

PLEASE PRAY FOR THESE:

Euin Barrier,	
Bernice Beeson,	Terry Cantrell,
Ora Cash,	Dickie & Joann Crouch,
Emily Devereaux,	Richard Faulkner,
Jimmy Hall,	Eva Lee,
Ken & Mabel Lock,	Melvin & Ruth Messer,
Bobby Mills,	Sophia Sears,
Earline Smith,	Linda Smith,
Barbara Staten,	Joann White
Jimmy, Elizabeth, Katie & Laura Thompson,	
Darlene Wilson,	Geneva Wortham,

and those engaged in teaching the lost.

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.

A faithful witness will not lie: but a false witness will utter lies (Proverbs 14:5).

MIDWEEK NEWS UPDATES AT:
www.HarrisburgChurchOfChrist.com

PRAYER LIST UPDATES:

Tony Brewington of Tyronza was baptized Wednesday at the county jail. Pray that he will build a strong faith even in his very difficult circumstances. You may write to encourage him at 1500 Justice Dr., Harrisburg.

Pat Wilson was able to come home Wednesday afternoon, but her problem still has not been diagnosed. Further tests are continuing on an out-patient basis.

Brook Combs is still suffering severe back pain at home.

OTHER NEWS:

FAMILY VIDEO BIBLE NIGHT: April 3rd 6:00-7:30 PM. Put flyers in your car and anywhere else you can. Invite neighbors.

MISSION WORK: The elders have announced a decision to discontinue sending Ray Leonard's newsletter, effective immediately, and to discontinue all financial support, effective at the end of this year.

"GOOGLE IT": I did a Google search last week for one of our supported mission works (International Bible Academe), and the Harrisburg Church of Christ web site came up as the 4th source on the *first page* of "about 24,200" responses. That means that if anybody in the world is searching for any school by that name (and many schools use it) they will be invited immediately to our web site! Encouraging others to visit our web site you are literally evangelizing the world! God bless you for that.

THANKS from some you helped in Haiti (see more on the insert): Dearest Family in Christ, Thank you God for saving the life of one my children. I got two kids, I lost one. The other is still alive. Thank you so much for your gift that was very helpful to my son Marven Delfin. Marven said that he is sad because he lost his sister. After leaving the hospital, life will be very hard for me and my son. Once again, thank you so much for your generosity. Please remind me in your prayers. -Marven's mother

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 - April 3

Be a
Daily Bible Reader



visit www.HarrisburgChurchOfChrist.com

March 21, 2010

**"MY CHURCH" AND
"GOOD PREACHING"**
(Part 2)

Many people have never thought to ask themselves whether God prefers one church above another. Most sects teach that He does *not*. Yet God approves of only one church, for He *built* only one (Matt. 16:18) and will *save* only one (Eph. 5:23; 1:22-23). Jesus is the head of one church ("the church" - Eph. 1:22), which is His body (verse 23). It has one doctrine, or commandment (Matt. 15:3), as opposed to the many doctrines of the so-called "denominations" (v. 9). It is good enough and large enough for all the saved (Acts 2:47), but it is not denominational (divided).

The church Jesus promised to build (Zech. 6:12-13; Matt. 16:1) – and *did* build (Eph. 2:19-22; Heb. 3:1-6) – belongs to *Him* (Rom. 16:16); it is not *my* church, or *our* church. Man does not make rules or policy for the church of the New Testament. It is not a matter of human opinion or will that determines "right" and "wrong" or "good" and "bad" among churches, preachers or doctrines. It is nothing less than the irrefutable will of God revealed in the Bible by the inspiration of God (I Cor. 2:11-13), appointed for man to read (Col. 4:16; Rev. 1:3) and designed so the reader can understand (Eph. 3:4; Heb. 4:12).

(Cont'd)

John, the apostle of Jesus Christ, by the inspiration of God, teaches Christians to avoid fellowship with any and all who go beyond the Bible and teach other doctrines. In II John 9 he wrote, “Whosoever transgresseth and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds.”

Thayer’s *Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament* defines the words used in the foregoing passage. It says that *transgresseth* means “goes past, passes over, oversteps, neglects, violates.” To transgress is “to turn aside from, *i.e.* to depart, leave, be turned from.” It is used of “one who abandons his trust.” *Abideth* means “dwells, remains, stays.” To abide is “to remain as one has been, not to become another or different.”

Thus, John says that anyone who turns aside from the doctrine taught by Christ in the New Testament and does not stay in it, but teaches differently from what has been taught, does not have the approval of God. He quickly affirms that any and all who continue to believe, practice and teach that very same doctrine as was initially taught and practiced by the apostles has the fellowship and approval of both the Father and the Son.

John goes on to say, though, that the principle applies not only to the one doing the false teaching, but to all those who endorse or encourage him in any way. If someone comes to you teaching a different doctrine, don’t listen to him – don’t even let him in – and don’t send him happily on his way with your blessings. To do any of these is to be just like him: a false teacher and out of fellowship with God. John plainly says that his ways are “evil” and so are the ways of those who support or endorse him.

COME YE OUT

In II Corinthians 6:17 Paul, having observed the distinct difference between godliness and worldliness, concluded, “Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you.” God is “not willing that any should perish” (II Peter 3:9), but God’s approval (and, hence, man’s salvation) is conditional upon man’s separation from sin.

The word *church* means “those called out,” so the *church of Christ* consists of all the souls “called out” of sin by Christ. It is a holy calling (I Tim. 1:9), and we are to walk worthy of it (Ephesians 4:1) so that we might stand approved of God (II Peter 1:10). It is not a direct voice from Heaven to each soul; God calls all men by the preaching of the gospel (II Thess. 2:14). All

A SHORT COMMENTARY FROM AL Acts 24:5 (*the sect of the Nazarenes*) – An orator named Tertullus, advocating before Governor Felix on behalf of the jealous Jews against Paul, so referred to the church which Jesus built. Some people today speak of it in the same way, but they are as wrong as he was. In responding to the charge, Paul said, “after the way *which they call heresy*, so worship I” (v. 14 - “sect” and “heresy” in this chapter are translated from the same word). The church of Christ is not an offshoot, or a branch, or sub-part of anything. It is the whole body of Christ (Ephesians 1:22-23), the whole kingdom of God (I Corinthians 15:24), and the whole number of those who are saved by the blood of Christ and the grace of God (Acts 2:47). It is all other so-called “Christian Churches” – the so-called “denominations” – which are sects (heresies).

who hear and believe it, repent of sin, confess Christ and are baptized, are thus saved and become members of God’s eternal kingdom, the church.

No one can be approved of God and fail to evidence a distinction between himself and the world. No one is received of God who persists in touching the unclean (practicing sin). Christians think, talk, behave, and dress differently from people who follow a rule other than the Bible. Christians don’t wear something just because it’s fashionable. They don’t listen to music just because it’s popular. They don’t watch TV programs and movies just because they’re highly rated. Faithful Christians practice only what is authorized by the written word of God, the Bible.

Faithful Christians don’t select as a standard of judgment that which is popular in the culture of the geographic region in which they live. Christians “judge righteous judgment” (John 7:24). *Righteous*, according to Thayer, means “approved of (or acceptable to) God.” When a Christian speaks of a church as being the “right” one, he means it is the church described in the New Testament. When he speaks of a sermon as a “good” one, he means that it teaches exactly what the Bible teaches on the subject in the points covered. Everyone who accepts or approves the teaching or practice of an individual or group puts himself into fellowship with that individual or group. If that teaching or practice is not authorized by God, he who approves puts himself *into* fellowship with the error and *out of* fellowship with God. It is a sinful, and eternally dangerous, practice. (Cont’d on insert)

Good understanding giveth favour: but the way of transgressors is hard

(Proverbs 13:15):

B **E** **A** **D** **A** **I** **L** **I** **L** **I** **B** **I** **B** **L** **E** **R** **E** **A** **D** **E** **R**

(Continued from page 3)

HIGH ABOVE ALL

When God set aside His people from the rest of the world (Deut. 26:18-19), He not only designated them “his peculiar people,” but gave them a place “high above all nations which he hath made, in praise, and in name, and in honour; and that thou mayest be an holy people unto the Lord thy God.” They were not just *different* they were *above*. So is the church today (I Peter 2:9). To change it to be “like” or “in fellowship with” the “nations” (denominations) is to bring it down from “above.”

When God called His people “out of darkness into his marvellous light,” He did not intend that they should return to that darkness (II Peter 2:22). Nor did He intend that they should praise those who stayed in darkness, or, refusing God’s gospel call, created their own “way” (Matt. 7:26-27; Gal. 1:6-12). Christians today must understand that all the saved are in Christ’s church; all souls outside His church are lost. Thus understanding, they must *call men out* of sin, *not ignore* their lost condition – and certainly *not applaud* them in it! A sectarian church is NOT the “right” church. A preacher practicing and supporting “denominationalism” is NOT a “good” preacher. “Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil” (Isa. 5:20).

CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

In the introduction to this study we asked, “Can a man be in the **wrong church**, wear a **wrong name**, follow a **false faith**, believe in **false doctrines** – and encourage others to follow him in all of these – and still preach a ‘**good sermon**’?” We answered bluntly, “NO!! There is nothing ‘good’ about any of those qualifications.”

Brethren and friends, let me be specific. Though Lutherans may do some things that God requires Christians to do, “Lutherans” are not “Christians.” Though Presbyterians may believe some things that the Bible teaches the church of Christ, the *Presbyterian Church* is *not* the church of *Christ*. To speak, as one man did recently, of “a Lutheran, a Presbyterian and the church of Christ,” as if these are equal (or even comparable) is as illogical as equating a man to a chicken because he enters a henhouse.

Christians who give up the “old paths” (Jer. 6:13) and pick up new ideas, terminology and practices not taught by the apostles are leaving the one and only church that Jesus built, heads, and will save. You cannot *change* doctrine and still follow the *same* doctrine (I Cor. 1:10). You cannot endorse *error* and still be *holding faith* (I Tim. 1:18-20). Brethren, don’t be “giving heed to doctrines of devils” (I Tim. 4:1), but be “sound in the faith; not giving heed to... commandments of men that turn from the truth (Titus 1:13-14).
- Al Parr

THE RECORD SPEAKS (week of 3-14):

Sunday Bible Class	61
Sunday AM Worship	85
Sunday PM Worship	71
Contribution	\$1,402
Wednesday PM Bible Class	62

WHAT DOES IT SAY ABOUT *you*?

Next Week’s Lessons:

AM: They Learned From An Earthquake

PM: It’s the Right Church

(Mtn. Home Feb 23)

DEAR: BRETHERN

This is to acknowledge your recent contribution to the Haiti Relief Fund in the amount of \$375.00.

These funds are being wire transferred into Haiti to Brother Lucner Pierre who is overseeing their disbursement to our fellow Christians and families. Brother Pierre is a native Haitian and preaches for the Cap Haitian congregation...

[Enclosed] are some comments from some of those receiving assistance. These were translated into English and e-mailed to us from Brother Pierre.

We would be happy to e-mail you some of the future comments, pictures and general follow up of this work... If you would like to have such updates, please send an e-mail to wayne@waynecamp.com stating: "Please e-mail us Haiti Updates" and list the name and e-mail address you wish them to be sent to.

Thanks to you and the help of many faith-

ful Christians there have been in excess of \$143,307.64 given to help with this wonderful work.

Thank you for sharing with us in this work of compassion

On behalf of the Elders: Wayne Camp

Comments of some you have helped

Thank you so much for saving my life. I lost everything I got, but God saved my life. I had three children. One died. God bless you. - Leanne Andre.

Peace and grace to you from Jesus. I am suffering but I am very happy because I did not know what to do with my right foot. Thank you so much for your financial and spiritual supports. Please keep reminding in your prayers because I really don't know what i will do after leaving the hospital. For I lost everything I got before. Thank you so much for your generosity. - Eliane Jean

Dear Christians, I do not know how to express myself to tell you thank for your supports. I was in university in Port-au-Prince in order to learn management. As you see it; I lost my right leg. You can imagine how I am now. But I praise the Lord everyday for his will in my life. Thank you so much for generosity. I lost everything I had. It will be very difficult to keep on studying after getting better. Please help me to have another false foot. Thank you so much for all and may. God bless you. -Joseph Rolex

Dearest Brothers and Sisters in Christ, May the Lord keep blessing you everyday. I was in big trouble with my left foot. I could died without your supports. I have nothing to offer you. But know that you are in my daily prayers. Thank you so much for your financial and spiritual assistances. God bless you all. -Edrice Sainturel