

GOOD NEWS

From Getwell

Published by
Getwell Church of Christ
 1511 Getwell Road
 Memphis, Tennessee 38111-7299

Phone: (901) 743-0464
 Fax: (901) 743-2197

E-Mail: mail@getwellchurchofchrist.org
 Website: www.getwellchurchofchrist.org

ELDERS

Dewey Murray
 Daniel P. Phillips
 Ron Wallace

MINISTERS

Bradley Smith, Minister
 Ron Wallace, Assoc. Minister
 Daniel P. Phillips

Publishers of
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Alan E. Highers, Editor

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 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

It was so great to have the Foundations class with us on Wednesday night. These young men always do such a great job leading our services. Some of the young men that were with us came from around the world just to participate in the Foundations camp. The Memphis School of Preaching always does a great job with this camp. I was able to go on Friday to hear some of the young men present their lessons that they prepared during the week. We gave each student that visited with us a copy of our 2001 lectureship book, "The Glory of Preaching: Passing the Torch." We hope and pray that these young men can benefit from these books, even if they do not desire to be full-time preachers. I was blessed to be able to attend the Foundations camp when I was that age. It was always a great time to gain experience and meet others. If you have children or grandchildren who will be between 13-19 at this time next year, please encourage them to attend this camp and others like it!

As we studied a few weeks ago, we need to always strive to have unity and edification with one another: "From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love (Ephesians 4:16)."

Bradley Smith

From The Desk Of Bradley Smith

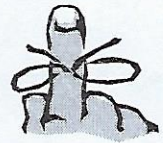
Authority in the Resurrection

Jesus said that all power (authority, *exousia*) has been given to Him (Mat. 28:18). A similar sentiment is found in Colossians 3:17. 1st Corinthians 3:11 tells us that Jesus is the one Foundation for building. If all authority has been given to Jesus, and it has, how much authority is left for others? Of course, the answer is "none." There has never been another individual that has the claim to authority that Jesus has. Note the words of Peter, "Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ (Acts 2:36)."

No one else has ever been risen from the dead never to die again. Christ is the only One with an empty tomb. Many self-proclaimed religious leaders have died, never to be heard from again. John Calvin is still in the ground. Joseph Smith is still in the ground. All the Catholic popes are still in the ground. There is only One who is not still in the ground, and that is Jesus Christ (1 Cor. 15:20). Since He is the only One with all authority, we should hear Him and no one else (Mat. 17:5).

Since Jesus is authorized as the Sole Authority and Soul Authority, we must obey Him if we desire to be saved (Heb. 5:8-9).

RON'S REMINDERS



Life Is Too Short

Have you noticed that time seems to rush into warp speed as you get older? Job wrote, "My days are swifter than a weaver's shuttle" (Job 7:6). Yes, life is short. It is certainly too short for some things.

Life is too short to live with an unforgiving heart. Jesus placed great emphasis on forgiveness. In His sermon on the mount He said, "For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses" (Matthew 6:14-15). Paul wrote to the Ephesian Christians, "And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you" (Ephesians 4:32). Additionally, we are robbed of peace and love when we are unwilling to forgive.

Life is too short for bad attitudes. This covers a wide range—complaints, anger, negativity, discouragement and more. The Israelites left a pitiful pattern of murmuring, especially in the wilderness. They had not been freed from bondage in Egypt long before they complained about lack of food and water, implying that Moses brought them into the wilderness only to see them die (Exodus 17:3-6). Even after God rained manna from heaven and brought water from a rock to satisfy their hunger and thirst, they grumbled and complained. The records of these things were given to writers like Paul who said, "Now these things became our examples, to the intent that we should not lust after evil things as they also lusted" (1 Corinthians 10:6). He also said, "Do all things without complaining and disputing" (Philippians 2:14). James wrote, "Do not grumble against one another, brethren, lest you be condemned" (James 5:9). Bitterness, anger, evil talk, and other bad attitudes Paul also addressed, "Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice" (Ephesians 4:31).

Life is too short for dwelling on the bad when there is so much good. That is why I do not listen to the news. Paul said, "Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things" (Philippians 4:8). I could dwell on the way MS has attacked my body, but I choose to thank God for all the parts of my body that work correctly, and there are many. A thankful heart goes a long way to making a merry heart!

Life is too short for being stuck in the past. The past is the past. There is little we can do to change it, except perhaps make apologies. Some people wallow in regrets so much that they cannot enjoy the present gift of salvation and many other spiritual gifts. Again, focusing on regrets robs us of precious mental energy we could use to serve the Lord.

Life is too short to ignore opportunities. The Greeks had an interesting image of "opportunity." She was a beautiful woman with long flowing hair in the front, and she was bald in the back. The idea was, if you don't grab her hair when she is with you, there is nothing to grab when she passes. So it is with opportunities today, we must seize them as they present themselves. For instance, I have a dear sister in Christ, who, in casual conversation used the phrase, "O my God" several times. One day she was particularly free and flippant with that expression. I asked her if we could talk. In a very gentle way, I shared God's words to Israel, "You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not hold guiltless one who takes his name in vain" (Exodus 20:7). She said she had never studied that verse and it scared her that she had been doing it often! She thanked me for showing her this Scripture and giving her its understanding! It was an opportunity that I was compelled to seize!

Life is too short for failing to teach the lost. Our main purpose as Christians is to spread the Gospel (Mark 16:15-16). The world needs the good news more now than ever before. If we are willing to teach when opportunities arise, Christ has the ability to change individuals, families, churches, communities, countries, and the entire world!

Finally, life is too short especially for neglecting my own soul and the souls of my family. The focus in most families is academics, sports, and entertainment, when none of them can bring spiritual salvation. Christ should be top priority. Parents should be setting an example of ones who love Scripture and love spending time with it. Parents should teach the children the way of righteousness and live it before them. Their precious little souls are dependent on Mom and Dad to feed the spiritually!