

Weekly Newsletter

Volume 26, Number 31

July 30, 2007

Hurting Ourselves

Caroline and I have a dog named Samson who is part golden retriever, part idiot. We absolutely love the golden retriever side of Samson. The idiot part? Well, that's another story. Occasionally, the idiot manifests itself when Samson chews on things that are not his (e.g., books, stuffed animals, shoes, etc.). His current fetish is mail and other paper products.

This past week, I came home one afternoon to find some crumbs of paper beside the refrigerator. As I went to pick them up, I was rather amused at what I saw. Unbeknownst to Samson, he had just destroyed a coupon for dog treats. As much as the idiot part of Samson enjoys chewing on things, it enjoys dog treats much more. I only wish the idiot could have realized what he had done to himself.

The humorous irony behind Samson's mistake reflects the sad irony behind our sins. Just like chewing stuff is fun for Samson, sin is pleasurable and enjoyable for us. In the moment, sin feels good and seems harmless. We often do not witness any obvious consequences to our sins, so we think they are "no big deal." What we forget, though, is that our sins ultimately hurt no one but ourselves. They damage our psyche, our spirituality, and our relationship with God.

To keep us from hurting ourselves, God has provided commandments that give proper direction to our lives. His commandments are "*for our good always and for our survival*" (Deut. 6:24). We might not understand all of God's commands, but if we recognize Him as the loving Father that He is, we must accept the fact that His commands are for our good.

Instead of hurting ourselves with sin, let's help ourselves by giving God our hearts and keeping His commandments. If we do, it will be to both our earthly and eternal good. - Blaine

CHRIST IN Youth

Last week of Summer :-)

As summer comes to a close and everyone gets ready for a new school year, here are some of our upcoming events:

- **CORRECTION FROM LAST WEEK:**
Our final Tuesday/Thursday afternoon hang out time will be next Tuesday, **August 7** from noon until 3. We will be eating at El Mazatlan that day.
- On Wednesday, **August 8 @ 5:30 pm**, there will be a Back-to-School Pizza Party in the Youth Center provided by Joyce and Ernie Weir. All school age children and their families are invited. Thanks Joyce & Ernie!
- **ATTENTION PARENTS:** There will be a Family Meeting in the Youth Center on Sunday evening, **August 12** immediately after service. This meeting is for all families of middle school and high school students.
- The Three Forks Church of Christ in Smiths Grove will be hosting a Youth Rally on Saturday, **August 18 from 9 am until 3 pm**. Please let Blaine know ASAP if you plan on attending (middle school & up).

Thanks again to all of our youth, their families, and the workers who helped make this year's Senior Members Banquet a success. We have received many compliments concerning the food, festivities, and fun. Thank you so much for your hard work and contribution to this great event.

A Perfect God and An Imperfect World

By Steve Higginbotham

Why does God permit imperfection in His world? Why are babies allowed to be born handicapped? Why do limbs not move, eyes not see, mouths not speak, and ears not hear? Why does God allow children to be born with cerebral-palsy, down's syndrome, and spina bifida? Skeptics and Christians alike struggle with the answers to such questions.

“Where is God when such events occur?” Or maybe a better question is, “Where is the perfection of God in view of such imperfections?” How can a perfect God allow such imperfection in his creation?

I don't pretend to have all the answers to human suffering, but I do know there are some things that help me deal with such difficult questions. One such aid comes from a change in perspective.

What if the perfection God is looking for is in us, not the imperfect bodies of people? What if the greater perfection God desires is in our reaction to people who are imperfect?

How compassionate are you with the afflicted? How patient and understanding are you with their trials? Do they have too many troubles to make getting

involved with them worthwhile? Are we inconvenienced and resentful of their demands on our time and lifestyle? Are we annoyed at their presence or even worse, embarrassed by them?

Just maybe the perfection God is looking for is in our Christ-like response to imperfect people. Instead of allowing people born with physical disabilities to shake our faith in God, should we not rather allow them to challenge us to reach toward Christ-like perfection in our response to these people?

While Jesus walked this earth, he was God in the flesh (John 1:1,14). He, like we, came in contact with people who were burdened by imperfect bodies. In fact, multitudes of people with physical disabilities flocked to him because they knew he was one who had compassion upon them. I recall on one occasion, a leper came to Jesus for help (Mark 1:41). The text says that Jesus had compassion on him and healed him. But not only did Jesus heal him, he reached out and touched him! I wonder how long it had been since anyone had touched this leper? This passage gives us a glimpse into the heart of Jesus. He wasn't one who stood at arm's distance from the suffering, but rather touched their lives.

Friends, from God's perspective, the imperfection in this world may not be in the physically and mentally disabled, but in a healthy person's uncompassionate response to these individuals.

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Family Matters

Sick List

- Lena Britt, sister of Gladys Thomas, is in the Community Hospital. She is in room #333.
- Ruby Claywell, mother of Beverly Smith, will begin radiation treatments this week.

Prayer List

- Eddie Gerald and Preston Jolly
- Sheila Foster, sister of Tammy Groce
- Donnie Huff, brother-in-law of Karen Kerney

Restoration

Last Wednesday night, Shirley Pitcock responded to the invitation saying that she wanted to rededicate herself to the Lord and to the South Green Street congregation. Shirley has requested our prayers on her behalf, so please remember her in your daily prayers.

Back To School

Donations are now being accepted for the Back To School Ministry. Each year donations to this ministry are used to purchase school supplies and other essentials for children in need in our community. The school chosen for 2007 is Hiseville Elementary. Please give donations to Gary Edmunds or Rollin Simmons.

Baby Shower

All ladies of the congregation are invited to a Baby Shower for Tonya Kelsay. This event will take place on Sunday, August 5, 2007, at 2:00 in the church basement.

Gospel Meeting

The Cave City Church of Christ will conduct a Gospel Meeting, August 5-8. Tim Woodard will be the speaker Services Monday-Wednesday begin at 7:00 p.m. Everyone is invited to attend.

Students/Teachers

Sessions are held each Sunday afternoon for children interested in learning the Chronology. Sessions meet at 5:00 in the church basement. Bible class Teachers, from 1st grade-high school, are encouraged to be a part of these weekly sessions. Sessions will be held through the middle of September. Should you have any questions contact Steve or your child's teacher.

Teacher Training Seminar

An area wide Teacher Training Seminar will be conducted September 24 and 25, from 7:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m. at the South Green Street Church of Christ. There will be sessions for teachers from Cradle Roll through adults, a non-teacher class, as well as, a special song leading class. Speakers for these sessions include: Preschool Teachers-Lea Dye, Primary Teachers-Kim Higginbotham, Intermediate Teachers-Mark Sexton and Blaine Kelly, Adult Teachers-Sellers Crain and David Hamilton. Speakers for the non-teachers will be Dale Graham, Mike Greene, Tom Hall and Steve Higginbotham. The song leading class will be conducted by Todd Walker from Murray, KY. Mark your calendar and make plans to attend.

Mark Your Calendar!

Our annual Friends & Family Day will be held on Sunday, September 23. make plans to attend and invite your friends and family to attend services with you on this date.

For The Record

Sunday Morning Attendance	379
Sunday Contribution	\$6,870.72
2007 Weekly Budget	\$6,700.00
2007 Weekly Average	\$6,839.61

Sunday Morning, August 5, 2007

Deacons in Charge..... Chris Page
 Doug Frasier
 Announcements..... Leslie Wilson
 Song Leader..... Stanley Walton
 Opening Prayer..... Rollin Simmons
 Lesson..... Steve Higginbotham
 Presiding at the Table Kevin Redford
 Jay Turner
 Serving the Assembly..... Ronnie Turner
 David McCracken
 Mark Bowman
 Ernie Weir
 Serving the Balcony..... Ralph Dunbar
 Billy Pritchard
 Jewett Steenbergen
 Closing Remarks..... Scott Bradford
 Dismissal Prayer..... Gary Edmunds
 Greeters (Front Door) Trent Ferguson
 Stacey Ferguson
 Greeters (Back Door) Jim Kessler
 Bonnie Kessler
 Greeter (Side Door)..... Norma Vance
 Assistance (Back Door)..... David Gray
 Umbrella (Back Door)..... Darrell Miller

Ushers Glenn Pritchard
 Nick Pace
 Usher & Serve Basement James Williams
 Basil Surber
 Count Contribution..... Jessie Thompson
 Allen Peden
 Gary Brownfield
 Dan Button
 Nursery Attendant..... Joyce Whitlow
 Bake Bread..... Bettye Edmunds
 Bus Driver..... Jimmy Smith
 Pick Up Attendance Cards..... Tanner Siebold
 John Robert Richardson

Sunday Evening Service

Announcements..... Leslie Wilson
 Song Leader..... Stanley Walton
 Opening Prayer..... Walter Smith
 Lesson..... Steve Higginbotham
 Presiding at the Table Glenn Pitcock
 David Fant
 Dismissal Prayer..... Glen Birge

Wednesday Evening Service

Song Leader..... Scott Bradford
 Prayer..... Howard Alls

Worship Times:

Sunday Bible Study 9:30 a.m.
 Sunday A.M. Worship 10:30 a.m.
 Sunday P.M. Worship 6:00 p.m.
 Wednesday Bible Study 7:00 p.m.
 Thursday Ladies' Class 10:00 a.m.

Church Information

Phone (270) 651-5409
 Website..... www.glasgow-coc.org
 Steve's email shigg@glasgow-ky.com
 Blaine Kelly..... blaine@glasgow-coc.org
 Secretary's email nancy@glasgow-coc.org

Deacons

Mark Bowman	678-2075	Kevin Redford	646-3260
Ralph Dunbar	678-4576	Tony Shirley	651-5605
Gary Edmunds	678-2330	Walter Smith	427-3178
Doug Frasier	651-1062	Robert Spear	678-2319
Robbie Fudge	678-5602	Ronnie Turner	678-6798
David Gray	678-8824	Leslie Wilson	678-3692

Ministers

Steve Higginbotham 590-8785
 Blaine Kelly 404-2684

Elders

Scott Bradford	651-7244	Billy Pritchard	651-3304
Tommy Gumm	678-3957	Rollin Simmons	678-4854
Darrell Pitcock	678-4333		

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