

**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 evil bow before the good; and the wicked at the gates of the righteous (Proverbs 14:19).*

MIDWEEK NEWS UPDATES AT:  
www.HarrisburgChurchOfChrist.com

**PRAYER LIST UPDATES:**

*Mabel Lock* was in both major hospitals in Jonesboro during the week, and is now back at Woodbriar with little improvement.

**OTHER NEWS:**

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY:**

Bill & Charlene Mears - Tomorrow

**INTERNET:** Our web site and Facebook page continue to draw new visitors every week. Encourage your friends to read also.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY (July):**

- 2 - Jason Blake
- 3 - Maci McGee
- 5 - Kenny Mills
- 6 - Kenneth Lock
- 6 - Geneva Wortham
- 7 - Jason McGee
- 8 - Tona Crawford
- 9 - Katie Thompson
- 9 - Mark Weston
- 12 - Billy Sears
- 16 - Harrison McGee
- 19 - Charlene Mears
- 27 - Kirsten Whittingham
- 28 - Al Parr
- 29 - Hannah Lane

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY (July):**

- 6 - Carmack & Barbara Sanders
- 12 - Greg & Ami Biggers
- 15 - Kenny & Donna Mills
- 19 - Randy & Charlotte Blake

**THE RECORD SPEAKS (week of 6-20):**

Sunday Bible Class	54
Sunday AM Worship	64
Sunday PM Worship	44
Contribution	\$1,537
Wednesday PM Bible Class	58

**WHAT DOES IT SAY ABOUT YOU?**

**Next Week’s Lessons:**

- AM:** Our War of Independence
- PM:** (Gospel singing)

**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★**  
Singing & Sandwiches  
next Sunday night

Be a  
Daily Bible Reader



visit [www.HarrisburgChurchOfChrist.com](http://www.HarrisburgChurchOfChrist.com)

June 27, 2010

**BITTER OR BETTER?**

Marshall Flowers

Life is filled with disappointments, misfortunes, sufferings, and discouragements. How do we deal with them? As a result of these encounters in life, are we bitter or better? If you will note, there is only one letter’s difference between these two words – that is the letter “i”. In reality, the “i” is what makes the difference in whether these things make us bitter or better. It is how “I” react to them. All of us at some time or other face severe tragedies in life. They may or may not happen as a result of something we have done or failed to do. The fact is, the tragedy is here! How do we deal with it?

Paul had a thorn in the flesh. Even though he prayed three times for its departure, it did not go. He could have become **bitter**, but he chose to become **better**. The affliction became a strengthening force to him. Read II Corinthians 12:7-10. We can be like Paul or we can be like Jeremiah, who said to God: “*Why is my pain perpetual and my wound incurable, which refuseth to be healed? Wilt thou be altogether unto me as a liar, and as waters that fail?*” (Jeremiah 15:18). We can make life’s problems and misfortunes stepping stones to a better life hereafter (Revelation 21:4), or we can let them cripple our spirits and destroy our souls. May I suggest that you read II Corinthians 4:14-18. Please, for the sake of eternity, let life’s problems make you **better not bitter!**

# A DISEASE CALLED DISCOURAGEMENT

by Wade Webster

There are many diseases that pose a threat to our spiritual health. One of the greatest threats has to be a disease called discouragement. In the Old Testament, we read of a time when this devastating disease reached epidemic proportions among God's people (*Num. 13-14; cf. 21:4; 32:9*). In fact, it wiped out almost a whole generation of people. I believe that many congregations today are facing the same type of epidemic. Discouragement abounds. Like Joshua and Caleb, faithful and enthusiastic brethren are outnumbered 10 to 2. By studying the example of the Israelites, we can better understand how this disease works and how we can defeat it.

One of the greatest threats has to be a disease called discouragement.

**First, we learn that the disease goes back a long way.** Sometimes we think of discouragement as a modern malady. However, it is not (*Eccl. 1:9*). The Israelites under consideration lived thousands of years ago (*Num. 13-14*). We must understand that the temptations that come our way, including the temptation of discouragement, are common to man (*1 Cor. 10:13*). They have been around for a long time. We can take courage from the fact that men have battled and beaten them before (*Rom. 15:4*).

**Second, we learn that the disease spreads rapidly.** The evil report of the ten spies quickly spread throughout the whole congregation (*Num. 13:25-26*). By nightfall, on the day of the evil report, the whole congregation was afflicted. The people spent the night wailing and weeping (*Num. 14:1*) and the next morning complaining and contemplating returning to captivity (*Num. 14:2-4*). The disbelief and discouragement of ten men caused a congregation to miss the Promised Land. Later, when it was on the verge of happening again, Moses quickly put a stop to it (*Num. 32:15*). We must treat discouragement with the same urgency today.

**Third, we learn that the disease affects the whole body.** Their eyes saw the giants in front of them instead of the God behind them (*Num. 13:28-29,31-33; cf. Mt. 14:30*). Their ears heard the evil report, but not the good report (*Num. 13:30-31*). Their tongues spoke of the strength of the enemy, but not of the strength of God (*Num. 13:31; 14:6-9; cf. Rom. 8:31; Phil. 4:13*). Their feet were willing to go back to Egypt, but not ahead to Canaan (*Num. 14:3-4*). Their minds forgot the many victories God had already given them (*Num. 14:11; cf. 21:1-3*), and thought only of the defeat ahead. In like manner, discouragement affects the ability of individuals today to see, hear, speak, or remember the good. It causes men to go backwards, but not forwards.

**A SHORT COMMENTARY FROM AL** on Proverbs 4:23 (Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life) — To “keep” is to *guard, secure, protect*. The “heart” is the seat of intellect and emotion: what you think and how you feel about what you think. As we put our valuables in a safe to prevent loss, or build a wall around our property to prevent intrusion, so we must protect what we think and how we feel. Why? The word “issues” here is as we might speak of what *issues forth*. What goes out of you in your life, what others see and hear from you, comes from your heart (as Jesus said in Matthew 15:11). What are you allowing to get into your mind by what you read, watch and hear? Are you protecting your heart “with all diligence”? You can be certain others know by what comes out of it.

**Fourth, we learn that the disease will result in death if it is not treated.** The context makes clear that God despises discouragement. Both the discouragers and the discouraged were not allowed to enter the Promised Land (*Num. 14:20-39; cf. 21:4-6; 32:1-23*). The discouragers died immediately (*Num. 14:37*) and the discouraged died in the wilderness (*Num. 14:28-30*). In like manner today, discouragement will lead to death if it is not treated. We must understand what a serious sin it is to discourage the hearts of God's people (*Mt. 18:6-7; Rom. 14:13*).

May we as elders, deacons, preachers, teachers, and members inoculate ourselves against the disease of discouragement. Furthermore, let's do all that we can to treat those who are already afflicted by it.

via POWER Magazine. November, 2007



## Deuteronomy 33:29

Happy art thou, O Israel: who is like unto thee, O people saved by the LORD, the shield of thy help, and who is the sword of thy excellency! and thine enemies shall be found liars unto thee; and thou shalt tread upon their high places.

*The simple inherit folly: but the prudent are crowned with knowledge*

(Proverbs 14:18):

**BE A DAILY BIBLE READER**