

Weekly Newsletter

Volume 25, Number 41

October 9, 2006

Gospel Meeting

At the
South Green Street
Church of Christ

Dates:
October 22-25, 2006
Times:
Sunday: 9:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.
Monday-Wednesday: 7:00 p.m.
Speaker:
Garvis Semore,
President of Magnolia Bible College

New Book Available

As you know, much has been said about the 100 year anniversary of the official recognition of the division between Churches of Christ and Christian Churches. Throughout this year, several calls have been made to put aside our differences and reunite.

This book acknowledges the need for unity, but addresses a plan to achieve it that is biblical without involving compromise as some have proposed.

The book is entitled, "**Seeking True Unity.**" Those involved in writing this book are Mike Baker, Mike Greene, Dale Jenkins, Jeff Jenkins, Phil Sanders, Wayne Hatcher, and myself. The book addresses Bible authority, the restoration plea, instrumental music, the history of the division between Churches of Christ and Christian Churches, and a discussion of what we should do and where we should go from here.

The cost of this book for members at South Green is simply \$2.00 per copy. Please see me if you are interested in a copy of the book.

CHRIST IN Youth

David Burleson, Youth Minister

Some have defined serendipity as an accident that has positive results. This word was particularly made popular when the romantic comedy *Serendipity* came out in 2001. In a British study two years ago, it was defined as one of the top ten "hardest words to translate" in the English language. However, we serve a God who in His providence allows great things to happen when sometimes people mess up.

In the interesting saga of inventions and discoveries there have been some "happy" mistakes. For instance, Velcro was created after a dog owner observed how burdock stuck to the hair of his pet. Furthermore, Alexander Fleming discovered Penicillin when he failed to clean his bacteria cultures before leaving for vacation. The great Christopher Columbus was actually looking for a new way to go to India when he discovered a whole new continent.

It was no mistake in the Garden of Eden when God promised that the seed of woman would bruise the head of the serpent. The sin of Adam and Eve put in motion a plan like no other. In this salvation plan God would have to sacrifice His Son in order to redeem man. Thus we get a glimpse at how much God loves and cares for us.

Here are some upcoming plans for the youth:

- October 11th before services (6:00) the Tweens will meet at the building to go to the nursing home.
- Get geared up for the games this Friday and the 5th quarter that follows.
- Also, don't forget that the Fall Get-Together is coming up very soon (Oct. 21st).

The Letter Of The Law –vs– The Spirit Of The Law

By Steve Higginbotham

“**B**ut now we have been delivered from the law, having died to what we were held by, so that we should serve in the newness of the Spirit and not in the oldness of the letter...[God] made us sufficient as ministers of the new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.” (Romans 7:6; 2 Corinthians 3:6).

Among the most misunderstood passages in the Bible are the two quoted above. The application that many have attempted to make from these passages is that while the “letter of the law” may state one thing, the “spirit of the law” would allow one to do less than what the “letter” demands.

For instance the letter of the law may tell us to “sing and make melody in our hearts.” However, some would argue, that while the use of mechanical instruments are not according to the “letter of the law,” prohibiting them would miss the “spirit of the law.” Or one might say that the “letter of the law” states that one must be baptized in order to receive the remission of sins. However, while the suggestion that that good people who aren’t baptized will be saved may fall short of the “letter of the law,” it certainly would fall within the “spirit of the law.”

Such an understanding of these passages grossly misses their true meaning. First of all, such an interpretation makes all the commandments of God meaningless. With such an understanding, any disobedience can be excused and justified by simply saying, “but it’s in harmony with the spirit of the law.” Just who gets to determine whether an action that falls short of the “letter of the law” is consistent with the “spirit of the law?” By what standard would one determine this? This understanding would make God’s commandments totally subjective.

But now, if this is not what these passages mean, how are we to understand them? The contrast between the “letter” and the “spirit” is a contrast between the Old and New Testaments, not strict and loose obedience. Note the contrasts from 2 Corinthians 3:

Old Covenant	New Covenant
Written on Tablets of Stone	Written on the Heart
Ministry of Death	Ministry of the Spirit
Ministry of Condemnation	Ministry of Righteousness
Glorious	Much more Glorious
The Letter	The Spirit

Considering the context makes this statement much easier to understand. The contrast between the “Letter of the Law” and the “Spirit of the Law” is not a contrast between “strictly” obeying God and being “given some slack.” Rather, the contrast is between the covenants; i.e. the Old and New Testaments. The “Letter” is a term used to describe the Old Testament, while the “Spirit” is a term used to describe the New Testament.

Bottom line. There is no passage in Scripture that suggests we can disobey or disregard any of God’s laws. They all are to be obeyed. The notion that that we can disregard the “letter of the law” in deference to the “spirit of the law” is a man-made doctrine, unsupported by the word of God.

Family Matters

Sick List

- Caden Hodges, son of Ellen Leftwich Hodges, remains hospitalized at Vanderbilt. Please keep this family in your prayers.
- Jim Dunaway is now at home.
- Dottie Ritter is confined to her home with the shingles.
- Lucy Byrd Every is in the Community Hospital.
- Prayers are requested for Robert & Nina Richardson, grandparents of Clay Richardson. The Richardson's were injured in a car wreck last week. They remain hospitalized at the Community Hospital.
- Continue to remember: Evelyn Alls, Mary Anderson, Mamie Birge, Wendell Britt, Shawn Bryant, Orthie Bull, Ruby Cloyd, Dorothy Coffey, Pauline Cole, Marie Denton, Ruth Elliott, Lucy Byrd Every, Eddie Gerald, Kathy Hamilton, Arah Hardin, Eugene Harlow, Sally Henry, Fred Hensley, Amanda Hinton, Elma Hood, Preston Jolly, Stacey King, Jeanette Krume, Kari Kunkel, Dr. George McKinley, Charles McDonald, Rose Ann Mesker, Marney Nunnally, Frankie Pace, Linda Pedigo, Mary Peden, J.C. Polson, John Simmons, Shelley South, Sherry Tabor, Ronnie Walker, Mary Florence White-side and James Williams.

Thank You Notes

Thanks for the wonderful birthday cards on my 80th birthday. It was truly a blessing.

Aileen Bastin

Thank you for the lovely floral arrangement sent to the funeral home. Steve's words were very appreciated. We also wish to express our deepest gratitude to the women who prepared the dinner for us after the funeral. It was so great for us all to be able to gather at the church.

The Pedigo Children

Men's Prayer Breakfast

The Men's Prayer Breakfast is scheduled for Saturday, October 21, at 7:30. All men of the congregation are invited to attend.

Visitation Teams

The Visitation Teams will be hosting meals during our Gospel Meeting, Monday-Wednesday nights at 5:30. The schedule is as follows:

Team #1-October 23-Tom Edwards/Ronnie Turner

Team #2-October 24-Howard Alls/Jim Searcy

Team #3-October 25-Doug Fraser/Glenn Pitcock

Area Gospel Meeting

The Mt. Gilead Church of Christ will conduct a Gospel Meeting, October 8-12, at 7:00 each night. David Hester will be the speaker. Everyone is invited to attend.

In Appreciation

We would like to express our appreciation to all the ladies who participated in the Crop Workshop last week. We were able to complete numerous educational projects for our new Teacher's Resource Room. We are fortunate at South Green to have people willing to help when called on. Once again, we wish to thank each of you for all your hard work.

Teacher Training Series

The Lehman Avenue Church of Christ will host a Teacher Training Series, November 13 and 14, from 6:30-8:30 each night. Sessions for Ladies only will include: Teachers of Preschool by Lea Dye, Teachers of K-3rd Grades by Kim Higginbotham and Teachers of 4th-6th grades-Marie Arney. Sessions for Teachers of Teens, Adults, and Non-Teachers will be conducted by Dale Graham, Jerry Carmichael, David Hamilton, Steve Higginbotham, Tom Hall and Mark Sexton.

