

Good News

From Getwell

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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.

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

Happy Birthday America. Two hundred forty-six years old our country declared it independence from England. We were blessed with wise founding fathers who based this country on Christian precepts found in God's Word and reliance on God. In addition to being blessed by a group of wise founding fathers we have been blessed with a rich fertile beautiful land and freedoms and prosperity from our God. I hope you took a moment on our nation's birthday and thanked God for all the blessings He has showered on America.

We rejoice in the recent baptism of Jadarius Armstrong. Be sure to encourage this young man as he begins his walk with Jesus.

We are also very excited about our new study just begun on Sunday mornings taught by Michael Wyatt. The study began with suggestions on studying the Bible and the purpose of the Bible. The title of this study is "An Outline of the Bible". This study promises to be a very helpful study in our growth as Christians.

Sunday, July 3, Michael recorded his first radio program at Getwell. This lesson on our "Truth In Love" radio program aired on July 10 at 8:00 am. The "Truth In Love" radio program has been on the air for approximately 70 years. In connection with this program, we wish to thank Charles Shappley for all the work he does behind the scenes in recording the programs and making sure they are relayed to the radio station. Take a moment before services and tune in to the program. It will be time well spent. Our program is followed by the radio program from the Olive Branch congregation conducted by Mike Hixson.

Recently, we had relatively good numbers at worship services. Let us continue to tell others about the wonderful gospel of Jesus Christ.

Til next week!

Ron Wallace

ONE ABORTION SERMON - THE TALE OF TWO REACTIONS

By Michael Wyatt

Given the situation that is going on in our country right now with the abortion issue, these two tales I have been saving up "for such a time as this."

The year was either 1985-86, I had just left a very small West Texas congregation, and was asked to be the preacher for a congregation that was just over 750 members. Yes, I was as surprised as you probably are. I was 30, 31 years old, young family, 2 small children. Still full of vim and vigor as a young preacher, all I wanted to do was preach the word.

For a particular quarter I was teaching the high school class at church. Arriving a little early to teach I heard one of the deacon's daughters talking about a friend of hers who had left high school one morning, had an abortion, and was back at school that afternoon. I could not believe my ears. I had no idea that such a thing could happen much less right there in the town where I lived. Not only the fact of that happening, but also, I will never forget the casualness with which it was being discussed. So "as a matter of fact", the girl could have left school to have an ingrown toenail removed and back to class. I knew right then that I needed to preach a lesson on abortion, and was disappointed with myself for not having done so already. I admit I just did not know how close to home the issue was, and still is.

I preached the next Sunday morning on "The Sin of Abortion." It was not received well. Though I believe that I handled the topic carefully, as much as the topic of murder can be handled in a gentle way, I don't remember very many, if any, positive remarks from an audience of over 700 people. I don't think that the topic had ever been preached before at that place, and there were lots of "Oh's" and "Ah's," and "gasps."

Here is the first tale. I was visited that week by a professor from the local college, a deacon at the church, who had never spoken a word to me before. He let me know of his impressive credentials for the first 30 minutes, his Master's in Animal Husbandry, and he included that he was a 32nd degree Mason. I don't know what that had to do with anything, but it gave me material for another sermon. He proceeded to let me know that the next time I would venture to expound on a topic like abortion that maybe I would defer to someone like himself, with the credentials to handle the subject in a more scholarly way. I asked why the Bible and a few scientific facts were not scholarly. I will never forget his frustration with this lowly preacher with no credentials, and his overall answer to my Bible and scientific facts. Here is what he said: "When the fetus is going through its different stages, you cannot tell by looking at it with the naked eye or through a microscope, what the fetus is. It could be a bird, tortoise or fish." Yes, he had been taught the old "ontogeny recapitulates phylogeny" theory that has been debunked for the last few years. A 19th century German biologist Ernst Haeckel described the idea that the human embryo replays the steps of evolution as it develops, and even produced his own drawings with pictures that he thought proved his point. His drawings included tadpoles to fish to salamander to tortoise to chick to hog to calf to rabbit to human. My visiting professor let me know that abortion is ethical because the fetus growing in a woman's body for several months is not even a human being.

Here is how our visit ended, the professor, a deacon where I preached, storming out of my office with nothing but hateful speech about that kid preacher, just because I asked him one question: "You have your Master's degree in Animal Husbandry, and when a man and woman come together and produce a child you say you don't know if it's human, that it could be a chicken, cow or rabbit?" He said, "Goodbye!" SECOND TALE NEXT WEEK!

RON'S REMINDERS



Eternal Life – A Promise

Scriptures should not be arrayed against each other. One should have insight enough into the Scriptures to know there are no contradictions. If the Lord did not give us a perfect revelation, then we have no guide in religion.

Oftentimes preachers make unbelievers. For instance, one preacher will proclaim that the Book teaches we have eternal life right now and cannot lose it. Another will stoutly deny it and say we have eternal life in the world to come. Each reads from the Bible, and the poor listener cannot tell which is right; hence, he sometimes goes into unbelief. Who can blame him?

A few of the passages that refer to having eternal life now include the following: "He who believes in Me has everlasting life" (John 6:47); "He who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life" (5:24); "He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die" (11:25-26).

There are other Scriptures that seem to teach the opposite. Mark 10:30 states that those who have made sacrifices for His sake will receive "a hundredfold now in this time . . . and in the age to come, eternal life." Paul wrote of the "hope of eternal life" (Titus 1:2). One cannot hope for that which he actually has (Romans 8:24).

What is the explanation? Should we pit these statements against each other? It is more reasonable to pursue a reasonable solution. This may be done, for John himself, who wrote the former passages, makes both sets of statements easily understood with this Scripture: "This is the promise that He has promised us—eternal life" (1 John 2:25). The Holy Spirit guided his writing and made his meaning clear.

There are two ways of having anything—in promise and in actuality. We first have our spouses by promise, then by actuality. We now have eternal life by promise. Paul had it "in hope," and when we get to the city of God we will have it actually. All discrepancies disappear.

When Jesus said, "He who believes in Me has everlasting life," it is, of course, the truth. We have it in promises. When Jesus said, "In the age to come, eternal life," He spoke of its actual possession.

One additional thought: If one has eternal life in promise, then there is a possibility of being cut off from that promise by unrighteous living. Let us then take heed lest we fall (1 Corinthians 10:12).

"Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God,
and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent." JOHN 17:3