

Sunshine Baskets For 8/6/06

Bonnie Jones, Elizabeth Mabery, Heather Conner,
Nellie & Donna Crabtree, Vilnessa Holloway

Happy Birthday to ...

Roy Flatt, Dale Dennis (8/2),
Ashley Call, Sandy Collier (8/3)

TODAY: All male meeting at 1:30.

Bible Bowl T-Shirts:

If you want a Bible Bowl T-Shirt (this includes Bible Bowl participants), see Shanna Anderson.

Orders will be taken through Wednesday, 8/2!

The cost is \$10.00 and must be paid in advance.

A Servant Spirit

Did God make Esther queen to save His people when others wanted to kill them? If so, what would happen if she refused the task? Mordecai said...

“if you keep silent at this time, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another place, ...” (Esther 4:14 ESV)

Mordecai thought the Lord would raise up another person to get the job done if Esther failed!

I struggled trying to fill the hole created by Nathan’s absence. My prayer was answered *again!* Several young adults rose to accept the challenge.

They came to me, *“Can I do ... and help you out?”*

They were my cool water in a hot desert!

We have several volunteers laboring among us; their work is crucial and known by all! But have you noticed the large number of *young* adults that serve us? They’re willing to do whatever it takes to get our work done! In a time when *very, very few* people volunteer and commit their time and energy to Jesus, it just thrills my soul to see the *servant spirit* alive and well in our young adults. Words cannot express my full gratitude! John Mabery

Privileged To Serve August 6TH

- *Ushers Alan Dawson
- Raymond Haney
- Robert Crabtree
- Royce Jenkins
- Announcements Rellon Burris
- *Song Leader Billy Scott
- Scripture Reading Alan Burris
- Speaker John Mabery
- Opening Prayer Chris Mabery
- Closing Prayer..... David Wilson
- *Oversee Lord’s Supper Burton Young
- *Prepare Trays Jimmy Strong
- Scripture Reading Tyler Meadows
- *Serve **Roy Flatt
- **Sjon Gentry
- **Steve Hensley
- Mark Collins
- Glen Haney
- Thurel Flatt
- *Alternate to Serve Randy Duke
- Jimmy Strong
- *Dismiss Classes..... Corky Trisdale
- *Count Contribution Jerry Young
- Josh Brinkley
- Chris Mabery
- David Wilson
- *Response Card Roy Young
- Power Point..... Kevin Moss

Sunday Night (8/6)

- Speaker John Anderson
- Scripture Reading Royce Jenkins
- *Song Leader Jeremy Kirby
- Opening Prayer Mike Netherton
- Closing Prayer..... Charles Mitchell
- Power Point..... Jonathan Conner

Wednesday (8/9)

- Song Leader Jerry Young
- Invitation..... Bill Coe
- Opening Prayer Ted Ragland
- Closing Prayer..... Brian Trisdale

*For the month..... **Take to shut-ins
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 5

July 30, 2006

Number 29

“The Basis of Faith”

By John Mabery

“So the people served the Lord all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders who outlived Joshua, who had seen all the great works of the Lord which He had done for Israel. ... When all that generation had been gathered to their fathers, another generation arose after them who did not know the Lord nor the work which He had done for Israel.” (Judges 2:7, 10; Emphasis, jm)

Every Bible student knows that the history of God’s people is a history of wanderer’s; i.e. from *faithful* to *faithless!* The faithful generation is the one that *worked out* their salvation (cf. Phil.2:12). Those who hope to *inherit* the faith of their fathers, rather than work out their own relationship with the Lord, tend to abandon God (*at least in spirit*). Faith *seems* simple enough, a subject most are comfortable with, yet one that is grossly misunderstood. It may be that the great majority of believers are under the *mistaken* impression that mere *belief* in God *is the faith* He seeks (cf. John 8:24; Heb.11:6). People often speak of faith in *absolute* terms; i.e. either you have it, or you do not! If you have faith, then all is well; but if you do not, then you need to get it. But we’re told that demons have faith, **yet all is not well**; i.e. theirs is a **dead** faith (cf. James 2:19-20). This, no doubt, was the downfall of the generation that followed Joshua; i.e. they believed, but their belief wasn’t strong enough to motivate them to faithfully walk with the Lord as their predecessors had. Joshua’s generation had *great* faith for they had *“seen all the great works of the Lord”*. The lost generation did not see the great works of the Lord with the physical eye, *but they could have seen them with the eye of faith!* Consider what the Lord said to a doubtful man:

“Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.” (John 20:29)

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 @ 6:00 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

Thomas, like Joshua's generation, saw the power of the Lord with his own eyes, and this produced faith. We, like those that followed Joshua, can also believe, but only if we see by the eye of faith (cf. Rom.10:17; 2 Cor 5:7). I'm not suggesting that our faith is a guess, a hope, or a wishful thought; the faith that saves is built on rock-solid evidence (cf. Heb.11:1).

If the written word is God's power, and enables us to see, know and believe the truth, then those words must find a home in a good and honest heart before those benefits can be experienced. Consider Thomas: he didn't believe Jesus had been raised from the dead, and he was not going to believe without adequate proof. Therefore, Jesus gave him the proof he needed! But what if Thomas had refused to look at the evidence; what good would it have done him? Had Thomas failed to examine the proof, he would have remained in doubt! Do you suppose we can truly believe without seeing adequate proof for ourselves? The resurrection of the dead is hard to accept! Jesus didn't expect His disciples to believe He came back from the dead without sufficient evidence, therefore, "He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God." (Acts 1:3)

The Lord doesn't require faith without reason! He does require ALL people to examine the evidence He has given – and believe!

Jesus designed us and knows what it takes to cause belief in the unseen (cf. Heb.11:1). He also warned us of the many deceivers we must encounter, and said we should "test" (prove) "all things", including those who want to teach us about God (Mat. 24:4; 1 Thes.5:21; 1 John 4:1). In lieu of all these things, is it reasonable to think the Lord expects us to possess a faith that can stand severe trials, but hasn't given us enough solid reasons to generate and nourish that faith? John said that he wrote words so we could know and believe that we have eternal life (1 Jn.5:13; Jn.20:31). If we must believe (and we must), and if faith comes from hearing God's word (and it does), then the word of God must provide everything needed to produce the faith He requires --- **And it does!** "His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue," (2 Pet.1:3; emp. jm) Since we have all necessary things, then we also have all we need to trust and love God.

But the word of God, *unstudied*, will do us as much good as closing the eyes and ears would have done Thomas. Search the Scriptures – **they ARE able to save your soul!** (cf. James 1:21)

Satan, Job and a False Implication

by Kyle Butt, M.A.

<http://www.apologeticspress.org/articles/print/2994>

The Bible describes Satan as the accuser of the righteous, who has accused them before God day and night (Revelation 12:10). In one of the most vivid scenes portraying Satan's accusatory nature, the patient patriarch Job bore the brunt of Satan's slander. The sons of God had come to present themselves before God, and Satan came also. God asked Satan if he had considered Job, a righteous man who hated sin. In answer to God's question, Satan retorted: "You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. But now stretch out Your hand and touch all that he has, and he will surely curse You to Your face!" (Job 1:11).

Satan's comments seem fairly easy to understand—God had blessed Job with physical and financial blessing and it was due to those blessings that Job served God. But, if one is not careful, he or she will miss one of Satan's false implications embedded in the statement. Satan subtly implied that it is easier for a man to serve God if he is rich and his possessions are increased, than it is for him to serve God if he is poor. Unfortunately, this idea has been maintained by many in the past and the present. In truth, however, Satan's implication is false. It has never been easier to follow God if a person is financially wealthy. On the contrary, wealth often has great potential to have a negative effective on a man's relationship with God.

First century listeners to Jesus were quite shocked to hear that such was the case. After the sad refusal of the rich young ruler to sell his possessions, Christ made some startling comments. He said: "It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God" (Mark 10:25). When Christ made this statement, His hearers "were astonished beyond measure, saying among themselves, 'Who then can be saved?'" (vs.26). Jesus explained that it was possible for such to happen, but it was not easy.

In Job's case, Satan had done everything he could to tempt him with riches and physical wealth. God allowed Job's wealth to accumulate and Job proved he could do what few have done—serve God faithfully as a rich man. Satan's attempt to lure Job into sin with riches had failed, and he realized that the man's soul was not for sale.

The idea that riches and physical blessings make serving God easier is a false notion and Satan knew it. So did God. And so should we. Let us all "be sober, be vigilant, because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour" (1 Peter 5:8).

The Sick at Home

Wanda Warren	Sandy Haney	Ozelma Martin
Dorothy Burris	Zella Charles	Delenn Strong
Donald Burris	Robert Smith	Evelyn Mayberry
Mattie Ransom	Stacy Miotke	Myrtle Colson
Jo Ann Ledbetter	Ida Thomas	George Hamilton
Marie Shoemaker	Plytha Petty	Molene Hamilton
Mildred Elkins		Geneveve Aszurek
Bobby Elkins		Abby Goodnight

Area Hospitals

Area Rest Homes:

Life Care in Sparta: Sharon Hall

NHC: Mary Dudney, Alice Pippin

Mabry: Bessie Young, Robbie Parks

Chattanooga Rehab: Brian Hamby