

PLEASE PRAY FOR THESE:

Euin Barrier, Bernice Beeson,
Terry Cantrell, Ora Cash,
Dickie & Joann Crouch, Emily Devereux,
Richard Faulkner, Jimmy Hall,
Eva Lee, Ken & Mabel Lock,
Melvin & Ruth Messer, Bobby Mills,
Bill Parr, 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.
Among the righteous there is favour (Proverbs 14:9).

MIDWEEK NEWS UPDATES AT:
www.HarrisburgChurchOfChrist.com

PRAYER LIST UPDATES:

Dickie Crouch's brother Donnie, died in his sleep Tuesday morning,

Loyd Horton has been in the hospital during much of the past week. At last report bronchitis was suspected, but tests were in progress to get an accurate diagnosis.

All Our Mothers are worthy of many thanksgivings to God, and as much honor on earth, from those of us whom they have helped the most. May God bless all of you.

OTHER NEWS:

ELDERS-DEACONS MEETING: after tonight's worship assembly.

VOTE: As it is a Christian's duty to pray "for all that are in authority," it is reasonable that we should vote for those who will permit us to "lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty" (I Tim. 1:1-2). Early voting continues all this week. If saints don't vote the ungodly will elect our government.

THIS WEEK'S BIRTHDAYS:

- 11 - Margaret Kinney
- 12 - Rand Lace
- 15 - Barbara Sanders

THIS WEEK'S ANNIVERSARY:

- 11 - Jason & Allison McGee

CONGRATULATIONS GRADS:

- Zach Combs**, Harrisburg High School
- Kristin Long**, Harrisburg High School

Loving God and One Another:

If we get that firmly in our minds, in our words and in our actions, division of the church will be impossible.

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★
God still loves you
on Wednesday night

Be a
Daily Bible Reader



visit www.HarrisburgChurchOfChrist.com

May 9, 2010

"THE WORK OF A MOTHER"

"The future destiny of a child is the work of a mother."

The quote is attributed to Napoleon Bonaparte. Whatever the source, it's a great observation, isn't it? What the child will become depends to a very great extent upon the influence of the mother. For example, the only thing we know about Samuel that does not involve his work as the priest and prophet of God is the work of his mother. Even before he was conceived she dedicated him to the service of God, and for the rest of her life she encouraged him in it (I Samuel chapter 1). How different would be the Old Testament history of the world if Samuel had not been what he was! Praise God for the faith of Hannah!

Dr. G. Campbell Morgan had four sons. They all became ministers. At a family reunion, a friend asked one of the sons, "Which Morgan is the greatest preacher?" Looking at the father, the son replied, "Mother!" Boys usually want to follow in Father's footsteps, but they need Mother's guidance and encouragement, especially during the early years. Abraham Lincoln's father was an industrious farmer respected both in Kentucky and Indiana, but in his adulthood Lincoln wrote to a friend, "All I am or ever hope to be I owe to my angel mother"

God bless mothers, and other godly women. -Al Parr

A CHRISTIAN'S RESPONSIBILITY TO THE CHURCH

Every Christian is a member of the church of Christ. The Lord makes him so when he is saved (Acts 2:47). There are certain logical conclusions that are obvious from a consideration of that fact. Let us notice two of those logical conclusions.

First, If the Lord puts the saved into His church, then all persons who have membership in other churches have that membership without the authority of the Lord. There is not one word in all the Bible that authorizes the existence of even one of the many man-made sects in the world today (I Cor. 1:10-13). The New Testament describes only one church (Matt. 16:18). That description is easy to understand. If a person is saved (as God defines salvation), then that person is a member of that one church (I Cor. 12:13). If he has then put himself into another church, he is in sin. He needs to come out of the false church in order to be pleasing to God and maintain his salvation.

Description of a Church Member

Let us seriously consider a second logical conclusion of the fact that all the saved have been added to Christ's one church. The Lord does not put a saved person into a box to keep him safe until he is needed again. **He puts the saved into the church**, which is His body (Eph. 1:22-23). This body is a living organism with Christ at the head (Ephesians 5:23), and it is the only religious body of which He is the Savior. A living body has many and various members (I Cor. 12:12) and each of these members has a specific function and value to the body (Eph. 4:16). So it is with the church of Jesus Christ. Every person whom Christ has put into His church has a responsibility.

The first responsibility of a Christian is to identify himself with a local assembly of the church. As Peter told the elders to "shepherd the flock of God which is among you" (I Peter 5:2), so we understand that each church is independent of others. As elders have authority only in one church, so every Christian has membership only in one church. There are no "universal Christians," as some call themselves, but simply "Christians" who are recognized as such in the local church where they are members. Paul always associated himself with a local assembly of Christians, as when he came from Damascus to Jerusalem (Acts 9:26), when he went to Antioch (Acts 13:1-3), and when he came into Ephesus (Acts 19:8-10). A Christian must not separate himself from the church, but must make his presence known.

In the local assembly of the church the Christian doesn't just have his name on a list of members, but he participates in the work of that church. Christians are reminded "to be ready

unto every good work" (Titus 3:1). Seeing that the church grows only as every member does his part of the work (Eph. 4:16), it is obvious that every member who does not participate in the work of the church is preventing the growth of the church to that degree in which he could have worked. The Lord admonishes us each to "examine his own work" (Gal. 6:4-5) so that we do not deceive ourselves into thinking that we are faithful when, in fact, we are not.

Every Christian must assist in the preservation of unity, peace in the church. When the apostle Paul wrote to "the church of God which is at Corinth ... with all who in every place call on the name of the Lord Jesus" (I Cor. 1:2), he told them (and, by implication, us), "that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment" (v. 10). Again he wrote, "that there should be no schism in the body" (12:24-25), and that we must equally "care for one another." It is sad indeed when those who are washed free from sin by the blood of the Son of God put their own selfish interests before the needs of others. Such selfishness, jealousy and lack of true love for one another is the cause of most of the division in the world, and the same will cause division also in the church.

"Avoid them that cause division among you," Paul wrote in Romans 16:17-18. We will notice them by their turning from the truth of God's word (I Tim. 4:1-3; 6:3-4). For this reason we must always "preach the word" (II Tim. 4:1-4) and should "not receive" those who teach different doctrines which praise men and not God (II John 9-11). Christians must always be "endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" (Eph. 4:1-3). Those who do not, are not fulfilling their responsibility as Christians.

Preserving and maintaining the purity of the church is the business of every Christian. Jesus died to make the church pure (Eph. 5:25-27). We certainly must live to maintain that purity (Php 1:27). Everyone who calls himself a Christian must separate himself from sin (II Tim. 2:19-22). The church is pure only to the degree that each member of it is pure, therefore each Christian has a responsibility to all other Christians (I Cor. 5:6), to Christ (II Cor. 5:15; I Thess. 5:10), and to the world (II Cor. 1:12).

The mission of the church is to preach the gospel to the world (Matt. 28:18-20). Does your manner of life contribute to the success of that mission (Rom. 7:4)? Are you fulfilling your responsibility in His church who died to save your eternal soul (John 15:2, 8)? - *Al Parr*

The wicked have waited for me to destroy me: but I will consider thy testimonies

(Psalm 119:95):

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

More Is Caught than Taught

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <p>If a child is taught that he is his own authority, he will look upon all other authority with disrespect.</p> | ⇒ | <p>If a child is taught that God and His word are final authority, he will look upon all authority emanating from Him with respect.</p> |
| <p>If a child is taught he is part of the theory of evolution, he will look upon Himself as an advanced animal.</p> | ⇒ | <p>If a child is taught that he is created in the image of God, he will look upon himself as an immortal soul.</p> |
| <p>If a child sees the Bible is only read in church assemblies, he will look upon it as unrelated to daily life.</p> | ⇒ | <p>If a child sees the Bible read and obeyed in his house and education, he will look upon it as a guide to life and eternity.</p> |
| <p>If a child is taught that there is no absolute truth, he will look upon morals as subject to his emotions of the moment.</p> | ⇒ | <p>If a child is taught that God's word is absolute truth, he will look upon morals as subject to firm biblical precepts.</p> |
| <p>If a child is allowed to read profane and foul literature, he will look upon life as permissive and perverted.</p> | ⇒ | <p>If a child is taught that God hears and answers prayers, he will look upon prayer as a source of strength to help through life.</p> |
| <p>If a child is taught that reasonable parental discipline is an infringement upon his right, he will look upon his parents and teachers with contempt.</p> | ⇒ | <p>If a child is taught that parents are responsible to God to discipline him for his highest eternal good, he will look upon his parents with love and respect.</p> |

"And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord (Ephesians 6;4).
via House to House Heart to Heart

THE RECORD SPEAKS (week of 5-2):
 Sunday Bible Class no assembly
 Sunday AM Worship no assembly
 Sunday PM Worship 60
 Contribution \$1,801
 Wednesday PM Bible Class 68
WHAT DOES IT SAY ABOUT YOU?

Next Week's Lessons:
AM: (to be announced)
PM: "Lay My Honor In The Dust"

"What Must I Do to be Saved?"
 The question is in the Bible (Acts 2:37; 9:6; 16:30-31), and so must the answer be:

1. **Believe** that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God (John 20:30-31; Mark 16:15-16; Acts 8:37; 17:3);
2. **Repent** from your sin (Luke 13:3; 24:47; Acts 2:38);
3. **Confess** your belief in Jesus as the Christ (Matthew 10:32; Acts 8:36;38; Romans 10:9-10; I Timothy 6:12).
4. **Be baptized** in the name of Jesus for forgiveness of your sins (Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:38; 4:7, 12; Romans 6:3-7; Galatians 3:27).
5. **Walk in the light** of His word all the days of your life (I John 1:7; Psalm 119:105; II Peter 3:11-12).

USE THE KEYS

Some people believe that they can enter God's Kingdom without coming through the door, and others are confident that they can enter by the door without using the keys, but both are the ways of the thief (John 10:1).

Jesus said, "I am the door: by me if any man enter in he shall be saved" (John 10:9). On the other hand, "no man cometh unto the Father, but by me" (14:6). Some folks have the idea that they can enjoy the blessings of fellowship with God without the "trappings of formal religion" associated with Jesus. It wasn't only the opinion of Jesus that said otherwise; it was the words of the Father (12:44-50).

The Lord Jesus Christ preached, "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" (Matt. 7:21). They recognize the door, but they aren't using the keys. That will of the Father – the keys that authorize entry into Heaven (16:19) – was explained by Peter when the church began in Jerusalem (Acts 2:37-40). Man's keys of "grace only" and "faith only" will never open Heaven's gate. It takes the grace of God operating through man's faith (Eph. 2:8-9). Multitudes stubbornly persist in promoting their own methods of entry into Heaven, but the security of God's house is such that all forms of forced entry are forever impossible.

-AL Parr