourselves are not in a right
Sick
Please remember in your prayers:
Elaine Maxey, Jean Flesher, Marilyn Hall,
Neva Bryant, Ella Hammac, and Nancy Travis.

Reading/Invitation
November 27, 2002
Reading: Ray Williams
Invitation: Ray Foshee
December 4, 2002
Reading: Carl Ayliffe
Invitation: Louis Herrington

Mark These Dates
November 27, 2002–Fourth Wednesday
Video Series for Adult Classes in the auditorium at 7:00 PM.
December 1, 2002–Visitation Group 1
assignment cards handed out.
December 8, 2002–Visitation Group 2
assignment cards handed out.
December 8, 2002–Deacons’ meeting at 5:00 PM, in room 7.
December 15, 2002–Visitation Group 3
assignment cards handed out.
December 15, 2002–Elders/Deacons’
meeting at 5:00 PM, in room 7.
December 25, 2002–Fourth Wednesday
Video Series for Adult Bible Classes at 7:00 PM.

Pantry Item Needed
Canned Meat

Directory
The current directory is posted on the bulletin board. If you have any changes please make them on this copy.

Gird Your Mind
John W. Moore

The English word “sober” is used to translate the Greek word sophronos, and has the meaning of reasonable, sensible, and prudent (Brown 501). These synonyms are, in the Greek language, largely derived from extra-biblical literature and thus do not entirely represent the full biblical concept of sobriety, though they come close. The stem sophronos is found in Mark 5:15; Luke 8:35; Acts 10:26; 2 Cor. 5:13; 1 Tim. 2:9, 15; 3:12; 2 Tim. 1:7; Tit. 1:8; 2:2, 4-6, 12; and 1 Pet. 4:7, and expresses the attitudes of sound mind, self-discipline, self-control, sensibility, and rationality. Living soberly, therefore, means that one should have his/her life under control of the mind (Reinecker 654).

The desires of the flesh, such as “the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life” (1 John 2:16) are constantly warring on our souls by tempting us to indulge in the flesh. The mind must be in control of the body so as not to fulfill the lust of the flesh (cf., Gal. 5:16f), but the mind must be governed by the Word of God. Paul wrote that “For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds; casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ” (2 Cor. 10:4-5). Controlling the mind is essential to living the Christian life, and the mind can only be controlled when it has been trained and exercised by the Word of God.

The Christian must be in control of his/her mind. Peter wrote that we should “gird up the
loins” of our minds (1 Pet. 1:13). Here the imagery is clear if we think of a long, flowing garment of the first century hanging down to the ankles. On a journey or during manual labor (e.g., washing the disciples’ feet, cf., John 13), a man might bind his garment up and out of the way of his feet so as not to be tripped or ruin the clothing. The garment was tied instead of loosed. It was “gathered up” instead of flowing. Similarly, the mind must be girded or bound. It must not be loose or free to think anything it wants. The thoughts of the mind are to be harnessed and brought under the control of God’s will. The mind must possess pure and wholesome thoughts that are characterized by justice, truth, honesty, virtue, and goodness (Phil. 4:8).

What a person thinks is exceedingly important. The Bible says as a man thinketh in his heart, so is he (Pro. 23:7). Whatever one harbors in his heart will most likely be acted upon. Jesus taught that adultery comes when we lust; murder, when we hate; and theft, when we covet (Mark 7:21f). If, therefore, behavior is the result of our thoughts, it behooves every Christian then to think on good things. Living soberly demands that our thoughts be controlled and influenced by the right kind of information, stimuli, etc. If we read, hear, and see the filth of the world, our minds will be tainted and desensitized to sin and all ungodliness. I realize that on some occasions we cannot escape hearing curse words in the workplace or occasionally witnessing immorality, but we can and must prevent our lives from being inundated by evil. The Christian must not willingly subject his or her mind to immoral behavior or speech. The more evil we hear by means of the television, books, newspapers, evil companions, etc., the less likely we will be to blush at our sins. Like the Jews of the pre-captivity in Jeremiah 6, we, too, can become calloused to sin so as not to be ashamed about unrighteousness. We, too, can fail to see the problems and proclaim, “Peace, peace; when there is no peace” (Jer. 6:14). We behave on the basis of what we think. We “think” on the things we see, hear, and read. It follows then that if we desire to be in control of our minds (i.e., to be sober), we must absorb and embrace that which is good and true. We must live soberly. We must gird our minds.

Works Cited
8900 Manchaca Road
Austin, TX 78748

When God Doesn’t Make Sense

Barry M. Grider

It is plain for all to see why the Bible condemns fornication and drinking alcohol, for any reasonable person knows that such is harmful to one’s health. However, often in matters of religion, if a man cannot rationalize what God teaches him to do, he chooses not to do it. Obviously, Naaman was such an individual, for when told by Elisha the prophet to dip seven times in Jordan that he might be cured of leprosy, he initially refused (2 Kin. 5). Why? Such did not make sense to him. Yet, until he complied with the command of the Lord, he still had leprosy.

In Luke 5:4-6, a good example is given as to what one should do when God does not make sense. “Now when he had left speaking, he said unto Simon, Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught. And Simon answering said unto him, Master, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing: nevertheless at thy word I will let down the net.”

Notice, first the request of the Lord: “Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught.” No doubt Peter had become very weary. He needed food for his family, and his very means of livelihood depended upon his catching fish. He did not know what to do. Sometimes we may find ourselves in a predicament and wonder wherein lies the answer. Maybe we feel like giving up. If such pertains to the soul, one should turn to the Lord and listen to him. However, we may not always understand His request. Simon Peter did not.

Second, look at the reasoning of man. Peter said: “Master, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing.” Peter might have thought, “Lord you are a mighty teacher, but you leave fishing to those who are professionals.” Sometimes one should turn to the Lord and listen to him. However, we may not always understand His request. Simon Peter did not.

Third, see the reward of obedience. Peter said, “Nevertheless at thy word I will let down the net. And when they had this done, they enclosed a great multitude of fishes: and their net brake.” While it may not have seemed to make sense to Peter, Jesus knew what He was doing. Obedience to the Master’s will brought great reward. Likewise, obedience to the Lord brings great reward to you and me.

In Mark 16:16, Jesus says, “He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.” Many refuse to be baptized because to them it does not make sense to be immersed in water. The fact still remains, one will never be cleansed of his sin until he is baptized. Why? Jesus said so. Remember: “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts” (Isa. 55:8-9).

3950 Forest Hill Irene Road
Memphis, TN 38125

David Lipscomb Said...

“For a parent to require a child to wash his face and keep his body clean and not require him to learn and obey the Bible, is to teach him that the body is worth more than a pure heart and a clean and holy spirit.”

“For a parent to require a child to learn spelling and reading and not require him to study the Bible is to teach him, by a forcible object lesson, that it is more important to be qualified to live in this world than to be fitted to live in heaven.”

There is no evading this simple truth. The parent that so treats and impresses his child is the worst enemy that the child has. He will be made to feel this when he meets that child at the judgment of God. It is better to face the question honestly now.”

Think about it!

Deceased
(via the Preacher’s PC)
loins” of our minds (1 Pet. 1:13). Here the imagery is clear if we think of a long, flowing garment of the first century hanging down to the ankles. On a journey or during manual labor (e.g., washing the disciples’ feet, cf., John 13), a man might bind his garment up and out of the way of his feet so as not to be tripped or ruined the clothing. The garment was tied instead of loosed. It was “gathered up” instead of flowing. Similarly, the mind must be girded or bound. It must not be loose or free to think anything it wants. The thoughts of the mind are to be harnessed and brought under the control of God’s will. The mind must possess pure and wholesome thoughts that are characterized by justice, truth, honesty, virtue, and goodness (Phil. 4:8).

What a person thinks is exceedingly important. The Bible says as a man thinketh in his heart, so is he (Prov. 23:7). Whatever one harbors in his heart will most likely be acted upon. Jesus taught that adultery comes when we lust; murder, when we hate; and theft, when we covet (Mark 7:22). If, therefore, behavior is the result of our thoughts, it behooves every Christian then to think on good things. Living soberly demands that our thoughts be controlled and influenced by the right kind of information, stimuli, etc. If we read, hear, and see the filth of the world, our minds will be tainted and desensitized to sin and all ungodliness. I realize that on some occasions we cannot escape hearing curse words in the workplace or occasionally witnessing immorality, but we can and must prevent our lives from being inundated by evil. The Christian must not willingly subject his or her mind to immoral behavior or speech. The more evil we hear by means of the television, books, newspapers, evil companions, etc., the less likely we will be to blush at our sins. Like the Jews of the pre-captivity in Jeremiah 6, we, too, can become calloused to sin so as not to be ashamed about unrighteousness. We, too, can fail to see the problems and proclaim, “Peace, peace; when there is no peace” (Jer. 6:14). We behave on the basis of what we think. We “think” on the things we see, hear, and read. It follows then that if we desire to be in control of our minds (i.e., to be sober), we must absorb and embrace that which is good and true. We must live soberly. We must gird our minds.

Works Cited

When God Doesn’t Make Sense
Barry M. Grider

It is plain for all to see why the Bible condemns fornication and drinking alcohol, for any reasonable person knows that such is harmful to one’s health. However, often in matters of religion, if a man cannot rationalize what God teaches him to do, he chooses not to do it. Obviously, Naaman was such an individual, for when told by Elisha the prophet to dip seven times in Jordan that he might be cured of leprosy, he initially refused (2 Kin. 5). Why? Such did not make sense to him. Yet, until he complied with the command of the Lord, he still had leprosy.

In Luke 5:4-6, a good example is given as to what one should do when God does not make sense. “Now when he had left speaking, he said unto Simon, Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught. And Simon answering said unto him, Master, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing: nevertheless at thy word I will let down the net.” Notice, first the request of the Lord: “Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught.” No doubt Peter had become very weary. He needed food for his family, and his very means of livelihood depended upon his catching fish. He did not know what to do. Sometimes we may find ourselves in a predicament and wonder wherein lies the answer. Maybe we feel like giving up. If such pertains to the soul, one should turn to the Lord and listen to him. However, we may not always understand His request. Simon Peter did not.

Second, look at the reasoning of man. Peter said: “Master, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing.” Peter might have thought, “Lord you are a mighty teacher, but you leave fishing to those who are professionals.” Sometimes man chooses to direct his own steps, thinking he is wiser than God. This is displayed when we refuse to study God’s Word and fail to commune with Him in prayer.

Third, see the reward of obedience. Peter said, “Nevertheless at thy word I will let down the net. And when they had this done, they inclosed a great multitude of fishes: and their net brake.” While it may not have seemed to make sense to Peter, Jesus knew what He was doing. Obedience to the Master’s will brought great reward. Likewise, obedience to the Lord brings great reward to you and me.

In Mark 16:16, Jesus says, “He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.” Many refuse to be baptized because to them it does not make sense to be immersed in water. The fact still remains, one will never be cleansed of his sin until he is baptized. Why? Jesus said so. Remember: “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts” (Isa. 55:8-9).

3950 Forest Hill Irene Road
Memphis, TN 38125

David Lipscomb Said...

“For a parent to require a child to wash his face and keep his body clean and not require him to learn and obey the Bible, is to teach him that the body is worth more than a pure heart and a clean and holy spirit.”

“For a parent to require a child to learn spelling and reading and not require him to study the Bible is to teach him, by a forcible object lesson, that it is more important to be qualified to live in this world than to be fitted to live in heaven.”

“There is no evading this simple truth. The parent that so treats and impresses his child is the worst enemy that the child has. He will be made to feel this when he meets that child at the judgment of God. It is better to face the question honestly now.”

Think about it!

Deceased
(via the Preacher’s PC)
Sick
Please remember in your prayers:
Elaine Maxey, Jean Flesher, Marilyn Hall,
Neva Bryant, Ella Hammac, and Nancy Travis.

Reading/Invitation
November 27, 2002
Reading: Ray Williams
Invitation: Ray Foshee
December 4, 2002
Reading: Carl Ayliffe
Invitation: Louis Herrington

Mark These Dates
November 27, 2002–Fourth Wednesday
Video Series for Adult Classes in the auditorium at 7:00 PM.
December 1, 2002–Visitation Group 1
assignment cards handed out.
December 8, 2002–Visitation Group 2
assignment cards handed out.
December 8, 2002–Deacons’ meeting at
5:00 PM, in room 7.
December 15, 2002–Visitation Group 3
assignment cards handed out.
December 15, 2002–Elders/Deacons’
meeting at 5:00 PM, in room 7.
December 25, 2002–Fourth Wednesday
Video Series for Adult Bible Classes at
7:00 PM.

Pantry Item Needed
Canned Meat

Directory
The current directory is posted on the bulletin board. If you have any changes please make them on this copy.

Gird Your Mind
John W. Moore

The English word “sober” is used to translate the Greek word sophronos, and has the meaning of reasonable, sensible, and prudent (Brown 501). These synonyms are, in the Greek language, largely derived from extra-biblical literature and thus do not entirely represent the full biblical concept of sobriety, though they come close. The stem sophronos is found in Mark 5:15; Luke 8:35; Acts 26:25; Rom.12:3; 2 Cor. 5:13; 1 Tim. 2:9, 15; 3:12; 2 Tim. 1:7; Tit. 1:8; 2:2, 4-6, 12; and 1 Pet. 4:7, and expresses the attitudes of sound mind, self-discipline, self-control, sensibility, and rationality. Living soberly, therefore, means that one should have his/her life under control of the mind (Reinecker 654). The desires of the flesh, such as “the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life” (1 John 2:16) are constantly warring on our souls by tempting us to indulge in the flesh. The mind must be in control of the body so as not to fulfill the lust of the flesh (cf., Gal. 5:16f), but the mind must be governed by the Word of God. Paul wrote that “(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ” (2 Cor. 10:4-5). Controlling the mind is essential to living the Christian life, and the mind can only be controlled when it has been trained and exercised by the Word of God.

The Christian must be in control of his/her mind. Peter wrote that we should “gird up the
Sick
Please remember in your prayers: Elaine Maxey, Jean Flesher, Marilyn Hall, Neva Bryant, Ella Hammac, and Nancy Travis.

Reading/Invitation
December 4, 2002
Reading: Carl Ayliffe
Invitation: Louis Herrington
December 11, 2002
Reading: Elward Brantley
Invitation: Ray Pierce

Mark These Dates
December 1, 2002–Visitation Group 1 assignment cards handed out.
December 8, 2002–Visitation Group 2 assignment cards handed out.
December 8, 2002–Deacons’ meeting at 5:00 PM, in room 7.
December 15, 2002–Visitation Group 3 assignment cards handed out.
December 15, 2002–Elders/Deacons’ meeting at 5:00 PM, in room 7.
December 25, 2002–Fourth Wednesday Video Series for Adult Bible Classes.

Pantry Item Needed
Canned Meat

Bellview Lectures
The 28th Annual Bellview Lectures will be held Jun 7-11, 2003. The theme will be Great Old Testament Questions. Make plans now to attend. More information will be published later.

Here Is What You Can Do
Jimmy Ferguson

Congregations grow, (spiritually and numerically), because of a working membership. Do not misunderstand! Although God gives the increase, there must be the planting and watering (1 Cor. 3:6). When the membership works together with God, great things will happen (1 Cor. 3:9).

The body of Christ is made up of different members with different functions or abilities (1 Cor. 12). Each of us should locate the areas of service where we can be useful and then begin to serve.

If you have wondered, “What can I do?” consider the following:

• When it is announced that someone has lost a relative, send them a card expressing your sympathy and let them know that they are in your prayers.
• When we have visitors to our services, make a point to meet them and introduce yourself to them. Show them to the classes. Ask them if they would like to sit with you and invite them to return.
• Get a list of our visitors, and send them a card expressing your appreciation for their visit.
• When someone is baptized, visit them and encourage them.
• Offer to help with teenager activities or with some other activity of the church.
• Invite a non-Christian relative or friend.
to services.

• When a brother or sister is absent from the assembly, call them and find out why? Let them know you missed them and offer to help.

• Send a note to a delinquent member of the church expressing your love and concern. Or, better yet, call them or visit them and offer to help.

• Speak words of encouragement to the elders and let them know you appreciate them and the work they do.

• “Exhort (encourage) one another (Heb. 3:13).

The Invitation Song

Marvin Weir

The gospel is God’s power to save man from his sins (Rom. 1:16). A gospel sermon should never end without inviting folks to do the will of God. There are usually those present that need to become a New Testament Christian. Nothing is more important at that moment than the decision that those outside of Christ will make! It may be that there are members of the church who need to repent of their sins. And, whether public or private, there is nothing more important at that moment than the decision of one to make his life right with God.

The singing of an invitation song encourages and gives people the opportunity to respond to the Lord’s will. During the singing of this song one should:

• Be engaged in fervently singing to please God and to plead for those who need to obey (1 Cor. 14:15; Heb. 2:12; Jam. 5:13; 5:16; 19-20). Each member must do his part when assembling together with the saints. The Lord knows our attitude and will judge us accordingly.

• Be still giving our very best as the service draws to a close! Have we forgotten that we must be concerned with running the entire race and not just three laps out of four (1 Cor. 9:24; Heb. 12:1)? What if we knew the Lord was coming sometime during the singing of the invitation song? A prayer normally brings to a conclusion our Lord’s Day worship to God. There is a beginning of worship and an ending of worship. Let us strive to worship acceptably.

New Bible Classes Beginning

Bible classes for the fall/winter quarters begin Sunday, December 1. Make plans to attend these classes.

**Sunday Schedule (December 2002-February 2003)**

| Young Adults | Great Commission | Bill Cline |
| Adults I | 1 & 2 Timothy, Titus | Jerry Caine |
| Adults II | Church History II | Jim Loy |
| New Converts | Studies In Christian Doctrine And Practical Christian Living | Paul Brantley |

**Wednesday Schedule (December 2002-February 2003)**

| Young Adults | Biblical Morals/Ethics | Michael Hatcher |
| Adults I | Proverbs & Song of Solomon | Jerry Caine |
| Adults II | Ecclesiastes | Bill Crowe |
| New Converts | Studies In Christian Doctrine And Practical Christian Living | Fred Stanciff |
| | | Bill Gallaher |
to services.
• When a brother or sister is absent from the assembly, call them and find out why? Let them know you missed them and offer to help.
• Send a note to a delinquent member of the church expressing your love and con-cern. Or, better yet, call them or visit them and encourage them.
• Speak words of encouragement to the elders and let them know you appreciate them and the work they do.
• “Exhort (encourage) one another (Heb. 3:13).

The Invitation Song

Marvin Weir

The gospel is God’s power to save man from his sins (Rom. 1:16). A gospel sermon should never end without inviting folks to do the will of God. There are usually those present that need to become a New Testament Christian. Nothing is more important at that moment than the decision that those outside of Christ will make! It may be that there are members of the church who need to repent of their sins. And, whether public or private, there is nothing more important at that moment than the decision of one to make his life right with God.

The singing of an invitation song encourages and gives people the opportunity to respond to the Lord’s will. Who would want to detract for a moment from the invitation that has been ex-tended? Who will dare suggest to God that there is something more urgent and more pressing during the time allotted for the invitation song? Who would want to face the judgment knowing that he was indirectly responsible for one not responding to the Lord’s invitation to do so?

Let us now notice some things that should be done during the singing of the invitation song. During the singing of this song one should:
• Be engaged in fervently singing to please God and to plead for those who need to obey (1 Cor. 14:15; Heb. 2:12; Jam. 5:13; 5:16; 19-20). Each member must do his part when as-sembling together with the saints. The Lord knows our attitude and will judge us accordingly.
• Be still giving our very best as the service draws to a close! Have we forgotten that we must be concerned with running the entire race and not just three laps out of four (1 Cor. 9:24; Heb. 12:1)? What if we knew the Lord was coming sometime during the singing of the invitation song?

A prayer normally brings to a conclusion our Lord’s Day worship to God. There is a beginning of worship and an ending of worship. Let us strive to worship acceptably.

New Bible Classes Beginning

Bible classes for the fall/winter quarters begin Sunday, December 1. Make plans to attend these classes.

Sunday Schedule (December 2002-February 2003)

| Young Adults | Great Commission | Bill Cline |
| Adults I | 1 & 2 Timothy, Titus | Jerry Caine |
| Adults II | Church History II | Jim Loy |
| New Converts | Studies In Christian Doctrine And Practical Christian Living | Paul Brantley |

Wednesday Schedule (December 2002-February 2003)

| Young Adults | Biblical Morals/Ethics | Michael Hatcher |
| Adults I | Proverbs & Song of Solomon | Jerry Caine |
| Adults II | Ecclesiastes | Bill Crowe |
| New Converts | Studies In Christian Doctrine And Practical Christian Living | Fred Stancilff |
| | | Bill Gallaher |

5810 Liberty Grove Road; Rowlett, TX 75088
Sick
Please remember in your prayers: Elaine Maxey, Jean Flesher, Marilyn Hall, Neva Bryant, Ella Hammac, and Nancy Travis.

Reading/Invitation
December 4, 2002
Reading: Carl Ayliffe
Invitation: Louis Herrington
December 11, 2002
Reading: Elward Brantley
Invitation: Ray Pierce

Mark These Dates
December 1, 2002–Visitation Group 1 assignment cards handed out.
December 8, 2002–Visitation Group 2 assignment cards handed out.
December 8, 2002–Deacons’ meeting at 5:00 PM, in room 7.
December 15, 2002–Visitation Group 3 assignment cards handed out.
December 15, 2002–Elders/Deacons’ meeting at 5:00 PM, in room 7.
December 25, 2002–Fourth Wednesday Video Series for Adult Bible Classes.

Pantry Item Needed
Canned Meat

Bellview Lectures
The 28th Annual Bellview Lectures will be held Jun 7-11, 2003. The theme will be Great Old Testament Questions. Make plans now to attend. More information will be published later.

Here Is What You Can Do
Jimmy Ferguson

Congregations grow, (spiritually and numerically), because of a working membership. Do not misunderstand! Although God gives the increase, there must be the planting and watering (1 Cor. 3:6). When the membership works together with God, great things will happen (1 Cor. 3:9).

The body of Christ is made up of different members with different functions or abilities (1 Cor. 12). Each of us should locate the areas of service where we can be useful and then begin to serve.

If you have wondered, “What can I do?” consider the following:

• **When it is announced that someone has lost a relative**, send them a card expressing your sympathy and let them know that they are in your prayers.

• **When we have visitors to our services**, make a point to meet them and introduce yourself to them. Show them to the classes. Ask them if they would like to sit with you and invite them to return.

• **Get a list of our visitors**, and send them a card expressing your appreciation for their visit.

• **When someone is baptized**, visit them and encourage them.

• **Offer to help with teenager activities** or with some other activity of the church.

• **Invite a non-Christian relative or friend**
Sick
Please remember in your prayers: Elaine Maxey, Jean Flesher, Marilyn Hall, Neva Bryant, Ella Hammac, Nancy Travis, Marge Williams. Ruby Bailey is scheduled for knee surgery on December 5, and Ruby Bowman.

Restored
Madeline Graves was restored unto Christ on December 1. Please keep her in your prayers and offer encouragement.

Reading/Invitation
December 11, 2002
Reading: Elward Brantley
Invitation: Ray Pierce

December 18, 2002
Reading: Andrew Hatcher
Invitation: Fred Stancliff

Mark These Dates
December 8, 2002–Visitation Group 2 assignment cards handed out.
December 8, 2002–Deacons’ meeting at 5:00 PM, in room 7.
December 15, 2002–Visitation Group 3 assignment cards handed out.
December 15, 2002–Elders/Deacons’ meeting at 5:00 PM, in room 7.
December 25, 2002–Fourth Wednesday Video Series for Adult Bible Classes.

Three Biblical Ways to Tell the Time Christ Was Born

Bill Brandstatter

Much of the religious world recognizes December 25 as the birthday of Christ. Yet, from the Bible we can show evidence that was not the date of His birth.

First, the shepherds were living in the fields (Luke 2:8). The shepherds in Palestine stayed in the fields with their sheep in the summer months. In about late October the sheep were put in a fold till the spring of the year. Therefore, the birth of Christ was not in the winter, but possibly in summer or fall.

Second, a census of the entire Roman Empire was underway. Joseph made the trip with Mary from Nazareth to Bethlehem to be enrolled (Luke 2:4). This was merely a census not a taxation. History records this event. It involved everyone in the Roman Empire. This would not have taken place in the winter. The winter weather would have made matters much more difficult.

Third, Zachariah, John the Baptist’s father was a priest. He was “of the course of Abijah” (Luke 1:5). A “course” was a method of dividing up the priest’s responsibilities based on months of the year. Zachariah’s was to “burn incense” (Luke 1:9). From historical records we know that the time of the course of Abijah was often in the spring of the year. After Zachariah returned home, Elizabeth conceived (Luke 1:24) The angel then announced to Mary that she would conceive. This announcement came in the in the
sixth month of Elizabeth’s pregnancy (Luke 1:26, 36).

If the six months is added onto the time of the year Zachariah served, it can be seen that the birth of Jesus was possibly in the fall of the year. There is no conclusive evidence of the exact time of Christ’s birth. Calendars have changed over the years and we cannot be sure. But, from the evidence the Bible gives we know that Christ was not born in December or in the winter of the year. What we need to remember, though, is that He existed before Bethlehem and still exists long after His crucifixion. What Christ did, He did for us (Heb. 12:2). His birth is important simply because it set in motion the events leading up to His death. We have no authority to remember His birth, but we do His death (1 Cor. 11:24-25). We honor His death every Sunday around the Lord’s table. We should remember what Christ’s death means to us, and not worry about the date of His birth.

There is no conclusive evidence of the exact time of Christ’s birth. Calendars have changed over the years and we cannot be sure. But, from the evidence the Bible gives we know that Christ was not born in December or in the winter of the year. What we need to remember, though, is that He existed before Bethlehem and still exists long after His crucifixion. What Christ did, He did for us (Heb. 12:2). His birth is important simply because it set in motion the events leading up to His death. We have no authority to remember His birth, but we do His death (1 Cor. 11:24-25). We honor His death every Sunday around the Lord’s table. We should remember what Christ’s death means to us, and not worry about the date of His birth.

The Book Was Delivered and He Read
Harrell Davidson

“And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read. And there was ... of the prophet Esaias. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written, The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, To preach the acceptable year of the Lord” (Luke 4:16-19).

This is the account of the first teaching of Christ in Nazareth. He found the place where it was written. It was written literally means “It stands written.” If one looks back at Isaiah 61:1,3, 10-11 he will understand that Jesus knew what His purpose was in coming into the world and what His mission was. He was anointed as a prophet and as a king. The Spirit descending upon Him indicates His kingship. Matthew presents Christ as King. Mark presents Christ as a priest and Luke pictures Christ as Prophet. His work has begun. If you notice carefully you will notice that one phrase is left out of Luke’s record that Isaiah wrote. In Isaiah 61:2 the Bible says, “and the day of vengeance of our God.” For those who reject Christ, the vengeance of God will be waiting for them.

Notice that Jesus got up to read the Scriptures. He did not tell a joke or give some life experience. Some lessons (?) have no Scripture. We ought to learn from Jesus that some lessons are to be taught. This is to be done by all but it is the single solitary work of the preacher. He is to preach the Word.

“He hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted” (Luke 4:18). This verse shows what sin does. Sin breaks hearts. When people think that they can sin and that it really does not make any difference, they ought to read this. Sin is a robber. It cheats us out of the best things in life. Sin brings us into bondage and captures us. The Jews were captured and were in bondage. This is why Jesus came. This is the real meaning of the truth making us free if we know it (cf., John 8:32). What kind of freedom? The bondage of sin!

Sin blinds—recovering sight of the blind. There is nothing more blinding than sin. Jesus came to help people get their sight back. Sin bruises. He came to set at liberty those who were bruised. Sin beats and bruises. He came into the work to undo what sin had done.

Leviticus 25 is the background behind the acceptable year of the Lord. Jubilee was a year of liberty. The man that had lost his land would get it back. There was freedom among the oppressed in the year of Jubilee. Jesus brought liberty. It is interesting that the Lord’s Supper and the beginning of the church is tied to the formula that is prescribed just here. Leviticus 23:15 gives us the formula that they were to follow. Instead of 7 years count 7 Sabbaths. The next day after the 7th Sabbath was the day of Pentecost. This is the day the power came upon the apostles. This is the day that people who obeyed the Gospel began communicating with the Lord in the supper. I am glad that Jesus came and began to speak.

A Semi-Open Letter to the Teachers of My Children

NOTE: The author of the following letter is anonymous, but the words adequately express the appreciation we have for our Bible Class teachers.

Two or three times a week I trust you with my most prized jewels, and those two or three times a week, you live up to that trust and return them to me—though not quite the possible. That, or you are patient and wise enough to see the potential for riches in what others may see as only rough ore.

I know you spend much unnoticed time in preparation to teach my children about Jesus. I have seen the literally hundreds of objects they bring home to remind them ... certain Bible class memorabilia. Much of it has a lot of your TLC, not to mention time and creativity, behind it.

I saw a note one of you wrote to one of my children, challenging her to be the great Christian leader and example you expect her to be. You even promised to pray for my daughter and reminded her that you are always there if she needs to talk. Thank you for the time, the love, the prayers, the expectations and the support you devote to my children. And thank you for being a constant reflection of Jesus. They notice. And when they do, so do I.

Please resist the temptation to feel unappreciated. You are not only appreciated but needed—and not just by my children but by me. And please do not underestimate your influence or your teaching role: on them, or me as a parent. My children echo much of what you teach them, probably more than you think they hear. In fact, they remember some of your stories and illustrations long after they are promoted to another class.

As a Bible class teacher, you give my children Christ and yourself. You cannot give a greater gift. I cannot give you enough thanks.

“The Searcher”; Southaven Church of Christ
sixth month of Elizabeth’s pregnancy (Luke 1:26, 36).

If the six months is added onto the time of the year Zachariah served, it can be seen that the birth of Jesus was possibly in the fall of the year. There is no conclusive evidence of the exact time of Christ’s birth. Calendars have changed over the years and we cannot be sure. But, from the evidence the Bible gives we know that Christ was not born in December or in the winter of the year. What we need to remember, though is that He existed before Bethlehem and still exists long after His crucifixion. What Christ did, He did for us (Heb. 12:2). His birth is important simply because it set in motion the events leading up to His death. We have no authority to remember His birth, but we do His death (1 Cor. 11:24-25). We honor His death every Sunday around the Lord’s table. We should remember what Christ’s death means to us, and not worry about the date of His birth.

The Book Was Delivered and He Read

Harrell Davidson

“And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read. And there was ... of the prophet Esaias. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written, The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach the acceptable year of the Lord” (Luke 4:16-19).

This is the account of the first teaching of Christ in Nazareth. He found the place where it was written. It was written literally means “It stands written.” If one looks back at Isaiah 61:1,3,10-11 he will understand that Jesus knew what His purpose was in ... Mark presents Christ as a priest and Luke pictures Christ as Prophet. His work has begun. Notice that one phrase is left out of Luke’s record that Isaiah wrote. In Isaiah 61:2 the Bible says, “and the day of vengeance of our God.” For those who reject Christ, the vengeance of God will be waiting for them. Notice that Jesus got up to read the Scriptures. He did not tell a joke or give some life experience. Some lessons (?) have no Scripture. We ought to learn from Jesus that ... to be taught. This is to be done by all but it is the single solitary work of the preacher. He is to preach the Word.

“He hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted” (Luke 4:18). This verse shows what sin does. Sin breaks hearts. When people think that they can sin and that it really does not make any difference, they ought to read this. Sin is a robber. It cheats us out of the best things in life. Sin brings us into bondage and captures us. The Jews were captured and were in bondage. This is why Jesus came. This is the real meaning of the truth making us free if we know it (cf., John 8:32). What kind of freedom? The bondage of sin! Sin blinds—recovering sight of the blind. There is nothing more blinding than sin. Jesus came to help people get their sight back. Sin bruises. He came to set at liberty those who were bruised. Sin beats and bruises. He came into the work to undo what sin had done.

Leviticus 25 is the background behind the acceptable year of the Lord. Jubilee was a year of liberty. The man that had lost his land would get it back. There was freedom among the oppressed in the year of Jubilee. Jesus brought liberty. It is interesting that the Lord’s Supper and the beginning of the church is tied to the formula that is prescribed just here. Leviticus 23:15 gives us the formula that they were to follow. Instead of 7 years count 7 Sabbaths. The next day after the 7th Sabbath was the day of Pentecost. This is the day the power came upon the apostles. This is the day that people who obeyed the Gospel begin communing with the Lord in the supper. I am glad that Jesus came and began to speak.

A Semi-Open Letter to the Teachers of My Children

NOTE: The author of the following letter is anonymous, but the words adequately express the appreciation we have for our Bible Class teachers.

Two or three times a week I trust you with my most prized jewels, and those two or three times a week, you live up to that trust and return them to me—though not quite as possible. That, or you are patient and wise enough to see the potential for riches in what others may see as only rough ore.

I know you spend much unnoticed time in preparation to teach my children about Jesus. I have seen the literally hundreds of objects they bring home to remind them ... certain Bible class memorabilia. Much of it has a lot of your TLC, not to mention time and creativity, behind it.

I saw a note one of you wrote to one of my children, challenging her to be the great Christian leader and example you expect her to be. You even promised to pray for my daughter and reminded her that you are always there if she needs to talk. Thank you for the time, the love, the prayers, the expectations and the support you devote to my children. And thank you for being a constant reflection of Jesus. They notice. And when they do, so do I.

Please resist the temptation to feel unappreciated. You are not only appreciated but needed—and not just by my children but by me. And please do not underestimate your influence or your teaching role: on them, or me as a parent. My children echo much of what you teach them, probably more than you think they hear. In fact, they remember some of your stories and illustrations long after they are promoted to another class.

As a Bible class teacher, you give my children Christ and yourself. You cannot give a greater gift. I cannot give you enough thanks.

“The Searcher”; Southaven Church of Christ
Sick
Please remember in your prayers: Elaine Maxey, Jean Flesher, Marilyn Hall, Neva Bryant, Ella Hammac, Nancy Travis, Marge Williams. Rubye Bailey is scheduled for knee surgery on December 5, and Ruby Bowman.

Restored
Madeline Graves was restored unto Christ on December 1. Please keep her in your prayers and offer encouragement.

Reading/Invitation
December 11, 2002
Reading: Elward Brantley
Invitation: Ray Pierce

December 18, 2002
Reading: Andrew Hatcher
Invitation: Fred Stancliff

Mark These Dates
December 8, 2002–Visitation Group 2 assignment cards handed out.
December 8, 2002–Deacons’ meeting at 5:00 PM, in room 7.
December 15, 2002–Visitation Group 3 assignment cards handed out.
December 15, 2002–Elders/Deacons’ meeting at 5:00 PM, in room 7.
December 25, 2002–Fourth Wednesday Video Series for Adult Bible Classes.

January 6, 2003–Visitation Group Get-together at 6:00 PM, in the general purpose building. A covered dish meal will precede the meeting.

Pantry Item Needed
Peanut Butter and Jelly

Three Biblical Ways to Tell the Time Christ Was Born

Bill Brandstatter

Much of the religious world recognizes December 25 as the birthday of Christ. Yet, from the Bible we can show evidence that was not the date of His birth.

First, the shepherds were living in the fields (Luke 2:8). The shepherds in Palestine stayed in the fields with their sheep in the summer months. In about late October the sheep were put in a fold till the spring of the year. Therefore, the birth of Christ was not in the winter, but possibly in summer or fall.

Second, a census of the entire Roman Empire was underway. Joseph made the trip with Mary from Nazareth to Bethlehem to be enrolled (Luke 2:4). This was merely a census not a taxation. History records this event. It involved everyone in the Roman Empire. This would not have taken place in the winter. The winter weather would have made matters much more difficult.

Third, Zachariah, John the Baptist’s father was a priest. He was “of the course of Abijah (Luke 1:5). A “course” was a method of dividing up the priest’s responsibilities based on months of the year. Zachariah’s was to “burn incense” (Luke 1:9). From historical records we know that the time of the course of Abijah was often in the spring of the year. After Zachariah returned home, Elizabeth conceived (Luke 1:24) The angel then announced to Mary that she would conceive. This announcement came in the in the
Sick
Please remember in your prayers: Elaine Maxey, Jean Flesher, Marilyn Hall, Neva Bryant, Ella Hammac, Nancy Travis, Marge Williams, Ruby Bailey, Ruby Bowman, and Breagan Hightower (Terry Hightower’s grandson).

Restored
Carl Ayliffe was restored to Christ on December 4 and Dale Cunningham was restored to Christ on December 8. Please keep them in your prayers and offer encouragement.

Reading/Invitation
December 18, 2002
Reading: Andrew Hatcher
Invitation: Fred Stancliff

December 25, 2002
Reading: Jerry Caine
Invitation: Henry Born

Mark These Dates

Pantry Item Needed
Peanut Butter and Jelly

Put a Nickel in the Drum?—Not!

Bill Brandstatter

Recently in a Wednesday night class The Salvation Army was mentioned. Around this time of the year they are very prominent. Their good will is seen beginning shortly after Thanksgiving and extending to Christmas. Bell ringers are seen outside major department stores. The Salvation Army has other benevolent events going on also. Often we will hear of a toy drive they are conducting. At other times when disaster hits, they are there with help and aid. Certainly no one can fault The Salvation Army for the good they are doing. However, what many do not know is that they are a church. They have a founder. There is a doctrine they teach. As such they are in direct competition with the church of Christ for the souls of many individuals.

The following information may help to shed a little light on The Salvation Army. This information is from a book by Frank Mead entitled Handbook of Denominations. Mr. Mead has this to say about the Salvation Army:

The Salvation Army was founded by William Booth in 1865. Originally known as Christian Union, Booth changed its name to Salvation Army in 1878. It was first organized along Methodistic lines, since Booth was a Methodist. With the name changed in 1878 the whole organization was dominated by its new title. Articles of War (declaration of faith) were drawn up, and soon mission stations became corps, members became soldiers. Booth was designated as “general” and gradually he set up his organization on a military pattern provided a direct line of
authority and a practical system of raining personnel for effective action (230). Mr. Mead goes on to say, within the structure of the Army, converts who desire to become soldiers (members) are required to sign the Articles of War, after which as members they volunteer service. The function of officers, who are commissioned to full-time Salvation Army service, is similar to that of the ministers of other churches. The motivating force of the Salvation Army is the religious faith of its officers and soldiers, and the fundamental doctrines of the organization are stated in the eleven cardinal affirmations of its Foundation Deed of 1878. These statements document the Army’s recognition of the Bible as the only rule of Christian faith and practice; of God as creator and Father of all humankind; the Trinity of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost; soul and society; salvation as God’s remedy for human sin and eternal hope made available through Christ. While the Army has a dual function of church and social agency, its first purpose is the salvation of people “by the power of the holy Spirit combined with the influence of human ingenuity and love.” To the Salvation Army, its social services are merely a means of putting the socially disinherited—the need in both the physical and spiritual realm—into a condition to be physically and spiritually uplifted (231-232).

According then to Mr. Mead The Salvation Army is a church. They do some good. They teach some Bible. They help many in various ways. Many other religious groups, however, do the same. By putting a nickel in their drum during the holiday season, a person is helping a church in direct competition with his own. It would be better to give that extra money to the Lord’s church to help its cause in seeking and saving the lost.

Our Homes Need Christian Husbands

Barry M. Grider

In the home, as in all of life, husbands should follow the example of Christ. Jesus’ love for His bride, the church, is extraordinarily beautiful. Paul writes about this divine relationship in Ephesians 5:21-33. At the same time, he compares the relationship between husband and wife with that of Christ and the church. Three lessons come to mind as we consider the passage.

First, a husband must be willing to leave. “For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh” (Gen. 2:24). This same admonition was given to man at creation, and will continue until the end of time. Often in a wedding ceremony, a minister may call upon us, not only to leave father and mother, but to forsake all others. No relationship, with the exception of God, should supersede the relationship a man has with his wife. Children, friends, or business associates should never be placed above her. Her feelings, desires, and needs should become his own.

Second, a husband must be willing to lead. God has placed headship in the home with the husband. “For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body” (Eph. 5:23). God demands order for the stability of society. Someone must be the final authority in making decisions. Because man is to be the leader in the home, this does not make the woman inferior, any more than Christ is inferior to the Father (1 Cor. 11:3); it just means that the husband is to be the head. How sad today to see so many delinquent husbands and fathers who can neither make proper decisions nor take the spiritual lead in their homes.

Third, a husband must be willing to love. “Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it” (Eph. 5:25). What an amazing love was the love of Jesus! He willingly laid down His life for His bride (Acts 20:38). No less is expected of a husband. To some, love is just a mushy feeling or an inexpressible emotion. However, love is commanded of God. A husband has no option but to love his wife. When a man properly loves his wife, he will go far in winning her praise and admiration and will help provide a place of warmth for his entire family.

Each young man contemplating marriage should consider this divine arrangement through a careful study of God’s Word. If the principles contained therein are followed, he will cause his bride to be a most joyous young lady. In turn, he will find his home to be satisfying, peaceful, and truly a foretaste of heaven above. That has been God’s desire all along.

1 Peter 1:22-23; An Overview

“Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto uneignfed love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently: Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever” (1 Pet. 1:22-23). Since Christians all have the same Parent, they ought to have a mutual love as is true among members of the same physical family. Being born again and purifying the soul by obeying the truth are parallel statements: one is born again when he obeys the gospel (John 3:5; Mark 16:15-16). The 3,000 souls in Acts 2 were born again when they obeyed the gospel (Acts 2:36-41). Fleshly birth is produced by corruptible (subject to death) seed; the spiritual birth is produced by incorruptible see (the Word of God). “For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart” (Heb. 4:12). “For though ye have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet have ye not many fathers: for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel” (1 Cor. 4:15). “Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures” (Jam. 1:18).

Twenty-eighth Annual Bellview Lectures

Great Old Testament Questions

June 7-11, 2003

Make plans now to attend!
Our Homes Need Christian Husbands

Barry M. Grider

In the home, as in all of life, husbands should follow the example of Christ. Jesus’ love for His bride, the church, is extraordinarily beautiful. Paul writes about this divine relationship in Ephesians 5:21-33. At the same time, he compares the relationship between husband and wife with that of Christ and the church. Three lessons come to mind as we consider the passage.

First, a husband must be willing to leave. “For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh” (Gen. 2:24). Genesis 2:24 tells us that marriage was instituted by God at creation. A husband must be willing to leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife. This is a framework for all healthy marriages.

Second, a husband must be willing to lead. God has placed headship in the home with the husband. “For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body” (Eph. 5:23). A husband is the leader in the home. He is the one who makes decisions for the good of the family. God gives him the authority to lead the home.

Third, a husband must be willing to love. “Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it” (Eph. 5:25). This verse teaches a husband to love his wife as Jesus loves the church. This is the same unconditional love that Jesus showed to us. A husband should love his wife unconditionally just as Jesus loves us.

1 Peter 1:22-23; An Overview

“Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently: Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever” (1 Pet. 1:22-23). Since Christians all have the same parent, they ought to have a mutual love as is true among members of the same spiritual family. Being born again and purifying the soul by obeying the truth are parallel statements: one is born again when he obeys the gospel (John 3:5; Mark 16:15-16). The 3,000 souls in Acts 2 were born again when they obeyed the gospel (Acts 2:36-41). Fleshly birth is produced by corruptible (subject to death) seed; the spiritual birth is produced by incorruptible see (the Word of God). “For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart” (Heb. 4:12). “For though ye have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet have ye not many fathers: for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel” (1 Cor. 4:15). “Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures” (Jam. 1:18).

Via “The Chapel Hill Courier

Twenty-eighth Annual Bellview Lectures
Great Old Testament Questions
June 7-11, 2003

Make plans now to attend!
Sick
Please remember in your prayers: Elaine Maxey, Jean Flesher, Marilyn Hall, Neva Bryant, Ella Hammac, Nancy Travis, Marge Williams, Ruby Bailey, Ruby Bowman, and Breagan Hightower (Terry Hightower’s grandson).

Restored
Carl Ayliffe was restored to Christ on December 4 and Dale Cunningham was restored to Christ on December 8. Please keep them in your prayers and offer encouragement.

Reading/Invitation
December 18, 2002
Reading: Andrew Hatcher
Invitation: Fred Stancliff
December 25, 2002
Reading: Jerry Caine
Invitation: Henry Born

Mark These Dates
December 15, 2002—Visitation Group 3 assignment cards handed out.
December 15, 2002—Elders/Deacons’ meeting at 5:00 PM, in room 7.
December 25, 2002—Fourth Wednesday Video Series for Adult Bible Classes. January 6, 2003—Visitation Group Get-together at 6:00 PM, in the general purpose building. A covered dish meal will precede the meeting.

Pantry Item Needed
Peanut Butter and Jelly

Put a Nickel in the Drum?—Not!

Bill Brandstatter

Recently in a Wednesday night class The Salvation Army was mentioned. Around this time of the year they are very prominent. Their good will is seen beginning shortly after Thanksgiving and extending to Christmas. Bell ringers are seen outside major department stores. The Salvation Army has other benevolent events going on also. Often we will hear of a toy drive they are conducting. At other times when disaster hits, they are there with help and aid. Certainly no one can fault The Salvation Army for the good they are doing. However, what many do not know is that they are a church. They have a founder. There is a doctrine they teach. As such they are in direct competition with the church of Christ for the souls of many individuals.

The following information may help to shed a little light on The Salvation Army. This information is from a book by Frank Mead entitled *Handbook of Denominations*. Mr. Mead has this to say about The Salvation Army:

The Salvation Army was founded by William Booth in 1865. Originally known as Christian Union, Booth changed its name to Salvation Army in 1878. It was first organized along Methodist lines, since Booth was a Methodist. With the name changed in 1878 the whole organization was dominated by its new title. Articles of War (declaration of faith) were drawn up, and soon mission stations became corps, members became soldiers. Booth was designated as “general” and gradually he set up his organization on a military pattern provided a direct line of
Sick

Please remember in your prayers:
Elaine Maxey, Jean Flesher, Marilyn Hall,
Neva Bryant, Ella Hammac, Nancy Travis,
Marge Williams, Ruby Bailey, Ruby
Bowman, and Breegan Hightower (Terry
Hightower’s grandson).

Sympathy

Our deepest sympathy is extended to
the family of Stanley Crews, who passed
from this life on December 11, 2002.
Brother Crews was a minister for the
Bellview Church of Christ from 1964-
1968. Please keep Pauline and her family
in your prayers.

Reading/Invitation

December 25, 2002
Reading: Jerry Caine
Invitation: Henry Born
January 1, 2003
Reading: Jeremy Caine
Invitation: Paul Brantley

Mark These Dates

December 25, 2002—Fourth Wednesday
Video Series for Adult Bible Classes.
January 5, 2003—Visititation Group 1
assignment cards handed out.
January 6, 2003—Visititation Group Get-
together at 6:00 PM, in the general
purpose building. A covered-dish meal
will precede the meeting.
January 12, 2003—Visititation Group 2
assignment cards handed out.

Pantry Item Needed
Peanut Butter and Jelly

Is the Church a Denomination?

Tom Wacaster

When we speak of the “Lord’s church” we are
referring to the church we read about in the New
Testament. Consequently, when we refer to the
“church of God” (1 Cor. 1:2), or the “church of
Christ” (Rom. 16:16), we are referring to those
who have been saved and simultaneously added
to the church (Acts 2:47). The “church of Christ”
is the whole body of the saved, nothing more and
nothing less. It is impossible, therefore, for the
“church of Christ” that we read about in the New
Testament to be divided. Churches in the first
century believed the same thing, obeyed the same
thing, were added to the same thing, and
continued steadfastly in the same thing.

We must try to understand the mind-set of the
liberal who would suggest that there are
Christians “other than” those in the church of
Christ. He perceives of the “church of Christ” as
simply a “part of” the larger whole. Therein he
makes his mistake.

There are two things that beg consideration.
First, if it is the case that a person can be saved
outside the Lord’s church, i.e. outside the
“church of Christ,” then it is the case that the
church of Christ is a denomination. Try to
imagine in your mind a large circle consisting of
all the saved. Now, if there are some “saved”
outside the “church of Christ,” then it necessarily
implies that the “church of Christ” is a smaller
segment within that larger circle. This is true
because of the law of the excluded middle. Either
the “church of Christ” contains all the saved, or
the “church of Christ” does not contain all the
saved. These are the only two possibilities. If it
Anatomy of an Evangelistic Church

Jerry L. Martin

MINDS that are like Christ’s. “Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made obedient unto death, even the death of the cross” (Phi. 2:5-8; cf., 2:1-4; Mat. 20:28).

HEARTS filled with compassion for the lost. “Brethren, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved” (Rom. 10:1; cf., John 3:16-17; Luke 19:10; 1 Tim. 2:4; 2 Pet. 3:9).

EARS that are attuned to the instructions of God and the cries of the lost. “And a vision appeared to Paul in the night; There stood a man of Macedonia, and prayed him, ... assuredly gathering that the Lord had called us for to preach the gospel unto them” (Acts 16:9-10; cf., Rom. 10:9-17).

TONGUES that speak God’s word with boldness. “And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word” (Acts 4:29; cf., Acts 20:20, 26-27; Mat. 28:18-20; 1 Pet. 3:15; 4:11; 2 Tim. 2:2).

FEET that are busy taking the gospel of peace to a world lost in sin. “And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest” (John 4:35; cf., Mat. 9:36-38).

FEET that are outstretched to those in need. “As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men” (Gal. 6:10; cf., Acts 2:44-47; 4:32-37).

Are We Robbing God?

Al Brown

Jehovah charged that Israel offered Him the left-overs: “Ye have brought that which was taken by violence, and the lame, and the sick; thus ye bring the offering: should I accept this at your hand? saith Jehovah. But cursed be the deceiver, who hath in his flock a male, and voweth, and sacrificeth unto the Lord a blemished thing” (Mal. 1:13-14). Later, God asked: “Will a man rob God? yet ye rob me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. Ye are cursed with the curse; for ye rob me, even this whole nation” (Mal. 3:8-9).

We think this was reprehensible—and it was, but do not some of us do the same thing? It takes a lot of money and time to do Christmas up right. Gifts, food, special snacks, decorations, and cards must be bought, and it takes time to decorate, prepare the food and snacks, and to get the cards in the mail. Usually, we have more expenses than we have money. Alas! What shall we do? How can we find the money and the time? Christmas just will not be Christmas if I do not measure up to what people expect of me.

Suddenly, we see a way out. We will get more time by forsaking the services of the church, and we will use for Christmas what we normally give to God. Have we robbed God—of our time, energy, and money? Do you think God is pleased? It does not take an Einstein to figure it out.

Ten Great Ideas (And They Are All Mine)

1. My idea of visitation—folks come to see me.
2. My idea of sympathy—everyone suffers with me.
3. My idea of meekness—everyone yielding to me.
4. My idea of a wise man—the man who listens to and agrees with me.
5. My idea of unity—everyone agreeing with me.
6. My idea of cooperation—everyone working to help me.
7. My idea of a good sermon—one that applies to everyone but me.
8. My idea of a sinner—the person I dislike.
9. My idea of good attendance to worship and Bible study—showing up when I feel good.
10. My idea of personal evangelism—that is what everyone else, especially the preachers and elders, need to do.

As a matter of fact, I should have written the Bible—I would have done a great job.

Author Unknown
John 4:35; cf., Mat. 9:36-38.  
EARS that are attuned to the instructions of God and the cries of the lost. “And a vision appeared to Paul in the night; There stood a man of Macedonia, and prayed him, ... assuredly gathering that the Lord had called us for to preach the gospel unto them” (Acts 16:9-10; cf., Rom. 10:9-17).  
TONGUES that speak God’s word with boldness. “And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word” (Acts 4:29; cf., Acts 20:20, 26-27; Mat. 28:18-20; 1 Pet. 3:15; 4:11; 2 Tim. 2:2).  
FEET that are busy taking the gospel of peace to a world lost in sin. “And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How? (Rom. 10:14-15; cf., Mark 16:15-16; Acts 8:1-4)!  
HANDS that are outstretched to those in need. “As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith” (Gal. 6:10; cf., Acts 2:44-47; 4:32-37).

Are We Robbing God?  
Al Brown

Jehovah charged that Israel offered Him the left-overs: “Ye have brought that which was taken by violence, and the lame, and the sick; thus ye bring the offering: should I accept this at your hand? saith Jehovah. But cursed be the deceiver, who hath in his flock a male, and voweth, and sacrificeth unto the Lord a blemished thing” (Mal. 1:13-14). Later, God asked: “Will a man rob God? yet ye rob me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. Ye are cursed with the curse; for ye rob me, even this whole nation” (Mal. 3:8-9).  
We think this was reprehensible—and it was, but do not some of us do the same thing? It takes a lot of money and time to do Christmas up right. Gifts, food, special snacks, decorations, and cards must be bought, and it takes time to decorate, prepare the food and snacks, and to get the cards in the mail. Usually, we have more expenses than we have money. Alas! What shall we do? How can we find the money and the time? Christmas just will not be Christmas if I do not measure up to what people expect of me.  
Suddenly, we see a way out. We will get more time by forsaking the services of the church, and we will use for Christmas what we normally give to God. Thus, we give the left-overs of our time, energy, and money to that One who died for us, and usually we have nothing left over. Well, too bad. I did not want to do it, but I just had to. Do we love our kinfolks more than we do God. Have we robbed God—of our time, energy, and money? Do you think God is pleased? It does not take an Einstein to figure it out.  
Deceased

Ten Great Ideas  
(And They Are All Mine)

1. My idea of visitation—folks come to see me.  
2. My idea of sympathy—everyone suffers with me.  
3. My idea of meekness—everyone yielding to me.  
4. My idea of a wise man—the man who listens to and agrees with me.  
5. My idea of unity—everyone agreeing with me.  
6. My idea of cooperation—everyone working to help me.  
7. My idea of a good sermon—one that applies to everyone but me.  
8. My idea of a sinner—the person I dislike.  
9. My idea of good attendance to worship and Bible study—showing up when I feel good.  
10. My idea of personal evangelism—that is what everyone else, especially the preachers and elders, need to do.  
As a matter of fact, I should have written the Bible—I would have done a great job.

Author Unknown
Sick
Please remember in your prayers: Elaine Maxey, Jean Flesher, Marilyn Hall, Neva Bryant, Ella Hammac, Nancy Travis, Marge Williams, Ruby Bailey, Ruby Bowman, and Breagan Hightower (Terry Hightower’s grandson).

Sympathy
Our deepest sympathy is extended to the family of Stanley Crews, who passed from this life on December 11, 2002. Brother Crews was a minister for the Bellview Church of Christ from 1964-1968. Please keep Pauline and her family in your prayers.

Reading/Invitation
December 25, 2002
Reading: Jerry Caine
Invitation: Henry Born
January 1, 2003
Reading: Jeremy Caine
Invitation: Paul Brantley

Mark These Dates
December 25, 2002—Fourth Wednesday Video Series for Adult Bible Classes.
January 5, 2003—Visitation Group 1 assignment cards handed out.
January 6, 2003—Visitation Group Get-together at 6:00 PM, in the general purpose building. A covered-dish meal will precede the meeting.
January 12, 2003—Visitation Group 2 assignment cards handed out.

Pantry Item Needed
Peanut Butter and Jelly

Is the Church a Denomination?
Tom Wacaster

When we speak of the “Lord’s church” we are referring to the church we read about in the New Testament. Consequently, when we refer to the “church of God” (1 Cor. 1:2), or the “church of Christ” (Rom. 16:16), we are referring to those who have been saved and simultaneously added to the church (Acts 2:47). The “church of Christ” is the whole body of the saved, nothing more and nothing less. It is impossible, therefore, for the “church of Christ” that we read about in the New Testament to be divided. Churches in the first century believed the same thing, obeyed the same thing, were added to the same thing, and continued steadfastly in the same thing.

We must try to understand the mind-set of the liberal who would suggest that there are Christians “other than” those in the church of Christ. He perceives of the “church of Christ” as simply a “part of” the larger whole. Therein he makes his mistake.

There are two things that beg consideration. First, if it is the case that a person can be saved outside the Lord’s church, i.e. outside the “church of Christ,” then it is the case that the church of Christ is a denomination. Try to imagine in your mind a large circle consisting of all the saved. Now, if there are some “saved” outside the “church of Christ,” then it necessarily implies that the “church of Christ” is a smaller segment within that larger circle. This is true because of the law of the excluded middle. Either the “church of Christ” contains all the saved, or the “church of Christ” does not contain all the saved. These are the only two possibilities. If it
Sick
Please remember in your prayers: Elaine Maxey, Jean Flesher, Marilyn Hall, Neva Bryant, Ella Hammac, Nancy Travis, Marge Williams, Ruby Bailey, and Ruby Bowman.

Reading/Invitation
January 1, 2003
Reading: Jeremy Caine
Invitation: Paul Brantley

January 8, 2003
Reading: Bill Gallaher
Invitation: Bill Busch

Mark These Dates
January 5, 2003–Visitation Group 1 assignment cards handed out.
January 6, 2003–Visitation Group Get-together at 6:00 PM, in the general purpose building. A covered-dish meal will precede the meeting.
January 12, 2003–Visitation Group 2 assignment cards handed out.
January 12, 2003–Deacons’ meeting at 5:00 PM, in room 7.
January 19, 2003–Elders/Deacons’ meeting at 5:00 PM, in room 7.
January 22, 2003–Fourth Wednesday Video Series for Adult Bible Classes.
January 29, 2003–Fifth Wednesday Singing at 7:00 PM.

Pantry Item Needed
Peanut Butter and Jelly

The Kind of Preaching Needed Today
Andrew M. Connally

In his book, *The Heart Of The New Testament (Vol. II)*, I. Hester depicts the preaching of John the Baptist by saying:

What must have been the reactions of the multitudes as they heard this fiery prophet cry out to the scribes and priests of Jerusalem, ‘You off-spring of vipers, who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?’ It was plain to see that a man as well as a prophet had appeared in Israel, one who stood unabashed before those in high stations, who understood the weaknesses of the men of his day, and who had the courage to lay them bare. A new era had dawned, a time of pulsing reality instead of dry rabbinism or vague apocalypticism. John struck the moral nerve and it twitched.

Men today need boldly to oppose the hedonistic philosophy of our times. We need to challenge the axioms and lives of our brethren and the world. We need to use the Word of God to comfort the afflicted and to afflict the comfortable!

So much of the clap-trap coming from pulpits is nothing more than warmed over pablum and it is nauseating to adults! We need “strong meat” to be men.
Like John, our preaching needs to arouse the people. “Ye offspring of vipers, who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?” (Luke 3:7). We need to get a response from our audiences. They may react in anger or with tears—so be it! Either way, the job is getting done. Good hearts will repent, evil ones will harden and the line is drawn. Men will search their consciences and obey or disobey, but they will have confronted God in their lives and that is what preaching is all about.

We need to expose error. If truth is not polemic, then half its power is gone. A lot of men say, “That’s just not my way”; well, it was the way of John, the Prophets, and the Lord! What greater preaching has ever been done than this? A lot of preachers are afraid of their elders, members, wives, and children, and, therefore, they refuse to fight the error they know exists in their own congregations, deceiving themselves and thereby deceiving others and all go tripping into hell together. Shake ‘em up, wake ‘em up, move ‘em out, so God’s will and way can be clear in an age of foggy, dim, and unclear thoughts, doctrines, and ideals. Christianity is not myopic, mysterious mysticism. It is plain, clear, bold, aggressive, daring, and logical. And may the Devil take those who teach otherwise, for they misrepresent the truth. No one denies or would overlook the “truth spoken in love,” but this demands we speak the truth, all the truth, and only the truth, so help us God! It emphatically does not teach the pseudo-unity in diversity claptrap of our day or the insipid indefiniteness so often heard.

Time-servers, crowd-pleasers, actors, P.R. men, and pep-rally enthusiasts are not Prophets or Preachers. They are what their names imply—and they are hirelings! But ... them, their time maybe shortened and they must fulfill their ministry, accomplish their work and finish their course.

Jesus’ evaluation of John was: “Of men born of women, none was greater” than John! What a glorious tribute to a great preacher. We can ask for nothing more than to be found numbered among such great men.

May God help us to be His preachers of the hour.

Deceased

Giving, as Taught in the Bible

Johnie Scaggs, Jr.

Giving has always been a subject which many have misunderstood. Today, in our materialistic world we need desperately to know what the Bible says about giving. The Bible speaks more about giving than it does about the Lord’s supper, faith, grace, and even the organization of the church. Even though many do not understand what the Bible says about giving, it is not a reflection on God or His Word, but rather a reflection on our study of this all important subject. The Bible is very clear as to what God desires concerning our giving. Hence, we need to study what the Bible says.

Giving as Taught in the Old Testament

In the Old Testament, God’s people were commanded to give a tithe (i.e., a tenth). There is a lot of speculation as to when tithing began, but in all probability it most likely began with Adam. If not then what was God’s reason for punishing Cain? It had to do with his attitude in giving. But whenever tithing began it is certain that it did not begin with the Jewish age, for we find that Abraham and Jacob give tithes (Gen. 14:20; 28:22).

During the Jewish age, there were three different tithes which they were commanded to give. The first was a tithe given to the Levites (Lev. 27:30-33). The second tithe was the festival tithe (Deu. 14:22-23). And the third tithe was known as the poor tithe (Deu. 14:28-29). Thus, the Jews gave twenty-three and one third percent. Also, it should be noted that these three tithes did not include their free will offerings.

Giving as Taught in the New Testament

In the New Testament we learn that God has not commanded Christians to give a tithe as it was given in the Old Testament. However, the Hebrews writer speaks about the fact that we live under a better covenant. Since we live under a better covenant should it not stand to reason that we should give better than they did who lived under an inferior covenant?

We are taught that “Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store” (1 Cor. 16:2). Within this text we learn four things: (1) We are told when to give: “On the first day of the week.” (2) We are also told who is to give: “Let each one of you lay by him in store.” This simply means that each person has an obligation to give as the Lord has blessed him. If two people in the same family have an income, then each might give a proportion of his/her income. (3) There is a definite proportion: “As God has prospered him.” Many people pay all of their bills, and do this or that with their check and then give what is left to God. However, God must come first in our budget. God demands the first and best of everything. (4) There is also a reason: “That there be no gatherings when I come.” The reason is so that the funds will be there when needed.

The New Testament also says that we are to give willingly (2 Cor. 8:3-12). We are told to give cheerfully: “For God loveth a cheerful giver” (1 Cor. 9:7). Furthermore, every Christian is to give bountifully: “and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully” (1 Cor. 9:6).

E. A. Hungerford said, “It is not altogether unlikely that a wrong attitude toward money stands between more people and their right relationship to God than any one thing.” Let us learn to give as God would have us to give.

9353 Salem Road
Waynesville, MO 65583

Colossians 3:1-7

“If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory. Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry: For which things’ sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience: In the which ye also walked some time, when ye lived in them.”

Deceased
Like John, our preaching needs to arouse the people. “Ye offspring of vipers, who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?” (Luke 3:7). We need to get a response from our audiences. They may react in anger or with tears—so be it! Either way, the job is getting done. Good hearts will repent, evil ones will harden and the line is drawn. Men will search their consciences and obey or disobey, but they will have confronted God in their lives and that is what preaching is all about.

We need to expose error. If truth is not polemic, then half its power is gone. A lot of men say, “That’s just not my way”; well, it was the way of John, the Prophets, and the Lord! What greater preaching has ever been done than this? A lot of preachers are afraid of their elders, members, wives, and children, and, therefore, they refuse to fight the error they know exists in their own congregations, deceiving themselves and thereby deceiving others and all go tripping into hell together. Shake ‘em up, wake ‘em up, move ‘em out, so God’s will and way can be clear in an age of foggy, dim, and unclear thoughts, doctrines, and ideals. Christianity is not myopic, mysterious mysticism. It is plain, clear, bold, aggressive, daring, and logical. And may the Devil take those who teach otherwise, for they misrepresent the truth. No one denies or would overlook the “truth spoken in love,” but this demands we speak the truth, all the truth, and only the truth, so help us God! It emphatically does not teach the pseudo-unity in diversity clap-trap of our day or the insipid indefiniteness so often heard.

Time-servers, crowd-pleasers, actors, P.R. men, and pep-rally enthusiasts are not Prophets or Preachers. They are what their names imply—and they are hirelings! But God’s men touch the heart, prick the conscience, step on toes, “root up and destroy” every evil, error, and unhurt they confront. They are true to the book and in a hurry! Their time is limited and they have a job to do that they can never get done and they know it. They must strengthen and build as strongly and as fast as humanly possible, for their part in the great drama of life will soon be over. Like John, and so many before them, their time may be shortened and they must fulfill their ministry, accomplish their work and finish their course.

Jesus’ evaluation of John was: “Of men born of women, none was greater” than John! What a glorious tribute to a great preacher. We can ask for nothing more than to be found numbered among such great men.

May God help us to be His preachers of the hour.

Deceased

Giving, as Taught in the Bible

Johnie Scaggs, Jr.

Giving has always been a subject which many have misunderstood. Today, in our materialistic world we need desperately to know what the Bible says about giving. The Bible speaks more about giving than it does about the Lord’s supper, faith, grace, and even the organization of the church. Even though many do not understand what the Bible says about giving, it is not a reflection on God or His Word, but rather a reflection on our study of this all important subject. The Bible is very clear as to what God desires concerning our giving. Hence, we need to study what the Bible says.

Giving as Taught in the Old Testament

In the Old Testament, God’s people were commanded to give a tithe (i.e., a tenth). There is a lot of speculation as to when tithing began, but in all probability it most likely began with Adam. If not then what was God’s reason for punishing Cain? It had to do with his attitude in giving. But whenever tithing began it is certain that it did not begin with the Jewish age, for we find that Abraham and Jacob give tithes (Gen. 14:20; 28:22).

During the Jewish age, there were three different tithes which they were commanded to give. The first was a tithe given to the Levites (Lev. 27:30-33). The second tithe was the festival tithe (Deut. 14:22-23). And the third tithe was known as the poor tithe (Deut. 14:28-29). Thus, the Jews gave twenty-three and one third percent. Also, it should be noted that these three tithes did not include their free will offerings.

Giving as Taught in the New Testament

In the New Testament we learn that God has not commanded Christians to give a tithe as it was given in the Old Testament. However, the Hebrews writer speaks about the fact that we live under a better covenant. Since we live under a better covenant should it not stand to reason that we should give better than they did who lived under an inferior covenant?

We are taught that “Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store” (1 Cor. 16:2). Within this text we learn four things: (1) We are told when to give: “On the first day of the week.” (2) We are also told who is to give: “Let each one of you lay by him in store.” This simply means that each person has an obligation to give as the Lord has blessed him. If two people in the same family have an income, then each might give a proportion of his/her income. (3) There is a definite proportion: “As God has prospered him.” Many people pay all of their bills, and do this or that with their check and then give what is left to God. However, God must come first in our budget. God demands the first and best of everything. (4) There is also a reason: “That there be no gatherings when I come.” The reason is so that the funds will be there when needed.

The New Testament also says that we are to give willingly (2 Cor. 8:3-12). We are told to give cheerfully: “For God loveth a cheerful giver” (1 Cor. 9:7). Furthermore, every Christian is to give bountifully: “and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully” (1 Cor. 9:6).

E. A. Hungerford said, “It is not altogether unlikely that a wrong attitude toward money stands between more people and their right relationship to God than any one thing.” Let us learn to give as God would have us to give.

9355 Salem Road
Waynesville, MO 65583

Colossians 3:1-7

“If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory. Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry: For which things’ sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience: In the which ye also walked some time, when ye lived in them.”
Sick
Please remember in your prayers: Elaine Maxey, Jean Flesher, Marilyn Hall, Neva Bryant, Ella Hammac, Nancy Travis, Marge Williams, Rubye Bailey, and Ruby Bowman.

Reading/Invitation
January 1, 2003
Reading: Jeremy Caine
Invitation: Paul Brantley

January 8, 2003
Reading: Bill Gallaher
Invitation: Bill Busch

Mark These Dates
January 5, 2003–Visitation Group 1 assignment cards handed out.
January 6, 2003–Visitation Group Get-together at 6:00 PM, in the general purpose building. A covered-dish meal will precede the meeting.
January 12, 2003–Visitation Group 2 assignment cards handed out.
January 12, 2003–Deacons’ meeting at 5:00 PM, in room 7.
January 19, 2003–Elders/Deacons’ meeting at 5:00 PM, in room 7.
January 22, 2003–Fourth Wednesday Video Series for Adult Bible Classes.
January 29, 2003–Fifth Wednesday Singing at 7:00 PM.

Pantry Item Needed
Peanut Butter and Jelly

The Kind of Preaching Needed Today
Andrew M. Connally

In his book, The Heart Of The New Testament (Vol. II), I. Hester depicts the preaching of John the Baptist by saying:

What must have been the reactions of the multitudes as they heard this fiery prophet cry out to the scribes and priests of Jerusalem, ‘You off-spring of vipers, who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?’ It was plain to see that a man as well as a prophet had appeared in Israel, one who stood unabashed before those in high stations, who understood the weaknesses of the men of his day, and who had the courage to lay them bare. A new era had dawned, a time of pulsing reality instead of dry rabbinism or vague apocalypticism. John struck the moral nerve and it twitched.

Yes, John was God’s kind of preacher! Like the prophets of old, his message was pointed and powerful. He preached on sin and righteousness, judgment and repentance, forgiveness and conviction. He plucked the strings of the human heart and it twitched!

Men today need boldly to oppose the hedonistic philosophy of our times. We need to challenge the axioms and lives of our brethren and the world. We need to use the Word of God to comfort the afflicted and to afflict the comfortable!

So much of the clap-trap coming from pulpits is nothing more than warmed over pablum and it is nauseating to adults! We need “strong meat” to be men.
Sick
Please remember in your prayers: Elaine Maxey, Jean Flesher, Marilyn Hall, Neva Bryant, Ella Hammac, Nancy Travis, Marge Williams, Ruby Bailey, and Ruby Bowman

Reading/Invitation
January 8, 2003
Reading: Bill Gallaher
Invitation: Bill Busch

January 15, 2003
Reading: Andrew Hatcher
Invitation: Bill Cline

Mark These Dates
January 5, 2003–Visitation Group 1 assignment cards handed out.
January 6, 2003–Visitation Group 1 Get-together at 6:00 PM, in the general purpose building. A covered-dish meal will precede the meeting.
January 12, 2003–Visitation Group 2 assignment cards handed out.
January 12, 2003–Deacons’ meeting at 5:00 PM, in room 7.
January 19, 2003–Elders/Deacons’ meeting at 5:00 PM, in room 7.
January 22, 2003–Fourth Wednesday Video Series for Adult Bible Classes.
January 29, 2003–Fifth Wednesday Singing at 7:00 PM.

Pantry Item Needed
Peanut Butter and Jelly
Why Is It?

Jerry Joseph

Why is it, that we faithfully attend ball games, business related meetings, social gatherings, club meetings, but are not faithful in attending all the services including Sunday and Wednesday evening? (Heb. 10:24-46; Acts 2:42)

Why is it, when it comes to politics, we do not mind letting others know what we are politically, but then are afraid and embarrassed to let others know that we are Christians, members of the church of Christ? (1 Pet. 4:16)

The prophet of old wrote the following by inspiration: “There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are ways of death” (Pro. 14:12). But many might ask the question: “How can we know what is right?” For an answer all we have to do is turn to Hebrews 5:14: “But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.” Here the apostle is saying that some were not able to tell the difference between what is good and what is evil because they have not studied God’s Word.

Some today say they can see no wrong in certain things. However, this does not mean the harm is not there! It may be as the writer of Hebrews wrote, they cannot discern good and evil! Some want a specific statement from the Bible naming the sin in question before they think it sinful. But, consider the fact that the world could not hold the book that listed every sin man has committed and can commit. On the other hand, the Bible does teach us how to discern both good and evil.” The following are some rules which will help any Christian discern good from evil.

1. Whatever weakens my Christian influence is sinful: “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven” (Mat. 5:16).

2. Whatever hinders me from performing my Christian duty is sinful: “No man that warteth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier” (2 Tim. 2:4).

3. Whatever places upon me an unequal yoke is sinful: “Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?... Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you” (2 Cor. 6:14-17).

4. Whatever corrupts my body is sinful: “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service” (Rom. 12:1).

5. Whatever corrupts my heart is sinful: “Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God” (Mat. 5:8). Remember, the requirements of the Gospel are not there for the purpose of making the Christian life hard and difficult, but to help us prepare for eternal life! (Adapted from an article by brother John R. Vaughn, published in The West Side Epistle, Salem, VA.)
Why Is It?

Jerry Joseph

Why is it, that we find time to read the newspaper, magazines, etc., but cannot find the time to read, study, and meditate upon God’s Word? (1 Tim. 4:13; 2 Tim. 2:15; Psa. 1:1-3)

Why is it, that we faithfully attend ball games, business related meetings, social gatherings, club meetings, but are not faithful in attending all the services including Sunday and Wednesday evening? (Heb. 10:24-46; Acts 2:42)

Why is it, when it comes to politics, we do not mind letting others know what we are politically, but then are afraid and embarrassed to let others know that we are Christians, members of the church of Christ? (1 Pet. 4:16)

Why is it, we are so concerned about the physical things of this world, and we neglect spiritual things? (Mat. 6:33; Col. 3:1-3; 1 John 2:15-17)

Why is it, we are so concerned about whether or not animals are being mistreated, but are not concerned when unborn babies are being killed every day? (Rom. 12:9-10; 13:9-10; Gal. 5:19-21)

Why is it, we can sit at a ball game or in front of the TV for two to three hours and not even nod, but the moment we sit down in our place in the worship services, we are gone? (John 4:24; Psa. 122:1)

Why is it, that we as parents will make sure that our children will be in school every day possible, but then we are not so concerned about their attendance in Bible class? (Eph. 6:1-4)

Why is it wrong to have God and the Bible in our schools, but right to have God and the Bible in our prisons? You can pass out Bibles in prison but not in school. Does that make sense? Is there any wonder why there is so much lawlessness, disrespect, and irreverence in our world today?"
Sick
Please remember in your prayers:
Elaine Maxey, Jean Flesher, Marilyn Hall,
Neva Bryant, Ella Hammac, Nancy Travis,
Marge Williams, Ruby Bailey, and Ruby
Bowman

Reading/Invitation
January 8, 2003
Reading: Bill Gallaher
Invitation: Bill Busch
January 15, 2003
Reading: Andrew Hatcher
Invitation: Bill Cline

Mark These Dates
January 5, 2003–Visitation Group 1
assignment cards handed out.
January 6, 2003–Visitation Group Get-
together at 6:00 PM, in the general
purpose building. A covered-dish meal
will precede the meeting.
January 12, 2003–Visitation Group 2
assignment cards handed out.
January 12, 2003–Deacons’ meeting at
5:00 PM, in room 7.
January 19, 2003–Visitation Group 3
assignment cards handed out.
January 19, 2003–Elders/Deacons’
meeting at 5:00 PM, in room 7.
January 22, 2003–Fourth Wednesday
Video Series for Adult Bible Classes.
January 29, 2003–Fifth Wednesday
Singing at 7:00 PM.

Pantry Item Needed
Peanut Butter and Jelly

Our Mission Is Missions
Allen Webster

Anyone who knows much about the Bible
would agree that the mission of the local church
is to save souls. Jesus’ mission was to seek and
save the lost (Luke 19:10), and His body on earth
today is to do the same thing. We have under-
stood that basic truth since we were babes in
spiritual diapers. But what does that translate too
in the local church and the individual Christian
life?

We tend to think of evangelism in terms of
statistics, entries on work programs, and financial
reports. It is something some semi-strange mandoes in some exotic
... slum. Often, we are, at best, removed from the forgetful
of evangelism, and, at worst, disinterested and
jealous of it.

We are generally mission-minded, but, it is
fair to say, not to the extent that shows a deep-
seated sacrificial willingness to see every
creature taught (Mark 16:15). Most churches
have at least one missionary on their program of
work, and most members are content to give a
hundred a month to his work, though they do not
get excited about what he is doing, or really
know much about it. (Quick, what are the names of
the missionaries you help support? In what
countries do they serve? How many children do
they have? Is it a successful work? When was the
last time you specifically prayed for him, his
family, and the lost among whom he works?). If
we have trouble answering such questions, it
probably indicates we are not as involved in this
part of the church’s work as we should be.

Churches, like people, need to analyze pri-