

Good News

From Getwell

Published by
Getwell Church of Christ

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Radio Program
The Truth in Love
WHBQ-AM 560, Sundays, 8:00 a.m.

The Getwell congregation sends monthly
support to the following:

Tennessee Children's Home, Spring Hill, TN
West Tennessee Children's Home, Pinson, TN
Potter Children's Home, Bowling Green, KY
Children's Homes, Paragould, AR

SCHEDULE OF WEEKLY ACTIVITY

SUNDAY

Bible Study.....9:30 a.m.
Worship.....10:20 a.m.
Worship.....5:00 p.m.

TUESDAY

Ladies Bible Class (Sept. - May) 10:00 a.m.

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study.....7:00 p.m.

Volume LVIII

February 27, 2017

Number 9

ON THE HOME FRONT

Gary Colley

Our hearts at Getwell were made to rejoice with the angels of Heaven at the baptism of Kenneth Middlebrook and Kenneth Crawford on Wednesday evening! If you are not in the habit of attending on Wednesday evening, you are missing some Bible teaching, support from your brethren to help you for the week, and some exciting times such as these baptisms! We are hopeful that you will be able to attend all of the services at Getwell.

Giving of our means on the Lord's Day is a wonderful blessing some overlook also! As we have suggested before, we should give, not until it hurts, but until it feels good, which we believe many at Getwell are doing! This week one of the bulletins we receive had the following article entitled "A Contribution or a Sacrifice." The "Story" goes that a chicken and a pig were walking down a country road together, when they saw a sign advertising a social. Ham and eggs were to be a feature at the affair. A discussion followed as to what they could do to help. "I know," said the chicken, "I'll donate a dozen eggs, and you can donate a ham." "E-e-ek!" said the pig. "For you that's just a contribution, but for me it's a complete sacrifice!" The article then asked "Are you totally committed to Christ, or did you just let out a grunt or an E-e-ek?" (Please read in your Bible, Romans 12:1-2 and Galatians 2:20).

Where in the Bible Will I Find . . . The Christian's Duties?

Gary Colley

Living our life for Christ is the most important way of living on earth. The great apostle Paul wrote two-thirds of the New Testament, and a great part of his emphasis was on Christian living. The death of Christ made him a debtor to carry the Gospel to others, and he did so without shame (Rom. 1:14-16). He also says that all Christians are debtors, "not to the flesh, to live after the flesh [a worldly life], For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die [spiritually]: but if ye through the Spirit [His teaching] do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God" (Rom. 8:12-14). After obeying the first principles of the Gospel, of faith in Christ, repentance from past sins, confession of the name of Christ, and baptism into Christ, we are raised to live "in newness of life" (Rom. 6:3-4). To live the new life in Christ is to live as Christ commands (Matt. 28:18-20). Whatever we do or say must be in harmony with Christ's authority (Co1. 3:16-17). We are to be continual seekers of Christ's will and set our affections on Heaven, as we do what we learn by his direction (Col. 3:1-2). We know that the world will not approve us, because it did not approve Christ, but rather crucified Him (I Jn.3:1-4). Hence, though we live in the world, we are not to live

like the world. Rather, we are to be as "salt" to help save the world, and "light" to help the lost see, be saved, and glorify God (Matt. 5:13-16). Our world faces many problems of crime, sexual immorality, drinking, drugs, divorce, gambling, pornography, etc. Yet, we as Christians must live a life transformed by the Gospel, being "not conformed to this world" but being "transformed by the renewing of your mind" as we act, learn, and know what is the "good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God" (Rom. 12:1-2). Christians must count all things of the world, which it holds dear and desired, but secondary and even "loss for Christ (Phi1. 3:7-9). As we live the new life in Christ, our Christian duties help us escape the defilements of the world! (Ga1. 6:1-2). James wrote, "But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed" (Jas. 1:25). As Christians, we must be careful to live above the world, teach others to do the same, and not be entangled again in the worldly practices! If we live in the wrong manner after being cleansed in the blood of Christ, we are like "the dog returned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire" (II Pet. 2:20-22).

Cut Along Dotted Line and Return

IMPORTANT GETWELL BULLETIN NOTICE IF YOU HAVE ALREADY RESPONDED, THANK YOU!

In an effort to update our bulletin mailing list and to streamline our bulletin mailing process, we are offering *Good News From Getwell* in .pdf format by e-mail. If you have not yet replied, please indicate below your preference for receiving the *Good News From Getwell* bulletin and cut and return this portion of the page to Getwell Church of Christ, 1511 Getwell Rd., Memphis, TN 38111-7299, or fax to 901-743-2197, or e-mail to Brenda@getwellchurchofchrist.org.

- ☐ Please e-mail the bulletin to me at the following e-mail address: _____
- ☐ Please continue to send the bulletin by US Mail.
- ☐ Please delete my name from your bulletin mailing list.

Name: _____ Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

RON'S REMINDERS



March is a very special month for two former Getwell members, George and Nell Barber. On March 8th they will celebrate seventy years of wedded bliss. On March 10th brother Barber will celebrate his 90th birthday. While at Getwell, the Barbers were an integral part of the work. Jim Laws, former Getwell preacher, used to say that there was a saying in Texas when a job needed doing: "Let George do it." When the Barbers were at Getwell, we could always depend on brother Barber to help resolve any problem that arose, or at least be willing to lend a hand. Because of this can-do attitude and Christian spirit, he was a deacon for many years. Brother Barber has served as a personal example to me in my current duties as a deacon. In a very real way he was a deacon's deacon. For years "Miss" Nell conducted a kindergarten here at Getwell. Many a student

graduated from her kindergarten with love and appreciation for her as she started them on their first steps in their educational journey. "Miss" Nell also always stood ready at Getwell to help in any way needed. She taught the five-year-old Sunday School class for years. The kids learned about the Bible and to love God, and they learned how much God loves them. One of "Miss" Nell's students came home one day and told her parents that "Miss" Nell was almost as smart as Jesus. The Barbers may not be as smart as Jesus, but they were smart enough to build their home on Jesus Christ, a home that has lasted 70 years. The Barbers currently reside in Mantachie, Mississippi, and work with the church there. Take a moment and send a card to this fine couple.

—Ron Wallace

Country Club Church

They had works.

They labored.

They showed patience.

They could not bear those who were evil.

They were able to detect false teachers.

They demonstrated perseverance.

They labored for the name of Christ and had not become weary.

And yet, according to Jesus Christ—the Great Physician, Who is able to accurately diagnose the heart, this group of Christians in Ephesus had left their first love. (Rev. 2:2-4).

What treatment plan did Jesus give this group of people? He first told them to "remember from where you have fallen." In other words, reflect back to why they came together—go back and look at what your original priorities were. Spend time reflecting on the true mission of the church. Then He commands them, "repent." Too often, Christians who have been baptized look at the word "repentance" as a step of salvation. Yet, Jesus here was addressing Christians—telling this sick church that if it wanted to get better then they needed to repent. Lastly, He tells them to do the first works. This group of people was busy working and laboring, but they had moved away from the things that were truly important.

The Great Physician then revealed what their fate would be if they did not follow his medical treatment: "or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place—unless you repent" (Revelation 2:5).

I suspect this exact same diagnosis could be given to hundreds of congregations across our nation today. We are busy with works. We are laboring. We don't bear with those who are evil. We can identify false teachers. And yet, we have left our first love. Our focus is no longer on Christ and what He has done for us, but rather, our focus is on the next big program or event—in order to please the masses and get numbers up. We've detached ourselves so far away from our sin that we don't spend much time actually reflecting on where we would be without Christ and the cross.

What many modern congregations have actually done is created vast "social clubs" or "country clubs" full of people who want to be surrounded by moral people of the same socio-economic status. We want to feel like we are doing good, involved in lots of works, and have someone to go to lunch with on Sunday. Sure we love God, but deep down we have grown comfortable. We have built massive buildings, all the while we are surrounded by thousands who are lost

and hurting—yet, these people will never hear the Gospel because our social club is too busy with internal programs. Our mentality has become, "We will build bigger buildings and they will come to us."

Don't believe me? Take a moment to consider how much time, energy, sacrifice, and money are spent actually going out into your local community. Now compare that to how much time, energy, sacrifice, and money are spent on "internal" programs—programs for people who already know about the saving blood of Christ. We wave the banner of "edification" broadly, as justification for these programs, but the reality is in most cases these programs are simply tools that keep the church convinced they are busy and active. A serious look reveals a much deeper problem—Christians who have lost their first love, and no longer desire to "go" and reach the lost.

I have probably heard every excuse in the book: "Door knocking doesn't work anymore." "We don't think advertising in the local paper will work." "We don't really know how to reach the lost in this technological age." Etc. So instead of trying something, we add a few more internal programs and comfort our guilty consciousness. Or maybe we justify it by saying: "We stream or record our services for everyone on the internet" as if there are thousands of people sitting by their computers or televisions who will stumble across our site with the intention of learning the Truth.

Yes, in too many cases we have become country club churches. It's with tears in my eyes that I point out this truth. I love the church. I love the people who make up the church. But the truth is we are comfortable. We are busy in the building. But we are about to have our lampstand removed. It is time leaders and members repent and get busy doing what God really expects us to do. It is time we return to our first love. It is time we get out of our comfort zones and do the hard things.

As for me and my house? We're tired of social club church. We desperately want to serve. We want leaders to blaze a trail into our community. We want to stop wasting money on frivolous internal programs. We want to roll up our sleeves and get our hands dirty. We want the waters in our baptism to be rippling every week—rather than growing stagnant. We want to return to our first love. And that, my friend, is what we shall do. As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.

—Brad Harrub
Focus Press