

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.

The house of the wicked shall be overthrown: but the tabernacle of the upright shall flourish (Proverbs 14:11).

MIDWEEK NEWS UPDATES AT:
www.HarrisburgChurchOfChrist.com

PRAYER LIST UPDATES:

Bill Elliott's mother had cancer surgery Wednesday. It is expected that no further treatment will be necessary.

Linda Smith had surgery on her shoulder Monday.

Loyd Horton is home from the hospital.

Ken & Mabel Lock, Mary Weston, and **Melvin & Ruth Messer** have been ill at home.

OTHER NEWS:

MEETING: The monthly meeting of the elders and deacons was postponed last week, rescheduled to tonight.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATES:

Zach Combs, Harrisburg High School
Kristin Long, Harrisburg High School
HHS will miss you both. May your legacy live long and always be a glory to God.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY:

Dickey & Joann Crouch - Wednesday

VOTE FOR GODLY CANDIDATES:

"[T]he main source of national power and national greatness is found in the average citizenship of the nation. Therefore it behooves us to do our best to see that the standard of the average citizen is kept high; and the average can not be kept high unless the standard of the leaders is very much higher." -Theodore Roosevelt

THE RECORD SPEAKS (week of 5-9):

Sunday Bible Class 77
Sunday AM Worship 105
Sunday PM Worship 71
Contribution \$1,503
Wednesday PM Bible Class 69

WHAT DOES IT SAY ABOUT YOU?

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★

Elders & Deacons meet tonight (as rescheduled)

Be a
Daily Bible Reader



visit www.HarrisburgChurchOfChrist.com

May 16, 2010

WHO ARE YOU KIDDING?

When a man says he can't keep awake during a twenty-minute sermon, and stays home with his 700-column newspaper, who is he kidding?

When a man says that Sunday is his only day of rest, and gets up at 4:30 A.M. to spend the day fishing, who is he kidding?

When a man says that the church pews are too hard and uncomfortable, then goes some Saturday to sit on a bleacher for hours in a drizzling rain to watch 22 men push back and forth across a mud lot, who is he kidding?

When a man says that he can't afford to give more than a couple of dollars in worship, but lives in a comfortable home, drives a good car, eats well, clothes his family well and makes payments on a home, who is he kidding?

He is not kidding God, that's for sure!

-author unknown

BE A DAILY BIBLE READER

WORDS IN SONGS HERE I RAISE MY EBENEZER

It was a request to define the word “ebenezer” that originally spawned the idea for this series of articles. The word appears in the second stanza of “O Thou Fount of Every Blessing” (number 115 in *Songs of the Church, 21st Century*). It certainly would be a strange line to sing if one did not know the meaning of the word. God seeks and desires true worshipers to worship in spirit, as well as in truth (John 4:24-25). The spirit cannot be involved if there is no meaning attached to the words being sung. Realizing that there are many such words and phrases in our song books, I have over several years written articles such as this with the intent to help each Christian be more the worshiper God wants him to be. Let us turn now to this uplifting song.

As our singing is to be directed to the Father (Psalm 47:6), so also in the opening words of this song God is addressed as the “Fount of ev’ry blessing.” Every Christian understands that God is truly the fountain, or source, of “every spiritual blessing in heavenly places” (Ephesians 1:3). The opening thought of any communication sets the tone, or attitude, of the remainder of the communication. Reminding ourselves from the first that God is the source of all good things that come upon us (Joshua 23:15), we know to Whom, and why, we are singing the rest of the words in the song.

The word “Ebenezer” appears three times in the King James Version of the Bible. In I Samuel 4:1 we read that, in preparing for battle, “Israel ... pitched beside Ebenezer: and the Philistines pitched in Aphek.” In the first verse of the next chapter is the report that “the Philistines took the ark of God, and brought it from Ebenezer unto Ashdod.”

Sometimes the historical records in the Bible refer to an ancient place by a name that it did not have at the time of the events described, but by which it was well known at the time of writing. This appears to be the case with regard to the place “Ebenezer.” The ark, which was captured by the Philistines in that battle, later was returned to the house of Abinadab in Kirjath-jearim, where it remained 20 years (I Samuel 7:1-2). During that time there was an occasion on which Samuel called the people together at Mizpeh for a prayer of rededication (vv. 3-6). The Philistines, finding all Israel together at one place, and apparently thinking them “easy pickings,” came against them in battle once again (v. 7). God, however, at the prayer of Samuel, intervened with a great destruction of the Philistines and a great salvation of Israel (vv. 8-11).

The word “Ebenezer” appears three times in the King James Version of the Bible.

A SHORT COMMENTARY FROM AL on Colossians 3:16 (“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord”). When Christians come together to sing spiritual songs their singing is supposed to teach and admonish one another. That means that each person is both teaching and being taught. In order to be properly taught and admonished, each person must listen to the words of the songs and understand their message. Our singing is also directed to God with grace in our hearts. If we sing familiar songs without really thinking about the words, teaching, being taught, and giving grace to God, then we are not letting the word of Christ dwell in us richly, and we are not wise.

It was at this time, and in order to memorialize the great salvation with which God had saved Israel, that “Samuel took a stone, and set it between Mizpeh and Shen, and called the name of it Ebenezer, saying, Hitherto hath the Lord helped us” (v. 12). The words of Samuel as he set up the stone give a good indication of the meaning of the name he gave the memorial. The dictionary says the word means *stone of help*. Samuel set up a “stone of help” because “hitherto hath the Lord helped us,” and his words are appropriated by the singer: “Here I raise my Ebenezer” (meaning) “: Hither by thy help I’ve come.”

So we today set up, figuratively, a “stone of help” as we remember how the Lord has helped us with “ev’ry blessing.” Thus remembering, we feel daily the constraint to recall how great a debt we owe to the grace of God. Surely then, we can sing with the spirit, “Never let me wander from Thee, Never [let me] leave the God I love.”

-Al Parr

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As another example of how non-Biblicists calling themselves scientists, when in fact they live in a fantasy world, consider the following story which has been reported in *Nature* and *New Scientist*. Some tiny primate fossil foot/ankle bones no bigger than rice grains were found in China. The evolutionists named the monkey Eosimias and claimed he is the primate missing link. He is described as being shy, nocturnal, having “large, saucer-like eyes” and spending its life flitting about the treetops of humid Asian rainforests, catching insects and drinking plant nectar. All from foot/ankle bones. (Reported in *Creation ex Nihilo*, June-August, 2000, p. 7)

Thou through thy commandments hast made me wiser than mine enemies

(Psalm 119:98):

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