

Elkton Communicator

A Publication of the church of Christ in Elkton, TN

19FEB2012

Men Privileged to Serve

Announcements

Jimmy Butler

Sunday Services

9 am

Singing— Jimmy Davis

Prayer— Jarred Butler

10 am

Singing— Jimmy Davis

S. R.— John Bryan IV

Prayer— Jim Lovell

Sermon— Joe Greer

Lord's Table—

- Presiding

- Frank Solomon

- David Beyer

- Serving

- Charlie Wilburn

- Richard Parker

Prayer— Tim Burgess

5 pm

Singing— John Bryan III

Prayer— Dick Sullivan

Sermon— Jim Lovell

Prayer— Tim Burgess

Wednesday Bible Study 7 pm

Singing— Singing Night

Invitation— Jerry Moody

*“Rejoice in the
Lord and be
glad, you
righteous.”*

Psalm 32:11

Plenteous in Mercy

by Bill Hall

In studying the relationship which existed between Jesus and His apostles, we marvel at two facts: (1) the weakness of the apostles, and (2) the patience of Jesus.

The apostles were truly weak and blundering men. Jesus told them again and again of the spiritual nature of His kingdom, but they still looked for an earthly kingdom and childishly argued over which of them would be the greatest. He tried to prepare them for His crucifixion, but they never understood. He performed great miracles before them, but they could still be frightened even when He was in their midst. He often had to say, “*0 you of little faith.*”

There was Peter: speaking when he should have been silent, sinking in the sea, asleep when he should have been praying, cutting off Malchus' ear, following afar off, denying Jesus.

Yet, despite all of Peter's blunders, one can never doubt Peter's love for the Lord, his faith in Him as the Son of God, or his desire to please Him. In response to Jesus' question, “*Do you also want to go away?*” Peter blurted out, “*Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.*” (John 6:67-68). Truly words fitly spoken! Peter in his impetuous moments could say the wrong things, and in his weakness he could sin, but he loved the Lord and was not about to leave Him. He was always willing to accept the Lord's rebukes, and could weep bitterly when he did sin. And so it was with the other apostles.

Lesser men would have despaired, giving up on these weak, frail, stumbling disciples. But not our Lord. He was not so concerned with what they were then as with what they could become. And through His patience He transformed them into the strongest men this world has ever known. He rebuked and chastened them, but they never questioned His love nor doubted that they belonged to Him. They had been given to Him of God, and He had kept every one of them—except Judas (John 17:12).

Except Judas! The “*son of perdition*”! The Lord's patience had to be cut off toward him, for he had turned his back on the Lord, apostatized, and refused the Lord's rebuke and chastening. And the Lord gave him up!

Can we not see God's attitude toward us as we observe Jesus and His apostles? Jesus upon earth was “*God with us*” (Matthew 1:23), “*the image of the invisible God*” (Colossians 1:15), “*the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person*” (Hebrews 1:3). The attitude which Jesus demonstrated toward the apostles in their weaknesses is the same attitude which God has toward us in our weaknesses. We must never question His love and patience toward those who live by His teaching, accept His chastening and rebukes, and repenting, constantly seek His forgiveness. And we must never question His ability to transform us (Yes, even me!) into the strong, useful servants He wants us to be. “*The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in mercy*” (Psalm 103:8).

Elkton Gospel Meeting

with Bill Hall

**Sunday thru Wednesday
February 26th–29th.**

Introduction to our Gospel Meeting

We have every reason to look forward to our Gospel Meeting with Bill Hall. It is right upon us, starting just a week from today.

Brother Hall is no stranger to the church at Elkton. He has been here in gospel meetings before, at least twice, and many of us have known him for a number of years. His experience and ability are well known. His command of the scriptures make him an able defender of God's word. His sincerity and gentle spirit increase his effectiveness in the pulpit and in private studies.

For the Sunday morning lessons, the elders have asked bro. Hall to address a matter of recent church history. (recent as in the last generation or two) The lessons are entitled, "*A Historical Perspective of the Church Issues of the 50's and 60's.*" These lessons deal with the problems of centralization of church leadership and the use of fellowship halls. Sunday evenings lesson, "*God So Loved the World.*"

Other lessons he plans to preach include ...

Monday: *Why no instrumental music in worship?*

Tuesday: *Paul: A life of obedience*

Wednesday: *Daniel: A great example of service to God*

These are lessons we will all benefit from. Let's all plan to be at each meeting!

jg

"Oh come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation! Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise! For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods."

Psalm 95:1-3 (ESV)

News and Notes

- **Elkton Singing**—This Wednesday night.
- **Monthly Ladies Class**—Thursday evening at 5:30.
- **Singing**—At Market Street in Athens, Friday, at 7 pm.

SICK

- **Eli Williams**— (classmate of Kaleigh Butler) Understand he has had a difficult week. Continuing radiation treatments. Here is his address ... **Elijah Williams c/o St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 262 Danny Thomas Place, Memphis, TN 38103**
- **Gail Bailey**— (Melisha's mother) Had surgery to remove portion of her thyroid gland that had broken loose and moved lower. The doctor was pleased with how well the procedure when. Still waiting on biopsy results. Gail's address; **24732 Windward Dr., Athens, AL 35613**
- **Frank Solomon**— Has been sick this week.
- **Josephine Solomon**— Is expecting test results on Tuesday.
- **Expectant Mothers**— It has been good to hear prayers remembering our two expectant mothers, **Billie Hooper** and **Jennifer Butler**. Let's keep them and their babies in mind.
- **Others in our prayers** — Suzy Milligan, Betty Yant, Justin Ruf (working overseas), Edith Marie Wilburn, Sandra Davis, Reba Gordon (at Sunbridge), Rhenda Martin, David Bryant, Lillian Magnusson, Richard Patterson and Kathleen Hillis.