

Good News

From Getwell

Published by
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The Spiritual Sword Lectureship

Radio Program

The Truth in Love

WHBQ-AM 560 / FM 98.5

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.

WEDNESDAY

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

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ON THE HOME FRONT

As was mentioned on Sunday, please be sure to see the hallway bulletin board for information concerning upcoming events in the area. Just a few that are coming up soon are a Gospel meeting at Southaven beginning on April 18th with B.J. Clarke speaking, a Gospel meeting at Nesbit beginning on May 2nd with Mike Bonner speaking, and the Memphis School of Preaching Lectureship beginning on May 23rd. I know that each of these will be great events. You can benefit greatly from attending any of them. Also, this may encourage members from other area congregations to attend the numerous events that we host, such as our own lectureships and Gospel meetings. Please make an effort to attend these area events!

Also on our hallway bulletin board, you can find an advertisement for MSOP M.O.S.T. classes. Even if you cannot attend the classes in person, you can look them up online and gain a good deal of Bible knowledge. Many of the classes are archived, meaning that you can go through and watch them at your own pace. This is a tool that I use from time to time, and one that you may find beneficial as well.

Please be mindful of our pantry items, which can be found on the back of the bulletin. Our pantry is a good tool that can be used to help those in need. We are always in need of several items, so please help us with that.

Bradley Smith

From The Desk Of Bradley Smith

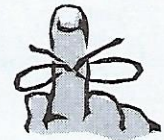
What I Have Learned from One Year of COVID-19 (Part 5-Conclusion)

What then have we learned from one year of the COVID-19 pandemic? One overwhelming theme that can be seen in these points, as well as others that have not been mentioned, is the negligence that can sometimes be harbored in the hearts of members of the church. Many have neglected to love the Lord and serve Him (John 14:15). Even more have neglected to love their fellow man (cf. James 2). Instead of shirking our responsibility, let us get back to actually doing the work of the Lord (1 Cor. 15:58).

I am not sure how long that we will be dealing with COVID lockdowns and mandates, but I am sure that long-term effects will be dealt with in the church. Many have said and done things that will take years of work to repair. Unchristian attitudes have reigned for the past year.

The work can be done, though. How can we build back and be stronger? We must let love supersede all things (1 Cor. 13). We must have our priorities in order (Mat. 6:33). We must look for opportunities to help those in need (James 1:27). We must be serious about Bible study (2 Tim. 2:15). We must carry out the Great Commission (Mark 16:15). We must stand strong against opposing forces (Acts 5:40-42). In short, we need to get back to being the church, which we have failed to do for far too long.

RON'S REMINDERS



KEEP YOUR EYES ON THE PRIZE!

A metaphor that is frequently employed to describe the Christian life is athletics. The Christian life is called a race (Hebrews 12:1-2), a boxing match (1 Corinthians 9:26b), and a wrestling match (Ephesians 6: 12). While each of the sporting events is quite different, they all have one thing in common -- a **prize for the victor!** While I have never been a runner, I have been involved in boxing and wrestling. These activities require a lot of training and they are exhausting. They require discipline and focus. The same things are true for the life of a Christian. It requires training (2 Timothy 2:2) and it can be exhausting (Galatians 6:9). Living for Christ requires discipline (1 Corinthians 9:27) and focus (Hebrews 12:2). Now, let's focus on the prize.

The term is found twice in the New Testament (1 Corinthians 9:24-27; Philippians 3: 12-14). The Greek term (*brabeion*) refers to the prize of conflict which anyone can win if they "run in such a way that he [you] may obtain it" (1 Corinthians 9:24). Spiros Zodhiates, in *The Complete Word Study Dictionary of the New Testament* says of the term, "a prize such as a wreath or garland bestowed on victors in the contests of the Greeks." Prizes such as a wreath or garland would not last forever. In time, it might be lost or thrown out. However, the Christian is running, fighting, and wrestling for a prize that will never fade away (1 Peter 1:4)! We are in a spiritual struggle that, if we remain faithful, will result in "an imperishable crown" (1 Corinthians 9:25). Also, in 1 Corinthians 9:24 it is revealed that the child of God must "run in such a way that you may obtain it." There are some key terms here that should encourage us as we run and fight. Paul wrote, "And everyone who competes for the prize is

temperate in all things" (1 Corinthians 9:25). To be temperate means that the competitor is controlling himself in a hostile environment. This is why we are instructed by Peter to "abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul" (1 Peter 2:11). It is a battle every day and the child of God must stay self-disciplined! Of himself, Paul wrote, "But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection" (1 Corinthians 9:27).

Discipline comes from a Greek term that literally means "to give a black eye." The fight is real! Controlling oneself in a world that encourages self-indulgence and instant gratification requires a spiritual "punch in the face." A wake-up call, if you will. *Subjection* comes from a Greek term that means to bring someone or something into servitude. Paul brought his body into servitude so that he might not become disqualified or unworthy of the prize. We must do the same!

The prize is also mentioned in Philippians 3:12-14 as the resurrection from the dead (Philippians 3:11) which will occur when the Lord returns to take the faithful home to be with Him forever (1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18). The prize is an eternity in the presence of the Father in His home-Heaven (1 Peter 1:3-5). The prize is not on this earth that will pass away (1 John 2:17). Our Father dwells in Heaven and we can spend eternity there with Him (2 Corinthians 5: 1)!

Thankfully, Philippians 3 reveals how to forget what is behind, reach forward to what is ahead, and press toward the goal. God's love and grace has made all of this possible, but we must continue to run, fight, and wrestle until our battle is done (2 Timothy 4:6-8).