ON THE HOME FRONT

GOSPEL MEETING

MAY 6-9, 2018

Be Sure To Hear

David Looney
Jackson, TN

Sunday 9:30 A.M. The Hero Rises (Genesis 37)—Bible Class
10:20 A.M. Can You Trust God with the Details of Your Life? (Genesis 50)
7:00 P.M. We Must Start with God (Romans 8:28a)

Monday 7:00 P.M. We Need a Long-term Perspective (Romans 8:28b)

Tuesday 7:00 P.M. We Must Define the Word “Good” (Romans 8:28c)

Wednesday 7:00 P.M. We Must Understand the Limitation of Romans 8:28

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A Warm Welcome Awaits You!
Plan To Stay For Lunch On Sunday!
It does not make any preacher happy when other preachers do not “preach up to the teaching of the Bible.” Paul said there were those in his day who preached in such a way that they were “supposing to add affliction to my bonds” (Phil. 1:16). Though we know there are some in every class and culture that do not act correctly, thereby throwing a shadow on all others of that profession, it is still a deep concern. This is especially true when a preacher’s dishonesty and deception is so flagrant as to disregard the safety of the souls of men (Matt. 16:26). And some folks seem not to be “noble” enough to concern themselves with checking the teaching of a preacher with what the Bible says, to see if what they are hearing is true (Acts 17:11). We have recently heard on our local radio a preacher who quoted in a Sunday morning pulpit only the first part of Matthew 28:19-20, saying the Bible says “Go teach all nations,” but who refused, because of his false creed, to read the rest of the passage, “baptizing them into the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.” He only wanted to teach lost souls to “pray the sinner’s prayer,” which cannot be found anywhere in the Bible! This is inexcusable conduct, for anyone to so hate the Lord’s teaching on baptism that he hypocritically pretends to be approved of God in his preaching (II Tim. 2:15). James writes in the Bible, that these false teachers shall “receive the greater condemnation” (Jas. 3:1). Jesus warned us about these types of preachers in the Sermon on the Mount (Matt. 7:15). Paul warned against those who think themselves above that which is written (I Cor. 4:6). Paul also charged Timothy not to be one who seeks to please men, and tickle the ears of the disobedient for gain (II Tim. 4:1-5). Of himself Paul said, “For do I now persuade men, or God? Or do I seek to please men? For if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ” (Gal. 1:10). The apostle John warned, “Beloved, believe not every spirit (teacher, GC), but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world” (I Jn. 4:1). The only safe course for any preacher, especially in view of eternity, is to preach the “whole counsel of God” on every subject. This type of preaching may not please all of the people, but it will please God, and those of good and honest heart, and make a preacher “pure from the blood of all men” (Acts 20:26-27). We must speak only as the oracles of God, and preach the very Word of God, instead of human tradition and ritualism (I Thess. 2:13; I Pet. 4:11). If people gullibly follow these false preachers, their worship will be vain, and their souls will be lost (Matt. 15:9; Rev. 22:14).
At this writing brother W. T. Hardwick has been gone 38 days. I don’t feel like I am up to the task to honor this man. At the funeral, brother Highers drew information from the 2016 Spiritual Sword Lectureship book. The elders and congregation dedicated that volume to W. T. Hardwick, who had been an elder during the entire run of The Spiritual Sword journal from start to present. It was only appropriate to dedicate a lectureship book to this elder. Brother Hardwick was an elder from 1969 to the time of his passing. Brother Hardwick was a tall man physically but also a tall man spiritually. He, his wife, Ethel, and his daughter, Brenda, started attending Getwell in the 1950s. They were very active in the various activities at Getwell. He was selected to serve as a deacon and then to serve as an elder.

As a nineteen-year-old lad with a wife, he went to war. On June 6, 1944, this kid from Mississippi along with several thousand other brave men waded onto French soil under withering enemy fire. A few days later he was captured by enemy troops. In early 1945 he was freed by a contingent from General George Patton’s troops. I remember a story brother Hardwick told me of him being in a hotel in Paris and cooking and eating eighteen eggs slowly and one at a time.

In many ways W. T. Hardwick was a hero on several levels: As a soldier in the U.S. Armed Forces, as a family man who took his invalid sister-in-law into his home, and as a shepherd in the church at Getwell. Recently, I met with the elders, but something was missing: the presence of W. T. Hardwick. His empty chair was there, and his memory was there. His legacy will live on at Getwell.

Regarding other matters, our summer series is set: theme, speakers and schedule. The theme is “The Ups and Downs of the 7 Churches of Asia,” what we can learn from them individually and congregationally.

June 20--The Church at Smyrna--Mike Hixson
June 27--Foundations Class from Forest Hill Congregation
July 4--The Church of Pergamos--Tim Alsup
July 11--The Church at Thyatira--Robert Jefferies
July 18--The Church at Sardis--Cameron Freeman
July 25--The Church at Philadelphia--Stan Mitchell
August 1--The Church at Laodicea--Noah Icenhour
August 8--The Church at Ephesus--Ryan Manning

Brother Colley is busy preparing the 2018 Spiritual Sword Lectureship. The theme is “King of Our Lives.” An addition to this year’s lectureship is a ladies’ class that will meet at 2:00 p.m. each day. Along with the regular lineup these classes will be a welcome addition.