ON THE HOME FRONT

Gary Colley

We need to be reminded, as members of the Getwell congregation, that our Summer Series will begin June 7 with brother Don Walker speaking on “The Parable of the Sower.” Brother Walker is a very talented speaker who will bring this account of Jesus teaching to life for us all! Brother and sister Walker have been working with the Memphis School of Preaching for several months but will soon move back to Texas where Don will serve as the director of the Southwest School of Preaching. We believe him to be very capable of doing this work, and we certainly commend him to this work. Please mark your calendar and plan to be present June 7 at 7:00 P.M. We invite all who receive our bulletin to also be present!

Christians are guided in life by the principles of Truth. This is the only way they will live successfully and go to Heaven at last (Rev. 2:10). One of those principles comes from Paul’s inspired letter to the Romans. It reads, “Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law” (Rom. 13:8). Love is a debt that we all owe to our fellowman (Gal. 6:10). But, we notice in this verse that we are not to fail to pay our debts. It is not wrong to go into debt, but we need to have a plan of paying back what we owe. Christians do not try to “beat people” out of anything by not paying their debts. This is also called treating our fellowman justly. Of course if we have a payment arrangement to pay a part of the debt each month, and we pay on time, we are not failing in this command. However, to do otherwise, is to bring reproach on the Lord’s church. We must be careful to never reflect harmfully on our Lord and His work. Let us pay our debts promptly and fully.
What preachers preach today must be regulated by what inspired preachers preached in the first century. Inspired preachers of the past did not speak from their “study” (II Tim. 2:15) but rather spoke as the Holy Spirit “gave them utterance” directly (Acts 2:4). Unlike preachers today, they were able to “take no thought how or what ye shall speak: for it shall be given you in that same hour what ye shall speak. For it is not ye that speak, but the Spirit of your Father which speaketh in you” (Matt. 10:19-20). Uninspired Timothy was told by inspired Paul, “Study” (II Tim. 2:15); “And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also” (II Tim. 2:2). No man today is guided “into all truth” as were the Holy Spirit baptized apostles (Matt. 3:11; Jn. 14:26; 15:26-27; 16:13). Nor are we gifted in the same way that those who had the apostles’ hands laid on them (Acts 8:12-25).

**What did these apostles preach that men must do in order to be saved?** Some preachers today would tell inquiring lost man, “There is absolutely nothing you can do to be saved—Jesus has paid it all.” But Paul said Jesus “became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him” (Heb. 5:8-9). Though there are some who would attempt to remove the words “must” and “do” from the Bible today, let us remind all that the word “must” is used 115 times in the New Testament, and the word “do” 576 times! If these two words “must” and “do” were removed from the Bible, it would fall apart in our hands! Let no one be so dishonest with the text of the Bible (Jas. 2:24). “What must I do to be saved” is a most important question, which must be answered by every individual before the great Judgment Day. Peter preached that a lost soul must “know assuredly (believe) that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye crucified, both Lord and Christ” (Acts 2:36). He preached to the lost that they must “repent and be baptized everyone of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit” (Acts 2:38). He knew that this obedience would purify men’s souls (I Pet. 1:22-23) and bring folks into the church of Christ (I Pet. 1:18-19; 2:9), where they could be saved by God (I Pet. 1:13-16). Likewise, the inspired preacher Paul preached that upon men’s faith they were to be baptized into Christ or His church (Gal. 3:26-27; Rom. 6:3-4). He preached that this obedience would bring men into the hope of Heaven (Tit. 2:11-12; Rom. 12:1-2). If your preacher will not preach what inspired men preached in the first century, you should find one who will.
Wow, this has been a great week! All together, including the Sunday morning Bible class lesson, we have had six profitable lessons presented to us by Robert Jefferies. Starting the week with “Lessons Learned from the Bereans,” Robert challenged his listeners to have the attitude and habits of the “noble Bereans” who searched the scriptures daily. I hope we will all take up that challenge. In the worship hour, “One Last Sermon” advised us of the basic truths of the Bible, none of which can be ignored in order to be saved. On Sunday evening Robert presented us with a vivid picture of “The Cross.” Each lesson left us more determined to live for Christ, especially Monday evening’s lesson on “The Place Called Heaven.” On this side of eternity we cannot comprehend how wonderful Heaven will be. In his lesson on Heaven Robert used as his text the book of Revelation where the apostle John attempted to describe Heaven. Tuesday evening Robert presented a lesson on “The Place Called Hell.” During his lesson you could almost feel the heat coming off the pulpit. It is not a place in which I want to spend eternity. On Wednesday evening we pondered the question “Is It Possible To Shipwreck Our Faith?” All the lessons were recorded. If you want a copy, contact the church office. In connection with the recording, we wish to thank Charles Shappley for being the recording technician and Jacob Wallace for his assistance with the power point presentations. After Sunday morning services, we had a wonderful potluck luncheon where we shared good food and good fellowship. We had visitors from the area. If you are one of our members and chose not to come, you have deprived yourself of a rich spiritual feast. It has truly been a week well spent. Our appreciation goes to Robert Jefferies for his preparation of the lessons preached. Only eternity will tell all the fruit that will come forth from the seed that was planted.

This past Lord’s day evening I had the privilege to worship with the Henderson Church of Christ. There were two reports given by two missionaries that Henderson, Estes, and other congregations support. Some might have found these reports rather dry, but I found them to be very uplifting and encouraging. One missionary was from Lewistown, Montana. He and his family have been there for six years. They have grown from a handful to averaging fifty in attendance. Because of their growth they have had to move to larger accommodations. The preacher’s tent-making job is that of a fireman. The Montana missionaries are Russell and Allison Epperson, and they are zealous seekers of lost souls.

The other reporting missionaries were Kevin and Keli Westmoreland, and they were reporting from Cusco, Peru. They have grown from a handful to approximately 120 Christians meeting. Due to their growth they are considering establishing a second congregation. Kevin and Keli and others on the team are zealously seeking the lost. Two members on the team are Ryan Davis and his wife. Ryan is the grandson of Robert R. Taylor, Jr.

Last but not least, Shannon Smitherman Edge, who grew up at Getwell, will be leaving on a medical mission trip on June 16-24. She along with her team will be at Tisma, Nicaragua. As a result of their efforts through the years, a permanent congregation has been established, and they erected a building this past February.

Be sure to keep all these missionaries in your prayers and pray for their continued success and safety. We should not underestimate the power of the Gospel!