

Sunshine Baskets for 12/28/2008

Kathy Trisdale, Jerline Stafford, Ann Flatt,
Crystal Maberry, Mindy Dennis

Happy Birthday to...

Elijah Anderson (12/21), Ben Young (12/21),
Janie Fox (12/26), Cassidy Collins (12/26),
Lorene Haney (12/26), Reba Mayberry (12/27)

Happy Anniversary to...

Brandon & Casey Garrison (12/21/2002)
Raymond & Louise Haney (12/26/1954)

Announcements & Upcoming Events...

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.

New Year's Eve Party: Mary Nell Flatt's
basement. If you would like to play the "Chinese
Christmas" game, please bring a \$10-\$12 gift.
Other games & finger foods will also be provided.
The New Year's Eve Party begins @ 6:00 pm.

Challenge Youth Conference: February 27-March
1, 2009 in Gatlinburg, TN @ the Gatlinburg
Convention Center. For more details visit
<http://cyconline.com/> If you are unsure how
much you need to pay, please see Kristina
Hammock asap.

*****There are sign-up sheets in the back of the
auditorium for the new adult classes. ☺**

Our Sympathy Goes Out to the Families Of:

Joe Johnson, Chris Heady, Cecil Strong

Baptized into Christ: Bill Stafford

*****The Gospel Broadcasting Network comes on
channel 9400 on Dish Network @ 11 am daily,
and on channel 323 on Direct TV @ 7 am daily.**

Privileged To Serve December 28th

- Ushers..... Roger Robinson
- Alan Dawson
- Mark Collins
- Thurel Flatt
- Announcements..... Sjon Gentry
- Song Leader..... John Anderson
- Scripture Reading..... Titus Anderson
- Speaker..... John Mabery
- Opening Prayer..... Jeremy Kirby
- Closing Prayer..... Mike Martin
- Oversee Lord's Supper . Greg Scott
- Prepare Trays..... Ben Young
- Scripture Reading..... Billy Scott
- 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 (12/28/2008)

- Speaker..... John Mabery
- Scripture Reading..... Jesse Anderson
- Song Leader..... Jon Conner
- Opening Prayer..... Farlin Flatt
- Closing Prayer..... Chris Mabery
- Power Point..... Blake Maberry

Tuesday (12/30/2008)

- Song Leader..... Randy Duke
- Devotional..... Burton Young
- Opening Prayer..... Ted Ragland
- Closing Prayer..... Tyler Trisdale

*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

December 21, 2008

Number 51

**If I Were the Devil's Preacher ... (Part XIII)
"Grace and Holiness" (Part II); By John Mabery**

If I were the devil's preacher I would distort the true nature of Deity and try to convince people that there is no good reason to fear God! We rejoice in the love, grace and mercy of our Benevolent Creator, but let us not forget that God is also holy, just and righteous. James said God, "... cannot be tempted by evil..." (James 1:13)

Speaking to the Lord, the prophet Habakkuk said,
"You are of purer eyes than to behold evil, And cannot look on wickedness."
(Hab 1:13)

"Is God a Being of volition (i.e. does He have *power of choice*)? "Yes"! "Can God do evil?" "No"! Why? Possessing *perfect* knowledge, The Lord knows the awful consequences of sin and abhors it; He has no desire to sin against His own holy, righteous nature (cf. Job 37:16; Rom.11:33). This may be one reason for our having no desire to sin while in heaven; i.e. having a greater understanding of the awfulness of sin, we'll abhor *even more!*

Jesus was crucified because "God *so* loved the world" (John 3:16). But the crucifixion also demonstrates the *holiness* and *justice* of God. Unlike man, God can't dismiss sin with the wave of the hand; *perfect* holiness won't allow it! God decreed the wages of sin to be death (Rom.6:23). This was in keeping with His standard of justice. Only the sacrificial blood of Christ could atone for sin and make it possible for the holy God to pardon the sinner. We wouldn't minimize Divine grace, let us be equally respectful when it comes to His holiness, justice and righteousness.

After Christ offered His blood up as payment for the penalty of sin, God could forgive penitent believers without violating His holy nature (Rom.3:21-26). Had it been possible to forgive sin without blood, the loving Father would surely have taken another course. *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

God paid the penalty for sin, thus, the grace of God *has* appeared to all men (Titus 2:11). Notwithstanding, all men will *not* be saved (Mt.7:13ff). But how can this be; is grace *insufficient* to save **all**? According to Jesus, **all** will *not* be saved because **all** will *not* accept the Divine conditions of grace. The grace of God put Jesus on the cross and God's terms of pardon (the Bible) in your hands (Titus 2:11-12). Many believers **embrace** grace (i.e. Christ's death) but at the same time **reject** grace (i.e. God's terms, or conditions of pardon). This is why grace *has* appeared to "all men", but "all men" will *not* receive grace. By an act of grace, God gave His terms of pardon in His New Covenant, but when men refuse *His terms*, they have refused *His grace*. Without grace, no one can be saved! (Eph.2:8) Obviously, there is the Divine side to man's salvation as well as the human side. God offered Jesus and man must meet the conditions of His grace.

I can hear the devil's preacher howling now, "You're saying man can earn his salvation!" Look carefully, **that's not what I said!** I said "without grace no one can be saved!" I also said we must receive grace's terms of pardon; i.e. we must work out our own salvation by

doing the will of God (Phil.2:12; Mt.7:21-23). God's will *in our hands* and His permission to work out our salvation according to His terms of pardon is just as much an act of grace as any other act of grace! When one **does** the will of God they're *not* **earning** salvation, they're **accepting** the conditions of pardon offered by the grace of God!

The devil doesn't care if people receive the grace offered on the cross, as long as they don't accept the grace offered in the terms of pardon. No one knows better than he that, [Jesus] *became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him,*" (Heb 5:9; emp. jm)

This is why he must pervert the Divine nature to achieve his goal. If believers are sincere in their desire to win the heart of God, and if they realize grace has supplied us with the Lord's conditions of pardon, they just might do what grace requires and be saved! Consider the following example:

"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins..." (1 Jn.1:9)

If we do our part (*confess sin*) God does His part (*forgive sin*). Grace (1) *teaches us to* "confess" and (2) *forgives!* **To be continued...**

Prayer List

- | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Sandy Haney | Hugh Young | Zola Flatt |
| Ruby Dunn | Opal Pippin | Sheldon Warren |
| Zella Charles | Anna Lou Flatt | Aline Whitaker |
| Robertta Hix | Reba Mayberry | Marie Shoemake |
| Dorothy Burriss | Joann Ledbetter | Bobby Elkins |
| Don Chaffin | Bill Wisdom | Mildred Elkins |
| Charlie Ward | Bessie Young | Catherine Mabery |
| Ruby Ward | Ozelma Martin | Joy Hensley |
| Delenn Strong | Betty Flatt | Mary Nell Jones |
| Phil Johnson | Gene Burriss | Carol Wilson |
| Cora Jackson | Jean Haney | Charles Jones |
| Barbara Jones | | Stanley Duke |

Area Rest Homes & Rehab. Centers:

- NHC:** Joe Anderson
Mabry: Plytha Petty
Mabry Assisted Living: Edna Roberts, Velvia Denson
Bethesda: Donald Hensley
Masters: Wynell Ballard
CRMC Rehab: Roy Jackson

The Bible & A Little Detail

by Kyle Butt of Apologetics Press

(Taken from <http://www.apologeticspress.com/articles/3607>)

If the Bible really is the Word of God, then we should expect it to be totally accurate. Not only should it be able to get the "big" details right, like the emperors of Rome or the locations of major cities, but it should be equally as accurate with smaller details like names of specific, obscure people, or details concerning foods or local customs.

When we critically analyze the Bible in regard to these "little" details, it quickly becomes apparent that the Bible shows the same fidelity in these small areas as it does in those that would be considered much larger. For instance, in Acts 10:6, the Bible notes that the apostle Peter was staying with a man named Simon, who was a tanner. The text also explains that Simon's house was "by the sea." What is the significance of Simon's house being by the sea?

Tanning, the process of making usable leather from animal hides, was an extremely distasteful job to many in the first century. Because the process often involved decaying animal skins and the use of animal feces, ancient tanning was extremely foul-smelling. In order to process hides for tanning and clean the foul-smelling agents away, tanners need large amounts of water.

The *International Standard Bible Encyclopedia* states: "Simon's house was by the seashore, as is true of the tanneries along the Syrian coast **today**, so that the foul-smelling liquors from the vats can be drawn off with the least nuisance, and so that **the salt water may be easily accessible for washing** the skins during the tanning process" ("Tanner," emp. added). Where would you have expected a tanner to live in the first century?—by the sea, exactly where Simon's house was said to have been in Acts 10 (see Jackson, 1986, p. 64).

Regardless of the "size" of the detail, the biblical writers were perfect. The tiny details that fill the inspired text are exactly what we expect from a book that was authored by the omnipotent, infallible Creator.

REFERENCES:

- Jackson, Wayne (1986), *Background Bible Study* (Montgomery, AL: Apologetics Press).
 "Tanner" (no date), *International Standard Bible Encyclopedia*, [On-line], URL: <http://www.bible-history.com/isbe/T/TANNER/>.