

PLEASE PRAY FOR THESE:

Euin Barrier, Bernice Beeson,
Carl Brand, Terry Cantrell
Ora Cash, Dickie & Joann Crouch,
Richard Faulkner, Jimmy Hall,
Eva Lee, Ken & Mabel Lock,
Melvin & Ruth Messer, Glen Parks,
Randy Parr, Sophia Sears,
Billy Sefers, Earline Smith,
Linda Smith, Barbara Staten,
Joann White, Lisa Williams,
Jimmy, Elizabeth, Katie & Laura Thompson,
Darlene Wilson, Geneva Wortham,
and those engaged in home Bible studies.

If you notice someone's absence from the assembly pray for them, and call to see if there is some additional way you can help.
Heaviness in the heart of man maketh it stoop: but a good word maketh it glad (Proverbs 12:25).

MIDWEEK NEWS UPDATES AT:
www.HarrisburgChurchOfChrist.com

PRAYER LIST UPDATES:

♥*Glen Parks* continues in hospice care.
♥*Kristy Whittingham* continues on bed rest at home.
♥*Katherine Ford* is scheduled for heart catheterization and possible stint March 20 in Chattanooga. A friend who is a heart surgeon there has arranged for price breaks on the service.
♥*Virgil Hooker*, uncle of *Steve Whittingham*, is still in ICU in a West Plains, Missouri hospital.

♥The *1-month-old son of Darrell and Renae Hendrix* was found dead in his crib Wednesday morning. Funeral arrangements are incomplete at Jackson Funeral Home.

♥*Randy Parr*, brother of Al Parr, has finally lost the battle with the MRSA infection that has plagued him for two years. His left leg is to be amputated above the knee tomorrow in Indiana.

OTHER NEWS:

✍️ **THE TEENAGERS** are invited to the home of Al & Chris Parr following the evening assembly today.

✍️ **TEACHERS' MEETING:** All current and prospective Bible class teachers please meet following the evening assembly on Sunday January 24. This will be a time to express your thoughts on the new material we are using, and to share ideas on how to get the best results with it.

✍️ **CHILDREN'S HOMES GROCERY TRUCK** is due here January 25.

✍️ **BIBLE BOWL** meets here January 25. A food sign-up sheet is in the foyer.

✍️ **THANK YOU** for all the cards and prayers on the occasion of Lisas illness and passing. - *Mary Ann Sills* and *Tommie Downing*.

✍️ **THANK YOU** for the cards, prayers and phone calls during this recent time I have been confined to home. - *Euin Barrier*

BE A DAILY BIBLE READER

Welcome
to the Assemblies of
Harrisburg
Church of Christ

P. O. Box 266
(504 N. Brooks St)
Harrisburg, AR 72432
(870) 578-2965

Sunday:

Bible Classes 9:00
Worship 9:45; 6:00

Wednesday:

Bible Classes 7:00

Elders:

Ray Blanchard 578-2559
Bill Mears 578-9650
Mark Weston 931-2790

Evangelist:

Al Parr 578-9154
(Cell) 903-721-0332

World Evangelism:

◆Cape Town, S.A.;
◆Int'l Bible Academe;

Benevolence:

◆Children's Homes, Inc.;;
◆Southern Christian Home

★**REMEMBER**★
Family Video Bible
Night - January 30

Be a
Daily Bible Reader



visit www.HarrisburgChurchOfChrist.com

January 17, 2010

[NOTE: Several years ago I wrote a series of articles to help Christians exercise sound teaching and proper worship while singing. A reader recently requested that I write more of the same, so I have decided to repeat here some of the old – and write some new – articles in the series. If the Lord wills, I shall print one article on the topic each month this year. -ALP]

WORDS IN SONGS

The “Law of the Spirit” (Romans 8:2) teaches that Christians are to be “teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs” (Colossians 3:16). Of course, if I am to teach and to be taught, as implied by “one another,” then I must “sing with the understanding” (I Corinthians 14:15).

Sometimes it is difficult to sing with understanding. Some of the songs we sing are very old, and include words or phrases not completely familiar to us. Others, for poetic reasons, employ the same archaic language. Occasionally, because one person might see something in scripture that another might miss, a song may include a reference to scripture that is unfamiliar, or seems to be mis-used.

It seems, therefore, that it would be helpful to the church if we were to take the time to consider, more carefully than we

generally have done, some of the words and phrases in some of our songs. With that intent we begin today a series of articles under the above heading. (If any reader has suggestions for articles on particular words or songs, of course we are always eager to hear those requests.)

“HIGH AND HOLY LAYS”

The opening phrase of “Wonderful Love” – otherwise titled “In Vain in High and Holy Lays” – may be a dark cloud to many people, so we give our attention now to number 102 in *Songs of the Church, 21st Century Edition*.

In vain in high and holy lays,
My soul her grateful voice would raise;
For who can sing the worthy praise
Of the wonderful love of Jesus!

The prime difficulty rests in the word *lays*. When we assign to it the usual present-day definition we labor fruitlessly to make any sense at all of the sentence of the first verse. We may be tempted to conclude that the poet E. D. Mund was more observant of meter and rhyme-scheme than of message, but there is another solution.

Webster’s Third New International Dictionary (Unabridged) gives as one meaning of the word *lay*, “melody: melody fragment: song,” and says that, in this sense, the word is perhaps of Scandinavian origin.

Of course, the, “*holy lays*” would be those “psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs” which brother Paul enjoined upon the church in writing Ephesians 5:19. “*High lays*” are not those which are sung at high pitch, but rather those that attain the *very peak* of melodiousness, and “in vain” means without effectiveness.

The message of this first verse, and indeed of the entire song, thus becomes, “I may sing spiritually and beautifully, ascribing great praise to Jesus, but that neither makes Jesus praiseworthy nor effects any great benefit to me (by way of putting God in my debt on the basis of my *own* goodness), for Jesus is worthy of far more praise and honor than the best of flesh can bestow upon Him: when all is said and done, I am still an unprofitable servant (Luke 17:10), wholly dependant upon the grace of God (here expressed in terms of His unconditional love as seen in His Son, Jesus) for my eternal soul’s salvation.” The honest soul, in contemplating this thought even for a brief moment, cannot but sing,

It seems that it would be helpful to the church if we were to take the time to consider, more carefully than we generally have done, some of the words and phrases in some of our songs.

Wonderful Love!
Wonderful Love!
Wonderful Love of Jesus!

The thought then progresses naturally to the worthiness of Jesus. The poet notes that,

A joy by day, a peace by night;
In storms a calm, in darkness light;
In pain a balm, in weakness might,
Is the wonderful love of Jesus.

Balm is a word we don’t use much in everyday speech. Instead we say *salve*. It is a “healing ointment” according to Webster, and certainly Jesus is our spiritual healing. *Might*, of course, is *strength*. Paul learned to trust in and respect the strength of the Lord Jesus rather than his own strength, and would have us to understand the same (II Corinthians 12:1-10).

My hope for pardon when I call,
My trust for lifting when I fall;
In life, in death, my all in all,
Is the wonderful love of Jesus.

When we have grown spiritually to the point that Jesus is trusted in and with everything we think, say and do – when He thus becomes our “all in all” – then we will naturally raise a grateful voice and sing,

Wonderful Love!
Wonderful Love!
Wonderful Love of Jesus!

-Al Parr

Neither have I got back from the commandment of his lips; I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary food (Psalm 119:47):

BE A DAILY BIBLE READER

The Basis of Unity

(John 5:1-14)

INTRODUCTION:

- I. The word unity occurs but three times in the Bible
 - A. Psa. 133:1
 - B. Eph 4:3, 13
 - C. But by definition found in the teaching on *agreement, fellowship, togetherness* and *brotherhood*.
- II. There is one single basis of unity.
 - A. Gen. 13:7-8 - Let there be unity, "for we be _____"
 - B. Matt. 23:8 - ye all are _____
 - C. Phps. 3:16-20 - one _____

DISCUSSION:

- I. The Bible is man's _____ in all questions of this type
 - A. Matt. 12:1-3 - Jesus said, Check it out in the _____.
 - B. Matt. 19:3-4 - Jesus asked, Have you checked it out in the _____?
 - C. Mark 10:17-19 - Jesus said, _____ what the book said.
 - D. Luke 10:25-26 - Jesus asked him, What did you find in the book?
- II. What is the basis of unity?
 - A. I John 1:6-7 - basis of fellowship: the _____
 - B. Phps. 1:27 - basis of common conversation: the _____ of Christ
 - C. Acts 2:41-42 - basis of continuing together: the apostles' _____

- D. II Tim. 3:12-4:5 - basis of living godly lives in preparation for the coming judgment: the _____
- III. Unity based on the word of God was the _____ in NT times for those who saw God at work in their lives.
 - A. I Cor. 1:10 - chs. 1-4 the word as the basis of _____
 - B. Eph. 4:1-4 – chs. 4 & 5 words show the emphasis on unity based on Paul's _____
 - C. "Progress Reports" in the book of Acts testify to the effect of unity based on _____:
 1. 4:4 - They grew in _____ because they heard the word.
 2. Ac. 6:7 - see vv.2-4
 3. Ac. 9:31 - see vv.27-29a
 4. Ac. 12:24 - church growth is indicated in terms of the growth of the _____.
 5. Ac. 16:5 - see v. 4
 6. Ac. 19:20 - church growth is so intimately connected to the _____ that when the church grew, it is said that the _____ grew.

CONCLUSION:

- I. The Bible rightly divided is the Basis of _____.
- II. The burden of unity is on _____
- III. I Tim. 2:15 is for each of us.
- IV. Acts 17:11 should be about _____.

THE RECORD SPEAKS (week of 1-10):
Sunday Bible Class 74
Sunday AM Worship 92
Sunday PM Worship 68
Contribution \$2,296
Wednesday PM Bible Class 66
WHAT DOES IT SAY ABOUT YOU?

Next Week's Lessons:

AM: "What Must I Do to be Saved?"

PM: The Church Identified by Isaiah

FAMILY VIDEO BIBLE NIGHT

is scheduled for January 30. At 6:00 PM families from the local church, area churches and the community are invited to view the video, "*One Nation Under WHO?*" by **Brad Harrub**. Brother Harrub has an earned Ph.D. in Anatomy and Neurobiology from the University of Tennessee. He is co-founder of Focus Press and co-editor of Think magazine. He is an excellent communicator with a message of great interest to all Christians and patriotic citizens. Mark your calendar now and plan to join us for this event. Oh... and, bring a friend.

NORTHEAST ARKANSAS

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT classes will meet this Saturday, January 23 at 9:00 in the multi-purpose room of the Washington Avenue Church of Christ in Jonesboro. The 9:00 class is "Being Qualified to Pray Effective Prayers"; the 10:30 class on "Finding the Pitch of a Song." If you don't know, come and learn with us. If you know it all, come and teach us.

WORRY

K.W. Franklin

People worry about everything – health, conflicts, criticism, children, parents, financial problems, possible tragedies, retirement, death, etc. Anxiety destroys energy, both physical and spiritual. God does not want his people to waste their energies in worry. Jesus said, "Be not therefore anxious for the morrow, for the morrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof" (Mat. 6:34). In the same chapter Jesus tells us not to worry about such necessities as food and clothing (Mat. 6:25-30).

Worry does the following things: (1) Depresses – makes one feel bad; (2) Discourages; (3) Deprives one of happiness; (4) Hinders one's work; (5) Produces sickness – mental and physical; (6) Brings one down to a premature death; (7) Causes one to disobey God (Mat 6).

How can I overcome worry? (1) Categorize worries into two groups: (a) things beyond my ability to change, (b) things I can change; (2) Begin immediately to change the things within your reach; (3) Be more thankful for your blessings; (4) Realize it is a sin to worry.

Man will always have some troubles in life (Job 14:1-2). If a person will become a true Christian, then his faith will help him endure problems he can't change and will assure him it will be "far Better" (Philippians 1:23) in the life beyond. Man becomes a Christian today the same way he did the first day the church began, by believing, repenting, and being baptized into Christ for the remission of sins (Acts 2:36-38).

Worry is for your protection, to get you to change things you can. However, persistent worry leads to sin. *Gospel Advocate*, 1/7/82