

Remember in Prayer:

The Sick:

Carolyn Lowder is at home recovering from surgery on her neck and wrist.

Faye Rogers was taken to the emergency room last Sunday. Further testing has revealed no problems.

Ernestine Reed has been diagnosed with pneumonia, and she is being treated at home.

Neal Smith, a former member, has been diagnosed with COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease).

Ronald Miller, Larry's father, has been diagnosed with a recurrence of cancer.

Continue to remember the following who have been mentioned in previous bulletins as those recovering from sickness, surgery and those dealing with cancer or chronic illness:

Brownie Spicer

Karen Shelton

Xenna Gooch

Burton Brown (Bettye's brother)

Cecelia O'Brien

Billy Creek (Dorothy Shaver's brother)

Jeremy Condor (Xenna's grandson)

Lucille Hall (Ethel's mother)

Jean & James Tanksley

John Pryor (Clara Burkett's son)

Johnny Adams (Anita Carman's uncle)

Donald Lockamon (Billie Keller's

Brother-in-law)

News & Notes:

--**Group 3** will meet today in the Library after the morning service.

--Next week will be the start of a **new quarter** of classes, and three new topics for the adult Sunday classes are being offered. Sign up sheets are in the lobby, so make sure you sign up for a class today so teachers can have adequate materials prepared.

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

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"The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control."

Galatians 5:22-23

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
(615) 883-3118

"...let us consider how we may encourage one another"
Heb. 10:24

March 29, 2009

The Worship of Faith

In his dialogue with the Samaritan woman Jesus described true worship as worship that is "in spirit and truth." *"You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews. But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is a Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."* (John 4:22-24)

This is comparable to the statement of Joshua to the Israelites soon after conquering Canaan. *"Now therefore, fear the Lord, serve Him in sincerity and in truth, and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the River and in Egypt. Serve the Lord!"* (Josh. 24:14)

Of course, acceptable worship under the Law of Moses differed from acceptable worship during the pre-mosaic period. From the time of Abel to the time of Moses, acceptable worship involved little more than prayer and sacrifice. Under the Law, however, three trips per year to Jerusalem were required of every male member of the nation of Israel. *"Three times a year all your males shall appear before the Lord your God in the place which He chooses: at the Feast of Unleavened Bread, at the Feast of Weeks, and at the Feast of Tabernacles; and they shall not appear before the Lord empty-handed."* (Deut. 16:16)

Under the New Testament, there is not a requirement for the Lord's people to travel, even once in a lifetime, to Jerusalem. *Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father."* (John 4:21)

While Jesus was yet with the apostles, He told them, *"However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on*

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Preacher's Pen points

Getting Rooted by Worshipping Meaningfully, #2



*Our worship assemblies provide a great opportunity to get rooted in the word
...if we make the most of the opportunity!*

The importance of _____

Use your spiritual eyes to _____ spiritual realities.

And when the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the _____, to Him who lives _____ and ever, the twenty-four elders will fall down before Him who sits on the throne, and will worship Him who lives forever and ever, and will cast their crowns before the throne, saying, "Worthy art Thou, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for Thou didst _____ all things, and because of Thy will they existed, and were created." (Rev. 4:9-11)

The importance of _____

Use your spiritual eyes to _____ the meaning of the things that you see.

What is the outcome then? I shall pray with the spirit and I shall pray with the _____ also; I shall sing with the spirit and I shall sing with the _____ also. (1 Cor. 14:15)

Otherwise if you bless in the spirit only, how will the one who fills the place of the un-gifted say the " _____ " at your giving of thanks, since he does not know what you are saying? (1 Cor. 14:16)

The importance of _____

Use your spiritual heart to _____ what you understand.

"I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved _____, and delivered Himself up for _____." (Gal. 2:20)

We get out of worship what we put into it. Worship can still be one of the most powerful experiences of our lives...if we see with spiritual eyes, hear with spiritual ears, and relate with spiritual hearts.

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His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come." (John 16:13)

The apostles, therefore, certainly knew how to instruct the first Christians in proper worship. Therefore, if we want our worship to be "in spirit and truth," we need to learn what the Holy Spirit revealed to the apostles on that subject. And the only way to do is to notice what they taught and did in worship.

In Acts chapter 2 we see the beginning of true worship under the New Testament. By beginning here, and examining what they authorized in the area of worship, we can learn how to worship God in spirit and truth.

Further, if we restrict our worship to that which the apostles certified, then our worship is guaranteed to be pleasing to God and we are guaranteed to be in fellowship with Him (assuming our lives are morally upright, as well). However, if we worship in ways not authorized by the apostles, we will not be pleasing to God or in fellowship with Him no matter how morally upright our lives, because our worship will not be "of faith."

What, then, did the worship of the earliest Christians, under the guidance of the apostles, include? After the conditions of salvation were publicly stated for the first time (Acts 2:38), Peter told his audience, "Be saved from this perverse generation. Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them. And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers." (Acts 2:40-42)

Luke reveals four items of worship: doctrine (teaching), fellowship (sharing), break-ing of bread (the Lord's Supper) and prayers. A fifth item (singing) was later added (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16). This is the extent of the collective worship of Christians in the first century. Why would Christians of the twenty-first century even want to worship in ways not authorized by the apostles?

--Bob Myhan