

Sunshine Baskets for 11/30/2008

Brenda Call, Judy Cantrell, Marie Johnson, M.B. Ragland, Michelle Burris, Kendra Burris

Happy Birthday to...

Tyler Meadows (11/22), Joann Carver (11/23), Austin Robinson (11/23), Julie Nichols (11/25), Mark Collins (11/26), Jackson Conner (11/26), Betty Smallwood (11/28), Diane Duke (11/29)

Happy Anniversary to...

Donnie & Sandy Ragland (11/24/1989), Michael & Debra Martin (11/27/1971)

Announcements & Upcoming Events...

November 23rd: TODAY! Jackson Co. 4th Sunday Singing HERE @ 2:00 pm.

November 25th: Tuesday mid-week Bible study due to Thanksgiving.

November 30th: The collection for this day will go entirely to the building fund.

November 30th: All Male Member Meeting @ 1pm

December 6th: Ladies' Shopping Trip to Mt. Juliet. Sign-up sheet in the back.

December 14th: Nursing Home Services @ 2 pm.

December 21st: Christmas dinner after morning worship with 1:00 pm worship service in place of the 5:00 pm service.

December 23rd: Tuesday mid-week Bible Study due to Christmas Eve.

December 30th: Tuesday mid-week Bible Study due to New Year's Eve.

Challenge Youth Conference: February 27-March 1, 2009 in Gatlinburg, TN @ the Gatlinburg Convention Center. Sign-up sheet in the back.

This year the registration fee & fuel cost for each person are being paid for, but the cost of the room will be divided evenly among everyone. For more details visit <http://cyconline.com/> **The last day to sign up is Sunday, November 30th, 2008!**

Our Sympathy Goes Out to the Families of:

Billy Stafford

Privileged To Serve November 30th

Table listing names and roles for November 30th service, including Ushers, Announcements, Song Leader, Scripture Reading, Speaker, Opening Prayer, Closing Prayer, etc.

Sunday Night (11/30/2008)

Table listing names and roles for Sunday Night service, including Speaker, Scripture Reading, Song Leader, Opening Prayer, Closing Prayer, Power Point.

Wednesday (12/03/2008)

Table listing names and roles for Wednesday service, including Song Leader, Devotional, Opening Prayer, Closing Prayer.

*Take to the sick & shut-in. Let Jerry Young know if you can't serve.

Elders:

Table listing Elders: Ted Ragland, John Mabery, Cell.

Deacons:

Table listing Deacons: John Anderson, Billy Scott, Robert Crabtree, Raymond Haney, Rellon Burris, Carl Call, Sjon Gentry, Bobby Haney, Jerry Young.

Ministers:

Table listing Ministers: John Mabery, John Anderson.

To Be Saved, JESUS Said We MUST...

Believe Him (Jn.8:24; Heb.11:6) Repent of our sins (Lk.13:3, 5) Confess Christ (Rom.10:9-10) Be immersed in water for remission of sins (Mk.16:16; Acts 2:38; 22:16; Rom.6:3-4)

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Number 47

If I Were the Devil's Preacher ... (Part IX) "Legalism" (Part 1) --- By John Mabery

If I were the devil's preacher I would build a straw-man and call it "Legalism"! In case you're unfamiliar with the term, a straw-man is often used in politics, business and religion. For example, a person will fabricate a "major problem" and insist that the problem must be corrected or else there will be doom and gloom! Even though the "problem" doesn't exist, people will think it does if it's repeated enough times. The person who created the problem will ride in on their white horse, "fix it" (it's easy to correct a non-existent problem), and be the hero!

Now back to the "straw man": there are two kinds of people, lawless and law-abiding. As a rule, lawless people aren't too crazy about the law-abiding (John 3:19-21). Cain murdered Abel; what motivated him to do it? John tells us,

"Because his works were evil and his brother's righteous." (1 John 3:12)

Cain murdered him because Abel obeyed God! (Heb.11:4; Rom.10:17) This is also why Jewish leaders despised Jesus. Our Lord said,

"... you seek to kill Me, a Man who has told you the truth " (John 8:40)

Disciples are held in contempt to this day because they're devoted to doing the will of God (John 15:18-19). By faithful obedience to God, Noah condemned his world (Heb.11:17). Those who walk as Noah walked do the same. This is why John wrote,

"Do not marvel, my brethren, if the world hates you." (1 John 3:13)

Those who "practice righteousness" (i.e. do the will of God) demonstrate that they are "the children of God" (1 John 3:10). Their righteous practice magnifies those who aren't practicing righteousness and exposes them! Therefore, those who are not doing the whole counsel of God hate those who do because they're condemned by their righteous actions! (Heb.11:7)

Continued inside...

Center Grove Church Of Christ

3857 Grundy Quarles Hwy. Gainesboro, TN. 38562 931.858.7460 or 931.268.0651

Schedule of Services

Sunday: Bible Classes @ 9:00 a.m. Worship @ 10:00 a.m. Worship @ 5:00 p.m.

Wednesday: Bible Classes @ 7:00 p.m. Our A.M. Service is Televised on Monday on Cable Channel 16 @ 6:00 pm

Radio: "The Lord's Word" on WLIV 920 AM 10:10 a.m. Monday - Saturday

(We broadcast Thursday, Friday and Saturday)

Website: www.centergrovecoc.com

E-mail: centergrovecoc@gmail.com

The devil's preacher makes bad *seem* good and good *seem* bad. Therefore, he strives to make "practicing righteousness" (a good thing) *appear* to be a bad thing. If people think "practicing righteousness" is legalism, then he can create his straw-man. "Legalists", he'll say, "*strive to keep law because they don't believe in grace; they think they can earn their salvation!*" Even though the Bible teaches that practicing righteousness is a good thing (1 John 3:7), it's **not** good to the person who **thinks** its legalism! Perception **is** reality; people will willingly believe a lie if they want the lie to be the truth badly enough (e.g. Eve).

Most people will never know the truth because they won't study the Bible. The only "gospel" many hear (*which isn't a gospel at all*) is what comes from a pulpit 1-4 times a week. If the preacher continuously says that "practicing righteousness" is *legalism*, and he's the sole source of their information, it's only a matter of time before his followers will say the same thing. In time, even honest and sincere believers will call good bad and bad good. After all, this is all they know!

Secondly, and equally important, you must remember that the vast majority of people do

not want to *hear* or *accept* the truth of God (cf. John 3:19; Mat.7:13-14). Do you recall the Lord's apparent frustration when He asked His followers ...

"But why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and **do not do** the things which I say?"

(Luke 6:46; emp. jm)

Jesus knew why they wouldn't obey His commands – they wanted religion; they wanted to be the church; they wanted to go to heaven; but they wanted all this on *their* terms and not His! People willingly embrace this concept of "legalism" because it makes the **doing** of God's will an **evil** thing, and from their point of view that's a **good** thing! Instead of having to **do** God's will, they *suppose* grace will overlook *willful* disobedience. Unlike legalists, they claim to trust the grace of God, and in their mind that makes them spiritual giants! "Faith" they say, "*is what matters. Law keeping was replaced by grace when Christ died on the cross.*"

It's easy to see why some embrace this concept. One can live life on their terms and still have a "hope" of eternal life. In the Judgment, those who did not do the will of God will be refused (Mat.7:21-23), *but that's then and this is now!* **To be continued ...**

The Case of the Empty Tomb
by Kyle Butt of Apologetics Press
(taken from <http://www.apologeticspress.com/articles/1747>)

Around the year A.D. 165, Justin Martyr penned his *Dialogue with Trypho*. At the beginning of chapter 108 of this work, he recorded a letter that the Jewish community had been circulating regarding the empty tomb of Christ:

[A] godless & lawless heresy had sprung from one Jesus, a Galilaeen deceiver, whom we crucified, but his disciples stole him by night from the tomb, where he was laid when unfastened from the cross, & now deceive men by asserting that he has risen from the dead and ascended to heaven.

In approximately the sixth century, another caustic treatise written to defame Christ circulated among the Jewish community. In this narrative, known as *Toledoth Yeshu*, Jesus is described as the illegitimate son of a soldier named Joseph Pandera. He further is labeled as a disrespectful deceiver who led many away from the truth. Near the end of the treatise, under a discussion of His death, the following paragraph can be found:

Diligent search was made and he [Jesus—KB] was not found in the grave where he had been buried. A gardener had taken him from the grave and had brought him into his garden and buried him in the sand over which the waters flowed into the garden.

Upon reading Justin Martyr's description of one Jewish theory regarding the tomb of Christ, and another theory from *Toledoth Yeshu*, it becomes clear that one common thread unites them both—**the tomb of Christ had no body in it!**

All parties involved recognized the fact that Christ's tomb laid empty on the third day. Feeling compelled to give reasons for this unexpected vacancy, the Jewish authorities apparently concocted several different theories to explain the body's disappearance. The most commonly accepted one seems to be that the disciples of Jesus stole His body away by night while the guards slept (Matt. 28:13). Yet, how could the soldiers identify any thieves while they slept? & why were the sentinels not punished by death for sleeping on the job & thereby losing their charge (cf. Acts 12:6.19)? & an even more pressing question comes to the mind—why did the soldiers need to explain anything if a body was still in the tomb?

When Peter stood up to preach on the Day of Pentecost after the resurrection of Christ, the crux of his sermon rested on the fact(s) that Jesus died, was buried, & rose again on the third day. In order to silence Peter, & stop a mass conversion, the Jewish leaders needed simply to produce the body of Christ. Why did not the Jewish leaders take the short walk to the garden & produce the body? Simply because they could not! The tomb was empty. The Jews knew it & tried to explain it away, the apostles knew it & preached it boldly in the city of Jerusalem, & thousands of the inhabitants of Jerusalem knew it & converted to Christianity. John Warwick Montgomery accurately assessed the matter when he wrote: "It passes the bounds of credibility that the early Christians could have manufactured such a tale & then preached it among those who might easily have refuted it simply by producing the body of Jesus" (1964, p. 78). The tomb of Jesus was empty, and that is a fact.

Sandy Haney
Ruby Dunn
Zella Charles
Roberta Hix
Dorothy Burris
Don Chaffin
Charlie Ward
Ruby Ward
Delenn Strong
Brody Garrison

Prayer List

Hugh Young
Opal Pippin
Anna Lou Flatt
Reba Mayberry
Joann Ledbetter
Bill Wisdom
Bessie Young
Ozelma Martin
Phil Johnson

Sheldon Warren
Aline Whitaker
Marie Shoemake
Bobby Elkins
Mildred Elkins
Catherine Mabery
Zola Flatt
Linda Jenkins
Earl Crabtree
Charles Jones

Area Hospitals:

Vanderbilt: Chris Heady

Area Rest Homes & Rehab. Centers:

NHC: Alice Pippin, Joe Anderson

Mabry: Plytha Petty

Mabry Assisted Living: Edna Roberts,
Velvia Denson

Bethesda: Donald Hensley

Masters: Wynell Ballard

Requested Prayers: Vilnessa Holloway

Please remember to keep each of these individuals in your prayers every day! They appreciate it greatly!