

Weekly Newsletter

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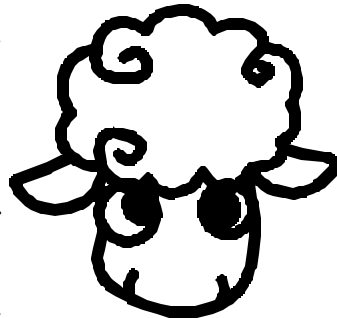
January 22, 2007

Conquering Sheep!

By Steve Higginbotham

How would you get the point across? Suppose you wanted to convey the concept that the children of God are conquerors, but not of their own strength and power, but by the power of God. How would you express it?

I know how God once expressed it in the days of Gideon (Judges 7). On this occasion, God intentionally reduced the size of his army to just 300 men who then conquered the Midianites who were described as being as numerous as the sand by the seashore. These conquerors certainly had no illusion that their victory was earned. The point was made, and it's so clear you can't miss it.



Now look at the words of Paul..."We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter, yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us." Did you see that? Conquering sheep! Now if that doesn't make a point!

Friends, as children of God we are more than conquerors, but not of our own strength and power. We are nothing without Jesus. And how can we remember this important truth? Just remember the imagery - Conquering Sheep! Now if that doesn't capture the truth that we are victorious, but not of our own might, I don't know what does. Conquering Sheep!

CHRIST IN *Youth*

Just Think

By Steve Higginbotham

A couple years ago, we went to see Kelli's "graduation" from the Governor's Scholar program. While waiting to register and be seated, I noticed that they were selling t-shirts on a table nearby. One of the messages on the t-shirts said...

**"It doesn't matter what you think,
just think!"**

Well now, if that isn't a reflection of the prevailing philosophy of the time in which we live. In the eyes of some, arriving at truth isn't nearly as important as the pursuit of it. But now listen, such a notion is misguided!

While there is some virtue in hungering for knowledge, the greater virtue is in arriving at truth. The apostle Paul disparagingly of some who were "ever learning and never coming to a knowledge of the truth" (2 Timothy 3:7).

The message on the t-shirt was only half right. Think! We all need to do that. But according to God's word, it certainly matters what we think (John 8:24).

"Whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy; **think on these things.**"

(Philippians 4:8)

A Successful Church

By Steve Higginbotham

No matter what the undertaking may be, we desire to be successful. That can be no more true than when it comes to the success of the Lord's church. There is no more important task that we can put our hands to than to work for the success of the church.

That being said, some apparently do not fully understand what makes a church successful. In the minds of most people, a successful church is measured in size, numbers, facilities, and reputation within a community. People often point to the mega-churches within our society as examples of successful churches.

While there is nothing wrong with size, numbers, facilities, and reputation within a community, not a single one of these characteristics is essential or integral to having a successful church. A church can be successful without possessing a single one of the above qualities.

So just what does make a church successful? While I cannot offer an exhaustive list, below are some of the qualities that make churches successful.

- Christians who humbly and quietly try to live out the Lordship of Jesus in their lives every day.
- Christians who unceasingly pray, every day for the strength and stability of the Lord's church.
- Christians who love the truth supremely; who will not allow their own personal desires or situations to skew their perception of God's revelation.
- Christians who are committed to moral living and whose goal is not to fit it with society, but whose goal is purity and godliness.
- Christians who love peace more than they do a fight; who love the calmness of unity more than the rhetoric of a fuss; and who love words of edification more than the allure of gossip.
- Christians who support the weak, restore the fallen, and who re-affirm their love and commitment to those who have stumbled.

Now those characteristics would make a successful church! And take note: It's not about numbers, size, or facilities. It's about inward transformation, a renewing of the mind, conforming one's life into the image of Jesus. And here's the best news - it's within the grasp of everyone of us. You see, it matters not whether we can or cannot grow to great number, or build some huge facility, or have a multimillion dollar budget, because those are not the things that make great churches. The qualities that bring success and constitute greatness in God's eyes are qualities that are within reach, that each one of us, if we choose to embrace, will make, and will continue to make the church at South Green Street a faithful and successful congregation of the Lord's church.

Family Matters

Sick List

- Jim Dunaway is now at home. Please continue to keep Jim & Dot in your prayers.
- Lane Houchens, grandson of Glenn & Judith Pitcock, will undergo surgery on Thursday. Wesley Houchens, grandson of Glenn & Judith Pitcock, was recently injured in a wreck. Lane & Wesley are the sons of Dale & Melinda Houchens.
- Terry Burd, brother of Karen Kerney, underwent cancer surgery Friday in Louisville.
- Continue to remember: Mary Anderson, Wendell & Lena Britt, John Bull, Doug Burgess, Shawn Bryant, Linda Cable, Ruby Cloyd, Dorothy Coffey, Pauline Cole, Ruth Elliott, Eddie Gerald, Debbie Gray, Donald Grider, Eugene Harlow, Sally Henry, Fred Hensley, Amanda Hinton, Caden Hodges, Ruel Houchens, Carl Hutchinson, Clevis Jefferies, Preston Jolly, Stacey King, Jeanette Krume, Art Lattanzi, Janie Martin, Linda Pedigo, Kay Pickett, Stephen Pitcock, J.C. Polson, Cindy Proffitt, Nina Richardson, Marian Smith, Shelley South, Mary Stephens, Dixie Strode, Sherry Tabor, Edna Vibbert, Ronnie Walker, James Williams and James Wooten.

Thank You

I would like to express my appreciation to everyone for all the kindness shown to me during my illness. Thank you for keeping me and my family in your prayers.

In Christian Love,
Peggy Adwell and Fred & Marie Denton

Pew Packers

Pew Packers class meets each Sunday afternoon at 5:30. This class is for children through the 4th grade and meets in the front of the auditorium.

Teacher Training Workshop

A Teacher Training Workshop will be held at the Mt. Juliet Church of Christ on Saturday, February 24, from 8:00-12:00. The speakers include: Marlin Connelley, Adult Teacher Sessions, Mike McPherson, Teen Teacher Sessions and Suzanne Martin, Children's Teacher Sessions. If you would like to attend please turn your name in to the office.

Pictorial Directory

As you are aware, we will be doing a new pictorial directory this year. Olan Mills will be here in March to take photographs. The dates are March 22-24 and March 29-31. Please keep these dates in mind.

Spring Gospel Meeting

Our Spring Gospel Meeting will be held, April 22-25. Steve Johnson, minister of the North Lexington Church of Christ in Lexington, KY, will be our speaker.

Television Commercials

For several years now, we have discussed and planned on creating several high quality television commercials. This was also mentioned several times in last year's congregational planning session.

We are now at a point where we are ready to proceed with this project. We have secured the services of a professional who will video and edit our commercials.

Here is a first step. We need children from the 4&5 Year Old class and 1st & 2nd Grade class to memorize John 3:16. We would like to use several of the children in one of the commercials. If you have a child in this age bracket, please notify Steve as soon as possible and help your child memorize John 3:16.

