

News and Notes

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Michael and Karen Hatcher - Karen’s father, O. J. Savage, is on hospice care and very low.
Pam Patrick - Various health issues including surgery and infection.
David Brown - Spring, Texas preacher, blood clots in leg.
Sandy Craig - Broken shoulder/kidney problems, new tests.
Jo Ann McLerran - Confined to home but doing much better.
Glenda Marble - Faithful Christian at Lexington, Okla. Heart problems.
Debbie Post - Wife of Doug Post, preacher in Salisbury, Maryland - Cancer.
Sissy Craig - For spiritual and emotional strength.
Charles and Linda Pogue - Congestive heart failure.
Nancy Verkist - Ellensburg, Washington. Suffering from Von Hippel Lindau disease.
Don Smith - Faithful brother in Christ persecuted for teaching fellow inmates in an Ohio prison.

OUR GOSPEL MEETING - Brother Lee Moses, who preaches for the Berea church in Rives, Tenn., will preach in our gospel meeting, Aug. 6-10. Support the meeting every night and invite your friends and family members to attend. We will have flyers by next week which you can use to advertise it. Let your Face Book friends and family know about it. We will have a dinner at the building on Sunday, Aug. 6, then meet again at 1:00 p.m. Meeting time Monday through Thursday is 7:00 p.m. Please get the word out to others. A gospel meeting is designed to accomplish two things. 1) Teach the lost what to do to be saved, and, 2) to edify the church.

GONE THIS WEEK - Landry Brewer and his family and Earl and Nancy Reed will be gone this Lord’s Day. The Reeds will be in Sallisaw and the Brewers will be in Noble. The Brewers will be back for evening worship.

KENYA REPORT - Contributing to the Kenya Fund this week were Chuck and Nancy Verkist, Ellensburg Wash.; the Bellview church of Christ, Pensacola, Fla.; the Eastside church of Christ, Lexington, Okla.; the Berea church of Christ, Rives, Tenn.; and Harold and Ruth Tydings, Broken Arrow, Okla.

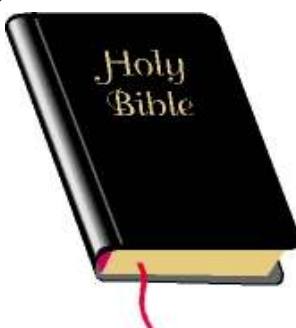
Our building is located at East Avenue C and North Locust in Elk City, Oklahoma, one block east of Van Buren on Avenue C. You are invited to visit with us at any of our meeting times.

Weekly Meeting Times

Sunday Morning Bible Classes.....9:30
Sunday Morning Worship.....10:30
Sunday Afternoon Worship.....5:00

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Sound Doctrine

“But speak thou the things that become sound doctrine” (Titus 2:1)

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“Shall The Enemy Blaspheme Thy Name For Ever?”
Lee Moses

[Note: I originally wrote the following article seven years ago. While it deals with a developing television program that, thankfully, never came to fruition, the principles with which this article deals are clearly as timely as ever.—LM]

The above is the question asked by the psalmist (74:10). The answer appears to be, “Yes, as long as the earth stands.” Over seven hundred years before the incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ in the flesh, Isaiah prophesied of him, *He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we es-teemed him not* (Isa. 53:3).

One thinks of the shame that was heaped upon our Saviour, so pure and free from sin. When He was convicted of a crime He did not commit, those present began to, “*spit in his face, and buffeted him; and others smote him with the palms of their hands, saying, Prophecy unto us, thou Christ, Who is he that smote thee?*” (Matt. 26:67-68). Roman soldiers “*clothed him with purple, and platted a crown of thorns, and put it about his head, and began to salute him, Hail, King of the Jews! And they smote him on the head with a reed, and did spit upon him, and bowing their knees worshipped him*” (Mark 15:17-19). The insults continued even as He hung in agony on the cross, His death imminent (Matt. 27:39-44).

Some in our modern society apparently find the shame Jesus took insufficient, seeking to heap more upon Him.

The cable television network Comedy Central has declared themselves an “enemy” of the Lord as they repeatedly and insistently blaspheme Him. They fea-tured a Christmas special several years ago in which comedian Dennis Leary mocked the virgin birth of Christ in the most denigrating and vulgar of terms. Their show *South Park* features a

depiction of Jesus as a regular character, and in a blasphemous light. As one of *South Park*'s co-creators and writers proudly announces, "It really is open season on Jesus. We can do whatever we want to Jesus, and we have. We've had him say bad words. We've had him shoot a gun. We've had him kill people. We can do whatever we want."

Now, Comedy Central has announced that they are developing a cartoon about our holy Saviour called "JC." According to an Associated Press article, "It depicts Christ as a 'regular guy' who moves to New York to 'escape his father's enormous shadow.' His father is presented as an apathetic man who would rather play video games than listen to his son talk about his new life."

While Christ took on the attributes of ordinary flesh, He was beyond extraordinary—He was the unique, only begotten Son of God (John 1:18; 1 John 4:9). He never remotely sought to "escape [H]is [F]ather's enormous shadow." Contrariwise, He prayed to the Father, "*I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do*" (John 17:4). Christ sought to increase the reach of His Father's light. The portrayal of the Father as apathetic strikes particularly at the deep love and concern He has for mankind (John 3:16; Rom. 5:8; Titus 3:4).

Why did our Lord endure the shameful treatment He did? So that all mankind—even those who heaped shame upon Him in His wrongful conviction and crucifixion (Luke 23:34)—might have the opportunity to be forgiven of their wrongdoings and be reconciled to God. It is inconceivable that people would seek to blaspheme and heap additional shame upon the One Who gave so much for them—except for the fact that God said they would. (From *The Berean Searcher*, Rives, Tenn., Mar. 19, 2017).

A Soldier Or A Captive?

Jim Miller, Gray Maine

We have all heard the phrase, "Dumbing Down America." I have come to believe that this has also gone on in the Lord's church for many, many years now. The dumbing down of the church has had a frightening effect. Christians used to be able to rattle off book, chapter, and verse for the things they believe without batting an eye. But today they are lucky if they can even get the verse *correct* when quoting it.

Over the years congregations have come to rely on the preacher knowing his Bible and teaching it properly and thus many never even cracked open their Bible to see if what is being taught is correct. A failure to study on their own has made it possible for the wolves dressed as sheep to creep in and teach error unchecked.

The adoption of denominational practices is rampant among God's people because of the lack of study on the part of the members of the Lord's church. This is one of the

reasons—if not the biggest reason—that churches are falling off into liberal apostasy today.

Here in the northeast where I live, a man is hard pressed to find a sound congregation. It is disheartening to those who seek to worship God in spirit and truth not to be able to worship with others as they should. Well spoken men who teach nothing but the love and mercy of God and only those things pleasing to the ear have crept in and brought with them denominational practices that look like good things and teach that surely if it is good it is acceptable to God whether there is authority for that given practice or not.

Folks I am not seeking to win a popularity contest and because I feel we must stand on the truth of God's word no more and no less I have made many enemies over the years. You can't be afraid to stand on God's word because you will lose friends or be called names. You have to put these men out of the church and go back to doing things in the manner God has stated, if you want to be saved and make it to heaven when that time comes.

There is no room for apathy and looking the other way in the Lord's church. The idea that you can allow a little error in and then say, "Well I just won't take part in that bit," is unacceptable. "Ye did run well; who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth? This persuasion cometh not of him that calleth you. A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump" (Gal 5:7-9).

We all make errors in judgement but when it is brought to our attention by others or by the word we have to change. We must stand and be willing to say, "*Wait!* This is wrong and we need to stop this now." We can't worry about losing a friend or being called names or even being ostracized by those around us because we stand on the truth of God's word. Who here reading this now would trade his soul for popularity for temporary things of this earth? Have we been dumbed down to the point that we no longer can see error at all?

Christians are not called to peace they are called into battle. We have been given armor and the sword. Each and every one of us must determine if he is going to fight the good fight. "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places" (Eph 6:12). "Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand" (Eph 6:13).

We need desperately to realize that the wolves are not just at the door but have entered in and are devouring the truth and making shipwreck of our assemblies. We must teach the truth to those who are blindly following error and bring them back as James said. "Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him; Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins" (Jas 5:19-20).

Ask yourself, "Am I a soldier or a captive?" Your soul depends on it.