If you have visited with us, please know that you are our very welcome guest! It is our pleasure that you have come our way! Hopefully, you will be blessed by the Bible Classes and worship services, as we observe the commands of the Lord in the five items given in the New Testament for worship of God (Matt. 28:18-20; Jn. 4:24). We believe you will be welcomed by the warmth of the members of the Lord’s church meeting on Getwell. If you happen to meet with the one ole grouch that attends here, we apologize and hope you will speak with others before you leave! Of course, we are being facetious!

Today, you will no doubt meet with several really important persons, those who are seeking to serve God acceptably. When the early disciples asked the question, “Who is the greatest in the kingdom of Heaven?” Jesus placed a little child in their midst (Matt. 18:1-4). The child was lovable and loving, teachable and humble, without the desire just to be seen or heard, not egotistical, and this illustrated the Lord’s teaching on “Who is a really important person” in the church of Christ. The one who is “strong and of good courage” (Josh. 1:6), the one who stands against denominationalism, and all other kinds of “isms,” as a good servant in the service of our King, is a really important person! He or she does not act with apathy, indifference, nor immorality in their service, but with quiet intent, interest, and love for Christ and His church, goes about doing good (Gal. 6:10). Let us all seek to be important persons in the Lord!
Some think their life is so dull and discouraging that there is to be no happiness for them. If, as some proclaim, “there is no God” (Psa. 14:1), this might be the case. There would not be right and wrong, good and evil, love and hope, and therefore nothing but despair, if there is no God! But there is the true and living God, who created man and woman (Gen. 1:26-27), created the beauties of earth for their happiness (Gen. 1:1), and who supplies all of the earth’s daily needs (Matt. 5:45). Yet because man does not realize and accept his personal responsibility to work with his hands, rebels against the Will of God, and does not labor to make the world a better place, some miss the good days that could be theirs (II Thess. 3:10). Peter writes, “For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile: Let him eschew (refuse GC) evil, and do good; let him seek peace and ensue (pursue GC) it. For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil” (I Pet. 3:10-I2).

The precious gift of life is from God and is to be used to the fullest of our ability to serve our Creator as we live for His Son, Jesus the Christ. When we abide in His church or body and seek it first, we know all needed things will be added to our lives (Eph. 1:22-23; 4:4; Matt. 6:33). We should awake each day with the question on our minds, “What good thing can I do today to serve God as a Christian, and help others?” (Acts 20:35). This does not mean there will be no difficulties, disappointments, or disagreements, but it does mean as we walk by faith that there will be nothing we cannot handle (Phil. 4:13). If we have not already done so, let us learn to appreciate and reverence God (Ecc. 12:13). Let us apply God’s Word to our lives each day, as we study His Word to show ourselves approved in His sight (II Tim. 2:15). Not only will good days be the result of such living, but the hope of Heaven will also be in our view (Heb. 11:1).

When we are conforming our lives by acting in harmony with God’s Word, we will not allow the world to pour us into its mold, but we will be “transformed by the renewing of our minds” (Rom. 12:1-2). Let us not trust our own thoughts and ways, but rather seek for God’s thoughts and His Way, which are far higher than our own (Isa. 55:8-9). Let us “refrain our tongue from evil, and our lips that they speak no guile” (I Pet. 3:10). This kind of life will make our home a place of honor. We will lead our family and friends in the right way (Eph. 6:4). Let us attend the worship services of the Lord’s church, with our family, every time the doors are open! By following God’s wise counsel, we will have a life filled with happiness and joy!
The year 2018 has been busy at Getwell thus far. In February we had our “Sweetheart” luncheon honoring our widows and widowers, and in March we had our annual “Newcomers” luncheon where we recognize those who have been baptized and those who have placed membership. Getwell continues to grow, adding talented, dedicated brothers and sisters to our family.

On March 24th we had a spectacular Ladies Day here at Getwell. We had two special speakers, Christine Allen and Jana Green. A total of 82 ladies attended. Eighteen congregations were represented and five non-members were present. The planning committee consisted of Christine Allen, Maggie Colley, Wynona Murray, Carolyn Smith, and June Wallace. It was a good day.

Mark your calendar now: Our spring gospel meeting is fast approaching. The meeting will be May 6-9 with David Looney doing the preaching. Make a list of folks you want to invite. Their attendance may change their eternal destiny. Mailing cards are available.

Plans for our summer series are presently being formulated. The series will run from June 20 through August 8. Details about speakers will be divulged at a later date. The theme will be “The 7 Churches of Asia: Their Ups and Downs.” The speakers will look at the 7 churches of Asia in Revelation and what we can learn from them congregationally and individually. On a side note, during this period on June 27th we will host the Foundations class from Forest Hill.

The newest issue of THE SPIRITUAL SWORD has come out. The theme of this issue is “Hardeman’s Tabernacle Sermons.” In the editorial brother Highers points out there were five Tabernacle Meetings beginning in 1922, and then in 1923, 1928, 1938, and 1942. Four of the meetings were held in the Ryman Auditorium (later home of the Grand Ole Opry). The fifth meeting was held at War Memorial Auditorium. Both of these auditoriums were located in Nashville and are still standing. Brother Highers pointed out that brother Hardeman filled the Ryman Auditorium before Roy Acuff did. According to the editorial, on the first night of the first meeting it is estimated that 2000 people were turned away due to lack of space.

Personally, I knew this issue was coming out and have been in anticipation of its publication. At this writing I have skimmed through the issue and read three articles. I look forward to devouring this issue. One particular article titled “Memories of N. B. Hardeman,” written by E. Claude Gardner, truly touched me. Brother Gardner was the last surviving faculty member employed by N. B. Hardeman.

There are two other related stories about the Tabernacle Sermons I would like to relay. I remember reading in the Gospel Advocate years ago about a young man, just out of the service, who went west where he visited a small congregation. They had no regular preacher, so they asked this young man to preach. All he had with him was his Bible and a set of the Hardeman Tabernacle Sermons, so he preached these sermons over a period of time. The congregation thought he was the greatest preacher since N. B. Hardeman. Toward the end of the fifth volume he confessed the source of his sermons. They forgave him and hired him to be their preacher where he remained for thirty years.

Secondly, in my personal library I have the complete set of the Hardeman Tabernacle Sermons. They were a gift from my uncle, Waylon B. Lawrence, a faithful gospel preacher and elder. They are a treasured part of my library, and I always enjoy picking up a volume and reading one of brother Hardeman’s sermons.

This particular issue is a great issue about a giant in the faith called the “prince of preachers,” N. B. Hardeman. Each writer in his respective article did an excellent job. Don’t put this issue on the shelf. Get it and read it. You will be better for it.

--Ron Wallace