



BEACON

A PUBLICATION OF BELLVIEW CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Bellview Church of Christ Presents

THE BEACON

Volume XXII

January 7, 1993

Number 1

BELLVIEW CHURCH OF CHRIST
4850 Saufley Road
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Bill Gallaher

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Jerry Caine, Bill Crowe, Charles Garrett,
Louis Herrington, James Loy, Harold
Maxey, Richard Parker, Dusty Wilkes

MISSIONARIES
Ira Rice, Fred Stancliff

MEETING TIMES
SUNDAY:
9:00 A.M. BIBLE CLASSES
10:00 A.M., 6:00 P.M. WORSHIP
5:00 P.M. LADIES' BIBLE CLASS
WEDNESDAY: 7:00 P.M.

The Jerusalem Concept of Unity

Winfred Clark

There might be those who would wonder why we should be concerned about a "Jerusalem concept." When you read such passages as Isaiah 2:1-4; Luke 24:49 and others, you will see that the church was to begin in that city. It was in that place that God planned to establish the church. It would be from that city that the law of the Lord would go forth in the form of the gospel. It is here that we can find the first congregation of the church of Christ on earth. When we come to consider the unity of the church at that place we can better appreciate what real unity is all about.

We See a Unity That Was Real

One can affirm that real unity existed in that city. This is not an imaginary thing but something that really existed.

You can hear such declared. Note what Luke will have to say about it. "And all that believed were together, and had all things common" (Acts 2:44). He clearly says they are united. Again he

would say, “And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul” (Acts 4:32). If you were going to declare that they were united, could you do it any better? I think not.

Yes, in Jerusalem you will find real unity.

We See Unity That Rests Upon Apostolic Teaching

The unity of the Jerusalem church was not an accident. There was a reason for such. Notice what Luke says about it. “And they continued stedfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship” (Acts 2:42). Wouldn’t you say that their fellowship would grow out of the apostles’ doctrine? To be sure, that which the apostles taught would be the thing that brought them into fellowship with God and one another. There would be no way to ignore the doctrine and at the same time have the fellowship that grows out of such. Fellowship and unity could not begin without apostolic teaching and neither could it continue without it. Their fellowship or unity would rest upon apostolic teaching.

Go again to this statement, “And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul” (Acts 4:32). Now stop and ask yourself what they believed. It says “them that believed.” But what did they believe? If you will go back to verse 4 you will see. “Howbeit many of them which heard the word believed” (Acts 4:4). They believed what the apostles were teaching. All of them believed the same thing.

Listen to what John had to say on this topic. “But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another” (1 John 1:7). Now what is the difference in that statement and that which we find in Acts 2:42? Wouldn’t the people “who walk in the light” be the same as those people who “continue stedfastly in the apostles’ doctrine”? Wouldn’t one be in the light as he walked in harmony with the teaching of the apostles? Surely the fellowship of which John spoke would be the same kind of which Luke spoke.

We often will hear a statement like this, “doctrine divides.” Well it depends upon what one means by this. Yes, there is a sense in which doctrine does divide. It divided those of Jerusalem from those who did not follow the doctrine of the apostles. But should they give up following the teaching of the apostles so that they might have unity with those who would not follow such teaching? Surely, nobody would espouse such an idea. Should apostolic teaching be surrendered in order to have unity? Not if we go back to Jerusalem.

You read of Paul’s admonition in the Ephesians letter, “Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace” (Eph. 4:3). Wouldn’t that be the unity of which the Spirit is the author? Wouldn’t that be the same kind of unity you find in the church at Jerusalem? There can be no doubt about it. This can be done as we follow the Spirit’s teaching through the apostles. That is the only kind of unity we are encouraged to keep.

Yes, this unity would rest upon the teaching of inspired men. One should never allow himself to be satisfied with anything less than this kind of unity. Nothing else would have the same foundation. That being the case, it would not stand.

A Unity That Is Nurtured by a Proper Spirit

One does not read far in the book of Acts without being conscious of the fact that unity was

precious to the early church. They did all that they could to nurture and respect it. Brother George Bailey said, “We will never have the unity of the Spirit until we have the spirit of unity.” How true that is. How important such is.

One must be convinced that unity cannot exist where the wrong attitude prevails (Jam. 3:13-18). James says, “For where envying and strife *is*, there *is* confusion and every evil work” (Jam. 3:16).

Go again to Luke’s description of the unity of the Jerusalem church. “And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any *of them* that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common” (Acts 4:32). Just look at the attitude you find in that verse. Look at their sincerity. It came from the heart. This is something that came from the soul and heart. There is nothing superficial about it. This is real.

Also look at the selflessness that characterized them. None of these folks would speak of what was his. He is willing to give it all up for the sake of others if necessary. They are like husbands and wives that do not think in terms of “mine” but “ours.” That is the attitude in which unity will thrive and grow. That is the kind of attitude that will nurture this sort of thing that is needed today.

In case some scoff at the idea of Jerusalem unity as being something in the first century, our answer is, “Yes, that is the case, but where could you go for a better model of unity?”

We would do well to adopt the Jerusalem concept of unity.

P.O. Box 506; Athens, AL 35611

George W. DeHoff Leaves this Life

Bobby Liddell

On Friday, January 1, 1993, at about 11:30 A.M., our beloved brother George W. DeHoff, passed from this life. A stroke in the early hours of that morning resulted in his death from cardiac arrest and respiratory failure.

Brother DeHoff was a great Gospel preacher who began to preach at an early age and over the years, converted thousands to Christ. He was also a debater, author, college president and successful businessman owning DeHoff Bookstore and DeHoff Publications.

We were blessed to have him speak here, most recently in a Gospel meeting a few years back. He stood firmly at the foot of the cross and lovingly extended the Gospel of Christ to all who would hear. Even after his initial stroke a few years ago, he continued doing all he could to further the Cause of Christ. Though hindered by his physical ailments, his heart was full of love for Christ and the souls of men; thus, he kept on preaching.

Just two months ago, he submitted, at my request, an article for DEFENDER. That article, “The Name Of The Church,” will appear in the January, 1993 issue. It was, as always, well-

written, full of Scripture and to the point.

Just being around brother and sister DeHoff was a great joy. I enjoyed so much visiting with them when he preached in our meeting. They both were very kind and always encouraging.

He was indeed a man of rare abilities driven by a great love for God and a great determination to preach the Word! He shall be missed—until we meet again.

Sick

We have had a large number of sick lately. At home (1-3-93) were: Ray and Judy Peters, Sheryl Lowry, Jennette Nall, Mary Cunningham, Marge Williams, Louise Cline, Betty Weekley, Mary Ellen Muldoon, and Rubin and Viola Malone.

Sympathy

The Bellview church has lost another member in the death of Inez Prosser (12-23-92). She was a diligent and dedicated worker for the Cause of Christ. We extend our deepest sympathy to Randall and Joyce, Julie and Lori.

Restored

Champ Hollowell (12-20-92)

New Member

Sylvia Alexander, 700 West Truman Ave., 90H, Pensacola, FL 32505 (1-3-93). Welcome, Sylvia!

Wednesday Schedule

- | | |
|---------|---|
| 1-13-92 | Bible Reading: Shelby Nall
Invitation: Jerry Lindesmith |
| 1-20-93 | Bible Reading: Damon Lundy
Invitation: Hairston Brantley |

Bellview Church of Christ Presents

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January 14, 1993

Number 2

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WEDNESDAY: 7:00 P.M.

Aids—Who Is to Blame?

Garry K. Brantley

The AIDS epidemic is sweeping the world. It has captured the media spotlight for several years. If predictions of the medical community hold true, the decade of the nineties will experience its own "Black Death" as the AIDS mortality rate increases exponentially. The list of issues connected with this debilitating disease includes medical, political, economic, social, psychological, moral and religious concerns. Along with these issues, is the question of theology. From a biblical/philosophical perspective, how do we approach the AIDS epidemic? Initially, when this disease was believed to be confined to intravenous drug abusers and homosexuals, some fundamentalist groups considered AIDS the retributive judgment of a righteously indignant Cod upon a degenerate segment of our society. Now, however, this deadly infection has spread to the heterosexual community, innocent children of

infected parents, and those whose physical conditions, (e.g., hemophiliacs).

Infidelity's Charge

Infidels find an argument against an almighty benevolent God in diseases (such as AIDS) which cause untold misery for both the victims and their families. Since the days of Epicurus (a 2nd century A.D. Greek philosopher), evil and suffering have been powerful weapons in the arsenal of unbelievers. The argument is as follows: (1) If God wants to eradicate evil and suffering from the world and cannot, He is not all-powerful, and; therefore, He is not God; (2) If God possesses the ability to eradicate evil and suffering from the world, but chooses not to, He is not all-loving, and; therefore, He is not God; and, (3) If God possesses both the ability and the desire to prevent evil and suffering in the world, why is there such misery in the world?

This argument seems to present a dilemma on whose horns the theist inevitably will be gored. However, this question, though both perplexing and penetrating, has a satisfactory answer for those who are disposed to sound, biblical reasoning.

The Nature of God and Man

We must first investigate the nature of the Creator to approach properly matters concerning the creature. In several ways, the Bible implies that God is a Being of choice. First, the creation itself argues that the Creator decided to bring into existence the Cosmos and all living beings to inhabit the Earth (cf. Gen. 1; Neh. 9:6-8). The facts that we are here, and that we are contingent beings (i.e., our existence is not necessary), suggest that God chose to act in creation. Second, occasionally the Almighty punished the wickedness of humanity (Gen. 6-8; 2 Chr. 36:15-21; et al.). These punitive actions of God imply His choice of judgment. Third, God set aside certain judgments whenever rebellious mankind repented of its wickedness (Jon, 3:10). The with a Being of volition. Finally, the sacrifice of Jesus for sinful humanity displays the free will of God. He had a choice in the matter of Christ's death—nothing higher than God Himself demanded His Son's death. The Creator's love for His creation compelled Him to act on our behalf (cf. John 3:16; 10:18; Eph. 2:4). Christians reap the eternal benefits of this divine choice.

Since God is a Being of choice, and, since He created man in His image (Gen. 1:26-27), it necessarily follows that man, too, is a being of choice. Man possesses the ability, which is unique to God's creatures, to "discern both good and evil" (Heb. 5:14). The word translated "discern" in this passage connotes the sense of "deciding between" good and bad.

This biblical depiction of man's nature is pertinent to the problem of evil and suffering in our world. Since man possesses the ability to choose both good and bad, the possibility exists that man might make the wrong choice. Often, serious consequences accompany those wrong choices that account for much of the suffering in our world. AIDS is a case in point. AIDS is an acronym for Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome. The emphasis is upon the leading word, "acquired." Evidence suggests that HIV (the virus that causes AIDS) spreads only through the most intimate forms of human contact; e.g., sexual intercourse, infusion of contaminated blood, the sharing of contaminated needles, etc. By far, the greatest incidents of AIDS cases in the U.S. are still among sexually active homosexuals and bisexual men with multiple partners, and past

or present intravenous drug abusers. Obviously, AIDS cases among this group are the results of aberrant behavior. When a person chooses to engage in acts known to spread AIDS (e.g., sexual promiscuity, intravenous drug abuse), and subsequently contracts this disease, Most people appreciate the concept of responsibility for choices, if a person is harmed for a personal wrong choice, we normally accept that as natural law—cause and effect. But what about those innocent victims who are not in the high-risk groups for the contraction of AIDS? What about the wife who contracts the disease from a sexually unfaithful husband? Or the child who, by means of a blood transfusion, is victimized by AIDS? Why didn't God protect the innocent? The answer may be at least twofold: (1) God created every human being with freedom of choice; and (2) the innocent often suffer due to the personal wrong choices of others. God cannot, consistent with the free will of man, withhold freedom of choice from the irresponsible. Freedom of choice implies the freedom to choose wrong. If a husband chooses to be sexually unfaithful and subsequently passes the AIDS virus to his innocent wife, can we justly blame God for the devastating effects? Again, at the heart of the problem is the personal wrong choice of man which caused these inevitable consequences.

The freedom of choice with which God endowed man is a manifestation of His love (1 John 4:8). And, much of the evil and suffering today is related directly to this volitional freedom. Therefore, evil and suffering are not incompatible with the concept of a benevolent, Almighty God; they argue His case.

Origin of Disease

But why are we plagued with diseases of all sorts? In the pristine purity of the Edenic paradise, Adam and Eve were unaffected by viral or bacterial infections. The tree of life possessed certain qualities that completely rejuvenated Adam and Eve's bodies, inoculating them from disease and preserving their mortal frames (Gen. 3:22-23). When they chose to eat of the forbidden fruit, they forfeited their access to the life-sustaining tree. We introduced into the world (Rom. 5:12; 8:20ff). Furthermore, the atmospheric effects of the Flood no doubt further increased the susceptibility of man to infectious diseases. This is implied by the drastic decrease of man's life-span after the Flood (cf. Gen. 5; 11:32). Remember, the wickedness of man precipitated this global deluge (Gen. 6:5-7, 13). Therefore, from a biblical perspective, all diseases with which mankind is blighted are related ultimately to man's wrong choices (i.e., sin).

I do not believe that God decided to formulate a new virus to expunge the immoral from our society. However, to deny that AIDS is a direct retributive response of God to aberrant behavior, is not to deny that such a disease can accomplish His purpose. Actually, AIDS is a poignant reminder that when man chooses to militate against nature (as is true of homosexuality, Rom. 1:26-27), terrible consequences are inevitable. The physically abusive lifestyles of homosexuals invite infectious diseases and death. In fact, from antiquity, untimely deaths have been associated with homosexuality (Job 36:14. Note: the Hebrew translated "unclean" in Job 36:14, ASV, is the masculine counterpart of the word translated "prostitutes," Deu. 23:17. Therefore, it means "sodomites" or "homosexuals"; see the NIV). Additionally, AIDS argues for the divine

prescription for sexual behavior (i.e., monogamous, heterosexual marital relationships). AIDS is much more than a growing public health hazard; it is a deadly demonstration of moral degeneracy. Perhaps we may use it as a door of opportunity to weave the threads of biblical morality back into the morally threadbare fabric of our society.

*Associate Director of Biblical Research
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SYMPATHY

We extend our deepest sympathy to the family of our sister in Christ, Alberta Cozad, who passed from this life on January 6, 1993. Another great Christian lady has left us and she shall be missed. She, with brother Cozad, tirelessly worked to advance the spread of the Gospel here and abroad. Her warm smile and gentle goodness made her a very special lady.

JANUARY PANTRY ITEM

Please bring canned meat for our food pantry. If you prefer, you may make a monetary donation instead.

RESTORED

Sylvia Alexander (1-6-93); Harold Maxey and Jerry Maxey (1-10-93).

Please remember these in your prayers and do what you can to encourage them with love.

WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE

1-20-93 Bible Reading: Damon Lundy

Invitation: Hairston Brantley

1-27-9 Bible Reading: Kevin Bailey

Invitation: Billy Cline

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Women's Role In the Church

Sellers Crain, Jr.

Many will question relevance of this topic, particularly as it relates to those of us within the churches of Christ. It will be my purpose to demonstrate why this is such a relevant topic and why we need lessons on it. The issue is actually much broader than simply the role of women in the church. It also concerns the role of women in the world and in society. One of the most talked about issues in the news a few months back was, "Why can't women sports writers and news people have equal access to men's locker rooms?" One NFL owner had to publicly apologize for statements he made about the outrageous conduct of some of his players. An NFL coach received the highest fine ever levied in history by the league's commissioner because he refused to allow a woman sportscaster into his locker room. Personally, I am in agreement with that coach and an NFL player who said, "I don't think any news people have to be in the locker rooms—male or

female.” He added a separate area could be arranged for interviews after the men had showered and changed. This seems to be a reasonable alternative to women going into rooms where men are in various stages of dress and are showering. How would these same critics feel if the issue were male news persons in women’s locker rooms?

More recently, the news has carried stories about women in the ministry. Many of the denominations are reevaluating this issue. There are already out 10,000 “ordained women” in these bodies. This is expected to increase since almost half of the people in seminaries preparing for the ministry are women. Even among conservative Judaism, there are now women Rabbis. Few religious bodies are not presently having to deal with this issue.

What does this have to do with us? The number of books and articles written by our brethren prove the issue is very much with us and must be dealt with. One writer says that there is no biblical support for the church’s stand on women’s role except for “Troubling passages in letters by Paul ‘surely our thorn in the flesh.’” This same writer goes on to explain Paul’s problem as an “inability to incorporate immediately into his life the full meaning of Christ’s teaching and to completely rid himself his Pharisaical and Rabbinical background,” and his concern with “very special problems for which he offers a solution for one time and place not in keeping with his basic beliefs or what he recommended in another place.” (“Women in Christ Today Seminar,” Marquitta Moss, *Mission Journal*, March 75). This is an older article, but a flurry of more recent ones express this same sentiment. Some of the views expressed in these articles are that women should be allowed to be deacons, to be teachers of mixed adult male and female classes, and be allowed to participate more in the public worship service by leading singing, prayers, serving communion, and preaching.

Such sentiments are disturbing for two reasons. First, they emanate primarily from the Feminist Movement. I for one am opposed to this movement for several reasons. None of which are anti-women. My reasons are as follows: I believe it is demeaning and degrading to womanhood and motherhood. I believe for the most part that its leaders are anti-God, anti-religion, and anti-Bible. I believe that the leaders of this movement are not being honest with most women about their real goals and objectives. If they were, the majority of Christian women would find these goals inconsistent with their own. Second, they are disturbing because they shake our biblical foundations. In order to have women in our pulpits, or as elders and deacons as defined in 1 Timothy 3, we must totally ignore or explain away several passages of scripture. (See 1 Cor. 11:3; 14:34; Eph. 5:22-33; 1 Tim. 2:8-15). For the purposes of this article, I will discuss only the last of the aforementioned text.

In 1 Timothy 2, Paul was obviously writing to Timothy about a problem that was existing then in the church at Ephesus. There must have been some women who were desiring to take a leadership role in the worship assemblies. Paul says that men are to take the lead in the worship of God. He specifically mentions men leading the prayers in this context (v. 8). (Compare the situation at Corinth as related in 1 Cor. 14:12, 19, 23, 26-35 to see if Paul really taught one thing at one place and something else at another place).

Paul says “the woman learn in silence with all subjection” (1 Tim. 2:11). Can a woman ever speak? Is it wrong for women to speak out in a Bible class? If women can never make a sound in worship, then they cannot sing. Yet, they are commanded to sing. In the Bible class setting, a woman is neither teaching or usurping authority over a man who is teaching by asking a question or making a comment. The passage limits the meaning of silence. It concerns women leading prayer, teaching, or in any way exercising authority over a man in the public worship assembly. Women can and must teach for the Bible so commands it. They must teach children (2 Tim. 1:5; 3:14-17), young women (Tit. 2:3-5), even their own unbelieving husbands (1 Pet. 3:1-7), and others (Heb. 5:11-12). They are here only forbidden to teach or exercise authority over a man in public worship.

Why did Paul express such an attitude towards Christian women? Some suggestions made in recent articles are that he was a sexist, male chauvinist pig, writing from a purely cultural context and since we are in a different culture these things don't apply, or that he was giving a personal opinion which these people say he had done often. Paul never said he was merely giving a personal opinion on any matter. 1 Corinthians 7:6-16, 40, which is often cited for this purpose, does not teach this false doctrine. When analyzed in its context, this passage only says Paul was discussing things under inspiration which the Lord Jesus had not previously discussed, but he was still speaking as the Holy Spirit guided him.

None of these charges against Paul are valid. Paul goes back to the beginning of creation to prove his point. He says that women's role of submission was ordained in the order of creation (1 Tim. 2:13; cf. 1 Cor. 11:8-9). It was also confirmed by the fall (1 Tim. 2:14). The fall resulted not only from disobedience, but also due to violating God's divinely appointed role for the sexes. Adam abdicated his responsibility for leadership and followed Eve's leadership. Paul affirmed the leadership of men in spiritual matters because it was established by God in the creation and was confirmed by the fall.

Finally Paul affirms the role of wives and mothers (1 Tim. 2:15). There is no greater role in society than being a mother and molding the life of a child. Only godly mothers can raise godly children. A mother's godliness and virtue can have a profound influence on her children's lives. Obviously for various reasons some women may not, or do not choose to, have children. By choice, they may decide not even to marry. That is their right. Such women can still make a worthwhile contribution to the world and to the service of God.

Christian women often say to me, “People are always telling us what we can't do, why don't they tell us what we can do? Here are a few suggestions from Joyce Hardin, Associate Academic Dean at Lubbock Christian University. Women can:

1. Study the Bible and be scholars.
2. Fulfill their God given roles (wives, mothers, teachers, helpers).
3. Teach younger women.
4. Evangelize.
5. Pray.

6. Get involved in their communities.
7. Make the church a warm and friendly place to be.
8. Be hospitable.
9. Be available for peer counseling.
10. Help meet other women's needs.
11. Minister (not in the pulpit).
12. Be a full-time servant in some capacity.
13. Become involved in speaking, writing or singing.
14. Be a faithful giver.
15. Be an active participant in worship.

(Worship is individual. SCJR).

F. LaGard Smith in his book *Men of Strength for Women of God*, wrote "If this seems outmoded at the end of the 20th century, one must ask if God has changed with the changing times." Brother Smith also wrote in this same book that: "Simply because women appear qualified to be a functional leader in the church does not mean that she is either permitted to fill that role or that she is playing to her natural strength in doing so." Women of God will honor God's order (1 Cor. 11:1-4).

SICK

Away from services recently due to illness were: Jamie Loy, Judy Peters, Rubin and Viola Malone, Mary Ellen Muldoon, Louise Cline, Lantice Garrett, and Floy Dell Lindesmith. Please remember these in your prayers and do what you can to help if needed.

SPECIAL NEED

A family is in need of the following: Full size bed and mattress, dresser and mirror, kitchen table and chairs, and curtains (2) 40" by 40". Let the church office know if you have any of the above items to give to this family.

RIGA, LATVIA UPDATE

Ray Peters departed last week for another stay in Riga. He will return in March. Ray hopes to do a lot of followup study with those contacted in the fall meeting. The church continues to grow.

WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE

1-27-9 Bible Reading: Kevin Bailey
 Invitation: Billy Cline
 2-3-93 Bible Reading: Damon Lundy
 Invitation: Jeremy Caine

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The Death of Jesus

Wade Webster

In the book of Romans, the apostle Paul discusses the system of faith that is set forth in the Gospel. He emphasizes throughout the book that the only way a man can be righteous before God is by complying with God's system of salvation. In Romans one he writes, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith" (Rom. 1:16-17). This passage teaches that man must obey God's plan if he is going to be declared righteous by God. Involved in the gospel is the death, burial, and resurrection of our Lord (1 Cor. 15:1-4). Paul mentions each of these points in the book of Romans. In this lesson, we shall concentrate our study on the death of Christ and some things His death declares.

First, the death of Jesus declares the Plan of God (Rom. 5:5-6). There are those in the religious world who teach that the death of Christ was an

accident. For instance, the Premillennialists teach that Christ came to establish His kingdom but could not because the Jews rejected and crucified Him. Thus, they see the death of Christ as a failure to complete God's plan. However, the death of Christ was not a failure but a fulfillment of God's plan. Let's notice some things Paul says concerning God's plan in the fifth chapter of Romans: (1) Paul declares the motive for this plan—love (Rom. 5:5, 8). God, because of His great love for man was willing to send His Son to die for man. We read, “And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us” (Rom. 5:5). “But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us” (Rom. 5:8).

These passages clearly teach that the motive for this plan was love. (2) Paul declares the revelation of this plan—by the Holy Spirit (Rom. 5:5). It was by the Holy Spirit that the apostles were inspired of God to write of the love of God (John 14:26; 16:13). Today, we are taught of the love of God by the Holy Spirit through the agency of the Word. (3) Paul declares the time for this plan—in due time (Rom. 5:6). “In due time” has reference to the time set by God. It was part of the eternal plan of God that Jesus die for man. In Ephesians 3, Paul says that the revelation of the gospel, which includes the death of Christ, was according to the “eternal purpose” of God (Eph. 3:11). This plan was not an afterthought of God, but rather, part of God's eternal plan. God, and not man, selected the proper time for Christ to die for the sins of the world. To the Galatians Paul wrote, “But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons” (Gal. 4:4-5). The cross of Christ declares the wondrous plan of God for saving man.

Second, the death of Christ declares the Problem of Man. Jesus died on the cross not because of His own shortcomings but rather because of the shortcomings of man. Paul discusses three things concerning man's problem in the fifth chapter of Romans: (1) Paul discusses the weakness of man. Paul describes man as being “without strength” (Rom. 5:6). What does it mean to be without strength? It simply means that man did not have the power to save himself. Paul had already discussed in the book of Romans that man could not save himself by the works of the law of Moses (Rom. 4:3-5; Eph. 2:8-9). Man must obey God's plan and be cleansed by the blood of Christ if he is going to be saved. (2) Paul discusses the sinfulness of man (Rom. 5:8). Paul emphasizes that Christ died for us while we were yet sinners. Earlier in the book of Romans, Paul had defined sin as falling short of the glory of God (Rom. 3:23). Man sins when he goes beyond God's set boundaries (1 John 3:4) and also when he omits what God would have him to do (Jam. 4:17). In the context, Paul also describes man as being ungodly. He states that “Christ died for the ungodly” (Rom. 5:6). The word “ungodly” means unlike or opposite of God. Man was opposite of the nature of God and what God wants man to be like. The term “enemy” is further used by Paul to describe the sinfulness of man (Rom. 5:10). Those who are engaged in the sins of the world and are friends of the world are enemies of God (Jam. 4:4). (3) Paul discusses the separation of man (Rom. 5:10). In verse ten, Paul says that we were reconciled to

God by the death of Christ. In order for someone to be reconciled to God, they must have at one time been separated from God. Someone who has never been separated from God cannot be reconciled to God. They had been separated from God because of sin (Isa. 59:1-2). The problems of man are clearly declared by the death of Christ.

Third, the death of Christ declares the Power of the Blood (Rom. 5:9). It is in the death of Christ that we learn of the power of the blood of Christ. It is in the death of Christ that His blood was shed (John 19:34), and it is by baptism into the death of Christ that the blood of Christ is contacted (Rom. 6:3-5). Certainly, there is power in the blood. Paul wrote, "Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him" (Rom. 5:9). In the context, Paul declares two things concerning the power of the blood of Christ: (1) Paul says we are justified by the blood of Christ. The word "justify" means to pronounce a person pardoned or forgiven of sin. It is a legal term denoting the process by which God declares a man righteous. God was just in saving man when Jesus (a perfect and just man) died in the place of man. It should be noted that earlier in the fifth chapter of Romans, Paul says man is justified "by faith" (Rom. 5:1) and here Paul says that man is justified by the blood of Christ (Rom. 5:9). There is no contradiction in these two passages or anywhere else in the Word of God (2 Tim. 3:16-17). Justification "by faith" and "by his blood" refer to the same justification and not to two different justifications. Paul is simply mentioning two of the essential elements of justification. (2) Paul says we are reconciled to God by His blood (Rom. 5:10). As we have already noticed, reconciliation to God implies that a separation from God has already occurred. Both the Jews and the Gentiles were separated from God by their sins (Isa. 59:1-2). In the first chapter of Romans, Paul proves that the Gentiles were lost and in chapter two, Paul proves that the Jews were lost. In the third chapter of Romans, Paul concludes by stating that: "all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" (Rom. 3:23). Man was separated from God because of sin, and man's sin could only be removed by the death of Christ. Man without the death of Christ was without hope in the world (Eph. 2:11-16). The blood that Christ shed in His death had the power to wash away the sins of man when man complied with God's plan of salvation. Thus, by the death of Christ man can be reconciled with his Heavenly Father.

The death of Christ declares to us the eternal plan of God, the problem of humanity, and the power of the blood. We need never to forget the great price that was paid by our Savior. We have hope in the world because He was willing to die for us. It was because of our sins that He was placed on the cross and it is because of His sacrifice that Heaven can be our home. We need to express our love to Christ by obeying His commandments and using our lives in His service.

NEW ADDRESS

Chris Mathews has a new address. 712 Underwood Ave. Apt. 802A, 32504. Phone: 474-6358. Please correct your directory.

NEW MEMBER

We are happy to welcome **Pamela Light**, from Dodge City, KS, as a member of the Bellview congregation. Her address (husband Richard and daughter Megan) is 2792 Christine Street, 23526. Phone: 455-9584.

JANUARY PANTRY ITEM

Canned Meat

BAPTIZED

We rejoice with **David Tomarchio** who was baptized Sunday evening, 1-24-93. Please add his address and phone to your directory: 6821 Saufley Pines Road, 32526. Phone: 457-7317.

WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE

2-3-93 Bible Reading: Damon Lundy
Invitation: Jeremy Caine
2-10-9 Bible Reading: Howard Johnson
Invitation: Billy Cline

Bellview Church of Christ Presents

THE BEACON

Volume XXII

February 4, 1993

Number 5

BELLVIEW CHURCH OF CHRIST

4850 Saufley Road
Pensacola, FL 32526
(904) 455-7595

MINISTER
Bobby Liddell

BISHOPS
Hairston Brantley, Paul Brantley,
Bill Gallaher

DEACONS
Henry Born, Elward Brantley,
Jerry Caine, Bill Crowe, Charles Garrett,
Louis Herrington, James Loy, Harold
Maxey, Richard Parker, Dusty Wilkes

MISSIONARIES
Ira Rice, Fred Stancliff

MEETING TIMES

SUNDAY:

9:00 A.M. BIBLE CLASSES
10:00 A.M., 6:00 P.M. WORSHIP
5:00 P.M. LADIES' BIBLE CLASS

WEDNESDAY: 7:00 P.M.

Frail Children Of Dust

Burt Jones

In the twilight of the twentieth century, this tired and traumatized world is satiated with tension and torment. It is a troubled world because of its troubled people. A general feeling of unrest is prevalent. "Nerves" have become the major topic of conversation and the chief concern even of those within the body of Christ. There is a stark naked element of fear running like a highly charged cable or a slithering snake through the souls of men, even though our Lord offers us rest in our fear and trouble (2 The. 1:7; Mat. 11:28). Human beings with priceless souls are being wooed by vice and crime and worldliness, led to the slaughter by the factions of the pro-murderers, or the gays and lesbians, not to mention countless other lobbying groups who, through a conduit of corrupt congressmen and senators, are making us feel as though we represent no more than cogs in a machine that may be replaced at any time at the discretion of the machine itself. The individual is being pressured, coerced, blackmailed, confused, distorted, disturbed, robbed, and yet soothed to

the point that he has lost his will and is uninterested in finding the way out or back (Mat. 13:19-22).

As Gospel preachers and as Christians we are faced with going out to save a world that does not want to be saved.

Brethren, there is no peace without God. There is no cause without man for God's intent, purpose, and design.

Man may saturate himself with the pleasures of sin for a season (Heb. 11:25). He may be called by presidents to dispense advice from his store of earthly wisdom, but he will not find in any one of these things the fulfillment of his soul's great yearning. He misses the most obvious of invitations. "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened" (Mat. 7:7-8).

We are frail, and, as the fine old hymn states, we are as feeble as frail. We are inadequate and inferior whenever we attempt to use our stamina; our moral resources. Indeed, were we to be the most righteous of the righteous, "we are all as an unclean *thing*, and all our righteousnesses *are* as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away" (Isa. 64:6).

I was in a Gospel meeting where three sets of fragile but feisty grandparents were baptized. Two of them were over seventy years of age. At a time when too many of our elderly are saying, "It's too late to teach an old dog new tricks," these good souls had seen that we were not teaching dogs and we were not engaged in tricks. They were baptized.

In the six baptisms, I stood in the middle of the baptistry, and with a husband on one side and a wife on the other I grasped the top front of their baptismal garments with my left hand and my right hand and simultaneously buried each husband and wife in the cleansing waters of baptism together. As each couple arose after having been buried with our Redeemer AT THE SAME INSTANT, I had the unadulterated joy of gazing into the faces of three sets of seventy year old infants. Never shall I forget that moment!

"Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail, In Thee do we trust, nor find Thee to fail; Thy mercies, how tender! How firm to the end! Our Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and Friend!"

926 E Jackson St; Millersburg, OH 44654

A Bible Teacher's Letter to Parents

Dear Parents,

I'm one of your child's teachers. I have a problem. I'm afraid that I'm about to become one of the teachers who is getting tired and fed up. You see I'm getting tired of devoting so much time to study in preparation for your child's class only to find that your child is absent again, and—not because of illness.

You see, I do my best to teach your child that God must come first in their life only to have you show them that it is okay to put everything else first. You allow them to go to sports events, school activities, community activities and other functions instead of worship. When you do this, you are allowing worldly things to come first in their lives. How do you expect me to convince them to put God first in their lives when I only have them for such a short time?

Parents, please wake up before it is too late. Please make sure that God has first place in your life and, then by example and teaching, strive to have your children put God first in their lives. Learn to tell your children “NO” when it comes to activities that might come up when your children should be at worship service. Saying “No” might save their souls in the end.

Parents, please wake up so that when your child is grown and on his own, you won’t find yourself asking, “Why won’t he come to worship services?” “Why is he unfaithful?”

Since I am your child’s teacher, I might have some influence on him, but you have much, much more. Please help him to put God first in his life.

(Written by Martha Gentry of the Church Street congregation in Pontotoc, Mississippi and carried in *The Magnolia Messenger*).

Thanks

Thanks to all who helped prepare and mail about 4,000 books! What a great spirit was manifested. You are special people with whom it is a joy to work.

On Friday night, about 50 folks helped to prepare our assembly line, positioning needed materials, then, to stamp jet paks with the bulk mailing stamp and “Free Book Inside,” put on return address labels and mailing labels, put the books in the paks, seal them, put them in mailing bags, tag them, store them and clean up. Over 1600 books were processed in a little over 2 hours!

Monday afternoon, four trucks and several helpers were ready to load and transport 1,032 books to the Post Office and to prepare additional books. On Monday evening, another good group of workers met and finished preparing the last books (over 3,300) for others to load and mail on Tuesday.

We trust good shall come from our efforts. Thanks to all who helped!

The Bugs Go To Church

LITTERBUG—Gum wrappers, crumbs, tissues, etc., mark the spot where he cared not.

JITTERBUG—A pew vibrator. Turns north, then south. Crosses legs, swings foot and thinks up new methods each week to add to his repertoire.

SITTERBUG—Sits and sits. Stands for prayer, but this is an ordeal. Sitting is his conception of Christianity, in or out of the church building.

TITTERBUG—At the first mistake, they begin... and titter to the last “Amen.”

GLITTERBUG—So dazzled by their own glitter that they fail to see the glory of Christ.

FRITTERBUG—Fritters away the time. Looks out the window. Looks at the ceiling. Cleans and trims fingernails, passes notes.

BITTERBUG—Looks bitter, feels bitter, is bitter! Seldom smiles and shakes hands only reluctantly.

QUITTERBUG—Quits attending and participating if something does not suit him. Easily offended, wears feelings on sleeve; others walk on eggs around him.

From Olathe, KS, Author Unknown

NEW MEMBERS

We are happy to welcome back **Chad** and **Jessica Lightner**. Their address is 7508 Dunwalt Road, 32526. Phone: 944-8418. Please correct your directory.

SICK AND SHUT-IN

Charles Williams—Room 505, Sacred Heart (pneumonia); Ella Mae Hammac—Room 328, West Florida (surgery and rehabilitation); Mary Barr—West Florida; Mary Ellen Muldoon and Thomas Muldoon—home; Kim Muldoon (Mary and Thomas' granddaughter)—ICU, Baptist; and Rubin Malone—home.

**FEBRUARY PANTRY
ITEM
Canned Fruit**

WRITE RAY PETERS

Ray and Judy are moving to Riga, Latvia in August 1993. You may write him now at:

18A Druvas
Riga, Latvia 226002
EUROPE

WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE

2-10-9 Bible Reading: Howard Johnson
Invitation: Billy Cline
2-17-93 Bible Reading: Charles Garrett
Invitation: Tony Liddell

Bellview Church of Christ Presents

THE BEACON

Volume XXII

February 11, 1993

Number 6

BELLVIEW CHURCH OF CHRIST

4850 Saufley Road
Pensacola, FL 32526
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Bill Gallaher

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MEETING TIMES

SUNDAY:

9:00 A.M. BIBLE CLASSES
10:00 A.M., 6:00 P.M. WORSHIP
5:00 P.M. LADIES' BIBLE CLASS

WEDNESDAY: 7:00 P.M.

From Death Unto Life

Jerri Manasco

The Bible uses some of the most remarkable and profound statements to impress great concepts upon human hearts. One such statement is that used by the apostle John when he says that we have, "passed from death unto life" (John 5:24; 1 John 3:14). How grand is the truth expressed by that phrase!

To pass from death unto life means to experience a change in one's spiritual status. It is the transformation from spiritual death unto spiritual life. It is the change from the state of sin to the state of righteousness in Jesus Christ. It is to pass from being lost to being redeemed from condemnation! The child of God has every reason to rejoice in his or her renewed standing before God.

Before conversion, a person is, "dead in trespasses and sins" (Eph. 2:1). This simply means that one is separated from God because of the iniquity of his life (Isa. 59:1-2). It means that one is alienated from the life of God (Eph. 4:18-19). It means that if one dies in that state, with sins unrepented of and in rebellion against God, he or

she shall die without God and, therefore, lost! What needless tragedy.

To pass from death unto life means to become dead **TO** sin that one might live in righteousness unto God (Rom. 3:23; 1 Pet. 2:24). One who becomes a Christian must indeed renounce the love for the world (1 John 2:15-17). Such a one must deny the things of the world and take on a new life of sobriety, righteousness, and godliness (Tit. 2:11-12). One who has passed from death unto life has become a new creature, with all the implications that attend upon that change (2 Cor. 5:17; Col. 3:1-12).

When one passes from death unto life, he or she now has greater prospects than previously could be anticipated. For example, there is now the expectation of life versus perishing (John 3:15-16). There is the hope of eternal life, whereas there had been the sentence of wrath (John 3:36). There is the hope of eternal life, whereas in the life of sin there was only condemnation (John 5:24-25).

Some have not now and never shall pass from death unto life because they resist the saving grace of God. Many who could be saved will not be because they will continue in their unbelief (John 3:18; Rom. 2:7-11). Rather than pass into life, they will perish in their stubbornness! Like the spiritually blind Jews of the first century (John 9:40-41), some just will not face the fact of their being in sin! They apparently love the prospect of dying in sin and facing an eternity of “the second death” (Rev. 20:14-15).

The ultimate point is eternity. Then it will be too late to pass from death unto life (Mat. 25:46; Luke 16:26). In the last day, there will be the resurrection either to life or unto damnation (John 5:28-29). You can make the difference NOW.

P.O. Box 166; Boaz, AL 35957

Why Attend Bible Class?

We are commanded to study the Bible (2 Tim. 2:15).

To gain knowledge with which to teach others (Heb. 5:12).

That we may be ready to give an answer for our hope (1 Pet. 3:15).

That we may be prepared to defend the faith (Jude 15).

To feed our souls (1 Pet. 2:2).

To help us prepare for judgment (John 12:48).

To be with the Lord (Mat. 18:20).

Why would a faithful Christian not want to attend Bible Class?

Paul and Thessalonica

Winfred Clark

This former Pharisee wrote two letters to the church he had a part in establishing in that city. Nobody could doubt his care and concern for these folks for such flows through this epistle.

There are numerous ways to divide the book. If you follow the chapter divisions you have a five point lesson. For example:

Chapter One: Paul's Delight in What They Have Become

In the first chapter, one finds several active verbs. These people have become followers of the Lord (1:6). They have also become servants of God (1:9). They were not always servants of God and followers of the Lord. They were at one time idolators (1:9).

To Paul this is surely a thing of delight. This would be much like the delight of John (2 John 4).

Chapter Two: Paul's Defense of What They Have Believed

One must be aware of those false teachers that went from place to place denying Paul's apostleship and seeking to cast reflection on his message. In fact, one has pointed out that this entire epistle was for the purpose of showing the genuineness of the gospel Paul preached. The accompanying gifts of the Spirit would confirm such. The way the apostles preached without flattery or favor proved it. The demands for holy living confirms it.

Chapter Three: Paul Deals with Their Burdens

You wouldn't find Paul denying their burdens. He knew they faced such (3:4). He pitied them and he prayed for them.

Chapter Four: Paul Demands Their Best

Paul knew the Lord had given His best and he was attempting to do the same. He demands no less of his brethren. Their lives were to be, above all things, holy.

Chapter Five: He Describes Their Behaviour

This chapter contains one exhortation after another. In rapid fashion, he describes how they are to behave in a sinful world. They are to be a different people. They are to also be a diligent people.

Yes, 1 Thessalonians is a real source for provocative lessons.

P.O. Box 506 Athens, AL 35611

FEBRUARY PANTRY
ITEM
Canned Fruit

“God’s Pattern For Christian Living”

EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL

BELLVIEW LECTURES

MAY 8-12, 1993

The Eighteenth Annual Bellview Lectures begin Saturday, May 8 at 7:00 P.M. with two lessons designed especially for young people. Beginning Sunday, May 9, lectures will be conducted daily from 9:00 A.M. until 9:00 P.M., with breaks for lunch and dinner.

Each afternoon, Monday through Wednesday, there will be an Open Forum Discussion beginning at 3:45 P.M.

The thirty lectures include: The Peace And Joy Of Christian Living, God’s Word— Setting The Heart To Seek It, Jesus Christ—Our Perfect Example, Living In View Of Eternity, Growing Stronger In Christ Every Day, Christians Outlive The World, Opposing Error In Word And Deed and Positives And Negatives Of Christian Living.

Speakers include: Buster Dobbs, Roy Deaver, Bob Duncan, Wayne Coats, Carl Garner, Joe Gilmore, Dub McClish, Ira Rice, Curtis Cates, Winfred Clark, David Brown, Jackie Stearsman and others.

BABY NEWS

Woody and Lanet Taylor are the proud parents of Heather Lanet Taylor, born February 9, 1993. She weighed 7 pounds and 11 ounces. Congratulations to the parents—and grand-parents Don and Karen Hoffay.

SICK AND SHUT-IN

Ray Dodd—home from the hospital; William Weekley—recovering from surgery; Charles Williams—home; Ella Mae Hammac—Room 1016, West Florida Rehab; Mary Barr—home; Mary Ellen and Thomas Muldoon—home; and Rubin Malone—home.

CLASSES SUNDAY AFTERNOON

Classes meet before services each Sunday. Teens meet at 5:30 P.M., Young Ladies—Room 7, Young Men—Room 1. At 5:40 P.M., the younger folks meet in the auditorium. See you there!

WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE

2-17-93 Bible Reading: Charles Garrett
Invitation: Tony Liddell
2-24-9 Bible Reading: Chad Lightner
Invitation: Damon Lundy

Bellview Church of Christ Presents

THE BEACON

Volume XXII

February 18, 1993

Number 7

BELLVIEW CHURCH OF CHRIST
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Pensacola, FL 32526
(904) 455-7595

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Bill Gallaher

DEACONS
Henry Born, Elward Brantley,
Jerry Caine, Bill Crowe, Charles Garrett,
Louis Herrington, James Loy, Harold
Maxey, Richard Parker, Dusty Wilkes

MISSIONARIES
Ira Rice, Fred Stancliff

MEETING TIMES

SUNDAY:

9:00 A.M. BIBLE CLASSES
10:00 A.M., 6:00 P.M. WORSHIP
5:00 P.M. LADIES' BIBLE CLASS

WEDNESDAY: 7:00 P.M.

Thank God for Christian Parents

Allen Webster

A Bible class teacher asked her children, "Why do you love God?" Among many answers, one little boy's stood out: "I don't know, ma'am. I guess it just runs in the family!"

Americans traditionally set aside two Sundays a year to honor parents, but Christians honor their parents every day (Lev. 19:32; Pro. 23:22; Rom. 13:7; Eph. 6:1-3). In a time when so many families split and children are abused—thank God for Christian parents!

It was only a few days ago when we were wrapped in a blanket and first witnessed by beaming eyes. It will be only a few days before our bodies will be covered with flowers and seen the last time by weeping eyes. Between these times our parents will have the greatest impact on how we live (along with our mates).

It is hard to escape the positive impact of a Christian home. What came to the young man's mind in the pigen? His father's house (Luke

15:17). By age 21 a child spends 105,000 waking hours-2,100 in Bible class; 10,000 in school; 92,000 in the home (nine times as many as in school; 90,000 more than in Bible class!). The home is where battles for souls are won or lost.

Thank God for Christian Parents Who:

PROTECTED US. God blessed many of us with parents who made us feel safe from harm and secure when facing the strange, unknown and frightening. We thank God that our parents protected us physically from sickness, intruders and accidents; emotionally from shocks that might have warped our personalities (Tit. 2:4); morally from elements that might have damaged our developing code of ethics (Phi. 4:8).

PROVIDED FOR US. Our dads went to work to give us food, shelter, clothing and education—even when they did not feel like it. Our moms labored in the home—even when they were sick. Most of the time we were unaware of the sacrifices made for us (until the shoe was on the other foot!) (1 Tim. 5:8; Tit. 2:4; Pro. 31).

CORRECTED US. We were blessed with parents who knew how to draw lines and mean it when they said, “No!” They dared to discipline (Heb. 12:5-13; Rev. 3:19; Pro. 13:24; 22:15; 23:13-14). Their correction set boundaries for us because we needed limits that were not constantly changing (cf. Col. 3:21). It helped build character (Pro. 29:15; Heb. 12:11), which has been the basis for all of life. Effective discipline is a learning process. One preacher said his sermon on discipline had changed over the years from “How To Raise Children,” to “Suggestions For Raising Children,” to “Let’s Pray For Our Children!” Discipline and punishment are not synonymous. Punishment is a part of it, but discipline is the total training of a child. It punishes when he steps out of line and shows him how to stay on the right path.

TRAINED US. They taught us everything from tying shoes to catching fly balls to making cookies. They made us learn to make our beds and change the oil. Those things which became our “common sense” were learned in the home.

They trained us spiritually by pointing us to Jesus (John 1:36-37). They tried to give us the proper set of values (Mat. 19:18; 5:27-28; 1 Cor. 6:18; 2 Tim. 2:22; 1 Tim. 4:12) and provided footprints in which we tried to step (Gen. 18:19). They saw to it that we were around Christians of great faith and attended functions which would positively influence us. At the time we had no idea how important a good environment was for spiritual growth (1 Cor. 15:33), but we do now.

We do not even remember ever discussing whether or not we were going to get ready “for church.” It was always something we enjoyed. We do not remember our first Bible lessons, but know they were early in our lives. We learned to pray by hearing their petitions. “When father prays, he doesn’t use the words the preacher does; There’s different things for different days, but mostly it’s for us. I can’t remember all of it; I’m little yet, you see; But one thing I cannot forget; my father prays for me!”

They taught us to have faith in ourselves (Rom. 12:3; Phi. 4:13; cf. Job 1:4-5; Mat. 28:18-20), and God (Heb. 11:6). They wanted us to have a faith by which to live and die. A little girl

was thrown into a net from a burning building. “Weren’t you scared you’d miss?” “No.” “Why?” “Because,” she said profoundly, “My daddy aimed.” God be thanked for parents who aim their children for the Gospel net (Mat. 13:47-50). “Lord, this I ask, that I might be True to the trust You have in me; that I rear this child of mine, each day to be a child of Thine. That I might guide his precious feet from each new danger he will meet. That I might keep him in the fold. And teach him, Lord, Thy hand to hold. Tis when the big sheep go astray, That often the lambs, too, go that way, So that is why this day, I ask Lord, make me worthy of the task.” Thank God for Christian parents.

Route 1 Box 38; Tiplersville, MS 38674

FEBRUARY PANTRY ITEM

Canned Fruit. You may also make donations to be used to buy pantry items if you prefer.

Hats off to Bill and Peggy Crowe who do a great job in keeping the pantry organized.

WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE

2-24-9 Bible Reading: Chad Lightner
Invitation: Damon Lundy
3-3-93 Bible Reading: Dusty Wilkes
Invitation: Preston Silcox

KEEP US INFORMED

Please inform the office of any announcements for the bulletin. Thanks!

SICK AND SHUT-IN

Ill at home: Chris Mathews (recent surgery), Ray Dodd, William Weekley, Ray Williams, Mary Barr, Rubin Malone. Ella Mae Hammac—Room 1016, West Florida Rehabilitation Center.

It was good to see sister Mary Ellen Muldoon was able to be at services for the first time since her surgery.

Remember all the sick and shut-in in your daily prayers.

**Eighteenth Annual
Bellview Lectures**
*“God’s Pattern
For Christian
Living”*

Bellview Church of Christ Presents

THE BEACON

Volume XXII

February 25, 1993

Number 8

BELLVIEW CHURCH OF CHRIST

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5:00 P.M. LADIES' BIBLE CLASS

WEDNESDAY: 7:00 P.M.

If Mechanical Instruments of Music Are Right In Christian Worship, Will You Answer These Questions? *Franklin Camp* 1915-1991

Those who use instrumental music in worship think it is simple to justify it. If it is as easy to justify as some think, then it ought not to be difficult to answer these questions. I will first state the argument that is used to justify instrumental music and then ask questions based on the argument.

The most usual argument that is made for its use is to appeal to the Old Testament. Those who use it will say, "I can find it in the Old Testa-

ment.” If the Old Testament justifies its use in Christian worship, will you answer these questions?

When you appeal to the Old Testament to justify its use, is that not an admission that the New Testament does not authorize its use? If it is authorized in the New Testament, then why appeal to the Old Testament to try to justify it?

If it was right in the Old Testament, was it not right because it was mentioned in the Old Testament? Would you try to prove it right by the Old Testament if it was not mentioned in the Old Testament?

If it had to be mentioned in the Old Testament to make it right, would it not follow that it must be mentioned in the New Testament to justify its use today since we live under the New Testament (Col. 2:14)? Where is it mentioned in the New Testament as being in Christian worship?

To appeal to the Old Testament is an admission that for it to be right there, it had to be mentioned. Does not this argument cancel the argument made by saying, “Where does the New Testament say we cannot use it?”

If the Old Testament is authority for mechanical instruments of music, then why is it not authority for other things as well? When it was authority for instrumental music, was it not also authority for burning incense, animal sacrifice, Sabbath keeping and stoning those who broke the Sabbath? When and how did it cease to be authority for burning incense, animal sacrifice, Sabbath keeping and stoning Sabbath breakers, but continue to be authority for instrumental music?

There are some who contend that instrumental music was prophesied in the Old Testament, in such passages as Psalms 87:5-7. Those who use this passage to justify it think that Zion or Jerusalem is the church. If Zion or Jerusalem is the church, what does Tyre, Babylon, Philistia and Ethiopia mean?

If this is a prophecy of the New Testament church, why did not some inspired men quote it in the New Testament? If this is a prophecy of the church, how do you account for the fact that though there are many quotations in the New Testament from the Old Testament, not one of them mentions instrumental music in Christians. worship?

How would you account for the fact when the New Testament does quote from the book of Psalms, the quotations are in connection with singing and not playing mechanical instruments? In Romans 15:9, Paul quotes Psalms 22:22. If instrumental music was prophesied from the Psalms, why did Paul quote two of the Psalms about singing but none about instrumental music?

If instrumental music was prophesied, how can you account for the fact that the prophecy was not fulfilled? It is a certain fact that the early church did not use instrumental music.

If it was prophesied, then it is the only prophecy that I know of that failed.

In Deuteronomy 18:22, God says that when a prophet prophesies a thing and it does not come to pass, you may know that the prophet is a false prophet. Would it not follow that if the

Psalms prophesied instrumental music, since it did not come to pass, the prophet was a false prophet?

Via The Visitor, Adamsville, AL

NEWS

Visitation Groups Update

Sunday, February 28, we will present exciting information about our new Visitation Groups. Bill Crowe heads up our Visitation Program and does a good job. Group 1 meets March 7; Group 2—March 14; and, Group 3—March 21.

Newcomers' Banquet

Saturday, March 13 will be the date for our Newcomers' Banquet, at which we will welcome and honor all those who have recently become members at Bellview. More later.

Sick and Shut-in

William Weekley, Martha Wilcoxson, Mary Barr, Rubin Malone, Mike Peters, Earnest Rhames (Regenia Bragg's dad), Candace Harris (Sheryl Lowry's sister), Gary Brantley (pneumonia), Mary Ellen Muldoon and Ella Mae Hammac.

Baby Shower

There will be a baby shower for Lanet Taylor in the Zone Meeting Room on Thursday, February 25 at 7:00 P.M.

Bridal Shower

There will be a bridal shower for Vaydra Herrington at the home of Sharon Caine on Monday, March 1 at 7:00 P.M.

Pantry Items

February: Canned Fruit. March: Soup.

Restored

Linda Parker and Chris Mathews were restored Sunday (2-21), confessing wrong and seeking forgiveness. Let us all remember them in our prayers, encourage them and strengthen them.

Wed. Schedule

3-3-93 BIBLE READING: Dusty Wilkes
INVITATION: Preston Silcox
3-10-93 READING: Michael Lowry
INVITATION: Jeremy Caine

Thanks!

Thanks to Elward Brantley for the steadfast and excellent work he does in the print shop. He often comes in after work, late at night, in the early morning hours or

on his off day. Thanks, we do sincerely appreciate the good job.

Coming Home!

Ray Peters is scheduled to come home from another missionary tour in Latvia on Wed., March 3, about 5:00 P.M.

New Phone Number

Please update your directory. Sylvia Alexander's new number is 438-6727.

EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL BELLVIEW LECTURES

*"God's Pattern for
Christian Living"*

May 8-12, 1993

NEW MEMBERS

We are happy to welcome **Allen** and **Diana Brazell** (formerly of Gateway) as members of the Bellview congregation. They came Sunday morning repenting of having had fellowship with those in error and expressing their desire to work and worship with us under the oversight of the Bellview elders.

Be sure and welcome them! Also, update your directory with the following.

Allen and Diana Brazell
9644 Hollowbrook Drive
Pensacola, FL 32514
Phone: 477-1622

BAPTIZED

We rejoice with our new brother **Harold Staples** who was baptized Sunday (2-21). Thanks to all who prayed for him and encouraged him and thanks be to God for the Gospel of Christ.

BAPTIZED

We also rejoice with **Tia Fillingim** who was baptized Thursday (2-18). Now, through her obedience to the Gospel, she has remission of sins and hope of a home in Heaven!

Bellview Church of Christ Presents

THE BEACON

Volume XXII

March 4, 1993

Number 9

BELLVIEW CHURCH OF CHRIST

4850 Saufley Road
Pensacola, FL 32526
(904) 455-7595

MINISTER

Bobby Liddell

BISHOPS

Hairston Brantley, Paul Brantley,
Bill Gallaher

DEACONS

Henry Born, Elward Brantley,
Jerry Caine, Bill Crowe, Charles Garrett,
Louis Herrington, James Loy, Harold
Maxey, Richard Parker, Dusty Wilkes

MISSIONARIES

Ira Rice, Fred Stancliff

MEETING TIMES

SUNDAY:

9:00 A.M. BIBLE CLASSES
10:00 A.M., 6:00 P.M. WORSHIP
5:00 P.M. LADIES' BIBLE CLASS

WEDNESDAY: 7:00 P.M.

What Grace Is

Bobby Liddell

But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) And hath raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus: That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in *his* kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them (Eph. 2:4-10).

Grace is a translation of the Greek word *charis*, meaning, "...that kindness by which God bestows favors even upon the ill-deserving, and grants to sinners the pardon of their offences, and

bids them accept of eternal salvation through Christ...” (Thayer, *Greek-English Lexicon*, p. 666). *Charis* (in its various forms) has been translated by such words as: “grace” (Eph. 3:8); “favor” (Luke 2:52); “liberality” (1 Cor. 16:3); “thanksgiving” (2 Cor. 9:12); and, “thanks” (2 Cor. 9:15). We commonly refer to grace as favor; especially, as “unmerited favor of God.”

Grace is the Divine side of salvation. When man’s transgression of God’s law brought sin into the world and separated him from God and the Garden (Rom. 5:12), God was not obligated to provide a way of return. Though He did not have to so provide, undeserving man was desperately needful. Thus, grace is absolutely necessary. God purposed to do for man what man could not do (Gen. 3:15). However, God does not do for man what man can (and must) do for himself. Obedient faith, a God ordained prerequisite to salvation, accomplishes that (Eph. 2:8).

Grace is God’s response to the insufficiency of sinful man. Men, without God, are corrupt, lost, undone, helpless, hopeless, dead in sin and woefully unable to pay for themselves the price of redemption. Though the resources of man are insufficient to provide his own salvation, God’s grace is sufficient.

Salvation by grace is God’s answer. “For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God” (Eph. 2:8; cf. Rom. 3:24; 5:1).

Grace is a consequence of God’s supreme love and marvelous mercy as these Divine characteristics relate to man’s salvation through the gift of God’s Son. Grace is abundant, yet it is neither appreciated nor appropriated by one who sees no need for faith in Christ and redemption through His blood. God offers salvation, not because of obligation due to man’s worth or meritorious works, but because of His abundant grace—His “unmerited favor.”

4850 Saufley Road Pensacola, FL 32526

NEWS

Visitation Groups Update

Be present for your group meeting as we kick off a great new visitation program. Visitation groups will meet after the Sunday evening services.

Group 1 meets March 7. (Bill Crowe)

Group 2 meets March 14. (Dusty Wilkes)

Group 3 meets March 21. (Ray Foshee)

Newcomers’ Banquet

Saturday, March 13 will be the date for our Newcomers’ Banquet, at which we will welcome and honor all those who have recently become members at Bellview.

Sick and Shut-in

Charles Williams came home from Sacred Heart Hospital on 3-2. Joyce Simmons, Mary Barr, Rubin Malone, Mike Peters, Lee Bragg's mother and father, Candace Harris (Sheryl Lowry's sister), Mary Ellen Muldoon and Ella Mae Hammac are ill at home.

Pantry Items

March: Soup.

Restored

We rejoice with the following brethren who were restored recently.

Dave Tomarchio (2-24)

Sylvia Alexander (2-28)

Tim Lamb (2-28)

Please remember them in your prayers and seek to help them grow stronger in Christ everyday.

*In joyful anticipation of our marriage on Saturday,
the twentieth of March Nineteen hundred and ninety-three*

Vaydra Jane Herrington

and

Damon Brent Lundy

together with our parents

Mr. and Mrs. Louis Herrington

and

Mr. and Mrs. Junius Lundy

*invite you to join with us in this celebration of love
at two o'clock in the afternoon Milton Church of Christ*

Milton, Florida

Reception

following the ceremony

The Bower Building

**EIGHTEENTH
ANNUAL
BELLVIEW
LECTURES**

*“God’s Pattern
For Christian
Living”*

May 8-12, 1993

NEW BIBLE CLASSES

We began new classes for adults on Wednesday, March 3. Now is a great time for you to get into the Bible class program. Adults 1 meets in Room 1, Adults 2 in Room 7, and Adults 3 in Room 5.

WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE

3-10-93 READING: Michael Lowry

INVITATION: Jeremy Caine

3-17-93 READING: Dave Tomarchio

INVITATION: Harold Maxey

Bellview Church of Christ Presents

THE BEACON

Volume XXII

March 11, 1993

Number 10

BELLVIEW CHURCH OF CHRIST

4850 Saufley Road
Pensacola, FL 32526
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MINISTER
Bobby Liddell

BISHOPS
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Bill Gallaher

DEACONS
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Jerry Caine, Bill Crowe, Charles Garrett,
Louis Herrington, James Loy, Harold
Maxey, Richard Parker, Dusty Wilkes

MISSIONARIES
Ira Rice, Fred Stancliff

MEETING TIMES

SUNDAY:

9:00 A.M. BIBLE CLASSES
10:00 A.M., 6:00 P.M. WORSHIP
5:00 P.M. LADIES' BIBLE CLASS

WEDNESDAY: 7:00 P.M.

The Siren's Song

Burt Jones

In Greek legend, there were creatures who presented themselves as sea nymphs, half woman-half bird, endowed with voices of such sweetness that sailors who heard their songs were lured from a safe course to shipwreck on the rocks on which the sirens sat.

In another legend, the Argonauts escaped these sirens only because of the superior singing of Orpheus, the son of Apollo, the Greek god of music, medicine, and light.

There are today far too many sojourners in the king's steerage lured from their safe course to flounder on the crags and crevices of carnality and modernism.

These present day mariners, after having decided they would follow Jesus, chart their course for Gloryland. For awhile, the seas are calm-not a cloud in the sky, then all of a sudden, the siren lover, LIBERALISM, sings its seductive song. The wayfaring stranger grasps the wheel tighter and tighter. He decides that a slight deviation from his appointed course ever so gently toward

the alluring and seductive rocks of wrong, would not pull him from his true heading. But the sensuous lapse from that which is righteous draws him toward this “strange sound” (2 Tim. 4:3-4; Heb. 13:9). Our mariner sees the remains of other ships which have passed this way and wrecked, but this sailor will be more careful and steer close to, but clear of, danger.

There are some in the Lord’s church who would hearken to the siren’s song of turning the Body of Christ into just another DENOMINATION. Yet, we consult the “chart” that guides us on our way and see that Jesus built His church (Mat. 16:18). It wears His name (Acts 20:28). It abides in His doctrine (2 John 9). It decries religious error, it is His bride and its destination is assured (Mat. 15:13-14; Eph. 5:22-27).

We swerve, barely missing the shipwreck of denominationalism, only to hear the haunting refrain of the siren MODERNISM and, once again, our palms become moist as we somehow seem drawn to a rock named THEISTIC EVOLUTION. Through its misty countenance we wonder how it got here in all this vast space. Where did the first speck of protoplasm come from? Where did the water to feed the speck come from? How can it account for order in the universe?

Our sailor comes to his senses just as he avoids this obstacle and heads directly toward a voluptuous siren figure singing, “Instrumental music in worship is allowed and the Lord’s Supper may be observed daily or quarterly instead of Sunday only. There is nothing to the verbal inspiration of the Scriptures and what’s wrong with a little innocent immorality in the church? Haven’t all sinned and come short of the glory of God (Rom. 3:23)? Relax, let the grace of God cover you. Enjoy life!” Again, our seafarer consults his “navigational map” and notices the markings of the safe channel (Col. 3:16; Eph. 5:7-12; Oba. 10-11; Gal. 1:6-9; Jude 3). Our standard tells us we must steer clear of the evil among us (1 Cor. 5:13) and to get rid of—throw overboard, worldliness (2 Tim. 2:20-22).

If the siren’s song of liberalism and modernism haven’t yet made you fall prey to their fruits, maybe this will.

Men are prone to steer from one extreme to another and this attitude is regrettable, unthinkable, and unscriptural. But OUR attitude today toward those outside the body is radically undergoing many changes. When “gospel” preachers can openly knead and ply us with the siren’s song that, “There are some in ALL sects who are converted in mind and heart to Christ and who so reverence His word that they bow to His teachings,” then we have to realize how close to the shipwreck of sham and swindle some would steer us.

So many of our good brethren do not allow things to go on. Good people, they don’t even know what is going on! They may accidentally steer into bits and pieces of the problem of liberalism and modernism and survive, but finally one day, because of their stubbornness in studying the Christian’s navigational chart, they will open their eyes, much too close to the rocks, and find their sons and daughters singing that very siren’s song to their grandchildren. It will send these precious little souls out into open sea and only a greatly flawed version of THE CHART, not even knowing how to rightly discern the navigational information contained

therein. And so, they simply find the easiest course is to listen to THE SIREN'S SONG!

926 East Jackson Street; Millersburg, OH 44654

NEWS

Visitation Group Meetings

Be present for your group meeting.

Group 2 meets March 14. (Dusty Wilkes)

Group 3 meets March 21. (Ray Foshee)

Group 1 meets April 4. (Bill Crowe)

Newcomers' Banquet

Saturday, March 13 will be the date for our Newcomers' Banquet, at which we will welcome and honor all those who have recently become members at Bellview.

Books on Abortion

The following books recently have been added to the church library. They are not written by brotherhood authors, but contain some excellent information.

In the Image of God—Gary Thomas

Rachel Weeping—Jame Burthaeil

Aborted Women Silent No More—Reardon

Pro-Life Answers to Pro-Choice Arguments—Randy Alcorn

Rites of Life—Schettles and Rorvik

Pro-Life Feminism: Different Voices—Gail Grenier Sweet

Abortion: The Bible and the Church—Tj Bosgra

Who Broke the eBaby?—Jean Garton

Aborting America—Bernard Nathanson

First Nine Months of Life—Flanagan

Right to Live/Right to Die—C. E. Koop

Euthanasia: Killing or Caring?—Marker

Sick and Shut-in

Marilyn Hall and Mary Ellen Muldoon are ill at home. Fred Stancliff will return to Nashville for further tests and possible surgery on March 16. Pat Brandon will have surgery

March 10.

*In joyful anticipation of our marriage on Saturday,
the twentieth of March Nineteen hundred and ninety-three*

Vaydra Jane Herrington

and

Damon Brent Lundy

together with our parents

Mr. and Mrs. Louis Herrington

and

Mr. and Mrs. Junius Lundy

*invite you to join with us in this celebration of love
at two o'clock in the afternoon Milton Church of Christ*

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following the ceremony

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**EIGHTEENTH
ANNUAL
BELLVIEW
LECTURES**

*“God’s Pattern
For Christian
Living”*

May 8-12, 1993

RESTORED

Jerry Fillingim (3-3) and Tina Maltby (3-7) were recently restored, confessing wrong and seeking forgiveness. Remember Jerry and Tina in your prayers and help them to grow in Christ.

WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE

3-17-93 **READING:** Dave Tomarchio
INVITATION: Harold Maxey
3-24-93 **READING:** Ray Dodd
INVITATION: Dusty Wilkes

Bellview Church of Christ Presents

THE BEACON

Volume XXII

March 18, 1993

Number 11

BELLVIEW CHURCH OF CHRIST

4850 Saufley Road
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BISHOPS
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Louis Herrington, James Loy, Harold
Maxey, Richard Parker, Dusty Wilkes

MISSIONARIES
Ira Rice, Fred Stancliff

MEETING TIMES

SUNDAY:

9:00 A.M. BIBLE CLASSES
10:00 A.M., 6:00 P.M. WORSHIP
5:00 P.M. LADIES' BIBLE CLASS

WEDNESDAY: 7:00 P.M.

Rejoice

Lynn Blair

It has been said that happiness is a state of mind. One book put it, "Happiness Is A Choice." Happiness, and its close cousin, contentment, are things which everyone wants or desires. The dictionary defines happy as, "enjoying peace and comfort, glad." Contentment is defined as, "satisfied, pleased." Where is the individual that does not wish for more of this in his or her life?

The Bible is full of words about blessedness and contentment (and their synonyms). From the Old Testament, this theme is especially strong in the five books of poetry Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes and Song of Solomon). Although they approach it from different aspects, they still speak of the contentment and happiness that should possess God's people. It is a basic message of the entire book of Job. Psalms approaches the subject from many different angles; such as, the idea of forgiveness (Psa. 32, 51) and contentment in the face of persecution (Psa. 23, 73). Proverbs is full of verses about happiness and contentment, especially as it applies to Godly

wisdom. Ecclesiastes is a book about the richest man in the world (Solomon) striving to find happiness (many times without God). He finally comes to the conclusion of the matter: “Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man” (Ecc. 12:13). In the next verse, he tells us the “why” of this conclusion: “For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.” Then in Song of Solomon, we find the recipe, as it were, for happiness and loyalty in marriage.

One does not read very far at all in the New Testament before Jesus is describing happiness when using the term “Blessed” (Mat. 5:1-12). Over and over again in the New Testament we read terms like “the peace of God, which passeth all understanding” (Phi. 4:7); “Joy” in temptation (Jam. 1:2), and as a fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22); Paul explains to the young preacher Timothy, “But godliness with contentment is great gain” (1 Tim. 6:6); and he explains to the Philippian brethren, “I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, *therewith* to be content” (Phi. 4:11). This did not mean Paul was complacent, but that he had his priorities in order and that he was not going around with a long face, being always so unhappy!

Philippians is a book of particular joy. Written from a prison cell by the apostle Paul, there is an attitude, a state of mind, that is prevalent throughout the whole book, but especially in the fourth and final chapter. The words of the fourth verse say it well, “Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice.”

P.O. Box 96 Redwater, TX 75573

Visitation Group Meetings

Group 2 had a great turnout for their first meeting (3-14).

Make plans to be present for your next group meeting.

Group 3 meets March 21. (Ray Foshee)

Group 1 meets April 4. (Bill Crowe)

Group 2 meets April 11. (Dusty Wilkes)

Sick and Shut-in

Marilyn Hall is ill at home. Fred Stancliff had surgery in Nashville on March 16. They found the tumor on his pancreas to be cancerous but they are optimistic of treating it with radiation and chemotherapy. At the same time, they removed his gallbladder. Pat Brandon had surgery on her foot March 10, came home and caught the flu.

Pantry Item—March

Canned Soup

New Addresses

Please update your directory with the following new addresses.

Preston Silcox

2740 Tupelo Ave., 32526

Scot Brazell

9644 Hollowbrook Drive, 32514

Phone: 477-1622.

Thanks!

Thanks to Jerry Caine, Jeremy Caine, Louis Herrington and Dusty Wilkes who helped to build new walls, install doors and put up shelves in the baptismal changing rooms. They did a great job! We also have new baptismal garments.

Thanks to Harold Maxey for installing the new door handles and plates on the auditorium doors!

Thanks to Tina Foshee, Peggy Crowe and all the ladies who made our Newcomers' Banquet such a pleasant and positive gathering.

God's Pattern For Christian Living

Eighteenth Annual Bellview Lectures

May 8-12, 1993

Saturday, May 8

7:00 P.M. To Live Is Christ

Shan Jackson

8:00 P.M. Choosing a Mate for Life

Ray Peters

Sunday, May 9

9:00 A.M. God's Word—The Pattern

Bobby Liddell

10:00 A.M. A Life of Christ-like Compassion

Eddie Whitten

Lunch Break

2:00 P.M. The Peace and Joy of Christian Living

Jackie Stearsman

3:00 P.M. Christians Do Good unto All Men

Stanley Ryan

4:00 P.M. Living by Faith

Garry Barnes

Dinner Break

7:00 P.M. God's Pattern for the Home—Husbands

Curtis A. Cates

8:00 P.M. We Count Them Happy Which Endure

Winfred Clark

Monday, May 10

9:00 A.M. God's Word—Setting the Heart to Seek It

Tony Tarole

10:00 A.M. Jesus Christ—Our Perfect Example (Part I)	Roy Deaver
11:00 A.M. Christians Outlive the World	Roger Jackson
<i>Lunch Break</i>	
2:00 P.M. Living with Respect to Things	Harold Bigham
3:00 P.M. God's Pattern for the Church	David Brown
3:45 P.M. Open Forum Discussion	
<i>Dinner Break</i>	
7:00 P.M. God's Pattern for the Home—Wives	Joe Gilmore
8:00 P.M. God's Faithful Are Forgiven and Forgiving	Dub McClish
Tuesday, May 11	
9:00 A.M. God's Word—Setting the Heart to Do It	Carl Garner
10:00 A.M. Jesus Christ—Our Perfect Example (Part II)	Roy Deaver
11:00 A.M. Positives and Negatives of Christian Living	Ira Y. Rice, Jr.
<i>Lunch Break</i>	
2:00 P.M. Living with Respect to Time	Tommy Alford
3:00 P.M. How Does the Holy Spirit Influence Christian Living?	H.A. (Buster) Dobbs
3:45 P.M. Open Forum Discussion	
<i>Dinner Break</i>	
7:00 P.M. God's Pattern for the Home—Children	Glenn A. Possey
8:00 P.M. Living in View of Eternity	Bobby Duncan
Wednesday, May 12	
9:00 A.M. God's Word—Setting the Heart to Teach It	Paul Vaughn
10:00 A.M. Jesus Christ—Our Perfect Example (Part III)	Roy Deaver
11:00 A.M. Growing Stronger in Christ Every Day	Clifford Newell
<i>Lunch Break</i>	
2:00 P.M. Living with Respect to Temptation	Thomas Larkin
3:00 P.M. Opposing Error in Word and in Deed	Wayne Coats
3:45 P.M. Open Forum Discussion	
<i>Dinner Break</i>	
7:00 P.M. God's Pattern for the Home—Parents	Noah Hackworth
8:00 P.M. Have We Forgotten Christian Hospitality?	Guss Eoff

NEW LADIES' CLASS

A new class just for ladies will begin Sunday, **March 21**, 1993. Ladies, please meet in Room 5 at 5:00 P.M. Sandy Wilkes is the teacher.

DINNER ON THE GROUNDS

April 18, following the morning service, we will have a meal together. Bring covered dishes. This would be an excellent time to bring a friend with you and get them acquainted with the members here.

YOUNG PEOPLE GET TOGETHER

March 28, after evening services.

NEW MEMBERS

We are glad to have Fred and Rheba Stancliff back as members of the Bellview congregation. They asked to be recognized as members on Wednesday, March 3.

WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE

3-24-93 READING: Ray Dodd

INVITATION: Dusty Wilkes

3-31-93 READING: Jim Roddy

INVITATION: Tim Lamb

Bellview Church of Christ Presents

THE BEACON

Volume XXII

March 25, 1993

Number 12

BELLVIEW CHURCH OF CHRIST
4850 Saufley Road
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MINISTER
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MISSIONARIES
Ira Rice

MEETING TIMES

SUNDAY:

9:00 A.M. BIBLE CLASSES
10:00 A.M., 6:00 P.M. WORSHIP
5:00 P.M. LADIES' BIBLE CLASS

WEDNESDAY: 7:00 P.M.

“Be Ye Angry And Sin Not” *Harold Blevins*

Anger is neither commanded nor prohibited by God; therefore, it is to be studied to be understood (2 Tim. 2:15). “Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath” (Eph. 4:26).

Christians are to be as angry as God is angry. “God is angry *with the wicked every day*” (Psa. 7:11). “[A]nd who can abide in the fierceness of his anger?” (Nah. 1:3-6). The pillars of heaven tremble and are astonished at his reproof (Job 26:11). Christians are to be as angry as Christ was angry: “when he had looked round about on them with anger” (Mark 3:5). “And Jesus went into the temple of God, and cast out all them that sold and bought in the temple, and overthrew the tables” (Mat. 21:12). “Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!... *Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell?*” (Mat. 23:25, 33). Contrastingly, anger is not a license to sin: “But now ye also put off all these;

anger” (Col. 3:8). “Suffer not thy mouth to cause thy flesh to sin” (Ecc. 5:6). The Wonderful One (Isa. 9:6) was angry and did not sin (1 Pet. 2:22). **How is this possible?** It is called by some who are sound, righteous indignation; simply meaning, one is angered by the sin all around, but not hot tempered, easily provoked by anger, testy, touchy, cranky, nor cross.

The danger of anger is that it might become persistent and produce wrath. Such is sinful; that is, being resentful, bitter, vindictive, and harboring anger. Fear not, the Savior has a solution: “Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath” (Jam. 1:19). “A wrathful man stirreth up strife: but *he that is* slow to anger appeaseth strife” (Pro. 15:18). “The heart of the wise teacheth his mouth, and addeth learning to his lips” (Pro. 16:23). “*He that is* soon angry dealeth foolishly: and a man of wicked devices is hated. *He that is* slow to wrath *is* of great understanding” (Pro. 14:17, 29). Christians must be alert, since abiding anger rests in the bosom of a fool, and soon becomes a dwelling place for the Prince of the Air (Ecc. 7:9; Eph. 4:27; 2-2).

“Let not the sun go down upon your wrath” instructs us that as slowly as anger comes, so ought anger to quickly disappear from the hearts of the children of Deity (Jam. 1:19; 1 John 1:5-10).

Unfaithful brethren become wroth at the preaching of the Word: “Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth?” (Gal. 4:16).

Dear reader, if one hates Gospel preaching he has become worldly, and the enemy of God (1 Kin. 22:8; Jam. 4:4).

The Incarnate Truth

Harold Blevins

“And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross” (Phi. 2:8).

Incarnation means: “...The union of divinity with humanity in Jesus Christ” (*Webster’s Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary*, 1983, p. 608). The word incarnate is not found in the Bible; however, it is a Biblical subject needed to be taught today.

Note that Isaiah and other prophets of old spake of the coming Christ. “Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.... Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace” (Isa. 7:14; 9:6).

Some believed that God could not abide in sin-filled flesh. Yet that is exactly what Deity declared. Not a vision or ghost, but flesh that could be seen and felt: “That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked

upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life” (1 John 1:1). The apostle of love said, “That...which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled.”

He came via a virgin both to do and to teach (Acts 1:1). He was about the Father’s business, perfecting to become perfect (Luke. 2:49; Heb. 5:8-9). He came not to condemn the world, but to save (John 3:17). He came in the flesh to do the Father’s will (John 6:38), even to the death of the cross (Mat. 26:42; Heb. 2:9), always pleasing the God of Heaven (John 8:29), even though men were sinners (Rom. 5:8-9). Christ became the captain of our salvation, His being obedient so ought we (Heb. 2:10; 5:8-9), in Him (Col. 2:10). He is our hope of glory (Col. 1:27; 1 Tim. 1:1). Summarized scripturally: “Hath in these last days spoken unto us by *his* Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; Who being the brightness of *his* glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high” (Heb. 1:2-3).

NEWS

Visitation Group Meetings

Make plans to be present for your next group meeting. The participation so far has been excellent. Remember to turn in your visitation cards on time.

Group 1 meets April 4 (Bill Crowe)

Group 2 meets April 11 (Dusty Wilkes)

Group 3 meets April 18 (Ray Foshee)

Sick and Shut-in

Fred Stancliff had surgery in Nashville on March 16. They found the tumor to be lymphoma cancer but they are optimistic of treating it with radiation and chemotherapy. At the same time, they removed his gallbladder. He plans to be home around April 1. Pat Brandon had surgery on her foot March 10.

Shut-in: Mary Ellen Muldoon and Rubin Malone.

Mark These Dates

March 28—Young People Get Together (after evening services).

March 31—Fifth Wednesday Singing

April 18—Dinner On The Grounds

Gospel Meeting at Foley

The Foley Church of Christ will have a series of Gospel Meetings April 4-8, with Billy Moore preaching. Services are at 10:20 A.M. and 6:00 P.M. on Sunday and at 7:30 P.M. on weekdays. There will be a fellowship meal after the Sunday morning services. The Foley church building is located at the corner of Alston Street and Orchid Avenue, Foley Alabama.

Pantry Item—March

Canned Soup

New Class for Ladies

A new class for ladies began March 21. Make your plans to be present for the next meeting, Sunday, March 28, 5:00 P.M. in Room 5.

Lectureship Meals

As usual, the ladies will prepare meals (noon meals—Mon. through Wed.) You may donate to help purchase the food.

EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL BELLVIEW LECTURES

*“God’s Pattern For
Christian Living”*

May 8-12, 1993

RESTORED

We rejoice with Mike Lowry who was restored on Wednesday, March 18. Mike has only been with us a few months. Be sure to get to know him and make him your friend.

WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE

3-31-93 READING: Jim Roddy
INVITATION: Bill Crowe
4-7-93 READING: Paul Brantley
INVITATION: Tim Lamb

Bellview Church of Christ Presents

THE BEACON

Volume XXII

April 1, 1993

Number 13

BELLVIEW CHURCH OF CHRIST

4850 Saufley Road
Pensacola, FL 32526
(904) 455-7595

MINISTER
Bobby Liddell

BISHOPS
Hairston Brantley, Paul Brantley,
Bill Gallaher

DEACONS
Henry Born, Elward Brantley,
Jerry Caine, Bill Crowe, Charles Garrett,
Louis Herrington, James Loy, Harold
Maxey, Richard Parker, Dusty Wilkes

MISSIONARIES
Ira Rice

MEETING TIMES

SUNDAY:

9:00 A.M. BIBLE CLASSES
10:00 A.M., 6:00 P.M. WORSHIP
5:00 P.M. LADIES' BIBLE CLASS

WEDNESDAY: 7:00 P.M.

Winning over Temptation

M. Floyd Bailey, Jr.

Temptation! With every temptation that passes, the pen of the apostle Peter rings clearer. "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour" (1 Pet. 5:8).

Satan knows how to deceive. He is the "Father of lies" (John 8:44). He is the "prince of the power of the air" (Eph. 2:2). Paul wrote to the church of Ephesus, "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places" (Eph. 6:12).

How does the Christian stand against temptation? How can we battle against Satan and his hosts? Notice two characteristics the Bible teaches will help us to overcome Satan's attacks.

Put on God's Armor

Paul wrote, "Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the

wiles of the devil” (Eph. 6:11). Paul tells us what that armor consists of in verses 14-18. Notice the seven elements listed.

1. “Loins girt about with truth” (v. 14). Webster’s dictionary says, “gird (up) ones loins: to get ready to do something difficult or strenuous.” The Christian must recognize the enemy’s strength so as never to underestimate him.

2. “Having on the breastplate of righteousness” (v. 14). The breastplate was the part which protected the heart. This covering must be righteous or pure. The Christian must be pure in heart in his stand against Satan.

3. “Your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace” (v. 15). The Christian who wishes to stand against temptation must be walking, spreading the good news about the “prince of peace.”

4. “Above all, taking the shield of faith” (v. 16). When other parts of our armor are weakened, the shield can serve as added protection. If the Christian has a shield of faith that is unwavering and based on the firm foundation, he can continually “quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.”

5. “The helmet of salvation” (v. 17). The helmet is the covering of the head—where knowledge is stored. The Christian knows why he is fighting. He is fighting for the salvation of his soul.

6. “The sword of the Spirit” (v. 17). When a Christian wields the sword of God’s word, he is no longer a passive participant in the fight for his soul. He is actually defending himself with a powerful weapon (Heb. 4:12).

7. “Praying always” (v. 18). This is the part of the armor which is, perhaps, most often overlooked. If the Christian lacks prayer, he lacks the spiritual support he needs. Without prayer, the Christian is weak and vulnerable.

Know That We Are Not Alone

Hebrews 4:15 states: “For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as *we are*, yet without sin.”

The points in which a Christian may be tempted are enumerated by John (1 John 2:16). Notice: “For all that *is* in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.” The Hebrews writer said Christ was tempted in every way we are. Since John gives only three ways to be tempted, then, the temptation of Christ as recorded in the gospels must correspond, and indeed it does. Matthew 4 records the temptation of Christ. Notice:

1. The first temptation (Mat. 4:3): “Command that these stones be made bread.” This would have satisfied the fleshly desire for food, or the lust of the flesh; however, Christ was able to overcome by quoting Deuteronomy 8:3.

2. The second temptation (Mat. 4:5-6): “Cast thyself down.” This was a temptation to Christ’s pride. Was Christ powerful enough to be rescued from the deadly fall? Of course, we

all know he was, but, Christ did not need to prove this to Satan. So again, Christ overcame by quoting Deuteronomy 6:16.

3. The third temptation (Mat. 4:8-9): “All these things will I give thee.” This temptation aimed at the lust of the eye. Christ again defeated Satan by quoting Deuteronomy 6:13. Christ defeated the Devil in all three aspects of temptation. Thus, the Hebrews writer comforted, “For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted” (Heb. 2:18).

God has not left us alone to face the temptations of life. He supplies us with the armor to protect us (Eph. 6), a high priest to understand us (Heb. 2:18), and a pathway to escape (1 Cor. 10:13). Christians must allow God to help them escape the Devil’s devices.

1968 Dean Road; Jacksonville, FL 32216

NEWS

Visitation Group Meetings

Make plans to be present for your next group meeting. The participation so far has been excellent.

Group 1 meets April 4 (Bill Crowe)

Group 2 meets April 11 (Dusty Wilkes)

Group 3 meets April 18 (Ray Foshee)

Remember to turn in your visitation cards on time.

Sick and Shut-in

Jim Roddy, Dusty Wilkes, Ida Williams and Ray Williams have been ill recently. Fred Stancliff has returned home and will soon begin treatments. Pat Brandon had surgery on her foot March 10.

Shut-in: Mary Ellen Muldoon and Rubin Malone.

Write To...

Why not drop an encouraging note in the mail to Greg and Pam Lewis?

Greg and Pam Lewis

1705-B Hoio Circle

Wahiawa, HI 96786

Mark These Dates

April 18—Dinner On The Grounds

April 25—Young People Get Together

May 8-12—Eighteenth Annual Bellview Lectures, “God’s Pattern For Christian Living.”

May 30—Young People Get Together

June 19—Fourth Annual Bellview Bible Bowl.

Gospel Meeting at Foley

The Foley Church of Christ will have a series of Gospel Meetings April 4-8, with Billy Moore preaching. Services are at 10:20 A.M. and 6:00 P.M. on Sunday and at 7:30 P.M. on weekdays. There will be a fellowship meal after the Sunday morning services. The Foley church building is located at the corner of Alston Street and Orchid Avenue, Foley Alabama.

Pantry Item—April

Canned Meat

Sunday Afternoon Classes

Ladies—5:00 P.M. in Room 5. Young ladies—5:30 P.M. in Room 7. Young men—5:30 P.M. in Room 1. Pre-teens and little folks—5:40 in Auditorium.

EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL BELLVIEW LECTURES

*“God’s Pattern For
Christian Living”*
May 8-12, 1993

Lectureship Meals

As usual, the ladies will prepare meals (noon meals—Mon. through Wed.). You may wish to donate funds to help purchase the food.

Thanks

Thanks to: Denise Mowery, Betty Weekley, Linda Parker, Tina Foshee, Peggy Crowe, Inez Brantley, Hairston Brantley and Bobby Liddell for preparing the DEFENDER for mailing.

PROMPTNESS, PLEASE

We understand sometimes emergencies prevent our timely arrival for services, but too many are habitually late by 5 or even 10 minutes. Make it your goal to be here early. It will benefit us all.

WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE

4-7-93 READING: Paul Brantley
INVITATION: Tim Lamb
4-14-93 READING: Dave Tomarchio
INVITATION: Dusty Wilkes

Bellview Church of Christ Presents

THE BEACON

Volume XXII

April 8, 1993

Number 14

BELLVIEW CHURCH OF CHRIST

4850 Saufley Road
Pensacola, FL 32526
(904) 455-7595

MINISTER

Bobby Liddell

BISHOPS

Hairston Brantley, Paul Brantley,
Bill Gallaher

DEACONS

Henry Born, Elward Brantley,
Jerry Caine, Bill Crowe, Charles Garrett,
Louis Herrington, James Loy, Harold
Maxey, Richard Parker, Dusty Wilkes

MISSIONARIES

Ira Rice

MEETING TIMES

SUNDAY:

9:00 A.M. BIBLE CLASSES
10:00 A.M., 6:00 P.M. WORSHIP
5:00 P.M. LADIES' BIBLE CLASS

WEDNESDAY: 7:00 P.M.

“But it Was Appropriate”

Thomas Larkin

A group of middle school children were putting on a skit at the state Beta Club convention. A comment was made to the effect that their clothing was immodest. One standing nearby responded, “Yes, but it is appropriate for what they are doing.” Surprisingly, this attitude is far more prevalent than you might imagine.

Most would not be caught dead in a downtown shopping mall dressed in nothing more than a skimpy bathing suit. It just would not be appropriate. But on a public beach with hundreds of other people around, nothing but that skimpy suit will do. Nothing else would be appropriate! Dress that would be embarrassing in a crowded mall is considered appropriate—yea, even necessary—on a crowded beach or at a crowded public pool.

Social drinking can be supported by the same reasoning. Since everyone else is imbibing, the appropriate thing to do is to drink right along with them. After all, who would want to be different,

right? All of the arguments against the use of alcohol, and all of the warnings concerning its danger appear irrelevant and invalid in the face of this argument. When a thing has been deemed “appropriate,” it is best not to oppose it.

And what about the occasional “white lie?” After all, can’t we all conceive of a few situations where “bending the truth” a little would be helpful? That sounds like it would be “appropriate.” Maybe even a rare occasion might call for an appropriate whopper. This can also have a much broader application. If an occasional lie can be considered appropriate, then surely we can see how a student might need to cheat on a test (just to get a better grade), or that someone might cheat on his taxes (after all, everyone does it) or that someone would mislead about the sale of a car (it is almost expected, right?).

Maybe we should reconsider our perception of Israel’s request for a king. Since all of the nations round about them had a king, couldn’t it be argued that this was an appropriate request? Forget that this request is a rejection of God’s sovereignty—after all, according to the argument, that which is appropriate takes precedence over matters of right and wrong.

Here is the problem with that reasoning. It is something akin to getting the cart before the horse. Whether an action is appropriate is being considered regardless of whether that action is right or wrong. Instead, we must first determine that an action is right before we can consider whether it is appropriate. It is impossible for a thing that is wrong to be appropriate. That is why immodest apparel can never be appropriate. Whether at the beach or on the street—immodest is immodest and immodest is wrong! That is why drinking alcoholic beverages is never appropriate—whether at a social gathering, at a public bar or in one’s home. Ephesians 5:18 forbids it—and if a thing is forbidden by the Scriptures, it can never be appropriate. And that is why lying—whether we call it “little white lies” or “whoppers”—is always wrong and can never be appropriate.

Paul reasoned correctly concerning such matters in 1 Corinthians 6:12: “All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any.” Notice first of all that Paul is not saying that he can do anything he pleases. The phrase “all things are lawful unto me” must be seen in light of the will of God. In essence, he said, “Of those things that are lawful according to God’s will, not all are expedient.” Here is where the determination of whether a thing is appropriate is made. First, is it lawful? If yes (and only if the answer is yes), then we ask, “Is it appropriate?”

Paul illustrates this principle with the act of eating meat. He was aware some of his brethren associated eating meat with idolatry. After teaching that an idol is “nothing in the world” (1 Cor. 8:4), Paul wrote, “Howbeit *there is* not in every man that knowledge: for some with conscience of the idol unto this hour eat *it* as a thing offered unto an idol; and their conscience being weak is defiled” (v. 7). Paul concluded, “Wherefore, if meat make my brother to offend, I will eat no flesh while the world standeth, lest I make my brother to offend” (v. 13). Paul knew it was permissible to eat meat, but that in some instances (i.e., where it would cause a brother to offend), eating meat would not be the appropriate thing to do.

The comment that referred to immodest clothing as “appropriate” reveals a lowering of one’s standards to that of the surrounding world. Like Israel’s request for a king so that they could be like the nations round about them, so one who determines appropriateness in this way has allowed the majority to become the standard and society to determine right and wrong. May we ever be sure that we determine right and wrong on the basis of a “thus saith the Lord.”

Route 2 Box 513, Haleyville, AL

NEWS

Visitation Group Meetings

It's As Easy As 1-2-3!

- 1. Attend your group meeting.*
- 2. Make your visit.*
- 3. Return your card.*

Make plans to be present for your next group meeting. The participation so far has been excellent.

Group 2 meets **April 11** (Dusty Wilkes)

Group 3 meets **April 18** (Ray Foshee)

Group 1 meets **May 2** (Bill Crowe)

Important—remember to turn in your visitation cards on time.

Sick and Shut-in

Joyce Simmons, Thomas Muldoon, Judy Peters and Ray Williams have been ill recently. Remember Fred Stancliff (recent surgery and upcoming treatments) and Pat Brandon (recent surgery).

Shut-in: Mary Ellen Muldoon and Rubin and Viola Malone.

Mark These Dates

April 18—Dinner On The Grounds

April 25—Young People Get Together

May 8-12—Eighteenth Annual Bellview Lectures

May 30—Young People Get Together

June 19—Bellview Bible Bowl

Restored

Dave Tomarchio (3-28-93). Let us all help Dave to grow stronger in Christ.

Preacher Student Support

If you would like to help in the support of the **three** families going from Bellview to prepare themselves at the Memphis School of Preaching—**Dusty and Sandy Wilkes, Preston Silcox and Tanya, and Damon and Vaydra Lundy**, you may make contributions through the Bellview congregation. Please mark your check appropriately.

All three families are worthy of our whole-hearted support and are in need of such

support. They plan to leave in August. Dig deep and help them go.

Pantry Item-April

Canned Meat

Lectureship Meals

As usual, the ladies will prepare meals (noon meals-Mon. through Wed.). You may wish to donate funds to help purchase the food.

EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL BELLVIEW LECTURES

*“God’s Pattern For
Christian Living”*

May 8-12, 1993

Thanks

Thanks to all who came Tuesday night and helped prepare the copies of *Behold The Pattern* for mailing. Over 4,500 copies have been mailed free of charge. Your help has been tremendous and your spirit truly commendable. Thanks!

PLACED MEMBERSHIP

Damon and Vaydra Lundy placed their membership at Bellview (4-4-93). Please update your directory. Damon and Vaydra Lundy, 501 E. Burgess Road, 32504. Phone: 479-8389.

WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE

4-14-93 READING: Dave Tomarchio
INVITATION: Dusty Wilkes
4-21-93 READING: Scot Brazell
INVITATION: Ray Foshee

Bellview Church of Christ Presents

THE BEACON

Volume XXII

April 15, 1993

Number 15

BELLVIEW CHURCH OF CHRIST
4850 Saufley Road
Pensacola, FL 32526
(904) 455-7595

MINISTER
Bobby Liddell

BISHOPS
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Bill Gallaher

DEACONS
Henry Born, Elward Brantley,
Jerry Caine, Bill Crowe, Charles Garrett,
Louis Herrington, James Loy, Harold
Maxey, Richard Parker, Dusty Wilkes

MISSIONARIES
Ira Rice

MEETING TIMES

SUNDAY:

9:00 A.M. BIBLE CLASSES
10:00 A.M., 6:00 P.M. WORSHIP
5:00 P.M. LADIES' BIBLE CLASS

WEDNESDAY: 7:00 P.M.

What Is the Origin of the Church of Christ?

Allen Webster

The question is sometimes sincerely asked of Christians, "Did not the church of Christ have its beginning in the early 1800s? And, if the church of Christ is of such recent origin, would not older churches have more right to exist than it does?"

These are good questions and we will do our best to give good answers based on the Scriptures, church history and common sense.

First, it must be noted that one can read of churches of Christ as early as New Testament times (Rom. 16:16). Jesus promised to build His church (Mat. 16:18) which He did in A.D. 33 (Acts 2:1-47).

Second, it must be noted that the same church exists today. Churches of Christ are established throughout the world. We seek to practice Christianity the same way it was practiced in the New Testament without addition or subtraction (Rev. 22:18-19). We require the same conditions for salvation: faith (John 3:16), repentance (Luke

13:3), confession of Christ (Mat. 10:32), and baptism (Acts 2:38). We worship as they did: by studying (Acts 2:42), praying (Mat. 18:20), singing (Col. 3:16), giving (1 Cor. 16:1-2), and partaking of the Lord's Supper (Acts 20:7). We are organized as they were: with bishops, deacons, evangelists and saints (Phi. 1:1). We seek to live as they lived (Titus 2:12).

Third, we will not attempt to trace a line of succession back to the first century. The Bible predicted that there would come a "departing from the faith" (1 Tim.4:1) and a great "falling away" (2 The. 2:1-10). It would come through the leadership (Acts 20:28-32). It would be characterized by wickedness (1 The. 2:3) and binding things which were not required by the New Testament (1 Tim. 4:2-3). This apostasy began during the third century and developed into the Roman Catholic church by the seventh century. We do not know if any churches of Christ remained faithful during these "dark ages." It is quite possible that they did (cf. "the gates of hell shall not prevail against it"—Mat. 16:18).

Toward the end of the dark ages, the Catholic Church became so corrupted that a popular movement arose to reform it. Such men as Martin Luther, John Wycliffe, John Huss, and Huldreich Zwingli led the movement. But their efforts failed and resulted in many different kinds of churches, each separate from the other, and each teaching different things, many of which were different from the Bible's teaching. This is the background of the mainline denominational churches or Protestant groups.

Following the disastrous results of the reformation movements, there was begun a restoration movement. In the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, men arose both in Europe and America with the determination to go back to the Bible, leaving all doctrines of men, human creeds, and man-made organizations. It was never their purpose to establish a new religion, but to restore New Testament Christianity. In our country, some of the early leaders were Barton Stone, Thomas Campbell, and his son, Alexander.

These men recognized the Bible as the sufficient guide (2 Tim. 3:16-17) and the Word as the seed of the kingdom (Luke 8:11). They believed that the seed always produces after its kind (Gen. 1:11). Just as corn always produces corn, the word of God always produces Christians and, in turn, churches of Christ (Acts 11:26; Rom. 16:16). We have the same seed (1 Pet. 1:22-25), the same soil (Mat. 13:19-23), so we will receive the same results. The seed is the Gospel, the soil is the human heart, and the result is the Christian. Christians make up churches. Since Christ purchased the church (Acts 20:28) and should receive the glory (Col. 1:18), the churches are called "churches of Christ."

If we plant any other seed (teach a doctrine different from the New Testament), we will receive a different crop. One would not expect to harvest beans if he planted watermelons. If we plant false doctrine, we will harvest false churches (cf. Mat. 15:13).

Someone might object saying, "You should be able to trace a succession all the way back to the first century." Let us consider this. If we wanted to plant Kentucky bluegrass in Tennessee, would it be necessary to plant a row of grass from one state to the other? No, one would just need to plant the seed and it would grow. Likewise with Christianity, we must simply

go back and plant the same teaching and it will produce the same thing that it did in the early days of the church.

Consider another example, suppose that baseball became an unpopular sport and was not played for five hundred years. Afterward, men began to play what they called “baseball,” except they used five bases, eleven men, and an oblong ball. This “baseball” was played for one hundred years. Then an archaeologist discovers the rules of baseball, and informs the world that they are not really playing baseball, and need to use a round ball, four bases, and nine players. Baseball would thus be restored. This is parallel with what happened in the history of the church.

The church of Christ began in the first century, and has been restored to its original state. Please carefully study these matters and weigh the evidence before rejecting or accepting these conclusions. May the Lord bless you in your studies.

Route 1 Box 38; Tiplersville, MS 38674

NEWS

Visitation Group Meetings

Group 3 meets **April 18** (Ray Foshee)

Group 1 meets **May 2** (Bill Crowe)

Group 2 meets **May 16** (Dusty Wilkes)

The visitation groups are accomplishing a lot of good. If you are not involved, come to the next meeting and help us!

Important reminder—turn in your visitation cards on time.

Sick and Shut-in

Thomas and Mary Ellen Muldoon, Rubin and Viola Malone. Fred Stancliff is undergoing treatment.

Mark These Dates

April 18—Dinner On The Grounds

April 25—Young People Get Together

May 8-12—Eighteenth Annual Bellview Lectures

May 30—Young People Get Together

June 19—Bellview Bible Bowl

June 27-July 2—Indian Creek Youth Camp Teen Week with Jerry Martin.

Preacher Student Support

If you would like to help in the support of the **three** families going from Bellview to prepare themselves at the Memphis School of Preaching—**Dusty and Sandy Wilkes, Preston Silcox and Tanya, and Damon and Vaydra Lundy**, you may make contributions through the Bellview congregation. Please mark your check appropriately.

Dinner on the Grounds—April 18

Come and bring a friend. We plan to have a meal together in the new area out back. This would be an excellent time to invite someone to come with you and meet the friendly folks at Bellview.

PLACED MEMBERSHIP

We are delighted to welcome **Gina Pepitone** as a member of the Bellview congregation! She was restored and placed membership on 4-11-93. Gina and Tony (age 5) live at 2587 Amberjack Court, 32506. Phone: 944-5509.

Sigrid (Sigi) Manning also placed membership on 4-11. We are glad to welcome her to the Bellview family! Her address is 6824 Christopher Street, 32526. Phone: 944-9679.

Please update your directory and welcome our two sisters to Bellview.

REQUESTED PRAYER

Sylvia Alexander requested our prayers (4-11-93) on behalf of herself and her husband. Let us all remember to pray for them and to do what we can to help.

WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE

4-21-93 READING: Scot Brazell
INVITATION: Ray Foshee
4-28-93 READING: Tony Liddell
INVITATION: Harold Cozad

Bellview Church of Christ Presents

THE BEACON

Volume XXII

April 22, 1993

Number 16

BELLVIEW CHURCH OF CHRIST

4850 Saufley Road
Pensacola, FL 32526
(904) 455-7595

MINISTER
Bobby Liddell

BISHOPS
Hairston Brantley, Paul Brantley,
Bill Gallaher

DEACONS
Henry Born, Elward Brantley,
Jerry Caine, Bill Crowe, Charles Garrett,
Louis Herrington, James Loy, Harold
Maxey, Richard Parker, Dusty Wilkes

MISSIONARIES
Ira Rice

MEETING TIMES

SUNDAY:

9:00 A.M. BIBLE CLASSES
10:00 A.M., 6:00 P.M. WORSHIP
5:00 P.M. LADIES' BIBLE CLASS

WEDNESDAY: 7:00 P.M.

The Capacity of Learning *Shan Jackson*

How great are the differences that divide us in the mere capacity of learning. Whereas some take knowledge as a sponge takes water, others seem to have it bounce off with the imperiousness of stone. What amazing differences even in our children concerning the receptivity of appropriate knowledge. You give one child a simple hint and he grasps the entire lesson but to others the learning is more labored and slow. So it is in the realm of religion. The secret to being a successful religious student is to ask and remember as much as you can.

Then, if we would learn of Christ we must ask much. Asking, in all respects, is a great sign of a fine student. Inquisitiveness is generally the first thing noticed when we encounter a person who is finely receptive in certain areas. I know a student of geology who cannot pass even a simple gravel pit without salivating with questions. But his asking has led him to a greater knowledge of

the world in which we live. Asking, seeking, and knocking Will bring rewards where waiting, waiting, and more waiting brings nothing but the passing of time. Therefore, I feel strongly that Christians must also cultivate this desire for asking. This spirit of inquisitiveness runs in direct proportion to our desire to learn. Not seeking theories outside the scope of truth but seeking a better knowledge and usage of His truth. “Ask and it shall be given unto you” is the promise of the Master but a question unasked will be a question unanswered. There is a difference between the milk and the meat of the word and the charge is made to desire the milk only until we are ready for the meat. A milk-only religion is a difficult religion to spread. Therefore, we should be great askers in the school of Christ. We should be ardent seekers of the abundance of truth as supplied in God’s Word.

We should ever be wanting the knowledge He gives and never satisfied with only a taste. Consider the glory of the Bereans who “searched the scriptures daily” and the challenge of Paul to study to show ourselves workmen. Remember, our God can do “exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think.” This is simply one of the secrets of desirous learning.

But the asking is temporary unless there is remembering as well. Here lies the difficulty as we see it. Many times we can take but we cannot keep. We can receive an impression but we cannot retain the image. This leaky memory is obtrusive in other areas as well as in religion. We have to constantly jog our memories with strings on our fingers or knots in our handkerchiefs to remind us of something we fear to forget. But remembering Christ’s will is essential to His pleasure. Therefore, we must strive with exceptional fervor to gather and store—to remember what we learn in the school of the Lord. Repetition helps. Regular time set aside for a study of His truth will certainly support our desire to know. The promise is given to the serious student, “And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free” (John 8:32). There needs to be a time to work on our remembering, for reviewing our lives in the presence of the Lord. Remembering is a great asset to self discipline as well as establishing a faith that cannot be swayed.

However, we never fully know that we know Christ until we share that knowledge with others. One of the last things Christ reminded His disciples of before He went back home was to “Go and teach” (Mat. 28; Mark 16). If we “know” then we know we are to teach. Until a disciple (learner) becomes an apostle (one sent forth, wide reference) he has limited himself and the desire of Christ. Until we take the Word and bring others to its plan the plan was not worth the price. Someone once said of a painting, “The more I try to explain this piece the more I see to explain.” This is a statement I feel accurately describes God’s truth. Every time we teach His truth to others we find more truth to teach. In the act of teaching others the light brightens for ourselves. Perhaps this is another glory of the Lord. As we show others the beauty of truth the truth becomes more beautiful. As we declare His mercy and grace, His mercy and grace becomes a part of our life. As we show others His abiding strength, we become even stronger. If we are to be fine (earnings we must be ready teachers. As another once said, Tell the little you know and that little will grow.”

P.O. Box 904 Palacios, TX 77465

God's Pattern For Christian Living

Eighteenth Annual Bellview Lectures

May 8-12, 1993

Saturday, May 8

7:00 P.M.	To Live Is Christ	Shan Jackson
8:00 P.M.	Choosing a Mate for Life	Ray Peters

Sunday, May 9

9:00 A.M.	God's Word—The Pattern	Bobby Liddell
10:00 A.M.	A Life of Christ-like Compassion	Eddie Whitten

Lunch Break

2:00 P.M.	The Peace and Joy of Christian Living	Jackie Stearsman
3:00 P.M.	Christians Do Good unto All Men	Stanley Ryan
4:00 P.M.	Living by Faith	Garry Barnes

Dinner Break

7:00 P.M.	God's Pattern for the Home—Husbands	Curtis A. Cates
8:00 P.M.	We Count Them Happy Which Endure	Winfred Clark

Monday, May 10

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11:00 A.M.	Christians Outlive the World	Roger Jackson

Lunch Break

2:00 P.M.	Living with Respect to Things	Harold Bigham
3:00 P.M.	God's Pattern for the Church	David Brown
3:45 P.M.	Open Forum Discussion	

Dinner Break

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Lunch Break

2:00 P.M.	Living with Respect to Time	Tommy Alford
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3:45 P.M.	Open Forum Discussion	

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9:00 A.M.	God's Word—Setting the Heart to Teach It	Paul Vaughn
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11:00 A.M.	Growing Stronger in Christ Every Day	Clifford Newell
<i>Lunch Break</i>		
2:00 P.M.	Living with Respect to Temptation	Thomas Larkin
3:00 P.M.	Opposing Error in Word and in Deed	Wayne Coats
3:45 P.M.	Open Forum Discussion	
<i>Dinner Break</i>		
7:00 P.M.	God's Pattern for the Home—Parents	Noah Hackworth
8:00 P.M.	Have We Forgotten Christian Hospitality?	Guss Eoff

VISITATION GROUP MEETINGS

Group 1 meets **May 2** (Bill Crowe)

Group 2 meets **May 16** (Dusty Wilkes)

Group 3 meets **May 23** (Ray Foshee)

Remember, if you cannot return your card within a week, please notify your group leader.

SICK AND SHUT-IN

Fred Baker, Judy Peters' father, is in critical condition. She has gone to be with him in Sanford, FL. Rubin Malone has come home from the hospital. Fred Stancliff is undergoing treatment.

REQUESTED PRAYER

Josh Halbrook requested prayer on behalf of William Aems, family friend, member of the Lord's church and U.S. Marine, missing in Newport, Oregon, following an accident.

WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE

4-28-93 **READING:** Tony Liddell

INVITATION: Harold Cozad

5-5-93 **READING:** Michael Wilkes

INVITATION: Bill Gallaher

Bellview Church of Christ Presents

THE BEACON

Volume XXII

April 29, 1993

Number 17

BELLVIEW CHURCH OF CHRIST
4850 Saufley Road
Pensacola, FL 32526
(904) 455-7595

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10:00 A.M., 6:00 P.M. WORSHIP
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WEDNESDAY: 7:00 P.M.

Now Is the Accepted Time *Shan Jackson*

There seems to be a peculiar line of thought extant in our current generation that there is no particular urgency in obeying God's will. Time for action seems always allowed. However, as one comes to a knowledge of God's will, to refuse the needed action, he must harden his heart, as did the ancient Pharaoh, which leaves him in a dangerous position.

Perhaps you remember Jesus' urging on a certain man to "follow" but he sought the Lord to be patient and allow him to first bury his father. Jesus said, "Let the dead bury their dead: but go thou and preach the kingdom of God" (Luke 9:60). Another also said, "Lord I will follow thee; but let me first go bid them farewell, which are at home at my house" (v. 61). Jesus said, "No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God" (v. 62). From this, and other passages, we learn of the urgency the Lord demands in our action toward His will.

There must be no hesitation, no turning back. Thus, nothing is as important as our service to God—even to the burying or bidding farewell to loved ones. Christ expected them to follow, and they realized this need. But, though the phrase is not mentioned, they hardened their hearts to the will of God. With each delayed action further action is more difficult. The time to follow is immediate upon our learning of Him. To delay obedience is to harden our hearts.

In Acts 13, we find an overview of Paul's sermon that he preached in Antioch. The Jews, we remember, spoke harshly against his teaching even to the extent of declaring him a blasphemer. However, courage was displayed by Paul as he waxed bold and proved his need to preach to them God's Word (v. 46). Paul preached to them the truth. They refused to hear it and turned away.

Paul later traveled to Corinth to reason in the synagogue with both Jews and Greeks. He "testified to the Jews *that Jesus was Christ*," but they opposed even themselves in the matter. Paul shook his raiment and said, "Your blood *be* upon your own heads" (Acts 18:5-6). Paul came to the realization he was wasting efforts in his exhortations. He turned from them and sought out the Gentiles. Brethren, try as we may, we cannot *make* people obedient to God's will. We can preach the truth in love, but if they refuse His call, their blood is upon their own heads as was the Jews of Corinth. However, if people refuse Him there is no excuse. The mysteries have been made plain relative to our obedience to the Father (Rom. 1:20).

Other New Testament examples are given of persons who heard the truth only to delay action. To Felix, Paul preached: "righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come," which caused Felix to tremble with fear—but he delayed action. "Go thy way for this time," he said, but his convenient season probably never came (Acts 24). Agrippa delayed with the statement, "Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian." But his almost never bore fruit (Acts 26). The hardness of their hearts and the lack of fortitude to discontinue sin was their greatest weakness—their greatest sin.

However, other examples are given showing the correct attitude in coming to God's will. In Acts 2, they "gladly received" the teachings of Christ and were immersed. Philip preached Christ in the area of Samaria and the people, with one accord, gave into the message (Acts 8). He also helped the nobleman of Ethiopia, who heard and acted, find God's blessed plan (Acts 8). Saul of Tarsus obeyed God's will the very moment he was told what to do to be saved (Acts 9). Cornelius heard one gospel sermon and accepted God (Acts 10). Also bearing note is Lydia (Acts 16), and the jailer of Philippi who heard the gospel was baptized, "the same hour of the night" (Acts 16).

"Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth *it* not, to him it is sin" (Jam. 4:17). If a man hears the gospel and refuses the obligated action, he is simply adding sin to sin. Paul said, there is no more grievous sin than a Christian's "willful sin" for which there "remaineth no more sacrifice for sin" (Heb. 10:26-29).

When we accept the truth as revealed by the Holy Ghost we are accepting the will of the Father. But to reject His will is to reject His offer of eternal salvation. “behold, now *is* the accepted time; behold, now *is* the day of salvation” (2 Cor. 6:2).

P.O. Box 904; Palacios, TX 77465

NEWS

Visitation Group Meetings

Group 1 meets **May 2** (Bill Crowe)

Group 2 meets **May 16** (Dusty Wilkes)

Group 3 meets **May 23** (Ray Foshee)

The visitation groups are accomplishing a lot of good. If you are not involved, come to the next meeting and help us! *Important reminder*—turn in your visitation cards on time.

Sick and Shut-in

Mary Ellen Muldoon—at home. **Rubin Malone** is in Sacred Heart Hospital, Room 501 (as of 4-27). **Fred Stancliff** is still undergoing treatment which causes him to be weak and susceptible to infection. If you have some communicable illness, please avoid contact with Fred lest you present the possibility of his having further problems. **Marie Martin** (sister in Christ and mother of Jerry Martin, our preacher friend) has had heart surgery and suffered a stroke after. She would appreciate your prayers and your cards. You may write her at: Marie Martin, 187 N. Dogwood, Crossett, AR 71635.

Mark These Dates

May 8-12—Eighteenth Annual Bellview Lectures

May 30—Young People Get Together/Bible Bowl Study

June 19—Bellview Bible Bowl

June 27-July 2—Indian Creek Youth Camp Teen Week (Jerry Martin).

July 11-16—Indian Creek Youth Camp (Ronnie Hayes).

Thanks

Thanks to all who came out and worked on Saturday to ready our facilities for the upcoming lecture. You did a great job! (Another work day is planned for May 1).

Thanks to Dusty Wilkes, Damon Lundy and Preston Silcox for teaching and preaching for me while I was preaching in a gospel meeting in Palacios, Texas. They are outstanding young men who, with their upcoming preparation at the Memphis School of Preaching, will be effective evangelists bringing joy to many.

Thanks to those who have so quickly and efficiently prepared the DEFENDER for mailing recently. They always have such a great time together, too.

Thanks to the Maxey's for providing the sign announcing our lectures and to the Wilkes for wording and arranging the message on it.

Thanks to Damon and Vaydra Lundy for hosting the young people's get together and helping them prepare for the Bible Bowl.

Thanks to Bill Crowe, Ray Foshee and Dusty Wilkes for the good work they are doing in our visitation program!

Thanks to Denise Mowery for the excellent job she does in the office and for the great interest she has shown in the work of the Lord's church here.

Thanks to our elders for their consistently effective leadership over the years. No church rises above its leadership. While many often applaud the preacher, few regard the elders with the proper gratitude for their most important service. Thanks, brethren!

LECTURESHIP BOOKS

You may order the 1993 lectureship book: *“God’s Pattern For Christian Living”* at the special pre-publication price of \$10.00 plus \$1.25 postage. After May 31, the price will be \$12.95 plus postage.

You may also order the other lecture books from 1988-1992 at \$10.00 plus postage. 1992—*“Current Crises Challenging The Church”*; 1991—*“The Church Triumphant”*; 1990—*“What Does God Authorize In Worship?”*; 1989—*“In Hope Of Eternal Life”*; and 1988—*“Are We Moving Away From The Cross Of Christ?”*

WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE

5-5-93 READING: Michael Wilkes
INVITATION: Bill Gallaher
5-19-93 READING: Jim Loy
INVITATION: Nathan Liddell

REQUESTED PRAYER

Josh Halbrook requested prayer on behalf of William Aems, family friend, member of the Lord's church and U.S. Marine, missing in Newport, Oregon, following an accident.

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Warm Weather and Immodest Dress

Bobby Duncan

As the weather warms up, we generally wear less clothing and/or lighter clothing. There is nothing wrong with adjusting our clothing to fit the weather, so long as our clothing adequately covers our bodies. The fashion of the world, of course, is to wear scanty provocative clothing, especially when the weather is warm. Unfortunately, some in the church will be influenced more by the fashion of the world than they are by the word of the Lord.

Your Bible says: “[I will therefore], that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety” (1 Tim. 2:9). Certainly the same is required of men. In case some woman wants to know what modest apparel is, then she should read verse 10: “But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works.” It is modest if it is becoming (appropriate, suitable, proper) to women professing godliness.

It is a fact that times have changed, and styles have changed, and society has changed, but the word of God has not changed and human nature has not changed. Several years ago a well-known preacher wrote the following:

“What is wrong with mixed swimming? I can’t speak for the ladies, but I can speak for the men. There’s not an ordinary man who can look at a woman clad in nothing but a bathing suit for a long time without entertaining evil thoughts. ‘But,’ some will say, ‘it does not bother me.’ One who says that may be so young that his passions have not arisen, or he may be so old they have subsided, or he may be so ignorant he doesn’t know what is going on, or he may not be normal, or he may be lying. He fits into one of these five categories, or he is a spiritual giant; but spiritual giants don’t spend their time at mixed swimming parties.”

Our Lord warned against looking and lusting when he said: “Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery: But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart” (Mat. 5:27-28).

I know there are those who accuse anyone who warns against the evils of immodest dress of being “evil-minded.” This accusation has intimidated many preachers and caused them to stop preaching against immodest dress. I pray I might never be intimidated by such charges. I hasten to say also that the danger of lust is not the only reason Christians should dress modestly and decently. The matter of our good influence should be weighed carefully in determining how we are to dress.

In the forty-odd years I have been preaching I guess I have heard all the arguments as to why the Bible injunction with reference to modesty does not have to be obeyed: “Nobody thinks about it any more.” “In some cultures the women go bare-breasted.”

“Time was when a woman was immodest if her ankle showed.” “Some are going to lust anyway.” And on, and on, and on the arguments go. But the real reason most members of the church persist in wearing clothing that is less than modest and decent is simply this: God’s will is not important enough for them to yield their own will to him.

4207 Adamsville Pkwy Adamsville, AL 35005

Visitation Group Meetings

Group 2 meets **May 16** (Dusty Wilkes)

Group 3 meets **May 23** (Ray Foshee)

Group 1 meets **June 6** (Bill Crowe)

Sick and Shut-in

Joe Gilmore, had five by-passes on 4-28. He is recuperating at Good Samaritan Hospital in San Jose. Melanie Crowe-pneumonia. Harry Dawson-Baptist Hospital (requested prayers). Fred Baker (Judy Peter’s father)—home in Sanford, FL. Mary Muldoon-home. Rubin Malone-Sacred

Heart Hospital, Room 501. Fred Stancliff—undergoing treatment which causes him to be weak and susceptible to infection. If you have a communicable illness, please avoid contact with Fred. Marie Martin (sister in Christ and mother of Jerry Martin, our preacher friend) has had heart surgery and suffered a stroke after. Debbie Enfinger (Preston Silcox's aunt)—possible leukemia. Tim Lamb—will have heart surgery in Gainesville on 5-12.

Sympathy

We extend our deepest sympathy to Karen Hoffay (and family) whose brother, Tom Breen of Oregon, passed away on 5-1-93.

God's Pattern For Christian Living

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BRIDAL SHOWER

A bridal shower for **Tanya Brantley**, bride-elect of Preston Silcox, will take place at the home of Lantice Garrett.

Date: Thursday, May 6, 1993

Time: 7:00 P.M.

RESTORED/PRAYERS

RESTORED: Tim Lamb—4-28, Gina Pepitone—5-2, Lanet Taylor—5-2.

REQUESTED PRAYER: Chris Mathews—4-28, Tim Lamb—4-28 (upcoming surgery).

WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE

5-19-93 **READING:** Jim Loy

INVITATION: Nathan Liddell

5-26-93 **READING:** Chris Mathews

INVITATION: Paul Brantley

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Chameleons

Burt Jones

Chameleons are a type of lizard found chiefly in Africa and Madagascar.

They have two very unusual qualities—a tongue that can lash out and destroy virtually anything of comparable size that gets in their way, and an ability to literally change colors to protect themselves.

A certain fickleness and chameleon-like quality is pervading the Lord's Church that would put this lizard to shame.

The half-brother of our Lord penned with the ink of inspiration that, "the tongue can no man tame; *it is* an unruly evil, full of deadly poison" (Jam. 3:8). Just as the chameleon lashes out with an extendable tongue to bite and devour, Christians are warned that, "if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another" (Gal. 5:15).

The fickleness of this evil member can separate good friends (Pro. 16:28), and has caused more dissension in the church than all two thousand fifty-four religious groups in the United

States combined. Preachers are not inoculated against this fiery dart. An evangelist with thirty years to his credit, preaching the Word of God as soundly as if he were Paul, can suddenly “re-think” solid Bible truths, reaching for some new hermeneutics or some “higher consciousness.” An elder, or preacher, or faithful worker in the church, has his or her family personally touched by a spiritual or moral tragedy such as an unwanted pregnancy within the family, or a marriage, divorce, and remarriage question. Suddenly, accepted Bible truths are compromised and fickleness dictates another imagined reality.

Sin can speak through the fickleness of the tongue or the chameleon-like inconstancy of a vacillating lifestyle.

Sin can speak through a soul that attempts to become all things to all people. He wants to be a Christian because he knows that that is the only way to heaven. He wants to change color and be of this World because he knows that that is the only way to carnal pleasures. But, “if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning. For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known *it*, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them” (2 Pet. 2:20-21).

The chameleon has the ability of changing his color slowly, for protection against forthcoming, but not immediate danger, or he is capable of an almost instantaneous alteration of color.

Some of us are chameleons. We flick out our extendable tongues of talebearing and use these malicious members of mischief to spread evil. Then, quickly, we change colors and cause division, make our brethren stumble, bring in damnable heresies, and otherwise bring reproach on ourselves and the Body of Christ. Very swiftly, we then “change colors” again, assuming the role of whatever the situation dictates.

Finally, these members of the lizard family have no tympanic membrane, no external eardrum. They can scarcely perceive sounds of any type, and use only vibrations from the object on which they rest to alert themselves to any occurrence. They are dull of hearing and react instinctively to the sur-rounding environment. They can neither hear nor interpret the things by which they are encompassed. Our Lord indicated that certain of us are the same. “Why do ye not understand my speech? *even* because ye cannot hear my word” (John 8:43).

As a gospel preacher, I have learned from sad experience that nothing so bores a Bible study class or someone with whom you are engaged in personal work, as being asked to define Bible terms before discussing them. They want to get on with it, without wasting time on “petty” verbal distinctions. This allows them to later assume the changeability of that chameleon since we earlier failed to establish a foundation upon which to pursue the deeper truths of God.

Absolutes are easily understood in mathematics, but we fail to realize that there may be a bottomless pit of complexities elsewhere.

I have watched with a certain melancholy as aspirants to political office shed the absolute of truth to become more and more adept at slipping into and out of any stand for one position or another as quickly as that chameleon altered colors to blend into whatever would keep it safe in whichever environment it found itself.

May we know the truth, but more importantly, may we pray to God that we stand for the truth, unfettered, unrestricted and unrestrained in our affirmation of that one truth that we can know and which will set us free (John 8:32).

926 East Jackson Street; Millersburg, OH 44654

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Group 1 meets **June 6** (Bill Crowe)

Sick and Shut-in

Please remember in prayer Joe Gilmore—had five by-passes on 4-28. Fred Baker (Judy Peter's father)—home in Sanford. Mary Muldoon—home. Rubin Malone. Fred Stancliff—treatment. Marie Martin—heart surgery and stroke.

Mark These Dates

May 30—Young People/Bible Bowl

Study

June 4—Brantley-Silcox Wedding

June 19—Bellview Bible Bowl

June 27-July 2—Indian Creek Youth Camp *Teen Week* (Jerry Martin).

July 11-16—Indian Creek Youth Camp (Ronnie Hayes).

LECTURESHIP BOOKS

You may order the 1993 lectureship book: *“God’s Pattern For Christian Living”* at the special pre-publication price of \$10.00 plus \$1.25 postage. After May 31, the price will be \$12.95 plus postage.

You may also order the other lecture books from 1988-1992 at \$10.00 plus postage. 1992—*“Current Crises Challenging The Church”*; 1991—*“The Church Triumphant”*; 1990—*“What Does God Authorize In Worship?”*; 1989—*“In Hope Of Eternal Life”*; and 1988—*“Are We Moving Away From The Cross Of Christ?”*

THANKS

Thanks to all who helped make our Eighteenth Annual Bellview Lectures a success.

The Bellview brethren always come through and do a great job! Thanks!

WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE

5-19-93 READING: Jim Loy

INVITATION: Nathan Liddell

5-26-93 READING: Chris Mathews

INVITATION: Paul Brantley

Bellview Church of Christ Presents

THE BEACON

Volume XXII

May 20, 1993

Number 20

BELLVIEW CHURCH OF CHRIST
4850 Saufley Road
Pensacola, FL 32526
(904) 455-7595

MINISTER
Bobby Liddell

BISHOPS
Hairston Brantley, Paul Brantley,
Bill Gallaher

DEACONS
Henry Born, Elward Brantley,
Jerry Caine, Bill Crowe, Charles Garrett,
Louis Herrington, James Loy, Harold
Maxey, Richard Parker, Dusty Wilkes

MISSIONARIES
Ira Rice

MEETING TIMES

SUNDAY:

9:00 A.M. BIBLE CLASSES
10:00 A.M., 6:00 P.M. WORSHIP
5:00 P.M. LADIES' BIBLE CLASS

WEDNESDAY: 7:00 P.M.

Report on the
1993 Bellview Lectures
Bobby Liddell

Before the report on the 1993 Bellview Lectures, be advised next year's lectures, the **Nineteenth Annual Bellview Lectures, will be June 11-15, 1994.** Please note the change (from May to June) from our regular time of meeting for the last several years.

The 1993 Bellview lectures, **God's Pattern For Christian Living**, (May 8-12, 1993) were the best with which I have been associated.

Every speaker was prepared and presented his lecture in a very fine way. Each preached the truth and covered the topic assigned them without "going everywhere preaching the word." Some of the finest preachers in the brotherhood were present and their lessons showed why they are considered to be such fine preachers.

The attendance was good with visitors from the Pensacola area, several other states and as far away as Washington state. Many of our speakers

also were able to be with us for the entire lectureship. That is always a plus.

The Open Forum (Mon.-Wed.) was a new addition to the Bellview lectures and a valuable one. It was lively and informative with good questions asked and appropriate responses given from the Bible. We plan on having the Open Forum on Sunday also; thus, Sunday through Wednesday, next year.

The Sunday afternoon sessions were also new this year. We hope they shall afford opportunities to those who work during the week and cannot attend the day services (Mon. through Wed.) to come and hear the Gospel preached all day Sunday. Likewise, the members of area congregations should be able to come be with us then.

The lectures presented in our nightly series on God's Pattern For The Home were especially good with lessons on Husbands, Wives, Children and Parents, on Sunday through Wednesday nights respectively.

We all rejoiced in the heart cheering fellowship with those of like precious faith. What a blessing it was to be with our visitors, many of whom attended every session.

The singing was great with Paul Brantley directing and calling upon several visitors to help.

After all the good things taking place during the lectures, we concluded with one being baptized. We rejoiced at the baptism of Keri Liddell on Wednesday night following Cuss Eoffs lesson.

We trust that for many years to come, through the availability of the lectures in book and audio and video tapes, men and women shall be blessed. To God we give the thanks for such an opportunity as the Bellview lectures and to Him we give all the glory.

We hope you will make your plans to be with us next year, **June 11-15, 1994**. Mark your calendars now for the Nineteenth Annual Bellview Lectures. See you then!

Visitation Group Meetings

Group 3 meets **May 23** (Ray Foshee)

Group 1 meets **June 6** (Bill Crowe)

Group 2 meets **June 13** (Dusty Wilkes)

Sick and Shut-in

Joe Gilmore, after some problems following his by-pass surgery is showing improvement. **Mary Muldoon**—home. **Rubin Malone**—home. **Fred Stancliff**—undergoing treatment. **Tim Lamb**—had heart catheterization in Gainesville on 5-12 and got a good report. **Tim Mueller** (Denise Mowery's neighbor) has leukemia and may have only a few months to live. **Fred Baker** (Judy Peter's dad) is doing better. **Jim Roddy** has recently gone to Birmingham for further diagnosis. **Bill Crowe** was injured on the job recently. **Shannon Frey** (Susan Hollowell's daughter) is in Sacred Heart Hospital.

Sympathy

We extend our deepest sympathy to the families of the following who have passed recently.

Aaron Crabb, former member at Bellview, died in Birmingham on Tuesday (5-11). Burial was at Delmont, MS.

Mrs. Clifton (Maude) Richards, Linda Parker's mother, passed away Monday (5-10) in Corpus Christi, TX, after a lengthy illness. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to the Bellview Preacher Training Fund in her memory.

Raymond Klover passed away early Friday morning (5-14). The Kloevers had visited with us several times recently.

Other Lectures

The **First Annual Portland Gulf Coast Lectures**, May 23-26, 1993, Portland, Texas. THEME: "THE SCRIPTURE CANNOT BE BROKEN." Also, *THE THRUST DEBATE FORUM FEATURING: THE DOBBS-TILL ORAL DEBATE ON PROPHECY AND THE INERRANCY OF THE BIBLE* will be during the lectures.

The First Annual Greater Houston Firm Foundation Lectures, Spring, Texas, June 20-23, 1993.

Mark These Dates

May 30—Challenge Bible Bowl/Young People Bible Bowl Study.

June 4—Brantley-Silcox Wedding

June 19—Bellview Bible Bowl

June 27-July 2—Indian Creek Youth Camp *Teen Week* (Jerry Martin)

July 11-16—Indian Creek Youth Camp (Ronnie Hayes)

July 26-30—Family Bible School

August 21—Golden Agers' Banquet

September 12—Attendance Drive and Dinner On The Grounds

October 21—Annual Teachers' Meeting

November 7-12—Gospel Meeting with Harrell Davidson

June 11-15, 1994—Nineteenth Annual Bellview Lectures.

Challenge Bible Bowl

The older (though not much, and remarkably well-preserved) people challenge the young people to a Bible Bowl on the book of Hebrews. Date: Sun., May 30, after the evening services.

Pantry Item

The pantry item for May is Juice. For June, bring Canned Vegetables.

Thanks!

To all who helped with the delicious food, it was great! Thanks to those who helped with the nursery, transportation, sound room, registration, books, furniture set-up, attendance, etc., etc.

Bachelor Roast

A "Bachelor Roast" for Preston Silcox will take place Sunday, May 23, at 2:00 P.M. in the Zone Meeting Room.

Congratulations Graduates!

Those graduating in 1993: Jamie Loy—Washington High; Doug Hoffay—Pine Forest High; Kelly Caine—Tate High.

Sixtieth Anniversary

Mr. and Mrs. Hairston Brantley celebrated their sixtieth anniversary together on Monday, May 17 with a reception hosted by their children at the Garden Center. Congratulations on sixty years and we wish for you many more.

LECTURESHIP BOOKS

You may order the 1993 lectureship book: "*God's Pattern For Christian Living*" at the special pre-publication price of \$10.00 plus \$1.25 postage. After May 31, the price will be \$12.95 plus postage.

BAPTIZED

Keri Liddell was baptized on the last night of the lectureship (5-12-93). We rejoice with her in her decision to submit her will to Christ and obey Him. Be sure to welcome her as a member of the Lord's church meeting at Bellview.

WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE

5-26-93 READING: Chris Mathews
INVITATION: Paul Brantley
6-2-93 READING: Scot Brazell
INVITATION: Damon Lundy

NOTICE TO ALL READERS

If you have a **change of address**, please let us know at least 2 weeks in advance. Failure to do so means we have to pay for returned bulletins and your name is removed from our mailing list.

Bellview Church of Christ Presents

THE BEACON

Volume XXII

May 27, 1993

Number 21

BELLVIEW CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Pensacola, FL 32526
(904) 455-7595

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Bill Gallaher

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Jerry Caine, Bill Crowe, Charles Garrett,
Louis Herrington, James Loy, Harold
Maxey, Richard Parker, Dusty Wilkes

MISSIONARIES
Ira Rice

MEETING TIMES

SUNDAY:

9:00 A.M. BIBLE CLASSES
10:00 A.M., 6:00 P.M. WORSHIP
5:00 P.M. LADIES' BIBLE CLASS

WEDNESDAY: 7:00 P.M.

New Bible Classes

Bobby Liddell

A new quarter of Bible classes begins Wednesday, June 2. I believe the Bellview congregation has splendid opportunities in the classes provided. Following are some reasons why I believe that to be the case.

1. There are classes for all ages. From babies up, classes are in place and appropriate materials and learning situations are provided.

2. Classes are taught by qualified and competent teachers. We strive to have only the faithful and qualified as teachers.

3. Classes are taught on Sunday morning at 9:00 A.M. for all ages, Sunday evening before worship services for teen girls, teen boys, ladies and youngsters, and Wednesday evening at 7:00 P.M. for all ages. We have many opportunities for Bible study in a class.

4. The Bible class program is adequately funded. Needed materials and supplies are purchased with respect to how they shall profit the student and not to what they cost.

5. The Education Committee and the Elders seek to provide the best Bible classes possible for they understand the worth of Bible instruction.

6. Classes are kept small in regard to teacher/student ratio. That helps in the areas of personal attention to student needs, class discussion and the feeling of belonging in the class.

The above are all great and as far as they go, they help us have a great Bible class program. However, there is another aspect to consider. What part do you play in our having profitable Bible classes? Please consider the following and make needed adjustments.

1. Your attendance is absolutely necessary if you shall benefit from Bible classes. That certainly should be no surprise! Too many church members are willfully absenting themselves from Bible classes. Not only do they rob themselves of much-needed Bible knowledge, but they also rob their children and spouse. It has been my observation that those who do not have interest in Bible study in Bible classes are not interested in much else either and are weak, lukewarm and in danger of losing their souls.

2. Your arrival before the bell rings would be a tremendous help. Every class meeting, there are those who are late. What does that say? Would you be five or ten minutes (sometimes fifteen) late for your job? School? Appointment? Your coming in late disrupts the class, distracts attention and puts you at a disadvantage since you missed the introduction to that class study. Please show more respect for yourself, your classmates and the study of God's Word by being on time. It would not kill you to be five minutes early.

3. Support the Bible class teachers. Bible teachers are folks just like you. They have jobs and families. They get tired and become ill. They have good days and bad. They could use your encouragement and support. Before you criticize them, try putting yourself in their place. Before you give them a hard time, think of Luke 6:31. If you have a problem with the teacher, take it to the teacher first. If that does not satisfy you, then talk to the Education Director or the Elders.

4. Help build up our Bible classes. A great percentage of those converted received instruction that led to their conversion through Bible classes. Your invitation may result in someone's eternal salvation. Remember, your BRINGING your children and spouse to Bible classes will help greatly in your efforts to win them to Christ. Remember, too, your failure to bring them means you forfeit a tremendous opportunity. How much care for their soul does that show? It is deeply disturbing to see parents that are unconcerned about their children being in Bible class.

5. But, do not just come-come prepared. Are you studying a particular Bible book or passage? Do you have a lesson book? Read it. Study it. Answer any questions in the lesson. Pray about it. Write down questions you have about it and bring them with you. Write down comments that might benefit your classmates.

Why settle for less than the best? Come to Bible class ready and eager to learn and to contribute. Make our Bible classes the best they can be and yourself the best Bible student you can be. You will be glad you did.

Wednesday Classes For Adults

Adult I Music In Worship (Bobby Liddell)
Adult II Personal Evangelism (Bill Crowe)
Adult III Titus & Philemon (Ray Foshee)

Sunday

Adult I Christian Evidences (P. Brantley)
Adult II James (Jim Loy)
Adult III Premillennialism (Bobby Liddell)

Visitation Group Meetings

Group 1 meets June 6 (Bill Crowe)
Group 2 meets June 13 (Dusty Wilkes)
Group 3 meets June 20 (Ray Foshee)

Sick and Shut-in

Joe Gilmore, is in critical condition, following a setback in his recovery. Mary Muldoon—home Rubin Malone—home Fred Stancliff—undergoing treatment. Bill Crowe was injured on the job recently and was scheduled for an evaluation of his condition on 5-26. Eugene Simmons—scheduled to be moved from Sacred Heart to West Florida Rehabilitation Center.

Pantry Item

June pantry item: Canned Vegetables.

Mark These Dates

May 30—Challenge Bible Bowl.
June 4—Brantley-Silcox Wedding
June 19—Bellview Bible Bowl
June 27-July 2—Indian Creek Youth Camp
Teen Week (Jerry Martin)
July 11-16—Camp (Ronnie Hayes)
July 26-30—Family Bible School
August 2-6—Foley VBS

August 21—Golden Agers' Banquet
September 12—Attendance Drive and Dinner On The Grounds
October 21—Annual Teachers' Meeting
November 7-12—Gospel Meeting with Harrell Davidson
June 11-15, 1994—Nineteenth Annual Bellview Lectures.

Library Additions

Take some time and inspect the church library. It is a great resource and one of the best church libraries around. Denise Mowery is our Librarian. If you have questions, see Denise. The following are new additions to the library. *I See My Time Is Up*—George DeHoff
Living In Trust—1993 Memphis School of Preaching Lectures
Romans: Cod's Plan For Man's Righteousness—Roy C. Deaver
Daniel—Rex A. Turner, Sr.
Biblical Analysis—C. H. Woodroof and Arvil Weilbaker
Triumph and Tragedy—Paul Vaughn

Wedding Bells

*Mr. and Mrs. Paul Brantley
request your presence to
witness the marriage
of their daughter
Tanya Renee Brantley
to*

*Preston Lynn Silcox
as they became one in Christ
on Friday, June fourth
Nineteen hundred and ninety-
three*

*at seven-thirty in the evening
Bellview Church of Christ
4850 Saufley Field Road
Pensacola, Florida
Reception immediately
following
the ceremony.*

NOTICE TO ALL READERS

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RESTORED

Damon and **Vaydra Lundy** came confessing wrong and seeking forgiveness for their sins on Wednesday (5-19). We, with Heaven itself, rejoice and commend them for their determination to do right.

BAPTIZED

Alfreda Jones was baptized Wednesday (5-19) after services. We happily welcome her to the body of Christ. Please update your directory.

Alfreda Jones
700 W Truman Ave, Apt G-73
32505

WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE

6-2-93 READING: Scot Brazell
INVITATION: Damon Lundy
6-9-93 READING: Nathan Liddell
INVITATION: Jerry Fillingim

Bellview Church of Christ Presents

THE BEACON

Volume XXII

June 3, 1993

Number 22

BELLVIEW CHURCH OF CHRIST
4850 Saufley Road
Pensacola, FL 32526
(904) 455-7595

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Ira Rice

MEETING TIMES

SUNDAY:

9:00 A.M. BIBLE CLASSES
10:00 A.M., 6:00 P.M. WORSHIP
5:00 P.M. LADIES' BIBLE CLASS

WEDNESDAY: 7:00 P.M.

The Christian's Heritage *Shan Jackson*

The foundation of this article comes from the Psalm of David that we have designated as number sixteen. Here the king writes, "The LORD is the portion of mine inheritance and of my cup: thou maintainest my lot. The lines are fallen unto me in pleasant *places*; yea, I have a goodly heritage" (Psa. 16:5-6).

Without a doubt this psalm is a true expression of undivided faith. Faith that has brought about total satisfaction. It begins with prayer, then mentions trouble, yet bounds with holy confidence. Its conclusion is a wonderful song of assurance as to present an ultimate safety and blessedness. It is also distinctly Messianic, as mentioned by Peter in Acts 2 and by Paul in Acts 13, yet is it such an expression of faith and confidence as suited the feelings of David and as it is the privilege of every Christian today to utter.

When the Israelites entered the Land of Canaan, as we remember, their tribal portion was

selected by lot. Naturally this caused a great deal of diversity in the heritages possessed. Some, as in the case with Dan and Manasseh, would be more pleasant to possess than others. We can imagine those with the choicest portions gratefully adopting David's sentiments when he said, "The lines are fallen unto me in pleasant *places*." David's expression of thanksgiving served well the feelings of the people then and serves well our feelings today. God, through Christ, has rescued his kingdom from the clutches of darkness and translated it to an abode in the light. He has taken us from the thralldom of slavery to sin and planted us in the kingdom of his own dear Son. He has made us to be priests and kings and has adopted us into his personal family, and has also given us a right to an everlasting inheritance in the land of life immortal.

PHYSICAL BLESSINGS. Think first of a Christian's heritage concerning physical blessings. My brethren, "Godliness is profitable." It blesses us now! We have a promise concerning the "life that now is" as well as "that which is to come." Christians need not think of tomorrow because all the necessities of this life will be furnished. Godliness blesses man in every state of life, it exalts the humble, it prospers the worker, and it helps in our adversity. If we will but look upon the things that we have, rather than the things we do not have, we will not fail to find much to be thankful for.

SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS. However, there are also blessings which are far superior to those of a physical nature. What a wonderful spiritual heritage we also have in God. Just as the king exalted the possession of God's Word so we as well are blessed with its pages. Furthermore, we have the added advantage of having the entire Word of God. In it we receive spiritual nourishment which sustains our soul. Here we also receive new courage to continue the battles with sin. Still, our most precious spiritual heritage is God Himself. God's blessings are upon the righteous. With Him we have life, and joy and hope. With Him we have pardon, and peace and power. With Him we have providence, care, and heirship to life eternal.

PROSPECTIVE GLORY. Coupled with blessings, both physical and spiritual, is also the Christian's goodly heritage of prospective glory. As someone so aptly stated it, "Christians have grace in possession and glory in reserve." Like Abraham, a Christian is a traveler, a sojourner, living and enjoying a foreign land while investing in heavenly glory. The Christian is looking forward to the day his room is presented in the mansion of God, having now only a foretaste of what lies ahead.

By the physical blessings we receive, by the spiritual blessings we enjoy, and by the undying hope in that prospective glory, the Christian is apt to say, The lines are fallen unto me in pleasant places; yea, I have a goodly heritage."

P.O. Box 904; Palacios, TX 77465

Visitation Group Meetings

Group 1 meets **June 6** (Bill Crowe)

Group 2 meets **June 13** (Dusty Wilkes)

Group 3 meets **June 20** (Ray Foshee)

Sick and Shut-in

Joe Gilmore, has come home from the hospital. **Mary Muldoon**—home. **Rubin Malone**—home. Fred Stancliff—treatments. **Bill Crowe**—recovering from an injury at work. **Shannon Frey** (Susan Hollowell's daughter) is doing better. **Tara Thompson** (the Parker's granddaughter)—undergoing tests.

Pantry Item

June pantry item: Canned Vegetables.

Mark These Dates

June 19—Bellview Bible Bowl

June 27-July 2—Indian Creek Youth Camp
Teen Week (Jerry Martin)

July 11-16—Camp (Ronnie Hayes)

July 26-30—Family Bible School

August 2-6—Foley VBS

August 21—Golden Agers' Banquet

September 12—Attendance Drive and
Dinner On The Grounds

October 21—Annual Teachers' Meeting

November 7-12—Gospel Meeting with
Harrell Davidson

June 11-15, 1994—Nineteenth Annual
Bellview Lectures.

Thanks!

Thanks to all who came Wednesday and helped to mail another mailing of *Behold The Pattern* (our third major mailing). We trust our efforts shall produce good and we thank you for your participation. By the way, *Behold The Pattern* is now in its NINTH printing.

Indian Creek Youth Camp

Young people from Bellview usually go to one or two sessions of Indian Creek Youth Camp (ICYC). ICYC is located about fifty miles northeast of Birmingham, Alabama and has been in operation for over twenty years. It is well equipped with good facilities in a beautiful wooded area at the junction of Indian and Wolf creeks.

Jerry Martin directs "Teen Week" at camp and a lot of our teens like to go then. Ronnie Hayes directs a regular week of camp and many of our preteen folks and some of the teens go then.

Jerry and Ronnie are sound men who are careful to make sure their weeks at camp are well run with proper care and discipline and that the proper emphasis is given to the purpose of the camp; that is, helping young people know more about God and His will for them and encouraging them to put that knowledge into practice. At the same time, they make sure the campers have a lot of fun and have opportunities to make friendships for eternity.

We are planning to go again this year. Teen Week with Jerry Martin will be June 27-July 2. Ronnie Hayes¹ week will be July 11-16. If you would like to go, pick up one of the ICYC brochures, fill out the registration form and send it in, or you can give it to me and I will send it in for you, or you can send it to Jerry or to Ronnie yourself at the following addresses.

Jerry Martin
P.O. Box 125
Meeker, CO 81641

Ronnie Hayes
Route 1 Box 135
Bear Creek, AL 35543

See you at camp!!

REQUESTED PRAYER

Sylvia Alexander requested prayers for strength. Also, her friend from Miami and sister in Christ, **Sherryl Murphy**, was injured in an auto accident on her way to see Sylvia. She is in NINU at West Florida Hospital.

BAPTIZED

Gina Pepitone was baptized Wednesday (5-26) after services. We rejoice with her and welcome her to the Bellview congregation.

WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE

6-9-93 READING: Nathan Liddell
INVITATION: Jerry Fillingim
6-16-93 READING: Jeremy Caine
INVITATION: Hairston Brantley

NEW ADDRESS

Mark and **Susan Hollowell** have a new address. Please update your directory. Mark and Susan Hollowell, 10103 Lillian Highway, Pensacola, FL 32505-9716.

Bellview Church of Christ Presents

THE BEACON

Volume XXII

June 10, 1993

Number 23

BELLVIEW CHURCH OF CHRIST
4850 Saufley Road
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(904) 455-7595

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MISSIONARIES
Ira Rice

MEETING TIMES

SUNDAY:

9:00 A.M. BIBLE CLASSES
10:00 A.M., 6:00 P.M. WORSHIP
5:00 P.M. LADIES' BIBLE CLASS

WEDNESDAY: 7:00 P.M.

Clothing Proverbs 31:21 *Jimmy Clark*

“She is not afraid of the snow for her household: for all her household *are* clothed with scarlet” (Pro. 31:21). Clothing is an essential item for human living. Jesus Himself said, “Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, *shall he* not much more *clothe* you, O ye of little faith?” (Mat. 6:30). Paul wrote, “And having food and raiment let us be therewith content” (1 Tim. 6:8). The subject of clothing is seen throughout the Scriptures. Though God has given divine instruction concerning it, humanity has not always given it proper attention. Consider three principles which should be considered before putting on one’s apparel.

1. Clothed Adequately. One should ask the question, “Do I have on enough clothes?” The first time the subject of clothing is mentioned in the scriptures; the matter of coverage is addressed. “And the eyes of them both were opened,

and they knew that they *were* naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons” (Gen. 3:7). The Hebrew word translated “apron” means “a girdle, belt” (*Gesenius*, p. 260). The indication is that of leaves to cover only the loins. Later in the chapter, one reads, “Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them” (Gen. 3:21). The Hebrew word translated “coats” means “a tunic, an inner garment next to the skin...generally with sleeves, coming down to the knees, rarely to the ankles” (*Gesenius*, p. 420). Though the world may fashion clothing to expose more and more of the human body, God sought to emphasize the principle that if one is not adequately clothed, then he or she is naked.

2. Clothed Appropriately. The next question which should come to mind is “Do I have on the right kind of clothes?” One may be adequately clothed but not appropriately clothed. Paul wrote, “In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array” (1 Tim. 2:9). Peter wrote of godly women, “Whose adorning let it not be that outward *adorning* of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel” (1 Pet. 3:3). The Holy Spirit through Paul and Peter was not saying that women should not try to look attractive, but that they should not dress so as to appear as worldly women. What one wears does say something about a person. Look at Tamar. “And she put her widow’s garments off from her, and covered her with a vail, and wrapped herself, and sat in an open place, which *is* by the way to Timnath;...When Judah saw her, he thought her *to be* an harlot; because she had covered her face” (Gen. 38:14-15). Tamar was covered, but her clothing advertised that she was a harlot. Slogans and symbols of base ideals are not becoming of children of God.

3. Clothed Accordingly. Another question which should be asked is “Am I clothed according to that which shows respect to the occasion?” Look at Joseph. “Then Pharaoh sent and called Joseph, and they brought him hastily out of the dungeon: and he shaved *himself*, and changed his raiment, and came in unto Pharaoh” (Gen. 41:14). When the church is described to the Ephesians, Paul wrote, “That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish” (Eph. 5:27). John wrote of the church, “And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband” (Rev. 21:2). This age of casualness has clouded the thinking of many people in this area. Some would say, “What difference does it make what I wear as long as my heart is right?” Such an attitude ignores the fact that the heart is manifested by the outward man (cf. Jam. 2:18). Respect is almost a forgotten virtue. Solomon said appropriately, “The fear of the LORD *is* the beginning of knowledge: *but* fools despise wisdom and instruction” (Pro. 1:7).

Route 3, Box 425; Athens, AL 35611

Water Baptism According to the New Testament

REQUIRES: Water—“Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we?” (Acts 10:47). “And as they went on *their* way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, *here is* water; what doth hinder me to be baptized?” (Acts 8:36).

Much water—“And John also was baptizing in Aenon near to Salim, because there was much water there” (John 3:23).

Going down into water—“And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him” (Act 8:38).

Coming up out of water—“when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing” (Acts 8:39).

Hearing the Gospel before—“Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added *unto them* about three thousand souls” (Acts 2:41). “But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women” (Acts 8:12).

Belief before—“He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned” (Mark 16:16).

Repentance before—“Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost” (Acts 2:38).

Confession before—“they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, *here is* water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him” (Acts 8:36-38).

Faithfulness thereafter—“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, *even* unto the end of the world. Amen” (Mat.28:19-20).

Is in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit—“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost” (Mat. 28:19).

Is a command of God—“And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord” (Acts 10:48).

Is a matter of urgency—“And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed *their* stripes; and was baptized, he and all his, straightway” (Acts 16:33).

Is a burial—“Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death” (Rom. 6:4).

Brings remission of sins—“Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost” (Acts 2:38).

Washes away sins (not the water, but the blood of Christ contacted in baptism)—“And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord” (Acts 22:16). “Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?” (Rom. 6:3).

Brings newness of life—“Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life” (Rom. 6:4).

Puts one into Christ—“For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ” (Gal. 3:27).

Saves us—“The like figure whereunto *even* baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ” (1 Pet. 3:21).

SICK AND SHUT-IN

Joe Gilmore—has come home from the hospital. **Mary Muldoon**—home. **Rubin Malone**—home. **Fred Stancliff**—treatments. **Bill Crowe**—doing better. **Shannon Frey** (Susan Hollowell’s daughter)—home. **Tara Thompson** (Richard and Linda Parker’s granddaughter)—tests in Gainesville. **Sherryl Murphy** (Sylvia Alexander’s friend)—West Florida Hospital recuperating from surgery.

PANTRY ITEM

June pantry item: Canned Vegetables

WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE

6-16-93 READING: Jeremy Caine
INVITATION: Hairston Brantley
6-23-93 READING: Preston Silcox
INVITATION: Bill Cline

VISITATION GROUP MEETINGS

Group 2 meets June 13 (Dusty Wilkes)
Group 3 meets June 20 (Ray Foshee)
Group 1 meets July 4 (Bill Crowe)

Bellview Church of Christ Presents

THE BEACON

Volume XXII

June 17, 1993

Number 24

BELLVIEW CHURCH OF CHRIST

4850 Saufley Road
Pensacola, FL 32526
(904) 455-7595

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Bill Gallaher

DEACONS

Henry Born, Elward Brantley,
Jerry Caine, Bill Crowe, Charles Garrett,
Louis Herrington, James Loy, Harold
Maxey, Richard Parker, Dusty Wilkes

MISSIONARIES

Ira Rice

MEETING TIMES

SUNDAY:

9:00 A.M. BIBLE CLASSES
10:00 A.M., 6:00 P.M. WORSHIP
5:00 P.M. LADIES' BIBLE CLASS

WEDNESDAY: 7:00 P.M.

Vengeance Is Mine, Saith the Lord

Robin W. Haley

Recently, I taught the three-fold trials that are recorded for us in John chapter eight. It would be well for you to read that text now, verses 1-11. Obviously, three trials took place in this text: that of Jesus (v. 6), that of the scribes and Pharisees (vv. 6-9) and that of the woman accused of adultery (vv. 10-11). It does not take a great deal of depth of study to learn that the accusers were not really concerned about this woman's morals, the Law (for they failed to carry it out properly) nor for justice. They were concerned with one thing: how they could trap Jesus.

Having turned the tables on them, and showing them to be what they were in truth: hypocritical, the "charges" were apparently dropped. Let us now finish this lesson: this text was not teaching how to handle cases of adultery; nor that Jesus set aside the Law of Moses; nor that he overlooked this woman's sin; nor that we are to accept just any moral behavior; nor that it is

wrong to judge sinful actions. Pointing out sin is not self-righteousness. Nor does this text refer to congregational discipline. We must discipline the wayward!

Rather, we do learn that repentance was implied on the part of this woman by what our Lord told her: “Sin no more.” It teaches us to examine ourselves, be certain of our motives (Mat. 7:1-5) and make sure we make judgments based upon the proper foundation (John 7:24). We learn not to use the Law as a tool for vengeance nor for personal vendetta (1 Tim. 1:8). We ought to hate sin, but not the sinner. Compassion is a must as we seek to be just (Jude 21-23).

Let us learn not to be in a hurry to jump on the “bandwagon” of condemnation. It is much easier to accuse/condemn than to “convict/prove beyond doubt” (the meaning of “did no man condemn thee?”—v. 10) one’s sin. Investigate, do not merely act upon what you hear! There may be other lessons to be learned from this text, but this ought to keep us thinking for a while.

912 E. Teresa; Sapulpa, OK 74066

Seek the Kingdom

Dub McClish

Jesus forever settled where God’s church, the kingdom on earth, should come in one’s list of values: “Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness” (Mat. 6:33). But when and under what circumstances should we do this? Certainly, one is correct in saying, “All of the time and under all circumstances.” However, such an answer is too general to have much meaning for most of us. Let us ask, and answer, more specifically, “When should one seek first the kingdom?”

When We Marry. If one is interested in serving God and going to Heaven, it is only reasonable that he or she should choose a companion who will share this interest. It is one of the world’s great tragedies to see a fine, dedicated-to-Christ young person fall in love with someone who has no interest at all in spiritual things and never will. At best, the faithful Christian must shoulder all the spiritual burden of the home and at worst many are drawn away by their companions and lose their soul.

When We Choose Our Work. If the kingdom is at the top of our lists in life, we will never consider any sort of business or employment that would weaken us spiritually.

When We Rear and Educate Our Children. What do we want most for our children? Do we care more about their social and physical needs than their spiritual needs? Is our driving ambition that they must be popular at all cost or faithful Christians? If we are really seeking the kingdom first, we will want our children to have the education that will help preserve and strengthen their faith for many years of Christian service that will end in Heaven.

When We Make Big Decisions. What is the main factor governing our big decisions, such as changing jobs, moving, etc.? How much money it means, whether we will like the climate, what the living conditions are, etc., must all be considered. But, for the Christian, the important

question is, “Will this enable me to serve the Lord more or will it hinder me?” In any big decision, we ought to pray, Thy will be done.”

When We Have Financial Success. If we lay up treasures only on earth, we are fools. If the kingdom is not first financially, it is not first, period.

908 Imperial Drive; Denton, TX 76201

Sick and Shut-in

Joe Gilmore—doing better. **Rubin Malone**—home. **Mary Muldoon**—home. **Fred Stancliff**—treatments. **Gene Simmons**—West Florida Hosp. **Tiffany Wilkes**—home with Chicken Pox. **Tara Thompson** (Richard and Linda Parker’s granddaughter)—home awaiting further evaluation and possible surgery.

Mark These Dates

June 19—Fourth Annual Bellview Bible Bowl, 9:30 A.M.

June 27-July 2—Indian Creek Youth Camp *Teen Week* (Jerry Martin)

July 11-16—Indian Creek Youth Camp (Ronnie Hayes)

July 26-30—Bellview Family Bible School

August 2-6—Foley VBS

August 21—Golden Agers’ Banquet

September 12—Attendance Drive and Dinner On The Grounds

October 21—Annual Teachers’ Meeting

November 7-12—Gospel Meeting with Harrell Davidson

June 11-15, 1994—Nineteenth Annual Bellview Lectures.

Bible Bowl

The Fourth Annual Bellview Bible Bowl will be held on June 19 starting at

9:30 A.M. After a period of worship, testing will begin. Lunch will be provided by the ladies. Everyone is invited to attend and help encourage these young people in their Bible knowledge.

Pantry Item

June pantry item: Canned Vegetables.

Worksheets

Every member should turn in their worksheet to the office as soon as possible. The information will be used to help plan various work assignments should they be needed. We appreciate your cooperation!

Visitation Cards

Our visitation program has gotten off to a good start and is making a difference. We hope you are taking part. When you receive a visitation card, make the visit as soon as you can and then turn the card in to your group leader. This will ensure an accurate accounting of the visits made.

Family Bible School

Our Family Bible School will be held July 26-30 at 7:00 P.M. There will be classes for all ages from Cradle Roll up.

Brother Clifford Newell, minister of the church at Bay Minette, Alabama will speak

to the Adult class each night on the subject: "Protraits of Christ." Make plans now to attend every night and to bring several with you.

Thanks!

Thanks to all who came this week to help put the DEFENDER together for mailing. Your assistance is greatly appreciated.

SICK AND SHUT-IN

Gina Pepitone (6-9-93), **Scot Brazell** (6-13-93), and **David Tomarchio** (6-13-93). Remember them in your prayers and encourage them by your words, actions, and good example.

SYMPATHY

We extend our deepest sympathy to brother Tim Lamb in the loss of his grandmother, Clyde Culp, on June 9, 1993 and to sister Marilyn Hall in the loss of her father, Anthony Donoughe, who passed away on June 14, 1993.

VISITATION GROUP MEETINGS

Group 3 meets **June 20** (Ray Foshee)

Group 1 meets **July 4** (Bill Crowe)

Group 2 meets **July 11** (Dusty Wilkes)

WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE

6-23-93 READING: Preston Silcox

INVITATION: Bill Cline

6-30-93 READING: Dusty Wilkes

INVITATION: Mike Peters

Bellview Church of Christ Presents

THE BEACON

Volume XXII

June 24, 1993

Number 25

BELLVIEW CHURCH OF CHRIST
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Jerry Caine, Bill Crowe, Charles Garrett,
Louis Herrington, James Loy, Harold
Maxey, Richard Parker, Dusty Wilkes

MISSIONARIES
Ira Rice

MEETING TIMES

SUNDAY:

9:00 A.M. BIBLE CLASSES
10:00 A.M., 6:00 P.M. WORSHIP
5:00 P.M. LADIES' BIBLE CLASS

WEDNESDAY: 7:00 P.M.

There Is Nothing Romantic about Going to Hell

Steve Ellis

This morning (6/7/93) I attempted as usual to read the paper while I had breakfast. However, as I read *The Commercial Appeal's* front-page article entitled, "Teen Describes 'Cult' Torture of Boys," eating became impossible. Sickening is far too mild a word to describe the events related in that article pertaining to the brutal torture and murder of these eight-year-old boys in West Memphis on May 5, 1993.

The three teenagers who have been charged with the murders are reportedly members of a satanic cult who listened to "black metal" music and practiced their savagery on animals before murdering the three boys. There is much that could be written about various aspects of this case, but I want to focus on the colossally absurd notion that there is something romantic about serving Satan and going to hell.

Musical groups such as The Possessed, Venom, King Diamond and Slayer record songs whose lyrics glorify evil, recommend serving Satan and suggest that going to hell will be some romantic adventure to be desired rather than avoided at all costs. Tragically, impressionable young people who have not received proper guidance and supervision are obviously being deceived and influenced by such nonsense to engage in some horribly destructive behavior.

The only source of accurate information about hell is to be found in the Bible. It is surely significant that our loving Lord and Savior used the most frightening language to depict the horrible nature of hell. He spoke about the “Hell of fire” (Mat. 5:22, ASV) which is literally “Gehenna of fire” in the Greek. The word “Gehenna” reminded the Jews of the abominable practice of human sacrifice to the Ammonite idol/god Molech which took place in the Valley of Hinnom during the reign of the wicked king, Manasseh (2 Kin. 23:10). The word suggested sin and suffering to the Jewish mind. Jesus said this place of eternal fire was prepared for the devil and his angels and will also serve as the site of everlasting punishment for those who find themselves on His “Left hand” at the judgment (Mat. 25:41, 46).

Jesus further described hell as a place so horrible it should be avoided at all costs. He described it as a place whose inhabitants will be in an eternal state of decay and rotteness while unquenchable fires are burning them but never consuming them (Mark 9:43-48). Jesus also repeatedly said this never-ending suffering will be accompanied by “weeping and gnashing of teeth” (Mat. 8:12).

Generally speaking, there are two classes of people who will forever experience that which the rich man described as being “tormented in this flame” (Luke 16:24). One major group will consist of all those who have never obeyed the gospel of Christ (2 The. 1:8). Included in the good news about Jesus Christ are the following conditions for salvation: belief that He is the Messiah (John 8:24); repentance (Luke 13:3); confession of faith in Christ (Acts 8:37); and faithfulness unto death (Rev. 2:10). The gospel is “The power of God unto salvation” and all who refuse to obey it will surely be lost (Rom 1:16).

The other major class of people who are in jeopardy of eternal separation from God consists of members of Christ’s body who have apostatized. James wrote to Christians, “Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him; Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins” (Jam. 5:19-20). James unmistakably affirmed the possibility of a brother erring from the truth and declared that such a person needs to be turned back to the Lord. Erring brethren include: those who are not productive of good (John 15:1-8); those who conform to the world (Rom. 12:1-2); and those who practice the works of the flesh (Gal. 5:19-21).

Some people protest that a loving and patient God would not eternally punish the wicked in hell. Those who hold such a view should carefully consider the sage and scriptural response of brother Guy N. Woods to this objection found in his *Questions and Answers, Vol II*, pp. 262-263:

Those who would palliate the punishment or seek to shorten its duration by pointing to the love, long-suffering and patience of God, ignore other attributes of deity, and disregard the fact that his goodness is evidenced just as much in his characteristics of justice and truth as in his love and long-suffering. As a matter of fact, love and long-suffering are valid only when the principle of justice and truth are also operative in the divine government. To promise punishment and then to unilaterally cancel it is impossible to One who is not only the God of love but also the God of truth! He will not do so because he cannot do so, and maintain his character. God cannot impeach his own veracity, since “It is impossible for God to lie” (Heb. 6:18). Were he to cease to be just and truthful, he would cease to be good. The effort to emphasize some of the attributes of the great Jehovah to the neglect of others, or to array some against others, is to compromise the divine character.

He who holds the destiny of us all in his hand is a God of love (1 John 4:8), but he is also a God of wrath because of his aversion to sin—the transgression of his law—the penalty of which is conscious suffering in hell fire for ever and ever. The penalty is grounded in his goodness, his sense of justice and right; his law required it, and the wicked deserve it! “Seeing it is a righteous thing with God to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you; and to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power when he shall come to be glorified in his saints...” (2 Thes. 1:6-10).

Let us never forget the horrible reality of hell. May it serve to deepen our gratitude for God’s grace, increase our determination to live the Christian life, and strengthen our commitment to help save those who are perishing outside of Christ. There is certainly nothing romantic about going to hell!

4400 Knight Arnold Road Memphis, TN 38118

Sick and Shut-in

Eugene Simmons—Room 1039, 2nd floor, WFL Rehab. Ctr. **Mary Barr**—WFL Hosp. (No visitors). **Robert Campo** (Mike Lowry’s uncle) in New Jersey has inoperable cancer.

Mark These Dates

July 11-16—Indian Creek Youth Camp

July 26-30—Bellview Family Bible School

August 2-6—Foley Vacation Bible School

August 21—Golden Agers' Banquet

September 12—Attendance Drive and Dinner On The Grounds

October 21—Annual Teachers' Meeting

November 7-12—Gospel Meeting with Harrell Davidson

June 11-15, 1994—Bellview Lectures.

Worksheets

Turn in the worksheets to the office as soon as possible. The information will be used to help plan various work assignments should they be needed.

REQUESTED PRAYER

RESTORED: Mike Lowry (6-16-93). **Sylvia Alexander** requested prayer (6-16-93). Both request prayer in their behalf to help them be stronger. Please remember them in prayer.

SYMPATHY

We extend our deepest sympathy to sister Paulette Born in the loss of her mother, Beulah Blanton, on June 15, 1993.

FAMILY BIBLE SCHOOL

Family Bible School will be July 26-30, 7:00 P.M.
Make plans now to attend every night.

VISITATION GROUP MEETINGS

Group 1 meets **July 4** (Bill Crowe)
Group 2 meets **July 11** (Dusty Wilkes)
Group 3 meets **July 18** (Ray Foshee)

WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE

6-30-93 READING: Dusty Wilkes
INVITATION: Mike Peters
7-7-93 READING: Jerry Fillingim
INVITATION: Jeremy Caine

Bellview Church of Christ Presents

THE BEACON

Volume XXII

July 1, 1993

Number 26

BELLVIEW CHURCH OF CHRIST

4850 Saufley Road
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(904) 455-7595

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Jerry Caine, Bill Crowe, Charles Garrett,
Louis Herrington, James Loy, Harold
Maxey, Richard Parker, Dusty Wilkes

MISSIONARIES

Ira Rice

MEETING TIMES

SUNDAY:

9:00 A.M. BIBLE CLASSES
10:00 A.M., 6:00 P.M. WORSHIP
5:00 P.M. LADIES' BIBLE CLASS

WEDNESDAY: 7:00 P.M.

What Kind of Parent Will You Be?

Bobby Liddell

INTRODUCTION. Young people, most of you will be parents one day and for some of you, that time may come before too long. Now, before you marry and become a parent, is the time to think about what kind of parent you will be and to realize the joys of parenting are great and the responsibilities are many and serious. Too many young people become parents without preparation and planning to do so. 28% of all births are to unwed mothers. That figure does not include the thousands of abortions had by unwed mothers each year. Remember, for each unwed mother, there is an unwed father. That equals unwed and unprepared parents and an unplanned child who may very well suffer as a result.

In view of that, one should think about parenting now and make decisions now, according to God's will, that will guide him/her in the days preceding parenthood. To wait until later may be too late. If not too late to save your soul, still,

your life may have been scarred by sin. Live the kind of life now that you would want your future children to live. Then, when they inquire of your life as a young person you may respond positively and happily.

Are you fully aware of the responsibilities involved in being a parent? The Bible has a lot to say about parents' responsibilities. "And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord" (Eph. 6:4; cf. Col. 3:21). "That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, *To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed*" (Tit. 2:4-5). Both fathers and mothers have God-given parental responsibilities. Parenting is not only the work of the mother. Fathers who think so fail in their relationship with their child.

Read Deuteronomy 6:1-7 carefully, noting principles for parents to train their children in service to God. Will these principles guide you in your role as a mother or father? Joshua declared: "And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that *were* on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD" (Jos. 24:15). What about you? Will you resolve that your house will serve the Lord? Can it do so if you are not a Christian? Can it do so if your spouse is not a Christian?

Will your children be conceived in love and in the pure bonds of marriage? That is the only acceptable way for children to be brought into this world. While many view such an idea as old-fashioned and choose to live fast and loose regardless of the consequences (physical, emotional and spiritual), they do so in disobedience to their Creator. Nor do they stop and consider the effects upon the child of their illicit relationship and on society in general. Paul said, "Marriage *is* honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge" (Heb. 13:4). God states the order: (1) marry; and, (2) bear children, in 1 Timothy 5:14, "I will therefore that the younger women marry, bear children, guide the house, give none occasion to the adversary to speak reproachfully."

Will a child brought into your home experience love, harmony and happiness from parents that love God, each other and their child? If you want to show your child the most love, love God more than you love them—or your spouse or anyone or anything else in this world (Mat. 6:33; 10:37). If you could have chosen the kind of home into which you would be born and reared, what would it be? Surely, you would want a happy home with parents who loved God and you. Now, will you provide such a home for your children? If you plan to do so, now is the time to make preparation.

Will the soul of your child be safe in your care? "Lo, children *are* an heritage of the LORD: *and* the fruit of the womb *is* his reward" (Psa. 127:3). Will you guard the priceless treasure entrusted to your safekeeping? That child came into this world with a soul pure and clean. Will you help him to avoid, as much as possible, the stain of sin? Will you teach him to hide God's Word within his heart that he might not sin (Psa. 119:11)? Will you encourage him

to seek companions who will help him to live righteously (1 Cor. 15:33)? Are you serious about your and his salvation? Will you so direct him in life to commit his soul to the cleansing blood of Christ as you have done (1 John 1:6-10)? In other words, will you help him be what God would have him to be?

Will God be able to count on you to make the right decisions for your children so they will follow Him in their lives? (Gen. 18:19; Jos. 24:15; Psa. 127:3-5). While children are in their formative years, parents must make decisions for them and train them to one day make decisions for themselves. The lame excuse made by some parents who allow immature children to make decisions which parents should make for them and then say, “I can’t do anything with him/her,” really says, “I am too lazy, indifferent, uncaring, ignorant or faithless to fulfill my decision making responsibilities as that child’s parent.” “Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it” (Pro. 22:6).

Will your children know God has first place in your life (Mat. 6:24,33)? What will they really see-not hear you say-concerning your relationship with Christ? Will they see you serving, caring, working, praying, giving, worshipping, teaching, growing, learning and living for Christ? Or, will they see something else has first place in your life: money, self, leisure, recreation, pleasure, popularity, *power, prestige?*

If they follow you, will you lead your family to Heaven? (Mat. 6:19-20; Col. 3:1-2; John 14:1-6). Probably, after you die, your children will live on. Will they have hope of your eternal salvation and want to be where you are? If they walk in your footsteps where will it take them? Down the narrow way that leads to life or the broad way that leads to destruction (Mat. 7:13-14)? What will you say at the Judgment and how will you feel when you look upon your spouse and children? Will you realize Heaven was surely worth it all and rejoice? Or will you weep for eternity knowing you led your family to Hell? What excuse will suffice? ***WHAT KIND OF PARENT WILL YOU BE?***

Sick and Shut-in

Eugene Simmons—Room 1039, 2nd floor, WFL Rehab. Ctr. **Mary Barr**—WFL Hosp. (No visitors).

Mark These Dates

July 11-16—Indian Creek Youth Camp

July 26-30—Bellview Family Bible School

August 2-6—Foley Vacation Bible School

August 21—Golden Agers’ Banquet

September 12—Attendance Drive and Dinner On The Grounds

October 21—Annual Teachers’ Meeting

November 7-12—Gospel Meeting with Harrell Davidson
June 11-15, 1994—Bellview Lectures.

Bible Bowl Report

We had a great Bible Bowl thanks to all who helped and to the young people who came and took part. Bay Minette, Alabama took first place honors, Bellview—second and Barn Creek, Alabama—third.

All who came saw the tremendous Bible knowledge of the young people who participated in the test on Hebrews. To all the young people, and especially ours at Bellview, we extend our congratulations and commendations!

RESTORED

Tim Lamb (6-23-93). Please remember Tim in your prayers.

FAMILY BIBLE SCHOOL

Family Bible School will be July 26-30, 7:00 P.M.
Make plans now to attend every night.

CHIMALA MISSION

A thank-you letter was received from Seagoville Church of Christ thanking the ladies of Bellview for the supplies sent for the Chimala Mission. The shipments will be sent in September. Thanks, ladies.

VISITATION GROUP MEETINGS

Group 2 meets **July 11** (Dusty Wilkes)
Group 3 meets **July 18** (Ray Foshee)
Group 1 meets **August 1** (Bill Crowe)

WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE

7-7-93 READING: Jerry Fillingim
INVITATION: Jeremy Caine
7-14-93 READING: Louis Herrington
INVITATION: Preston Silcox

Bellview Church of Christ Presents

THE BEACON

Volume XXII

July 8, 1993

Number 27

BELLVIEW CHURCH OF CHRIST
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Maxey, Richard Parker, Dusty Wilkes

MISSIONARIES
Ira Rice

MEETING TIMES

SUNDAY:
9:00 A.M. BIBLE CLASSES
10:00 A.M., 6:00 P.M. WORSHIP
5:00 P.M. LADIES' BIBLE CLASS

WEDNESDAY: 7:00 P.M.

FAMILY
BIBLE
SCHOOL
JULY
26-30

Visitation Group Meetings

Group 2 meets **July 11** (Dusty Wilkes)

Group 3 meets **July 18** (Ray Foshee)

Group 1 meets **August 1** (Bill Crowe)

Pantry Item

July pantry item: Canned Meat.

Mark These Dates

July 11-16—Indian Creek Youth Camp

July 25—Young People's Get Together

July 26-30—Bellview Family Bible School

August 2-6—Foley Vacation Bible School

August 21—Golden Agers' Banquet

August 29—Young People's Get Together

September 12—Attendance Drive and Dinner
On The Grounds

October 21—Annual Teachers' Meeting

November 7-12—Gospel Meeting with Harrell
Davidson

June 11-15, 1994—Bellview Lectures.

Indian Creek

We had a great week at Indian Creek Youth Camp. The teenagers behaved themselves in an admirable way. I did not hear one person say one thing they ought not, nor did I see one person do one thing they ought not. We learned a lot in our Bible study (on dating, marriage and parenthood—see following article), singing classes and evening worship periods. We also had a lot of fun being with each other. Jerry Martin always does a great job with Teen Week. A number of our folks will be back at camp next week. Ronnie Hayes directs this week which involves campers of all ages. He always has a great week and we are glad our young people can participate.

Something to Think about

The recent issue of *Christian Woman* magazine reported a study of 2,400 teens that revealed that early dating leads to early sex. Of the girls who started dating at age 12, 91% had sex before graduating from high school, compared to 20% who started dating at age 16.

Are we giving our young people the proper biblical teaching on this topic? Are we putting them in difficult situations too soon? Are we exposing them to too much promiscuity in the movies and television programs they are allowed to watch?

“For this is the will of God, *even* your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication: That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour; Not in the lust of concupiscence, even as the Gentiles which know not God” (1 The. 4:3-5).

From the *Mayfield Messenger*

Whose Job Is It?

This is a story about four people named Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody. There was an important job to be done and Everybody was asked to do it. Everybody was sure Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it. Somebody got angry about that, because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought Anybody could do it but Nobody realized that Everybody would not do it. It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have done.

Sound familiar?

Family Bible School

July 26-30

7:00-8:30 P.M.

“Faithful Servants of God”

Classes For All Ages

Adult Classes

Taught By

Clifford Newell,

Bay Minette, AL

Bellview Church of Christ

RESTORED

Marilyn Hall was restored 6-27-93. **Chris Mathews** was restored 6-30-93. **Gina Pepitone** was restored 7-4-93. Let us all remember these brethren in our prayers.

PLACED MEMBERSHIP

We are happy to welcome **Corey** and **Joanna Bittner** as members of the Bellview congregation. Please update your directory. Their address is 6651 Wonderlake Road, Pensacola, FL 32526. Phone: 944-4775. Corey and Joanna have three children: Devon (8), Lindsey (5), and Erin (1). They were converted in Scotland.

WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE

7-14-93 READING: Louis Herrington
INVITATION: Preston Silcox
7-21-93 READING: Jerry Lindesmith
INVITATION: Dusty Wilkes

FREE BIBLE CORRESPONDENCE COURSE

Write to Bible Correspondence Course, Harold Maxey, 20 Emory Drive, Pensacola, FL 32506.

Bellview Church of Christ Presents

THE BEACON

Volume XXII

July 15, 1993

Number 28

BELLVIEW CHURCH OF CHRIST
4850 Saufley Road
Pensacola, FL 32526
(904) 455-7595

MINISTER
Bobby Liddell

BISHOPS
Hairston Brantley, Paul Brantley,
Bill Gallaher

DEACONS
Henry Born, Elward Brantley,
Jerry Caine, Bill Crowe, Charles Garrett,
Louis Herrington, James Loy, Harold
Maxey, Richard Parker, Dusty Wilkes

MISSIONARIES
Ira Rice

MEETING TIMES

SUNDAY:
9:00 A.M. BIBLE CLASSES
10:00 A.M., 6:00 P.M. WORSHIP
5:00 P.M. LADIES' BIBLE CLASS

WEDNESDAY: 7:00 P.M.

**FAMILY
BIBLE
SCHOOL
JULY
26-30**

Seek the Kingdom

Dub McClish

Jesus forever settled where God's church, the kingdom on earth, should come in one's list of values: "Seek ye first his kingdom, and his righteousness" (Mat. 6:33). But when and under what circumstances should we do this? Certainly, one is correct in saying, "All of the time and under all circumstances." However, such an answer is too general to have much meaning for most of us. Let us ask, and answer, more specifically, "When should one seek first the kingdom?"

When We Marry. If one is interested in serving God and going to Heaven, it is only reasonable that he or she should choose a companion who will share this interest. It is one of the world's great tragedies to see a fine, dedicated-to-Christ young person fall in love with someone who has no interest at all in spiritual things and never will. At best the faithful Christian must shoulder all the spiritual burden of the home and at worst many are drawn away by their companions and lose their soul.

When We Choose Our Work. If the kingdom is at the top of our lists in life, we will never consider any sort of business or employment that would weaken us spiritually.

When We Rear and Educate Our Children. What do we want most for our children? Do we care more about their social and physical needs than their spiritual needs? Is our driving ambition that they must be popular at all cost or faithful Christians? If we are really seeking the kingdom first, we will want our children to have the education that will help preserve and strengthen their faith for many years of Christian service that will end in Heaven.

When We Make Big Decisions. What is the main factor governing our big decisions, such as changing jobs, moving, etc.? How much money it means, whether we will like the climate, what the living conditions are, etc., must all be considered. But, for the Christian, the important question is, "Will this enable me to serve the Lord more or will it hinder me?" In any big decision, we ought to pray, "Thy will be done."

When We Have Financial Success. If we lay up treasures only on earth, we are fools. If the kingdom is not first financially, it is not first, period.

908 Imperial Drive Denton, TX 76201

Sick and Shut-in

Viola Malone—Room 410, Sacred Heart Hosp. **Eugene Simmons**—Room 1039, 2nd floor, WFL Rehab. Ctr. **Mary Barr**—WFL Hosp. (No visitors).

Pantry Item

July pantry item: Canned Meat.

Mark These Dates

July 25—Young People's Get Together

July 26-30—Bellview Family Bible School
August 2-6—Foley Vacation Bible School
August 21—Golden Agers' Banquet
August 29—Young People's Get Together
September 12—Attendance Drive and
Dinner On The Grounds
October 21—Annual Teachers' Meeting
November 7-12—Gospel Meeting with

Harrell Davidson

June 11-15, 1994—Bellview Lectures.

Worksheets

Not all of the worksheets have been turned into the office. If you have not done so, turn them in as soon as possible.

Family Bible School
July 26-30
7:00-8:30 P.M.
“Faithful Servants of God”
Classes For All Ages
Adult Classes
Taught By
Clifford Newell,
Bay Minette, AL
Bellview Church of Christ

BAPTIZED

Michael Brignac was baptized Wednesday morning (7-7-93) by his cousin Damon Lundy. Michael's address is RR 4 Box 281, Eunice, LA 70535. We rejoice with him.

VISITATION GROUP MEETINGS

Group 3 meets **July 18** (Ray Foshee)

Group 1 meets **August 1** (Bill Crowe)

Group 2 meets **August 8** (Dusty Wilkes)

WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE

7-21-93 **READING:** Jerry Lindesmith

INVITATION: Dusty Wilkes

7-28-93 **READING:** Elward Brantley

INVITATION: Tony Liddell

FREE BIBLE CORRESPONDENCE COURSE

Write to Bible Correspondence Course, Harold Maxey, 20 Emory Drive, Pensacola, FL 32506.

Bellview Church of Christ Presents

THE BEACON

Volume XXII

July 22, 1993

Number 29

BELLVIEW CHURCH OF CHRIST
4850 Saufley Road
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(904) 455-7595

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Bill Gallaher

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Jerry Caine, Bill Crowe, Charles Garrett,
Louis Herrington, James Loy, Harold
Maxey, Richard Parker, Dusty Wilkes

MISSIONARIES
Ira Rice

MEETING TIMES

SUNDAY:

9:00 A.M. BIBLE CLASSES
10:00 A.M., 6:00 P.M. WORSHIP
5:00 P.M. LADIES' BIBLE CLASS

WEDNESDAY: 7:00 P.M.

Family Bible School
July 26-30
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Bellview Church of
Christ

Our Completeness in Christ

(Col 2:6-15)

Tim Smith

To the believer, Christ is all in all. He is in every respect the light of the world, “Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life” (John 8:12). Christ is the Savior of the world, “and thou shalt know that I the LORD *am* thy Saviour and thy Redeemer, the mighty One of Jacob” (Isa. 60:16). “For of him, and through him, and to him, *are* all things: to whom *be* glory for ever. Amen” (Rom. 11:36). In Christ, we have all that we need, we are made complete.

OUR REDEMPTION IS COMPLETE IN CHRIST. Sin is that which stands between us and eternal life. The price for sin must be paid, thereby removing it from us. Christ did this: “For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh” (Rom. 8:3). The Law of Moses could not pay the price for sin, Satan was not only unwilling to pay it, but also unable to also, and you and I could not pay it, but Christ could and did. “In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins” (Eph. 1:7).

OUR JUSTIFICATION IS COMPLETE IN CHRIST. “Be it known unto you therefore, men *and* brethren, that through this man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins: And by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses” (Acts 13:38-39). To be pardoned is to stand guilty yet forgiven, thus to have the just and due penalty for guilt removed. To be justified is to stand as though no sin was ever committed. We stand before the eyes of God not as guilty sinners, but as ones who are without sin. We are able to do this because our Lord and His sacrifice is what the eyes of Jehovah behold, and not the shortcomings in our lives. “And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God” (1 Cor. 6:11).

OUR HOLINESS IS COMPLETE IN CHRIST. “My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for *the sins of the whole world*” (1 John 2:1-2). That we are, of ourselves, unholy and wretched there is no doubt. That we are destitute and without hope on our own, there is no doubt. That with Jesus, and by His sacrifice, we are made Holy, we joyfully declare there is absolutely no doubt. According to Romans 6:22, we are “made free from sin” by Jesus and His sacrifice. We are truly made “Godlike” by and in Him.

OUR PEACE AND COMFORT ARE COMPLETE IN CHRIST. We need peace and comfort, for our world is filled with conflict and hurt. Paul said, “For he is our peace” (Eph. 2:14). And again, “For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace,

and joy in the Holy Ghost” (Rom. 14:17). As the sorrows of life mount, and as the suffering and sickness grows on us with the passing of the years, it is surely comforting to know that “as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also aboundeth by Christ” (2 Cor. 1:5).

OUR LABORS AND TOILS ARE COMPLETE IN CHRIST. We know that our “labour is not in vain in the Lord” (1 Cor. 15:58). Most workers will do better work if they know why they are doing what they are doing, and in this verse we are plainly told why we work for Christ. Our’s is not an empty or meaningless endeavor, but one with hope, one with purpose. This allows us an opportunity to be both the one who works and the recipient of the works that are done. Thus, in Christ, all that we do is complete.

OUR TRIUMPH OVER THE ADVERSARY IS COMPLETE IN CHRIST. A study of the Revelation which was received by John on the Isle of Patmos reveals the ultimate triumph of the saints over their enemy, the forces of evil. Paul assured them, and assures us even now, that we have the power to do (or accomplish) all things through Christ (Phi. 4:13). We know, and are assured by the Bible, that we are more than conquerors in Christ. Paul declared that God “always causeth us to triumph in Christ” (2 Cor. 2:14). There is nothing that Satan can throw at us that we are unable to overcome.

OUR TRANQUILITY AND HAPPINESS ARE COMPLETE IN CHRIST. The Christian can face the “grim reaper” happily, even unafraid. With Paul we can say, “For to me to live *is* Christ, and to die *is* gain” (Phi. 1:21). We know that if we live on another 50 years that we will live them for Christ, and that if our next breath is our last, that we will go home to be with Christ. This removes from the faithful the fear of some calamity overtaking us, or some illness striking us down, and allows us to press along no matter come what may.

OUR RESURRECTION AND ETERNAL GLORY ARE COMPLETE IN CHRIST. There is nothing as reassuring for me than the knowledge that some day Jesus will come to receive His own and to carry them home to glory and that I will be in that number. I know that I will hear His voice, and that I will meet Him in the air, and that I will live on forever and ever, age without end, if I am living for Him. I further know that my redemption in Him is full, not partial, not contingent on some future battle that is to be fought after the end of time. All that needs to be done for me to be saved by Christ has been done. The only question that remains is this, Have I done my part? Have I obeyed the Gospel? Am I living right? If not, please allow us to assist you.

6976 Wild Cherry; House Springs, MO 63051

Mark These Dates

July 25—Young People’s Get Together
July 26-30—Bellview Family Bible School
August 2-6—Foley Vacation Bible School

August 21—Golden Agers’ Banquet
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September 12—Attendance Drive and Dinner On The Grounds
October 21—Annual Teachers’ Meeting

November 7-12—Gospel Meeting with Harrell Davidson

June 11-15, 1994—Bellview Lectures.

God in full-time preaching. They still need financial help. You may address this need by writing to the Bellview Church of Christ.

Preacher Student Support

Dusty and Sandy Wilkes, Damon and Vaydra Lundy, and Preston and Tanya Silcox are all enrolling in Memphis School of Preaching to prepare themselves to serve

Farewell Reception

A reception is planned for August 4, after services, for the three families going to Memphis School of Preaching. They will be leaving August 5.

SICK AND SHUT-IN

Viola Malone—at home. **Fred Stancliff**—showing progress. **Eugene Simmons**—Room 1039, WFL Rehab. **Mary Barr**—WFL Hospital (No visitors). **Ruth Branson**—at home. **Judy Gill** (Joyce Simmons' niece)—Room 324, Sacred Heart Hospital

VISITATION GROUP MEETINGS

Group 2 meets **July 25** (Dusty Wilkes)
Group 1 meets **August 1** (Bill Crowe)
Group 3 meets **July 15** (Ray Foshee)

FREE BIBLE

CORRESPONDENCE COURSE

Write to Bible Correspondence Course, Harold Maxey, 20 Emory Drive, Pensacola, FL 32506.

WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE

8-4-93 READING: Elward Brantley
INVITATION: Tony Liddell
8-11-93 READING: Tim Lamb
INVITATION: Scot Brazell

Bellview Church of Christ Presents

THE BEACON

Volume XXII

July 29, 1993

Number 30

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10:00 A.M., 6:00 P.M. WORSHIP
5:00 P.M. LADIES' BIBLE CLASS

WEDNESDAY: 7:00 P.M.

Snares

Jimmy Clark

“The law of the wise *is* a fountain of life, to depart from the snares of death” (Pro. 13:14). Solomon, in the book of Proverbs, seeks to instruct his son concerning the value of the wisdom of God. Such wisdom declares both encouragement and prohibition. The fountain of life depicts the basic need for living. The snares of death denote the traps that endanger the good life. The law of the wise reflects the instruction from inspired revelation. Consider some of the snares, to which all must be forewarned, mentioned by Solomon in the book of Proverbs .

1. **The Talk of the Foolish.** “The wicked is snared by the transgression of *his* lips: but the just shall come out of trouble” (Pro. 12:13). “A fool’s mouth *is* his destruction, and his lips *are* the snare of his soul” (Pro. 18:7). It would do a great deal of good for all to take the time and read the passages in Proverbs on the content of what should and should not come from the mouth. The word “fool” in the previous passage literally means one who is self-confident. When one talks like he

does not need God, Christ, the church, etc., or when one listens to someone like that, then the snare is open and nearby. Such was the very language of the serpent in the garden to the woman. “And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil” (Gen. 3:4-5). The just listen to only one source of guidance (cf. John 10:1-5). The only profitable talk is that which conforms to divine revelation.

2. **The temperament of the Wrathful.** “Make no friendship with an angry man; and with a furious man thou shalt not go: Lest thou learn his ways, and get a snare to thy soul” (Pro. 22:24-25). Mankind tends to act like the influences surrounding him. It is not coincidental that violence viewed results in violent behavior. Paul wrote of corrupting influences, “Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners” (1 Cor. 15:33). Tendencies of ugly behavior in people can be traced in the patterns of home and social life. Solomon constantly warned his son of the “crowds” which some would befriend. “Whoso keepeth the law *is* a wise son: but he that is a companion of riotous *men* shameth his father” (Pro. 28:7).

3. **The Trust of Evil Men.** “In the transgression of an evil man *there is* a snare: but the righteous doth sing and rejoice” (Pro. 29:6). “The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the LORD shall be safe” (Pro. 29:25). “Thorns *and* snares *are* in the way of the froward: he that doth keep his soul shall be far from them” (Pro. 22:5). Some people simply cannot be relied upon. They are quick to violate the will of God if they thought such would be to advance their own interest. The righteous are not naive to such people. Their trust falls into the hands of God who is the only safe refuge. It makes no difference what men of the world promise or provide materially.

Satisfaction comes only through the righteousness of God. As David stated in the Psalms, “In God I will praise his word, in God I have put my trust; I will not fear what flesh can do unto me” (Psa. 56:4). Snares come in many quantities and qualities. The righteous must be alert.

Discouraged Preachers

David McCain

Every faithful preacher struggles with the spiritual dirge of discouragement. It is an occupational hazard. You spend hours preparing a sermon on some vital aspect of the will of God, only to witness the brethren go blithely on their way to destruction, because they will not listen to God’s Word. It is hard not to take that rejection personally. It is hard not to grow discouraged and think about quitting the ministry, in order to seek employment in secular fields.

Many a Gospel preacher has cried himself to sleep at night over the brethren’s rejections of his fervent appeals for righteous, godly living. Sometimes there is a strong temptation to give up preaching sound doctrine, and to water down sermons with the liberal philosophies of men, so that people will like your sermons, because they can go home feeling good about their sin.

Almost all of the Old Testament prophets struggled with the bane of spiritual discouragement. Jeremiah, “the weeping prophet,” got so discouraged on one occasion, he wanted to quit preaching and go into the motel business (Jer. 9:2). He lamented. “The prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests bear rule by their means; and my people love *to have it so*” (Jer. 5:31). The people’s lackadaisical attitude towards the desecration of things spiritual caused him to cry out in discouragement, “*Is it nothing to you, all ye that pass by?*” (Lam. 1:12). Isaiah must have felt similar spiritual discouragement when he sadly wrote, “That this *is* a rebellious people, lying children, children *that* will not hear the law of the LORD: Which say to the seers, See not; and to the prophets, Prophecy not unto us right things, speak unto us smooth things, prophecy deceits” (Isa. 30:9-10). When the people of Amos’ day rejected God’s Word (Amos 2:4-12), Amos, sadly discouraged by the prospect, predicted there would come a day when there would be a famine in the land, not of bread, nor of water, but of hearing the words of the Lord (v. 11).

Jesus Himself, the last Old Testament prophet, undoubtedly felt spiritual discouragement as He stood overlooking Jerusalem, and lamented bitterly His people’s rejection of His spiritual overtures (Mat. 23:37). The apostle Paul surely felt it, as he expressed his daily care of all the churches (2 Cor. 11:28), which he mentioned as his tearful spiritual warnings (Acts 20:31), and which could well be represented by his haunting question to the Galatians, “Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth?” (Gal. 4:16).

What is a preacher to do when the people reject his preaching? Or when he preaches on faithful attendance and yet a fourth of the membership rejects his appeals on Sunday morning, and fully half reject it on Sunday and Wednesday evenings. What is he to do when he preaches on modesty in dress, but he still sees ladies attending services of the Lord’s church wearing outfits that bare their thighs and reveal their cleavage. Evidently some are like the people of Jeremiah’s day who could not blush (Jer. 6:15). If they feel no shame at brazenly wearing immodest apparel to worship, what must they be willing to wear in other public places?

What is the preacher to do when he preaches on parental responsibility to set godly limits for their children, and then he goes to the area wide “church skating party,” and sees fully a third of the teenagers dressed in shorts, and many of them in short shorts? Have parents forgotten the temptations of youth? Has sexual lust somehow been magically abolished as a temptation for the youth of today? If it has, why is teenage out-of-wedlock pregnancy so rampant in our undressed society today, and why is AIDS now the number two killer of teenagers, behind alcohol?

Well, I’ll tell you what this preacher is going to do. I’m going to keep preaching the Word, whether it is in season or out of season, whether it is in vogue or out of vogue, whether folks like it or not. I’m going to reprove, rebuke, and exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine (2 Tim. 4:2). I will not be negligent to continue to remind the brethren of what God says about these things, even though they know these things, and even though there are some brethren who are established in these present truths (2 Pet. 1:12). Because the simple truth is, though a lot of

brethren know what God's Word says about these matters, they don't faithfully practice what God's Word plainly teaches, or they simply don't care.

Yes, I know that some brethren will malign my efforts. Some will try to lessen the heart-pricking impact of God's Word by accusing me of being a hobby rider, or a troublemaker. In regard to the modesty issue, I fully expect some to accuse me of being a perverted and lust-filled individual, because that is easier and more comforting than having to change their style of dress.

I'm in good company when that happens. They accused the prophets of being traitors to the nation (Jer. 26:8-11). They accused Jesus of being a glutton and a winebibber (Mat. 11:19). They accused the apostles of being troublemakers (Acts 4-5). They accused Paul of being a real pest, and a ringleader of sectarianism, sedition and dissension (Acts 24:5). But none of them stopped preaching! Though they wrestled with the dark force of spiritual discouragement, they did not let it keep them from their mission. They preached until the ungodly killed them, or until they died. And so will I!

MARK THESE DATES

August 2-6—Foley VBS

August 21—Golden Agers' Banquet

August 29—Young People Get Together

September 12—Attendance Drive and Dinner on the
Grounds

October 21—Annual Teachers' Meeting

November 7-12—Gospel Meeting

June 11-15, 1994—Nineteenth Annual Lectures

RECEPTION

Wed., Aug 4, after services. To honor the Wilkes',
Lundy's, and Silcox's (going to MSOP).

WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE

8-4-93 READING: Mike Lowry
INVITATION: Tony Liddell

8-11-93 READING: Bill Cline
INVITATION: Louis Herrington

SICK/SHUT-IN

Hospitals: Mary Barr (WFL—No visitors), Tyler Cates (SH, ICU), Judy Gill (SH, 324). Home: Eugene Simmons, Viola Malone, Mary Muldoon, Ruth Branson. Surgery: Chantall Alexander (7-29).

Bellview Church of Christ Presents

THE BEACON

Volume XXII

August 5, 1993

Number 31

BELLVIEW CHURCH OF CHRIST
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Louis Herrington, James Loy, Harold
Maxey, Richard Parker

MISSIONARIES
Ira Rice

MEETING TIMES

SUNDAY:

9:00 A.M. BIBLE CLASSES
10:00 A.M., 6:00 P.M. WORSHIP
5:00 P.M. LADIES' BIBLE CLASS

WEDNESDAY: 7:00 P.M.

Is Forsaking Worship Being Disorderly?

Stephen P. Waller

Paul commanded, "that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us" (2 The. 3:6). The word "disorderly" means "not keeping the order of rank; insubordinate; one slack; a soldier not keeping rank; one who is truant." A "truant" is "one who is absent unjustifiably."

Christians are commanded, "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some *is*; but exhorting *one another*: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching" (Heb. 10:25). The Scripture is clear that a Christian is not to "forsake" the "assembling" together of the saints. The word "forsake" means "to abandon." The "assembling" is a reference to any and all designated assemblies together of a particular congregation of God's people. Please note that the word is "assembling," and not "assembly," indicating more than one or all ap-

pointed gatherings. The elders of the local church, as shepherds over the flock of God (1 Pet. 5:2; Acts 20:28), may deem it necessary in order to fulfill this God-ordained duty, to have several gatherings each week for worship or feeding the flock of God. As members in a local congregation, under the oversight of such shepherds, we are obligated to God, ourselves, the church and the elders to participate in such opportunities for worship and spiritual growth, unless circumstances beyond our power prevent us from so-doing.

A church member who is absent from the various worship periods (including Bible study, which is worship) **unjustifiably**, or due to circumstances over which one **has** control is a **truant** from worship and is **disorderly**, and falls into the category of one who has sinned wilfully (Heb. 10:24-31). Such a brother or sister is in need of the discipline set forth in 2 Thessalonians 3:6. Purposely absenting oneself from worship on a regular basis or being erratic in attendance is a sign of one or more deeper spiritual problems. It could involve lack of love (for God, one's own soul, or any souls of others), lack of commitment to Christ, indifference, or any combination of these or other problems. But, it is still sin to forsake.

One of the most notorious and flagrantly committed sins in the church is that of church members being haphazard or lackadaisical in their attending the designated worship. Assembling together is a **public** matter, thus if one forsakes the worship, he has committed a public sin and needs to repent and make a public acknowledgment of it. Forsaking worship may involve failure to pray, sing, study the Bible, partake of the Lord's Supper, give or any combination of any of these. It also involves a failure to obey them that have the rule over you and to submit yourselves (Heb. 13:17), and a failure to participate in at least some fellowship with other children of God. It results in a failure to feed upon the word, a failure to grow spiritually, and in being unfruitful in the kingdom (1 Pet. 2:2; 3:18; Heb. 5:12-14; 1 Cor. 3:1-3; John 15:1-8). Thus, what to many may seem to be just one, small insignificant matter is compounded into a violation of many commands and principles of the New Testament, including the sin of setting a bad example in not letting one's light shine (Mat. 5:16). Purposely forsaking worship on Sunday morning with the idea that one can still partake of the Lord's Supper on Sunday night and be acceptable to God is a false assumption and an abuse of the Lord's Supper. Many need to repent!

9350 Natural Bridge Road; St. Louis, MO 63134

Visitation Group Meetings

Group 1 meets **August 4** (Bill Crowe)

Group 2 meets **August 8** (Louis Herrington)

Group 3 meets **August 15** (Ray Foshee)

Baptized

We rejoice with **Sherry Bailey** and

Jennifer Vaughn who were baptized following the Sunday evening services, 8-1-93. Welcome!

New Addresses

Gina Pepitone, 7601 N. 9th Ave. Apt. #257, 32514. **Richard** and **Linda Parker**. 4428 Cedarbrook, 32526.

Farewell To Three Families Going To Memphis School Of Preaching

Today (8-5), three families leave Bellview to begin two years of intensive training at the Memphis School of Preaching, Memphis, TN. Damon and Vaydra Lundy, Preston and Tanya Silcox and Dusty and Sandy Wilkes and their children will start out on a new life, leaving their jobs and homes behind to prepare themselves for greater service to God. We know they shall do well.

The Bellview congregation shall miss them all for they all have served faithfully and well. Some of those leaving grew up here. Others were converted by their spouse or came to us from other places. All have been loved and loving members of the family of God that works and worships here. We have laughed together and cried together. We have shared victories as well as a few defeats. We have grown and have grown closer together, and our appreciation for one another has grown also. The departure of such folks always brings sadness.

Yet, we rejoice with them. They have chosen to give their lives to the preaching of God's Word. What better choice could any make? We consider the coming of years and trust they shall bring hundreds and thousands to Christ through their efforts. Who can know the limits of the good that can be done? In their successes, the Bellview members shall have a part through their teaching, influence and support.

The two years at Memphis shall be two of the best (if not the best) years of their lives. The two years we spent there certainly were. They shall be two of the most challenging, difficult and demanding years, but also the most rewarding and fulfilling. In two years, they shall obtain an education equivalent to four years of college (or more). They shall be immersed in Bible instruction eight hours a day, five days a week and about six hours each night. I remember it well!

They shall be with one of the finest congregations anywhere in the Knight Arnold church. They shall meet friends for eternity and be blessed with such sweet fellowship. The school they shall attend is, among many fine schools, the very best (in my unbiased opinion as a graduate of MSOP). The faculty is sound, capable and dedicated and brother Curtis Gates, Director, has steadfastly led the school in the way of truth. The Knight Arnold elders oversee the work with wisdom and according to the Scriptures. Thus, we have no doubts about the quality of training our three families shall receive.

With all the advantages and such a bright future before them, they still need our help. Let us remember them in prayer. They need our prayers. Let us remember their financial needs. They have left good jobs and they are dependent upon their brethren for support. They will live on a bare subsistence income for two years, so that little extra unexpected gift from you could be so very helpful. I remember the time in school at MSOP when we had thirty-two cents (that was all) and nothing to eat but peas and when I went to pick up the mail, some good brother had sent us a check. What timing!

They will also need our cards and calls. They will be homesick, adjusting to a new life in a new place. They will be weary and need encouragement. Let us be there for them. Let us help them on their way to a long life of preaching the Gospel. Farewell, brethren. *BL*

MARK THESE DATES

August 21—Golden Agers' Banquet

August 29—Young People Get Together

September 12—Attendance Drive and Dinner on the
Grounds

October 21—Annual Teachers' Meeting

November 7-12—Gospel Meeting

June 11-15, 1994—Nineteenth Annual Lectures

FAMILY BIBLE SCHOOL

We had a great FBS. Thanks to all who helped!
We had 106 kids and an excellent adult class.

SICK/SHUT-IN

Home: Mary Barr, Tyler Cates, Judy Gill,
Eugene Simmons, Viola Malone, Mary Muldoon,
Dot Dodd's father, Don Little, and Ray Dodd's
sister, Delores Perry, are undergoing tests.

WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE

8-11-93 READING: Bill Cline

INVITATION: Louis Herrington

8-18-93 READING: Tim Lamb

INVITATION: Scot Brazell

Bellview Church of Christ Presents

THE BEACON

Volume XXII

August 12, 1993

Number 32

BELLVIEW CHURCH OF CHRIST
4850 Saufley Road
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(904) 455-7595

MINISTER
Bobby Liddell

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Hairston Brantley, Paul Brantley,
Bill Gallaher

DEACONS
Henry Born, Elward Brantley,
Jerry Caine, Bill Crowe, Charles Garrett,
Louis Herrington, James Loy, Harold
Maxey, Richard Parker

MISSIONARIES
Ira Rice

MEETING TIMES

SUNDAY:

9:00 A.M. BIBLE CLASSES
10:00 A.M., 6:00 P.M. WORSHIP
5:00 P.M. LADIES' BIBLE CLASS

WEDNESDAY: 7:00 P.M.

There Is Nothing Romantic about Going to Hell

Steve Ellis

This morning (6/7/93) I attempted as usual to read the paper while I had breakfast. However, as I read *The Commercial Appeal's* front-page article entitled, "Teen Describes 'Cult' Torture of Boys," eating became impossible. Sickening is far too mild a word to describe the events related in that article pertaining to the brutal torture and murder of these eight-year-old boys in West Memphis on May 5, 1993.

The three teenagers who have been charged with the murders are reportedly members of a satanic cult who listened to "black metal" music and practiced their savagery on animals before murdering the three boys. There is much that could be written about various aspects of this case, but I want to focus on the colossally absurd notion that there is something romantic about serving Satan and going to hell.

Musical groups such as The Possessed, Venom, King Diamond and Slayer record songs whose lyrics glorify evil, recommend serving Satan and suggest that going to hell will be some romantic adventure to be desired rather than avoided at all costs. Tragically, impressionable young people who have not received proper guidance and supervision are obviously being deceived and influenced by such nonsense to engage in some horribly destructive behavior.

The only source of accurate information about hell is to be found in the Bible. It is surely significant that our loving Lord and Savior used the most frightening language to depict the horrible nature of hell. He spoke about the “Hell of fire” (Mat. 5:22, ASV) which is literally “Gehenna of fire” in the Greek. The word “Gehenna” reminded the Jews of the abominable practice of human sacrifice to the Ammonite idol/god Molech which took place in the Valley of Hinnom during the reign of the wicked king, Manasseh (2 Kin. 23:10). The word suggested sin and suffering to the Jewish mind. Jesus said this place of eternal fire was prepared for the devil and his angels and will also serve as the site of everlasting punishment for those who find themselves on His “Left hand” at the judgment (Mat. 25:41, 46).

Jesus further described hell as a place so horrible it should be avoided at all costs. He described it as a place whose inhabitants will be in an eternal state of decay and rotteness while unquenchable fires are burning them but never consuming them (Mark 9:43-48). Jesus also repeatedly said this never-ending suffering will be accompanied by “weeping and gnashing of teeth” (Mat. 8:12).

Generally speaking, there are two classes of people who will forever experience that which the rich man described as being “tormented in this flame” (Luke 16:24). One major group will consist of all those who have never obeyed the gospel of Christ (2 The. 1:8). Included in the good news about Jesus Christ are the following conditions for salvation: belief that He is the Messiah (John 8:24); repentance (Luke 13:3); confession of faith in Christ (Acts 8:37); and faithfulness unto death (Rev. 2:10). The gospel is “The power of God unto salvation” and all who refuse to obey it will surely be lost (Rom 1:16).

The other major class of people who are in jeopardy of eternal separation from God consists of members of Christ’s body who have apostatized. James wrote to Christians, “Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him; Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins” (Jam. 5:19-20). James unmistakably affirmed the possibility of a brother erring from the truth and declared that such a person needs to be turned back to the Lord. Erring brethren include: those who are not productive of good (John 15:1-8); those who conform to the world (Rom. 12:1-2); and those who practice the works of the flesh (Gal. 5:19-21).

Some people protest that a loving and patient God would not eternally punish the wicked in hell. Those who hold such a view should carefully consider the sage and scriptural response of brother Guy N. Woods to this objection found in his *Questions and Answers, Vol II*, pp. 262-263:

Those who would palliate the punishment or seek to shorten its duration by pointing to the love, long-suffering and patience of God, ignore other attributes of deity, and disregard the fact that his goodness is evidenced just as much in his characteristics of justice and truth as in his love and long-suffering. As a matter of fact, love and long-suffering are valid only when the principle of justice and truth are also operative in the divine government. To promise punishment and then to unilaterally cancel it is impossible to One who is not only the God of love but also the God of truth! He will not do so because he cannot do so, and maintain his character. God cannot impeach his own veracity, since “It is impossible for God to lie” (Heb. 6:18). Were he to cease to be just and truthful, he would cease to be good. The effort to emphasize some of the attributes of the great Jehovah to the neglect of others, or to array some against others, is to compromise the divine character.

He who holds the destiny of us all in his hand is a God of love (1 John 4:8), but he is also a God of wrath because of his aversion to sin—the transgression of his law—the penalty of which is conscious suffering in hell fire for ever and ever. The penalty is grounded in his goodness, his sense of justice and right; his law required it, and the wicked deserve it! “Seeing it is a righteous thing with God to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you; and to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power when he shall come to be glorified in his saints...” (2 Thes. 1:6-10).

Let us never forget the horrible reality of hell. May it serve to deepen our gratitude for God’s grace, increase our determination to live the Christian life, and strengthen our commitment to help save those who are perishing outside of Christ. There is certainly nothing romantic about going to hell!

4400 Knight Arnold Road Memphis, TN 38118

Visitation Program

You are making a difference! Your visits helped the sick, cheered the shut-in, encouraged the bereaved, fed and fellow-shipped those in need of such, warned the backslidden, taught the sincere seekers, welcomed new members and also newcomers to our community, invited non-members, strengthened the weak and helped make you a better Christian! Congratulations.

Remember, attend the meetings, make the visits, and return your cards.

Sick/Shut-In

Home: Viola Malone; Mary Muldoon; Dot Dodd’s father, Don Little, recovering from open heart surgery. Ray Dodd’s sister, Delores Perry, undergoing tests. Renae Bragg’s brother, Gary Rhames, terminally ill.

Mark These Dates

August 21—Golden Agers' Banquet
August 29—Young People Get Together
September 12—Attendance Drive and
Dinner on the Grounds

October 21—Annual Teachers' Meeting
November 7-12—Gospel Meeting
June 11-15, 1994—Nineteenth Annual
Lectures

NEW ADDRESSES

Damon and Vaydra Lundy, 3192 Danville Circle West, Apt 6, Memphis, TN 38118, (901) 795-2377; **Preston and Tanya Silcox**, 3192 Danville Circle West, Apt 2, Memphis, TN 38118, (901) 795-2031; **Dusty and Sandy Wilkes**, 4385 Aloha, Memphis, TN 38118, (901) 795-4041. Let us remember them in prayer.

MEETING AT JAY

The Jay Church of Christ invites you to a Gospel Meeting, August 15-20, with James Rogers. Services at 7:00 P.M.

VISITATION GROUP MEETINGS

Group 3 meets **August 15** (Ray Foshee)
Group 1 meets **September 1** (Bill Crowe)
Group 2 meets **September 12** (Dusty Wilkes)

WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE

8-18-93 READING: Tim Lamb
INVITATION: Scot Brazell
8-25-93 READING: Shelby Nall
INVITATION: Harold Maxey

Bellview Church of Christ Presents

THE BEACON

Volume XXII

August 19, 1993

Number 33

BELLVIEW CHURCH OF CHRIST
4850 Saufley Road
Pensacola, FL 32526
(904) 455-7595

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Bill Gallaher

DEACONS
Henry Born, Elward Brantley,
Jerry Caine, Bill Crowe, Charles Garrett,
Louis Herrington, James Loy,
Harold Maxey, Richard Parker

MISSIONARIES
Ira Rice

MEETING TIMES

SUNDAY:

9:00 A.M. BIBLE CLASSES
10:00 A.M., 6:00 P.M. WORSHIP
5:00 P.M. LADIES' BIBLE CLASS

WEDNESDAY: 7:00 P.M.

The Error of the Wicked

2 Peter 3: 17

Robin W. Haley

There have always been and always shall be those whom Peter calls the wicked both within and without the Lord's body. We have the tremendous task as Christians to "be on our guard" for these characters. Paul's echo is heard in this regard when he warns, "Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong" (1 Cor. 16:13). What was it he said to the Ephesian elders (and thus to all elders) in Acts 20:28? "**Take heed therefore unto yourselves**, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood" (Acts 20:28). Yes, even elders must watch out—they are not immune to the "wiles of the devil" (Eph. 6:11)! Perhaps this is who Paul had in mind in Galatians 6:1 when he said, "Brethren, if a man

be overtaken in a fault, **ye which are spiritual**, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.”

Jesus told a parable about the kingdom in Matthew 13 in which He taught that tares or weeds were sown into a man’s wheat field. Those weeds were permitted to grow with the wheat until harvest. He gives the explanation of this parable in verses 38-39, “The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked *one*; The enemy that sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are the angels.” Please note now verse 41: “The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather **out of his kingdom** all things that offend, and them which do iniquity.” It is clear that in this verse Jesus referred to His kingdom as the whole world. Thus, He truly does have authority over all things (even as He said—Mat. 28:18). This is why we must be alert to the “weeds” both within and without the church. Take the advice of Paul and “Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time” (Col. 4:5).

What else do we learn from the verse in our title? (1) These men are in error and practice error. They walk in darkness though they claim to have fellowship with Christ. This makes them liars (1 John 1:6)! (2) We need to know this beforehand, that we might not follow them. We, like Timothy, must avoid them and their error and the “knowledge which is falsely so called” (1 Tim. 6:20). (3) If we get carried away, we too will fall from our own steadfastness! God forbid! Let us do the right thing: “mark them that are causing the divisions and occasions of stumbling, contrary to the doctrine which ye learned: and turn away from them” (Rom. 16:17). To mark them, we must know them. To know them, we must know their fruits (Mat. 7:20). Let us learn the difference between the “unfruitful works of darkness” (Eph. 5:11), and the “fruit of the Spirit” (Gal. 5:22).

912 E. Teresa; Sapulpa, OK 74066

Sick/shut-in

Home: Viola Malone; Mary Muldoon.
Hospital: Don Little, 408, Sacred Heart.

Mark These Dates

August 29—Peters’ Farewell Reception
September 12—Attendance Drive and
Dinner On The Grounds
October 21—Annual Teachers’ Meeting
November 7-12—Gospel Meeting with
Harrell Davidson

June 11-15, 1994—Nineteenth Annual
Bellview Lectures.

Farewell Reception

A farewell reception to say goodbye to the Peters is planned for Sunday, August 29, after the evening services. Anyone desiring to help in the preparation contact the office. Ray and Judy Peters’ address from September 1 until they move to Riga, Latvia will be 30 Saddlefield Circle NE, Cartersville, GA 30120. When they get to Latvia their

address will be 17 Druvas Street, Riga LV-1002, Latvia, EUROPE. The Young Peoples' Get Together scheduled for August 29 will be re-scheduled for later.

New Address

Mark and Susan Hollowell have a new address. Please update your directory. Mark and Susan Hollowell, 490 South Fairfield Apt F, Pensacola, FL 32506. Phone number 456-7643.

The Ray Peters' Family Moving to Riga, Latvia

Ray, Judy and Michael Peters are busily preparing to move to Riga, Latvia where they will be working with the Riga Church of Christ of which Ray was instrumental in its establishment and with which he has worked intermittently for the last two years while maintaining his residence in Pensacola. For the last several years, they have lived in the preachers' home provided by the Bellview Church of Christ while Ray has been involved in mission efforts in the Far East, Pakistan and Latvia. The Bellview congregation and many of its members individually have helped support Ray in his work while he lived here and while Judy was the church secretary.

Ray works under the oversight of the elders of the Cartersville, Georgia church, site of his first local work years ago. The Peters plan to be in Latvia for three to five years. They shall certainly appreciate hearing from you while overseas. (See the addresses on page 2.)

While we shall surely miss Ray, Judy and Michael, we rejoice with them in their decision to take the Gospel to the lost of Latvia. The congregation in Riga has grown since its beginning and there are many doors of opportunity open for further growth. Having been acquainted with the work Ray has done in Riga in the past, we have great hopes for an effective and profitable work there now.

We believe Ray is uniquely suited for the work in Riga and we know his family's being with him shall enhance the work in a great way. We look forward to hearing of the victories they shall win together for the Cause of Christ. We pray all shall go well with them in their move to Riga and in their work there. Please pray for them.

Paul Brantley Heading to Russia on Missionary Trip

Paul Brantley, one of the Bellview bishops, will be leaving September 6 for the city of Murmansk. Murmansk is located in the extreme northwest corner of the former United Soviet Socialist Republic and above the Arctic Circle. Paul, along with twelve others including Ira Y. Rice, Jr., will take part in a coordinated effort to strengthen the church in Murmansk.

In addition, they shall seek to preach the Gospel and plant the church in Severomorsk, Polyarmyj and possibly other places (all cities of over 100,000). Murmansk has a population of

600,000. Also, they shall teach Bible classes in various public schools and hope to teach Bible in the University.

Paul went in 1992 to Riga, Latvia, where he worked in a three-week effort to reach the lost with the Gospel and to strengthen the newly converted. His song leading during that campaign and meeting had a tremendous impact on our efforts (I was privileged to be a part of that work). The Bellview church is encouraged by the great missionary zeal shown by our elders in their support of missions worldwide and in their personal and individual efforts.

We thank God for the opening of former Communist controlled areas of the world to the Gospel of Christ. Let us all pray for these efforts, support them with our financial assistance and encourage those who have determined to go to these areas.

We pray Paul shall have a safe trip and shall have great success in his efforts to reach souls with the saving Good News of Jesus Christ.

SYMPATHY

We extend our deepest sympathy to Sylvia Alexander in the loss of her grandmother, Mae Henry, who passed from this life on August 9, 1993. Burial was in Donalsonville, Georgia.

VISITATION GROUP MEETINGS

Group 3 meets **August 15** (Ray Foshee)

Group 1 meets **September 1** (Bill Crowe)

Group 2 meets **September 12** (Dusty Wilkes)

RESTORED

Gina Pepitone and **Lee and Renae Bragg** were restored 8-15-93. We commend them for their courage and their determination. Let us all remember these brethren in our prayers.

WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE

8-25-93 **READING:** Shelby Nall

INVITATION: Harold Maxey

9-1-93 **READING:** Chad Lightner

INVITATION: Tim Lamb

Bellview Church of Christ Presents

THE BEACON

Volume XXII

August 26, 1993

Number 34

BELLVIEW CHURCH OF CHRIST
4850 Saufley Road
Pensacola, FL 32526
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MINISTER
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Ira Rice

MEETING TIMES

SUNDAY:

9:00 A.M. BIBLE CLASSES
10:00 A.M., 6:00 P.M. WORSHIP
5:00 P.M. LADIES' BIBLE CLASS

WEDNESDAY: 7:00 P.M.

“Pleasing All in All”

Jimmy Clark

“Even as I please all *men* in all *things*, not seeking mine own profit, but the *profit* of many, that they may be saved” (1 Cor. 10:33). These words of the inspired apostle *seem* to contradict the words of other inspired apostles. For example, “Then Peter and the *other* apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men” (Acts 5:29). When Peter and the other apostles stood firm upon their convictions, it was not to the liking of those who opposed them. They were not pleasing all men in all things on that day. A good study of Paul’s statement would reveal in what sense all of God’s people are to please others and how that Peter and the other apostles were not contradicting what the Holy Spirit through Paul was saying.

A Matter of Expediency

Paul was not discussing, in the context of 1 Corinthians 10:33, things that were matters of faith, but of expediency. “All things are lawful for me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but all things edify not” (1 Cor.

10:23). When Paul further discussed the matter of eating meats, he said, “Whatsoever is sold in the shambles, *that* eat, asking no question for conscience sake: For the earth *is* the Lord’s, and the fulness thereof” (1 Cor. 10:25-26). If the eating of meats would violate the weak conscience of the Corinthian member, Paul wrote not to eat it for the sake of his conscience who was weak (1 Cor. 10:28-29). Peter and the other apostles were told, “Did not we straitly command you that ye should not teach in this name? and, behold, ye have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this man’s blood upon us” (Acts 5:28). Surely, one can see preaching the truth about Jesus and the matter of eating or not eating meats are not the same. One cannot seek to please all who do not like the truth by ceasing to proclaim it. One can withhold oneself from a lawful thing if such would be a stumblingblock to a weak member.

A Motive of Encouragement

The heart of being careful how one uses a lawful thing has to do with the interest of encouraging the inexperienced and unlearned to develop as a child of God. There are occasions in which the weak members will demand that certain expediences be done their way. The demand is not for their personal development, but just to have control of the situation. Such is not to be practiced. For example, circumcision was a matter of judgment and not of faith. Luke records concerning Timothy, “Him would Paul have to go forth with him; and took and circumcised him because of the Jews which were in those quarters: for they knew all that his father was a Greek” (Acts 16:3). However, when Paul writes concerning Titus, he says, “But neither Titus, who was with me, being a Greek, was compelled to be circumcised: And that because of false brethren unawares brought in, who came in privily to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, that they might bring us into bondage: To whom we gave place by subjection, no, not for an hour; that the truth of the gospel might continue with you” (Gal. 2:3-5). One should please the weak brother who is trying to develop spiritually, but should not cater to one who is trying to dominate the church.

A Must for Everyone

Though there are not particular problems with circumcision or the eating of meats today as there were in the first century, such does not mean matters of judgment are not disputed today. The scriptures do not specify every detail for the Christian life or for the life of the church. Some are specific and some are general. Where there are general commands, one must use his best judgment to find the best expediency to obey the command. Brethren may differ in matters of judgment as long as the general command is carried out by all. Such was the case with Paul and Barnabas over John Mark in Acts 15:36-41. The command to take the gospel to all the world was going to be carried out by Paul and by Barnabas. The matter of whether to take John Mark along or not to take him along was a matter of judgment. Though the disagreement was “sharp between them” (Acts 15:39), they still were faithful brethren in Christ. To say that brethren today should understand and practice such a principle is an understatement. The body of Christ and the souls of men are much more important than any one person or group of persons who seek to have the church conform to any opinion. One may have strong convictions about any

number of things which are only matters of judgment, but one must remember these are still matters of judgment. One must not bend in matters of faith, but in matters of judgment let loving the brotherhood prevail.

Route 3 Box 425 Athens, AL 35611

Mark These Dates

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September 12—Attendance Drive and Dinner On The Grounds

October 21—Annual Teachers' Meeting

November 7-12—Gospel Meeting with Harrell Davidson

June 11-15, 1994—Nineteenth Annual Bellview Lectures.

New Adult Classes

SUNDAY

ADULTS I	Plan of Redemption
ADULTS II	Christian Evidences
ADULTS III	Great Events of the New Testament

WEDNESDAY

ADULTS I	Personal Evangelism
ADULTS II	Titus and Philemon
ADULTS III	Music in Worship

Thanks!

Thanks to all who helped make the Golden Agers' Banquet a success. Especially, do we appreciate the fine way the young people helped and served. Thanks, everybody.

Restored

Mike Lowry and **Sylvia Alexander** (8-18-93) and **Terrell Parker** and **Denise Mowery** (8-22-93). Terrell had been out of duty for some time. We commend our brethren. Please remember them in your prayers.

Visitation Group Meetings

Group 1 meets **September 5** (Bill Crowe)

Group 2 meets **September 12** (Louis Herrington)

Group 3 meets **September 19** (Ray Foshee)

Wednesday Schedule

September 1, 1993

Reading: Chad Lightner

Invitation: Tim Lamb

September 8, 1993

Reading: Mike Lowry

Invitation: Ray Foshee

September 15, 1993

Reading: Howard Johnson

Invitation: Corey Bittner

September 22, 1993

Reading: Charles Garrett

Invitation: Harold Cozad

September 29, 1993

Reading: Ray Dodd

Invitation: Kevin Bailey

Bellview Church of Christ Presents

THE BEACON

Volume XXII

September 2, 1993

Number 35

BELLVIEW CHURCH OF CHRIST
4850 Saufley Road
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MEETING TIMES

SUNDAY:

9:00 A.M. BIBLE CLASSES
10:00 A.M., 6:00 P.M. WORSHIP
5:00 P.M. LADIES' BIBLE CLASS

WEDNESDAY: 7:00 P.M.

A Fifty Year-old Decision *Gus Nichols*

“People do not accidentally attend worship without missing one worship service for twenty years. They must have planned always to attend. Soon after I obeyed the gospel in the fall of 1909, I read of an old brother who had not missed going to worship a single Sunday in 41 years. That story caused me to resolve and to purpose in my heart that I would never miss the worship on a single Lord’s Day as long as I lived, if possible to attend. I have missed four Sundays in over fifty years, and then it was because of illness. Once I made that decision, the question has not come up as to whether I would attend church services or not. In fact, I did not decide last Lord’s Day to go to worship, nor the Sunday before. That decision was made more than fifty years ago. It is a sin for any member of the church to miss the worship unless he is unable to attend. The very nature of our religion is such that those who feel this is a burden need to be converted.”

When You Willfully Miss a Service

(1) You signify that God and Christ are not first in your life. Do you love company more? (2) You show that you do not love the church as Jesus did. He died for it. (3) You indicate that you do not put a premium upon Christian fellowship with your brethren. (4) You disappoint God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit and the brethren. Perhaps even someone whom you invited came and did not find you present. (5) You deprive yourself of needed knowledge, the inspiration that public worship gives, the warmth of Christian fellowship, and the discipline of self-direction. (6) You make yourself a poor example for believers, or others to follow. (7) You weaken, if not undermine, the efforts being put forth to save those who are lost. (8) You manifest a spirit of indifference, selfishness, negligence, and make it difficult for people to believe you when you sing, "I love thy church, O God."

Delinquent Members

We will go on without you but...

Yes, we'll go on without you, but what greater work we could do with you! We will continue to have Sunday and Wednesday services and very special meetings without you.

But what about you? Just think! The church of our Lord of which you are a member is having to do without your presence, work, assistance in all services and activities. The cause of Christ, if it is spread, will be spread *in spite of you!* If you willfully absent yourself from the assembly your influence is *for the devil*, your work for *his cause*, and your thoughts in *his kingdom!*

The saddest thing about this is the good that could have been done *with you*. How many souls could be led to Christ if you were as faithful as you should be? How many people would be influenced by the church if you were as loyal as you ought to be? What could we do if you attended ALL the services? The power of things wrought in the service of Christ would exceed all your imagination...AND THE SOUL SAVED IN ETERNITY WOULD BE YOUR OWN!!!

Via Unto The Furtherance Of The Gospel

What Kind of Shoe Best Describes You?

Someone has said, "If the shoe fits, wear it!" We sometimes say, "I'd hate to be in his shoes." I think everyone of us will fit into one of these styles of shoes. But which?

LOAFER—"Thou wicked and slothful servant" (Mat. 25:26). Be "Not slothful in business" (Rom. 12:11).

HIGH HEEL—This fits the haughty, proud individual. A man is not “to think *of himself* more highly than he ought to think” (Rom. 12:3).

OVERSHOES—Puts on Christianity only when the going gets rough. Wants the prayers and visits of the preacher only when in trouble.

HOUSE SHOES—This person wants things easy, comfortable. He is scared off by a building program, mission work, benevolent work, etc. He can’t worship in bad weather. “Woe to them *that are* at ease in Zion” (Amos 6:1).

SANDAL—Just a skeleton of a Christian; didn’t grow into well-rounded service. “As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby” (1 Pet. 2:2).

SUNDAY SHOES—Once-a-week Christians. “If any *man* will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me” (Luke 9:23).

WORK SHOES—The active Christian who is always on the job for the Lord. “I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work” (John 9:4). “Son, go work to day in my vineyard” (Mat. 21:28).

We should all remember: “now *is* the day of salvation” (2 Cor. 6:2). May I ask again, “What Kind of Shoe Best Describes You?”

Via Light For Living

New Adult Classes

SUNDAY

ADULTS I	Plan of Redemption
ADULTS II	Christian Evidences
ADULTS III	Great Events of the New Testament

WEDNESDAY

ADULTS I	Personal Evangelism
ADULTS II	Titus and Philemon
ADULTS III	Music in Worship

New Address

Terrell Parker’s address is: 8100 N Palafox, Lot E, 32534. Phone: 944-1810. Please update your directory.

Visitation Group Meetings

Group 2 meets **September 12** (Louis Herrington)

Group 3 meets **September 19** (Ray Foshee)

Group 1 meets **October 3** (Bill Crowe)

Wednesday Schedule

September 8, 1993

Reading: Mike Lowry

Invitation: Ray Foshee

September 15, 1993

Reading: Howard Johnson

Invitation: Corey Bittner

Sick and Shut-in

Home: Viola Malone; Don Little, Dot Dodd's father. Hospital: Edna Summers, Kay Hollowell's mother; Juanita Smith, Jerry Smith's mother, in Jasper, AL.

Requested Prayer

Sheryl Lowry requests prayers for her mother, Sharron Harris, who has been diagnosed with cancer.

Mark These Dates

September 12—Attendance Drive and Dinner On The Grounds

October 21—Annual Teachers' Meeting

November 7-12—Gospel Meeting with Harrell Davidson

June 11-15, 1994—Nineteenth Annual Bellview Lectures

Bellview Church of Christ Presents

THE BEACON

Volume XXII

September 9, 1993

Number 36

BELLVIEW CHURCH OF CHRIST
4850 Saufley Road
Pensacola, FL 32526
(904) 455-7595

MINISTER
Bobby Liddell

BISHOPS
Hairston Brantley, Paul Brantley,
Bill Gallaher

DEACONS
Henry Born, Elward Brantley,
Jerry Caine, Bill Crowe, Charles Garrett,
Louis Herrington, James Loy,
Harold Maxey, Richard Parker

MISSIONARIES
Ira Rice

MEETING TIMES

SUNDAY:

9:00 A.M. BIBLE CLASSES
10:00 A.M., 6:00 P.M. WORSHIP
5:00 P.M. LADIES' BIBLE CLASS

WEDNESDAY: 7:00 P.M.

If You Ever Come

Cleon Lyles

A preacher was talking with his congregation about the fact that some of them were not attending. Among other good statements he made was this one: "You have got to start sometime, if you ever come, so why not start Sunday?"

"If you ever come!" Do you suppose some of them will never attend Bible Study? Is it possible that some of you will never be in the Bible class? Could it be that you have no plans at all to get started at any time? Are we wasting all this teaching and exhortation as far as you are concerned? This is serious business and we ought to give it some consideration. It is difficult for me to believe that anyone would refuse to attend Bible Study at some time. Perhaps I am wrong, but I have always worked on the assumption that those who do not attend really hope to get started some day. Of course, I am constantly faced with the fact that they are treading on dangerous ground when they put off doing anything the Lord wants done. The "putting off habit can get the best of us without realizing it. It can cause us to finally lose

all desire to do what we know is best. That is why we are constantly warning people about delaying to do anything that should be done, especially in serving the Lord. I hope I am not wrong in believing that you plan to attend Bible Study.

If you do plan to start attending a Bible class, why are you putting it off? Is it too difficult to come? Is there something more important that you need to do? Would the Lord consider it more important? Would you not be happier if you got rid of your excuses and enrolled in a class?

We do not insist that you attend Bible class for any personal reason. It is not a desire just to have big numbers. We are interested in your spiritual education. We know what it will do for you and the church. Have you not noticed that on the days when we have a large attendance in the classes that everything else increases also? We know also what it will do for those who are converted to come through the Bible School. Thus the more we can persuade to come the more will obey the gospel. You may wonder what that has to do with you. You are already a Christian and do not need to be converted to Christ. But you are a part of a congregation of the Lord's people. What that congregation does is going to have much to do with others being brought to Christ. Your influence may be that which will bring one, or cause one to be lost. And besides all this, you need the information and fellowship to be gained by attending a class.

Yes, if you are ever going to come, you will have to start some time. Why not start Sunday?

New Adult Classes

SUNDAY

ADULTS I	Plan of Redemption
ADULTS II	Christian Evidences
ADULTS III	Great Events of the New Testament

WEDNESDAY

ADULTS I	Personal Evangelism
ADULTS II	Titus and Philemon
ADULTS III	Music in Worship

ATTENDANCE DRIVE

AND

DINNER ON THE GROUNDS

SEPTEMBER 12, 1993

BRING SOMEONE WITH YOU TO

BIBLE CLASS AND WORSHIP.

DINNER ON THE GROUNDS WILL

FOLLOW

THE MORNING SERVICE.

THIS IS ALWAYS A GREAT TIME TO

INTRODUCE VISITORS TO THE

BELLVIEW CONGREGATION.

BELLVIEW MEMBERS WILL

PROVIDE

FOOD AND DRINKS.

Visitation Group Meetings

Group 3 meets September 19 (Ray Foshee)

Group 1 meets October 3 (Bill Crowe)

Group 2 meets October 10 (Louis Herrington)

Wednesday Schedule

September 15, 1993

Reading: Howard Johnson

Invitation: Corey Bittner

September 22, 1993

Reading: Charles Garrett

Invitation: Harold Cozad

Sick and Shut-in

Home: Viola and Rubin Malone, Mary Ellen Muldoon.

Requested Prayer

Sylvia Alexander (9-5-93).

Mark These Dates

October 21—Annual Teachers' Meeting

November 7-12—Gospel Meeting with Harrell Davidson

June 11-15, 1994—Nineteenth Annual Bellview Lectures

New Member

Connie Loe has placed membership. Her address is: 4712 W. Fairfield Drive, Apt. 6C, Pensacola, FL 32506. Phone number: 457-7941.

Bellview Church of Christ Presents

THE BEACON

Volume XXII

September 16, 1993

Number 37

BELLVIEW CHURCH OF CHRIST
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MISSIONARIES
Ira Rice

MEETING TIMES

SUNDAY:

9:00 A.M. BIBLE CLASSES
10:00 A.M., 6:00 P.M. WORSHIP
5:00 P.M. LADIES' BIBLE CLASS

WEDNESDAY: 7:00 P.M.

What Would You Expect?

Bobby Duncan

Religious leaders in what are considered conservative denominations are bemoaning the fact that morality in this nation has taken a nose-dive in recent years. The Bible and prayer have been legislated out of the public schools. Unborn babies are murdered by the millions, and that legally, in the abortion clinics across our land. Bans against homosexuals are being lifted in every area, and this terrible sin is being flaunted, even on national television. The only minority group that can be spoken of disparagingly or discriminated against is that group broadly identified as Christians. Some denominational publications, television programs, and radio programs are given to exposing and condemning this immorality. We are glad they are.

But could it be that these same religionists will have to accept their share of the blame for this moral decay they are decrying? Their stance with reference to the Bible will have to come in

for some consideration. All of us agree that our problem with immorality would be solved if all would allow the Bible to be the standard of right and wrong in moral matters. But many religious leaders, while claiming to exalt the Bible as their guide, have actually denied clear teaching of the Bible with reference to a number of matters. For example, look at the difference between the Bible teaching on baptism and that which is taught by Billy Graham. Needless to say, Mr. Graham's position is that believed and taught by most denominational leaders. By denying plain Bible teaching with reference to such things as the subject, action, and design of baptism, the frequency of the Lord's supper, what constitutes scriptural worship, and other such matters, denominational preachers have created an atmosphere of disrespect for the plain teaching of the Bible, and have set the stage for others to abandon the teaching of the Bible with reference to moral matters. How can one expect his voice to be heard when he cries for a return to the teaching of the Bible with reference to homosexuality or abortion, but he himself steadfastly refuses to accept Romans 6:4, Acts 2:38, and Mark 16:16?

A rejection of the Bible as a standard in religious matters simply paves the way for people to reject the Bible as a standard in moral matters as well. When religious leaders abandon the doctrinal teaching of the Bible, it will not be long until their followers have abandoned the moral teaching of the Bible.

Parents in the church should be aware of this principle. When children hear the truth preached about such things as dancing, social drinking, or immodest apparel, and yet their parents ignore that truth, or even deny it, then those parents should not be surprised when their children abandon the church or forsake morality in other areas.

After all, if the Bible is not a standard of living in every area of our lives, then why should it be the standard in any area?

4207 Adamsville Pkwy; Adamsville, AL 35005

Why Evangelize?

Robin W. Haley

Why will men and women trek all over various communities, in all kinds of weather, confronting all kinds of people with their various reactions, only to be rejected time after time? This is what campaigners usually face when a local congregation hosts a campaign. What is it about the Gospel message that will cause these Christians to go through all this? Friend, if you really do not know, then either you have never done this kind of work, or worse, you have lost the zeal for the salvation you yourself had at one time enjoyed.

Of all the tasks that God has placed before the church, one always stands out to be the first and foremost. This number one duty is usually the least to be obeyed and is the most dreaded by the majority of Christians. It is found within the commission of our Lord when He said, "Go and make disciples!" (cf. Mat. 28:19). Why does this task strike fear into the hearts of most? Why

does it cause them to rationalize and to say, “Well, that work is for someone who has the talent, not for me”? Probably the first reason this happens is that it requires some definite action. Too many today are becoming more and more lax in their Christianity, making the Lord’s body look more and more denominational. Brethren, the gospel **does** require action. We must get up and move.

Closely related to this is the fear of rejection or failure. It is not fun to have a door slammed in one’s face or for people to make fun of you. But oh, if we could just show to all brethren the joy of leading one sincere soul to Christ, what a strong and forceful army we, the Lord’s people would be! We must be realistic: we will never convert all, but we simply do not know how many we can reach until we teach. I do not know what preparations you may have made for our last gospel meeting, but we have another coming this Fall. When it approaches, invite, Invite, INVITE! We dare not judge people by how they live now. We never know what changes they may be willing to make once they have heard the gospel. Brother Johnny Ramsey made an accurate statement saying, “We get the cart before the horse in our evangelism. Instead of asking how many we will baptize, let us ask how many we will teach. **That** is our responsibility in the great commission. The honest and good hearts will respond and be baptized (Luke 8:15). The increase to be brought forth is God’s duty, not ours (1 Cor. 3:7). Ours is to plant the seed of the kingdom.

Why ought we to make the most of each opportunity to teach or at least to invite others to hear and be taught? As I have pointed out: **duty** (Luke 17:10). Another reason is **gratitude** (Heb. 12:28). If while we were enemies of God (Rom. 5:10) He saved us, we ought to serve Him now that we are His friends (John 15:14). Third, we must do this evangelistic work as we have the opportunity because of **love** (1 John 4:19). Fourth, because our **faith** demands it (Rev. 2:10; Jam. 2:14). Finally, we must try to do our part in teaching, or at least inviting people to be taught and learn because “[t]he harvest truly *is* great, but the **labourers are few**: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest” (Luke 10:2). **This**, brethren, is how the church here in this place will do that for which we pray: continue to grow in number!

912 E. Teresa; Sapulpa, OK 74066

New Phone Number

Gina Pepitone’s new phone number is 474-4061. Please update your directory. (New directories will be published January 1. Please advise the office of any corrections needed).

Wednesday Schedule

September 22, 1993

Reading: Charles Garrett

Invitation: Harold Cozad

September 29, 1993

Reading: Ray Dodd

Invitation: Kevin Bailey

Sick and Shut-in

Home: Viola and Rubin Malone, Mary Ellen Muldoon. Betty Crowe—Baptist Hospital (No visitors).

Mark These Dates

October 21—Annual Teachers' Meeting

November 7-12—Gospel Meeting with Harrell Davidson

June 11-15, 1994—Nineteenth Annual Bellview Lectures

Thanks!

Thanks to all who worked to make our attendance drive a success and to all the ladies who worked so hard to prepare such a delicious meal. It appeared almost everyone stayed for food and fellowship.

Let us all be active inviting our friends and neighbors to all the services of the Bellview congregation. If you invite, they will come.

Bellview Church of Christ Presents

THE BEACON

Volume XXII

September 23, 1993

Number 38

BELLVIEW CHURCH OF CHRIST
4850 Saufley Road
Pensacola, FL 32526
(904) 455-7595

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Jerry Caine, Bill Crowe, Charles Garrett,
Louis Herrington, James Loy,
Harold Maxey, Richard Parker

MISSIONARIES
Ira Rice

MEETING TIMES

SUNDAY:

9:00 A.M. BIBLE CLASSES
10:00 A.M., 6:00 P.M. WORSHIP
5:00 P.M. LADIES' BIBLE CLASS

WEDNESDAY: 7:00 P.M.

Demands of Decency

Gil Yoder

“Decency” is defined as “the quality or state of being decent,” and “decent” in turn is defined as “conforming to standards of propriety, good taste, or morality; modestly clothed; free from immodesty or obscenity.” As standards are relaxed it becomes increasingly more and more difficult to distinguish modesty and obscenity, at least in the minds of many. However, since the bible commands us to be modest (1 Tim. 2:9), it is imperative that Christians have no such difficulty!

Paul exhorted the Romans. “And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God” (Rom. 12:2). The propositions of this passage are important: “be not conformed to this world”; “be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind.” Paul does not state to what one is to be “transformed,” but he implies that it is to that which is found in God’s Word. Christians are not to be overly swayed by the fashions of the

world; they are to be adorned by their obedience to the commands which are found in the Bible. Peter and Paul both spoke concerning decent or modest apparel. In 1 Timothy 2:9-10, Paul said, "In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array; But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works."

Similarly Peter wrote to wives in 1 Peter 3:3-4, "Whose adorning let it not be that outward *adorning* of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; But *let it be* the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, *even the ornament* of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price."

These passages show that one's outward appearance is important, but that it is not to be considered as important as one's inward image.

What then does it mean for one to be modest? First, to be modest one must be properly clothed; properly covered so as not to excite the lust of those who view one's person.

When God created Adam and Eve, "they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed" (Gen. 2:25). They were then in a state of innocence, but after their sin, "the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they *were* naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons" (3:7). This, however, was not acceptable unto God, so, "did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them" (3:21). So, we can see that from the beginning of time, God has required modesty of His subjects.

When men and women expose themselves in immodest apparel, such as swimming attire, clothing so tight as to accent the private areas of a person's body, or sheer outer garments which expose the underclothing or body, or when they simply dress so scantily as to expose large areas of flesh, especially of the legs, midriff, back or chest, they commit the same error as did Adam and Eve, who sought to cover their nakedness, but who were in need of more attire.

Jesus said, "I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart" (Mat. 5:28). Some who wish to retain the liberty to dress as they please argue that the one after whom another lusts has no responsibility in the matter. While it is possible for one to lust after another who is properly dressed, will God hold us guiltless, if by our attire we entice another to lust after us? Jesus also said, "It is impossible but that offences will come: but woe *unto him*, through whom they come!" (Luke 17:1)!

Let us briefly add in case any should misunderstand, men have as much responsibility to dress decently as do women. God made coats of skin for both Adam and Eve. Men who expose their chests to women who are not their wives, are as guilty as women who do the same!

Another area of modesty also involves our dress, but in this case not the amount of coverage, but the type of coverage. It is clearly the case that Paul and Peter in the passages mentioned were just as concerned, if not more so, about the type of clothing one might wear, as they were about the amount of clothing a person might wear. Christians are not to be adorned with "Whose adorning let it not be that outward *adorning* of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of

gold, or of putting on of apparel; But *let it be* the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, *even the ornament* of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price” (1 Pet. 3:3-4).

Modesty demands that one dress appropriately for the occasion wherein he finds himself. Obviously, dress which is modest in one place may not be modest in another. For example modest sleeping attire would be immodest for entertaining guests, and clothing which is appropriate for digging a ditch would be inappropriate for a wedding or funeral. When brethren come together to worship their creator, modesty demands not only must we be fully clothed, but we must be dressed in a manner which demonstrates our respect unto God and one another. Consider two examples:

When Moses approached the burning bush that attracted his attention from a distance, the first words of the Lord from the bush were, “Draw not nigh hither: put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest *is* holy ground” (Exo. 3:5). The purpose for this instruction was that among the Eastern nations in the time of Moses wearing shoes in the presence of a superior was an indication of great disrespect (*McClintock and Strong*, Vol. IX, pp. 708f.). Taking off the shoes, therefore, had the opposite effect.

In the New Testament, Paul instructed Christian men and women as to the practice of wearing a covering in worship (1 Cor. 11:3-16) The very purpose for these instructions, whatever else may be said about the interpretation of the passage, was to encourage the brethren to dress so as to demonstrate their respect unto God and to one another. Surely we should be as careful in our dress as Paul expected the Corinthians to be in that time.

Finally, we should practice modesty in our speech. James spoke of the tongue as “an unruly evil” (Jam. 3:8). Although the world seems to have completely let down its guard so to allow practically any speech at all, Christians dare not do so. We should even be careful how we speak of those evil things done by those who practice wickedness, “For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret” (Eph. 5:12). Let us not use the vulgar language of the world.

“But ye *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light” (1 Pet. 2:9). How can we praise Him, when we embarrass Him with our speech and dress? Christians belong to God. Let us so walk!

Baptized

Angela Fletcher was baptized Sunday evening after services (9-19-93). We rejoice with her and welcome her to the Bellview congregation. Angela’s address is: 5719 Hermosa Circle, Pensacola, FL 32526.

Phone number is 455-7153. Please update your directory.

Report from Russia

Paul Brantley called (9-20) to report three baptized and more to follow. They

have had good success in teaching with more teaching opportunities opening. The attendance at the evening meetings is good and the interest is high, though the weather in Murmansk is cold (32F) and snowy.

Sympathy

We extend our deepest sympathy to sister Martha Wilcoxson in the loss of her sister, Mary Barr, on September 18, 1993. We commend sister Wilcoxson for her tender and faithful care for sister Barr.

Foley Bible Bowl

Bellview Church of Christ young people finished second at the monthly Bible Bowl hosted by the Foley Church of Christ. To all the young people, and especially ours at Bellview, we extend our congratulations and commendations! Next month's Bible Bowl will be hosted by Bellview on October 17 at 2:00 P.M. Matthew 15-18 will be the text for our study.

Sympathy

We sympathize with Chris and Sigi Manning in the recent loss of Chris' mother. She passed away September 13 with burial on the 15th.

Restored

Dave Tomarchio (9-15-93). Please pray for and encourage our brother.

Visitation Group Meetings

Group 1 meets October 3 (Bill Crowe)

Group 2 meets October 10 (Louis Herrington)

Group 3 meets October 17 (Ray Foshee)

Wednesday Schedule

September 29, 1993

Reading: Ray Dodd

Invitation: Kevin Bailey

October 6, 1993

Reading: Henry Born

Invitation: Fred Stancliff

Sick and Shut-In

Home: Viola and Rubin Malone, Mary Ellen Muldoon. Betty Crowe—Baptist Hospital (No visitors).

Mark These Dates

October 21—Annual Teachers' Meeting

November 7-12—Gospel Meeting with Harrell Davidson

June 11-15, 1994—Nineteenth Annual Bellview Lectures

Foley Meeting

Ray Peters will preach in a series of Gospel meetings October 3-7 with the Foley Church of Christ. Services are Sunday morning at 9:30 and 10:30, Sunday evening at 6:00 and Monday through Thursday at 7:30 P.M.

The church which meets at the corner of Alston and Orchid, Foley, AL, invites all to their homecoming Sunday, Oct. 3. A meal will follow the morning service and there will be singing at 2:00 P.M.

Bellview Church of Christ Presents

THE BEACON

Volume XXII

September 30, 1993

Number 39

BELLVIEW CHURCH OF CHRIST
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MEETING TIMES

SUNDAY:

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10:00 A.M., 6:00 P.M. WORSHIP
5:00 P.M. LADIES' BIBLE CLASS

WEDNESDAY: 7:00 P.M.

Religious Sinners

Tim Smith

“But in vain they do worship me, teaching *for* doctrines the commandments of men” (Mat. 15:9).

The title seems to contain contradictory terms, religious and sinners. However, it is possible for a man to be both at one and the same time. Jesus pointed out that the Pharisees had indeed been worshipping God, but due to the error they taught in the process of that worship, their offering was vain, or to no avail. A man may be a religious person, but religiously wrong. Jesus often warned of the doctrines and commandments of men, one such case is found in Matthew 16:12, “Then understood they how that he bade *them* not beware of the leaven of bread, but of the doctrine of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees.” What we believe and teach are important. We must not be guilty of accepting any teaching or practice which has its basis anywhere other than the Bible. We wish to be religious, but we must also be religiously right. Let us notice some of the ways a man may be a religious sinner.

Those worshipping the wrong God are religious sinners. Idolatry has always been forbidden. “And God spake all these words, saying, *I am* the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. Thou shalt have no other gods before me” (Exo. 20:1-3). The great leader of God’s people, Joshua, challenged his people, saying, “And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that *were* on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD” (Jos. 24:15). While it is true that no god other than Jehovah is worthy of our worship, many people limit these injunctions to formal idols, such as Baal and the like. Jesus placed a much broader interpretation on the subject of idol worship, when in Matthew 6:24 He said, “No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.” Mammon means money, and therefore Jesus said that if we are more interested in money than in serving the Living God of Heaven, we are guilty of idolatry, and are therefore religious sinners. Anything which precludes our vision from the true God is for us an idol and should be avoided.

Those worshipping the true God in the wrong way are religious sinners. Such were the Pharisees, whom Jesus discussed in the text. John the Revelator recorded God’s condemnation of all who would add to or take from His writings (Rev. 22:18-19). Paul assured us that “All scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works” (2 Tim. 3:16-17). If we go by the Bible and it alone, we are made complete. If we take from it or add to it, we have changed the formula and are in violation of the law of the very God we claim to love and serve. We should always remember the story of Nadab and Abihu as given in Leviticus 10:1-2, how that they offered strange fire before the Lord, a fire which God had not authorized, and their lives were required as punishment. Our lesson is simply that we do not have the right to offer in worship to God anything not authorized in the New Testament or we shall suffer the same fate of those two from the long ago.

Worshipping people who have never obeyed the gospel are religious sinners. Consider the case of the Eunuch as recorded in the eighth , chapter of Acts. He was riding along the road, reading from Isaiah 53, returning from Jerusalem where he had worshipped God, when he was joined by Philip. Philip began at that same Scripture, the one from which he was reading, and preached unto him Jesus. We further see that when they came to a certain water, the Eunuch inquired of Philip as to whether there was anything that would prevent him from being baptized at that time. Philip told him that if he believed in Jesus he could indeed be baptized, and the Eunuch said, “I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him” (Acts 8:29-38). This man was obviously religious, but equally in sin, else why was he baptized? Consider again the case of Saul of Tarsus, he was certainly religious when he went to Damascus to arrest Christians, thinking this to be his duty as a good Jew, but when confronted

by Jesus, he realized that he was yet in his sins. Ananias asked, “And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord” (Acts 22:16). What about religious Lydia and her household? They were worshipping by the river when Paul preached to them, and they then realized their sinfulness and were immersed (Acts 16:14-15). These people worshipped, but they had never obeyed the Gospel and therefore could not receive the full benefits of the worship in which they engaged.

Finally, those not living a faithful Christian life must certainly be considered religious sinners. We have all heard, no doubt, about the hypocrites in the church. Certainly these are no reason for you and I to avoid our responsibilities in the church, but they are also not pleasing unto the Lord. We must do more than obey the Gospel initially, we must continue to live right from that time forward. Remember Ananias and Sapphira in Acts 5:1-11? These two began to live the life of Christians, but fell away, and died in their sin. Are not we to view these as religious sinners? And what about the case of Simon the Sorcerer in Acts 8:9-24? He began the Christian life, but fell away, and was told to repent and pray for the forgiveness of his sin. Paul told of those who had “fallen from grace” in Galatian 5:4-6. We must all continue to walk in the light if we are to please the Lord.

Route 1, Box 204 Webb, AL 36376

Restored/Prayers

Gina Pepitone (9-22-93). Remember Gina in your prayers and encourage her by your words, actions and good example. **Tim Lamb** (9-22-93) requests prayers for upcoming medical tests.

New Addresses

Rachel Garrett, 620-A Duncan Avenue, Florence, AL 35630; **Adam Beck**, P.O. Box U-821, USA, Mobile, AL 36688; **Jennifer Vaughn**, P.O. Box U-1827, USA, Mobile, AL 36688; and **Jamie Loy**, P.O. Box U-1882, USA, Mobile, AL 36688. Please update your directory.

Visitation Group Meetings

Group 1 meets October 3 (Bill Crowe)

Group 2 meets October 10 (Louis Herrington)

Group 3 meets October 17 (Ray Foshee)

Wednesday Schedule

October 6, 1993

Reading: Henry Born

Invitation: Fred Stancliff

October 13, 1993

Reading: Jim Roddy

Invitation: Jerry Fillingim

Sick and Shut-In

Home: Viola and Rubin Malone, Mary Ellen Muldoon.

Mark These Dates

October 21—Annual Teachers' Meeting

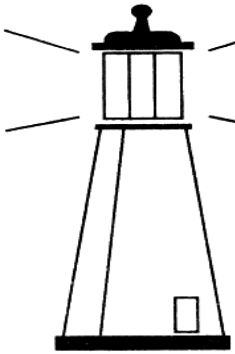
November 7-12—Gospel Meeting with Harrell Davidson

June 11-15, 1994—Nineteenth Annual Bellview Lectures

Foley Meeting

Ray Peters will preach in a series of Gospel meetings October 3-7 with the Foley Church of Christ. Services are Sunday morning at 9:30 and 10:30, Sunday evening at 6:00 and Monday through Thursday at 7:30 P.M.

The church which meets at the corner of Alston and Orchid, Foley, AL, invites all to their homecoming Sunday, Oct. 3. A meal will follow the morning service and there will be singing at 2:00 P.M.



BEACON

A PUBLICATION OF BELLVIEW CHURCH OF CHRIST

VOL. XXII

OCTOBER 7, 1993

NO. 40

BELLVIEW CHURCH OF CHRIST
4850 Saufley Road
Pensacola, FL 32526
(904) 455-7595

MINISTER
Bobby Liddell

BISHOPS
Hairston Brantley, Paul Brantley,
Bill Gallaher

DEACONS
Henry Born, Elward Brantley,
Jerry Caine, Bill Crowe, Charles Garrett,
Louis Herrington, James Loy,
Harold Maxey, Richard Parker

MISSIONARIES
Ira Rice

MEETING TIMES

SUNDAY:
9:00 A.M. BIBLE CLASSES
10:00 A.M., 6:00 P.M. WORSHIP
5:00 P.M. LADIES' BIBLE CLASS

WEDNESDAY: 7:00 P.M.

Why I Am a Christian *Lee Harber*

There are many reasons why one should be a Christian, but to me, these reasons top the list. (1) To have forgiveness of my sins; (2) to go to Heaven when this life is over; and, (3) to be the best I can be in this life.

TO HAVE FORGIVENESS OF MY SINS.
When God created man, His greatest creation, He gave man two gifts no other being had. He gave man a soul which would live forever and the power to choose right from wrong. You see, God wanted man to love Him, not because he was compelled to, but because he chose to so do.

In Genesis 3, we can read where man made the wrong choice and, because of it, was cast out of the Garden of Eden. Also, in this chapter, we can see the wonderful grace of God at work (Gen. 3:15). God was looking forward to that day when His Son, Jesus Christ, would suffer death on the cross so all sin could be forgiven. When Christ shed His blood on that cross, all sin from Creation to the end of time could be once and for all forgiven.

Paul, inspired apostle, stated “*There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus*” (Rom. 8:1). Thus, we are assured if we obey God in becoming Christians and live as Christians thereafter, our sins are forgiven.

TO GO TO HEAVEN WHEN THIS LIFE IS OVER. Jesus, when comforting His apostles and preparing them for what was coming, said, “Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house are many mansions: if *it were not so*, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, *there* ye may be also. And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know” (John 14:1-4).

Jesus promised His apostles He would return someday (cf. Mat. 7:21-27; John 5:28-29; 1 The. 4:10, et. al.). In Matthew 25, Jesus reveals what will happen on that great and terrible day. First, Jesus will return and all the dead will be raised and the living shall be changed. Then, all shall stand before Christ in judgment—judged according to how they have lived on the earth. The righteous will be separated from the wicked as the righteous inherit eternal bliss, but the wicked shall meet their doom.

There are some who would have us think when we die, we are like Rover, dead all over, but we know this is false. Heaven is a prepared place for a prepared people. I want to go to Heaven to be with the One who loved me enough to come and die for me. We can all be assured that by the grace of God and our obedient faith, we can go to Heaven someday.

TO BE THE BEST I CAN BE IN THIS LIFE. In the giving of what we call The Great Commission, Jesus told His disciples to go into all the world and tell every person the good news that Jesus did come to die on the cross and if we follow His commands, we will be blessed (Mark 16:16). Not only will we have our sins forgiven, but if we live faithfully in service to Christ, we shall live in Heaven one day. Read Romans 10:17; Hebrews 11:1, 6; Luke 13:3; Matthew 10:32-33; Acts 2:38 and John 5:28-29.

When one hears God’s Word, believes, repents, confesses his faith in Christ and is baptized for the remission of sins, he becomes a Christian. Jesus is the Lord of his life now. This does not mean that one will live in sinless perfection, nor that he shall never have any problems, for in this life, we will. However, as Christians, we have God on our side and He said He would never leave us nor forsake us (Heb. 13:5). With God the Father, Jesus Christ the Son and the Holy Spirit, we have fellowship. Through His Word, we have the guidance for daily living. What else do we need?

Believe me, we all get blue at times. I have been so blue, I would have had to have someone pump me up to bury me, but we all have to remember who we are, Christians, and what we are doing on this earth. First of all, we are to live a life that will bring glory and honor to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and, second, we are to do the best we can.

We may not have all the talents we want or wish we could have. Your talent may be like mine—to attend every service of the church I can. God has given us all a job to be faithful to Christ and His church as long as we are on this earth. Is that too much for Christ to ask?

Remember, He did die for us. I want to show my brothers and sisters that I want to go to Heaven and I need you to help me get there. I want to help you too.

We can not just sit around and complain all the time. Believe you me, I have been there. When we so do, we only hurt ourselves and help the Devil. So, cheer up, tomorrow is another day. Cod said in His Word if we live life for Him, one day at a time, when we lie down at night, we can know we have done the best we could.

104 Magnolia Ave. McKenzie, TN 38201

Proud Grandparents

Fred and Rheba Stancliff are happy to announce the birth of their grandson, Kevin Simoneaux, born on September 30, 1993 to Bret and Cheryl Simoneaux of Charlotte, NC. Mother and baby are doing well. Congratulations to all!

Thanks!

Thanks to all who helped to prepare the DEFENDER for mailing. A special thanks to Elward Brantley for the fine job he has done in printing for the last several years (and to all who assisted him). Sister Denise Mowery is now doing the printing using the new

Risograph machine. As you may have noticed, we have been trying new typefaces and formats in both THE BEACON and DEFENDER. We are still looking at other changes to make these publications the most attractive and cost effective we can.

While Away...

I deeply appreciate all who teach and preach in my absence. Sunday, Oct. 10, we will have a guest speaker from Louisiana, Gary Culbreath, and our own Scot Brazell speaking. I will be in a gospel meeting in Adamsville, AL, that week. The last Sunday of the month, I will begin a gospel meeting with the good church in Sylvester, GA. Brethren Hairston Brantley and Corey Bittner will speak in my absence then.

Bellview is truly blessed with good men who are very capable preachers and teachers. Believe me, not every congregation is so blessed. It makes me rest much easier to know sound men who love the Lord and who are effective and enthusiastic proclaimers of His Word are teaching and preaching in my absence.

I appreciate the elders allowing me time to take part in meetings and lectures and pray such efforts shall bring glory to God and souls to salvation.

Bible Bowl

Bellview will host the October Bible Bowl, Sunday, October 17 at 2:00 P.M. Young people from 10-19 may participate and the subject of our study for October is Matthew 15-18.

Folks of all ages are encouraged to attend. We will sing and pray together and Tony Liddell, one of our own outstanding young men and capable preachers, will be our featured speaker.

Visitation Group Meetings

Group 2 meets October 10 (Louis Herrington)

Group 3 meets October 17 (Ray Foshee)

Group 1 meets October 24 (Bill Crowe)

Wednesday Schedule

October 13, 1993

Reading: Jim Roddy

Invitation: Jerry Fillingim

October 20, 1993

Reading: Ray Williams

Invitation: Michael Lowry

Mark These Dates

October 17—Monthly Bible Bowl at Bellview, 2:00 P.M. Subject: Matthew 15-18.

October 21—Annual Teachers' Meeting, 6:30 P.M., Morrison's at Town and Country Plaza

November 7-12—Gospel Meeting (Harrell Davidson)

June 11-15, 1994—Nineteenth Annual Bellview Lectures.

Pantry Item

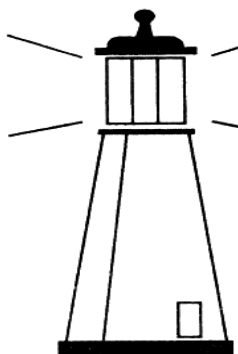
Canned meat

Sick and Shut-in

Home: Viola and Rubin Malone. Bette Crowe is out of the hospital and doing better.

Restored

Tim Lamb (9-29-93). Remember Tim in your prayers and help him grow in Christ.



BEACON

A PUBLICATION OF BELLVIEW CHURCH OF CHRIST

VOL. XXII

OCTOBER 14, 1993

NO. 41

BELLVIEW CHURCH OF CHRIST
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10:00 A.M., 6:00 P.M. WORSHIP
5:00 P.M. LADIES' BIBLE CLASS

WEDNESDAY: 7:00 P.M.

Facing the Storms of Life

Scot A. Brazell

One time a wise old cowboy remarked that cows had taught him a valuable lesson. The fierce storms of winter are known to destroy cattle. Out on the range, the ice and rain, along with the snow, will pile into huge drifts.

As the weather grows increasingly worse, most cows will turn away from, and walk with the storm, allowing it's winds to push them on. When they reach a fence there is no where left to go and the cows will just pile up, eventually being consumed by the snow's white drifts.

There is a cow, however, that responds to storms in a different manner. The Hereford cows face directly into the gales that nature blows their way. They stand side by side, shoulders pressed together, heads down, and face the storm as a group. The wind blows over, around, and against them, but they refuse to be moved.

"Almost always, you find the Herefords alive and well," this cowboy says. "That is the best

lesson I ever learned. Face life's storms" (16). This is a superb lesson that Christians can learn from too. As members of the Lord's church we are not immune to the storms of life. But, by realizing where our problems lie, and confronting them head on, we too will be unmoved by life's storms.

We know that we all sin (Rom. 3:23), and to say we have no sin is to make God a liar (1 John 1:10). Though we sin, we must strive to be righteous, for sinners will not inherit a heavenly home (1 Pet. 4:18).

We also know that as we try to live godly in this present world, we will be tempted as Jesus was tempted in the 4th chapter of Matthew. The primary avenues of temptation are listed in 1 John 2:16. The sensual nature of temptation keeps our problems ever before us.

Sometimes our problems may seem compounded, because we know that "whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth" (Heb. 12:6). It is clear that the righteous will suffer persecution (2 Tim. 3:12). Though we will be blessed if we are persecuted for righteousness' sake, it is sometimes difficult to focus on anything but the problems we face, which seem unending.

Through the clouds of sin, temptation and persecution, comes the soothing promise of God's forgiveness (1 John 1:7). But, as we walk in the light, or, the narrow path as it has been called, we can be blown along like so many others in the face of life's storms. If, however, we stand and face our problems, with God's help we can overcome them.

The Lord has given us a divine institution to edify us as we travel through life seeking His kingdom. As brothers and sisters in Christ we are to "consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works" (Heb. 10:24). Christian fellowship and edification is part of God's plan to keep man secure from this world's temptations and the wiles of the devil.

Since all spiritual blessings are in Christ, Christians can take assurance in the fact that "[we] can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth [us]" (Phi. 4:13). There is no problem so big that God cannot help you overcome it. Usually, the only things holding us back are our own fears. Psalms 34:4 is an excellent reminder that the Lord will remove all of our fears, if we will only seek Him.

Perhaps the best reasons to stand against this world and its king are the promises of God to reward His faithful servants on that great day. One of the most oft-cited passages conveying this message is Revelation 2:10 "be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life." Ephesians 6:13-18 gives us comprehensive instructions of the means necessary to achieve our end of faithfulness.

It has been well said that the price one pays for success is always less than the cost of failure. This is especially true in spiritual matters. There is no middle ground. Since we will all live eternally or suffer endless spiritual death, we must not only face the storms of life, but conquer them as well. It behooves us as Christians and fellow laborers to stand and encourage as we face the sins which so easily beset us.

9644 Hollowbrook Drive; Pensacola, FL 32515

Commitment

Jimmy Clark

“For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day” (2 Tim. 1:12). Commitment is a very important word as seen in the scriptures. David wrote, “Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring *it* to pass” (Psa. 37:5). Jesus said as he was dying on the cross, “Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit” (Luke 23:46). Those words were taken from Psalm 31:5. The term “commitment” involves a decision of the will of a person to conform his life to the will of another. Scripturally, this is the will of man to be patterned after the will of God. The apostle Paul is a very good example of such as can be seen in this second letter to Timothy. Consider three principles that can be seen about commitment from the person of Paul.

Commitment with Endurance. Paul knew that the commitment of his life to God would involve suffering. The Lord said to Ananias concerning Paul before Ananias met with him: “Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel: For I will shew him how great things he must suffer for my name’s sake” (Acts 9:15-16). Even as Paul was writing this second letter to Timothy, he was a prisoner. “Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God” (2 Tim. 1:8). So many profess commitment but only to the extent of convenience. Such is really no commitment at all. One is either on the side of God or against Him (cf. Mat. 12:30).

Commitment to Excellence. Paul knew that his commitment to the Lord was to the most excellent cause to ever exist. He admonished the Philippian brethren, “And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and *in* all judgment; That ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ” (Phi. 1:9-11). Again, “How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation” (Heb. 2:3). Paul believed that the message which he had committed his life to proclaim was vital to every generation. “And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also” (2 Tim. 2:2). He knew what the Word of God could do for the man of God. “That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works” (2 Tim. 3:17).

Commitment for Eternity. When Paul wrote of his commitment, he addressed it as being “against that day” (2 Tim. 1:12). He wrote at the closing of the letter, “For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished *my* course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing” (2 Tim. 4:6-8). Paul continues to say, “And the Lord shall

deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve *me* unto his heavenly kingdom: to whom *be* glory for ever and ever. Amen” (2 Tim. 4:18). There is no doubt that Paul lived his life in Christ to receive his reward from God, not from men. He had life in its proper perspective. He sought to encourage those who also suffer for the cause of Christ to keep their heads up. Commitment involves sacrifice. However, the sacrifice is worth the price. The day when all mankind will stand before the Lord will reveal that a life committed to God is not in vain.

Bible Bowl—We Hope All Will Attend

While the Bible Bowl will be a time of study and competition for our young people, we hope all who can will attend. In addition to the Bible Bowl activities, we will sing (for thirty minutes or so), pray and hear a good lesson from brother Tony Liddell.

Come on out Sunday, October 17 at 2:00 P.M. You will be glad you did. We will finish about 3:30. Refreshments will follow.

Visitation Group Meetings

Group 3 meets October 17 (Ray Foshee)

Group 1 meets October 24 (Bill Crowe)

Group 2 meets November 14 (Louis Herrington)

Wednesday Schedule

October 20, 1993

Reading: Ray Williams

Invitation: Michael Lowry

October 27, 1993

Reading: Chris Mathews

Invitation: Bill Gallaher

Mark These Dates

October 17—Bible Bowl; 2:00 P.M.

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November 7-12—Gospel Meeting Speaker: Harrell Davidson Sunday—9:00 and 10:00 A.M., Sunday through Friday—7:30 P.M.

June 11-15, 1994—Nineteenth Annual Bellview Lectures: “Changes In The Church Of Christ”

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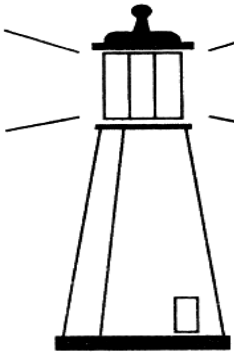
Canned meat

Restored

Lee Bragg (10-10-93). Remember Lee in your prayers.

Annual Teachers’ Meeting

The Annual Teachers Meeting will be held at Morrison’s Cafeteria at Town and Country Plaza on October 21, 1993 at 6:00 PM. If you are attending, let the office know.



BEACON

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VOL. XXII

OCTOBER 21, 1993

NO. 42

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SUNDAY:
9:00 A.M. BIBLE CLASSES
10:00 A.M., 6:00 P.M. WORSHIP
5:00 P.M. LADIES' BIBLE CLASS

WEDNESDAY: 7:00 P.M.

What About You?

Bobby Liddell

The faithful members of the Bellview congregation will support the church's efforts in our Gospel meeting coming up November 7-12. As surely as I know anything, I know that. The faithful will do all they can to make this meeting a great success in reaching the lost and strengthening the saved. But, what about you?

The Bellview church is known for its good works. After five and a half years here, I know the reason why. Although we are not a "large" church, we have members with large hearts, willing to work, ready to give, constant in prayer, knowledgeable in the Word and concerned about souls. That is what makes the church here what it is. Such folks are ready to every good work. They rejoice in opportunities to get out the message of salvation through Christ. What about you?

Those who follow in the footsteps of Christ never grow tired of hearing the wonderful story of love. They are glad to have meetings where they can come daily and hear the Gospel for they know the Gospel is the power of God unto

salvation (Rom. 1:16). They have learned that every time they hear God's Word preached, they benefit and they leave with a better understanding and a firmer resolve to live a better life. What about you?

Faithful brethren uphold the hands of one who has dedicated himself to preaching. They know such an one is worthy of support and is in need of the encouragement of sound brethren. They appreciate the fact he has spent years in study and has forsaken the pursuit of other things to be a Gospel preacher. Brother Harrell Davidson is such a man. He will preach the truth and nothing but the truth. He has shown himself to be true to God over many years of faithful service and has been a tireless and effective worker. Faithful brethren will be here at every service to hear the good messages he will present and to encourage him in his preaching. What about you?

Those on the road to Heaven feel a personal responsibility to the family of God at Bellview. They are present for all of its assemblies (unless hindered beyond their control). They are careful to make arrangements to clear their calendars of other activities so they can attend the lectures and meetings. They cancel any plans that would keep them away. Some even take their vacation time and stay in town just so they can be present and not hindered by work. They plan their meals and their children's activities and homework so the whole family can be present. Making some excuse as to why they could not attend is the farthest thing from their mind. They want to be here and they will be here. What about you?

The good brethren at Bellview want to go to Heaven, but they are not content to go without taking all they can with them. Such folks are busy inviting their loved ones, friends, neighbors and acquaintances at work and school to the meeting. They work hard to encourage the lost to come. They are soul-conscious and the thought of one's being lost without having heard the Gospel brings sorrow to their hearts. Yes, you will see them at the meeting and you will see their guests with them for they know this is an excellent time to bring someone with them to the church for which Christ died. What about you?

Those following the New Testament pattern will rejoice in the opportunities for fellowship which the meeting provides. You will see them arrive early and visit. Thirty minutes after the meeting is over, you will see them still, smiling and talking, welcoming those who visited and sharing the events of their day with brethren. When we meet for a meal together, they will hurry home from work, somehow arrange the delicious food they bring and arrive, out of breath, with the family dressed and the food ready. They would not miss such an opportunity and, while it requires effort, they consider the blessings they receive well worth the trouble for they love fellowship. What about you?

True worshippers of God come prepared to worship in spirit and in truth (John 4:24). They sing praises to God, knowing they are teaching and admonishing in song. They know many have been brought to Christ through the singing of praise and truth. They might miss a note or two, but they will not miss an opportunity to praise God and teach and admonish their neighbor. They pray as we are led in prayer. Their minds are alert and their hearts are intensely interested in

the sentiments of the prayer and the success of the meeting. Yes, true worshippers will sing and pray—from the heart. What about you?

Those who love the Lord will bring their Bibles and open them to follow the sermon, looking up the verses to which the preacher refers. Their eyes are on him and their ears are open to God's Word. Their hearts are receptive, like a sponge, soaking up the truth. You will see them respond with a nod or an, "Amen." Many even take notes for future study. They would not think of taking a nap or passing notes or carrying on a conversation while the Gospel is being preached. They want to hear God's Word and they do not want to do anything that would hinder their or someone else's hearing and understanding. What about you?

The faithful members of the Bellview church will search their hearts applying the Gospel to themselves. They do not think the invitation of Christ is only for someone else. Yet, they are aware of others who have not obeyed the Gospel and they so conduct themselves as to be an encouragement to their obedience. They will reverently and prayerfully sing, hoping all who need to respond will do so. When one does respond, they rejoice with them and with Heaven itself over one who has come home. What about you?

The faithful will support this meeting. They know how important it is—to the lost, to the church at Bellview and to themselves. They will attend every service possible and do so gladly.

WHAT ABOUT YOU??

Visitation Group Meetings

Group 3 meets October 24 (Ray Foshee)

Group 1 meets October 31(Bill Crowe)

Group 2 meets November 14 (Louis Herrington)

Wednesday Schedule

October 27, 1993

Reading: Chris Mathews

Invitation: Bill Gallaher

November 3, 1993

Reading: Jim Loy

Invitation: Nathan Liddell

Mark These Dates

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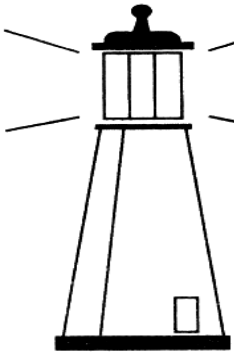
Canned meat

Restored

Sylvia Alexander and Michael and Sheryl Lowry (10-17-93). Angela Fletcher also came asking for prayer. Please remember these in your prayers and do what you can to encourage them with love.

Bible Bowl

The Bellview young people came in first in the Bible Bowl. Congratulations!!! Thanks, too, to the young men who took part in our worship. You did a great job. Next month: Mat. 19-21 at Bay Minette.



BEACON

A PUBLICATION OF BELLVIEW CHURCH OF CHRIST

VOL. XXII

OCTOBER 28, 1993

NO. 43

BELLVIEW CHURCH OF CHRIST
4850 Saufley Road
Pensacola, FL 32526
(904) 455-7595

MINISTER
Bobby Liddell

BISHOPS
Hairston Brantley, Paul Brantley,
Bill Gallaher

DEACONS
Henry Born, Elward Brantley,
Jerry Caine, Bill Crowe, Charles Garrett,
Louis Herrington, James Loy,
Harold Maxey, Richard Parker

MISSIONARIES
Ira Rice

MEETING TIMES

SUNDAY:
9:00 A.M. BIBLE CLASSES
10:00 A.M., 6:00 P.M. WORSHIP
5:00 P.M. LADIES' BIBLE CLASS

WEDNESDAY: 7:00 P.M.

What You Can Do To Help Us Have a Successful Meeting

Bobby Liddell

Surely, you want us to have a **successful** meeting. Here are some things you can do to help.

BEGIN WITH A SELF-EXAMINATION

Let us all begin by making sure we are where we ought to be spiritually. The admonition to "examine yourselves" should not fall upon deaf ears (2 Cor. 13:5). Remember, Paul exhorted Timothy to: "Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee" (1 Tim. 4:16). Before we start to tell others how to live, let us be sure we are living as we should.

So, if you need to come back to Christ, do so now, that nothing will prevent your helping us to have a successful meeting.

SHOW PEOPLE CHRIST LIVES IN YOU

If Christ lives in you, people will know and they will be drawn to Christ through your good

example. It is not too late to show others Christ living in you (Gal. 2:20; Phi. 1:21). Your good efforts in connection with our meeting will also show the influence Christ has in your life.

PRAY FOR A GREAT HARVEST

God has promised to hear and answer the prayers of His children (1 John 5:14-15). Jesus said, “The harvest truly *is* plenteous, but the labourers *are* few; **Pray** ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest” (Mat. 9:37-38). The fields are white unto harvest.

INVITE EVERYONE YOU CAN TO COME

There are folks who will come if you will invite them. They may be wondering why you have not invited them yet. Be optimistic! Invite them believing they will come—not that they will not. Jesus invited all to come to Him (Mat. 11:28-30). Whom dare we exclude?

BE PRESENT FOR EVERY SERVICE

We ought to be ashamed that someone should have to encourage us to be present where God is worshipped and the Gospel is preached. Sadly, some find the world more appealing. Don’t you be among that crowd. Make the sacrifices necessary. Arrange your schedule with the meeting as your priority. You will surely be blessed by being here and you will be an encouragement to others. Where else would your Lord want you to be?

ENTER INTO WORSHIP HEARTILY

The way we worship will have an effect upon our brothers and sisters and upon those visiting with us. What will they see? Will they see one who sleepily half-heartedly attempts to worship. Will they see one “going through the motions”? Or, will they see genuine worship of God from a heart overflowing with praise and love for Him (John 4:24)?

FOLLOW-UP WITH LOVING CARE

We hope we have to call upon every member to work overtime just to follow-up with visits to those whom we have contacted through this effort. Are you ready?

These are things you can do to help us have a successful meeting?

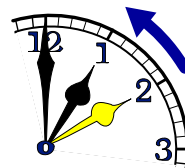
Proud Grandparent

Ruth Branson is happy to announce the birth of her grandson, Luke Liddell Hanson, born on October 12 to Jimmy and Kim Hanson. Mother and baby are doing well. Congratulations to all!

Don't Forget

*Set your clocks back one hour
before retiring on October 30.*

Time changes at 2:00 A.M. on October 31.



You're Invited To A
Gospel Meeting

With

Harrell Davidson

November 7 - 12, 1993

Sun.—9 & 10 A.M.

Sun. - Fri.—7:30 P.M.

Bellview Church
of Christ

Visitation Groups

Group 1 meets October 31 (Bill Crowe)

Group 2 meets November 14 (Louis Herrington)

Group 3 meets November 21 (Ray Foshee)

Reading/Invitation

October 27, 1993

Reading: Chris Mathews

Invitation: Bill Gallaher

November 3, 1993

Reading: Jim Loy

Invitation: Nathan Liddell

Mark These Dates

November 7-12—**Gospel Meeting**

Speaker: Harrell Davidson

Sun.—9 and 10A.M.

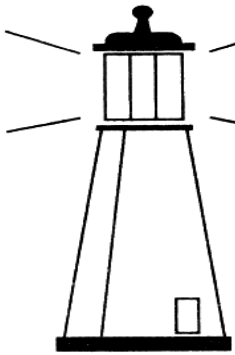
Sun.-Fri.-7:30 P.M.

November 21—**Bible Bowl** on Matthew 19-21 at Pine Street in Bay Minette (for ages 10-19).

June 11-15, 1994—Nineteenth Annual **Bellview Lectures**: “Changes In The Church Of Christ.”

Sick and Shut-in

Bette Crowe is doing better and has gone back to work. Fred Stancliff is undergoing radiation treatment for five weeks. Tim Lamb requests our prayers. The Malone's remain shut-in. Mary Muldoon is able to get out some. Peggy Crowe had surgery on 10-26. Sheryl Lowry is recuperating from surgery on 10-19. Remember all the sick and shut-in with a card or a call and prayer.



BEACON

A PUBLICATION OF BELLVIEW CHURCH OF CHRIST

VOL. XXII

NOVEMBER 4, 1993

NO. 44

BELLVIEW CHURCH OF CHRIST
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10:00 A.M., 6:00 P.M. WORSHIP
5:00 P.M. LADIES' BIBLE CLASS

WEDNESDAY: 7:00 P.M.

Faithful Attendance

A preacher was once asked to define faithful attendance at worship, and this was his reply: "All I ask is that we apply the same standards of faithfulness to our church activities that we would in other areas of our life." That doesn't seem too much to ask. The church, after all, is concerned about faithfulness. Consider these examples.

If your car started one out of three times, would you consider it faithful? If the paperboy skipped Monday and Thursday, would the papers be missed? If you didn't show up for work two or three times a month, would your boss call you faithful? If your refrigerator quit a day now and then, would you excuse it and say, "Oh well, it works most of the time." If your water heater greets you with cold water one or two mornings a week while you were in the shower, would it be faithful? If you miss a couple of mortgage payments in a year's time, would your mortgage holder say, "Oh well, ten out of twelve isn't bad." If you miss worship and attend meetings only often enough to show you're interested but not often enough to get involved, are you faithful?

Brethren, this is something to think about—your faithfulness to the Lord.
Be seeing you all this coming Sunday.

Via Roebuck Parway Reminder

Just Suppose!

Just suppose that your church membership was good for only one year and that your membership depended upon your attendance, stewardship, and service. Would you retain your membership?

Just suppose that you were called upon to explain why the church should continue your name on its roll. Could you do it?

Just suppose that the membership of the church was limited to those who could give a written excuse for necessary absences. Would your absence be acceptable?

Just suppose that every member of the church attended just as often as you. Would we need more pews, or would the building be closed and put up for sale?

Just suppose that all who misrepresented their contributions were stricken dead as were Ananias and Sapphira. Would there be a large increase in your church giving?

Just suppose that some parents could look into the future and see the awful and dreadful results of their neglect of teaching and discipline. Would they be different parents?

Just suppose that all those who are so loyal in attending ball games would be as faithful in their attendance of the church service.

And suppose that they were as enthusiastic in the church assembly as they are at the sporting event. Would there not be a marked difference in the life of the church?

Suppose then that we all stop this supposing and become dedicated to the high calling we have in Christ Jesus. Our attendance and stewardship would be increased sharply. Many people would be saved from tragic mistakes they otherwise would make and find real joy and happiness in Christian fellowship, instead of the sordid shame in their pursuit of worldly pleasure.

Via Coldwater, MS Bulletin

What Would You Give?

What would you give to save one soul? Before you answer, remember one soul is worth more than all the world (Mat. 16:26). Don't answer yet. Remember that soul shall live on eternally—either in Heaven or in Hell.

Now, what would you give? Would one soul be so valued to you, you would give what you own, your time, even your very life? Surely, then, you would give enough time and effort to invite that one to hear the soul-saving Gospel, wouldn't you? A soul would be that important, wouldn't it? What would you give if it were your soul?

*You're Invited To A
Gospel Meeting*

With

Harrell Davidson

November 7-12, 1993

Sun. — 9 & 10 A. M.

Sun. - Fri. — 7:30 P. M.

Bellview Church of Christ

Visitation Groups

Group 2 meets November 14

Group 3 meets November 21

Group 1 meets December 5

Reading/Invitation

November 3, 1993

Reading: Jim Loy

Invitation: Nathan Liddell

November 17, 1993

Reading: Jerry Lindesmith

Invitation: Tim Lamb

Mark These Dates

November 7-12—Gospel Meeting

Speaker: Harrell Davidson

Sun.—9 and 10A.M.

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November 21—Bible Bowl on Matthew 19-21 at Pine Street in Bay Minette (for ages 10-19).

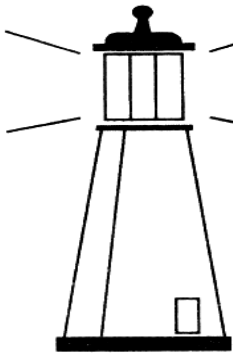
June 11-15, 1994—19th Annual Bellview Lectures: “Changes In The Church Of Christ.”

Sick and Shut-in

Shut-in: Rubin and Viola Malone, Mary Muldoon. Surgery: Peggy Crowe, 10-26, doing well; Sheryl Lowry, 10-20, improving. Tests: Charles Williams, 10-28. Treatments: Fred Stancliff has 19 more radiation treatments. Remember Tim Lamb, Tim’s cousin, infant Bobby Weems, and Bette Crowe in your prayers.

Restored

We rejoice with and commend brother Champ Hollowell for his desire to be forgiven and return to fellowship (10-27). Pray for Champ.



BEACON

A PUBLICATION OF BELLVIEW CHURCH OF CHRIST

VOL. XXII

NOVEMBER 11, 1993

NO. 45

BELLVIEW CHURCH OF CHRIST

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10:00 A.M., 6:00 P.M. WORSHIP

5:00 P.M. LADIES' BIBLE CLASS

WEDNESDAY: 7:00 P.M.

An Effective Solvent

Alcohol is a product of amazing versatility.

It will remove stains from designer clothes.

It will also remove clothes.

If by chance it is used in sufficient quantity,
alcohol will remove furniture from the
home.

It will remove rugs from the floor.

It will remove food from the table.

It will remove lining from the stomach.

It will remove vision from the eyes.

It will remove judgment from the mind.

It will remove a good reputation.

It will remove good paying jobs.

It will remove good friends.

It will remove happiness from children's
hearts.

It will remove sanity, freedom, spouses,
relationships.

It will remove man's ability to adjust and
live with his fellowmen.

It will remove life from this earth and eternal
life hereafter. As a remover of things,
alcohol has no equal!!!

Via The Reminder

The Need for Discipline

Bobby Duncan

The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language defines the word *discipline* in more than one way. The first definition given is: “Training that is expected to produce a specified character or pattern of behavior...” Another definition of the word is: “Controlled behavior resulting from such training.” Another definition is: “A state of order based upon submission to rules and authority.” Still another is: “Punishment intended to correct or train.” One of the greatest needs of our time is the need for discipline, and it needs to begin in the home. In the long ago a very wise man said, “Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it” (Pro. 22:6). This training involves controlled behavior, and in order to have controlled behavior in the home, there has to be some system of punishment for breaking the rules. Despite what many child psychologists say, I still believe what the Bible says in Proverbs 13:24: “He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes.” This is not to be interpreted as condoning anything which would physically injure a child. But it does teach that some physical pain inflicted upon a child because he has broken the rules can be very beneficial. It also teaches that to forego such punishment for breaking the rules is detrimental to the child. In fact, the Bible also says: “The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to *himself* bringeth his mother to shame” (Pro. 29:15). Someone has very wisely said: “If our children do not learn discipline in the playpen, then they will likely learn it in the state pen.” It is wishful thinking for parents to assume their children will grow up to be respectable men and women without discipline’s being exercised in the home.

Just as there is a great need for the exercise of discipline in the home, so also is there a great need for the exercise of discipline in the church. It is wishful thinking on our part to assume a congregation can be what God wants it to be without our practicing discipline as it is taught in the Bible. Discipline in the church is not just the withdrawing of fellowship. It involves training designed to produce godly living. It involves submission to the word of the Lord. It involves admonishing those who become careless and strengthening those who are weak. But it does also involve the withdrawing of fellowship when other efforts have failed to bring about repentance.

Discipline is not always pleasant, in the home or in the church. But it is desperately needed in both.

4207 Adamsville Parkway; Adamsville, AL 35005

Sowing and Reaping

The beloved apostle Paul gave much good advice and many warnings to the Galatians. Almost a proverb, Galatians 6:7-8 is some of his best known advice: “Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh

shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.” The principle of sowing and reaping should always be remembered by the faithful child of God. Whenever he begins to sow attitudes in his heart, or words on the ears of others, he will reap them. This is certain. We are hearing false doctrine today which in some areas is not even challenged. Possibly it is unchallenged because some people are afraid of a fight, or because they erroneously feel it is more loving to ignore error and hope it will go away. A third possibility is that some people actually approve of the error which is taught. When error is taught, extremely dangerous premises are laid down, it takes false bases to support false practices. But many brethren fail to see that the principles which support their pet practices also support other things they have opposed for years. They do not see that what they are sowing they would not wish to reap.

For instance, it is argued that Paul’s prohibitions against women’s exercising authority over the man in 1 Timothy 2 and 1 Corinthians 14 are only valid in a first century culture. We ask, is it then permissible to have women elders? The argument that women were oppressed in the first century culture gone to seed allows for women elders. Yet who of our brethren who are using the “culture argument” to achieve an increased role for women are ready for women elders? Another popular error which is rampant among our brethren is that the Holy Spirit abides within one who is a Christian and directly provides him certain things. Rubel Shelly in his book *Young People and Their Lord*, page 143, says this about a person who is about to be baptized:

He failed in his attempt to defeat evil, and he may despair of being defeated by it again after becoming a Christian. The Bible tells him that children of God have special help in living their new life. At the point of baptism, he is given the “gift of the Holy Spirit” (Acts 2:38; cf. Gal. 4:6). In his new Spirit-controlled life, he will be strengthened with divine power for his struggle (cf. Eph. 3:16; 1 John 4:4).

It is argued by some that the Holy Spirit’s abiding within the Christian causes him directly to have great joy as a Christian. It is said the Holy Spirit puts the love of God in our hearts. Some brethren are saying the Holy Spirit comforts our hearts directly. How do these brethren argue for the aforementioned special workings of the Holy Spirit? They go to the New Testament and use verses that apply to the miraculous age. We might add further, they do not even correctly teach some of the passages which refer to the Holy Spirit’s working in the New Testament age. They are sowing what they do not want to reap. The Pentecostals use passages which apply to the miraculous age and we show their error in so doing. How then can we use passages such as John 14:16-18; 15:26-27; 16:7-13 to teach the Holy Spirit comforts our hearts directly when it is clear these passages refer to Acts 2 and the following miraculous age in the first century? If we show how the Holy Spirit worked in the New Testament and say he works that way now, how could we say consistently the Pentecostals cannot argue for New Testament miracles? If we sow such doctrine, how can we expect other than to reap full-blown Pentecostalism in the near future?

Some of our brethren are now teaching we should not want to restore the New Testament church, but rather only seek to restore the life of Christ. When this teaching is sown, what grows? If we only seek to restore the life of Jesus, how shall we worship? Jesus worshipped according to the old law (cf. Mat. 26:17-19; Mark 8:4). Should we observe the Passover as did Jesus? Should we offer the gifts Moses commanded? We should if all we are trying to restore is the life of Christ. Those who have argued in this line (Rubel Shelly and Randall Harris) do not consistently apply their rule. They still worship much as those who seek to be the restored New Testament church. But when the seed has been sown, how will those who believe their premise worship in the future? What will the harvest be?

In Luke 8:11, we read, "The seed is the word of God." Let us rightly divide and sow it.

Via Vigil

Visitation Groups

Group 2 meets November 14

Group 3 meets November 21

Group 1 meets December 5

Reading/Invitation

November 17, 1993

Reading: Jerry Lindesmith

Invitation: Tim Lamb

November 24, 1993

Reading: Bill dine

Invitation: Paul Brantley

Mark These Dates

November 21—Bible Bowl at Pine Street in Bay Minette. June 11-15,1994-Annual Bellview Lectures: "Changes In The Church Of Christ."

Prayers Requested

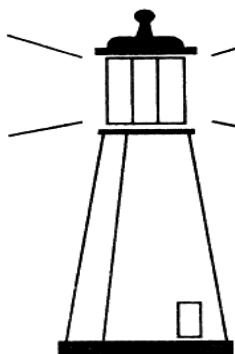
Don Hoffay requests prayers for his mother Helena Marchand who has terminal cancer. Lee Bragg requests prayers for his mother Edith Bragg who has cancer.

Baptized/Restored

William Hollowed was baptized on 11-5-93. Bill's address is the same as Champ's. **David Tomarchio** was restored on 11-7-93. Remember them in your prayers.

Sick and Shut-in

Shut-in: Rubin and Viola Malone, Mary Muldoon. Hospital: Inez Brantley and Bette Crowe. Tests: Ray Dodd and Bill Gallaher. Treatments: Fred Stancliff. Upcoming surgery: Bill Hollowell. Sick: Jim Roddy.



BEACON

A PUBLICATION OF BELLVIEW CHURCH OF CHRIST

VOL. XXII

NOVEMBER 18, 1993

NO. 46

BELLVIEW CHURCH OF CHRIST

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10:00 A.M., 6:00 P.M. WORSHIP
5:00 P.M. LADIES' BIBLE CLASS

WEDNESDAY: 7:00 P.M.

Attitudes

Tim Smith

“Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of *things* in heaven, and *things* in earth, and *things* under the earth; And *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ *is* Lord, to the glory of God the Father” (Phi. 2:5-11).

Attitudes are important. When the world views us, they see how we live and the way we do things and they form opinions of us based on what they see. As we walk through life, let us make sure that the attitude (mind) we display is like to that of our blessed Lord, Jesus Christ. John wrote, “He that saith he abideth in him ought

himself also so to walk, even as he walked” (1 John 2:6). When we are seen, we should be a reflection of Jesus in all that we say and do, and also in the way we say and do things. Let us examine our attitude with regard to the following subjects.

Attitude Toward Christ. Our attitude toward Christ should be one of acceptance, accepting Him as Lord and Master, based on the testimony of His Holy Word. The only way we can accept Him is by walking in accordance with the teaching of His Word. We cannot even believe in Him unless that belief comes from the Bible, “So then faith *cometh* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God” (Rom. 10:17). We should not be as some who profess Him in word while denying Him in reality, “For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ” (Jude 4). These men took the doctrine of Christ and perverted it to their own destruction, and the destruction of others. We should accept Christ because of the sure testimony given about Him, “We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts” (2 Pet. 1:19). Truly our Lord was a man of prophecy fulfilled, for it is written of Him, “Philip findeth Nathanael, and saith unto him, We have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph” (John 1:45). The people who were touched by the Lord in His own day were so moved, either with love or hatred, that their lives were never the same again. They either adored and served Him or rejected Him as a rank infidel who was perverting the way of God, and so must we all determine definitely how we feel about Him, for there is no middle ground where He is concerned. He was the fulfillment of all the law and prophets, and we should accept Him entirely.

Attitude Toward the Authority of Christ. “And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth” (Mat. 28:18). Jesus here removes all doubt as to who has the authority to dictate right and wrong under the Christian dispensation, and that person is He. To accept His authority is to accept Him, “He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day” (John 12:48). Jesus stated it thusly, in John 14:23: “If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.” Thus, when we accept His authority we accept Him, and unless we accept with respect that authority, we cannot be truly of the proper mind toward Him.

Attitude Toward False Doctrine. It is too easy for us to fall into the problem of ignoring false doctrine, taking the attitude that we should just leave everyone alone and preach what is right. However, we cannot do this and be pleasing to God. It shows very little concern for the soul of others, not to mention total disregard for the teaching of the Bible. Paul said, “I charge *thee* therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not

endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away *their* ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables” (2 Tim. 4:1-4). Thus, we see that our attitude toward false doctrine must be one that leads us to oppose it, and not just ignore it.

Attitude Toward Those Who Preach the Truth and Expose Error. How shall we view those who tell us what we do not wish to hear? In the long ago, John told a man he was living in adultery and it cost him his life (Mark 6:17-28). Paul was stoned at Lystra, assailed by mobs at Ephesus, and lived a life of persecution and imprisonment for the Gospel and the preaching thereof, and yet many of our day want to apologize for the Gospel instead of telling it like it is. When Peter was to be blamed, Paul withstood him to the face and corrected his error. We should respect those who tell us the hard truths and join them in the work of God.

Attitude Toward Fellow-Christians. The disciple whom Jesus loved addressed those who would receive his epistle as “My little children” (1 John 2:1). We are often referred to as brethren, fellow-labourers, and children of God. We should ever hold in high esteem our fellow Christians and despite our sins and shortcomings, we should love and teach and help in every way we can.

Attitude Toward the Church. The church of our Lord is the greatest institution known to man. Jesus built it (Mat. 16:18), loved it (Eph. 5:25), gave Himself for it (Eph. 5:23), died to save it (Eph. 5:25), and shed His blood for it (Acts 20:28). We are to seek it first in all things (Mat. 6:33). Are you a member of the church Jesus died to save? “For by one spirit are we all baptized into one body...the church, which is his body.”

Route 1, Box 204 Webb, AL 36376

A Great Meeting

We had a great meeting with brother Harrell Davidson preaching powerful lessons true to the Book. He is a man who truly loves God and His Word. Not only those who responded in a public way, but all who attended were blessed.

Thanks to all who worked to make the meeting a success. Hundreds of contacts were made inviting our friends to attend. Many attended and we hope the seed sown will find good ground.

Our attendance was good and the countenance of those present indicated the true joy of Christian living and true worship of God.

Thank God for a great meeting. Aren't you glad you were part of it?

Visitation Groups

Group 3 meets November 21

Group 1 meets December 5

Group 2 meets December 12

Reading/Invitation

November 24, 1993

Reading: Bill Cline

Invitation: Paul Brantley

December 1, 1993

Reading: Ray Williams

Invitation: Michael Lowry

Mark These Dates

November 21—Bible Bowl at Pine Street in Bay Minette

November 28—Young People's Get Together after evening service.

June 11-15, 1994—Bellview Lectures: "*Changes In The Church Of Christ.*"

Sick and Shut-in

Shut-in: Rubin and Viola Malone, Mary Muldoon. Treatments: Fred Stancliff. Hospital: Bette Crowe Surgery (11-15): Bill Hollowell.

Requested Prayer

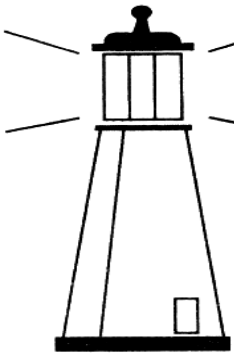
Lee Harber of McKenzie, TN (attends our lectures) has requested our prayers in his behalf. He has recently had health problems due to medication intolerance.

Restored

We rejoice with Marilyn Hall who came in response to the Savior's invitation 11-14. We commend her turning from sin and seeking forgiveness according to God's will.

Off to Memphis

Scot Brazell has enrolled in the Memphis School of Preaching. He left 11-13. We will have more on this good news in next week's bulletin.



BEACON

A PUBLICATION OF BELLVIEW CHURCH OF CHRIST

VOL. XXII

NOVEMBER 25, 1993

NO. 47

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WEDNESDAY: 7:00 P.M.

Sounds of Division

Many of us who were around in the forties and fifties have heard the sounds of division before. We heard them when the division occurred over cooperative works and the care of orphans. But, alas, we are hearing some of the same sort of sounds again.

There is no doubt about the language being used today. Taking these statements at face value, they mean division. Take a moment to listen to a few.

The "*New Hermeneutic*" or the "*Old Hermeneutic*." We have been told time and again that we need "new hermeneutic" or a new manner of interpretation. The "old hermeneutic" is said to be flawed and imprecise. The old that is now opposed is that which followed the manner of example, inference, or declared statement. It is this that is seen as something that has caused division among the people of God. But this is the very method that was used by the apostles of our Lord. You have a good illustration of this very thing when they met in Jerusalem to discuss the circumcision problem as it related to the Gentiles.

This question had come into focus when some came from Jerusalem to Antioch. “And certain men which came down from Judaea taught the brethren, *and said*, Except ye be circumcised after the manner of Moses, ye cannot be saved” (Acts 15:1). Now how would these men approach the matter?

First, there would be the matter of inference. This is easily seen. Notice what Peter would have to say, “And when there had been much disputing, Peter rose up, and said unto them, Men *and* brethren, ye know how that a good while ago God made choice among us, that the Gentiles by my mouth should hear the word of the gospel, and believe. And God, which knoweth the hearts, bare them witness, giving them the Holy Ghost, even as *he did* unto us;...Now therefore why tempt ye God, to put a yoke upon the neck of the disciples, which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear?” (Acts 15:7-10). You will note that Peter drew a conclusion from what God had done.

Second, you have the matter of example. “Then all the multitude kept silence, and gave audience to Barnabas and Paul, declaring what miracles and wonders God had wrought among the Gentiles by them” (Acts 15:12).

Third, there is a declared statement, “And to this agree the words of the prophets; as it is written, After this I will return, and will build again the tabernacle of David, which is fallen down; and I will build again the ruins thereof, and I will set it up” (Acts 15:15-16). Now, if this is a flawed manner of interpretation, then the apostles were guilty. Are you ready to discard the “hermeneutics” they would approve? Absolutely not.

We are hearing now of the “*contemporary worship*,” or the “*traditional worship*.” Such has been the practice of some denominational groups for some time. This gives those who attend a choice as to the kind of worship service they would like to attend. In the one, there are those things which will appeal to the younger folks. Many of these would consider the “traditional worship” as “predictable and boring.”

Surely God’s people will be able to see through this sort of thing. One does not have to be a Solomon to see the ultimate consequence of such an arrangement. The church will find itself divided but meeting in the same building. This will merely become an arrangement to try to hold on to many who would “restructure” the church. These are the people who would consider the worship as “predictable and boring.” But why is this the case? Surely the Lord’s supper is observed. How could this be boring? What can be done to make it more “meaningful?”

I think we know the answer. Let those who observe it look into their own hearts and lives and see how much they have benefitted from the sacrifice that is represented by the bread and the fruit of the vine. Paul had something to say about the “how” one is to partake of the Lord’s supper. “But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of *that* bread, and drink of *that* cup” (1 Cor. 11:28). If the observance of the Lord’s supper becomes “boring” something is wrong with the observer and not the observance. But this is exactly the point. The problem is not in the age of the songs we sing, nor in the prayers we pray, nor in the contributions we make, nor in

the lessons we hear. The thing that makes these boring to many people is the fact that they do not desire these things.

Some might say that is not the case. Let me illustrate. We have a place in town called Hardees. They serve some very predictable biscuits every morning. They also have some predictable sausage and gravy. Now how many folks would find these “boring”? I think we all know. It would be those folks who did not like things named above. But you let a man that appreciates good biscuits and gravy taste these and they are anything but “boring.”

The “*traditional*” church or the “*cutting edge or trendy*” church. One can actually hear today from some who are of the “*trendy*” churches say, “This church is not for everybody.” Or you might hear, “You might not be comfortable with some things here.” In some cases, the “some things” would be a Christmas program. In another case, it might be the “special music” like a solo. Recently one brother sang such in a midweek service and he was asked to supply the passage or passages to justify such. Weeks have passed and we have not heard a word. Oh yes, I know of one who said the solo is justified in the same way a song leader is justified. It seems to me that educated folks ought to know the difference between singing “to” or “for” someone and singing “with” someone. Those in the church at Ephesus were told to sing, and that is simultaneous (Eph. 5:19).

The “*baby boomers*” or the “*older folks*.” There has been, and continues to be, a great deal of talk concerning the wants and needs of the “baby boomers.” Churches are being told that they must make changes or else they will not attract this group of people. One can soon see that what they want is not what they need. What they need is the same thing all men need. They need the gospel which is God’s power to save the soul (Rom. 1:16).

There is an evident division being formed by the emphasis and interest of some between the old and the young. Yes, we are hearing the sounds of division and it will not be long before the sight of such will become more and more evident. **WE WOULD DO WELL TO MARK THE SOURCE OF SUCH (ROM. 16:17).**

Box 1025 Athens, AL 35611

Scot Brazell to Memphis School of Preaching

Another young man from Bellview has enrolled in MSOP to prepare himself to preach the saving Gospel. We commend our brother for his desire and encourage your support. Scot is in need of some financial support for the two years of training. Please remember him in your prayers. We anticipate much good through his application of his considerable talent.

Bellview Bible Bowlers Win Again!

Congratulations to the young people from Bellview who won the First Place banner at the Bible Bowl at Bay Minette (11-21). They have only participated for three months, winning second place the first month and first place the last two months.

Taking part were: Tony Liddell, Vanessa Herrington, Bryan Loy, Nathan Liddell, Becky Cline and Keri Liddell.

Next month's Bible Bowl will be at Fairhope (Matthew 22-24). Tentatively, the date has been set for 12-12 at 2:00 P.M. Ages 10-19 are encouraged to prepare themselves.

Reading/Invitation

December 1, 1993

Reading: Ray Williams

Invitation: Michael Lowry

December 8, 1993

Reading: Jeremy Caine

Invitation: Gerald Caine

Mark These Dates

November 28—Young People's Get Together service.

June 11-15, 1994—19th Annual Bellview Lectures: "Changes In The Church Of Christ."

Sick

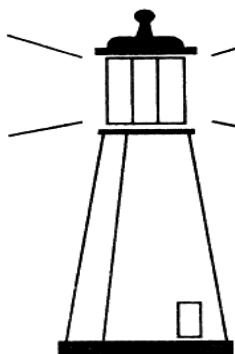
Fred Stancliff concluded his treatments on Tuesday. Bette Crowe continues in the hospital. Bill Hollowed is recuperating from surgery (11-15).

Visitation Groups

Group 1 meets December 5

Group 2 meets December 12

Group 3 meets December 19



BEACON

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DECEMBER 2, 1993

NO. 48

BELLVIEW CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Bill Gallaher

DEACONS
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Jerry Caine, Bill Crowe, Charles Garrett,
Louis Herrington, James Loy,
Harold Maxey, Richard Parker

MISSIONARIES
Ira Rice

MEETING TIMES

SUNDAY:

9:00 A.M. BIBLE CLASSES
10:00 A.M., 6:00 P.M. WORSHIP
5:00 P.M. LADIES' BIBLE CLASS

WEDNESDAY: 7:00 P.M.

What Jesus Is Not!

Jerri Manasco

The world has a seriously misguided view of Jesus! To those who are not familiar with the Bible, Jesus is merely a wonderful person who lived in ancient times and who made some marvelous contributions to philosophy. To many who have read a Bible, Jesus remains a mystery—because they have not devoted real study time to what they have read about Jesus! It is truly sad that the Jesus people talk about is not the Jesus that you read about in the Bible. Jesus is NOT what many have pictured him to be, but what he IS has made a difference.

JESUS IS NOT A SOCIAL REFORMER—YET HIS TEACHING HAS DONE MORE TO MAKE POSITIVE CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE ORDERLY FUNCTIONING OF SOCIETY THAN ANYONE ELSE! Once, a man approached Jesus with a request that Jesus persuade the man's brother to divide their inheritance (Luke 12:13). The Lord immediately reminded him that he had not come to serve as a real estate executor! While Jesus did not necessarily deny

the legitimacy of the claim, He also warned the man against covetous motives for his demand (vv. 14-21). The teaching of Jesus, when applied, will make possible more solid social and civil attitudes that can grant greater security to any society. Jesus is not condemning proper and legitimate claims, but He does teach us to temper even just claims with a spiritual temper.

JESUS IS NOT A POLITICAL REFORMER—YET HIS TEACHING IS ABLE TO TOUCH THE REALM OF POLITICAL THINKERS WITH A SENSE OF JUSTICE! When some men asked Jesus if it was lawful to pay taxes to Caesar (i.e., the government), Jesus saw the evil intent of the inquirer and rebuked his hypocrisy (Mat. 22:18). By His teaching that one must render to Caesar what is his and also render to God what is His, there will be a healthy balance between earthly and heavenly obligations. While Jesus did not come to reorganize society, His teaching can do what needs to be done to make society a safer relationship! Jesus urges us to respect properly constituted authority; this is designed to prevent the fearful consequences of anarchy (Rom. 13:1-8). The teaching of the New Testament to pray for the ruling authorities (1 Tim. 2:1-2) and to honor the same (1 Pet. 2:17) leads toward a wholesome society. Let the humanist do better!

JESUS IS NOT A FAMILY COUNSELOR—YET HIS TEACHING CONCERNING MARRIAGE AND THE HOME WILL BRING ABOUT A WELCOME REVOLUTION IN OUR HOMES! Social scientists and psychologists are at a loss to find the problems behind the break-down in modern home life. They do not seem to know that the root cause is the modern tendency to reject, despise, and even mock the teaching of the Bible on the subject. Following the instructions given in Ephesians 5:21-33, Ephesians 6:1-4 and other such Scriptures is the hope for our floundering homes! Let scoffers deny it!

P.O. Box 166; Boaz, AL 35957

The Forgotten Son

Gus Munden

Last week our eight-year-old daughter Amy asked me the question, “Daddy, what do they mean when they say, the only forgotten Son?” I explained to her that the word was Begotten. She understood. Yet, there is a great thought here and that is Jesus is the forgotten Son by many. Let’s take a brief look where He is forgotten.

Jesus has been forgotten in the hearts and lives of those in the world. The world lives for pleasure, not for Jesus. Jesus is not in their thoughts nor is He included in any of their pursuits or decisions. By living in sin, the world has no place for Jesus. Truly, for them He is the forgotten Son.

Jesus has been forgotten by our schools. Very few class rooms teach children respect for others. God is seldom if ever mentioned. Abortion is taught as a method of birth control. Homosexuality is taught as an alternative life style. Most major schools and universities at one

time were religious in nature and expressed their beliefs in the God of Heaven. Truly, in our schools, Jesus is the forgotten Son.

Jesus has been forgotten in the homes of some Christians. In these homes, He is never mentioned in a conversation. Thanks is never made to God through Him. When we allow the filthy trash of television into our homes we have forgotten Him. We will not allow anyone to come into our home and curse a blue streak, not use God nor the Son's name in vain, yet we think nothing of it when we hear it on TV! When we fail to pray or read our Bible, He truly becomes the forgotten Son.

Jesus has been forgotten in the denominations. They may believe in Jesus and in God, as do the demons (Jam. 2:19), but when His Word is substituted with tradition, and commandments of men, He is the forgotten Son (Mat. 15:9). When men wear human names, instead of the name God designates; when men worship on a day other than the day God designates; when men belong to churches other than the one Jesus built (Mat. 16:18; Acts 20:7); when men teach a different way of Salvation other than the way Jesus taught, then it can be rightly concluded that the denominations have forgotten Jesus!

The question is, have you forgotten Jesus? Do you worship God? Do you Worship on the right day? Do you belong to the Church Jesus built? Do you wear the name Christian and it alone? Do you pray? Do you read the Bible? Are you faithful? Do you stand with Him, for Him? Have you obeyed the one and only plan of Redemption? Does He live in your life (Gal. 2:20)?

Is Jesus the King and Lord of your life or is He the forgotten Son?

Via The Reminder

Four “Versions” of Mark 16:16

The **UNIVERSALIST** says, “He that believeth not and is not baptized shall be saved. All are going to be saved.”

The **ROMAN CATHOLIC** says, “He that believeth not and is baptized shall be saved. Whether it be a newborn baby or an adult at the point of death, the sacrament of baptism has ability to take away sins.”

The **PROTESTANT DENOMINATIONALIST** says, “He that believeth and is not baptized shall be saved. Salvation is by faith only, without baptism or anything else.”

The **LORD** said, “He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved.”

WHICH OF THESE VERSIONS ARE YOU WILLING TO ACCEPT??

Via Mayfield, AL Bulletin

Visitation Groups

Group 2 meets December 12

Group 3 meets December 19

Group 1 meets January 2

Reading/Invitation

December 8, 1993

Reading: Jeremy Caine

Invitation: Gerald Caine

December 15, 1993

Reading: Tony Liddell

Invitation: Bobby Liddell

Mark These Dates

December 12, 1993—Bible Bowl at Fairhope Church of Christ. 2:00 P.M. Young people between the ages of 10-19 should be studying Mat. 22-24.

There Will Be No Young People's Get Together In December.

June 11-15, 1994—19th Annual Bellview Lectures: "Changes In The Church Of Christ."

Sick and Shut-in

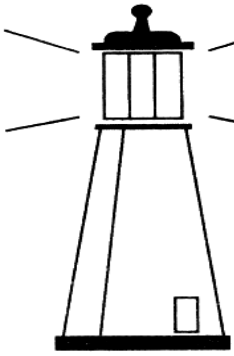
Shut-in: Rubin and Viola Malone, Ida Williams. Hospital: Bette Crowe. Tim Lamb's cousin, Gary Weems, is in critical condition at Shands Hospital in Gainesville following heart transplant surgery on 11-27-93.

New Address

Scot Brazell is now attending Memphis School of Preaching. His new address is 3096 Cherry Street, Memphis, TN 38188.

Pantry Item

Canned Vegetables



BEACON

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10:00 A.M., 6:00 P.M. WORSHIP
5:00 P.M. LADIES' BIBLE CLASS
WEDNESDAY: 7:00 P.M.

Financing Christmas *Al Brown*

The holidays are almost upon us. Most look forward to having the family get together for a very enjoyable time. Since this practice is utterly lacking in scriptural authority, it absolutely must not be done as a religious observance (Col. 3:17). It can be observed as a family gathering and holiday only if one's conscience is not violated.

Even if it is observed only as a time when the family comes together, a great deal of money is spent for food, gifts, and other expenses. Many go into serious debt in order to buy unneeded things, decorations, airline tickets, and gifts that may be extravagant and often not even wanted by the recipient.

It is in order to ask: Can a Christian justify such expense? This question is especially apropos if the outlay is beyond his ability, or if he uses money which Christian responsibility demands he spend on such things as debts that are due, food, or medical care for his family. It is true, the world would say: "Go ahead and spend it; after all, you

owe it to yourself.” You don’t owe yourself anything if you shirk responsibility by doing it. That is pure selfishness speaking.

Another question: Is he justified in doing this if he uses what he has committed to God to pay for it? That is precisely what many will do. They will spend themselves into debt and then cut down, or cut out entirely, what they normally give to the Lord.

Do you know what the Lord calls such shenanigans? He says it is robbing God (Mal. 3:8-10). If you do this, and there is no denying that some practice this every year, have you ever considered that you are a common thief! Not only are you a thief, but your victim has been the Lord God Almighty! Surely, you cannot think you will go unpunished for such criminal activity. Save yourself a lot of grief—eternally. Render to God what is His.

P.O. Box 39; Spring, TX 77383

Meekness

Jerry Smith

“I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace” (Eph. 4:1-3). Paul used the term “meekness” nine times (KJV) in his writings. Our Lord is characterized as being “meek” (Mat. 11:29). He further said: “Blessed *are* the meek: for they shall inherit the earth” (Mat. 5:5). The apostle Peter noted that we should strive toward a “meek and quiet spirit” (1 Pet. 3:4).

In developing such a character, we have to learn to “give a little,” be willing to see things from others’ point of view, not to strive for confrontations, but rather remember the words of the apostle: “For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile: Let him eschew evil, and do good; let him seek peace, and ensue it. For the eyes of the Lord *are* over the righteous, and his ears *are open* unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord *is* against them that do evil” (1 Pet. 3:10-12).

The Bible offers many examples of those whose character we would do well to emulate in our lives. One such example is Abraham in Genesis 13:1-12. We find (v. 2) he was rich in cattle, silver and gold. Lot also had much worldly goods (v. 5) and together, the land was not able to bear both and their belongings (v. 6). The herdmen of Abram and Lot strove over this, however Abram exhibited the proper spirit. “And Abram said unto Lot, Let there be no strife, I pray thee, between me and thee, and between my herdmen and thy herdmen; for we *be* brethren. *Is not the whole land before thee? separate thyself, I pray thee, from me: if thou wilt take* the left hand, then I will go to the right; or if *thou depart* to the right hand, then I will go to the left” (Gen. 13:8-9). As we strive to develop such characteristics in our Christian lifestyle, we should also remember never to sacrifice the TRUTH for the sake of unity, or simply to “get along” with the

religious world around us. The same Paul that spoke often of the need for “meekness” in one’s character, also used the term “stand fast” six different times in his writings. For instance: “Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong” (1 Cor. 16:13; cf. Gal. 5:1; Phi. 1:27; 4:1; 1 The. 3:8; 2 The. 2:15).

May we always remember the words of our Lord and the Hebrews writer: “And ye shall be hated of all *men* for my name’s sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved” (Mat. 10:22). “Let us hold fast the profession of *our* faith without wavering; (for he *is* faithful that promised;)” (Heb. 10:23).

P.O. Box 664; Parrish, AL 35580

Fellowship and Church Membership

(The following is an excerpt from an answer given by brother Guy N. Woods on the question of fellowship and church membership. Please consider it carefully.)

David Lipscomb and E.G. Sewell edited the *Gospel Advocate* for fifty years. In response to the question, “Is it right for an elder, and a minister of the word, to fall out with a part of the members of the church to which he belongs and withdraw his name from the congregation?” brother Lipscomb wrote, “There is nothing more plainly taught in the Bible than that the church, the individual congregations at Corinth, at Thessalonica, at Ephesus, constituted the body of Christ, and the individual members were parts of this body. To withdraw from this body was to withdraw from Christ. The idea that a man can be a member of Christ, can be in Christ, and yet in no congregation or body of Christ is an idea that has no foundation in the Bible.” Brother Sewell, when asked if a member who requested permission “to withdraw from the congregation” because the majority of the members had turned against him and his wife, replied, “We have no scriptural example of anything like the above. Where one individual complains of a whole congregation, we very naturally suppose that he is wrong himself. It very rarely occurs that a whole congregation will array itself against all the efforts of one of its own members. We have not known an instance of the kind. The probabilities are that the above-named member is either morbidly sensitive and suspicious of his brethren or he is in some way radically wrong himself and they do not wish to encourage him in his wrong course...If in such a case a member withdraws, he withdraws from the church of God and ought not to be recognized as a Christian by any congregation till he mends his ways. And, moreover, when a member gets wrong and all gospel means fail to get him right, the congregation where he belongs, instead of allowing him to withdraw from them as in good standing, ought to withdraw from him for walking disorderly.”

Via Olathe, KS Bulletin

Reading/Invitation

December 15, 1993

Reading: Tony Liddell

Invitation: Bobby Liddell

December 22, 1993

Reading: Elward Brantley

Invitation: Hairston Brantley

Mark These Dates

There Will Be No Young People's Get Together In December.

Bible Bowl—December 12, 2:00 P.M. at Fairhope. Matthew 22-24 is the study for this month.

June 11-15, 1994—Nineteenth Annual **Bellview Lectures**: "Changes In The Church Of Christ."

Sick and Shut-in

Shut-in: Rubin and Viola Malone. At home: Ida Williams, Louise Cline, Diana Brazed. Bette Crowe has come home from the hospital.

Restored

Suzanne Carnley was restored 12-5-93. She is a member at Leonard Street who has visited with us. Remember Suzanne in your prayers and encourage her in her growth in Christ.

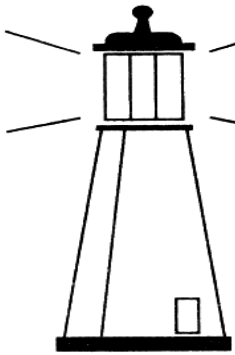
Visitation Groups

Group 2 meets December 12

Group 3 meets December 19

Group 1 meets January 2

Should you be a part of the efforts to evangelize through our Visitation Groups? If you may choose not to do so, then why should all others not so choose?



BEACON

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10:00 A.M., 6:00 P.M. WORSHIP
5:00 P.M. LADIES' BIBLE CLASS
WEDNESDAY: 7:00 P.M.

Who Sets the Standards?

Wade Lee Webster

It matters a great deal how you answer this question. In fact, your answer to this question may determine where you will spend eternity. It is very important for people of all ages to understand who sets the standards that we must live by in this world. In this article, we are going to examine which answer is correct.

Many people say that the individual sets the standard for what is right and what is wrong. They claim that each person has a right to determine within themselves what is right or wrong. However, as we study God's Word, we learn that man does not have the authority to determine what is right and wrong in life within himself. The people that we read about in the book of Judges tried this approach. Inspiration records, "In those days there was no king in Israel, but every man did that which was right in his own eyes" (Jud. 17:6). In fact, the book of Judges closed with men still doing what they thought was

right. The book opened with such a promising future for God's people but because of the people's decision to do what *they thought* was right, the book closes with one of the darkest periods in biblical history. Throughout the book of judges, we find the anger of God kindled against his people because they were doing what they thought was right. Solomon warned, "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof *are* the ways of death" (Pro. 14:12; 16:25). Man does not have the ability to see the end result of foolish choices. Jeremiah wisely said, "O LORD, I know that the way of man *is* not in himself: *it is* not in man that walketh to direct his steps" (Jer. 10:23). If the individual determines what is right and wrong, then certainly ruin will be the result.

Others argue that society sets the standards for what is right and wrong. However, as we look to God's word, we find that society is not to be the standard for what is right and wrong. If society was the standard for what is right and wrong, then why were the people of Noah's day destroyed? In that day, society thought that various forms of wickedness were okay, yet, God destroyed them (Gen. 6). Also, why were the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah destroyed with fire and brimstone? Those cities, with the exception of Lot and part of his family, thought that homosexuality and other sins were okay, yet, they were destroyed (Gen. 19). God's word has always warned of the danger of following what everyone else is doing. The Israelites, in the days of Samuel, wanted a king so that they could be like the nations around them (1 Sam. 8:5). They were allowing society to determine what was right and what was wrong. They reaped the bitter fruits of their request. We can clearly see that society must not set the standards.

Finally, there are those who wisely proclaim that God sets the standards for what is right and wrong. Those that make this suggestion are exactly right. While the first two answers involve the possibility and probability of error since they are determined by man, this answer is guaranteed to be right by the omniscience of God. God's way is always spoken of as being the right way (Hos. 14:9; Acts 1 3:10). We must allow God to tell us through His Word what is right and wrong. Time and time again, in the Old Testament, God's children are encouraged to do that which is right in God's eyes (Exo. 15:26; Deu. 6:18; 12:25, 28; 21:9). The examples of David, Jehu, Hezekiah, Josiah, and Asa are set forth as examples of those who did that which God determined to be right (1 Kin. 11:33, 38; 2 Kin. 10:30; 18:3; 22:2; 2 Chr. 14:2). God's Word serves as the standard by which we, as human beings, determine what is right and what is wrong. Paul wrote, "Nevertheless, whereto we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us mind the same thing" (Phi. 3:16). God has given man everything that he needs, in His word, in determining that which is right and that which is wrong (2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Pet. 1:3). We have learned that God determines what is right and wrong in this life. We must not rely upon self or society to set our standards for us but rather rely upon the Scriptures given by inspiration to guide us in determining what is right and wrong in the sight of God.

23035 AL Highway 9; Piedmont, AL 36272

Plenty of Proof

Garell Forehand

“[A]ll things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and *in* the prophets, and *in* the psalms, concerning me” (Luke 24:44).

There were more than three hundred predictive prophecies in the Old Testament Scriptures concerning Jesus that were recorded centuries before He was ever born. Each of them was accurately fulfilled. So unlike the Dixon-style predictions, NOT ONE of the predictions concerning Jesus missed the mark. Have you ever seriously analyzed the implications of those signs?

Peter Stoner, a renowned mathematician, calculated the odds of just EIGHT of the three hundred predictive prophecies concerning Jesus having been fulfilled ACCIDENTALLY in the life of one man. The odds are **one in ten to the seventeenth power** (that number is a ten with seventeen zeroes following it. Thus, it would be 1 in 1,000,000,000,000,000,000)!

I asked my computer to do a few calculations for me in order to make that huge number ‘sink in’ a little more sensibly. A dollar bill is **six inches long**. It would take **10,560 dollar bills** laid end-to-end to extend **one mile**. The earth’s moon is about **239,000 miles** from earth. Thus, it would take **2,523,840,000 dollar bills** laid end-to-end to extend from the earth to the moon. That’s a little over two and a half **BILLION** (a number our government throws around quite flippantly from time to time)! But as incredibly large a number as a BILLION may now appear to be, the number that Peter Stoner calculated (ten to the seventeenth power) is simply mind-boggling. If one possessed that many dollar bills, he could lay them end-to-end in order to stretch them from the earth to the moon **nearly forty million times** (39,622,163). Looking at it a little differently, those bills could add up to **about twenty million ROUND TRIPS to the moon!** Only 8 of the 300 predictive prophecies!

I would calculate that we have very little excuse to disbelieve the claims of the Word of God concerning Jesus Christ!

Via Old Paths

Young People Win Bible Bowl Third Time in Row

We are happy to congratulate the young people from Bellview for their winning the First Place Banner at the Bible Bowl at Fairhope on Sunday!

Those taking part were: Jeremy Caine, Tony Liddell, Becky Cline, Talisha Brantley, Brantley Johnson and Keri Liddell.

Congratulations for a job well done!

Restored

Harold Maxey (127), Michael and Sheryl Lowry, Susan Hollowell, and Martha Wilcoxson (12-12). Remember these brethren in your prayers.

Visitation Groups

Group 3 meets December 19, 1993

Group 1 meets January 2, 1994

Group 2 meets January 9, 1994

Reading/Invitation

December 22, 1993

Reading: Elward Brantley

Invitation: Hairston Brantley

December 29, 1993

Reading: Scot Brazell

Invitation: Allen Brazell

Mark These Dates

There Will Be No Young People's Get Together In December
January 16 , 1994—Bible Bowl at 2:00 P.M. at jay. Matthew 25-26:56 is the study for the month.

June 11-15.1994—Nineteenth Annual **Bellview Lectures**: "Changes In The Church Of Christ."

Sick

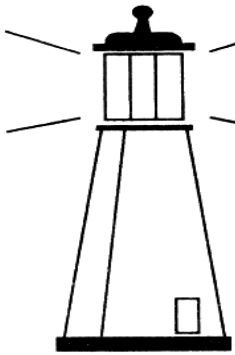
Viola Malone has returned home from the hospital. Rubin Malone is shut-in as well.

Proud Grandparent

Marilyn Hall is' happy to announce the birth of her grandson John Leigh McCallen Hall III, born on December 7 to John and Ellen Hall.

MSOP Students

We are happy to know Preston and Tanya, Damon and Vaydra, and Scot will be with us over the holidays. Dusty and Sandy will first go to South Carolina and come here a little later.



BEACON

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NO. 51

BELLVIEW CHURCH OF CHRIST
4850 Saufley Road
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Bill Gallaher

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Jerry Caine, Bill Crowe, Charles Garrett,
Louis Herrington, James Loy,
Harold Maxey, Richard Parker

MISSIONARIES
Ira Rice

MEETING TIMES
SUNDAY:
9:00 A.M. BIBLE CLASSES
10:00 A.M., 6:00 P.M. WORSHIP
5:00 P.M. LADIES' BIBLE CLASS
WEDNESDAY: 7:00 P.M.

Steadfast and Unmovable *Shan Jackson*

Many examples of the First Century Christians leave much to be desired. Such is the case with Hymeneus and Alexander. Their lives were so anti-Christian that Paul even delivered them unto Satan (1 Tim. 1:20). His reason for such action was because of their blasphemy but specifically their misdeed was the "shipwrecking" of the faith of others.

Even without much insight, we can readily see that men like Hymeneus and Alexander are once again plaguing the brotherhood. Casual observation sees many in the brotherhood attempting to shipwreck the faith of others much as Hymeneus and Alexander did.

Many of us remember the day when all our attacks were from without rather than within, but today some are allowing the pure and simple truth of the New Testament to slip through our fingers like wet soap in the shower. "Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which

we have heard, lest at any time we should let *them* slip. For if the word spoken by angels was steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompense of reward; How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard *him*” (Heb. 2:1-3).

Some refuse to heed the things they have heard and by way of revenge they lash out at those who do. Brethren, the Word is steadfast and disobedience will receive a just recompense of reward, therefore, it behooves each of us to not neglect that great salvation. Remember, this same Hebrews writer adds that we are “not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul” (Heb. 10:39).

Far too many of us are selling out to the ways of the world for even less than a morsel of meat (Heb. 12:16). We are seeing our men drift into thinking along the lines of the denominational. When our Christianity is compromised our faith is overthrown. “Who concerning the truth have erred, saying that the resurrection is past already; and overthrow the faith of some” (2 Tim. 2:18). By treading under foot the name of the Savior they are leading others astray and are becoming a stumbling-block to others.

Two thousand years ago, Jesus was betrayed for thirty pieces of silver but today the selling price appears to be popularity, fame, or prestige. “Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth?” (Gal. 4:16). Just as false teachers abounded in the First Century, so false teachers abound today. These teach all sorts of heresy. However, as in Peter’s day warnings go unheeded and many still, “follow their pernicious ways” (2 Pet. 2:2).

Our numbers are dwindling. The seven thousand of the Old Testament looks more literal every day. With such beautiful sermons dealing with our desire to grow big and strong, even with a compromise concerning the truth, we are being swept away. With a ring of liberty, our knowledge of the truth grows ever so weak and as our knowledge weakens, our willingness to accept others in their error increases. Brethren, it would have been better for us not to have known the way of righteousness, than after we had known it, to turn from the holy commandment (2 Pet. 2:22).

P.O. Box 904; Palacios, TX 77465

Why Should I Place Membership?

Wayne Price

“Why do I need to place membership; I’m already a member of Christ’s church?” “I’m a member of the church ‘at large,’ and I believe that it is enough,” another proclaims. The question is a good one, surely deserving an answer.

In times past, when people moved from one congregation to another, they often took with them a letter of recommendation. It was a good practice, for it served to introduce one (or a family) to the new congregation, and informed the new congregation that the bearer was faithful.

Whatever happened to such a practice? If it was a good idea earlier, why is it not also a good idea today? Obviously, it would assist the elders to do their work in a better way. They are shepherds of the flock (Acts 20:38; 1 Pet. 5:1-4; Heb. 13:17), yet it is difficult, at times, for them to ever figure out *who* is in their flock, and who is not.

Sometimes sheep (Christians) move into an area, worship with the local church for a while, then “shop around” for a few years for greener pastures. Are they a part of the local flock just by virtue of their moving into the area? Surely not. The fact is, some still consider themselves members of the congregation back home (perhaps in another state). Do the shepherds “back home” watch for their souls? The answer is obvious! Local elders may wonder, “is that sheep in our flock, or does he belong in another local flock overseen by other shepherds?” Possibly some of these “suitcase” Christians just want to become lost in the crowd, which may explain their refusal to place membership with a local congregation.

A number of years ago, a family moved to a new city, and placed membership with the local church there. On the card submitted to be read to the congregation, they stated they desired to be a part of the local church there, and furthermore they were placing themselves under the oversight of the local shepherds to watch in their behalf of their souls. We recommend this practice as worthy of emulation. If all members would follow such a policy, the first eldership would know that they were no longer responsible for these sheep, while the second eldership would know that their job of watching after the welfare of their sheep was greater now. But at least both would know which sheep were in their flock!

Via Olathe, KS

On Membership in a Local Congregation

We live in a mobile society. Especially in Pensacola, due to the military families present, many come and go. Yet, that does not relieve one of the responsibility to work and worship under the oversight of elders in a local congregation, nor should it be a great hindrance (at least in most cases).

I have, in the time I have preached, run across some who lived in one city for years, yet, when approached about membership in the local congregation, maintained membership in a congregation in another city or another state! Why? It appears to be an attempt to escape responsibility. How so?

The eldership in the first congregation can neither exercise oversight nor give an account concerning that person (or family) and the eldership in the second congregation face the same dilemma and the footloose members *and Satan* are pleased to have it so.

BL

Brother Guy N. Woods Passes

We were saddened to hear of the death of a great man of faith. Brother Woods was a beloved brother, excellent and eloquent preacher, Bible scholar, debater, author, editor and friend. He passed from this life on Wednesday, December 8, 1993.

It was a great blessing to hear him preach many times and to have him with us in a number of meetings in Parrish, Alabama. His work had a great impact upon my life and my work as a preacher for which I shall forever be thankful. He shall be missed by a grateful brotherhood *BL*

Mark These Dates

January 16, 1994—Bible Bowl at 2:00 P.M. at Jay. Matthew 25-26:56 is the study for the month.

Young People's Get Together— 1-30-94, after evening worship.

June 11-15, 1994—19th Annual **Bellview Lectures**: "Changes In The Church Of Christ."

Visitation Groups

Group 1 meets January 2, 1994

Group 2 meets January 9, 1994

Group 3 meets January 16, 1994

Reading/Invitation

December 29, 1993

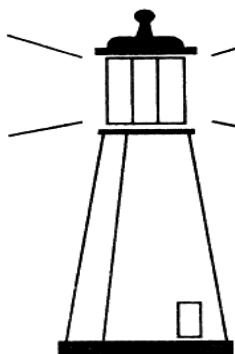
Reading: Scot Brazell

Invitation: Allen Brazell

January 5, 1994

Reading: Dave Tomarchio

Invitation: Corey Bittner



BEACON

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VOL. XXII

DECEMBER 30, 1993

NO. 52

BELLVIEW CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Ira Rice

MEETING TIMES

SUNDAY:

9:00 A.M. BIBLE CLASSES
10:00 A.M., 6:00 P.M. WORSHIP
5:00 P.M. LADIES' BIBLE CLASS

WEDNESDAY: 7:00 P.M.

A Hasty Conclusion

Hardeman Nichols

King David must have known all kinds, from the rich and famous to the poor peasant, those with greed for power and the contented servant with his family. He had seen them all. But there was one trait, ugly and shameful, that cut across all cultural lines and was found among all kinds of people. So universal was that despicable practice that David almost lost his confidence in everyone. He confided, "I said in my haste, All men *are* liars" (Psa. 116:11).

Jeremiah would have shouted "Amen!" if he had lived in David's time. The nation of Judah had become so adept at lying and deceit that he lamented, "And they bend their tongues *like* their bow *for* lies: but they are not valiant for the truth upon the earth;...Take ye heed every one of his neighbour, and trust ye not in any brother: for every brother will utterly supplant, and every neighbour will walk with slanders. And they will deceive every one his neighbour, and will not speak the truth: they have taught their tongue to speak lies, *and* weary themselves to commit

iniquity” (Jer. 9:3-5). In exasperation, you sigh, “Who then, can be trusted?”

Lying is so pandemic that it is tempting to conclude that everyone is doing it. Consider some of the many categories of liars.

Pernicious liars. These “make up” reproaches and spread them for advantage or to harm. Of these, God warns: “Whoso privily slandereth his neighbour, him will I cut off” (Psa. 101:5).

Social liars. This is often excused as “polite” lying. One flatters “Your dress is beautiful” while thinking it really is atrocious. Mothers sometime teach their children to do this. When they do not want to talk to someone, they just have the child say, “She’s not home.”

Business liars. Corporate advertising has become notorious for this. Even salesmen will misrepresent to make a sale. Yet the Bible says, “A false balance *is* abomination to the LORD” (Pro. 11:1).

Promissory liars. This kind makes debts, not intending to pay. They borrow and do not return. The apostle Paul admonished, “Owe no man any thing, but to love one another” (Rom. 13:8).

Gossiping liars. Not quite vile enough to “make up” the reproach, they “take it up.” It is related without even checking its veracity. And this type of liar often adds “juicy morsels” to what has been heard. “Thou shalt not go up and down *as* a talebearer among thy people” says Leviticus 19:16.

Entertaining liars. These declare the colorful stories they tell actually happened to them, when in fact they did not. We should make our “Yea, yea; Nay, nay: for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil” (Mat. 5:37).

Defensive liars. Even Abraham was guilty of this. When he feared for his life, he urged Sarah to tell the Pharaoh a half-truth (Gen. 12:10-20).

Political liars. There is so much of this in political rhetoric. One sees it in almost every election.

Covetous liars. Ananias and Sapphira lost their souls over this in Acts 5. Are some guilty today when they give? What about the figures reported on tax returns.

Religious liars. There are some pious frauds, who make great claims as miracle workers and prophets today, just as there were false apostles who were found to be “liars” (Rev. 2:2). If one does not have a love for the truth, God will cause such to believe a lie and be lost eternally. (2 The. 2:8-12).

Need more be said? Lying is prevalent; but it is hasty to say all are liars. Christians have become new creatures and obey the rule: “Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds” (Col. 3:9). They now follow Jesus who is the “truth” (John 14:6). They confidently believe “Lying lips *are* abomination to the LORD: but they that deal truly *are* his delight” (Pro. 12:22).

All men are not liars; but God says all who are “shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death” (Rev. 21:8).

P.O. Box 17066; Dallas, TX 75217

Four Attitudes

Jerri Manasco

There are four attitudes that people basically have toward the truth. Each of us maintains one of them.

First, there are some people who do not believe the truth! The truth has absolutely no effect on them at all and cannot move them to action. These are well described by John as having seen the evidence, but not accepting what they have been privileged to evaluate. Concerning these folks John wrote, “But though he had done so many miracles before them, yet they believed not on him” (John 12:37). Such people have made up their minds what they will believe and if a teaching fails to suit their taste, they reject it outright! Such a disposition is seen in those who say, “I know the Bible says it, but...” When you read simply what the Bible says, these will reply, “That’s your interpretation!” These may even mock the truth and abuse the teacher of truth (Acts 17:32; 2 Chr. 36:16).

The second attitude is found in those who believe the truth but will not admit it! They will not confess that it is the truth. The chief priests who believed in Jesus but would not confess Him before men fall into this classification (John 12:42-43). Joseph the counselor was a believer, “but secretly for fear of the Jews” (John 19:38). These are the people who will not admit to the truth for fear that they will condemn family members or friends who have not believed the truth as they have. These refuse to be made better, to be spiritually enriched by the truth.

A third group are those who believe the truth, admit it, but will not obey it. Many people are like this! Such individuals are fine people who admit that truth is truth. They admit that the Bible means what it says and that they are at present not doing what the Bible teaches—but they simply will not surrender their hearts to what they know to be right and true. Felix saw Paul’s reasoning clearly enough (Acts 24:25), but never obeyed. Agrippa acknowledged Paul’s appeal (Acts 26:28), but refused to give up power, position, or wealth!

The fourth class is composed of those who believe the truth, admit it, and obey it. These are the ones whose soul will be purified (1 Pet. 1:22). They know the cost of being a Christian, but they go ahead and pay the price!

P.O. Box 166; Boaz, AL 35957

1994

1993 is over and it went by so quickly. We would be wise to reflect upon what we tried and what we accomplished in the year past.

Many began 1993 intending to read through the Bible in one year. How far did you get? I hope you made it.

Why not begin 1994 with greater resolve to study His word. Pick up one of the daily reading tracts and use it.

Visitation Groups

Group 1 meets January 2, 1994

Group 2 meets January 9, 1994

Group 3 meets January 16, 1994

Reading/Invitation

January 5, 1994

Reading: Dave Tomarchio

Invitation: Corey Bittner

January 12, 1994

Reading: Chad Lightner

Invitation: Ray Foshee

Mark These Dates

January 16, 1994—Bible Bowl at 2:00 P.M. at Jay. Matthew 25-26:56 is the study for the month.

June 11-15, 1994—19th Annual **Bellview Lectures**: “Changes In The Church Of Christ.”

Please Be Here and on Time

Some continue to be late for classes and assemblies; thus, disrupting the meeting, setting a bad example for others, hindering their own participation and showing either a lack of planning, effort or concern.

Sometimes, we all face unavoidable delays that may make us run later than usual. That is understandable. Yet, many times even those problems could be overcome by leaving in plenty of time.

Usually, the real problem is habit. We fall into a habit of doing certain things at certain times and leaving our homes at a certain time. If the habit you now have results in your being habitually 5 or 10 minutes late, shouldn't you change that habit? **Please make a conscious effort to be here, for Bible classes and the assembly, and on time.**