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A CLASSIC CASE OF COVER-UP

Saul, as the first king of Israel, certainly had the look of a leader. He was head and shoulders above others, and initially had the kind of faith that pleased God. 1 Samuel 15 records God's command that Saul "utterly destroy" the Amalekites, Israel's archenemy. He was told to kill the men, women, children, infants, ox, sheep, camels and donkeys (v.3). Could God have been any more specific?

However, Saul did not fully complete the command. The king of the Amalekites was kept alive, as were some of the choice animals. When Samuel came to Saul to ask why he had not kept God's command, Saul attempted "a classic case of cover-up." Samuel asked why he heard animals in the background and Saul responded, "They have brought them from the Amalekites, for the people spared the best of the sheep and of the oxen to sacrifice to the Lord your God, and the rest we have devoted to destruction" (v.15). Notice Saul's three-fold approach to this attempted cover-up:

- 1) **Saul Tried to Pass the Buck.** He said that "they" (the people) brought back the animals. It sounds like the original couple, when caught in sin in the garden." Then the man said, 'The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate.' And the Lord said to the woman, 'What is this you have done?' The woman said, 'The serpent deceived me, and I ate'" (Gen. 3:12-13). In blaming the people, Saul forgot that he was the king. The army did what Saul told them to do. We should not shirk our leadership role by trying to blame others "in the pews" for our neglect in keeping God's commands.
- 2) **Saul Tried to Sound Religious.** He said that they were going to use the animals they brought back "in sacrifice to God." But, God said, "Behold to obey is better than sacrifice, and to listen than the fat of rams" (v.22). We have not authority to change God's commands, even if we think it makes us more "religious." We cannot, for example, change the authorized elements of worship to please ourselves, when God has clearly stated what to do to please Him.
- 3) **Saul Tried to Argue That He Kept the Command.** He said, "The rest we have devoted to sacrifice." In other words, "See, Samuel, we are doing what God really wants." Sometimes we try to convince ourselves that partial obedience is satisfactory. We may argue that we do some of the Lord's will, and that at least we do no commit this or that sin, listing sins we consider to be "major" in God's sight. For example, we may say, "Alright, I may not attend many of the worship services, but at least I don't drink, cheat on my wife, or steal from others." Because of disobedience Saul was told that the kingdom would be torn away from him. He learned too late that God expects complete, not partial, obedience. May we learn from Saul's mistakes.

John

Justin Time

High School Youth Devotional

When: Sunday, March 7th

Where: Matt and Gina Ervin's house

Time: After the evening worship service

What to Bring: Boys bring a drink and dessert and girls bring finger foods.

Makin' Music at Freed-Hardeman University

When: Saturday, April 10th

Time: 2:00 pm

Cost: \$17 plus money for meal (money due by March 28)

Ages: 6 Grade and up

Sign-up on the youth board by March 28th!

Sandy Hook Kids Rally

I received an email last week informing me that the Kid Rally at Sandy Hook has been postponed. They are in the process of moving into a new building. They do plan on rescheduling this event but a date has not been decided on.

Spring Advance 2010

Applications are due this coming *Wednesday night, March 10th*. Any turned in after this date will be charged with a \$10 late fee.

If you are interested in helping out with Spring Advance, please sign-up on the youth board by *Wednesday night, March 10th* as well.

Middle School Youth Devotional

When: Sunday, March 14th

Where: Mike and Melanie Wiles house

Time: After the evening worship service

What to Bring: Boys bring finger foods and girls bring a drink and dessert.

Important Dates To Remember

Spring Advance - March 19-21

Senior Night - May 16

Summer Camp - June 6-12

VBS at Church Street - June 21-24

Bible Day Camp - July 19-22

Summer Mission Trip - TBD



WHEN I WAS ABSENT FROM WORSHIP

- It made some people question the reality of my religious faith - James 2:17.
- It set an example of neglecting the assembly and failing to obey an inspired command - Hebrews 10:25.
- I failed to observe the example set by the early church in partaking of the Lord's Supper on Lord's Day - Acts 20:7.
- It made it impossible for the elders of the church to see that the entire flock was fed or taught the Word of God - Acts 20:28.
- It indicated that I was not concerned about assembling with my brethren and the Lord's promise to be in our midst - Matt. 18:20.
- Some must have concluded that I found more pleasure in fellowship with the world than with the Lord and my brethren - 2 Corinthians 6:14.
- I set the wrong example before my children and before others who were influenced by my absence.
- If I chose to be absent on a pleasure trip and made no plans to worship God, it would prove that I love the Lord too little and love the world too much - 2 Timothy 4:10.
- It set a pattern of irregular church attendance, violating the steadfastness in teaching, fellowship, and worship that was practiced by the apostolic church - Acts 2:42-47.
- On the day that I willfully chose to be absent, I failed to walk in the light and did not enjoy the fellowship of my brethren - John 1:7.

News & Notes

In Our Thoughts & Prayers

In The Hospital:

Garry Warf, brother of **Sissie Nichols** is in Vanderbilt .

Barbara Simmons had eye surgery on Monday.

Ivie Lou Smith is in Marshall Medical.

Joy Ringe is in Maury Reg.

Tammy Rucker had surgery on Wednesday.

Our Members Prayer List:

Joe Allen, Ailene Brown, Beverly Ann Cathey, Bettie Ann Coxen, Harold Daniels, Billy Davis, Jack Miller, Ivie Lou Smith, Randy Wells, Pam Williams.

Friends & Family of Members:

Gene Bunch, grandfather of Justin Morton, **Ed Campbell**, **Anna Cook**, sister of Linda Fulghum, **Karen England**, cousin of Cindy Cantrell, **David & Sharron Fowler**, brother of Kay Endsley, **Martha Hagood**, aunt of Cindy Cantrell, **L. R. & Addie Harris**, parents of Pat Jent, **Mary Jackson**, **Nancy Jett**, mother of Dana Hall, **Mike Johnson**, **Alma Larsen**, **Bob Lickteig**, brother in law of David Griffith, **Margaret Naron**, mother of Linda Miller, **Charlie Orr**, **Garry Warf**, brother of Sissie Nichols, **Robert Wade**, father of Lori Wade.

MILITARY: **Amanda Whitaker** in Virginia Beach, VA. **Major Jared Massey**, son of Bill Massey & Gail Neenan, **Travis & Jared McKnight**, **Todd Lowrance**, **Robert B. Allen**, **Adam Thomas**, cousin of Yvonne Griffith, in Afghanistan.

MERIHILL: Joetta Bigham, Angelena Boyd, Hugh Chaffin, Agnes Cheek, Vivian Clift, Bessie Davis, Russell Finley, Sara Lowe, Nona McBride, Sara Jane Pickett, Lois Redd, Geraldine Richardson, Anne Thompson, Wilma Turner, Mary Neil Vaughn, Betty Wilkes

OAKWOOD: Bertha Garrett, Mary Hatfield, Mary Hughes, Ruth King

VILLAGE MANOR: Wanda Brown, Russell Crick, Nancy Dunn, David & Elizabeth Hardison, Mable Payne, Fount Webb

OTHER SHUT INS:

Martha Bagley, Mary Biega, Theola Blue, Martha Boote, J. C. Burgett, Marie Crumley, Mary Davis, Elizabeth Escue, Sadie Graves, Ruby Gunnels, Carolyn Hamilton, Dan Huffman, Lorene Knowis, Chester Lemay, Nina McKay, Joy Ringe, Gene & Lucy Tate, W.P. Thomas, Dot Thompson, & Johnny Thompson.

For The Record

| | |
|-------------|-----|
| AM | 469 |
| PM | 219 |
| Bible Class | 404 |
| Summit | 20 |
| Wed. Night | 241 |

Contribution \$12,434.75



3/7 Carol Hammons
3/8 Kristen Bailey
Linda Cope
Keith Stacey
Andrea Woodard - 30

3/9 Billy Cook - 65
Marie Crumley - 91
Grace Pigg - 87
Bessie Davis - 99

3/10 Chris Collins - 27

3/11 Edna Moore
Elaine Tankersley

3/12 Laura Jent
Shelley Staggs
Ronda Humphrey

3/13 Joe Jett



3/9 Sheldon & Pam Davis
26 years
3/13 David & Elizabeth
Hardison - 67 years

★ Thank You! ★
★ THANK YOU! ★

We have received thank you notes from: **Magdalene Johnston, & Lorene Knowis.**
Please stop and read.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mar. 6: 3rd Annual Leadership Workshop at Riggs Church of Christ, beginning at 8:00 am. Information on bulletin board.

Mar. 9: Disaster Relief Trip. Bus will leave at 7:30.

Mar. 14: Anyone that would like to help with our Ladies Day plans, please meet at 5:15 in Room 13.



MARCH 14 — SPRING FORWARD 1 HOUR.



Our love and sympathy is extended to **Joyce Williams** on the death of her sister, **Jean Fitzgerald**. Also to **Dwight Hickerson** on the death of his wife, **Christy Hickerson**. This is the daughter-in-law of **Shelva Hickerson**.

WELCOME

We welcome **Keith & Nancy Childers** to Church Street. Their address and information is in our new Pocket Directory.

Perfect Attendance!

1st Grade — Caroline Bailey
3rd & 4th Grade — Carson Bailey
Aaron Collins
Dawson Hammons
Madison Head
Alli Hobbs
Will Smith
Allison Werner

SCHEDULED TIMES OF WORSHIP AT CHURCH STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST

March 7, 2010

Sunday 8:30 WORSHIP SERVICE

Open Service - Jim Bingham
Read - Chris Haislip - Lk. 15:1-7
Open Prayer – Mike Collins
Closing Prayer - Tom Sawyer

Sunday 10:45 WORSHIP SERVICE

Open Service - Wayne Cozart
Read - Joel Hargrove - Lk. 15:1-7
Open Prayer - Charlie Middleton
Closing Prayer – Mike Wiles

Sunday 6:00 WORSHIP SERVICE

Open Service - Glenn Hardison
Read - Chad Arnold - Joshua 2:1-7
Open Prayer - Joel Hargrove
Closing Prayer - David Hargrove

AM — “Love Restores the Erring ”

PM — “The Transforming Power of the Gospel”

Sunday 9:45 BIBLE CLASS

Song - Greg Coblentz
Prayer - Bill Fulghum

Wednesday 7:00 - Mar. 10, 2010

Song Leader - Billy Mac Sanders
Prayer - Ralph Wilson
Ann./Inv. – Kenneth Bailey
Cl. Prayer - Robert Hopkins

ON THE AIR

WJJM — Sun. 7:15 a.m.
10:45 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.
WJJM — Mon-Sat. 6:40 a.m.
WAXO 1220 AM — Sun. 9:40
WAXO TV- Sun.9:40 am Sun.4 pm/Wed. 9 pm
Web streams at wjfm.com and waxo.com

Preaching the Gospel

Channel 30 & 3—Sundays 7:30 AM

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WORK OUR WINGS OFF

Beekeepers know that a bee's age is determined by the condition of its wings. Because bees constantly work, their wings get a lot of wear and tear. Young bees have wide, well-formed wings, whereas older bees have narrow, torn, and tattered wings.

The bee does not die of old age. It dies when its wings are completely worn out and it can no longer work or fly. Near the point of death, the bee points itself away from the beehive and begins to fly, never to return again. The bee literally wears itself out working!

There is a spiritual lesson here for us. As Christians, we must be diligent servants, doing the work of the Lord. When Jesus evaluated the spiritual condition of the seven churches of Asia (Rev. 2-3), their degree of acceptance was directly proportional to the kind and amount of work they were doing.

The inspired writer James, *“But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed”* (James 1:25).

Let us be people who are willing to **“work our wings off”** in the Lord's service.

Bulletin Digest/February 2010

Almighty God, thank Thee for the job of this day. May we find gladness in all its toil and difficulty, its pleasure and success, and even in its failure and sorrow. We would look always away from ourselves, and behold the glory and the need of the world that we may have the will and the strength to bring the gift of gladness to others; that with them we stand to bear the burden and heat of the day and offer Thee the praise of work well done. Amen

Bulletin Digest/January 2010