

Remember in Prayer:

The Bereaved:

Billie Keller's great-great nephew, Trenton Lockamon, passed away last week at less than one month of age. He was born 2 1/2 months premature. He is the great grandson of Betty & Donald Lockamon, Billie's sister & brother-in-law.

The Sick:

Jean Tanksley is at home recovering from surgery she had on her rotator cuff last Friday.

Lucille Hall, Ethel Wohlrabe's mother, continues to undergo rehabilitation after having surgery on her arm.

John Pryor, Clara's Burkett's son, had a stroke and is undergoing rehabilitation. He is currently out of work and is having financial difficulty. **If you are interested in contributing to a fund to assist him, please see Ralph.**

Continue to remember those recovering from sickness, surgery and those dealing with cancer or chronic illness, including **Brownie Spicer, Karen Shelton, Xenna Gooch, Burton Brown (Bettye's brother), Cecelia O'Brien, Celia Vozka, (Dorothy's sister) and James Tanksley.**

Worry doesn't eliminate tomorrow from its griefs but it does empty today of its joys.

News & Notes:

--**Group 2** will meet today in the Library after the morning service.

--Remember the **bridal shower** for Amy next Sunday, March 8, from 2:00 - 4:00 at the Driver's home. The wedding is March 21 at 5:00 pm at the Hermitage Golf Course




--**Johnny returned from Israel** last Wednesday, and we welcome him home. For those who do not use e-mail, there are copies of his reports from Israel on the bulletin board in the lobby. Thanks to Bo, Mark, Doug & Stan for filling in for Johnny while he was away.

--**Calendars & Assignment Sheets** for March are available in the lobby.

"And just as you want men to do to you, you also do to them likewise." Luke 6:31

ELDERS: Doug Driver
Johnny Felker
DEACONS: Ralph Brown
Mark Claypool


Service Times
SUNDAY
Bible Study—9:00 am
Worship—9:55 am & 6:00 pm
WEDNESDAY
Bible Study 7:00 pm

Perry Heights Weekly Bulletin

Perry Heights church of Christ
423 Donelson Pike
Nashville, TN 37214
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"...let us consider how we may encourage one another"
Heb. 10:24

March 1, 2009

When God is With Us

In our prayers, I am constantly hearing the expression, 'Be with this one,' and 'Be with that one.' What is meant by the expression? That question was addressed to this writer thirty years ago. He would like to think that the answer given in this article will be more enlightening than the feeble answer given then.

A consideration of the occasions when God said, *"I will be with you,"* should help in providing an answer:

To Moses: When Moses asked, *"Who am I that I should go up to Pharaoh?"* God replied, *"I will certainly be with you"* (Exodus 3:12).

To Joshua: *"As I was with Moses, so I will be with you"* (Joshua 1:5). God further assured Joshua that the crossing of the Jordan on dry ground would show the people that *"as I was with Moses, so I will be with you"* (Joshua 3:7).

To Gideon: *"The Lord is with you, you mighty man of valor"* (Judges 6:12).

To David: Saul said to David as he was leaving to face Goliath: *"Go, and the Lord be with you"* (1 Samuel 17:37). Two giants faced one another that day: one, a physical giant; the other, a spiritual giant. The difference in the battle was in the fact that God was with the spiritual giant and was not with the physical giant.

To Jeremiah: *"Do not be afraid of their faces, for I am with you to deliver you"* (Jeremiah 1:8).

Obviously, the expression, *"I will be with you,"* is assurance of success in whatever God wants to accomplish through that person whom He is with.

Present Day Application

How can a man and his wife leave family and friends to go into some foreign field to preach the gospel? How can they go where custom and language are different and where living standards are far below what they have been accustomed to all their lives? The answer: *"And lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age"* (Matthew 28:19, 20).

--continued on page 3

Open Bible, Open Minds

The art of effective Bible study can be broadly divided into two categories: Attitude and mechanics. Generally speaking, faulty Bible knowledge is more a product of wayward attitudes than poor mechanics. If our attitude toward God's word is impure, then good mechanics are useless.



Last week we spoke of open-mindedness. This involves a willingness to consider new elements of truth and add them to one's understanding so as to enjoy constant growth and development of knowledge. Close-mindedness is deceptive; I have never heard a brother admit to it. The fact is that we sometimes confuse our attachment to friends, family, preachers, the "brotherhood" or the past with what we really understand the Bible to say. This is a tendency all must guard against.

A second attitude basic to Bible study is genuine interest in the subject, a hunger and thirst for knowledge that seeks out time for study and information to enlighten. If every moment spent in study is a drudgery, I dare say that we will learn little and enjoy it even less. Can we truly "amen" the psalmist? *"Oh, how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day"* (Ps 119:97).

Thirdly, we must have a humble and submissive attitude toward God's will. When we want something to be a certain way, it is hard to accept an opposing truth. Peter faced this obstacle when Jesus spoke of His coming death. Peter did not want to think about that prospect and rebuked the Lord. Jesus' response: *"You are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men"* (Mt 16:23). Likewise the Jews were more concerned about maintaining their status in the Roman Empire than in acknowledging the truth of Jesus' identity (Jn 11:48).

The Scriptures are the Creator's words (1 Cor 2:10-16). All our feelings, opinions, desires and wisdom must yield to the will of heaven.

One of the lesser considerations of effective Bible study is one that troubles many people: raw intellect. Many aspects of God's word are readily discernable by people of varying intellectual capability. Age, upbringing, lack of formal education or perceived weak memory can all be overcome by genuine interest and diligent effort in studying the Bible. If we are not careful these perceived shortcomings can hinder the hard work necessary to learning.

--Jim Jonas

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How can a Christian face death in peace with confidence as he passes from this life into the realms that lie beyond? The answer: *"yea though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for Thou art with me"* (Psalm 23:4).

"Be with me, Lord, no other gift or blessing,
Thou couldst bestow could with this one compare;
A constant sense of Thy a abiding presence,
Wher-e'er I am to feel that Thou art near."

--T.O. Chisolm

When God is Not with Us

If success is assured when God is with us, failure results when God is not with us. After the Israelites in their lack of faith refused to enter the promised land (Numbers 14:1-4), some had a change of heart and decided to go up after all. Moses warned them that they would not succeed, but would fall by the sword: *"Because you have turned away from the Lord, the Lord will not be with you"* (Numbers 14:43). Their efforts indeed failed. One may appear to succeed for a while when the Lord is not with him, but eventually he will fail.

Conditions to be Met

What must be true of one if God is to be with him? The answer is found in God's statement to Jeroboam after promising him ten of the twelve tribes: *"Then it shall be, if you heed all that I command you, walk in My ways, and do what is right in My sight, to keep My statutes and My commandments, as My servant David did, then I will be with you and build for you an enduring house"* (1 Kings 11:38). Unfortunately, Jeroboam chose to follow his own ways rather than God's, and consequently his name ranks among the infamous.

When my loved ones are sick, or I am facing surgery, or am leaving for gospel meetings, or am in distress in any way, I want the prayers of that person whom God is with. I do not care about his race, gender, or station in life. If God is with him, he is the one whose prayers will avail. That person is the richest of all persons. Let each ask himself, "Am I that person?"

"Go, and the Lord be with you."

--Bill Hall