



BEACON

A Publication of Bellview Church of Christ
4850 Sauffley Field Road; Pensacola, FL 32526
(850) 455-7595

Internet Web Page: <http://www.bellviewcoc.com>
E-mail: bellviewcoc@gmail.com

January

April

July

October

February

May

August

November

March

June

September

December



BEACON

Vol. XLI / No. 1

January 2, 2012

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Minister: Michael Hatcher

Deacons: Henry Born, Elward Brantley,
Bill Busch, Bill Crowe, Jim Loy

Sunday Bible Classes for all ages — 9:00 a.m.

Sunday Worship Services — 10:00 a.m., 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday Bible Classes for all ages — 7:00 p.m.

In the World, but Not of the World

(Part 1)

Lester Kamp

According to an old fable, three peas lived in a summer garden safely within the protection of a green pod. Their world was, as far as they knew, cozy and comfortable. Suddenly during a late summer day the pod split open, and the peas found themselves, not in their previously comfortable world of green, but now in a frightening brown world.

Their responses were immediate. One pea crawled back into the pod hoping to regain the safety and comfort of the past. The second pea turned brown so it would be exactly like the new world in which it now found itself. The third pea, however, decided that what the brown world needed was a green pea, so it resolved to be the best green pea possible in that brown world.

This fable illustrates well the possible reactions of Christians to the world of sin in

which we live. Bear in mind that Christians have always lived in a world darkened by sin. Recall Paul's instructions to the Christians at Philippi:

That ye may be blameless and harmless, the 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).

Peter on Pentecost encouraged that multitude of Jews to become Christians with these words: "Save yourselves from this untoward generation" (Acts 2:40). Christians live in a world which is hostile to Christ, His teachings, and those that follow Him. Using the terminology of the fable, we live in a "brown world." Our reaction to that world can be one of three actions—the same three reactions that we saw in the fable of the three peas. Let

us take some time to examine these responses and to examine ourselves.

Isolation from the World

One reaction to the world found among those who claim to be Christians is isolation. Over the centuries, some efforts to do this have resulted in literal, physical isolation from the world. People have actually withdrawn themselves from the world to some isolated place that they might not have to confront the sinfulness of the world. This kind of thinking gave rise to monasticism. Others who have not gone to that extreme have attempted to isolate themselves by ignoring the real world. They may cancel their newspaper subscriptions and refuse to listen to the news for fear of being aware of the problems of the real world. They live in their own dream world without coming to grips with the way sin has affected others.

Though this kind of thinking has its appeal, we should realize that Christians cannot respond to the world in this way. Jesus' prayer shows the error of His followers when they try to withdraw from the world. He prayed:

I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth (John 17:15-17).

New Arrival

Our congratulations is extended to Aleacia Godwin in the birth of her grandson, Noah James Penny, on January 1. He weighed in at 8 pounds 3 ounces. Ray and Ethel Pierce are the great-grandparents.

Jesus did not desire that His disciples be "taken out of the world." Sanctification (i.e., separation from sin and devotion to the service of God) is necessary, but sanctification is not isolation. Christians must remain **in** the world, but not be **of** the world. Christians must have contact with those in the world (Mat. 28:19) and help them deal with their burdens of sin (Gal. 6:2, 10), but Christians must abstain from the sins of the world (1 The. 5:21-22). If Christians are to be "the salt of the earth" and "the light of the world" (Mat. 5:13-16), they must be in the world and make contact with that world.

Become Like the World

A second mistake that Christians make is to become **like** the world. This course is the easiest one to take—just give up and give in. There are members of the church who do not want to be distinctive, to be different. Their lives after baptism are no different from the way they lived before. They have the same companions, their language is the same, they go the same places, and they enjoy the same forms of entertainment that they did before they became "Christians." These "unconverted Christians" live just as those do who are in the world. For them it is too difficult to change; it is too much to ask of them.

Their concept of being Christians is certainly not what is taught in the Scriptures. Change in the behavior of those who became Christians was noted in the New Testament by their former companions: "Wherein they think it strange that ye run not with *them* to the same excess of riot, speaking evil of *you*" (1 Pet. 4:4). Paul described the sinfulness of the Corinthians before they became

Christians in 1 Corinthians 6:8-11. However, it is highly significant that he said that these sins were in their **past**, not their **present**. His words were, “And such **were** some of you” (6:11).

Repentance requires a change of mind, which brings about a change in behavior. Conversion requires a turning around of the believer’s life. A person who is no different in behavior after baptism has neither repented nor been converted. He may have his name on some church roll, but he is not a Christian. The true Christian does not love the world, “nei-

ther the things *that are* in the world” (1 John 2:15). Christians realize that the love of the world causes one to be an enemy of God (Jam. 4:4). Paul wrote, “And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed” (Rom. 12:2). Pure religion involves keeping oneself “unspotted from the world” (Jam. 1:27). Paul’s admonition is appropriate here: “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. 6:17).

Aurora, CO

“The Churches of Christ Salute You”

Romans 16:16

We are Seeking to Restore New Testament Christianity:

To have no creed but Christ; no book but the Bible; no name but Christian.

To speak where the Bible speaks; to be silent where the Bible is silent.

Facts about the church of Christ:

Christ is Founder and Head (Mat. 16:18; Eph. 1:22-23).

It is not a denomination or a group of denominations (Col. 1:18; Eph. 5:23).

It pleads for the unity of all believers in Christ (John 17:20-21; Eph. 4:1-6).

We Know That:

“It is **not** what the Bible teaches that divides the world into religious groups.”

“It is what the Bible does **not** teach that divides the world.”

We Are Striving To:

Present the first century message to a twenty-first century society.

The message is plain and simple:

The Word of God to a lost and dying world!

Author Unknown

Defender and Beacon Available Via E-Mail

To receive the *Defender* and *Beacon* via e-mail please send your e-mail address to bellviewcoc@gmail.com. The file you will receive will be an Adobe Acrobat PDF (a free reader is available from www.adobe.com).

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Sick

Remember in your prayers:

Bill & Iris Gallaher Marge Williams
Charles Williams Marilyn Hall
Nellie Read Fred Stancliff
Mary Cunningham Ella Hammac
Robbie Cravey Bill Busch
Al Flesher Horace Myrick
Dot Lambert Nancy Travis
Harold Cozad
Wyatt Blancheri (Born's grandson)
Tony & Tim Busch (Busch's sons)
Turner Risner (Bobbie LaBryer's
brother)
Gabriel Stewart (Diamond's nephew)
Donna Heck (Karen Diamond's sister)
Doug & Judy Johnson (Joyce Johnson's
brother/sister-in-law)
Susan Diaz (Joyce Johnson's friend)
Connie Kois (Dot Dodd's sister-in-law)
Shane Norris (Pam Busch's nephew)
David Carter (Peggy Crowe's brother)

Wednesday Bible Reading

January 4—Carl Ayliffe

Please Remember

Every Sunday

Ladies' Bible Class will meet at
5:00 pm, in the zone room.

January 8

Deacons' meeting will be held at
5:30 pm, in room 7.

January 9

Visitation Group 2 will meet at
6:00 pm.



BEACON

Vol. XLI / No. 2

January 9, 2012

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Wednesday Bible Classes for all ages — 7:00 p.m.

In the World, but Not of the World

(Part 2)

Lester Kamp

Be a Christian

What this world desperately needs (and can be influenced by) is more who are willing to live the Christian life and display the love of Christ to the world. The world cannot be improved through the cowardice of those who try to isolate themselves from it in some sort of cloistered environment. Nor can the world be improved by the hypocrisy of those who claim to be Christians but whose lives deny their claims. The world can and must be influenced by those who are dedicated to the Lord and His Word enough to live the Christian life.

The words of a Christian are important (Mat. 12:37), but without a life to back them up our words are worthless. Jesus spoke of the experience of some on the Day of Judgment: “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” (7:21).

Paul described the life of the Christian, “That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God” (Col. 1:10). The Christian life must also show a genuine concern for others. Loving our neighbors, those who have needs that we can supply, is one of the greatest commandments (Mark 12:30-31). This is Christ-like!

There are those who have physical needs that Christians can supply. John wrote:

But whoso hath this world’s good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels *of compassion* from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him? My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth (1 John 3:17-18).

However, the greatest need of all mankind is the salvation which is only in Christ—in being a Christian. “For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost” (Luke 19:10). Surely, going to Bible classes and worship assemblies of the church is not enough; the church must also go in service to others. The world can be greatly influenced for good by Christians who do not hide the light of Christ within them, but who live their lives as Christians. “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).

The Christian’s life must also be committed to the Gospel of Christ. The Gospel saves, but the Gospel must be taught (John 6:45; 1 Cor. 1:21). Christians have a responsibil-

ity to teach the Gospel (that which they have come to know and have obeyed) to others by word and deed so others might also be saved. Someone has well said: “The Gospel is the currency owed to the lost by those who are saved.” Because Christians have been saved by God’s grace through the Gospel, we have a debt to pay. Paul said, “I am debtor both to the Greeks, and to the Barbarians; both to the wise, and to the unwise” (Rom. 1:14). Paul realized the existence of that debt, and so must every Christian!

Truly, what this world of sin needs is more who are genuine Christians. May we rise to this task! “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).
Aurora, CO

“But Where Are the Nine?”

Guy N. Woods

Enroute to Jerusalem from a brief period of retirement in Ephraim, whither He had gone following the raising of Lazarus from the dead, at some point on the border between Samaria and Galilee, not certainly known to us, our Lord encountered ten lepers. Nine of them were Jews, and the other was of the Samaritan race (Luke 17:11-21).

When Jesus saw them, He said to them: “Go shew yourselves unto the priests. And it came to pass, that, as they went, they were cleansed” (17:14). He who never turns his back on one who comes to him in distress, heard and heeded the pitiful plea of these afflicted men. He saw their need, their desire, and their faith. He looked, not only on their ruined and diseased bodies, but also into their

hearts; and what He saw prompted Him to bestow His beneficent grace upon them.

They were bidden to go to the priests. When a leper was cured, before he was restored to society he was required to show himself to the priest, make an offering, and be officially pronounced clean (Lev. 14; Mat. 8:1-4). Jesus required this procedure in this instance for several reasons: (a) It was the law, and He always enjoined strict adherence to the law while it remained in force, (b) It impressed on the cleansed man the necessity of continued adherence thereto, (c) The action would serve as a testimony to others, and (d) Their faith was tested by the command. Had these men refused to act upon the command of Jesus, they would not have been healed. Faith **never pro-**

duces a blessing until it leads its possessor to obedience (Jam. 2:20-22, 24).

Their response was immediate. Acting on the Lord's command to present themselves to the priest, the leprous men hurried away. After they had gone some distance, perhaps out of the village, the miracle of healing occurred. Suddenly the Samaritan, seized with the irresistible emotion of gratitude for the wondrous blessing of healing he had experienced, turned back—not in disobedience to the Lord's command, but to express to Him the thanks that welled up in his heart for the blessed miracle of healing so wondrously wrought upon him. (a) He glorified God as the author of the good he had received, (b) he knelt before Jesus as a token of the reverence he felt, and (c) he offered thanks for his unspeakable gift.

Observing that only **one** out of the **ten** returned to express gratitude, Jesus asked: "Were not the ten cleansed? but where are the nine? Were there none found that returned to give glory to God, save this stranger?" (Luke 11:17-18). Ingratitude is one of the most universal and deeply seated of all the human vices, and our Lord felt its crushing weight again and again while upon the earth. On this occasion He seemed to have been unusually moved by the depth of the thanklessness manifested. It is true that the nine had gone on to literal obedience to His command, but they did so from selfish motives and were conscious of no gratitude to God and their Benefactor. The Samaritan, untrained in the religion of Jehovah, and from whom less might ordinarily have been expected, did the best. All stood the **test of faith**, to be sure; otherwise they would not have been healed. But the **nine**

failed in the **test of love!**

Many of us today are very much like the ungrateful nine. We are far more ready to pray than to praise, more disposed to ask God for what we have not than to thank Him for what we have. Murmuring, complaints, and discontent abound on every hand. The nine represent those among us today who receive unnumbered blessings from Christianity, whose comforts, education, wealth, liberty, homes, and hopes are all gifts of Christ, and who yet refuse to love Him, worship Him, serve Him. We should pray for a daily, thankful heart. It is a spirit which God loves and delights to honor. The prophets, with great poignancy, wept often because of the ingratitude which so often characterized Israel. Hear the plaintive cry of the great prophet:

Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth; for Jehovah hath spoken: I have nourished and brought up children, and they have rebelled against me. The ox knoweth his owner, and the ass his master's crib; *but* Israel doth not know, my people doth not consider (Isa. 1:2-3).

A hard, ungrateful heart, both toward God and man, is all too often characteristic of mankind. "Man's inhumanity to man makes countless thousands mourn."

Deceased

**Bellview Church of Christ
Web Site**

Why not check it out at:

<http://www.bellviewcoc.com>

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Sick

Remember in your prayers:

Bill & Iris Gallaher Marge Williams
Charles Williams Marilyn Hall
Nellie Read Fred Stancliff
Ella Hammac Harold Cozad
Robbie Cravey Bill Busch
Al Flesher Horace Myrick
Dot Lambert Nancy Travis
Aleacia Godwin (surgery on Jan 12)
Wyatt Blancheri (Born's grandson)
Tony & Tim Busch (Busch's sons)
Turner Risner (Bobbie LaBryer's
brother)
Gabriel Stewart (Diamond's nephew)
Donna Heck (Karen Diamond's sister)
Doug & Judy Johnson (Joyce Johnson's
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Susan Diaz (Joyce Johnson's friend)
Connie Kois (Dot Dodd's sister-in-law)
Shane Norris (Pam Busch's nephew)
David Carter (Peggy Crowe's brother)

Restored

Aleacia Godwin was restored to Christ on January 8. Please keep her in your prayers and offer her encouragement.

Wednesday Bible Reading

January 11—Henry Born

Please Remember

January 15

Elders/Deacons' meeting will be held at 5:00 pm, in room 7.

January 16

Visitation Group 3 will meet at 6:00 pm.



BEACON

Vol. XLI / No. 3

January 16, 2012

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“Strengthened By His Spirit”

David B. Watson

Paul promised the Ephesians that they would be built up or strengthened by the Word of God’s grace (Acts 20:32). Paul also prayed, on behalf of the Ephesians, that the Father “would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man” (Eph. 3:16). How is this strengthening accomplished, and what is the relationship of the Word and the Spirit in this process? Paul explained this in detail in Ephesians 6, part of the near context of chapter 3.

The Admonition

Paul began by admonishing Christians: “be strong in the Lord” (6:10). This is parallel to “be strengthened” (3:16). He went on to speak of “the power of his [God’s] might” (6:10). This is parallel to “with might” (3:16). How does the Holy Spirit strengthen the saint with might in the inner man? Paul answers by saying that the Christian must “put on the

whole armour of God” (6:11).

The Ability

Four times in four verses Paul stated that this “armour of God” will give the Christian the ability to “stand.” First, he said that this armour will make him “able to stand against the wiles of the devil” (6:11). Paul then proceeded to list the devil’s wiles: (1) “against principalities,” (2) “against powers,” (3) “against the rulers of the darkness of this world,” and (4) “against spiritual wickedness in high *places*” (6:12). Second, Paul stated that God’s armour will make saints “able to withstand in the evil day” (6:13). Third, Paul exclaimed that, by taking this armour, children of God will be able “having done all, to stand” (6:13). Fourth and finally, Paul commanded Christians to “stand therefore” (6:14).

The Armour

Paul next launched into a detailed description of the “armour of God.” First, we are to

be “girt about with truth” (6:14). Second, we are to have “on the breastplate of righteousness” (6:14). Third, we are to be “shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace” (6:15). Fourth, we are to take “the shield of faith” (6:16). Fifth, we are to “take the helmet of salvation” (6:17). Sixth, we are to take “the sword of the Spirit” (6:17). These are the things that Paul says can strengthen us so we can stand. But “the Truth” is the Word of God which sanctifies (John 17:17, 19). *Righteousness* refers to the commandments of God (Psa. 119:172) as revealed in the Gospel of Christ (Rom. 1:16-17). The “Gospel of peace” is the “Gospel of grace” (Acts 20:24) or the Word of God’s grace which builds up and sanctifies (20:32). “The faith” is the “word of

faith” Paul preached (Rom. 10:8) and which was once delivered unto the saint (Jude 3). The Gospel of Christ is God’s power unto salvation (Rom. 1:16). Finally, the “sword of the Spirit” is the “word of God” (Eph. 6:17). All six of these pieces of Christian armour and weaponry relate to the Word of God.

How does the Holy Spirit help saints to stand? How does the Holy Spirit help saints to be strengthened? How does the Holy Spirit help saints to be sanctified? How does the Holy Spirit save saints at last? According to Paul, He does so through the Word of God (coupled with general/indirect providence). Do we need more than the Bible to be saved at last? According to Paul, we do not.

Middleburg, FL

The Fellowship of the Unashamed

I am part of the fellowship of the unashamed. The dye is cast. I have stepped over the line. The decision has been made. I am a disciple of Christ! I will not look back, slow down, let up, back away, or be stilled. My past is redeemed, my present makes sense, and my future is secure. I am finished and done with low living, sight-walking, small planning, smooth knees, tame vision, mundane talking, selfish giving, and dwarf goals.

I no longer need preeminence, position, prosperity, promotion, platitudes, or popularity. I do not have to be right, first, tops, recognized, praised, regarded, or rewarded. I live by His presence, learn by faith, walk by patience, live by prayer, and labor by power.

My face is set, my gait is fast, my goal is heaven, my road is narrow, my way is rough,

my companions few, my guide is reliable, my mission is clear. I cannot be bought, compromised, detoured, lured away, turned back, deluded, or delayed.

I will not flinch in the face of sacrifice, hesitate in the presence of adversity, negotiate at the table of my enemies, ponder at the pool of popularity, or meander in the maze of mediocrity. I will not give up, shut up, or let up until I have stay up, stored up, prayed up, paid up, and I am preached up for the cause of Lord.

I am a disciple of Jesus! I must go until He comes, give until I drop, preach until all have heard, and work until He stops me. Then, when he comes for His own, He will have no problem recognizing me, for my colors will be clear—I am a disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ!

Author Unknown

Will Jesus Christ Return to Earth?

Ken Chumbley

In 1994, the following report was issued by the Associated Press under the title, “Most Americans anticipate second coming, poll shows.” Even though the report is now over twenty years old, this writer believes that the figures given would still hold true today, or would be even higher. The report reads:

WASHINGTON (AP) — Nearly six in 10 Americans believe the world will come to an end or be destroyed, and a third of those think it will happen within a few years or decades, according to a poll released Saturday.

The survey conducted for US News and World Report, also found 61 percent believe Jesus Christ will return to earth, and 44 percent believe there will be a final battle of Armageddon, with true believers whisked off the planet and called to heaven.

Almost half—49 percent— said they believe there will be an Antichrist.

The poll found that born-again Christians were almost twice as likely to have these beliefs than others surveyed. The survey of 1,000 people was commissioned for the magazine for an upcoming cover story on trends in religious beliefs. It had a margin of error of plus or minus 3 percentage points.

What struck this writer as significant regarding this poll was the high percentage, 61%, who believe that “Jesus Christ will return to earth” and that nearly half, 41%, believe that “there will be a final battle of

Armageddon, with true believers whisked off the planet and called to heaven.” Do you see the significance of this poll? If it is accurate, and it is given the normal 3% margin of most polls that are generally regarded as accurate, then it tells us that over half of the people, 61%, have bought into the premillennial doctrine of the return of Christ to this earth to reign for a 1000 years. Further, it also indicates that 44% have also bought in the aspect of premillennial doctrine that has the Christians to leave the earth before the so-called “battle of Armageddon” that they might escape the “Tribulation.” This shows how successful the propagandists for dispensational premillennialism have been in convincing people of their doctrine.

This means that we have a lot of work to do to be able to teach the truth. The Bible does **not** teach that Christ will ever return to this earth. Further, it does **not** teach a final physical battle of Armageddon **or** the removal of Christian from the earth before the end of the world. However, the tragedy is that so many Christians are **unprepared** to deal with these false doctrines that are rampant in this country. Are you prepared to show the error of these false teachings? If not, you need to take time out and learn about these pernicious doctrines and how to show, from the Bible, that they are erroneous! Will you take the necessary time to learn how to answer them? To be effective in evangelism, we need to be able to refute these errors.

Belvedere, SC

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Sick

Remember in your prayers:

Bill & Iris Gallaher	Marge Williams
Charles Williams	Marilyn Hall
Nellie Read	Fred Stancliff
Harold Cozad	Ella Hammac
Robbie Cravey	Bill Busch
Al Flesher	Horace Myrick
Dot Lambert	Nancy Travis
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Connie Kois (Dot Dodd's sister-in-law)	
Shane Norris (Pam Busch's nephew)	
David Carter (Peggy Crowe's brother)	

Restored

Dale Cunningham was restored to Christ on January 15. Please keep Dale in your prayers.

Wednesday Bible Reading
January 18—Elward Brantley

Please Remember
January 23

Visitation Group 4 will meet at
6:00 pm.

January 25

Sermons Video Series at 7:00 pm,
in the auditorium.



BEACON

Vol. XLI / No. 4

January 23, 2012

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Contributions You Can Make

Dub McClish

Some members of the church are far too modest in their assessment of what they can do to help the Lord's cause. Many have convinced themselves that they cannot do anything, since they cannot lead singing or preach, and they become quite content to do little or nothing. However, there has never been a Christian who had so little ability or so few resources that he or she could make no contributions if one really wanted to. Consider some contributions almost every Christian can make:

Faithful Attendance

Sitting in a church building regularly no more makes one a faithful Christian than sitting in a henhouse regularly makes one a hen. However, even an infidel knows that a faithful child of God attends worship and Bible classes regularly. The regular, public meetings of the church are its heart-throb and life-blood. Each member who forsakes these assemblies

saps the church of some of its power (not to mention what he robs himself of). No wonder the inspired writer commands us not to forsake the assemblies of the church (Heb. 10:25). Every able-bodied member can make the minimum contribution of faithful attendance and will do so if he loves the Lord and the church.

Service

We are not saved by God to live lives of celestial ease on this old earth, but to serve, to work for Christ, according to our opportunities and abilities. The Lord's people are made for good works (Eph. 2:10). We are to be "stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding" in the Lord's work (1 Cor. 15:58). God has never made anyone with so little ability that there is no place of service for him in the church. Unless we are daily making a positive impact for Christ and His church, for the Truth of the Gospel, for the pure life God wants us to

live daily, we are failing Him who died for us. Our work for Jesus demonstrates the sincerity of our worship on Sunday.

Money

Even in the early days of the church, when civilization depended so very little on money and cash flow compared to the present, it was necessary for Christians to give their money to do the Lord's work. The regular Lord's day contribution was commanded for this reason (1 Cor. 16:1-2). Not everyone can give a large amount because not everyone has a large amount from which to give. The Lord

does not measure our giving by quantity, but by proportion of our income. Even when we cannot attend, we can still give so the Lord's work may go on uninterrupted.

Attitude

Men cannot send you to jail for a sordid, snobbish, hateful, uncooperative, negative attitude, but the Lord can send you to Hell for it. Two attitudes that cause the church great harm are selfishness and indifference. Two attitudes that make great contributions to the Lord's work are unselfishness and cooperation.

Denton, TX

Showing Our Love for Our Heavenly Father Through Obedience

Johnny Oxendine

There is no doubt that God, Our Heavenly Father, loves us deeply. Everything that He has done has been for our benefit, indeed, our salvation. He has never forsaken the righteous, nor has He ever allowed the faithful to stand alone (Mat. 28:20). From before the foundation of the world we had been predetermined to be a people who would take the message of salvation to others. This message would not be our message, but the message from God (His message)—which made it incorruptible and everlasting (1 Pet. 1:23). We, as the Lord's people, are blessed beyond measure.

What inherent responsibilities, then, do we, as this blessed number, have? What is expected of us? How shall we conduct ourselves in a world that, by-and-large, has little to no interest in God or eternal salvation. The Bible

has consistently given us examples of His people being ridiculed, persecuted, and often killed. The Biblical accounts can range from Samson to Stephen (historians give us information on the apostles themselves). We are reminded that all who try to live in a God-authorized manner will suffer persecution (2 Tim. 3:12).

We know this continues today because of the large number of people in some large countries (and even in our own country) that despise God altogether. They have been Communists, Fascists, Nazis, Socialists, or the European Enlightened, or followers of some party and its ideology. The world in every generation has always seemed more complicated than that which preceded it, but in the end there has been only a slight modification at best.

Times change, but human nature remains pretty much the same. The irony of that statement is in the fact that God does not change either (Jam. 1:17). His expectations and commands for us have been the same since the church was established on the day of Pentecost in Jerusalem. These expectations are not very different from what was demanded in the Old Testament. Though we obviously do not live under the old covenant, we are still to be faithful to God and keep His commandments (John 14:15; 15:10). This is done through obedience. The word means to submit to authority or reason; reverence for the source of a command; and to pay attention with resulting conformity to what has been advised or commanded. Obedience to God is the primary problem man has obstructing his way to salvation. Jesus tells us that our love for Him is manifested through our obedience to His will (“if you love me, keep my commandments”). This is not hard to do, according to the Lord (“and his commandments are

not grievous”—1 John 5:3).

So we make our commitment not only to hear what He says to us, but also to do those things that are commanded (expected). By this our love not only becomes real, but quite tangible as well. We feel more complete and fulfilled as His children when we abide in His Word. It strengthens us and builds us up in the most Holy faith.

What is more obvious now than ever is the need for others to fully understand the love of God, and how that love will transform their lives! People are always looking for solutions to problems. The larger obstacle in this case is that these very same people are not able to recognize that the main problem is that they live without a knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus as He is revealed to us in the Scriptures. Many do believe they know Him, but only through what they have been told, not from what they have read. This is where we come in.

San Mateo, CA

The Odd Return

The other day I checked an odd return: some guy with an income under \$5,000 claimed he gave \$624 to some church. Sure, he was within the 20% limit, but it looked mighty suspicious to me. So, I dropped in on this guy and asked him about his return. I thought he would become nervous like most of them do, but not this guy. “Have you a receipt from the church or cancelled checks?” I asked figuring that would make him squirm. He replied, “Sure, I always drop them in the drawer.” And off he went to get his checks and receipts. Well, he

had me. One look and I knew he was on the level. I apologized for bothering him, explaining that I have to check deductions that seem unusually high.

As I was leaving he invited me to attend his church. “Thanks,” I said, “But I belong to a church myself.” “Excuse me,” he replied, “that possibility never occurred to me.” As I drove home, I kept wondering what he meant by that last remark. It was not until Sunday morning when I put my usual dollar in the offering plate that it came to me.

Author Unknown

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Charles Williams Marilyn Hall
Nellie Read Fred Stancliff
Harold Cozad Ella Hammac
Robbie Cravey Bill Busch
Al Flesher Horace Myrick
Dot Lambert Nancy Travis
Aleacia Godwin
Wyatt Blancheri (Born's grandson)
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Susan Diaz (Joyce Johnson's friend)
Connie Kois (Dot Dodd's sister-in-law)
Shane Norris (Pam Busch's nephew)
David Carter (Peggy Crowe's brother)

Wednesday Bible Reading

January 25—Paul Brantley

Please Remember

January 25

Sermons Video Series at 7:00 pm,
in the auditorium.

January 29

Dinner on the Grounds will be
held after the morning service. The
evening service will be at 1:00 pm.



BEACON

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January 30, 2012

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Sunday Worship Services — 10:00 a.m., 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday Bible Classes for all ages — 7:00 p.m.

“Contend Earnestly”

Thomas B. Warren

Jude instructed men to “contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered unto the saints” (Jude 3). There are many men now living—quite a number of whom are members of the Lord’s true church—who hold that it is simply not Christ-like to contend for the faith. But this passage corrects that erroneous claim. To “contend earnestly for the faith” is to strive in combat, to engage in a fight, and such like, and, since *earnestly* carries the idea of intensification, it is clear that Jude 3 teaches that men are to fight with great intensity for the Truth and against error.

Obviously, this does not mean that Christ wants men to engage in petty quarrels. He does not wish that men should wrangle for the sake of strife. Such activity must grow out of a heart that is filled with selfishness, haughtiness, and pride. But one can be humble, loving, kind, and deeply concerned for the cause of Christ and for the souls of men

while fighting desperately for the Truth of the Gospel. Jesus did. Peter did. Paul did. And so did many other faithful men during New Testament days. And so have many men who have lived in our day.

Of course, there are many people who have a perverted sense of love and kindness and a distorted sense of what it means to be Christ-like. Such people are severely critical of those who spend most of their lives in doing what the Holy Spirit, through Jude, enjoins men to do. But faithful men must not allow themselves to be intimidated into becoming unfaithful no matter how unpleasant the criticism of liberal, modernistic thinkers may become.

Rather, one must remember not only such persons as Jesus, Peter, and Paul, but also men such as Stephen, who disputed with the Jews and put them to rout by his arguments which proved that what he was preaching was

really true (Acts 6:9-10; 7:51-60). Stephen spoke very strongly and argued cogently. Yet, it seems hardly likely that any mere man loved his audience more than did he. Even as men were stoning his life's blood from him, Stephen prayed, "Lord, lay not this sin to their charge" (7:60). This writer challenges any man to show greater love.

In spite of the pseudo-optimistic attitude of many people, there are teachers of false doctrine in this world and there are doctrines being taught which will cause those who believe and obey them to be lost (2 The. 1:7-9). There are preachers and elders...in the Lord's church who teach error on fundamental doctrines—doctrines about which one must be right in order to be saved. Such men must be opposed, and those outside of the church who teach error must also be opposed. It is a grievous error to suppose that by merely pretending that there are no false teachers and there are no false doctrines, God's pleasure will rest upon us if we do nothing about false doctrines and false teachers.

Many Christians, it seems, adopt a "holier-than-thou" attitude simply on the ground that they—in contrast to some others—never engage in any kind of controversy. Brother B.C. Goodpasture once told me about a preacher who said to him, referring to the pulpit work with a certain congregation, "as long as I am

God the Father or God the Son

Robertson L. Whiteside

Acts 20:28 refers to the Lord Jesus Christ. God the Father did not purchase the church with His own blood. Blood belongs to flesh, and God the Father is Spirit, not flesh. Yet, I have heard brethren in ministering at the Lord's Table say: "Father, we thank thee for this fruit of the vine, which represents thy blood." Such ignorance is inexcusable.

Deceased

in this pulpit, nothing controversial will ever be preached." There are a number of things wrong with this statement. In the first place, no one can preach the whole counsel of God without preaching that which is controversial, at least with some persons. In the second place, such sentiment is directly opposed to the sentiment (and actions) enjoined upon men in Jude 3!

Since no one can defend the faith without presenting sound arguments, then it is obvious that Jude 3 demands that men both recognize and honor the Law of Rationality.

Deceased

Get Your Heads Together

There is an old legend about a herd of mules that was attacked nightly by a pack of wolves from a nearby forest. When the wolves came, the mules began kicking viciously in all directions. Consequently the mules maimed

and injured each other while the agile wolves escaped unharmed. Finally, a wise old mule called the rest together for a conference and made known his plans. That night the wolves came yelping from the forest as usual, but in-

stead of the mules kicking, they all ran and put their heads together in a circle and began kicking outward. The wolves were put to flight, and the mules did no harm to each other. Christians need to get their heads to-

gether and kick outward against the forces of iniquity. The world must sometimes wonder whether we who call ourselves Christ's fishermen have any heads to put together.

Author Unknown

Useless Faith

Paul Vaughn

Faith is used 243 times in the New Testament and without it one cannot please God. Every Christian must live a life trusting in God. "The just shall live by faith" (Rom. 1:17). However, have you ever considered that there is an useless faith? The Scriptures teach that some have a faith that God will not accept.

God will not accept a dead faith. James defines dead faith as one without righteous works for God. It is written, "Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead" (Jam. 2:17). It would not do any good to say you believe in God and not do His will. Jesus 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 (Mat. 7:21).

Dead faith is all words and no actions. Dead

faith never teaches the Gospel. Dead faith is absent of good deeds toward the poor or sick. Dead faith is preoccupied with popularity with man and void of the goal to please God. Those who are dead in faith have an unfocused life, they never see the need to put Christianity into action.

God will not accept an erring faith. Paul spoke of this type of faith when he wrote:

O Timothy, keep that which is committed to thy trust, avoiding profane *and* vain babblings, and oppositions of science falsely so called: Which some professing have erred concerning the faith. Grace *be* with thee. Amen (1 Tim. 6:20-21).

Sadly, today some have an erring faith because they put their trust in man and not God.

Every follower of Christ should seek to keep the faith by trusting in God daily. Just before his death, Paul spoke of his unfailing faith in God. "I have fought a good fight, I have finished *my* course, I have kept the faith" (2 Tim. 4:7). His faith was not dead, but active. Paul never erred in the faith because he looked to the Lord and not to himself. Let us all follow the example of Paul unless we have a useless faith.

Cloverport, KY

Spring Church of Christ *CFTF*
Lectures

*The New Testament Church and
Counterfeit Churches*

February 22-26, 2012

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Nellie Read	Fred Stancliff
Harold Cozad	Ella Hammac
Robbie Cravey	Bill Busch
Al Flesher	Horace Myrick
Dot Lambert	Nancy Travis

Aleacia Godwin
Wyatt Blancheri (Born's grandson)
Tony & Tim Busch (Busch's sons)
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Susan Diaz (Joyce Johnson's friend)
Connie Kois (Dot Dodd's sister-in-law)
Shane Norris (Pam Busch's nephew)
David Carter (Peggy Crowe's brother)
Marion Spruill (Bill Crowe's cousin)

Wednesday Bible Reading

February 1—Bill Busch

Please Remember

Every Sunday

Ladies' Bible Class will meet at
5:00 pm, in the zone room.

February 6

Visitation Group 1 will meet at
6:00 pm.

February 12

Deacons' meeting will be held at
5:30 pm, in room 7.



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Sunday Worship Services — 10:00 a.m., 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday Bible Classes for all ages — 7:00 p.m.

Does Repentance Precede Faith?

Bruce Stulting

Some in the denominational world falsely teach that one is saved at the point of faith. However, Jesus plainly taught in Luke 13:3 that “except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.” See the necessity of repentance in the plan of salvation, the faith only advocates place repentance before faith being unwilling to give up their false doctrine. In an effort to find Scriptural support for their “repentance before faith” doctrine they often appeal to Acts 20:21. In this verse, Paul states to the Ephesian elders that he was, “Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.” Does the order of mention here dictate the order of occurrence in salvation?

To help us understand the answer to this question, let us get a better view of what Paul was instructing these people to do. The Jews were exceedingly blessed by God and had enjoyed His grace under the Mosaical Law.

However, in rejecting Jesus as the Christ, they had fallen from that saving grace. These people already had faith in God and needed to repent of their rejection of the Christ. The faith that they are called upon to have is not faith in God the Father, but faith in Jesus the Son. At Antioch in Acts 13:43, Paul “persuaded them to continue in the grace of God.” But for them to have God’s favor now they had to have faith in Christ.

This order can clearly be seen in Acts 2:36-38. In these verses Peter commands them to know assuredly that Jesus is both Lord and Christ. Only after these men had heard Peter’s sermon and believed did they ask, “What shall we do.” Peter’s reply was “Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins.” The order is clearly set forth in this account. They (1) heard God’s Word; (2) believed God’s Word; (3) their faith led them to repentance

and baptism.

It is absurd to affirm that repentance precedes faith. To do so is to say that people repent toward God before they believe in Him. Without faith, what would ever lead one to repentance in the first place? In fact, Hebrews 11:6 teaches that without faith it is impos-

sible to please God. The Bible also teaches in Romans 10:17 that “faith *cometh* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.” The faith that is produced by God’s Word leads one to the repentance and obedience that is rewarded by our heavenly father.

Huntsville, TX

Chicken or Egg?

Jimmie Z. Gribble

Which came first, the chicken or the egg? That question has been around for a long time. I remember as a youngster a lot of kids enjoyed asking that question. No matter which answer one gave, another question came as to origin. Well, we no longer have to ask that question.

In a news story on the Internet at www.msheridanfajnydailynews.com, it is stated that the answer has been found. Scientists in England say that they have “found the answer: The chicken!”

The article states:

Researchers wrote in a recently published report that it all comes down to one protein—ovocledidin-17—which helps in the formation of the egg’s hard shell. This essential ingredient in the formation of the egg can only be produced inside a chicken, scientists from universities in Sheffield and Warwick concluded. “It had long been suspected that the egg came first, but now we have the scientific proof that shows that in fact the chicken came first,” said Dr. Colin Freeman, of Sheffield University’s Department of Engineering Materials, *London Daily Mail* reports.

Are you not glad that you now have a scien-

tific answer to that age-old question?

A survey associated with this story asked the question about which came first. The majority answer was the egg. For the child of God who believes the Bible to be the Word of God, the answer to this question was written down by Moses. Moses wrote:

And God said, Let the earth bring forth the living creature after his kind, cattle, and creeping thing, and beast of the earth after his kind: and it was so. And God made the beast of the earth after his kind, and cattle after their kind, and every thing that creepeth upon the earth after his kind: and God saw that *it was* good (Gen. 1:24-25).

A very important like question has been advanced, “Which came first: A human mother or a human baby?” This, as well as the answer to the chicken question, gets at the heart of evolution. In 1987, Ann Landers had the following question, “Is it biologically possible for a human to crossbreed with animals?” Ann answered, “A human can have sex with an animal but no offspring will result.” She sought assistance from Dennis Borden, Ph.D., assistant chairman of the biochemistry department at Northwestern University. He

said, “The human chromosomes and DNA material that govern reproduction are biologically incompatible with that of dogs, cats, cows, horses, sheep, etc. Mother Nature, in her infinite wisdom, saw to it that they don’t mix.”

This writer responded by thanking Ann and Dennis for their intentional (or unintentional) support of the Bible doctrine of creation. This writer received a response signed, “AL/ms”: “As I’m sure you realize, evolution didn’t happen overnight. Two monkeys didn’t just have a human baby.” Of course, this answer misses everything Ann and Dennis wrote

in the letter.

According to God’s Word, the chicken came first, and the father and mother came first. This stands written, and it will always stand written. Jesus gave His approval of what Moses wrote of the beginning in Matthew 19:4-6. Never be hesitant to state what God has said comes first, whether the chicken or the baby!

Beloved Jesus said. “My mother and my brethren are these which hear the word of God, and do it” (Luke 8:21). May all of us “hear” and “do” God’s Word.

Portsmouth, VA

Where Did It Begin?

Use of Holy Water—A.D. 120. This was borrowed from the Jews’ religion.

Infant Baptism—First expressly mentioned and condemned in the third century by Tertullian.

First Human Creed—Written in A.D. 325 at Nicea in Bythynia by 318 uninspired men and called the “Nicene Creed.” It should be noted that the “Apostles’ Creed” was not written by the apostles and does not appear in its present form earlier than A.D. 650.

Latin Mass—Began in A.D. 394.

Purgatory—The doctrine that one may suffer punishment after death and then go on to heaven began in A.D. 593.

Instrumental Music—First introduced into “Christian” worship about A.D. 666.

Celibacy—Priests were not allowed to marry after A.D. 1015.

Auricular Confession—The practice of confession of sins to a man began in A.D. 1215.

Sprinkling for Baptism—This became official teaching at the Council of Ravenna in A.D. 1311.

Other Changes—Many other changes have come about since the death of inspired men. These include: the sale of Indulgences; communion under one kind; penance; the Lord’s Supper being observed monthly or quarterly, or yearly; Immaculate Conception; women preachers; praying to Mary; and others. See Deuteronomy 4:2, 12:32, Revelation 22:18-19, Galatians 1:8-9.

Author Unknown

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Nellie Read Fred Stancliff
Harold Cozad Ella Hammac
Robbie Cravey Bill Busch
Al Flesher Horace Myrick
Dot Lambert Nancy Travis
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Susan Diaz (Joyce Johnson's friend)
Connie Kois (Dot Dodd's sister-in-law)
Shane Norris (Pam Busch's nephew)
David Carter (Peggy Crowe's brother)

Sympathy

Our deepest sympathy is extended to Bill Crowe in the death of his cousin, Marion Spruill, on February 5. Please keep Bill and his family in your prayers.

Wednesday Bible Reading

February 8—Tim Cozad

Please Remember

February 12

Deacons' meeting will be held at
5:30 pm, in room 7.



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Are Worship Assemblies Optional?

Dub McClish

Am I just imagining things, or is there a trend among members of the body of Christ to treat all of the church's worship assemblies as optional anymore? If there is, it is indeed disturbing to me!

Ever since I can remember anything about "going to church" I have been aware that a few people never come to Bible class on Sunday morning or on Wednesday evening. I have also known that some would never be seen at worship on Sunday evening and a smaller percentage still would seldom come even on Sunday morning. Those who never show up on Sunday evening or Wednesday evening have always proved themselves to be among the spiritually weak in every church I have known from my youth.

It is **quite discouraging** to say the least, to see brothers and sisters who know better, forsake even the Sunday morning assembly when they find something they want to do more. It

is a complete mystery to me how such brethren satisfy a conscience which must condemn them. Or do they listen anymore?

The attitude of some of our ladies toward ladies' Bible class is hard to figure out. I have not heard anyone rabidly opposing this class. But the utter indifference of some toward the class is a wonder to behold when some of the "too busy" type of excuses are offered, we can almost hear the Lord repeating, "Martha, Martha, thou art anxious and troubled about many things: but one thing is needful" (Luke 10:41-42).

Some have recently arisen within the church who are very loud in proclaiming freedom from any need to assemble with the saints. They insist that individual families can worship just as acceptably in their own homes on the Lord's Day. I think they must be making some disciples when on any given Lord's Day it is easy to count up to 100-150 able

bodied members out of 450 who are AWOL.

Hebrews 10:25 still reads like it always did. Some of us need to reread it. Can we ignore a direct command of God with impunity? If so,

why can't we ignore them all? Do some of us need to re-examine our attitudes toward our worship and study assemblies? Do some of us need to publicly repent? *Denton, TX*

How Good a Wife Are You? (Part 1)

Pauline Hatcher

Would you like to take a test to see how good a wife you are? Would you like to become aware of some of your faults, or do you think your husband has them all? You know, don't you: "Women's faults are many, while men have only two: everything they say and everything they do." The idea of this test is to help us see that many times we are not *good* as far as our husbands are concerned. We do not do things to benefit *him*. We do things to benefit *us*. Would it shock you to learn that you are often disloyal to your husband? Perhaps you are already having righteous indignation that someone would ever question your loyalty. "Of course I'm loyal," you say. But are we loyal in everything and in every way?

Now let us test ourselves and see how well we do. I have six tests for you. I want to say at the very beginning that they will work two ways—with both the husband and the wife. But we are wives, so let us concentrate on us. Titus 2:4-5 applies to us. You know we have always heard that marriage is a give and take thing. Usually we wives think that we **give in** and **take** the blame, but let us notice some ways we could be **giving** the blame.

Test #1

When you have a misunderstanding or a disagreement with your husband, do you ever talk over how unreasonable he is with friends

or with your family? Is this loyalty? Is this defending and supporting your husband, or is it putting him down and trying to make him seem wrong in their eyes and you seem right? Isn't it really trying to get sympathy? Doesn't this usually only make us feel worse? Do you really think these people can help in this disagreement? If there is some way that you think they can help you and advise you so **both** you and your husband can be helped, then tell them what has happened. However, only **state the case**. Do not start complaints and accusations. As a rule, we need to keep disagreements and misunderstandings to ourselves and not be disloyal to our husbands in talking about all of his faults to others. Let us not be a tale bearer (see Pro. 11:13). Well, did you pass the first test with flying colors? If so, let us go to the next test.

Test #2

If your husband has disregarded your advice and things go wrong, do you ever say, "I told you so! I knew you were not right. I just knew things would go wrong! I knew it would not work out!" How familiar this sounds! Let us try to think before we say all of this. Does saying any of these things help make things different? Is it going to change what has happened? All it does is cause anger, and angry people never settle differences (15:1 16:32).

Instead, we should take enough time to put ourselves in our husband's place. We should think how we would feel if he said this to us and how we would want him to talk to us about our failure, whatever it was. Then, instead of anger, scorn, and belittling we would give him tolerance and understanding. How much we wives need to practice longsuffering or forbearing with our husbands! We should not think that in marriage one person is always right, and the other is the husband!

Test #3

If your husband gives you a gift that is useless, ugly, or something you do not need, do you ever show it to your friends and laugh about it? Do you tell them about it and complain? Do you take it back to the store, making your husband think that he could never please you, and so give up trying? Wouldn't it be much better to be thankful that he thought enough about you to get something for you, even if it was not something you liked? I am sure it would not be something so expensive it would financially break you. If we thanked our husbands for being so thoughtful (and he was since he took the time, effort, and expense to buy it), the next time he might decide on something we really liked. A synonym for *thankful* is grateful. To be grateful is to appreciate things done for us. So let us not make our husband look dumb or foolish to our friends.

Test #4

Here we see a way of being disloyal to our husbands that many of us who are wives and mothers practice. When you say "no" to your children, do you ever add, "Your dad wouldn't like it," or "Your dad won't let you,"

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The New Testament Church and Counterfeit Churches

February 22-26, 2012

or "Your dad would be terribly mad if you did it"? Should we not say, "Your dad and I *both* think you shouldn't do this particular thing," or "Your dad and I have decided that you can't do this"? If you say it the other way, you are staying on the good side of your child and father gets all the blame. This is not even fair, let alone loyal! Remember, in being loyal we are obligated to uphold, defend, and be thankful to another person. In being a **good** wife we are to help **our husband** and benefit **him**.

If mother puts all the blame of withholding that which a child wants that is not best on the husband and father, and when father sees the child mad at him but loving and sweet to mother, he begins to feel that his wife is not on his side. He will feel very much alone. How easy it then becomes for him to go to someone who "understands him," comforts him, and sympathizes with him. This is the way many wives lose their husbands. A contented husband will not look for someone else to understand him or make him feel important.

Naturally, all of the things we are thinking about today will also apply to the husband. If a wife feels that her husband is not on her side, she will also feel deserted and alone. But in this chapter we are talking about **wives** being "good" to their husbands. Wives are to be taught by the older women to be good to their husbands.

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Wyatt Blancheri (Born's grandson)
Tony & Tim Busch (Busch's sons)
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brother/sister-in-law)
Susan Diaz (Joyce Johnson's friend)
Connie Kois (Dot Dodd's sister-in-law)
Shane Norris (Pam Busch's nephew)
Billy Crowe (Crowe's grandson)

Wednesday Bible Reading

February 15—Bill Crowe

Please Remember

Every Sunday

Ladies' Bible Class will meet at
5:00 pm, in the zone room.

February 19

Elders/Deacons' meeting will be
held at 5:00 pm, in room 7.

February 20

Visitation Group 3 will meet at
6:00 pm.

February 22

Sermons Video Series at 7:00 pm,
in the auditorium.



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Vol. XLI / No. 8

February 20, 2012

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Sunday Worship Services — 10:00 a.m., 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday Bible Classes for all ages — 7:00 p.m.

How Good a Wife Are You? (Part 2)

Pauline Hatcher

Test #5

I feel sure that each one here has, at some time in her life, been guilty of this. A group of women will be together and begin telling about men's faults in general. Soon they will use their husband to illustrate their point. Often we do this in a very humorous way, but we get in all of his shortcomings! Do you ever drag out your husband's faults for the amusement of everyone there? I have. Later I felt so little, guilty, and cheap! Sometimes we wives make our husbands look stupid, mean, or both by telling their faults to others—even if it is just to be funny and get a laugh. Would you like for your husband to do this to you?

Test #6

How much do you argue with your husband? Perhaps you will say, "This is not being disloyal. This really has nothing to do with being good." It comes so close to it that I want us to think about it and learn some lessons. To

argue can be constructive, because in arguing we try to prove a point by presenting reasons for or against something. This can be a very stimulating discussion between husband and wife! However, too often the arguing or discussing becomes a quarrel. One or both "fly off the handle" and the **arguing** stops but the **quarreling** lingers on! Neither one will give in or stop. We do not follow the teaching of Ephesians 4:26: "Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath." There is an old Spanish proverb that goes, "Where one **will** not, two **cannot** quarrel."

Have you ever stopped to think how often our quarrels are about stupid, petty things? For instance, do we ever argue with our husbands about directions when he is doing the driving? "Well, I know this is the shortest way to go!" "I know that it's not!" If you find out that you are wrong, how silly you are going to feel after all of the arguing! He will always be telling

people that you have no sense of direction. If you happened to be right, he certainly will not appreciate your help because what you have done is pull down some of his masculine ego. This is not good for a wife to do. Besides, we are not driving, so why worry? Let us just re-

lax and enjoy the drive. Do not be so uptight about proving a point—that **I am right!**

Second, we often argue and fuss about what our husband has promised to do and has not done. Girls, if he has not done it after the second time of asking or reminding,

you might as well give up! After the second time of reminding, “You promised to do so and so and you haven’t done it,” he is going to regard you as a **nagging wife**. This reminding and reminding is called “nagging” in every husband’s language! If we argue about it, in addition to reminding, we are considered unreasonable. Now I know and you know that husbands should do what they really plan to do—later on! But if they do not get it done when they should, it is better to just do it yourself (if you can), or get someone else to do it (if you can), or forget it (if you cannot). Realize that arguing about it only causes unhappiness to all concerned. If we are sweet about it and do not argue and sulk, we accomplish much more. Sweetness in a wife will get things done that a sharp tongue will never accomplish.

Third, do you ever fuss at your husband for taking you for granted? “You just seem to **expect** me to cook and clean, wash and iron, and take care of the children, etc.” Well, I wonder

We’ll Wake Up to Sleep No More

H. L. Gradowith

All the dead will rise up from their graves that day

We’ll wake up to sleep no more;

There’ll be no distractions, there’ll be no delay

When we wake up to sleep no more!

Your money won’t help you when He sounds the Call

We’ll wake up to sleep no more;

In fact nothing else will then matter at all:

When we wake up to sleep no more!

He’ll take all His Own to a City on High,

We’ll wake up to sleep no more;

And where He is taking us we’ll never die,

When we wake up to sleep no more!

There at last from all troubles forever free

We’ll wake up to sleep no more;

Over death and the grave the last Victory:

When we wake up to sleep no more!

In Heaven no sorrows, no troubles, no pain,

We’ll wake up to sleep no more;

The Heavenly Crown at long last we shall gain:

When we wake up to sleep no more!

Earthly faith will give way to Heavenly Sight:

We’ll wake up to sleep no more;

No sun and no moon for the Lord is the Light

When we wake up to sleep no more!

Dothan, AL

how much we take our husbands for granted? How often do you **thank your husband** for going to work every day—rain or shine? How often do you ever **think** about his big responsibility of taking care of the family and thank him for doing such a good job? Husbands, as a rule, are under pressure because they know it is up to them to keep a job, send the children to college, make payments on the house, et al. Instead of concentrating on how they take us for granted, we should concentrate on thanking them, encouraging them, and praising them. We will find that, as a rule, they will then work much harder and be more successful. We will also have a happier husband who will appreciate us more, thank us more often, and praise us to others. (Read Proverbs 31:28 regarding the righteous woman.)

Conclusion

In all the things we have thought about, I hope we can see that if we hope to be happy, and if we are to have happy husbands and happy children, we must learn to accept without fussing, quarreling, or nagging all of the little, petty things that come our way. We must learn as quickly as possible that what we considered so terrible at the time really meant very little. Within one month's time, as a rule, we will not even remember what we were so upset about and what we had such a quarrel about with our husband! Someone has said, "Let us be a little kinder, let us be a little blinder to the faults of those around us."

Every *good* wife, in the sense of Titus 2:5, will take a little more than her share of the blame, and a little less than her share of the credit. She will learn patience. I wonder how often God thinks we pray to Him in this man-

ner: "Oh Lord, give me patience, but give it right now!" Patience never comes "right now." We pray for it and then we work, work, and work to have it. This is another reason older women should teach the younger women. They have had more time to learn patience and all that patience is.

How many of you scored 100% on the tests? In case you are feeling that you are not being the good wife God planned for you to be, I want you to know that I am feeling the same way. I am also convinced that older women should be teaching these things more often to the younger women. I believe that both older and younger women should be trying harder to be a **good wife**, in the sense of benefiting her husband and supporting him to others. Let us be prudent wives (Pro. 19:14). A prudent wife is from the Lord. *Prudence* is wisdom in action or practice as well as words spoken. We should all be in training to live our later years with our husband in the way God planned for a husband and wife to live—together as one flesh (Gen. 2:24). "One flesh" means one in mind and one in purpose, as well as one in flesh physically, living joyfully together as Ecclesiastes 9:9 instructs.

How wonderful it would be if every husband and wife could say with Robert Browning:

*Grow old along with me,
The best is yet to be,
The last of life for which the first was made;
Our times are in His hands
Who saith, "A whole I planned,"
Youth shows but half;
Trust God;
See all, nor be afraid!*

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Shane Norris (Pam Busch's nephew)
Billy Crowe (Crowe's grandson)

Wednesday Bible Reading

February 22—Dale Cunningham

Please Remember

February 22

Sermons Video Series at 7:00 pm,
in the auditorium.

February 27

Visitation Group 4 will meet at
6:00 pm.

February 29

Fifth Wednesday Singing at 7:00
pm, in the auditorium.



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How Could I Have Been So Blind to Have Missed It? Redeeming Sunset: The Plan

Johnny Oxendine

Over the last few years we have often looked at the unfolding of liberal stirrings in the brotherhood with sadness and concern. The comments made have been with the possible consideration/explanation that brethren, who may have been involved in lectureships, conferences, etc., may have been simply unaware of what the Scriptures mean/intend/ imply when they say to “have no fellowship” (Eph. 5:11). However, upon careful reflection, I now see that this has been a larger, if not entirely conscious plan all along in an attempt to unite and amass forces, regardless of doctrine/scriptural positions or implications against anyone who was opposed to the scam/sham of Apologetics Press—which eventually spread to Memphis (MSOP). This to the total disregard for *associations* with known false teachers and their unscriptural positions—as one can see in the vehement criticism of pointing out false

teachers and unscriptural positions (and associations with those who hold them).

Wondering why some brethren were traveling to the *Tahoe Encampment* was a puzzle, since it is a well-known bastion of liberal influence (Sunset—formerly School of Preaching—is all one needs to know). Yet, over the last five years many who would never have hardly said the word “Sunset” were, in fact, offering their services to appear on the programs with Sunset speakers, teachers, et al. This has included popular speakers such as Phil Sanders, Brad Harrub, Joe Wells, and now, men from Freed.

Even more troubling was the question of why congregations seemed unconcerned that these men actually were going to Tahoe, since they were being invited to speak at what had been conservative venues. A couple of years ago we mentioned that Sanders was at both a *Sunset Workshop* and the *Memphis School*

of Preaching lectures in the **same** year. That is quite a feat! Some of the speakers at Tahoe two years ago also made it to the *Polishing the Pulpit* series, and maybe they will again—I mean, as it stands, what is the difference? There has never been any doubt of the influence Sunset had in missions abroad (remember how they took over in Ethiopia?) and, now through their satellite programs, in local congregations. But there is also no question that the teaching of many of their faculty on marriage, divorce, and remarriage is as false as they come.

Truman Scott, in his discussion with Wayne Jackson in 1983, showed how far one would go to allow the guilty party to remarry, and he was one of the deans at the school—having great influence over numerous programs. Nothing has changed at Sunset, so where did change occur? It now seems crystal clear that brethren are ready and willing to accept the teaching of Sunset, Schertz, Miller, Mac

Deaver, and any others into the fold! No longer is it a concern that **opposing** doctrinal differences should play an important role in the work of the church.

I totally missed this! I had thought, all of these years, that the integrity of the Scriptures might actually mean something to these brethren, and that it was simply an unawareness of circumstances that led to these odd occurrences (**maybe they did not know about these engagements?**). However, now, with these brethren from Freed attending the Tahoe camp last year with Chris Swinford from Sunset (who took over Scott's old position), I can only see this as purposeful—not an accident. Something larger is afoot, and I am now wondering if all of the brethren who have thrown their lots in with some of these brethren are **really** willing to go all the way—as some no doubt will—into the land of make-believe (error).

San Mateo, CA

Testing My Worth

Delbert Goins

“But let every man prove his own work, and then shall he have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another” (Gal. 6:4).

Genuineness of conversion is based upon one's knowledge of the Word, because the more one knows, the more fervent one will be, that is, should he faithfully obey whatsoever is commanded by our Lord. The Scriptures require personal examination: “But let a man examine himself (1 Cor. 11:28) and “Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves” (2 Cor. 13:5). Examine is to test, scrutinize to determine the

quality of our inner self. The life we live is a solid test with convincing answers to such questions as: Am I an asset or a liability to the local body of Christ? Do I help or hinder the cause? Do I add strength and moral fiber to the church purchased by the blood of Christ? A hundred more questions aid in discovery of who we are.

I can measure my worth to Christ and His body should I see myself as others see me. Probably the better question here is, “If every member of the body were exactly like me, what kind of a body would the church be?” If

I do not attend any Bible Study periods, and all were like me, there would be no assembly on Monday, Wednesday, or early Sunday morning! If I attend assemblies but one hour every few Sundays, the church doors would not be opened most of the time! When this happened in one church, they tore down the church house! Am I only a one-hour-a-week religious person, and the rest of the week I do what I want? So the haunting question is: by my life and assembly with the saints, am I in-

The Bible

This Book contains the mind of God, the state of man, the way of salvation, the doom of sinners, and the happiness of believers. Its doctrine is holy, its precepts are binding, its histories are true, and its decisions are immutable.

- Read it to be wise, believe it to be safe, and practice it to be holy.
- It contains light to direct you, food to support you, and comfort to cheer you.
- It is the traveler's map, the pilgrim's staff, the pilot's compass, the soldier's sword, and the Christian's charter.
- Here Paradise is restored, Heaven is opened, and the ways of Hell are disclosed.
- Christ is its grand object, our good its design, and the redemption of man its end.

Author Unknown

fluent in leading anyone to Christ? What is my worth to the Lord? What is my worth by the eyes of outsiders?

“Nothing succeeds like success.” By faithful and zealous attendance I verify my worth. By demonstrating loyalty to divine authority in daily life I prove my worth. By showing others godliness in all things among my fellow citizens I prove my worth. By striving to become more proficient in His service I prove my worth. By my cheerful and enthusiastic zealous mind-set and demeanor to work in the Lord's vineyard I prove my worth. By taking on accountability for the success and welfare of the church I prove my worth. By taking charge upon myself to be the welcoming person I prove my worth. We must remember the opposite of each on this list is true also: “If I do not, then I prove I am not worthy.”

As owner of a business, would you take responsibility to see that the business grows? Would you do your work fueled with enthusiasm and thankfulness for the opportunity? If you did this, would you suppose it proves you love your company? Suppose one of your employees decides to vacation without telling your manager, how would that go over? Would you send out seekers for that one? Would you fire that one?

Among the citizens of our metropolis, our business is the Lord's church. Just what are we doing to prove we are zealous to keep it alive, well, and growing? Honesty today is better than honesty only on Judgment Day. Therefore, let us secure our position of safety by laboring in the vineyard of the Lord.

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Susan Diaz (Joyce Johnson's friend)
Connie Kois (Dot Dodd's sister-in-law)
Shane Norris (Pam Busch's nephew)
Billy Crowe (Crowe's grandson)
Alvin Myrick (Myrick's son)

New Arrival

Our congratulations is extended to Bill and Peggy Crowe in the birth of their great-granddaughter on February 20. Elliotte Mae Crowe weighed 7 lbs 11 oz.

Wednesday Bible Reading

February 29—Ray Foshee

Please Remember

February 29

Fifth Wednesday Singing at 7:00 pm, in the auditorium.



BEACON

Vol. XLI / No. 10

March 5, 2012

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Will Modernism Destroy Us?

Harrell Davidson

In the past several years we have seen modernism raising its ugly head in the churches of Christ. Several elderships and many preachers have taught regarding the perils of modernism. These saw the effects of it in various congregations as well as in many denominations. We raised our voices and some heard while others did not care. Those who a few years ago had the “I don’t care” attitudes are today given over to modernism and its trends. We submit that modernism is not a new thing at all. In fact, the tempter was the first modernist. When Satan said, “yea hath God said” he began the slippery slope down the dark road of modernism. Modernism promised in the temptation something that is impossible for man to be—“as God.” We must understand that modernism denies the reality of sin. Modernism waters sin down to the point that it no longer exists regardless of what the Scriptures teach. For instance, look

what Adam said after the fall, “The woman whom thou gavest *to be* with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat” (Gen. 3:12). Eve blamed the serpent, Adam blamed God, and from then until now man has not been prone to shoulder his own personal responsibilities for the most part. Very few in the Scriptures admitted that they had sinned. We want to shift responsibility to someone or something else because we must *white wash* our own faults and set out thinking toward a more modern view of the Word to justify ourselves. Why? Because modernism is man’s effort to make the Bible conform in varying degrees to what man wants all the way to reconstructing the Gospel to the restructuring the church. Ah, now we see why so much liberalism and compromise permeates us today. Many do not want to do what the Bible says so we will get us a new Bible that will suit our own style of living or we will ignore plain pas-

sages not thinking of judgment (John 12:48).

The modernist goes on with these thoughts and teaches that “everything dwells in varying degrees and can be measured.” Measured by what? Of course, by the instrument or thing that the modernist creates! This would require some method and the way to determine method is very important. For instance, you cannot smell, taste, or see the modernist. An x-ray machine will not find them out. However, their words do and will betray them.

Subjectivity led to this malady in a large way. The conduct of some Christians makes others resign from the thought of pure Christianity and this is hypocrisy. Division has been created among us as well as the religious world in general. This, in my judgment, is one of the things that has led many toward

agnosticism. And, why not? The modernist already rejects the Bible especially every miracle that is given therein. There is no study among them except trying to find a defense of the very selfish doctrine they hold dear. They can all day long tell one what the Bible does not say while ignoring what it does say.

All of us need to study the Bible more than we do because this is the only thing that will lead us to a wholesome Christianity. We need to ask for evidence. We need to state (live) our faith instead of showing a lack of faith. We need to teach the Scriptures to our children. As long as we feed them with intellectualism, modernism will flourish. Modernism will starve to death if we will feed ourselves and the people we teach the pure Word of God.

Obion, TN

The Indestructible Book

J. Noel Merideth

The Holy Bible cannot be destroyed; it is the indestructible book. Jehoiakim in the Old Testament cut the roll of Jeremiah’s prophecy with a penknife and sent it to the flames, but it was written again and not destroyed. Jehoiakim died in disgrace and was given the burial of an animal—the Word of God lived on. In the fourth century A.D. Diocletian, the Roman Emperor, attacked the Bible and sought to have all the copies of the Bible destroyed. Twenty years later another Roman Emperor, Constantine, sought to put the New Testament in all the churches. The Word of God lived on. Voltaire claimed that the Bible would be a forgotten book within one hundred years. Within less time than that

the Geneva Bible Society was using his home as a basis from which it distributed millions of Bibles. Bob Ingersol, an American agnostic, once held a Bible high in his hand and boasted, “In fifteen years I will have this book in the morgue.” Within fifteen years Ingersol was in the morgue and the grave; but the Bible lives on.

The centuries come and go, but the Bible stands; empires rise and fall and are forgotten, but the Bible stands; unbelief abandons it, but the Bible stands; higher critics deny its inspiration, but the Bible shines; and, modernism tries to explain it away, but it stands. “For ever, O LORD, Thy word is settled in heaven” (Psa. 119:89); “the word of our God

shall stand for ever” (Isa. 40:8); “Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away” (Mat. 24:35).

This century has seen the widespread influence of liberalism and modernism. Basically, liberalism and modernism is an effort to get away from the inspiration and authority of the Bible. The liberals often present themselves as humble and pious followers of the Bible, but in dealing with them you will soon find out that they are arrogant and slander faithful Gospel preachers every chance they get. They pretend to believe and teach the Bible, but they do not believe its statements or morals and try to raise doubts to undermine the confidence of their students. They always say they have been misunderstood, when in reality they have been unmasked. They claim to be religious but will not sacrifice for Christ nor

help those who cannot return them a favor. They claim to preach the Gospel, but really preach the doctrines of men. They claim to hold forth the Bible but deny so many verses that members who follow them scarcely have any Bible left. The liberals and modernist say Gospel preachers are too narrow, but Gospel preachers are the ones who are pointing people to the narrow way of Jesus (Mat. 7:13-14). Do not let anyone take your Bible away from you.

Do not let anyone shake your confidence in the Gospel. Do not let any “perverted version” cloud your mind on the Bible. If we live by the Bible, properly divided and correctly applied (2 Tim. 2:15), we may at last hear those welcome words, “Well done, *thou* good and faithful servant” (Mat. 25:21).

Deceased

37th Annual Bellview Lectures

What The Bible Says About:

June 9-13, 2012

We invite all to attend this year’s Bellview Lectures. During the lectures there will be twenty-nine lessons presented. The lessons will be available in written format in a soft cover book. Lesson topics are: God the Father—Wayne Blake, Christ—Roelf Ruffner, Holy Spirit—Charles Pogue, Authority—Ken Chumbley, Worship—Ken Chumbley, Morality—Gene Hill, Conflict—Gene Hill, Home—Tim Cozad, Truth—David Brown, Divorce and Remarriage—Don Tarbet, False Teachers—John West, Drinking Alcohol—Don Tarbet, Modesty—John Rose, Emotions—Charles Pogue, Heaven—Lynn Parker, Hell—Gary Summers, —Christian Growth—Wayne Blake, Love—David Brown, Hate—Tim Cozad, Salvation—Dennis “Skip” Francis, Baptism—Dub McClish, Covenants—John Rose, Works of the Flesh—Roelf Ruffner, Christian’s Fruit—Lynn Parker, The Tongue—Dennis “Skip” Francis, Bible Translations—John West, Inspiration of the Bible—Michael Hatcher, The Second Coming—Dub McClish, and Satan—Gary Summers.

Check out our web site at: <http://www.bellviewcoc.com/lectures.php>

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Susan Diaz (Joyce Johnson's friend)
Connie Kois (Dot Dodd's sister-in-law)
Shane Norris (Pam Busch's nephew)
Billy Crowe (Crowe's grandson)

Wednesday Bible Reading

March 7—Andrew Hatcher

Please Remember

March 11

Deacons' meeting will be held at
5:30 pm, in room 7.

March 12

Visitation Group 2 will meet at
6:00 pm.

March 18

Elders/Deacons' meeting will be
held at 5:00 pm, in room 7.



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A Member of the Church Not Part of a Movement

Charles Pogue

If you have read any material by the agents of change who have gone out from us but who still claim to be part of us, or if you have heard any of their speeches, you know that one of the common mistakes they make is to associate the church of Christ with a movement rather than with The New Testament. Liberals perceive the churches of Christ as one of three branches of the Restoration Movement. The other two, according to them, are the Disciples of Christ, and the Christian Church denominations. Some of those promoting this idea blame the churches of Christ as the culprit in what they see as a division in the movement, because, according to them, we have allowed human traditions to become part of doctrine, and thus alienated ourselves from the *brethren* in the other branches of the Restoration Movement.

Some of those who exalt the Restoration Movement above the church are willing to

compromise points of doctrine, instrumental music for instance, to extend fellowship on the basis of an irresponsible unity in diversity. Others, who pay too much homage to the Restoration Movement, despite insisting that unity can only come based on the authority of the Scriptures, nevertheless argue that members of the Christian churches and the Disciples of Christ are our brethren who are caught up in some errors of doctrine and practice.

No. The Christian Church and the Disciples of Christ churches are denominations—nothing more and nothing less. Their members are not our brethren. Neither is the church of Christ a product of the Restoration Movement; it is the product of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the Truth revealed in the New Testament, and begun to be preached on the first Pentecost after the resurrection of our Lord.

Jesus promised to build His church (Mat.

16:18), not a movement. Those who obeyed the Gospel at Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost were added to the church (Acts 2:47), not a movement. When the Judaizers stirred up trouble in Antioch, Paul and Barnabas did not go to Jerusalem where they were received by a movement, but by the church and the apostles and elders (15:4). Paul did not write the letters of 1 and 2 Corinthians, Galatians, and 1 and 2 Thessalonians to a movement, but to the churches. The one body of Christ is not a movement, but the church of Christ (Eph. 1:22-23; 4:4). Paul did not write Timothy, so Timothy would know how to behave in a movement, but in the church of the living God (1 Tim. 3:15).

One of the things that are amazingly sad and perplexing is that some, who have long understood that the church of Christ is not a branch

of the Restoration or any other movement, are now using the services of some who do not have that understanding. In the February 2006, *Christian Chronicle*, Phil Sanders stated that he believes baptized believers in the Independent Christian Churches are his brethren. This writer's alma mater, Memphis School of Preaching has long and correctly opposed that error. So, why is it that if one read the schedule of the March 28 April 1, 2010 MSOP lectureship, the speaker listed for the Wednesday, March 31, 7:00-8:00 p.m. slot was Phil Sanders?

It is not just a matter of how one looks at things; it is a matter of truth, that the Independent Christian Churches comprise a denominational body of man. That is true, because the church of Christ is not a product of the Restoration Movement. It is the blood bought institution of heaven. It is the church of our Lord, for which He

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died, and has promised to save. It is the church of the New Testament. Therefore, Phil Sanders is in serious doctrinal error, and the Memphis School of Preaching is guilty of extending fellowship to and inviting a false teacher's participation in what was prior to 2005 a highly esteemed lectureship series.

It has already happened numerous times that when preachers and congregations began to view the church as a product of the Restoration movement, and the Independent Christian Churches and The Disciples of Christ

as other branches of that movement, unauthorized practices such as instrumental music in the worship service did not lag far behind. Thus, brethren, we must stand opposed to characterizing the church as the product of a movement. If we fail, we are placing ourselves in the same position many others have already placed themselves, in a mindset that has led them to fall from their own steadfastness, of which thing the apostle Peter warns we must beware (2 Pet. 3:17).

Granby, MO

Self-Deceit

Paul Vaughn

No one wants or likes to be deceived. To be deceived is when one has been misled by falsehood to say or act in certain ways that can be dangerous to his well-being. Being deceived makes one feel like a fool and it brings embarrassment. Yet, the pinnacle of foolishness is being self-deceived. When one is self-deceived he has tricked his own heart into believing a falsehood, leading his own soul into darkness of an abyss where fools roam in packs because their numbers are legion. They labor to justify error by their own thoughts, through their own pride and wisdom. They never come to the light of truth following the delusion of wisdom, being lead astray by their own knowledge or traditions because they reject the wisdom from God.

The Scriptures teach that all who are self-deceived are on the path to destruction. It is written, "There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof *are* the ways of death" (Pro. 16:25). By believing what "seems

right" one is foolishly traveling the dark road of error blindly heading toward the demise of his life.

When men indulge themselves on their own wisdom, they slowly poison their heart to God's way for man. They began to rationalize bad behavior and poor choices believing they are following the way of righteousness, but instead they follow their own goodness. No one will never make it to Heaven by doing "what seems right." Jesus 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" (Mat. 7:21).

Every one of us should take a reality check every day by comparing our way of life by Holy Writ. This is accomplished by being completely honest with Scriptures, not reading into the Word of God our ideas or our traditions because once this is done we are self-deceived.

Cloverport, KY

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Connie Kois (Dot Dodd's
sister-in-law)
Shane Norris (Pam Busch's nephew)
Billy Crowe (Crowe's grandson)

Wednesday Bible Reading

March 14—Jim Loy

Please Remember

March 18

Elders/Deacons' meeting will be held at 5:00 pm, in room 7.

March 19

Visitation Group 3 will meet at 6:00 pm.

March 26

Visitation Group 4 will meet at 6:00 pm.



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Sunday Worship Services — 10:00 a.m., 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday Bible Classes for all ages — 7:00 p.m.

The “Isaiah” Attitude

Dub McClish

Seven centuries before the Christ came, God had a job that needed to be done. He asked, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” Isaiah replied, “Here am I; send me” (Isa. 6:8). The willingness of the prophet to accept the task to which God referred is exemplary for those who seek to serve God in any era.

Notice some of the background of the “Isaiah” attitude. He had seen a vision of the Lord in His glory, sitting upon His eternal throne. Such a glorious God deserved the fullest service. Could it be that so few in the church and in the world have the attitude of Isaiah because they have never caught the vision of the Jehovah’s glory and power? Of course, He does not manifest Himself to people today in direct visions of glory as the one Isaiah saw. However, He has enabled us to see the great measure of His glory, majesty, and authority through His Word and His world.

When men visualize His glory they will be more likely to serve Him.

Isaiah was very humble before the Lord and felt himself unworthy to be so near Him (6:5). So many are hindered from serving God wholeheartedly because of pride. Pride prevents our assuming the role of servants. It makes us want to protect our dignity above all. Pride convinces us that we know more than God knows. It makes us think we can improve on God’s eternal plans. It makes us think our plans are more important than God’s plans. Until we learn to take up our “towels” (John 13:3-16) as well as our “crosses,” and follow Jesus (Luke 9:23), the “Isaiah” attitude will elude us.

Isaiah humbly confessed his sins and his unworthiness before God (Isa. 6:5). Many people refuse to obey the plan of salvation because they feel inadequate and unworthy. Often when members of the church commit

sin, they then drift further away from God because they realize they have sinned. This is the classic “catch 22” or endless cycle of many lives: people sin because they refuse or fail to serve, and they continue to refuse or fail to serve because they have sinned. The only solution is to break the cycle, as did Isaiah—obtain the Lord’s forgiveness by following His plan for our forgiveness.

With the vision of God’s glory and the assurance of God’s pardon fresh in his mind, Isaiah was ready to go wherever God would

send and to serve however God would assign. Oh, how the Lord needs men, women, boys, and girls with the “Isaiah” attitude. The Lord’s call for workers remains in effect: “We must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work” (John 9:4). If we have the attitude of Isaiah, we will always be ready to respond to the full extent of our abilities and opportunities with a hearty, “Here am I; send me.”

Denton, TX

Church Membership Is Essential

Bruce Stulting

I was asked the following question: “Must everyone be a member of the church of which you are a member to go to heaven?”

In answer to this question, let me first say that my membership in any church will not affect anyone’s salvation except my own. However, this question does recognize the fact that there are multitudes of religious bodies in the world all of which claim to be the church. Is God pleased with this division? Since “God is not *the author* of confusion” (1 Cor. 14:33) the divided religious world cannot be pleasing to Him.

In Colossians 1:18 Paul stated that Jesus is “the head of the body, the church.” We see here that the church and the body are the same, yet in Ephesians 4:4 Paul wrote that “there is one body.” If the body and the church are the same and there is only one body then it follows that there is only one church. The question then becomes, “Out of all the religious bodies, which is the right one?” We must turn to the Bible for this answer.

Jesus is the founder of the one true church. The Bible teaches in Acts 20:28 that Jesus purchased the church with His blood. Jesus said that He would be the builder of the church (Mat. 16:18). Paul said that Jesus was the head of the church and savior of the body (Eph. 5:23). **Did Jesus establish the church of which you are a member?**

Since Jesus is the Head and Savior of the church; it is proper that the church wear His name. This is not only proper, but more importantly, it is scriptural as well. In Romans 16:16, Paul stated, “the churches of Christ salute you.” **Does the church of which you are a member wear the name of the one who died for it?**

Jesus prophesied in Mark 9:1 that the church would be established when the Holy Spirit came with power and that this would take place during the lifetime of the apostles. This prophecy was fulfilled at Jerusalem on the first Pentecost after the resurrection A.D. 33. It was at this time that the Holy Spirit

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came with power and the “Word of the Lord went forth from Jerusalem” (Acts 1:8; 2:1-4). **Was the church of which you are a member established in Jerusalem on Pentecost, A.D. 33?**

In Ephesians 5:23 Paul stated that “Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.” It is then necessary to be a member of the New Testament church to go to heaven. The terms of membership are quite simple. One must hear and believe the Word of the Gospel (Acts 18:8). Based upon our faith we must repent of our sins and confess Jesus (8:37; 17:30). Then one is baptized by immersion in water for the remission of sins (2:38; 8:36-39), At this point the Lord adds one to the only true church (2:47). **Have you met these conditions?**

Huntsville, TX

One Phone Call Does It

Delbert Goins

Cheer the sad
Learn of a need
Lift the depressed
Shows your concern
Strenthens the weak
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Encourage the down trod
Invite one to the assembly
Order flowers for a funeral

Lewisville, TX

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Susan Diaz (Joyce Johnson's friend)
Connie Kois (Dot Dodd's
sister-in-law)
Shane Norris (Pam Busch's nephew)
Billy Crowe (Crowe's grandson)

Wednesday Bible Reading

March 21—Ray Pierce

Please Remember

March 26

Visitation Group 4 will meet at
6:00 pm.

March 28

Sermons Video Series at 7:00 pm,
in the auditorium.

April 2

Visitation Group 1 will meet at
6:00 pm.



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“Wellington Defeated”

Ken Chumbley

Being an Englishman, I find the following account, from the book, *A Treasury of Inspirational Illustrations*, by Earl C. Willer, page 108, very interesting:

A caretaker of a church in England used to tell the story of a momentary shock and dismay that came over the people of England, due to a misunderstanding. The Battle of Waterloo was being fought and all the people were vitally interested in its outcome. If Napoleon's forces defeated the Duke of Wellington there would be the dismal future of living under the Emperor of France. There were no telegraphs in those days so a sail ship was to semaphore the news to a signal man on top of Winchester Cathedral. Then the message would be passed on across England. When the ship came, the signal man on board semaphored the first word—“Wellington.” The next was “Defeated” and then the fog came down and the ship could not be seen.

“Wellington Defeated” went on across England, and there was a great gloom over the countryside. After about two or three hours the fog lifted and the signal was repeated: “Wellington defeated the enemy.” Then came great rejoicing.

Almost 2000 years ago, there was a great gloom among many in Jerusalem and surrounding cities. Word had spread concerning the crucifixion, death, and burial of the one who had claimed to be the Son of God. His body had been placed in a new tomb and a great stone had been placed over the opening and a seal placed on it by the authorities (Mat. 24; Mark 15; Luke 23; John 19). All of those who had been opposed to Jesus of Nazareth and His teachings could now rejoice and spread the message, “Jesus defeated.” Everything that He had stood for, principles of doing right, being fair, and the hope He taught and brought had now been dashed

and laid to rest, it would appear that evil and injustice had won and ruled the day. The love that He had taught was now in the grave. It seemed that it was all over, all had come to an end, sin was the conqueror, man stood defeated, and wrong became the victor. Even those who had been close to Jesus had given up thinking that all their hopes had been dashed. Some were so disappointed that they decided to go fishing. However, the message

was not complete. When the fog lifted three days later, there was the complete and true message. Jesus—defeated our arch enemy Satan. Then there arose among His followers an excitement and rejoicing like had never been known before. Jesus, the Son of God, had arisen from the dead never to die again. Because of that victory you and I can have the desire for and the hope of heaven. Because of Christ's resurrection, we can know that just as the grave was unable to hold Him, neither can it hold us. The banner of hope waves high for everyone who has obeyed the Gospel and become a child of God and continues to be faithful to Him. Such is the blessed assurance that we have in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Belvedere, SC

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mhatcher@gmail.com

Notes from 2 Timothy

J. Noel Merideth

In 2 Timothy 2:3-6 Paul gives three figures which suggest the hard service which is in Christ. The soldier, the athlete, and the husbandman. Paul gives the simile of comparing service to Christ to that of a **soldier**. The soldier has to go on duty and leave comforts, he must face the hardships of service, and the dangers of the battlefield. Paul points to his own example in saying, "Suffer hardship with me." Paul did not ask Timothy to submit to that which he was unwilling to do; he suffered for his loyalty to Christ, and he asked Timothy to be willing to accept similar hardship. "No soldier on service entangleth himself in the affairs of *this* life; that he may please him who enrolled him as a soldier" (2:4). A soldier "on service" is one actually engaged in

performing the obligations of a soldier. A soldier on duty must devote himself to the service of him who enrolled him. A soldier, to please his officers, must perform their orders without interference from his ties of home or business affairs. The comparison is that the Christian soldier, engaged in the service of the Lord, must keep himself free from the entangling affairs of the world which would hinder him in performing his duties.

"And if also a man contend in the games, he is not crowned, except he have contended lawfully" (2:5). In this verse the Christian is represented as an **athlete**. The reference is to an athlete in the ancient games which were so well-known in Greek history. Those who had a part in the games were required to conform

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to the rules of the game. They had to undergo much training to participate. Paul's comparison is that Timothy must, therefore, conform to the laws of Christ, and not give up the discipline which would come through training. Paul wrote to the Corinthians:

And every man that striveth in the games exerciseth self-control in all things. Now they *do it* to receive a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible (1 Cor. 9:25).

“The husbandmen that laboreth must be the first to partake of the fruits” (2 Tim. 2:6). Here the figure changes to that of a **husbandman** or **farmer**. The farmer should be the first to enjoy the fruit of his hands; but, he must first labor to have the fruit. One cannot receive the harvest of the fields if he does not work the crop. The comparison is that Timothy must recognize that for him to re-

ceive the fruit of Christian labor, he must engage in work in the Lord's field.

“Consider what I say; for the Lord shall give thee understanding in all things” (2:7). Paul had used three illustrations to impress upon Timothy the necessity of concentration, endurance, and faithful toil to please the Lord as a preacher and a Christian. These points were drawn from the activity of soldiers, athletes, and farmers. Timothy was to consider these points carefully. If he properly considered these points, he would see that he was a Christian soldier fighting under Christ in a spiritual war with evil, that he was a Christian athlete running for the prize of eternal life, and a Christian farmer sowing the seed of the kingdom and looking to a bountiful harvest in the judgment.

Deceased

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| Nellie Read | Fred Stancliff |
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| Al Flesher | Horace Myrick |
| Dot Lambert | Nancy Travis |
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| Wyatt Blancheri (Born's grandson) | |
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| Billy Crowe (Crowe's grandson) | |

Sympathy

Our deepest sympathies is extended to Ashley Brower in the death of her aunt, Alta Cork. Please keep Ashley in your prayers.

Wednesday Bible Reading
March 28—Fred Stancliff

Please Remember
March 28

Sermons Video Series at 7:00 pm,
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April 2, 2012

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Wednesday Bible Classes for all ages — 7:00 p.m.

God "In a Box"

Brad Green

I *am* the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. Thou shalt have no other gods before me. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of *any thing* that *is* in heaven above, or that *is* in the earth beneath, or that *is* in the water under the earth: Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God *am* a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth *generation* of them that hate me (Exo. 20:2-5).

God is everlasting (Psa. 41:13), eternal, the Creator of all things (Gen. 1), and without Him nothing exists. It is somewhat understandable that man would want to see what he worships. However, because of the nature of God, the evidence He has given us should be enough to plant and strengthen man's faith.

God is not in subjection to man. Man cannot move God or call upon Him like a genie in a bottle. It is for this reason that there were to be no images made. Man was never to think he could be God's master. Localized images were pieces of property that men had created to worship and could be moved at any time and to any place. They were able to be broken, hidden, and controlled by man. God's existence is far above that of man and man's comprehension and therefore should not and must not be thought of or worshiped as something that grants wishes. Men have always tried to control their gods and God Himself.

After a defeat to the Philistines, Israel called for the ark and stated that "**it**" would save them out of the hands of their enemies (1 Sam. 4:3). The Israelites had made the mistake of thinking that they had God confined to a box. An "**it**" could save nothing. An "**it**" has no breath (Jer. 51:17). The Philistines took the Ark of

the Covenant and placed it beside their god, Dagon. When Dagon fell to the floor, man had to pick it up and place it back where it belonged. Obviously, a god that cannot even take care of itself is worthless.

The Israelites built a golden calf and God told Moses that the people worshipped **it**, and have sacrificed **thereunto**, and said, These *be* thy gods, O Israel, which have brought thee up out of the land of Egypt (Exo. 32:8).

It is amazing that an intelligent being could possibly believe that a calf that they themselves had built out of pieces of jewelry had saved them from Egyptian bondage. It was, however, an attempt to put God where and when they wanted Him.

There are many Bible examples of men trying to control God. Though there may not be

many physical images or statues in the likeness of a god today, many continue to think of God as being a wish maker who is at man's beckoned call. Doing so can be traced to the physical lusts and desires of man.

Men who do what is right in their own eyes (Jud. 21:25) and teach for themselves doctrines of men (Col. 2:20-23) do not care what God has commanded. They simply want "a god" by their side to comfort them and their evil decisions. They devise a doctrine to which they can adhere and then try to make God conform to their teachings. "But in vain they do worship me, teaching *for* doctrines the commandments of men" (Mat. 15:9). God has given us the pattern by which we must live and worship in the New Testament. All else is "vain."

Lenoir City, TN

Iris Gallaher

1928 – 2012

Our deepest sympathy is extended to Bill Gallaher and his family, in the death of his beloved wife Iris, who passed from this life on March 29, 2012. Bill and Iris moved to Pensacola, Florida, and began to attend the Bellview Church of Christ in 1955. Iris taught in the Children's Bible class program for many years. While Bill served as an elder of the Bellview congregation for 37 years, Iris was a true helpmeet to her husband.

We were truly blessed to have had Iris Gallaher among us to provide an example as a Christian, a wife, a mother, and a friend. Iris' godly life was a great influence for good as she and Bill labored in the cause of Christ with the saints at Bellview throughout the years.

Iris will be greatly missed, but we can console ourselves with the thought of heaven rejoicing with her as she explores the beauties of that city, sings praises to Him who died to save us, and meet with the saints gone before.

And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed *are* the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them (Rev. 14:13).

The Tax Man Cometh!

Jimmie Z. Gribble

There are some things we cannot avoid. One of those things is right around the corner. It is known by several different terms, best known as April 15th. This date comes around each year, at the same time, bringing with it the same problems and anxiety. This year is no different. On that day some of the post offices will remain open longer, or have employees by an outdoor mail box, so the returns can be post marked on April 15th, to avoid penalties for filing late. People know this date is coming and yet, will always wait till the last moment. By the way, are you one of these last minute filers? I always try to have mine done by the end of March—not this year, though. Maybe tomorrow! Even if we are late, we could pay whatever penalties and still be all right.

There is a day coming, not like April 15th that comes each year. This day that is coming comes only once. This day no one knows when it will come—though some have sought to so proclaim. When this day comes there will no person standing outside so one can get his filing done on time. When this day comes there will not be any longer hours for getting things straight. When this day come

there will no paying penalties and making everything all right. When this day comes, all things must have already been taken care of. This day, of course, is the judgment day. Jesus so taught that this day would come as a thief in the night, meaning we know not when this day will come. He said:

Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come. But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up. Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh (Mat. 24:42-44).

Peter echoed the same when he wrote, “But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up” (2 Pet. 3:10). People know it is coming, but are living as though it will never come, or, else, that they will have time to prepare. Again Jesus taught, “And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut.... Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh” (Mat. 25:10, 13). Beloved, we can make it through April 15th, ready or not. But that day, that judgment day, if we are ready, we will make it. If we are not, He never knew us. What a day that will be!

Portsmouth, VA

2012 Bellview Lectures

What The Bible Says About:

Open Forum Questions

If you have a question send it to
mhatcher@gmail.com

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Sick

Remember in your prayers:

Bill Gallaher Marge Williams
Charles Williams Marilyn Hall
Nellie Read Fred Stancliff
Ella Hammac Harold Cozad
Robbie Cravey Bill Busch
Al Flesher Horace Myrick
Dot Lambert Nancy Travis
Bobbie LaBryer
Wyatt Blancheri (Born's grandson)
Tony & Tim Busch (Busch's sons)
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Johnson's brother/sister-in-law)
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Connie Kois (Dot Dodd's
sister-in-law)
Shane Norris (Pam Busch's nephew)
Billy Crowe (Crowe's grandson)
Hailie Busch (Busch's grand-daughter)

Wednesday Bible Reading

April 4—Orville Worley

Please Remember

Every Sunday

Ladies' Bible Class will meet at
5:00 pm, in the zone room.

April 8

Deacons' meeting will be held at
5:30 pm, in room 7.

April 9

Visitation Group 2 will meet at
6:00 pm.



BEACON

Vol. XLI / No. 15

April 9, 2012

A Publication of Bellview Church of Christ

4850 Saufley Field Road; Pensacola, FL 32526

850.455.7595

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Wednesday Bible Classes for all ages — 7:00 p.m.

While I Can

Dub McClish

Atheism, Humanism, and Secularism now control many of the levers of power in our nation. Law-making judges have driven God and the Bible from many public institutions. “Political correctness” has cast a pall of liberal-inspired censorship upon us, which has begun to be translated into “hate speech” laws. The ascent of national amorality has paralleled the opposition to God, Jesus Christ, and the Bible.

God-lovers love the souls of the God-haters, but despise the things they say and do. If they have their way, it will someday be a crime to preach and practice certain parts of the Gospel of Christ. The nation founded to a great degree by Bible-believers seeking refuge from persecution is now rapidly becoming the source of such persecution. What irony!

Therefore, **while I can** (without being arrested), I will continue to proclaim:

Jehovah God as the Creator of the universe and as the only true and living God. There is

no other rational explanation for the origin of all things except an omniscient, omnipotent, eternal Being.

The Bible to be the Word of God, revealed by Him to inspired men, by which we learn of His nature and of our own. It provides the record of our origin, our purpose for being, and our destiny. It alone is the infallible, objective standard of righteous behavior and true religion.

Jesus Christ as the Son of God and the one and only Savior of mankind to Whom men must submit to be saved from eternal ruin. His disciples win converts by persuasion, never by force. Before Him all will someday stand in Judgment.

Abortion to be murder. It mercilessly, cruelly kills the most innocent and defenseless among us. “Thou shalt not kill” was God’s law long before He inscribed those words on a stone tablet. The judges and lawyers who legalized this crime,

along with the medical personnel who perform it, have the blood of 50 million+ innocents on their hands.

Homosexuality to be wickedness. God so calls it, as well as “abomination,” “vile passions,” “unnatural,” “unseemly,” “unrighteousness,” and going after “strange flesh.” Its impenitent practitioners will not be in Heaven.

Islam to be a non-peaceful, false religion. It is a religio-political system that thrives on “conversion” and conformity by force. *Peaceful* Muslims are simply those who are not true to the Koran. It despises “freedom of religion” and would destroy the Bible and Christianity if it could.

Denton, TX

37th Annual Bellview Lectures

June 9-13, 2012

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7:45 pm False Teachers John West

Sunday, June 10

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3:00 pm The Tongue
Dennis “Skip” Francis

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7:45 pm Satan Gary Summers

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3:30 pm Open Forum:

Dinner Break

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7:45 pm Baptism Dub McClish

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Don Tarbet

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Lunch Break

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2:30 pm Hate Tim Cozad
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7:45 pm Salvation

Dennis “Skip” Francis

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Dub McClish
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11:00 am Drinking Alcohol Don Tarbet
Lunch Break

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2:30 pm Christ Roelf Ruffner
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7:45 pm Heaven Lynn Parker

Inner Light

G. K. Wallace

With many the Word of God is not the power of God unto salvation; it is only a witness to God's Word. They tell us that as they read the Bible the Holy Spirit gives them special light on the passage read. If this is true, then the reader becomes a divine speaker for God. That is all the pope of Rome claims—he speaks for God. I had just as soon have the pope as some teenager who claims he or she has a special leading in their “call meetings” or “soul talks.” This is called by some a “personal encounter.” The Bible is set aside as a true guide and is made only a means of bringing a

person into a “personal encounter.” The doctrine of “inner light” gave us every major denomination among us. Let us remember that the “Bible is right” and that “it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps” (Jer. 10:23). God's means of converting and leading man is the Word of God (Rom. 1:16). The advocates of emotional religion talk much about the Holy Spirit and, at the same time, ignore what the Holy Spirit says in His Holy Word. The spirit that leads a man outside of the Word of God is not holy.

Deceased

Bellview Lectures Information

Housing

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Sick

Remember in your prayers:

Bill Gallaher Marge Williams
Charles Williams Marilyn Hall
Fred Stancliff Dot Lambert
Ella Hammac Harold Cozad
Robbie Cravey Bill Busch
Al Flesher Horace Myrick
Nancy Travis
Nellie Read (Baptist Hospital)
Wyatt Blancheri (Born's grandson)
Tony & Tim Busch (Busch's sons)
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Shane Norris (Pam Busch's nephew)
Billy Crowe (Crowe's grandson)
Hailie Busch (Busch's grand-daughter)

Wednesday Bible Reading

April 11—Carl Ayliffe

Please Remember

Every Sunday

Ladies' Bible Class will meet at 5:00
pm, in the zone room.

April 15

Elders/Deacons' meeting will be
held at 5:00 pm, in room 7.

April 16

Visitation Group 3 will meet at 6:00
pm.



BEACON

Vol. XLI / No. 16

April 16, 2012

A Publication of Bellview Church of Christ

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By Faith

Brad Green

The Bible teaches that “without faith *it is* impossible to please *him* [God]: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and *that* he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him” (Heb. 11:6). Faith is a necessary component in God’s plan to save man and no man can be saved without it. Since faith is so important, we must study the subject meticulously that we can attain such faith as is pleasing to God. The inspired James states, “Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone... Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only” (Jam. 2:17, 24). The Scripture plainly teaches that man is not saved by “faith only.” Therefore, for our faith to be pleasing to God, it must be accompanied by works of obedience, as is evidenced by the example of Abraham recorded in James 2:18-23.

Hebrews 11 is many times referred to as the “Faith Hall of Fame.” God has both the ability and desire to reveal His message to man.

Therefore it makes complete sense that God explains what it was that pleased Him about the faith of those named in Hebrews 11.

By Faith:

- “Abel **offered** unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain” (11:4).
- “Noah...**moved** with fear, **prepared** an ark to the saving of his house” (11:7).
- “Abraham...**obeyed**; and he **went out**, not knowing whither he went...he **sojourned** in the land of promise...For he **looked** for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker *is* God” (11:8-10).
- “Abraham, when he was tried, **offered** up Isaac” (11:17).
- “Isaac **blessed** Jacob and Esau” (11:20).
- “Jacob, when he was a dying, **blessed** both the sons of Joseph; and **worshipped**” (11:21).
- “Moses...**refused** to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter; **Choosing** rather to **suffer** affliction with the people of God, than

to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; **Esteeming the reproach of Christ** greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he **had respect** unto the recompence of the reward. By faith he **forsook** Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he **endured**, as seeing him who is invisible. Through faith he **kept** the passover, and the sprinkling of blood,

lest he that destroyed the firstborn should touch them (11:24-28).

- “They [Israel] **passed** through the Red Sea as by dry *land*” (11:29).

It is more than obvious that the one attribute that made the faith of these individuals pleasing to God was that they all acted in obedience. I highlighted the action verbs in each

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verse above to emphasize this fact. Had these individuals had faith without works of obedience, their faith would have been dead (Jam. 2:17) and thus not pleasing to God (Heb. 11:6). Likewise, if any today desire to have faith that is pleasing to God, (i.e. the faith that will save) one must obey God's commands.

Today, there is only one way that man can get faith. "Faith *cometh* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Rom. 10:17). That faith must lead to acts of obedience as is established by the record of Hebrews 11. One will obey God's command to repent of past sins (Luke 13:3, 5). One will obey God's command to confess that "Jesus Christ is the Son of God"

(Acts 8:37). One will obey God's command to be baptized (immersed) in water in order to have his sins washed away by the blood of the Lamb of God (2:38; 22:16; Rev. 1:5). After one obeys these initial acts, God adds that individual to His Church (Acts 2:47). From that time forward, God requires continued service and obedience (1 John 1:6-9). If this describes your faith, you can know that you are pleasing God. If your faith cannot be defined in this Scriptural manner, please take the appropriate steps needed so you may one day hear, "Well done, *thou* good and **faithful servant**" (Mat. 25:21).

Lenoir City, TN

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Housing

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Sick

Remember in your prayers:

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Charles Williams	Marilyn Hall
Nellie Read	Dot Lambert
Ella Hammac	Harold Cozad
Robbie Cravey	Bill Busch
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Billy Crowe (Crowe's grandson)	
Hailie Busch (Busch's grand-daughter)	

Wednesday Bible Reading

April 18—Henry Born

Please Remember

April 23

Visitation Group 4 will meet at 6:00 pm.

April 25

Sermons Video Series at 7:00 pm, in the auditorium.

April 29

Dinner on the Grounds and Singing after the morning service. The evening service will be at 1:00 pm.



BEACON

Vol. XLI / No. 17

April 23, 2012

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“Think On These Things”

Tim Smith

Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things *are* honest, whatsoever things *are* just, whatsoever things *are* pure, whatsoever things *are* lovely, whatsoever things *are* of good report; if *there be* any virtue, and if *there be* any praise, think on these things (Phi. 4:8).

When you are feeling down, depressed, upset, lonely, angst, heartbroken, or the like, try thinking on Paul’s uplifting list. Whatever your trouble is, seek the truth concerning it, honestly investigate it, ask yourself what justice would do to the matter, what is the purest conduct in which you could engage to effect a settlement to the matter, what are the lovely (pleasant) aspects of your experience—no matter how difficult, there are usually some pleasant lessons learned, what good can you say about yourself or your problem, what strength have you gained from it, and ask yourself wherein is there occasion for praise to God in your ordeal.

Mind you, this will not usually erase the problem, but it will help you deal with the problem in a better way. Some problems are brought on us by our actions, some by the actions of others who are our enemies, some by the actions of others who were merely ignorant of the consequences their actions would bring, and some things just happen—no one tried to make them happen, it just worked out that way. Sometimes understanding the **why** of a problem goes a long way in determining the best solution to it. If the problem is within you, due perhaps to a misunderstanding, or ignorance, or just a bad attitude, these exercises may well extricate it and leave you in good shape.

Always know that if you are right with God the problems that trouble you here will not follow you into Judgment, and they will not enter Heaven. You will leave them behind when you leave this world. Of course, if you know that

Ray Pierce 1933 - 2012

Our deepest sympathy is extended to Ethel Pierce and her family in the death of her beloved husband, Ray, who passed from this life on April 22. Ray and Ethel placed membership with the Bellview congregation in 2002. In January of 2008 Ray was appointed as a Deacon. Due to health reasons he had to resign in September 2009. Both Ray and Ethel were active members of the congregation. Ray will be missed very much by his family and friends and the Bellview congregation. Please keep Ethel and her family in your prayers.

Heaven waits in the after-a-while, you will most probably find the strength to deal with whatever troubles you here. If you are lost, however, please do something about that now! The troubles you know today will be nothing to compare with what Hell holds in store!

Jesus loves you and knows what you are going through:

For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as *we are*, yet without sin (Heb. 4:15).

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He understands. He will not allow you to face an ordeal greater than your ability to bear:

There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God *is* faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to es-

cape, that ye may be able to bear *it* (1 Cor. 10:13).

Would you be free from burdens evermore? Come to Him Who died for you. May God bless you as you study and obey His Word.

Dothan, AL

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Gabriel Stewart (Diamond's nephew)	
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Susan Diaz (Joyce Johnson's friend)	
Connie Kois (Dot Dodd's sister-in-law)	
Shane Norris (Pam Busch's nephew)	
Billy Crowe (Crowe's grandson)	
Hailie Busch (Busch's grand-daughter)	

Wednesday Bible Reading

April 25—Elward Brantley

Please Remember

April 29

Dinner on the Grounds and Singing after the morning service. The evening service will be approximately 12:30 pm.

May 7

Visitation Group 1 will meet at 6:00 pm.

May 13

Deacons' meeting will be held at 5:30 pm, in room 7.



BEACON

Vol. XLI / No. 18

April 30, 2012

A Publication of Bellview Church of Christ

4850 Saufley Field Road; Pensacola, FL 32526

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Bill Busch, Bill Crowe, Jim Loy

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Satan Turns Sin into a “Disease”

Troy M. Cummings

One of the master strokes of deceit which Satan has been able to put over on millions of people—including many Christians—is the clever whitewashing of the sin of drunkenness, dressing it up, twisting it around, and palming it off as the “disease” of “alcoholism”!

If Satan can just deceive sinners into thinking that they are not sinners, but just unfortunate victims of a “disease,” who deserve sympathy and treatment and acceptance—what more would Satan want? No sinner will be led to repent of his sin so long as he and others call it mere *sickness*.

We all know and agree that habitual drunkenness causes various kinds of bad or diseased conditions in the body. In fact, a large number of sins have an obviously bad effect upon the body and the brain. Ordinarily intelligent people can easily distinguish between sin and crime and the various kinds of bad results of that sin or crime; but the amazing thing is that

in recent years, Satan has successfully brainwashed the public and many Christians so they confuse the sin itself with the bad physical and mental results.

I have in my files much documentary proof that many people are flatly denying that drunkenness (“Alcoholism” repeated drunkenness) is a sin or moral problem at all. They claim it is solely a medical, psychological, or psychiatric problem—a sickness or disease, and that is all. The shame is that some of the leading preachers and college professors have taught this.

God in His Word is absolutely authoritative and infinitely wise, and He has made it perfectly plain to all those not blinded by the *foolishness* of man’s wisdom, that drunkenness is a sin, a “work of the flesh” that will keep one out of Heaven, if he/she does not truly repent of it—and that means stopping it.

If you will study the following statements

from God, and believe and exalt them to the place of supreme authority over all of man's notions, there is not a doubt as to what conclusion you must draw. Please study every one of these passages: Luke 21:34-36, Romans 13:12-14, 1 Corinthians 5:1-13, 6:9-11,

Galatians 5:19-21, 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11, 1 Peter 4:3-5.

These passages clearly teach that drunkenness is a sin (not one word mentioned about any "disease") that will keep one out of heaven, and furthermore, that a drunkard (who

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Lunch Break

2:00 pm Bible Translations John West

3:00 pm The Tongue

Dennis "Skip" Francis

Dinner Break

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7:45 pm Satan Gary Summers

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Michael Hatcher

10:00 am The Home Tim Cozad

11:00 am The Works of the Flesh

Roelf Ruffner

Lunch Break

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2:30 pm Conflict Gene Hill

3:30 pm Open Forum:

Dinner Break

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Tuesday, June 12

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10:00 am Divorce and Remarriage

Don Tarbet

11:00 am Love David P. Brown

Lunch Break

1:30 pm The Christian's Fruit

Lynn Parker

2:30 pm Hate Tim Cozad

3:30 pm Open Forum:

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7:00 pm Modesty John Rose

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7:00 pm Hell Gary Summers

7:45 pm Heaven Lynn Parker

does not repent) is to be disciplined by the church, to be “put away” from the fellowship, by congregational action, for the purpose, as Paul wrote, “the destruction of the flesh” (lust of the flesh), “that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus” (1 Cor. 5:5).

Paul stated:

I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat (5:11).

The test is before us; are we going to honor and obey God in the plain teaching of His di-

vine Word; or are we going to disobey God and not go along with the Bible—contradicting modern psychology and psychiatry?

Deceased



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Charles Williams	Marilyn Hall
Nellie Read	Dot Lambert
Ella Hammac	Harold Cozad
Robbie Cravey	Bill Busch
Al Flesher	Horace Myrick
Nancy Travis	
Wyatt Blancheri (Born's grandson)	
Tony & Tim Busch (Busch's sons)	
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Hailie Busch (Busch's grand-daughter)	
Lorine Baskins (Bobbie LaBryer's mother)	
Betty Cripps (Joyce Johnson's cousin)	

Wednesday Bible Reading

May 2—Paul Brantley

Please Remember

May 7

Visitation Group 1 will meet at 6:00
pm.

May 13

Deacons' meeting will be held at
5:30 pm, in room 7.



BEACON

Vol. XLI / No. 19

May 7, 2012

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Wednesday Bible Classes for all ages — 7:00 p.m.

Mother's Day

Sunday is the day we mortals have agreed upon to honor the most wonderful human being in our lives—our sweet, precious mother. There can be no reasonable doubt but what God wants us to love, honor, and cherish our mothers (Eph. 6:1-3). While every day should be Mother's Day, we certainly are not opposed to setting aside one particular day just for her. As a matter of fact, we think it is a splendid idea. Let us make sure our mothers know how special they are and how much we love and appreciate them. Let us do something really special for them on their day.

No one has had a greater influence in molding our lives than our mothers. Someone has determined that from the time we are born until we are twenty-one we are awake 105,000 hours. We spend approximately 10,000 hours in the school room and 2,100 hours in Bible classes, which leaves 93,000 hours under the direct supervision of our parents. Since the father is generally the bread winner and a sur-

vey some time ago revealed that the average American father spends only seven minutes per week alone with his teenage children, most of those 93,000 hours are spent under the supervision of our mothers. Indeed the hand which rocks the cradle rules the world. Abraham Lincoln said, "All that I am, or hope to be, I owe to my angel mother. I remember her prayers, and they have followed me. They have clung to me all my life."

One of the great characters of the Bible is the evangelist Timothy. One of the prime ingredients which made him a dependable servant of God was the influence of his godly mother and grandmother. For as far back as he could remember, he was taught God's Word by these two very special women (2 Tim. 3:14-15; 1:5). When young mothers decide they want to do something about the preacher and elder shortage in the Lord's church, they can and will. They have control of a child's life during the first six years, which are the most formative

years of his life.

One of the tragedies of modern America is that so many mothers make up the working force. We certainly do not want to be critical of working mothers because some of them must work. However, if there is any possible way they could be with their children during those

formative years, even if they had to do without some of the things they want, we would encourage them to do it. It is far better for mothers to be with their children during those years than it is for them to left in the care of a baby sitter or a nursery attendant who only considers it a job.

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Lunch Break

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Michael Hatcher

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Mothers, you have our respect and prayers. We do indeed honor you and especially wish for you a special day of honor on Sunday. You deserve it.

Author Unknown

Open Forum Questions
 If you have a question send it to
 mhatcher@gmail.com
 or call 850.455.7595

“The happiest people don’t have the best of everything. They just make the best of everything” (Anonymous). Life has always been more about what you make of it than anything else. I know rich and poor alike who are dissatisfied about money. I know the same who are for evermore content. The difference? Jesus! Some have Him, some do not. Do you? God bless.

Tim Smith; Dothan, AL

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Nellie Read Dot Lambert
Ella Hammac Harold Cozad
Robbie Cravey Bill Busch
Horace Myrick Nancy Travis
Al Flesher (Sacred Heart Hospital)
Wyatt Blancheri (Born's grandson)
Tony & Tim Busch (Busch's sons)
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Betty Cripps (Joyce Johnson's cousin)

Wednesday Bible Reading

May 9—Bill Busch

Please Remember

May 13

Deacons' meeting will be held at
5:30 pm, in room 7.

May 14

Visitation Group 2 will meet at 6:00
pm.



BEACON

Vol. XLI / No. 20

May 14, 2012

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Preachers and Preaching

Ken Chumbley

I have recently read two stories regarding preachers and preaching. The first tells the story of a preacher in Kentucky who wanted to make his first sermon to be memorable, so he preached a fiery denunciation of horse racing. After the sermon one of the deacons called him aside and reminded him that he was now living in a neighborhood noted for fine horses, and that many of his members enjoyed the races. The preacher took the hint, and the next Sunday thundered and stomped against tobacco, whereupon the same deacon reminded him that the weed was a major item in the region's economy, and that part of his salary would come from the tobacco growers. The following Sunday, the preacher took out after whiskey, and again stirred the deacon to remind him that the church building was in the shadow of distilleries: in fact, some of the church members worked at the distilleries. Frustrated by this time, the young preacher asked the dea-

con: "What can I preach on?" The deacon replied, "Why not preach against heathen witch doctors? There isn't one of them in a thousand miles of here."

The second tells of a well-known preacher who was asked why he never addressed any of the issues of the day. There was nothing in his preaching which dealt specifically with sin. He filled his messages with love and steered clear of such topics as divorce, drinking alcoholic beverages, abortion, homosexuality, greed, and gossip. He defended his silence on the issues saying he wanted to be like Jesus and not be negative, wishing to be remembered for what he was for rather than what he was against.

The first story seems humorous but what it talks about is very serious. Should a preacher limit his preaching in order that he might not offend his hearers. The second preacher needs to study the teaching of Jesus Christ. While Jesus was often positive in His preaching, there

were times when He was positively negative. Yes, Jesus taught love, mercy, and forgiveness and so should we. However, Jesus, when necessary, criticized hypocrisy, condemned sin, and demanded repentance. When Jesus criticized the hypocrisy of the Pharisees, He did not

mince His words (Mat. 23). He very forcibly and plainly spoke about sin and authoritatively about repentance. We are called upon to imitate Him and follow His example (1 Pet. 2:21). This means that in our teaching and preaching we will not only talk about positive things

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(love, mercy, and forgiveness) but also with those matters that we might consider negative.

Sadly, there are preachers like the one illustrated in the second story who do not want to “rock the boat” by preaching anything that might be considered negative. However, there are also brethren who do not want the whole truth taught because it would hit on their “pet sins” that they desire to engage in. Thus, some would seek to stop the mouths of preachers who would preach the whole-counsel of God as they desire only “smooth things.”

Brethren, let us never succumb to preaching and teaching only that which is pleasing to the

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hearers but preach the whole counsel of God. We need to follow the example of the apostles who were told to stop preaching Christ by the leaders of the Jews. Their response was: “We ought to obey God rather than men” (Acts 5:29). May we always preach the whole counsel of God with fear or favor.

Belvedere, SC

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Horace Myrick	Nancy Travis
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Billy Crowe (Crowe's grandson)	
Hailie Busch (Busch's grand-daughter)	
Lorine Baskins (Bobbie LaBryer's mother)	

Sympathy

Our deepest sympathy is extended to Joyce Johnson in the death of her cousin, Betty Cripps. Please keep Joyce and her family in your prayers.

Wednesday Bible Reading
May 16—Tim Cozad

Please Remember
May 20
Elders/Deacons' meeting will be
held at 5:00 pm, in room 7.