

Sunshine Baskets for 12/16/07

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

Happy Birthday to...

Isabella Mabery (9), Neal Chaffin (10), Nellie Crabtree (10), Billy Stafford (12), Wilma Phillips (15), Christy Smith (15), Russell Wilson (15)

Happy Anniversary to...

Larry & Elizabeth Howell (12/12/64) Earl & Bonnie Jones (12/14/57)

Pantry Items We Need...

Canned Ham, Hominy, Pear Halves

Announcements & Upcoming Events...

Directory Changes: We are putting together a new directory! The dates are as follows: March 7th, 8th, and 10th. If you'd like to have your email address or cell phone number added with your other info, please put it on the newest typed paper in the back of the auditorium. Make sure if you have any elderly family members who may be sick and/or shut-in that you check their info.

December 9, 2007: TODAY! Christmas Dinner @ Center Grove Community Center following morning worship. 1:00 pm service to follow.

December 16, 2007: Hand out fruit baskets for the 65 & older after morning services.

December 30, 2007: Deadline to sign-up & pay \$20 for Challenge Youth Conference

February 16, 2007: Sweethearts' Café

February 22-24, 2007: Challenge Youth Conference in Gatlinburg, TN

Bulletin Articles: If you are a male & you'd like to write an article for the inside right page of the bulletin, there's a sign-up sheet in the back of the auditorium. Just choose the date you would like to have your article featured & list your email so the template can be sent to you so you'll know how much to type! ☺

Requested Our Prayers: Vilnessa Holloway

Privileged To Serve December 16th

- Ushers Billy Stafford
..... Jeff McDowell
..... Ben Young
..... Mark Collins
Announcements..... Burton Young
Song Leader Roy Young
Scripture Reading..... Mike Martin
Speaker John Mabery
Opening Prayer..... Mike Netherton
Closing Prayer..... Kevin Moss
Oversee Lord's Supper . Greg Scott
Prepare Trays Carl Call
Scripture Reading..... Robert Crabtree
Serve..... *Steve Hensley
..... *Randy Duke
..... *Sjon Gentry
..... Jeremy Kirby
..... David Wilson
..... Russell Wilson
Alternate to Serve..... Roy Smallwood
..... Jimmy Strong
Dismiss Classes..... Roy Young
Count Contribution..... Earl Jones
..... Thurel Flatt
..... Roger Robinson
..... Jeremy Mathis
Response Card..... Tyler Meadows
Power Point..... Jonathan Conner

Sunday Night (12/16)

- Speaker Sjon Gentry
Scripture Reading..... Ben Gentry
Song Leader Billy Scott
Opening Prayer..... Jeremy Kirby
Closing Prayer..... Charles Whitaker
Power Point..... Tyler Trisdale

Wednesday (12/19)

- Song Leader Roy Young
Invitation..... Jimmy Strong
Opening Prayer..... Ted Ragland
Closing Prayer..... Charles Mitchell

*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 6

December 9, 2007

Number 45

"If I Were the Devil ..."

By John Mabery

The title of this article was the words Paul Harvey used to begin one of his radio programs several years ago. I was intrigued by his approach to this subject because I had never put myself in the place of the devil and attempted to figure out the best way to carry out his diabolical plans. I thought Mr. Harvey's idea (at least from the devil's point of view) might have been the best plan I ever heard. I can't quote what he said that day verbatim, but the idea went something like this: "If I were the devil ..." I would pervert the word of God and flood the world with many perverted versions of the Bible. Mr. Harvey went on to talk about the many pseudo Bible "translations" that had recently flooded the market place.

For several years Mr. Harvey's words frequently returned to my mind because I was in full agreement with him. But over the years I've had to alter my opinion somewhat. Today, after years of reflection, I would have to say, "If I were the devil, and bent on carrying out his diabolical plan, I would (1) pervert the government of the church, (2) pervert the home as God would have it, and then (3) pervert the word of God." Time has taught me that it isn't enough to attack, the order of attack is also important.

If I were the devil I would corrupt the eldership first! If the devil doesn't do something about these God-appointed overseers first, it doesn't matter how many corrupted versions of the Bible hits the market, they will warn God's people of this danger. Until Satan does something about the leadership within the church, he'll never make much progress within the congregation, or the church as a whole!

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 9 @ 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

Therefore, if I were the devil, I would do everything in my power to have men appointed to the eldership who are *not* qualified to carry out their God-given responsibilities. This way the devil could tweak the local church and be at liberty to corrupt her on the inside and no one would be the wiser – at least not until it was too late!

If I were the devil, I would make the home my **second** primary target, and for the same basic reasons. The home, as God would have it, is a haven of rest and refreshing for each member of the family. The husband is supported by the wife, the wife is supported by the husband, and together they protect and strengthen their own children. The devil will not be able to make much progress in a home wherein God dwells.

Though I once thought Paul Harvey hit the nail on the head, I’ve changed my mind because a Bible perversion (at least from the devil’s point of view) is only of value when it comes to (1) the innocent and unsuspecting, and (2) those who are looking for a way to get around the obligations and responsibilities set forth in the *true* word of God. Until Satan does something about the individuals that **God appointed** to feed, oversee and protect His churches and families, he’ll never be able to penetrate either one; he’ll never make the progress he hopes to make. When you stop and think about it, Satan only has two real targets, (1) those who *are* the people of God, and (2) those who will *become* the people of God. I doubt that he wastes much time or energy on that which is already his.

It might seem like I have a keen insight into the mind of the devil (it would be easy to take that the wrong way!!!). However, I haven’t looked *forward* and attempted to read the mind of the devil, I’ve simply looked *back* over the past few decades. As you know, hindsight is 20/20! If I were the devil, this is what I would do, because this is what he has already done – and it’s worked very well, hasn’t it?

| | | |
|--|------------------|-------------------|
| <u>Sick at Home</u> | | |
| Ida Thomas | Bud Coffman | |
| Sandy Haney | Marie Shoemake | Richard Martin |
| Zella Charles | Bobby Elkins | Katherine Mabery |
| Dorothy Burris | Mildred Elkins | Beatrice Spurlock |
| Delenn Strong | Connie Rhodes | Jan Allen |
| Ozelma Martin | Vickie Wilson | David Wilson |
| Bessie Young | Jo Ann Ledbetter | Mary Mabery |
| Bill Wisdom | Roberta Hix | Doretha Crossman |
| Lillie Goolsby | Stephanie Smith | Mary Lock |
| Opal Pippin | Glenda Burchett | Kathy Hargis |
| Ruby Dunn | Harlen Haney | Judy Long |
| Aline Whitaker | Kalob Robinson | Don Meredith |
| “Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer & supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God,” (Phil.4:6) | | |

Area Hospitals:

Cookeville: Kenneth Fox, Dean Cobb
Florida: Bob Radtke

Area Rest Homes:

NHC: Alice Pippin, Joe Anderson,
 Mary L. Dudley, Beatrice Byers
Mabry: Plytha Petty, Wilma Howell,
 Ethel Stewart
Bethesda: Ray Flatt

The Reality of Eternal Hell

By Kyle Butt

Article taken from <http://www.apologeticspress.org/articles/1629>

Hell has been depicted as a lake of fire, eternal torment, and everlasting punishment. Because of the heinous nature of hell, many have decided that it is impossible for a loving God to conceive such a place, much less send His wayward creatures there. For this reason, they have rejected the idea of an eternal hell. & this trend to reject the concept of hell does not reside solely in the camp of the skeptic and unbeliever. Many Bible “believers” have fallen prey to this idea. In a March 1991 U.S. News & World Report article titled “Revisiting the Abyss,” this quotation appears: “In many churches, one finds little talk these days about a literal, punitive hell as a real possibility after death. ‘My congregation would be stunned to hear a sermon on hell,’ says the Rev. [sic] Mary Kraus, pastor of the Dumbarton United Methodist Church in Washington, D.C. Her parishioners, she says, are ‘upper-middle-class, well-educated critical thinkers’ who view God as ‘compassionate & loving, not someone who's going to push them into eternal damnation’ ” (1991, 110[11]:60).

According to Miss Kraus, the idea of a literal place of torment reserved for the wicked does not sit well with her “upper-middle-class, well-educated critical thinkers.” The basic argument against hell can be stated like this: It is unjust to punish someone eternally for sins they committed in their few years on Earth; the biblical concept of hell entails such punishment; therefore the biblical concept of hell is unjust (which would mean, of course, that the God of the Bible is unjust as well).

Although the argument against the biblical concept of hell is erroneous in several of its points, it is accurate when it states that the Bible depicts an eternal hell. On numerous occasions Jesus underlined the fact that hell is eternal. In Matthew 18:8, for example, He described an “everlasting fire” (Matthew 25:41,46 renders the same idea, but adds “everlasting punishment”). In our modern day and age, it is popular to posit the idea that hell will last only a short time, and then the souls of the wicked will be annihilated. Clark H. Pinnock, theology professor at McMaster Divinity College in Hamilton, Ontario, was quoted in the January 31, 2000 issue of U.S. News & World Report, as saying: “How can Christians possibly project a deity of such cruelty and vindictiveness” as to inflict “everlasting torture upon his creatures, however sinful they may have been?” (as quoted in Sheler, 2000, 128[4]:44). Pinnock went on to

argue that a God Who would do such a thing is “more nearly like Satan than like God.”

However, for Pinnock and his ever-increasing pack of “annihilationists,” their house is built on shifting sand—both biblically and philosophically. Biblically, our Lord repeatedly stressed the idea that the souls of the wicked will have to endure “everlasting punishment” (Matthew 25:46). To contend that the wicked soul is annihilated would be to negate the words of Christ, since “everlasting punishment” cannot be inflicted upon an annihilated being.

Philosophically, the view is equally flawed, because it fails to take into account what every person understands about justice: the punishment always lasts longer than the actual crime. When a man walks into a bank, shoots two tellers, robs the bank, and is apprehended, tried, and found guilty, his punishment always is of a much longer duration than his crime. The actual shooting and looting might have taken only 3 minutes to accomplish, but he most likely will pay for those three minutes with the remainder of his life in prison. Those who contend that hell will not be eternal say that forever is “too long.” But once a person concedes that punishment can (and generally does) last longer than the crime, his argument against an eternal hell becomes self-defeating.

Furthermore, the idea that eternity is “too long” only appeals to the human emotions when dealing with punishment, never with reward. Who would argue that heaven cannot be eternal because God would be unjust to reward us for “so long.” On the contrary, the eternity of heaven and hell stand and fall together. And both find their place in the justice and mercy of God. When Christ spoke to the people of His day about the ultimate fate of humanity in eternity, He stated that the wicked would “go away into everlasting (*aionios*) punishment, but the righteous into eternal (*aionios*) life” (Matthew 25:46). The Greek word *aionios*, rendered “eternal” in the English, is the same Greek word (*aionios*) rendered earlier as “everlasting.” Precisely the same word is applied to the **punishment** of the wicked as to the **reward** of the righteous. Those who are willing to accept Christ’s teaching on heaven should have no trouble accepting His teaching on hell.

Placing Membership with Us:

Edna Roberts
 (931) 268-0155
 P.O. Box 7 Mabery Assisted Living,
 Gainesboro, TN 38562

Our Sympathy Goes Out to the Families Of:

Mattie Ransom, Kay Ramsey,
 Ralph Flatt, Mark Suggs