

**THIRD ANNUAL
KENTUCKY BIBLICAL VIEWPOINTS
LECTURESHIP**

SEPTEMBER 18-22, 1991



THEME:

**“MAJOR LESSONS
FROM MINOR
BIBLE CHARACTERS”**

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**"MAJOR LESSONS
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BIBLE CHARACTERS"**

**EDITORS:
Larry & Gail Hendrix**

**Held at the
HURTS CREEK CHURCH OF CHRIST
Hyden, KY 41749**

DEDICATION

The Lectureship book of 1991 is dedicated to a very special group of ladies at the Hurts Creek Church of Christ. As we have said so many times, we could not function as we do without their co-operation and help. Our ladies are always ready to do any work that is needed, such as: *Teaching Children's Bible Classes & VBS; Preparing the Weekly Bulletin; Keeping the Bulletin Boards up to date; Supervising the Youth Group Visitation to Hyden Manor; Mailing Cards to the ill; Mailing of other correspondence; a Food Program in which they prepare food for funerals and those with long-term illnesses; Preparing food for Revival Dinners, Singings, Youth Rally, Lectureship, Fellowship Meals, and Visitation Luncheons.* Not only do they do spiritual work, but also physical labor. They were very instrumental in finishing our new addition: *They drove nails, pulled electrical wires, hung sheetrock, plastered, sanded, and painted.* They are always willing, no matter what we ask them to do, to serve this congregation to the best of their ability. The growth and success of our congregation has a lot to do with these ladies. It is a privilege to be associated with such a fine group of Ladies. Keep up the good work!

Written by Larry Hendrix, on behalf of the Elders of the Hurts Creek Church of Christ.

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CHURCH SERVICE
SUNDAY
 SUNDAY SCHOOL 10 00 AM
 MORNING WORSHIP 11 00 AM
 EVENING SERVICE 6 30 PM
 WEDNESDAY EVENINGS 7 00 PM
 ROMANS 16 16 CHURCHES OF CHRIST SALVATION



**Ladies
 Food
 Program**

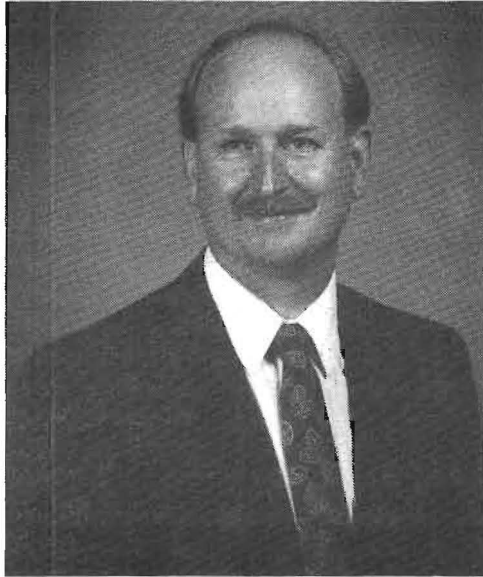


Ladies Class



Bible Class Teachers

'And I intreat thee also, true yokefellow, help those women which laboured with me in the gospel . . . ' Phil. 4:3



Larry Hendrix

RESUME

Larry Hendrix was born on September 13, 1954, in Leslie County, Kentucky. He is married to Gail Bowling Hendrix and they have three children: Natasha Karen (13), Bridget Camille (7), and Riley Larry Lee (4).

Larry was baptized in the Fall of 1974 by Vance Bowling, his father-in-law. Immediately, he began studying to preach in classes taught by Vance Bowling, and preached his first sermon in the Spring of 1975. Although he works full-time for Whitaker Coal Corporation in Hazard, KY, he has been preaching since 1975.

For the past four years, he has been one of the ministers for the Hurts Creek Church of Christ in Hyden, KY. He also is the Chaplain for the Hyden Manor Nursing Home. He and his family reside at HC 65 Box 775, Wooton, KY. Phone 606-279-4804.

JETHRO: THE WISE COUNSELOR

Exodus 18:13-27

Larry Hendrix

1. We know and hear much about Moses, and very little about Jethro.
2. Moses married Jethro's daughter, Zipporah, thus making Jethro Moses father-in-law.
3. Moses had the task of leading the Israelites out of the bondage of Egypt.
4. After they had crossed the red sea, Jethro heard of their safe arrival and met Moses in the wilderness with his wife and sons.
5. Moses told Jethro all that God had done to Pharaoh, and how God had taken care of them on their journey through the wilderness.
6. It didn't take long for Jethro to notice that Moses was taking care of all the problems that arose by himself, he could see that Moses was wearing down very fast, so Jethro sat down with Moses and counseled him concerning this matter.
7. We would have to say that Jethro was a wise counselor in that he knew the importance of Moses teaching of God's word, but that he needed help.

DISCUSSION:

I. THE IMPORTANCE OF GAINING WISE COUNSEL.

- A. Man does not have the ability to direct his own way.
 1. Jer. 10:23
 2. John 15:5
 3. II Cor. 3:5
- B. We must gain counsel (*advice, judgement, guidance*) from somewhere.
 1. There are two places, or kinds of counsel that man receives.
 - a. *The world – Evil counsel.*
 - b. *God – Wise counsel.*

- C. When men in the Bible sought and accepted counsel from the world, it brought mistakes and destruction.
 - 1. Num. 31:16
 - 2. I Kings 12
- D. When men today look for counsel in the wrong places, it will bring destruction.
 - 1. Some turn to **TRADITION** (Matt. 15:9).
 - 2. Some turn to **HUMAN REASON** (I Sam. 15).
 - 3. Some turn to **FEELINGS** (Luke 18:11).
 - 4. Some turn to the **WORLD** (I John 2:15-16).
- E. When men in the Bible sought and accepted counsel from God, they prospered and gained victory.
 - 1. Judges 18:5
- F. Men today must also seek this wise counsel from God.
 - 1. His counsel comes from his word (II Tim. 3:16-17; Psa. 19:7-8).

II. WHAT MADE JETHRO A WISE COUNSELOR?

- A. He trusted God.
 - 1. Exodus 18:10-11.
- B. He understood that God was in control.
 - 1. Verse 19.
- C. He was willing to *let* God be in control, he worshiped and served Him (v.12).

III. NOTICE, AND APPLY THE WISE COUNSEL JETHRO GAVE TO MOSES.

- A. (read) Exodus 18:13-27.
- B. Verse 18.
 - 1. Moses was trying to do all the work himself, he was trying to stand alone.
 - 2. Jethro understood that this was too heavy a burden for Moses, and that he would end up wearing himself out.
 - a. *This is a good lesson for us today, we must have the help of God and the help of fellow christians.*
 - b. I Cor. 3:9
 - c. II Cor. 6:1
 - d. Psa. 133:1
- C. It is very important for us to notice that there is a job for *everyone*.
 - 1. The preacher's can't do it all.

2. The Elders can't do it all.
3. It takes all the members to do it.
 - a. I Cor. 12:4-6, 12, 14-28
- D. If in my human body a part stops working, it cripples my body or keeps me from being able to function properly.
- E. So if you are a member of Christ's body and are not working, you are crippling the church and keeping it from functioning properly.

CONCLUSION:

1. When Jethro counseled Moses, he listened, and followed his advice.
 - a. v.24 So Moses hearkened to the voice of his father in law, and did all that he had said.
 2. Do we follow God's counsel?
 - a. Prov. 1:25 *"But ye have set at nought all my counsel, and would none of my reproof"*
 3. Prov. 12:15 *"The way of a fool is right in his own eyes: but he that hearkeneth unto counsel is wise."*
-



HaliBurton Greer

RESUME

HaliBurton Greer was born on April 9, 1926 in Hazard, KY. He is married to Ben Wiley Hatley and they have two children and three grandchildren.

After graduating from high school, he served two years in the U.S. Army Air Corps, then attended University of Tennessee Junior College in Martin, TN, University of Tennessee in Knoxville (B.S. Degree), and East Tennessee University in Johnson City (M.A. Degree).

He was baptized on June 8, 1949. His preaching career began in the spring of 1957 while worshipping with the Laurel Ave. Church of Christ in Knoxville, TN. He also has preached for the Broyles St. Church of Christ in Erwin, TN; the Fries Hill Church of Christ in Galax, VA; the Pigeon Roost Church of Christ in Relief, NC; and then after moving back to Hazard in 1972, he presently preaches for the Lothair Church of Christ in Hazard, and the Couchtown Church of Christ in Typo, KY.

As well as preaching, he works in the School system as Director of Pupil Personnel for the Jenkins Independent Schools, Jenkins, KY.

KORAH, DATHAN, ABIRAM

REBELS AGAINST GOD:

Numbers 16; 26:9

HaliBurton Greer

1. When has there been a time that God's human creation has not rebelled against Him?
2. From the creation in the Garden of Eden, until now, September 1991, there have been those who would follow their own stubborn, stiff-necked way, rather than God's way.
3. What happens? What dangers lurk when we **REBEL AGAINST GOD?**
4. Let us examine an example found in the Old Testament of some who rebelled against God.
5. While we do so, remember the words of Paul to the church at Corinth as he spoke of things that took place during the 40 years of sojourning in the wilderness: "*Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted*" (I Cor. 10:6).

DISCUSSION:

I. GOD'S CHOSEN PEOPLE.

- A. Adam & Eve (Gen. 1 & 2).
- B. Noah & Family (Gen. 6).
- C. Abraham (Gen. 12).
- D. Jacob/Israel (Gen. 25:23; 28:10-22).
- E. Joseph (Gen. 37:26-36; 39-41).
- F. Moses (Exodus 3:1-6).

II. GOD'S PLAN FOR THE ISRAELITES.

- A. A holy nation (Exodus 19:1-6).
- B. All to be priests (Exodus 19:1-6).
- C. Israel's reaction (Exodus 20:18; Deut. 5:22).
- D. God chose Levi (Deut. 10:8-9; 21:5).

III. LEVITICAL FAMILIES.

- A. Sons of Levi (Exodus 6:16).

1. Gershon.
2. Kohath.
3. Merari.
- B. Sons of Gershon (Exodus 6:17).
 1. Libni.
 2. Shimi.
- C. Sons of Korath (Exodus 6:18).
 1. Amram.
 2. Izhar.
 3. Hebron.
 4. Uzziel.
- D. Sons of Merari (Exodus 6:19).
 1. Mahali.
 2. Mushi.
- E. Sons of Amram (Exodus 6:20).
 1. Aaron.
 2. Moses.
- F. Sons of Izhar (Exodus 6:21).
 1. Korah.
 2. Nepheg.
 3. Zichri.

IV. THE REBELLION.

- A. Korah.
- B. Dathan & Abiram.
 1. Great grandsons of Reuben.
 - a. Dathan – son of Eliab.
 - b. Abiram – son of On.
 - 1) Eliab and On – sons of Peleh.
 - a) Peleh – son of Reuben

V. CAUSE OF REBELLION.

- A. Pride.
 1. Definition.
 2. Korah's, Dathan's, Abiram's prideful attitude.
- B. Envy.
 1. Definition.
 2. Korah's, Dathan's, Abiram's envy.

VI. THE ISSUES OF THE REBELLION.

- A. Moses' attitude (Num. 16:4-5).

- B. Moses' instructions (Num. 16:6-7).
- C. Moses' admonition (Num. 16:8-11).
- D. Dathan & Abiram's attitude (Num. 16:12-15).

VII. RESULTS OF THE REBELLION.

- A. The Test (Num. 16:16-19).
- B. Moses' intercession (Num. 16:20-22).
- C. The Lord's mercy (Num. 16:23-27).
- D. The punishment (Num. 16:28-35).

VIII. LESSONS FOR TODAY – 1991.

- A. Pride
- B. Envy
- C. Lost

CONCLUSION:

1. God wants all men saved (Ezek. 33:11).
 2. Man makes his own choice (2 Pet. 3:9).
-



James (Jim) Douglas Day

RESUME

James (Jim) Douglas Day was born in Leslie County Ky, on June 27, 1945. He is married to the former Linda Lewis and they have two children, Sally Ruth Mitchell and James Douglas Day Jr. Also one grandchild.

Jim graduated from Leslie County High School, attended Cumberland College for a year and half, and graduated from East Tennessee School of Preaching and Missions in 1985.

Jim preached for the Flatwoods Church of Christ for six and half years. He now preaches for the Elgin Church of Christ in Elgin, Tn.

Jim and his family reside at Rt. 1 Box 133, Robbins, TN 37852.

UZZAH:

A FATAL MISTAKE, DISOBEYING GOD

II Sam. 6:1-11; Num. 4:15; I Chron. 13:1-14

Jim Day

Thesis: *Human wisdom verses Divine Law.*

1. History of the Ark of the Covenant.
 - a. In the days of Eli and Samuel the Israelites were defeated in battle by the Philistines. The Philistines took the ark as part of the spoil.
 - b. They took the ark to Ashdod and placed it in the temple of Dagon, a Philistine idol.
 - c. The ark was a plague to the Philistines. Everywhere they took it, it caused problems.
 - d. Finally, they sent it back home. Men from Kirjath Jearim brought it to the house of Abinadab. There it stayed for twenty years until David became King of Israel (I Sam. 4–7).
 - e. David decided to move the ark from the house of Abinadab on the hill to Jerusalem. This is where the lesson begins.
2. Uzzah is a prime example of how man can get so caught up in his own *ability*, his own *wisdom*, and his own good *judgement* to the point he disobeys God's divine laws.
3. Every Christian should take a hard look at the action of Uzzah, then the action of God against Uzzah.

DISCUSSION:

I. GOD'S LAW CONCERNING THE HANDLING OF THE ARK.

A. Num. 4:1-15

1. In the proceeding verses the duties of Aaron and his sons are explained.
2. Then in verse 15 the duties of Kohath and his sons are explained.
3. God plainly commanded the sons of Kohath not to touch any holy thing.

B. God's commandments are important.

1. Num. 15:31-36
 2. Num. 15:40
 3. I Cor. 7:19
- C. People who love God will keep his commandments.
1. John 14:21, 23

II. UZZAH'S OWN HUMAN JUDGEMENT CAUSED HIM TO SIN.

A. II Sam. 6:6

1. The road must have been rough to cause the oxen to stumble.
2. Uzzah put forth his hand to stabilize the ark.
3. Only the priest could touch the ark. Uzzah was only to carry the ark.

B. Human judgement will suggest the following;

1. *Pragmatism* – Just as long as you are practical, it does not matter about God's laws. That is wrong.
2. *Situation Ethics* – Just let the situation for the moment determine if the decision you make is either right or wrong. That is wrong.
3. *Good Intentions* – Just as long as you meant well. That is wrong.
4. Uzza had all the above, but sinned against God.

C. *Pragmatism, Situation Ethics, and Good Intentions* are paving the road to hell.

1. The world has been caught up in this kind of thinking for a long time.
2. The sad thing is that now the church is beginning to think this way.

III. GOD PUNISHES UZZAH FOR HIS DISOBEDIENCE.

A. II Sam. 6:7

1. Uzzah was punished because he sinned, disobedience.
2. Uzzah was punished because his irreverence.
3. Uzzah was punished because of his unbelief.

B. Other example of God's punishment.

1. Nadab and Abihu (Lev. 10:1-2).
2. Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5:1-11).
3. Read Heb. 10:28-29.

C. Uzzah's punishment served as a warning to others.

1. It got David's attention.

2. David became afraid. The ark was not moved for three months.
3. God let them know He was in the middle of things as always.

CONCLUSION:

1. God's law about the ark was plain.
2. Human judgement caused Uzzah to sin.
3. God punishes for disobedience of His laws.

LESSON TO REMEMBER:

4. God had plainly revealed to man what he must do. He expects man to follow that revelation.
 5. When man follows his own judgment rather than God's, he will suffer the consequences.
-



Everett Spencer

RESUME

Everett Spencer was born on October 11, 1947, in Hazard, KY. He is married to Sheila Howard Spencer and they have one son, Jason.

Everett obeyed the gospel in 1974 at the Big Williard church of Christ, Busy, KY, where he now serves as one of the ministers, serves as a deacon, and teaches the teenage class and Wednesday night Bible class.

Everett graduated from Eastern Kentucky University in 1970. He has a B.S. Degree in Business Education, a Masters Degree in School Counseling, and a Rank I in School Administration.

He is a teacher/counselor/bus driver for the Buckhorn High School and has been for the past 21 years. He is also self-employed part time as income tax preparer.

He is a supporter of East Tennessee School of Preaching and Missions, Memphis School of Preaching, Biblical Viewpoints, International Gospel Hour, and Lebanon Jct. church of Christ. He and his family reside at HC 30 Box 375, Krypton, KY. 41754.

SHAMMAH: A MAN WHO STOOD HIS GROUND

II Sam. 23:11-12

Everett Spencer

1. Various characters known as Shammah:
 - a. Son of Reuel (Gen. 36:13; I Chron. 1:37).
 - b. Son of Jesse (I Sam. 16:9).
 - c. The Harodite, David's mighty man (II Sam. 23:25).
 - d. Jonathan, Shammah the Hararite (II Sam. 23:32).
 - e. Shammah (II Sam. 23:11-12) stood his ground against Philistines.
2. David's battle with Philistines.

DISCUSSION:

I. DEFINITION – “STOOD HIS GROUND.”

- A. Webster – to take or maintain a specified position, to be placed or situated, to remain unchanged, to make resistance, to endure, to withstand, resist, a view or opinion.
- B. Christians must take a stand for Biblical principles.

II. COST OF STANDING FOR THE TRUTH.

- A. Price for not obeying the truth
 1. Jude 1-2 Salvation available to all (Heb. 2:9; Titus 2:11-12; Rom. 5:21).
 2. v.3 Earnestly contend (Gal. 1:8-9, 22-24).
 3. v.4 False teachers unnoticed.
 4. v.5 Price for not standing (Heb. 2:5).
 5. v.6 Angel fallen (II Peter 2:4).
 6. v.7 Sodom and Gomorrah.
 7. vs.8-9 The Lord rebuke you!
- B. Those who paid the price:
 1. Joseph – a man of character
 - a. Moral purity (Gen. 39:9).
 - b. A forgiving spirit (Gen. 50:20-21).
 2. Daniel 3:17-18 – Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego.
 3. Daniel 6:5-10 – Lion's den.

4. John the Baptist (Matt. 11:11; Mark 6:17).
5. Stephen (Acts 7:51).
6. Paul (II Cor. 11:23-28; 4:16-18).

III. CURRENT ISSUES FACING CHRISTIANS – WORLDLY INFLUENCE.

A. Principles for our life:

1. Priorities on order (Col. 3:1-2).
2. Example of Christ (I Pet. 2:21).
3. Doers of the word (James 1:22).
4. Grow in grace and knowledge (II Pet. 3:18).
5. Heaven our goal (Phil. 1:23).

B. Christians must stand your ground against:

1. Deterioration of the traditional family
 - a. Gen. 2:23-24
2. The Influence of the Media:
 - a. Molding public opinion and moral values.
 - b. Prov. 22:6; Eph. 6:4
 - c. Matt. 5:14
3. Drug and Alcohol Abuse:
 - a. Statistics
 - b. Sinful (I Cor. 6:9-10; Gal. 5:19-21; Lev. 10:8-9; Prov. 31:45).
 - c. Social Drinking?
 - d. Eaves quote, "Any recreational, non-medical use of alcohol/drugs is an abuse."
4. Materialism:
 - a. Luke 8:14
 - b. I Tim. 6:9-10
 - c. Defense against (Rom. 12:1-2).
5. Sexual Immorality;
 - a. Condemnation (Gen. 19:1-25; Gal. 5:19-21; I Cor. 6:9-10; Rom. 1:26).
 - b. Offence against God (Gen. 39:9; Psa. 51:4).
6. Abortion:
 - a. Prov. 6:16-19; 1:10-16; Isa. 59:1-8; Exodus 23:7.
 - b. When does life begin (Gen. 25:21-24; Psa. 139:13-16; Jer. 1:45; Luke 1:41-44)?
 - c. Symbol of a nation that has moved away from God (Prov. 14:34; Psa. 9:17).
 - d. Solution (II Pet. 1:3-4; I Cor. 10:12-13; Eph. 6:10-11)?

7. Gambling:
 - a. Definition – to play a game for money; to hazard; to wager.
 - b. Bible teaches ways in which we obtain money;
 - 1) Earn (II Thess. 3:10).
 - 2) Gift (Prov. 17:8).
 - 3) Find (Matt. 13:44).
 - 4) Inherit (Ezek. 33:24; Heb. 9:15).
 - 5) Gambling.
 - c. Quote from Elkins and Taylor.
 - d. Violates principles of Golden Rule (Matt. 7:12).
 - e. We are to love God above all things (Matt. 22:37-40).
 - f. Gambling promotes greed and covetousness (Prov. 1:19; 15:27).
8. Pornography:
 - a. Porneia – fornication; illicit sexual behavior.
 - b. Graphei – writing.
 - c. Rom. 1:29; Eph. 5:3-4; 4:29
 - d. Effects on society.

CONCLUSION:

1. Shammah – one of David's mighty men who stood his ground against the Philistine army.
 2. Christians, we must stand our ground against the forces of Satan per the moral and biblical issues in this lesson.
-



Kent Bailey

RESUME

Kent Bailey was born June 8, 1952 at Hamilton Ohio to the late John and Alma (Bowles) Bailey, who were from Wooton and Hazard, Kentucky respectively.

Kent preached for five years in the Independent Christian Church, before his conversion. Upon learning the truth, and being baptized into Christ during 1976, he began preaching for the Churches of Christ.

He received the Bachelor of Arts degree (Bible Major) from Louisville Bible College in 1974, a Master of Arts degree from Tennessee Bible College in 1986. He has taught courses for Tennessee Bible College, and presently serves as an adjunct instructor for the East Tennessee School of Preaching in Knoxville Tn. As of June 1, 1991, he began his Ninth year as local evangelist for the Church of Christ at Lenoir City, Tn.

Kent is married to the former Judy Ann Whitehouse of Mount Eden, Kentucky. They have one fifteen year old daughter, Merideth Hope. The Baileys reside at 3095 Harrison Road, Lenoir City, TN 37771.

GAHAZI:

A SERVANT WHO WANTED SOMETHING FOR HIMSELF

II Kings 5:20-27

Kent Bailey

1. The background concerning this particular incident is found in II Kings 5:1-19, the cleansing of Naaman from his leprosy.
2. Here we find an attempt to build a God-pleasing character upon the foundation of self-interests.
3. Such foundations may have the appearance of greatness, but to God such is the essence of selfishness and sinfulness.
4. We are instructed *WHERE* we must build as well as *WHAT* we are to build (Mat. 7:27).
5. Gehazi tried this type of building upon personal gain, and was doomed to sin and separation from God. let us note his:

DISCUSSION:

I. SPECIAL PRIVILEGE.

- A. He was a servant of Elisha, the “*man of God*” (5:20).
 1. The name **GEHAZI** means “*VALLEY OF VISION.*”
 2. No doubt he was vision to the power of God through the acts of Elisha, the man of God.
- B. Although Gehazi lived within a spiritual atmosphere, yet such was the case that he was afflicted with the sin of pride to the point as if he acted as an unconverted heathen.
- C. There is a spiritual application that must be made to the lives of both individual Christians and local congregations.
 1. We have had the special privilege of being “*In Christ.*”
 2. How do we live?

II. SELFISH PURPOSE.

- A. “*As the Lord liveth, I will run after him and take somewhat off him*” (5:20).
- B. Here we find an unprecedented opportunity of making one’s self rich without robbing his master.

- C. This “I will” was an act of rebellion both against the spirit and honor of his master and God.
- D. Our sin, regardless of how private it may be, casts a reproach upon both our brethren and our God.
- E. Note some specific cases in the New Testament:
 - 1. Rev. 2:1-7
 - 2. Rev. 2:8-17
 - 3. Rev. 2:18-29
 - 4. Rev. 3:14-22
- F. Such a selfish purpose on the part of Gehazi revealed a sinful distrust in God and a desire to usurp his providence.

III. DECEITFUL WORK.

- A. As soon as Gehazi made his decision he enters such with all his might (5:21-22).
- B. After sin entered into his heart he lied against his master.
- C. As soon as the love of money and riches strikes its roots into our hearts covetousness must appear in life as it is seen by God (Acts 5:3).
- D. Today the church of the Lord is within the midst of apostasy. It is very unfortunate that there are members of the church willing to use the love of money to buy false doctrine, and there are preachers willing to sell such!

IV. SEEMING SUCCESS.

- A. His plan to get for himself the silver and garments succeeded beyond his own expectations (5:23-24).
- B. What were his thoughts as he returned from his successful journey?
 - 1. Luke 16:19
 - 2. Psa. 73:3-17
- C. Sin in all its forms has the appearance of being successful, but the end thereof are the ways of death.

V. UNEXPECTED DISCOVERY.

- A. He went in to stand before his master (5:25).
- B. He went in as nothing had happened to mar fellowship or hinder the service to both Elisha and God – HYPOCRISY!
- C. The question was raised by Elisha, “*Whence comest thou, Gehazi?*”
- D. A lie was stated by Gehazi, “*NO WHENCE.*”

1. Here is an attempt at self-justification – the fatal refuge of a rebellious backslider.
 2. Elisha's words must have come with pride withering effect when he stated. "*Went not mine heart with thee...*" (5:26).
- E. His secret sin is laid open and bare before the eyes of both his master and his God.
- F. This application **MUST** be made in the lives of those today (I Cor. 6:19)!

VI. TERRIBLE PUNISHMENT.

- A. "*He went out from his presence a leper as white as snow*" (5:27).
- B. His covetousness led him to err from the faith and pierce himself through with **MANY** sorrows.
1. The sorrow of personal humiliation and shame.
 2. The sorrow of alienation from faithful brethren and God.
 3. The sorrow of leading this children into the same condemnation.

CONCLUSION:

1. Matt. 16:26
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Jim Laws

RESUME

Dr. Jim Laws was raised in Murfreesboro, TN. He is married to Jan Pendergrass and they have two children.

Dr. Laws received his undergraduate B.A. degree from David Lipscomb University; his M.A. degree from Harding University Graduate School of Religion; and a Ph.D. from Tennessee Bible College. Dr. Laws has taught in the public schools of Tennessee and at the Christian college level. He is presently the minister of the Getwell Church of Christ in Memphis, TN. Laws also serves as the Associate Editor of the **Spiritual Sword**, a christian quarterly publication. He also is director of The Spiritual Sword Lectureship held annually in Memphis, and is the editor of the book, "**The Spiritual Sword Lectureship.**" Dr. Laws is the regular radio speaker for programming sponsored by the Getwell Church and has done extensive radio work throughout his career.

Dr. Laws has been very active in research and development of logical argumentation for formal public and written debates dealing with proofs of God's existence against evolutionists.

MORDECAI: LOYALTY IN THE FACE OF DEATH (Esther)

Jim Laws

1. The book of Esther has long been a favorite of Jews.
2. The book of Esther is a favorite of Christian people today.
3. Esther was a beautiful Jewish girl who was raised by her older cousin, Mordicai, an officer in the court of Ahasuerus. (This is but another name for the Persian ruler Xerxes.)
4. Xerxes became angry with his queen, Vashti, and held a contest to find someone to take her place.
5. Xerxes was unaware of Esther's background and ancestry and chose her to be queen.
6. Due to Mordecai's refusal to pay homage to Haman, a high official in the Persian government, Haman influenced Xerxes to issue a decree calling for the extermination of the Jews.
7. Mordecai persuaded Esther to intervene, at the risk of her own life, on the Jews' behalf.
8. Esther found favor with the king and revealed Haman's plot.
9. Haman was hanged on the gallows he had built for Mordecai, and Mordecai was given a place of high honor.
10. To counteract the decree of execution, the Jews were permitted to kill their persecutors.

DISCUSSION:

I. THE FEAST OF PURIM (Esther 3:7; 4:24, 26-32).

- A. The feast of Purim was established in celebration of the deliverance of the Jews.
 1. The word "purim" means "lots."
 2. It refers to the lots Haman cast to determine the day the Jews were to be massacred.
- B. The feast of Purim reminded the Jews of the dangers inherent in living in an alien culture.

II. MORDECAI IS AN ILLUSTRATION OF A MAN WHO HAD A LOVE FOR GOD'S PEOPLE.

- A. Mordecai was one of the first to receive the news of intended destruction (4:1-4).
 - 1. The first note of lamentation was uttered by Mordecai.
 - 2. This cry of lamentation was communicated to and taken up by the Jews throughout the empire (4:3).
 - 3. Mordecai sent word of this to Esther (4:5-8).
- B. The christian is to so love God and God's people that he will both mourn over the problem of sin as well as urge others to avoid such in their lives.
 - 1. Sin is the greatest enemy that we have.
 - 2. Sin is terrible in its consequences.
 - 3. We need more preaching on the consequences of sin.

III. MORDECAI IS AN ILLUSTRATION OF A MAN WHO HAD GOD AT THE CENTER OF HIS LIFE.

- A. Mordecai understood the law of the Lord.
 - 1. Mordecai refused to bow down to Haman because he knew the law of God (Deut. 5:7-10).
 - 2. Notice verse 9 of the passage.
- B. Mordecai had a desire to do God's will in the face of great opposition.
 - 1. Mordecai's refusal brought about the anger of Haman on the Jews (3:6).
 - 2. Haman's reaction is found in 3:8, 9, 13.
- C. Mordecai humbled himself before God and implored God's divine help.
 - 1. Mordecai realized that he and his people needed God's help (4:1).
 - 2. Mordecai realized that they were God's people and that they believed in Jehovah and that God watched over them.

IV. MORDECAI IS AN ILLUSTRATION OF A MAN WHO WAS AGGRESSIVE IN DOING GOD'S WILL.

- A. Mordecai made the work of God his own work.
 - 1. Mordecai took Esther to the king's house to be among the young women, of which one was to be selected as queen, causing Esther to come to the throne at a critical time.
 - 2. It was Mordecai who sent word to Esther to go to the king and make a request on behalf of her people (4:5-8).

3. It was Mordecai who encouraged Esther regarding her role in God's Providential plans for His people (4:14).
 4. Notice the encouragement of Mordecai to Esther becomes the challenge to the book: "*Who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?*"
- B. Mordecai knew that fidelity to God was the sure road to reward.
1. Mordecai was brought to the king and honored, even though the king knew that he and Esther were Jews.
 2. The king reversed the orders he had given through Haman.
- C. Mordecai was elevated to premier over the 127 provinces.
1. Read carefully Esther 8:1-16. Give special attention to verses 15 and 16. Study Esther 9:4 and 10:3.
- V. **MORDECAI IS AN ILLUSTRATION OF A MAN WHO WOULD CLEAVE UNTO THE LORD WITH PURPOSE OF HEART REGARDLESS OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES.**
- A. Though fearful, Mordecai never entertained the idea of withdrawing from the stand which he made against Haman.
 - B. Mordecai's example is a noble one regarding the providential care of God for His people.

CONCLUSION:

1. We can learn valuable lessons regarding life and godliness.
 2. Esther obeyed Mordecai, her foster father. A lesson America and the world needs.
 3. Mordecai, as well as Esther, had courage, even though they could have perished. We need that kind of courage today to live the christian life.
 4. God used Esther and Mordecai as instruments, within His own Providence, for the working out of His purpose for His people. Are we available to God for His work?
 5. Mordecai was a national figure, declaring his care for his own people. As christians we should exert our influence for the Lord and His church in our respective communities.
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Kieth Cozort

RESUME

Kieth Cozort was born on April 27, 1955 in Lansing, Michigan. He is married to the former Cheryl Ann Williams and they have three children: Adam (8); Nathan (6); Aaron (4).

Keith was a Computer Operator at the home office of the Florida Farm Bureau in Gainesville, Florida for four years when he decided to attend preacher training school.

He attended the Florida School of Preaching in Lakeland, Florida and graduated in January, 1983. He has also attended : Harding College (1973-1975), Alabama Christian School of Religion (1983-), and Pike Community College, Denver Colorado (1986).

Kieth has preached for Churches of Christ in: Steel, Missouri; Limon, Colorado; Grand Ledge, Michigan; And Paintsville, Kentucky.

While in Michigan, Kieth was co-host of the TV program "The Pillar Of Truth" for two years. Then he was the Director of the TV program "TV Bible Class" for one year.

JASON: A MAN OF HOSPITALITY

Acts 17:5

Kieth B. Cozort

1. Acts 17:1-10a – Background for our study.
2. Paul has come to Thessalonica and has been reasoning out of the scriptures with the Jews for three Sabbaths in the synagogue (vs.1-2).
3. He *opened* and *alleged* that Christ had to suffer and rise again (v.3).
 - a. **Opening** – to explain or unfold, here it means he *explained* the Scriptures in their true sense.
 - b. **Alleging** – laying down the proposition, maintaining that it must be so.
4. “*And some of them believed, and consorted with Paul and Silas*” (v.3).
 - a. “*Some of them*” – Jews.
 - b. *Consorted* – the word is commonly applied to those who are partakers of an inheritance.
5. Trouble arises for Paul and Silas in Thessalonica (v.5).
 - a. The **authors** of the trouble were “*those who believed not.*”
 - b. The **instruments** of the trouble were “*certain lewd fellows.*”
 - c. What did they do? They “*set all the city on an uproar.*”
6. While looking for Paul and Silas the house of Jason is assaulted because he has shown them hospitality.
7. Finding them not Jason and certain brethren are taken to the rulers of the city.
8. Accusations were made against Paul and Silas.
9. Security is taken of Jason and the one with him afterwards being let go.

DISCUSSION:

I. JASON, THE MAN.

A. Who is Jason?

1. Jason, Greek name frequently adopted by Jews named Joshua or Jeshua.

2. He is a Jew in Thessalonica.
3. Paul calls him one of “his kinsmen,” meaning probably a fellow-Jew, and perhaps a fellow countryman (Rom. 16:21).

II. WHAT IS HOSPITALITY?

A. Definition.

1. Thayer: Greek term means “hospitable, generous to quests” (p.654).
2. Hospitality: in the ancient Near East was tightly bound up in customs and practices which all were expected to observe.
3. One who ignored the customs did so at his own peril.

B. Customs of Hospitality (according to **Harper’s Bible Dictionary** p.408-409).

1. Hospitality was the process of “receiving” outsiders and changing them from strangers into guests.
2. The reception occurred in three stages:

a. **Testing the stranger.**

- 1) Strangers pose a threat to any community since they are potentially harmful.
- 2) Therefore they must be tested.
- 3) The ritual of foot washing marks the movement from stranger to guest (Gen. 18:4; 19:2; 24:32).

b. **Stranger as guest.**

- 1) It was imperative that strangers be under the protection of a patron, a host, who was an established community member.
- 2) To offend the “stranger become guest” was to offend the host (Lot – Gen. 19:1-10).
- 3) A guest could infringe the requirements of hospitality by:
 - a) insulting the host.
 - b) showing hostility or rivalry.
 - c) not showing him honor.
 - d) he must not usurp the role of host.
- 4) A host could infringe the requirements of hospitality by:
 - a) insulting the guest.
 - b) showing hostility or rivalry.
 - c) neglecting to protect the guest.

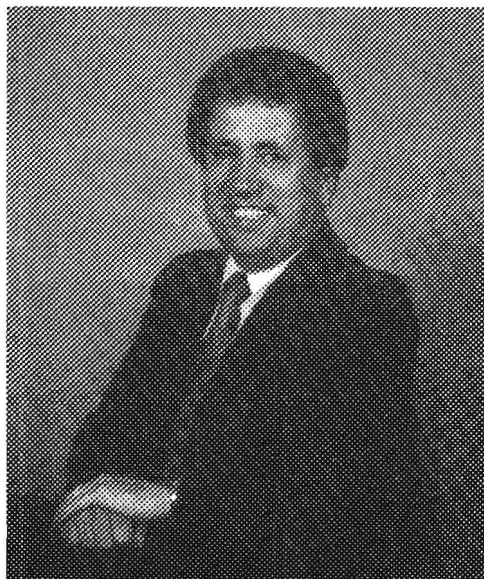
- d) not showing responsibility to the individual guest.
 - e) he must defend each guest against the other since both are guests.
 - f) the host could not fail to attend to the guests.
 - g) failure to offer the best is to denigrate the guest (John 2:10).
- c. **From guest to transformed stranger.**
- 1) The stranger-guest will leave the host either as a friend or enemy.
- C. Jason would naturally be held responsible for his guest behavior.

III. LESSONS TO BE LEARNED FROM JASON.

- A. The importance of hospitality.
- B. Christianity may cost you something.
- C. Showing hospitality brings great rewards.
- D. Standing for the truth brings great rewards.
- E. Showing hospitality may lead to bigger things in the future.

CONCLUSION:

1. Jason may be a “minor character” in the N.T. but he teaches us some major lessons.
 2. There is a need for more Jasons in the church today.
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Eddy Craft

RESUME

Eddy Craft was born October 15, 1947. His wife's name is Betty and they have three children: Brian (24), Vickie (22), and Howard (21).

Eddy was baptized in 1969, 6 months before entering Memphis School of Preaching from which he graduated in 1972. He also graduated from Tennessee Bible College in 1988 and is working on a Masters degree at Tennessee Bible College.

He has been the minister of the Elizabethton Church of Christ in Elizabethton, TN for the past nine and one half years and continues in that position at the present time. He is the founder of Biblical Viewpoints Television program and preaches on four radio programs. Also, for the last three years, Eddy has served as an elder at Elizabethton Church of Christ.

ARISTARCHUS:

A FAITHFUL COMPANION AND FRIEND

Acts 19-27

Eddy Craft

1. One of the greatest needs in the Lord's Church today is a desire to be a faithful co-worker in God's work and Aristarchus was just that.
2. Aristarcus was a loyal co-worker of the Apostle Paul, Aristarchus hailed from Thessalonica, but was in Ephesus and arrested with Gaius during the riot following Paul's first appearance in that city.
3. Aristarcus traveled with Paul from Troas to Jerusalem and from Jerusalem to Rome and shared Paul's imprisonment in Rome.

DISCUSSION:

I. ARISTARCHUS WAS FAITHFUL:

- A. In being faithful to Paul he was also faithful to the Lord that he and Paul served.
- B. The way we treat God's people will determine how God treats us (Matt. 18:21-35; 25:40; Acts 9:4-5). You can't be in fellowship with God and out of fellowship with His church.
- C. Are we faithful? (II Tim. 2:2).
- D. Those that are to be faithful:
 1. Stewards (I Cor. 4:2).
 2. Virgins (I Cor. 7:25).
 3. Ministers (Col. 1:7).
 4. Wives (I Tim. 3:11).
 5. Servants (I Tim. 6:2).
 6. Teachers (II Tim. 2:2).
 7. Children (Titus 1:6).

II. FAITHFULNESS AND FRIENDSHIP GO TOGETHER.

- A. Abraham was called the friend of God because he was found faithful (James 2:23).
- B. We have a beautiful relationship of faithfulness and friendship in John 14:15 and John 15:14.

1. We are the friend of Jesus only if we obey Him.
2. If we think that God is our friend and that we know Him without keeping His commandments, we are wrong (I John 2:2-3).

III. THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING A FRIEND.

- A. Prov. 18:24 – *“A man that hath friends must shew himself to be friendly: and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother.”*
- B. Prov. 27:6 – *“Faithful are the wounds of a friend; but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful.”*
- C. Prov. 17:17 – *“A friend loveth at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.”*
- D. The preceding passages place emphasis upon being a friend.

CONCLUSION:

1. Being a friend to Jesus will mean being a friend to His church, His Cause until His second coming.
 2. The work of the church is too important for us to have a lack of appreciation for it.
 3. Will you be a friend to Jesus? We must serve and sacrifice more.
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Nursing Home Visit & Picnic



" . . . I was sick and ye visited me . . . " Matt. 25:36

RESUME

Benjamin J. Barr was born July 28, 1948 in Kingstree, South Carolina. He is married and he and his wife have five children.

In 1969, he received a B.S. degree in Education, then in 1971 he attended Benedict College in SC, and from 1975-1977 he attended the East Tennessee School of Preaching and Missions and received an Associate of Arts Degree in Bible. He also attended the University of Tennessee, University of South Carolina, and Columbia Bible College from 1979-1985.

His career includes two years in the United States Navy (USS Sarotoga) as Aviation Storekeeper; Counselor at South Carolina Opportunity School from 1972-1975; Minister of Park City Church of Christ in Knoxville, TN from 1977-1980 (while there, he worked with the UT Campus Ministry Program); Assistant in preaching at Plaza Church of Christ in Sumter, SC from 1980-1982 (while there, he directed a Bus Ministry and Established mission work for central South Carolina); Minister of the Kingsbury Drive Church of Christ in Sumter, SC from 1982-1987 (while there, he directed a Bus Ministry, formed the Radio Program, "*Searching For Truth*," Taught Home Bible Studies, Preached on Lectureships, revivals, and workshops throughout the USA and Virgin Islands, Taught a Cottage Class in Clarendon County which led to establishment of the work in Manning, SC, Led an Evangelism Team to establish the work in Lake City, SC and ministered there for one year, and led others to participate in the mission effort in SC); Minister of the Bishopville Church of Christ from 1988-1990 (he established this work and while there, was appointed Radio Minister for W.W.D.M.); and from 1990 to the present, he is Evangelist and Coordinator for Mission Work in Central SC, sponsored by the Red Bank Church of Christ.

Further activities include: Member of Children at Risk Committee, Millwood School; Member of the National Geographic Society, YMCA and The International Fitness Center; Member of NAACP: Advisory Board E.T.S.O.P&M; and other Mission Involvement Work.



Benjamin J. Barr

STEPHANAS: ADDICTED TO THE MINISTRY OF THE SAINTS I Cor. 16:15-16

Benjamin J. Barr

1. I Cor. 16:15 is proof that Stephanas had learned well from his teachers the concept of the church.
2. If the church is to fulfill it's nature and achieve it's purpose...
 - a. An individual Christian must be committed to service in the manner which he can give.
3. In order to do these things Christians must be prepared.
 - a. If we asked any group of children in a congregation to role play church, the leader would be the preacher, the rest would be told to listen.
 - b. Communication is in only one direction, from pulpit to pews. The implication is that no one else can do anything worth while.
 - c. The preacher is the main doer, everyone else are specters. If the church grows it's to his glory, if it doesn't, then we need a new preacher.
4. In order to prepared God's people for works of service, the preacher must carry out his given responsibility (Eph. 4:11).
 - a. Stephanas household did the serving (v.15).
 - b. Leaders are essential, but their task is not to do the work for the members.
 - c. Preachers, Elders and teenagers must prepare the saints for the work of the ministry – serving.

DISCUSSION:

I. A VERY NEEDFUL WORK.

- A. Christians in the first century.
 1. The Grecians needed to be ministered to (Acts 6:1-4).
 2. Brothers living in Judea needed to be ministered to (Acts 11:29).
 3. Paul needed to be ministered to (Phil. 2:25-30).
- B. Works of service results in the growth of the church (Acts 2:42-47).

- C. The 20th century church must be devoted to works of service (Gal. 6:10).

II. A VERY HONORABLE WORK (I Cor. 16:16).

III. A WORK THAT MERITS RECOGNITION (I Cor. 16:17-18).

- A. Those engaged should be highly esteemed.
1. Because they elevate the *tone* of the church (Eph. 4:16).
 2. Made church stronger by supplying what was lacking.
 3. Because they help maintain the peace in the church.
 4. Peace is maintained by a spirit (Matt. 5:9).
 5. Because they stimulate the zeal in the church (v.18).
- B. Those engaged should be encouraged (v.15).
1. The work is trying (Gal. 6:9).
 2. Paul encourages the brethren at Corinth.

IV. A WORK THAT BENEFITS THE WORKER.

- A. They that water others shall themselves be watered.
1. We grow by bestowing.
 2. A sure way of getting to heaven, is to get others there.

CONCLUSION:

1. No service done in the name of Jesus will go unnoticed (Heb. 6:10).
 2. God is faithful to authentic servanthood (Matt. 25:23).
-



Nursery Class



2's & 3's

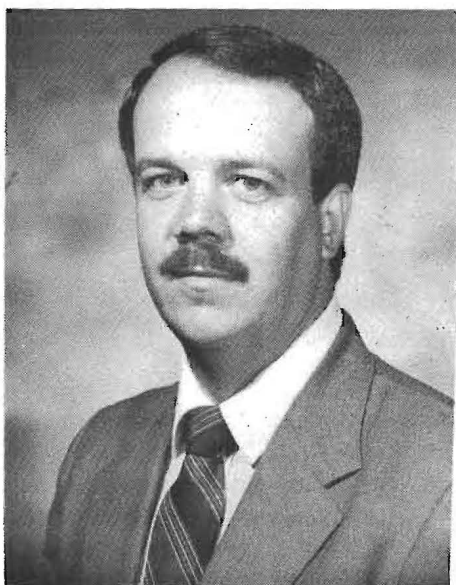


4's & 5's

1st & 2nd Grade



"Train up a child in the way he should go . . . "
Prov. 22:6



Garland M. Robinson

RESUME

Garland Robinson was born on May 11, 1954, in Baxter, Tennessee. He was baptized in 1966 and began preaching in 1973. He married the former Angelita Wright of Cookeville, Tennessee, in December, 1974. They have two children: Hillary (age 8) and Josh (age 5). He lives in Corinth, Mississippi, where he is the preacher at the East Corinth church of Christ. He is busily involved in preaching and teaching God's word through many different avenues: pulpit, classroom, radio, TV, newspaper and several periodicals. He is the editor of "Light For Living" and "Seek The Old Paths." He is the associate editor of "Speak As The Oracles" and the "Danville Messenger."

Through the years he has participated in more than a dozen campaigns and has preached in more than 15 different states. He was a missionary in England from 1978-79. He has made several mission trips which has carried him around the world in countries including: Canada, England, Ireland, Scotland, India, Taiwan, Hong Kong, and Singapore. He is a frequent speaker on lectureships and in gospel meetings.

He and his family reside at 304 Ripley St., Corinth, MS 38834.

TYCHICUS: ONE WHO BROUGHT COMFORT

Acts 20:4; Eph. 6:21

Garland M. Robinson

1. The Bible is filled with characters, both men and women, about whom much is said:
 - a. Some good: Abraham, Joseph, Paul...
 - b. Some bad: Cain, Jezebel, Haman...
2. There are many of whom little is said – yet so much to learn:
 - a. Some good: Enoch, Stephanas, Antipas...
 - b. Some bad: Demas, Diotrophes, Alexander the coppersmith...
3. This study is about one of whom little is written but one whom so much can be learned from what is written.

I. TYCHICUS IS A LITTLE KNOWN BIBLE CHARACTER FROM WHOM WE CAN LEARN MUCH.

- A. His name means: “fortunate.”
 1. Fortunate for him to be a Christian.
 2. Fortunate for Paul to have such a friend.
 3. Fortunate for the church to have such a servant.
 4. Fortunate for brethren to have one to comfort them.
- B. He was from Asia – perhaps the regions of Ephesus.
- C. Nothing is known of his parents or profession.
- D. By nature, he was affectionate, faithful, worthy of confidence.

II. WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS OF HIM.

- A. Is mentioned by name 5 times in the New Testament.
 1. Acts 20:4 He accompanied Paul into Asia
 2. Eph. 6:21 Paul describes him as a *“beloved brother and faithful minister in the Lord.”*
 - a. “Beloved brother” describes Paul’s personal feelings for him. From what Paul said of John Mark when he left the work, we know he would not have been so complimentary of Tychicus had he not been worthy.
 - b. “Faithful minister” describes his labors. A good minister:

- 1) Studies the word of God (II Tim. 2:15).
 - 2) Teaches the word faithfully without favor or compromise (II Tim. 4:2).
 - 3) Exercises himself continually unto godliness (I Tim. 4:7-8; 6:6,11; II Peter 1:5-7; 3:11).
3. Col. 4:7 He is also said to be a "*fellow servant*" which describes his usefulness.
4. II Tim. 4:12 } only his name appears – both Timothy
 5. Titus 3:12 } and Titus knew him well.
- B. Not honored by conferring some worldly degree upon him.
1. How unlike men today that take great delight in listing their worldly attainments and socialistic achievements.
 2. A simple "*beloved brother, fellow servant and faithful minister*" says more than any glorious commendation that men may ascribe to us.

III. WHY GOD MAY HAVE CHOSEN TO INCLUDE HIS NAME IN INSPIRED HISTORY.

- A. Because of the work he did.
1. Acts 20:4 He accompanied Paul in the Lord's work – traveling extensively and placing his life in peril.
 - a. Not like Demas (II Tim. 4:10).
 - b. Not like the ones who receive seed on "*stony ground*" and "*among thorns*" who fall away in time of temptation (Matt. 13:21-22).
 - c. Not like the rich young ruler (Mark 10:22).
 2. Some today will go with you to ballgames, fishing, picnics – but nowhere to be found when it's time to do the Lord's work.
- B. Because of his ability to comfort the saints.
1. Col. 4:8 "*All my state shall Tychicus declare unto you... Whom I have sent unto you for the same purpose, that he might know your estate, and comfort your hearts.*"
 - a. Bringing a message of Paul's welfare while he was in prison would bring comfort to the brethren.
 - b. It was a comfort to know that his imprisonment served in the furtherance of the gospel (Phil. 1:12).
 2. Who could know better than Paul what ability Tychicus had to bring comfort to others?

- a. It is comforting and encouraging to hear of others who are remaining faithful through all the trials and hardships of the years.
- b. There are many brethren and churches whose names are not in the limelight but are faithful just the same.
3. Tychicus showed brethren the value of continuing faithful.
4. Eph. 6:21; Col. 4:7
 - a. He served others.
 - b. He didn't have to be served himself.
- C. Because of his dependability.
 1. Acts 20:5 "*These going before tarried for us at Troas.*"
 - a. Tychicus was sent ahead.
 - b. Paul knew he could be counted on.
 - c. He was not like Felix in Acts 24:25 that put off obeying the gospel.
 - d. He was not like Demas (II Tim. 4:10).
 - e. He was not like Mark (Acts 15:38).
 2. Col. 4:8; Eph. 6:22
 - a. He comforted the saints.
 - b. He did not go ahead of Paul and stir up trouble.
 - c. He carried reports to and from Paul.
 - d. You could depend on what he said.
 3. Even though Paul was in prison, Tychicus had not abandoned him.
 4. He was a "beloved brother." He had proven himself worthy of Paul's love and confidence.
 5. The fact that Paul wrote of him as a "*fellow servant*" suggests being equal with Paul. He was dependable.
 - a. This shows Paul's humility.
 - b. Preachers today would do well to follow Paul's example and speak of fellow gospel preachers not as "assistant ministers" or "youth ministers" but "fellow servants."
- D. Because of his attitude.
 1. He is not mentioned as having to be number one.
 - a. Some people resent taking the back seat, they have to be out front.
 - b. But by Tychicus being sent by Paul to different places suggests he was content and willing to be used in the kingdom wherever he could be used. See II Tim. 4:12 and Titus 3:12.

- c. Some brethren will not work unless they get due credit. How sad! God keeps count. Serve him!
 2. Matt. 18:1-4 Jesus taught humility
 - a. Caleb showed no rivalry toward Joshua when he was chosen to succeed Moses.
 - b. Jonathan, son of King Saul, was most willing for David, his best friend, to succeed Saul on the throne.
- E. Because he knew what was going on.
1. Eph. 6:21 He could give an accurate report of Paul's affairs.
 2. It is tragic today that fellow saints, yea even elders and preachers, claim to know nothing of the digression currently taking place in the Lord's church!
 - a. False doctrine and compromise is tearing the Lord's church apart, not only around the world, but in our own back door.
 - b. Every kind of "ism" is being taught and fellowshipped: liberalism, antism, Crossroadsism, denominationalism, humanism, agnosticism, the new hermeneutic.
 3. Every gospel preacher and eldership must search and be informed concerning what is going on and impart the same to their membership!
- F. Because of the company he kept.
1. Acts 20:4-5 He was a traveling companion of faithful men.
 2. I Cor. 15:33 *"Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners."*
 - a. Prov. 4:14 *"Enter not into the path of the wicked, and go not in the way of evil men."*
 - b. Prov. 13:20 *"He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed."*
- G. Because of his benevolent spirit.
1. He, along with Sopater of Berea; Aristarchus and Secundus of the Thessalonians, Gaius of Derbe, and Timothy of Asia, and Trophimus (Acts 20:4-5) were on their way to Jerusalem with a contribution for the needy.
 2. A number of churches had sought to relieve the need in Judea (I Cor. 16:1-2).
 3. He was interested in helping relieve the poor.

CONCLUSION:

1. When we study the character of such a man as Tychicus, how does our own life compare?
 2. Could it be said of you that you are a faithful brother or sister in the Lord?
 3. Are you a fellow servant in the Lord's kingdom?
 4. Are you dependable?
-



Charlie Franklin Arnett

RESUME

Charlie Franklin Arnett was born near Lynn Grove, in Calloway County, KY on September 14, 1913, just two weeks after the death of his father. He grew up on the farm and lived most of his young life with his grandparents.

He attended the rural schools of Calloway County and graduated from the Lynn Grove High School as class salutatorian. He was the representative of the school in debating, public speaking, and math contests.

He obeyed the gospel in August 1928 and started preaching in 1932. He is married to Ruby Herndon and they have six children. Charlie worked as carpenter and electrician for the support of his family.

He attended Freed-Hardeman College 1938-1940 as one of the Aiken Boys (Bro. John Aiken paid their tuition). He has preached in meetings in Illinois, Ohio, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Mississippi, Tennessee, and Kentucky. Also, he has been instrumental in starting congregations in three states. He now preaches for a congregation in Jackson, KY which he is helping to establish.

EPAPHRODITUS: MESSENGER OF THE CHURCH

Phil. 2:25-30

Charlie Arnett

1. Definition of Messenger – one who bears a message or does an errand.
2. This shows that one must be dependable, worthy of trust.
3. I Cor. 4:1-2 may very well be applied.
4. Epaphroditus carried a message unto Paul from the church at Philippi.
5. He was also on an errand to supply Paul's needs.

DISCUSSION:

- I. **EVERYTHING THAT IS RECORDED OF EPAPHRODITUS IS FOUND IN PHILIPPIANS 2:25-30 AND 4:18.**
 - A. Therefore, let us notice what *is* said concerning this messenger of the church.
 - B. Also, let us notice that all of us are messengers of the church and of Christ in some way.
- II. **WHAT IS SAID OF THE MAN.**
 - A. Paul calls him "*my brother.*"
 1. We need to have today a deeper respect for the fact of the brotherhood in Christ.
 - B. *Companion* – The thought of working together.
 1. Companionship in Christ.
 2. We are in this work together and therefore need to be of the same mind and strive for the same things.
 3. In Christ no one lives to himself (Rom. 14:7-8).
 - C. *Fellow soldier* – soldiers together.
 1. In the same army.
 2. We are also in this same army.
 3. What kind of soldiers are we (II Tim. 2:3)?
 4. What are we doing to stand (Eph. 6:11-13)?
 - D. Brother, companion, fellow soldier, all show a close relationship.

III. THE MESSENGER OF THE CHURCH AT PHILIPPI.

- A. It is generally believed that Paul was in prison in Rome at this time.
 - 1. The message Epaphroditus carried unto him probably was to encourage him in the situation he was in.
- B. To administer unto his needs in whatever way he could.
 - 1. Paul said, "*He ministered unto my wants.*"
 - 2. "Wants" here is used as needs.

CONCLUSION:

- 1. To have a greater appreciation for Epaphroditus and his service we need to consider the conditions of the church at Philippi (see II Cor. 8:1-8).
 - a. They had fellowship with Paul from the first day (Phil. 1:5; 4:15-16).
 - b. The secret – "*They first gave themselves.*" This would answer many questions today, and solve most problems.
-



3rd
&
4th
Grade



5th & 6th
Grade

7th & 8th Grade



Highschool

*"Study to shew thyself
approved unto God . . ."*
II Tim. 2:15





Wesley Simon

RESUME

Wesley Simon was born on October 2, 1945 in Chattanooga, TN. He is a graduate of Red Bank High School in Chattanooga. He also is a graduate of the Memphis School of Preaching (1972). He holds a B.A. Degree in Bible from Tennessee Bible College, a M.A. Degree in Christian Doctrine & Apologetics from Tennessee Bible College. He is currently working toward his Ph.D.

He is married to the former Elva May Cook and they have two children, Karen Simons Blevins (22) and Candy Simons (14), and one granddaughter, Brandi Blevins.

He has been preaching for 20 years. He has served churches in Tennessee and Virginia. He is currently in his seventh year with the Crandall Church of Christ in Shady Valley, TN where he also serves as an elder.

He has started two brotherhood papers. He has preached on numerous radio and T.V. programs. He teaches classes for one Bible College and two Schools of Preaching. His home address is Rt. 1 Box 71, Shady Valley, TN 37688.

ONESIPHORUS: A SPIRIT REFRESHER II Tim. 1:16

Wesley Simon

1. Not much said about him.
2. We can learn a lot about him from the little which is said of him.
3. His name reveals something about his character, for Onesiphorus means “*profit bringer.*”
4. Some brethren ought to be re-named:
 - a. Sister Loose-Lip
 - b. Brother Tight-Wad
 - c. Sister Miss-The-Services
 - d. Brother Down-In-The-Dumps
 - e. Sister Mad-At-The-World
 - f. Brother Preacher & Elder-Hater
 - g. Sister Don't-Ask-Me-To-Do-It
 - h. Brother It-Won't-Work
 - i. Sister Excuse
 - j. Brother Meant-To
5. Consider these verses (II Tim. 1:15-18).

DISCUSSION:

- I. **WE MUST SERVE GOD AND OUR FELLOW MAN
THOUGH OTHERS FAIL.**
 - A. Phygellus and Hermogenes failed (II Tim. 1:15) but this was no excuse for Onesiphorus.
 - B. Judas Iscariot failed (Matt. 27:3-8) but this was no excuse for the rest of the apostles.
 - C. Ananias and Sapphira failed (Acts 5:1-11) but this was no excuse for the rest of the church.
 - D. The majority of the human race is going to fail (Matt. 7:13-14) but that is no excuse for us.
 - E. Onesiphorus did his job by serving a brother who was in prison (Matt. 25:35-46).

II. BRETHREN SOON FORGET.

- A. Paul helped to establish many of the churches in Asia, but now his brethren have forsaken him (II Tim. 1:15).
- B. This is why we have the Lord's Supper (I Cor. 11:23-25).
- C. This is why we need to attend every service (Heb. 10:25).

III. WE NEED TO GIVE WHAT WE CAN AFFORD TO GIVE.

- A. Onesiphorus gave to Paul what he needed (II Tim. 1:15-18).
- B. Paul gave to Onesiphorus what he could afford – he prayed for him and his household (II Tim. 1:16,18).
- C. Peter and John gave to the man at the gate called Beautiful what they could afford (Acts 3:1-8).
- D. Compare II Cor. 9:6-7.
- E. The Catholics have produced a false doctrine from verses 16 & 18.
 - 1. They teach you can pray for the dead.
 - 2. They teach you can pray one out of purgatory.
- F. Luke 16:19ff destroys the aforementioned false doctrine.

IV. WE NEED TO BE DOING SERVICE FOR GOD AND OUR FELLOW MAN ON A REGULAR BASIS.

- A. *"For he oft refreshed me"* (II Tim. 1:16).
- B. Onesiphorus looked for the opportunity to serve.
II Tim. 1:17 *"But, when he was in Rome, he sought me out very diligently, and found me."*
- C. We make excuses many times by saying:
 - 1. *I cannot find anyone to help.*
 - 2. *He deserves what he is getting.*
 - 3. *I cannot afford to get involved.*
 - 4. *It is too dangerous.*
 - 5. *Someone else will help him.*
 - 6. *He will make it.*
 - 7. *You cannot help a person like that.*
- D. But God will not except excuses (Luke 14:15-25).

V. CHARITY STARTS AT HOME.

- A. Why did he search for Paul in Rome?
- B. Because he served Paul and his fellow man at home (II Tim. 1:18).

- C. Have you ever heard one say he would like to go to Africa and be a soul winner. Well brother, if one will not win souls here, he would not win souls in Africa.
- D. One might say, "*If I had a million dollars, I would do thus and so.*" Question: What are you doing with what God has given you now?
- E. Onesiphorus worked at home and on the road.
 - 1. He was a Christian on location.
 - 2. Wherever he was, he did the Father's will.

CONCLUSION:

- 1. We need more who are willing to serve.
 - 2. Thank God for Onesiphorus.
 - 3. Pray to God that His tribe will increase.
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Clayton Winters

RESUME

Clayton Winters was born near Mountain City, TN on July 15, 1931. He and his wife, Vivian, are the parents of three children: Evelyn, Sandra, and David.

Clayton has been preaching for nearly forty years. This includes work with congregations in Virginia, North Carolina, and Tennessee. Presently he is with the Broyles Street Church of Christ in Erwin, TN, where he has labored for the past twenty-five years.

He received his formal education at Milligan College and Immanuel School of Religion (TN) specializing in Biblical languages.

Clayton has been a regular speaker on the Biblical Viewpoints TV program since its beginning over eleven years ago, and is also involved in a weekly radio ministry in Erwin, TN; Bristol, and Luray, VA. He has authored three books: a Commentary on Ezra-Nehemiah-Esther, a Commentary on Kings-Chronicles, and "*Basic Facts in Human Redemption*," in addition to numerous tracts, workbooks, and articles on various topics.

DEMAS: LOVED THE PRESENT WORLD II Tim. 4:10

Clayton Winters

1. Background material necessary for a proper understanding and application of the lesson:
 - a. Demas was a fellow laborer with Paul in the great work of spreading the good news of the Kingdom of God (Philemon 24).
 - b. During Paul's first imprisonment at Rome, he joined that apostle and Luke in sending greetings to the church at Colosse (Col. 4:14).
 - c. During Paul's second imprisonment, and evidently shortly before his execution, Demas forsook him because of his love for the present world.
2. The apostasy of this faithful gospel preacher must be considered under three distinct possibilities.

DISCUSSION:

- I. **HE LOVED THE WORLD IN THE SENSE THAT HE WAS UNWILLING TO DIE FOR THE CAUSE OF CHRIST: "HAVING LOVED THE PRESENT WORLD."**
 - A. Christianity has often been a life-or-death situation.
 1. Matt. 10:21,22,39
 2. Acts 15:25,26
 3. Rom. 16:3,4
 4. Rev. 21:11
 - a. Stephen (Acts 7:59,60).
 - b. James (Acts 12:1,2).
 - c. Paul (2 Tim. 4:6-8).
 - d. Antipas (Rev. 2:13).
 - e. Beheaded for Witness of Jesus (Rev. 20:4).
 - f. Polycarp (in 155 a.d.): The proconsul urged him, "Swear by Caesar's fortune, and I will release thee. Revile Christ." Polycarp replied, "*Eighty and six years have I served him, and he never did me wrong: how*

then can I revile my King and Savior?" When he was about to be burned, he laid aside his garments, and took his place in the midst of the fuel; and when they would have secured him with nails to the stake he requested, *"Let me remain as I am; for he that has enabled me to brave the fire will so strengthen me that, without your fastening me with nails, I shall, unmoved, endure its fierceness."* (McClintock and Strong, Vol. 8, p.362.)

- g. William Tyndale (1536): He was first strangled then burned at the stake. Just before he died, he cried out, *"Lord, open the King of England's eyes."*
- B. Some failed the tests of persecution, hardships, and death.
 - 1. When they learned that they must eat the flesh of the Son of man and drink His blood, many of the disciples turned and walked with Him no more (John 6:53-60).
 - 2. The disciples thought they could drink the cup of death (Matt. 20:22), but when the acid test came, they forsook Christ and fled (Matt. 26:56).
 - 3. The persecuted churches of Asia had to be warned that only those faithful unto death would receive the crown of life (Rev. 2:10).
- C. Did Demas love the present world to the extent that he feared for his life when Paul's execution neared, thus fleeing to Thessalonica?

II. HE LOVED THE WORLD IN THE SENSE HE WAS ENTICED BY ITS LUSTS AND SENSUAL PLEASURES: "ALL THAT IS IN THE WORLD, THE LUST OF THE FLESH."

- A. This is a very prevalent usage of the term world in the scriptures.
 - 1. I John 2:15-17
 - 2. Mark 4:18,19
 - 3. James 4:4
- B. It was this kind of sensual lust that led:
 - 1. David to corrupt his morals with Bathsheba (2 Sam. 11:2-5).
 - 2. Israel into the arms of Baal (I Cor. 10:7,8).
 - 3. The Corinthian to take his father's wife (I Cor. 5:1).

4. The church at Thyatira to the same kind of sins (Rev. 2:20).
- C. So many preachers have fallen prey to these kinds of worldliness. One who cares for his soul must exercise due caution.

III. HE LOVED THE WORLD IN THE SENSE OF MATERIAL POSSESSIONS: “NEITHER THE THINGS THAT ARE IN THE WORLD, *THE LUST OF THE EYE.*”

- A. The Bible describes the spiritual problems of one who has an inordinate interest in the material.
1. Mark 10:24,25
 2. I Tim. 6:9,10
 3. Mark 4:19
- B. Many gave up their place in the Kingdom of God for this:
1. Judas Iscariot – for silver (Matt. 26:14,15).
 2. Ananias & Sapphira – for goods (Acts 5:1-10).
 3. Laodicean church was possessed with goods, but spiritually impoverished (Rev. 3:17).
 4. Covetousness, the Bible affirms, is a form of idolatry (Eph. 5:5).
- C. Like the people of Haggai’s day (Hag. 1:2-4), we develop a poverty complex with reference to the Temple of God.
- D. For far less than thirty pieces of silver, we may sell our souls.
1. Unreported taxable income (Rom. 13:7).
 2. Misrepresented products of barter (Prov. 20:14).
 3. Depriving a working man of his just wage (James 5:4).
 4. Getting involved in pyramid and other get-rich-quick schemes (the man on the bottom gets rich, and the man on the top gets stuck).
 5. Robbing God by a failure to give as prospered (Malachi 3:9,10).

CONCLUSION:

1. In whatever way Demas “*loved the present world*” think what a terrible price he paid for it.
 2. Let’s all work and pray that we not make the same mistake.
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David R. Pharr

RESUME

David R. Pharr was born in Wilkesboro, North Carolina. He and his wife, Peggy, have four children, James, Neal, Stephen, and Beth. They also have four grandchildren.

Brother Pharr attended Freed-Hardeman College, Rio Grande College, and Alabama Christian School of Religion. From 1964 to 1988 he preached at the Charlotte Avenue Church of Christ in Rock Hill, South Carolina. Since November of 1988 he has been Director of East Tennessee School of Preaching and Missions.

He is presently the Editor of *Carolina Christian*. His published works are: *A Message From the Bible*, *Bible Correspondence Course on Acts*, *The Beginning of our Confidence*, and *Modern Messages From the Minor Prophets*.

ALEXANDER THE COPPERSMITH: ENEMY OF CHRISTIANS

II Tim. 4:14-15

David Pharr

1. All people ought to love and respect those who are faithful servants of Christ. We know, however, that such is not the case. (See Matt. 5:10,11; 10:22; John 15:18; Acts 28:22; 2 Tim. 3:12). Paul, a man who gave his life to help all men was opposed and persecuted by many.
2. Alexander the coppersmith was one who was named by Paul as an enemy, with the warning that Timothy should be on guard against him.
 - a. There are five references to the name Alexander in the New Testament. The name was sufficiently common that we may not be able to identify the one in the text with any other reference.
 - b. It is frequently suggested, however, that this is the same Alexander as named in I Tim. 1:19,20. We cannot be certain of this, but if he was the same man, we see that his opposition to Paul was ongoing, that he was an apostate, that he had been guilty of blasphemy, and that discipline had not brought him to repentance.
 - c. The word translated coppersmith can mean a worker in various metals. Some have thought that he made idols and that this was the reason for his opposition.

DISCUSSION:

I. HE WAS AN ENEMY OF MEN OF GOD – HE “*DID ME MUCH EVIL.*”

- A. He did Paul harm & was a danger to Timothy.
- B. Christians may expect that they will have enemies in the world (I John 3:13; I Pet. 4:16; II Tim. 3:3-12; John 15:18-19; Matt. 5:11-12; Prov. 29:27).
- C. One who is an enemy of the Lord’s people is equally an enemy of the Lord (Acts 9:1-2, 4).

- D. We are not told specifics of how Alexander did evil to Paul. Enemies of Christians may harm them in various ways: physically, by fraud, by slander, by injustice, abusive speech, etc.

II. HE WAS AN ENEMY OF THE DOCTRINE TAUGHT BY MEN OF GOD – “HE HATH GREATLY WITHSTOOD OUR WORDS.”

- A. He interfered with the teaching of the truth. He did not want the will of God to be known.
- B. Paul was a messenger of the Lord. What he taught was from God. To oppose what he taught was to oppose the truth of God.
- C. We are not inspired today, but when we teach in harmony with the Scriptures it is as certainly truth from God as when the message was directly from the apostles. Those who withstand the truth today are enemies of Christ and Christians just as was Alexander (Phil. 3:18).

III. HE WAS AN ENEMY WHO NEEDED TO BE EXPOSED BY NAME.

- A. Some people think that the names of those who oppose the right way should never be exposed. The text before us shows that there is a time to name names.
- B. Paul was not guilty of “Judging” as is often charged against those who expose enemies of the cause of Christ.
- C. Enemies need to be named when:
1. It is the most effective way to show them the error of their deeds (I Tim. 5:20).
 2. It is necessary to caution others to be on guard against them (Rom. 16:17).

IV. HE WAS AN ENEMY WHO WOULD SUFFER THE CONSEQUENCES – “THE LORD REWARD HIM ACCORDING TO HIS WORKS.”

- A. This was not a desire for vengeance on Paul’s part, but his recognition of the certainty of Divine judgement. It clearly shows his willingness to leave judgement in God’s hands (Rom. 12:17).
- B. Often we may be perplexed that there seems to be no way to stop those who oppose us and the truth. Our trust must be

that God will see that justice is done (Col. 3:25; II Thess. 1:6; II Pet. 2:4-9).

CONCLUSION:

1. We would like to live among men who always treat us right, who always agree with the truth, who never in any way hinder righteous living or the gospel message.
 2. But such is not the world we live in (John 15:20).
 3. Just as Paul did, we will suffer evil at the hands of men like Alexander. We cannot change this reality, but we can be faithful (Rev. 2:10).
 4. Let us guard against every enemy and be bold to warn others (I Cor. 16:13).
 5. Let us have faith that God will be just both in saving the righteous and in judging our enemies.
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Joe Hoskins

RESUME

Joe Hoskins was born in Hazard, KY, on March 4, 1919. He is married to Theda Bozarth Hoskins and they have four children: Linda, Taylor, Pamela, and Melissa; and six grandchildren. All of their children are faithful members of and workers for the Lord's church.

Joe was baptized into Christ in 1950 by Aubry Phelps in Cincinnati, Ohio. Soon after his conversion he felt the desire and zeal to preach the gospel. Therefore, upon being supported by some of his brethren he was able to receive training and then in 1952, he began his career as a full time minister and evangelist. Joe has served in this capacity for the past thirty-eight years. He has conducted meetings in Ohio, Michigan, Kentucky, Indiana, Alabama, Kansas, and California.

Joe is now semi-retired and preaches for a small congregation in the south eastern part of Ohio. He resides at 51199 Joppa Road, Reedsville, OH 45772

GAIUS:

A MAN OF CHARITY

3 John

Joe Hoskins

1. The name Gaius was one of the most common of all Roman names.
 - a. Gaius of Macedonia: A companion in travel of the Apostle Paul (Acts 19:21). He was one of those who were seized by Demetrius and other silversmiths in the riot at Ephesus.
 - b. Gaius of Derbe: Among those who accompanied the Apostle Paul from Greece as far as Asia during his third missionary tour (Acts 20:4).
 - c. Gaius: Host to Apostle Paul; Host to the Apostle Paul when he wrote to the Christians in Rome who joined in the sending of his salutations (Rom. 16:23).
 - d. Gaius: Whom Paul baptized at Corinth (I Cor. 1:14).

DISCUSSION:

I. GAIUS: A MAN OF CHARITY (3 John 1:8).

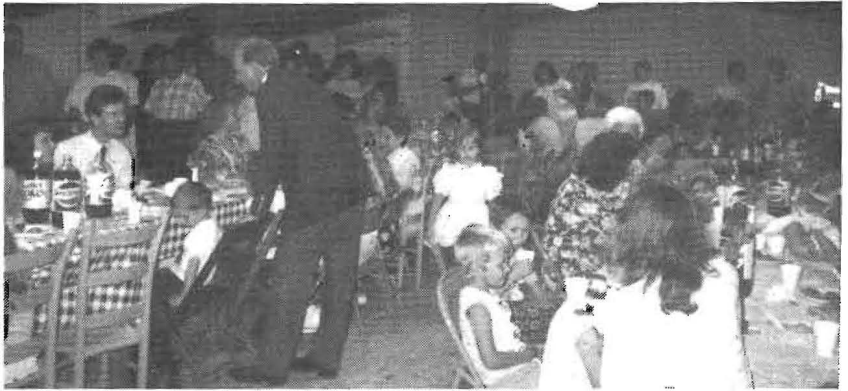
- A. 3 John 1:2 *“Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.”*

II. JOHN IDENTIFIES HIMSELF AS “THE ELDER” (3 John 1:1).

- A. The elder unto Gaius whom I love in the truth.
 1. Why should we love the truth?
 2. What will truth do when learned and applied (John 8:32)?
- B. Walk in Charity.
 1. 3 John 1:3 *“For I rejoiced greatly, when the brethren came and testified of the truth that is in thee, even as thou walkest in the truth.”*
 2. 3 John 1:4 *“I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.”*
 3. 3 John 1:5 *“Beloved, thou doest faithfully whatsoever thou doest to the brethren, and to strangers...”*

4. 3 John 1:6 *“Which have borne witness of thy charity before the church: whom if thou bring forward on their journey after a godly sort, thou shalt do well...”*
 5. 3 John 1:7 *“Because that for his name’s sake they went forth, taking nothing of the Gentiles.”*
 6. 3 John 1:8 *“We therefore ought to receive such, that we might be fellow helpers to the truth.”*
-

Revival Dinner



"And all that believed were together, and had all things common; . . . did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart." Acts 2:44-46



Don Flatt

RESUME

After three years at Freed-Hardeman, Don Flatt received his BA and MA degrees from Morehead State University, and his Ph.D. degree in history from the University of KY. He is now beginning his 30th year on the history faculty at Morehead State University and has served as departmental chairman for eight of those years.

Preaching his first sermon in 1952, he has been a member of the Flatt Brothers' Campaign for Christ since 1963. They have conducted campaigns in 11 states with as many as 56 responses in a campaign. Next year's campaign will be in the Bahamas.

Don is now preaching two Sundays each month at West Liberty and two Sundays coast-to-coast. His "Good News" (a one minute radio spot), is heard on 9 stations in 7 states. His program, which was broadcast for a year to two-thirds of the world's population, won KY's 1990 Media of the Year Award.

Don and his wife, Carolyn, have two children, David and Missy, and eight grandchildren. Their home has served as a gathering place for weekly devotionals for college students at MSU.

DIOTREPES: LOVED THE PRE-EMINENCE

3 John 9

Don Flatt

1. Illustrations about loving the pre-eminence.
2. The speaker has developed his point of view from the text and from having served at every “level” in the church:
 - a. Baptized at the age of 12, I was almost paralyzed with fear the first time I led a public prayer, served communion, and when I preached my first sermon.
 - b. Becoming a “Boy preacher” at the age of 15, I have served as a local minister, an elder, radio speaker, writer, and evangelist for 39 years.
3. 3 John allows us to peek behind the curtain at the actual workings of a first-century local congregation.

DISCUSSION:

I. THE MEANING OF THE TEXT ITSELF:

- A. The first century had three layers of organization:
 1. Apostles – who had been in the very company of Jesus and had witnessed his resurrection, regarding themselves as having a right to rebuke.
 2. Itinerant prophets – who were not directly connected with any local congregation, served the church at large.
 - a. Those who were preaching dangerous doctrines were not to be accepted or shown hospitality.
 - b. Others were loyal disciples and Gaius was right in accepting them (vs.6-8).
 - c. John instructed Gaius to receive Demetrius and not to be intimidated by the domineering Diotrepes.
 - d. Since ancient inns were flea-infested and dirty, a problem arose over where these prophets would stay.
 - e. The church leader had to practice hospitality (I Tim. 3:2; Titus 1:8).
 3. Elders had been ordained in every congregation (Acts 14:23).

- a. Most of these were solid in their convictions & daily walk with the Lord.
 - b. But, there were those local church leaders, like Diotrephes, who loved the pre-eminence.
 - c. So, John gave him an unqualified rebuke. Envy, pride, jealousy, and selfish ambition have nothing to do with the one who "*came not to be ministered unto, but to minister*" (Matt. 20:28).
 - d. Such local dictators would brook no rival from the brotherhood-at-large (John) or from the local congregation either (Gaius).
 - e. Attacking John "*with malicious words*" Diotrephes is a person of overweening ambition, arrogance, and conceit.
- B. Trouble was almost certain to arise in the early church because of the three layers of organization and because of human nature.
1. The apostles' pronouncements were normally undisputed.
 2. The itinerant prophets were in the center of most controversies. These wandering preachers had given up their occupations and a settled existence to preach.
 3. Sometimes, the most undesirable characters were counted in this number – they lived in great comfort at considerable expense off local congregations.
 4. The quality of the church greatly depended upon a stable and Scriptural set of elders.
- C. Eventually, these wandering prophets faded from the scene, the apostles died off, and the elders became the permanent ones in authority, even as the Lord intended.

II. APPLICATION OF THE TEXT TO THE CHURCH OF THE 20th CENTURY:

- A. The love of pre-eminence causes trouble wherever it rears its ugly head:
1. Pope over a pyramid structure of authority.
 2. One who sets himself up as "pope" (John Calvin – "Pope of Geneva").
 3. National head of any denomination.
 4. Head of a religious school.
 5. Editor of gospel papers.
- B. The love of pre-eminence appears in various places:

1. Among any elders who have fallen in love with their position.
2. Among church members who know they are not qualified but who act like elders anyway (I Tim. 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9).
3. Among preachers who try to control or dictate to every congregation in a region.
4. Among preachers who question each other's soundness because of jealousy.
5. Among preachers who take the scriptural position against being called "Reverend" but then get upset if the one introducing them does not praise him enough.

CONCLUSION:

1. The Bible teaches humility as the most useful trait for a "man of God."
 - a. The text, John 13, and Philippians 2.
 - b. Trouble always results when more than one "god" appears in the church.
-



Martha Bentley

RESUME

Martha Bentley is the wife of Ernie Bentley, Field Representative of Tennessee Bible College in Cookeville, TN. Together, they work in behalf of recruiting, advertising, and fund-raising. Each writes a regular column for the TBC Newsletter. Having served several congregations in East Tennessee, full time, Ernie preaches by appointment as needed. They have reared three children, now grown, and reside at 8305 S. Burchfield Drive, Oak Ridge, TN, 37830.

Martha has taught classes of children, teen-age girls, and adult women. She speaks to women's groups on "Ladies' Day" programs, workshops, and Lectureships.

HERODIAS: THE EVIL PLOT, AN EVIL INFLUENCE

Matt. 14:1-12; Mark 6:16-28

Martha Bentley

1. Matt. 14:1-12
2. Mark 6:16-28

DISCUSSION:

I. BACKGROUND OF HERODIAS.

- A. Grandfather – Herod the Great who tried to destroy Jesus in the massacre of infants.
- B. Father – Aristobulus, who also was father of Agrippa the Great.
- C. Herodias first married Herod Philip, son of Herod the Great by Mariamne, second daughter of Simon the high priest. By Philip she bore Salome. Philip was later disinherited.
- D. Herod Antipas was son of Herod the Great by Malthace and thus half-brother to Philip who was married to Herodias. Antipas was married to the daughter of Aretas, king of Arabia. He got Herodias to agree to marriage if he would divorce the king's daughter, totally against Jewish law.
- E. Later both Herodias and Antipas were banished to Spain where they died.

II. HERODIAS' PLOT AGAINST JOHN, THE BAPTIST.

- A. She had John put in prison by Herod Antipas because John had told them, "*It is not lawful for thee to have her*" (Matt. 14:4; Mark 6:17-18; Luke 3:19-20).
- B. John had told Herod Antipas it was unlawful to be married to Herodias (Lev. 18:16) for he was brother to her first husband (Lev. 20:21). He had also reproved him for all the evils which he had done (Luke 3:19).
- C. Herodias wanted John killed but Herod was afraid of him for he knew he was a just and holy man (Luke 6:20). He also was afraid of the multitudes who counted John a prophet (Matt. 14:5).

- D. Herod had a birthday feast (Matt. 14:6; Mark 6:19-21).
1. These feasts were for the lords, captains, etc. (the elite) and often consumed several days of constant eating, drinking, and debauchery (See Esther 1).
 2. Salome, herodias' daughter, was one of those who danced before this drunken group and so pleased the king that he swore with an oath to give her whatsoever she requested even to half his kingdom (Matt. 14:7; Mark 6:23).
 3. Salome went to her mother for instructions and brought to the king the request for John's head on a charger. Salome received it and gave it to her mother.

III. SOME OBSERVATIONS.

- A. Herodias' background was wicked.
- B. She cared not for God's laws.
- C. Her heart was void of love.
- D. She had no fear of punishment.
- E. She taught her daughter to live likewise.

IV. LESSONS WE CAN LEARN FROM THIS ACCOUNT.

- A. Family background can have a definite influence:
 1. 2 Chron. 22:3
 2. Ezek. 16:44
 3. Rom. 15:4
- B. God's law is supreme.
 1. He must be put first (Exodus 20:3).
 2. Must be taught to our children (Deut. 6:7; Rom. 15:4).
 3. Requires study & meditation (Psa. 1:2; 2 Tim. 2:15; I Chron. 22:19).
- C. Love is necessary.
 1. Between parents (Eph. 5:25).
 2. Parents to children (Titus 2:4).
 3. Love for God (Mark 12:30; Jer. 31:3).
 4. Love for nature.
 5. Love for enemies (Prov. 17:17; Matt. 5:44).
 6. Requires discipline.
 - a. Teaching...reward & punishment.
- D. Consider our eternal destiny (Psa. 49).
 1. Joys of Heaven & Punishment in Hell (Luke 16; Rev. 21:8).
- E. Children live what they learn and are taught.

1. Put God first in all things (Matt. 6:33).
2. Home life:
 - a. What marriage is to be (Matt. 19:6-9).
 - b. Sharing & caring.
3. Someone leads (Jas. 4:4; I Tim. 4:12).
 - a. Leaders in right vs. following crowd.
4. Courage of convictions (Jas. 4:7).
5. Have scripture for all occasions.
 - a. Matt. 4; Mark 1; Luke 4.
6. No grudge-bearing or “get-even” attitude (Matt. 7:12; 5:44; I John 4:20; Amos 5:15).

CONCLUSION:

1. While the scriptures concerning Herodias are few, they were put there for us to get a lesson.
 2. II Tim. 3:16 *“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness...”*
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Susan Ellis

RESUME

Susan Ellis was born on May 3, 1951 in Johnson City, TN. She is married to George Ellis, an elder of the Elizabethton Church of Christ. Their home is completed by three children: Lori (19), Keith (17), and Robert (9).

Susan attended East Tennessee State University and works as homemaker and part time employee of Ellis Computerized Machining. The Bible correspondence courses received through Biblical Viewpoints Television Programs were processed by Susan for the last several years.

In addition to this, she produces and maintains the church directory for her home congregation, teaches a Sunday School class and is active in many other church activities.

PHEBE: A HELPER OF MANY

Rom. 16:1-2

Susan Ellis

1. The difference between God's perspective and man's when it comes to determining a Christian's worth to the Kingdom of God.

DISCUSSION:

- I. **WHAT IS KNOWN OF THE "PHEBE" OF ROMANS 16:1-2?**
 - A. Commended by Paul.
 - B. Sister in Christ.
 - C. Involved in the work of the church.
 - D. Succourer of many, even Paul.
- II. **WHAT IS NOT KNOWN OF PHEBE?**
 - A. Age.
 - B. Husband's occupation.
 - C. Genealogy.
 - D. Social standing.
- III. **WAS PHEBE A "DEACONESS?"**
 - A. Terms defined:
 1. Servant, GK. *Diakonos*
 2. Succourer, GK. *Prostatis*
 - B. *Diakonos*, Deaconess – in general sense of the word:
 1. Term used **not** to specify an office held.
 2. Immediate and remote context considerations.
 - C. *Prostatis* – Help in more immediate or timely sense.
- IV. **"AS BECOMETH SAINTS."**
 - A. Why is such a statement felt necessary?
 1. Women's social considerations during New Testament times (Jesus & Samaritan Woman).
 2. Early Christian prejudices.
 - a. James 2:1-3

B. Today?

CONCLUSION:

1. How to be great (Matt. 20:26-27; Rom. 12:9-15).
 2. Respect God's lines of distinction between men and women in His church.
 3. Do not underestimate your worth to the Kingdom of God as a Faithful "*servant and helper of many.*"
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