

## THE DANGERS OF LOOKING BACK

In a time when congregations have so much to look forward to, there is a temptation for us to look back on the past and make a comparison. The problem with looking to the past is that we tend to romanticize it, and make it out to be so much better than it actually was. This creates a problem of comparison in which the present will never live up to the glorifies past. This is especially true when we look to face hard times and situations that make us greatly uncomfortable.

Think about the Israelites when they had just come out of Egyptian captivity (Exodus 14). They were in the wilderness just beginning their journey when the Egyptians realized they had let go of their entire workforce, and they were determined to get them back. The Israelites had seen great wonders and miracles from God, but when the armies of Egypt were seen in the distance they quickly glamorized their life in Egypt. They begin to remember their fair masters, filled bellies, and thought it would be better to serve Egypt than to die in the wilderness. In that moment looking back, all the Israelites could see was that slavery looked better than death. They had forgotten what God had done to bring them to that point because all they could see was the unknown.

We tend to do the same thing when placed into a situation where there is a variable of the unknown. It make us panic and look back to our past to comfort ourselves in a diluted romanticized view of what actually was. So how do we fight this? Moses gave the children of Israel the answer, "Fear not, stand firm, and see the salvation of the Lord which he will work for you today" (Ex. 14:3). We have to have a full faith in God that He will lead us forward with an established future that will protect us and provide us each with the opportunity to serve Him in the best way possible. —Kyle Macon

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Romans 16:16

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Times of Worship:

SUN: 9:00am - Worship

10:15am - Bible Study

6:00pm - Worship

WED: 6:30pm - Bible Study

Elders:

Bob Gillen 728-1660

Don Gregory 728-9556

Bill Hollins 455-7590

Bob Kerce 728-8382

David Sullivan 728-5878

Charles Willmore 728-4968

Deacons:

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Tim Brown 728-8879

Tim Green 954-0136

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Jim Thompson 728-7604

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# MONITOR

Vol. XXXV

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No. 30

## CARL'S THOUGHTS:

Thanks for the compliments on my sermon Sunday entitled "Without Blood" based on the text found in Hebrews 9:22: "*And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.*" Those remarks motivate me to be better. And certainly we always ought to encourage one another. Remember the writer of Hebrews reveals to us in Chapter 10 and verse 24: "*And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works.*"

All of us were encouraged this past week as we witnessed Charlotte and Sabrina Johnson being baptized into Christ for the remission of their sins. We welcome both of them into our fellowship. Paul reveals through inspiration in 1 Corinthians 12:13 these words: "*For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body (church), whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.*"

**Keep your eye on the cross of Jesus Christ!**

Wednesday July 28, 2010

**FOR THE RECORD**

Morning Worship: (July 25) .....	246
Bible Study .....	158
Evening Worship.....	129
Midweek Bible Study (July 21).....	127
Contribution: (July 25).....	\$5,321

**HOSPITAL**

**Willie Jean (Bill) White**, Man. Medical, Rm. 121.  
**Ruth Baskin**, Man. Medical, Rm. 119  
**Linda Crosslin**, MTMC, Rm. 348  
**Jay Taylor**, Harton, Rm. 236

**AT HOME**

**Dessie Taylor, Fairy Johnson, Kenneth Poff,**  
**Sally Owens, David Browning, Barbara Wright,**  
**Joe Sims, Beverly Woods, Polly Hoover,**  
**Polly Gibson, Keaton Rowe.**

**READ NEW TESTAMENT THRU:**

Carl Sims

**PANTRY ITEMS**

**Peanut Butter, Potted Meat,**  
**Hamburger Helper.**

**TIME CHANGE**

The elders have decided to change the time for the **Wednesday evening service** from **7:00pm to 6:30pm, permanently.** This begins **Wednesday, Aug. 4th.**

**CARE TEAMS MEETING**

Coy & Jewell Noblitt's Care Team #1 & Wayne & Barbara Rigney's Care Team #2 will meet together in the fellowship hall, Friday, Aug. 6th at 5:30pm. Please bring finger foods.

**AUGUST BIRTHDAY OMITTED**

26-Cathy McFarlin

**AUGUST BIRTHDAY CORRECTION**

23-Katherine Ewell

**BAPTISM**

Our hearts were made to rejoice over the

baptism of Arizona Henderson on Tuesday. She lives at 724 Butler Cr. F6/21. We welcome her into the family of God at Main Street.

**MEN TO SERVE**

**THE FOLLOWING ARE TO SERVE IN AUGUST:**

**LORD'S TABLE A.M.**

\*Jonathan Hall                      \*Bill Hollins  
Ricky West                              Ed Bowman  
Gene Parker                              Rickey Woods

**LORD'S TABLE P.M.**

Adam Willmore & Frank Penney

**USHERS & COUNT A.M.**

Leroy Munsey & Winfred Duke

**USHERS & COUNT P.M.**

Tim Green & Roger Taylor

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

David Sullivan

**THOSE TO SERVE, SUN. AUG. 1:**

**9:00AM**

**Song Leader:** Mahlon Crosslin  
**First Prayer:** Jayson Little  
**Scripture:** Steve Barlow  
**Closing Prayer:** Jimmy Jetton

**6:00PM**

**Song Leader:** Mahlon Crosslin  
**First Prayer:** Charles Willmore  
**Scripture:** Steve Barlow  
**Closing Prayer:** Pierce Green

**A.M. "Challenges of Christianity" (2 Tim. 4:3-5)**

**P.M.: "Golden Years" (Titus 2:1-5)**

**PICK-UP ATTENDANCE CARDS, SUN. AUG. 1:**

Matthew Uwechia & Chris Jeffrey

**NURSERY ATTENDANTS, SUN. AUG. 1:**

Ella Livingston & Penny Barnes

**THOSE TO SERVE, WED. AUG. 4:**

**Devotional:** Carl Sims  
**Announcements:** Tim Brown  
**Opening Prayer:** Bob Kerce  
**Closing Prayer:** Jim Thompson  
**Song Leader:** Jonathan Hall

**Remember to notify David Sullivan if you are not able to serve at your appointed time.**

**GOSPEL MEETINGS**

**Aug. 1-4:** Mt. View, 7:00pm.

Speaker: Ralph Gilmore

**Aug. 1-4:** Noah, 7:00pm

Speaker: Chris Whitaker

**Aug. 1-4:** Estill Spings, 7:00pm

Speaker: Gayle M. Crowe

**Aug. 1-5:** Unity in McMinnville, M-Th.

7:00pm Speaker: Larry Acuff

**Aug. 1-5:** Pocahontas, M-Th. 7:00pm.

Speaker: David Morris

**AUGUST GOSPEL SERIES**

**Theme: The Home As God Designed It.**

church of Christ @ Highway 56N,  
McMinnville 7:00pm.

Every Monday night in August

Different Speaker each night.

**Aug. 2:** James W. Boyd

**Aug. 9:** Charles Williams

**Aug. 16:** Kevin Key

**Aug. 23:** Alan Gauger

**Aug. 30:** Shane Fisher

**BIBLE CORRESPONDENCE**

Lessons Graded (7/21-7/27) .....	1,062
Requests For Personal Contact .....	1
Students served.....	425

**STUDENT COMMENT**

Thank you so much for giving me the opportunity to read and understand the Bible better. I have really enjoyed it. (Baltimore, MD)

I thank God for you all. Keep me and my boys in your prayers. (Oberlin, LA)

***"For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. 1 Cor. 1:18***

**REALITY CHECK**

The mood was light and happy as the men and women walked through the barbed gate and into the camp for the first time. Rumors of the horrible activity which defiled these secluded scenes had traveled from person to person, but no one actually believed those stories. These people were nothing more than loyal followers of their fearless leader; all they wanted was a better home with better inhabitants. They looked forward to a "better Germany."

The joy and laughter turned to sorrow and crying as Allied troops led the German men and women through each building at the concentration camp after the war was over. Their eyes were opened. Their Nazi leaders had been murdering thousands of people from a variety of backgrounds and nationalities. They could no longer hide behind ignorance; they saw reality. Many of these men and women later admitted to a previous knowledge of the concentration camps, but had simply dismissed it from their minds. They became increasingly numb to the reality of mass horror and innocent bloodshed.

Reality checks are good for Christians. Apostasy numbs one to sin. Paul said: "now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils: Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron" (I Tim. 4:1-2).

The words "seared with a hot iron" mean to brand or render insensitive. Paul described the sinful state of some as being "past feeling" (Eph. 4:19) They had become apathetic to sin's destructive forces.

We can be so accustomed to the sin around us that we lose sight to its seriousness. Are we not working as we ought because we are numb to sin?

The Lord is depending upon us to carry out His work and to stay focused (Mt. 5:14-16).

—Robert Hatfield