ON THE HOME FRONT

Gary Colley

We rejoice in the attendance increases noticed of late at Getwell. Interest is good and visitors are many. We are thankful to our Heavenly Father for every increase given to our work. Each member should be inviting others to attend the Bible studies and worship services. It is good to know of the new Ladies Bible Class, which is to begin in January 2009!

An email came our way this week that is thought provoking, and we have adapted it for this weeks bulletin. Please read and think about its message.

"It Is Strange Isn’t It . . .

How a $20 bill seems like such a large amount when you give it to the Lord, but such a small amount when you go shopping?

How two hours can seem so long when in worship services, but so short when you are watching a good movie?

How hard it seems to find words to express your thoughts in prayer, but easy to find words when talking to a friend?

How difficult (and “boring”) it is to read one chapter of the Bible, but how easy to read 100 pages of a novel written by men?

How everyone wants front-row-seats at concerts and ball games, but do whatever possible to sit on the last row in worship to God?

How “we need to know early” about dates for Lectureships and Gospel meetings, but can adjust our time at the last minute for other events.

How some can believe everything in newspapers and magazines, but who question the words of God’s Book, the Bible?

How everyone wants a place in Heaven, but many do not want to believe, repent, confess, and obey in baptism, to accept God’s grace in the Gospel?

YES, IT IS STRANGE, ISN’T IT!"
In our first article on the important question of whether one who is once saved can be finally lost, we studied Paul and Peter, rather than the doctrines of men, for the answers. We believe this is a wise course for all to follow. Paul speaks directly to the question of being once saved in Christ, but falling away.

From Hebrews 6:4-6, Paul writes that those he had in mind were “once enlightened” by Jesus, the light of the world, to a renewed state to which one can attain in Christ (Jn. 8:12; Eph. 5:8, 17); “and have tasted of the heavenly gift” by “tasting” or learning of the demands, plan, forgiveness, and promises of the Gospel (Jn. 6:44-45); “and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost” by imbibing His teaching and enjoying the renewing influence in our lives (Col. 3:16); “and have tasted the good word of God” in its goodness, its beauty, pleasure, love, comfort, completeness, authority, and power (Psa. 19:7-10; Heb. 4:12); “and of the powers of the world to come” as we enjoy the hope promises in the kingdom of “an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you” (I Pet. 1:4). But, Paul speaks then of those who have allowed sin to reestablish its reign in their lives!

“If They Shall Fall Away”

The Greek shows that this should be written in the past tense, and “having fallen away” (Heb. 6:6). Those who had formerly been enlightened, tasted the blessings of Truth, and were made partakers by experience of the blessings have now placed themselves beyond the reach of recovery! What a shame! No blame can be placed on the Heavenly Host, the powerful Word or on our brethren in the Lord for our lost condition. We are personally responsible! “Every man shall bear his own burden” of responsibility (Gal. 6:5). “Let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.

There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it” (I Cor. 10:12-13). “Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man” (Jas. 1:13).

Let Us Study, Grow, and Guard Our Conscience

Nothing should be more closely guarded than a tender, pure conscience. Its office is to prick us when we go against our moral judgment and to call us back from temptation and apostasy! The wise man said, “Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life” (Prov. 4:23). Paul warned that it is possible to “depart from the faith” (I Tim. 4:1) and to have our conscience seared as with a hot iron (I Tim. 4:2) to the extent that the Gospel will no longer appeal to us! The seared conscience has no more feeling as it once enjoyed. It is at this point that these souls are beyond reach, and the Gospel is powerless to call them back to faithfulness, “For it is impossible for them to be restored” (Heb. 6:4-6). It is also at this point that “they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame” (Heb. 6:6). They now could have driven the nails into His hands and feet, and thrust the spear into His side, had they been present on crucifixion day!

Let the backsliding Christian realize the dangerous position in which he is engaged! “For if we sin willfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries” (Heb. 10:26-27).
## December 2008

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<td><strong>BIRTHDAY</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>ANNIVERSARY</strong>&lt;br&gt;Please be sure that we have your birth date and anniversary date on file in the church office.</td>
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<td>3&lt;br&gt;Ezek. 45-46&lt;br&gt;I John 2&lt;br&gt;*Katherine McCulloch&lt;br&gt;**Rob &amp; June Barringer&lt;br&gt;**Aaron &amp; Tina Sparks</td>
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### DECEMBER COMMUNION SERVICE
- Tom Harris  
- John Watkins  
- Raymond McCoy  
- Jack Thomas  
- Billy Collins  
- Larry Pike  
- John Chaney  
- Emmett Meek  
- Alternate: Ron Wallace
Please remember with your cards, calls, and prayers those of our number who are confined at home or in nursing homes: Hazel Bizzell, 356 Calle Escada, Santa Rosa Beach, FL 32459-3698; Nell Brandon, Quince Nursing and Rehab Center, 6733 Quince Rd., Room 2006 A, 38119; Emma Brotherton, Landmark of DeSoto, 3068 Nail Rd. W., Room 310B, Horn Lake, MS 38637; Frances Collins, 4779 Amboy Rd., 38117, 682-6917; Mary Haynes, 274 S. Highland, Apt. 808, 38111, 327-2127; Addie Nelms, 4007 Dunn Ave., 38117, 743-7554; Skipper Schulz, 139 Magnolia Dr., 38117, 683-3049; and Minnie Wayne, Gallaway Healthcare Center, Room 106, 435 Old Brownsville Rd., Gallaway, TN 38036, 317-4590.

The office will be closed on November 27th and 28th for the Thanksgiving holiday weekend.

A Psalm of Thanksgiving

Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands. Serve the Lord with gladness: come before his presence with singing. Know ye that the Lord he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name. For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.

Psalm 100