

Elkton Communicator

A Publication of the church of Christ in Elkton, TN

11DEC2011

Men Privileged to Serve

Announcements

Dick Sullivan

Sunday Services

9 am

Singing— Jay Butler

Prayer— Tim Burgess

10 am

Singing— Jay Butler

S. R.— Mike Phillips

Prayer— David Beyer

Sermon— Joe Greer

Lord's Table—

- Presiding

- John Bryan III

- Johnny Lewis

- Serving

- John Bryan IV

- Jimmy Davis

Prayer— Buck Smith

5 pm

Singing— Jarred Butler

Prayer— Joe Greer

Sermon— Jim Lovell

Prayer— Frank Solomon

Wednesday Bible Study 7 pm

Singing— Joe Greer

Invitation— David Beyer

*“The works of
His hands
are faithful
and just.”*

Psalm 111:7

Accomplishing God's Purpose Not Ours

by Jim Deason

Hear the words of God as recorded by Isaiah the prophet, *“For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways,” declares the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts. For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there without watering the earth, and making it bear and sprout, and furnishing seed to the sower and bread to the eater; so shall My word be which goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me empty, without accomplishing what I desire, and without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it.”* Isaiah 55:8-11

God has declared that His word is powerful and sufficient to accomplish all that He intends to accomplish. It needs neither addition nor subtraction. From long ago this has been so. *“You shall not add to the word which I am commanding you, nor take away from it, that you may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you.”* Deut. 4:2 *“Only be strong and very courageous; be careful to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, so that you may have success wherever you go.”* Josh. 1:7

The New Testament also emphasizes the adequacy of God's word. *“All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.”* 2 Tim. 3:16-17 *“Whoever speaks, let him speak, as it were, the utterances of God; whoever serves, let him do so as by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen”* 1 Pet. 4:11

Have you wondered why so many churches are doing things, supposedly in the name of Jesus, that are not found in God's word? Is it possible that some have lost faith in the Bible to accomplish what God desires? Or, is it possible that some have decided that God's purposes are no longer sufficient and that the church needs another agenda?

Many denominational churches are more involved in social reform programs than they are in even attempting to save the lost. Of greater concern to me, however, is that some churches of Christ seem to have lost their focus, i.e. concentrating more on making life better in this world—coping with life's problems here—than preparing people for the next. It is true that, when one becomes a Christian, he becomes a better parent, spouse, neighbor, and friend. However, making someone a better parent, etc. does not make him/her a Christian. To prepare a people for eternity is the purpose of the word of God. Let's go back to preaching the Bible. When we remove all human names and creeds, when we remove all human agendas, we can be unified around what the Bible says. Then, God's purposes can be our purposes and we can preach the pure, unadulterated word of God.

Some Things We Must Believe About God

by Allen Webster

We must believe that God is:

God is Eternal. He is *“from everlasting to everlasting”* (Psalm 90:2). There has never been a time when God was not, nor will there ever be a time when He is not.

continued on the back ...

continued from the front ...

God is Everywhere. (Omnipresent) – Jonah tried to flee from God’s presence (cf. **Jonah 1:3**), which is a laughable thought to one who understands God, for He is everywhere at the same time (**Psalm 139:7-11**). There is no escaping His presence.

God is All Powerful. (Omnipotent) – Every power there is to possess, God has. God once asked the question, *“Is any thing too hard for the Lord?”* (**Genesis 18:14**). Jeremiah said, *“Ah Lord God! behold, thou hast made the heaven and the earth by thy great power and stretched out arm, and there is nothing too hard for thee”* (**Jeremiah 32:17**). He is the Almighty God. We must not forget the power of God.

God is All Knowing. (Omniscient) – There is nothing that God does not know. He is never caught off guard or unprepared. No problem ever presented itself that caused God to scratch His head and say, “Umm, now what are we going to do?” No angel ever phrased a question and received a reply, “Let me get back to you on that.” God on a bad day (if He ever had one) is better than man on his best day. Paul explained, *“The foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men”* (**1 Corinthians 1:25**).

God is Love. (Omnibenevolent) – God is a four-letter word spelled l-o-v-e. *“He who does not love does not know God.”* (**1 John 4:8**). He is an overflowing fountain of love. It pours on us from its ocean reservoir in constant torrents. God’s love has never been diluted, although it now spreads to cover seven billion people at the same time. He loves each of us as much as He did Adam and Eve when they were the only earthly recipients.

God has not left us without a means of knowing Him. Our Bible will take us on a grand journey of faith. It leads to the grandest Being in the most marvelous place for the longest period. *“Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”* **Rom. 10:17**

adapted by Joe Greer

The bad part about sin is that it does not float around in the air unattached. It resides in people. False doctrine is not a spirit that floats around seeking a place to light. It is attached to and spread by people. While it is true we are to hate the sin and love the sinner, we cannot deal with sin or error without dealing with the persons to whom it is attached and from whom it is spread to others.

Ed Bragwell

News and Notes

- **A sad note— Paul & Anita Poarch** (kin to Frank Solomon) have a 31 year old daughter who was killed in a car accident last week on the Minor Hill Hwy. She leaves behind a husband and three children. Paul and Anita live in the white house across the road from the church building. Perhaps a card will be of encouragement. **Paul and Anita Poarch, 1050 Market St., Prospect, TN 38477**

SICK

- **Jeannie Thomley**— Wife of David Thomley, whom we have supported in his work in Italy, has been diagnosed with an inoperable brain tumor. They ask that we pray it will not grow bigger.
- **Richard Parker**— Had surgery last Monday for torn ligaments in his leg and is recovering well.
- **Charlie Wilburn**— Had surgery on Tuesday to open blockage in his nose for better breathing.
- **Betty Yant**— Has not felt well. She always wants us to remember her in our prayers.
- **Steve Smith** — (friend of David Beyer) At home following surgery for a brain tumor.
- **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.