

Weekly Newsletter

Volume 25, Number 42

October 16, 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

CHRIST IN Youth

David Burleson, Youth Minister

Who would you say is the greatest athlete in recent times? Perhaps, one might say that Michael Jordan accomplished more than anyone else ever had before. Some might argue that the best athlete award should go to someone who competes alone; perhaps an Olympic contestant. How about Tiger Woods? This thirty year-old has done more for his sport than any that have come before him.

One could imagine that this is kind of how the disciples were thinking in Matthew 18:1-5 when they asked Jesus a similar question as above. The disciples asked Jesus, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of Heaven?" Perhaps, they thought He would favor a patriarch or maybe one of the judges. Instead, the Lord in His wisdom said, "...unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven."

After hearing this statement, the disciples probably were able to see things in perspective. The question they asked was from a lack of understanding. The humility of a little child was what they were to hope to obtain.

It is an honor to be able to work with the young people of this congregation. After services on Sunday evening the Tweens had a fun time with a pizza party and a devo. Their enthusiasm is contagious.

At the end of this week, we will be having our Fall Get-Together at Tom and Georgia Edward's home (21st). All ages are invited to come to this time of fellowship. Come enjoy the bonfire, smores, and lots of fun.

Responses

We are pleased to announce that on Wednesday, October 11, Zed Williams, son of Mike and Kathy Williams and grandson of Wilma Williams, was baptized into Christ. We're proud of Zed for the commitment he has made to Jesus!

Also, Wednesday night, Teresa Hapney responded to the invitation requesting prayers on her behalf that she might be a more committed disciple of Jesus. We love and appreciate Teresa for all that she has meant to her family and this congregation, and certainly want to keep her in our prayers.

Placing Membership

We are happy to announce that Sherian Gray has expressed her desire to place her membership with the South Green Street congregation. Sherian used to be a member at South Green in the 1980's. She comes to us from the Horse Cave congregation. We look forward to getting to know her better as we work together in the days to come. Sherian can be contacted at: Sherian Gray, 409 Robin Road, Horse Cave, KY 42749. Phone: (786-2117).

Does Obedience Negate The Grace Of God?

By Steve Higginbotham

Have you ever heard anyone say something like this: “If you say that one must be baptized in order to be saved, then you are making salvation a matter of human merit rather than a matter of God’s grace.” Such statements are frequently made by those who do not understand the significance of baptism’s role in the scheme of redemption. It is simply not the case that human response negates the grace of God. In fact, I believe this truth can be clearly seen by examining numerous scriptures.

John 9:1-7 Healing of the Blind Man

In this passage, a man who has been blind from birth came in contact with Jesus. Jesus anointed this man’s eyes with clay and saliva, and told the man to go wash in the pool of Siloam. The blind man obediently went, washed, and came back seeing!

Now then, to the point of this article. Did this blind man’s obedience to Christ negate the gift that Jesus has given him? In the case of this blind man, we realize that the healing power was not in the clay, the saliva, nor the water in the pool of Siloam. The power was in Jesus. Although the healing power was in Jesus, the Lord’s command could not be ignored and the blessings could not be received merely upon the basis of “faith alone.”



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Joshua 6 The Fall of Jericho

God told Joshua that he had given Jericho to the Israelites (Joshua 6:2). It was a gift. However, take note: The Israelites were instructed to march around the walls of Jericho for the next week; once a day for six days, then seven times on the seventh day. After doing this, they were instructed to shout and blow on the trumpets and the walls fell down.

Question: Did the Israelites “earn” that victory, or was it a gift from God? Who would deny it was a gift? Yet, that gift was not given until after the Israelites obeyed the Lord by marching for a week, blowing on the trumpets, and shouting. Did their obedience earn the city and remove it from the realm of God’s grace? Surely not. The walls fell by the power of God, but it wasn’t until after the children of Israel had obeyed that they received this gift from God.

Similarly, when men are commanded to “wash” in the waters of baptism (Acts 22:16), they do not merit or earn anything. The saving power is not in the water or the one doing the immersing. The saving power is in Jesus. Obedience to the command to be baptized is simply translating one’s faith into action. It is not an effort to earn anything. To the contrary, it is the way that we demonstrate our desire and need for saving grace!

Family Matters

Sick List

- Ellen Bale is now at the Frazier Rehab Center. She recently underwent back surgery. Please continue to remember her in your prayers.
- Lucy Byrd Every is now at the Barren County Health Care Center, room #43.
- Caden Hodges is now in the Community Hospital.
- Prayers are requested for Sherry Tabor and her family. She will begin experimental cancer treatment in the near future.
- Cindy Proffitt, niece of Ella Berryman, was critically injured in an auto accident in Louisville.
- Continue to remember: Evelyn Alls, Mary Anderson, Wendell Britt, Shawn Bryant, Ruby Cloyd, Dorothy Coffey, Pauline Cole, Marie Denton, Jim Dunaway, Ruth Elliott, Eddie Gerald, Kathy Hamilton, Arah Hardin, Eugene Harlow, Sally Henry, Fred Hensley, Amanda Hinton, Preston Jolly, Stacey King, Jeanette Krume, Kari Kunkel, Dr. George McKinley, Charles McDonald, Rose Ann Mesker, Marney Nunnally, Frankie Pace, Linda Pedigo, J.C. Polson, Robert & Nina Richardson, Dottie Ritter, Shelley South, Ronnie Walker and James Williams.

Sympathy

We express our sympathy to the friends and family of Elma Hood. She passed away on Wednesday, October 11. Funeral services were conducted Saturday at the Hughes Funeral Home.

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 Team #3

Visitation Team #3 will have a brief meeting, no meal, Sunday night, October 22, following the evening services. Team Members are asked to bring their visitation records to turn in. Team Leaders are Doug Frasier and Glenn Pitcock.

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

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.

Thank You Notes

Thanks so much to each and everyone who called, sent cards, brought food, and did countless other kind acts during our time of need. It means so much to be a part of such a wonderful church family.

Also, thanks to the ladies who gave us a Baby Shower. Everything was so nice-the food, the flowers and the time spent with friends in Christ. We truly appreciated it.

In Christian Love,
Nick, Haley & Ella Pace

Thanks to everyone for your prayers, visits, phone calls and cards during my surgery. Also, thanks for the good food. It is so nice to be a part of a loving Christian family like all of you.

Love to all,
Mary Peden

Gospel Meeting

The Center Church of Christ will conduct a Gospel Meeting, October 19-22, 7:00 p.m.. Andy Baker will be the speaker. Everyone is invited to attend.

