

**Sunshine Baskets for 12/07/2008**

Frankie Wilson, Frances Anderson,  
Dean Wilson, Sandy Jo Collier,  
Pauline Whitaker, Jo Ann Carver

**Happy Birthday to...**

Casey Henry (12/04), Rellon Burris (12/05),  
Jeremy Mathis (12/06), Danielle Jenkins (12/06)

**Happy Anniversary to...**

Cory & Jessica Dill (12/06/2003)

**Announcements & Upcoming Events...**

**November 30<sup>th</sup>:** TODAY! The collection for this day will go entirely to the building fund.

**November 30<sup>th</sup>:** TODAY! All Male Member Meeting @ 1:00 p.m.

**December 6<sup>th</sup>:** Ladies' Shopping Trip to Mt. Juliet. Sign-up sheet in the back.

**December 14<sup>th</sup>:** Nursing Home Services @ 2 pm.

**December 14<sup>th</sup>:** Fruit Bags for the 65 & over will be distributed following our morning worship service.

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

**December 23<sup>rd</sup>:** Tuesday mid-week Bible Study due to Christmas Eve.

**December 30<sup>th</sup>:** 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 30<sup>th</sup>, 2008, which is TODAY!!!!!!**

**\*\*If you are visiting with us today, please fill out a card in the back of the pew & give it to any of our members so we can get to know you better! We're glad you're here!!! ☺**

**Privileged To Serve December 7<sup>th</sup>**

- Ushers..... Roger Robinson
- ..... Alan Dawson
- ..... Mark Collins
- ..... Thurel Flatt
- Announcements..... Roy Young
- Song Leader..... John Anderson
- Scripture Reading..... Chris Mabery
- Speaker..... John Mabery
- Opening Prayer..... Roy Smallwood
- Closing Prayer..... Rellon Burris
- Oversee Lord's Supper . Greg Scott
- Prepare Trays..... Ben Young
- Scripture Reading..... Steve Hensley
- Serve..... \*Jerry Young
- ..... \*Jeremy Mathis
- ..... \*Greg Scott
- ..... Blake Maberry
- ..... Benjamin Gentry
- ..... Glen Haney
- Alternate to Serve..... Rellon Burris
- ..... Randy Duke
- Dismiss Classes..... Charles Mitchell
- Count Contribution..... Charles Mitchell
- ..... Charles Whitaker
- ..... Dale Dennis
- ..... Robert Crabtree
- Response Card..... Roy Young
- Power Point..... Kevin Moss

**Sunday Night (12/07/2008)**

- Speaker..... John Anderson
- Scripture Reading..... Jimmy Strong
- Song Leader..... Jonathan Conner
- Opening Prayer..... Randy Duke
- Closing Prayer..... Robert Crabtree
- Power Point..... Blake Maberry

**Wednesday (12/10/2008)**

- Song Leader..... Charles Whitaker
- Devotional..... Jeremy Kirby
- Opening Prayer..... Larry Howell
- Closing Prayer..... Titus Anderson

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

**Elders:**

- Ted Ragland 268.9387
- John Mabery 268.0651
- Cell: 265.3835

**Deacons:**

- John Anderson 268.2406
- Billy Scott 268.0569
- Robert Crabtree 268.4417
- Raymond Haney 268.2493
- Rellon Burris 268.4738
- Carl Call 268.2040
- Sjon Gentry 268.3273
- Bobby Haney 268.2754
- Jerry Young 268.2215

**Ministers:**

- John Mabery 268.0651
- John Anderson 268.2406

**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)

Volume 7

November 30, 2008

Number 48

**If I Were the Devil's Preacher ... (Part X)**

**"Legalism" (Part 2) --- By John Mabery**

*If I were the devil's preacher I would build a straw-man and call it "Legalism"! Legalism is a term coined by religious people. One group defines legalism in the following manner:*

*"Legalism exalts the law over grace. The legalistic [during] the time of Jesus were Pharisees; the criticism of Jesus was very harsh towards them.*

*The fundamental distortion of legalism is the belief that a person can earn on their merits a place in the kingdom of heaven."*

*(III-D02 School Leaders Hosanna Church of Christ, Dallas, TX. Ebenezer Ministries)*

The Lord *did* sharply criticize the "*scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites*" (cf. Mat.23). I think the two charges, *exalting law over grace* and *thinking one can earn a place in the kingdom of heaven*, are also accurate. However, it's quite a stretch to say that those keep "*the law of Christ*", which is also called "*the perfect law of liberty*", are akin to the Pharisees (Gal.6:2; Jms.1:25).

Look carefully; contrary to popular opinion, Jesus did *not* rebuke the Pharisees for **keeping** the law; He charged them with making "*the commandment of God of no effect by [their] tradition*" (Mat.15:6 – **BIG difference!**). They were required to keep Moses' Law, *but they did not!*

<sup>1</sup> "*Then Jesus spoke to the multitudes and to His disciples, <sup>2</sup> saying: 'The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat. <sup>3</sup> Therefore whatever they tell you to observe, that observe and do, but do not do according to their works; for they say, and do not do.'*" (vv.1-3; emp. jm)

As teachers of Moses' law, the scribes and Pharisees were to be heard! The people must "*observe and do*" what these men **taught**, but *not behave* as these men behaved, "*for they say and do not do*" what the law required of them; **they were "hypocrites"** (Jms.1:21-25)! **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](http://www.centergrovecoc.com)  
**E-mail:** [centergrovecoc@gmail.com](mailto:centergrovecoc@gmail.com)

The Lord, on the other hand, taught and did what the law required; He didn't violate the Law of Moses one time! (Heb.4:15) Was our Lord a legalist? According to some, He was!

Jesus' criticism of the Pharisees was for a reason unknown to many modern believers: (1) they kept *select* parts of God's law; (2) they made God's law ineffective by pushing it aside; (3) they elevated human doctrine to the status of Divine doctrine. Had these men (1) lived by the whole counsel of God to the best of their ability like our Lord did, (2) not dismissed parts of God's law as non-essential, (3) not created human doctrines and beliefs, and (4) trusted Divine grace for salvation like Noah did (cf. Gen.6:8), the Lord would *not* have called them "hypocrites", neither would He have condemned them!

The charge of "legalism" reveals just how crafty Satan and his human agents really are; i.e. they've made *non-legalists* appear to be *legalists*, and *legalists* appear to be *non-legalists*. Those who best represent the spirit of Phariseeism are the denominations. Like the Pharisees, they have no intention of keeping the *whole* counsel of God (*to them, belief, not action, is all that matters!*) Just like

their first century counterparts, many believers elevate their preferences to the status of "doctrine" and oppose the doctrine of God (e.g. the doctrine of salvation by faith alone; the use of mechanical music in worship, etc.). Like the Pharisees, the denominations do not hesitate to make the commands of God of no effect when they stand in opposition to cherished beliefs and man-made doctrines; e.g. Jesus commanded baptism *for remission of sins* (Mk.16:16; Acts 2:38), but most say baptism is unnecessary! ***Will the real legalist please stand up?***

Jesus expects *every* believer to keep *every* command that comes from God (Mat.4:4; 7:21-23). Keeping God's commands isn't the *means* to salvation, we're saved by grace (Eph.2:8). But **Christ** made *obedience* a *condition* of one's receiving the grace of God (Heb.5:8-9). True and genuine believers *want* to keep the law of Christ for at least two reasons; (1) ***they love Him*** (Jn.14:15; 15:14; 1 John 2:3-6), (2) ***they trust Him*** (His way is the very best life that can be lived). It's not hard to understand the truth of God!

It's undeniable; Satan is just as crafty as the Lord said he is! *To be continued...*

## **If It's Just a Good Book, Then It's Not God's Book**

*by Eric Lyons of Apologetics Press*

*(taken from <http://www.apologeticspress.com/articles/1618>)*

Some time ago, I read an article by a college professor who stated that "the best thing that could happen to the New Testament has happened to it... Within the University, at least, the Bible has become simply another 'great book.'" Many in the world today consider the Bible to be a "good book" containing moral teachings written by noble men, yet reject the idea that the Bible was "given by inspiration of God" (2 Timothy 3:16). Many college professors today teach that the Bible simply is a "good book" that is no more inspired than Homer's *Odyssey* or Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*. It is the mere result of natural genius characteristic of men of unusual ability.

Common sense, however, compels the honest person to reject such illogical notions. If the Bible is a "great book," but not inspired of God, it makes either liars or lunatics of the biblical writers, who claimed the Holy Spirit as the ultimate source of their writings. The honest person surely will admit that the Bible—a book that has been studied and examined more than any other book in human history—definitely is not a product of insane men. Its unity, fulfilled prophecy, historical accuracy, and scientific foreknowledge testify to an intelligent source. Thus, the Bible was written either by the honest or the dishonest. Logically, no other choices exist.

Moses either lied or was truthful when he recorded: "And **God spoke all these words**, saying: 'I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. You shall have no other gods before me'" (Exodus 20:1-3, emp. added). Moses claimed such inspiration literally hundreds of times. Was he a liar, or did he tell the truth? In the New Testament, Peter wrote that "prophecy never came by the will of man, but **holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit**" (2 Peter 1:21, emp. added). Did Peter tell the truth, or was he lying? This same question can be asked of all the writers of the Bible who claimed inspiration. To say that the Bible is simply a "great book" written by "good men" makes liars of the biblical writers who repeatedly claimed that God was the ultimate source of their documents (cf. 2 Samuel 23:2; Acts 1:16).

The Bible is either a product of God or a product of liars. There are no other options. If these men were liars, then they "insanely" pronounced their own destruction, for they claimed that lying was wrong and that all impenitent liars would burn in hell (cf. Exodus 20:16; Colossians 3:9; Revelation 21:8). If these men were liars, it leaves as inexplicable the mystery of why modern man, with all his accumulated learning, has not been able to produce a comparable book to make the Bible obsolete. Finally, if these men were compulsive liars who filled an alleged historical work with thousands of lies, pray tell, why do so many unbelievers still call it a "great book"? Non-Christians who profess an admiration for the Bible should consider the foolishness of their position.

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Sandy Haney  
Ruby Dunn  
Zella Charles  
Roberta Hix  
Dorothy Burris  
Don Chaffin  
Charlie Ward  
Ruby Ward  
Deleann Strong  
Mindy Dennis  
Peggy Anderson

### **Prayer List**

Hugh Young  
Opal Pippin  
Anna Lou Flatt  
Reba Mayberry  
Joann Ledbetter  
Bill Wisdom  
Bessie Young  
Ozelma Martin  
Charles Mitchell  
Brody Garrison

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

### **Our Sympathy Goes Out to the**

**Families of:** Mary Sisk

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