

THE GREENWOOD BULLETIN

Church of Christ
371 W. Main Street
Greenwood, IN 46142
(317)888-8288

www.churchofchristatgreenwood.org

VOLUME 7 NO. 43

January 2, 2011

A MESSAGE FROM THE ELDERS

It has been said many times that our future lies in front of us so we should move forward without looking back. Luke 9:62 Jesus says "***No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.***" (NKJV) Is Christ teaching that we are to never look in the past? No. Christ's lesson is that once we decide to obey Him and then put that decision into action by way of baptism, we are not to look back at our old selves and risk turning back to our old ways of living in the world. We look forward at the task at hand which is to be "Christ Like" no matter what adversities, temptations, or even failures we experience, we are to forge ahead in living as Christ. This may mean asking him for strength

to overcome and it may mean asking for forgiveness when we fall, looking ahead is having a dependence on Him whatever the circumstance as long as we know God will be our judge and we live our lives righteously.

Contrary to the thought of forward looking, at times, looking back is essential. Consider how many times Moses is referred to in the New Testament. There were many lessons taught by Christ by looking back at the actions of Moses. Consider the lessons from the Sermon on the Mount, Christ is telling those listening to be better than those in the past. In Matthew 5:27,38,43 these verses begin with the statement "**You have heard**" vs 31 "**it has been said**" in verses 21 and 33 Christ say "**You have heard that it was said to the people long ago**" He is telling them to look back and consider what was

2

wrong and make your selves better than those.

Looking back to make you better is done more often than one may think. Take for example commanders of war; many strategies which are used are taken from the books of history. Our government is an example of a refined government of old, the same type of government Rome had in the days of Christ while He walked upon this earth. Many aspects of our lives are based on refined ways of our past, this we call "learning by our mistakes". As we enter into 2011, we are asking you, the congregation, to do the same. Look back and make the determination of what, spiritually speaking, can I do better this year to improve my relationship with God.

2 Peter 3:18 "**But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be glory both now and forever! Amen.**" NIV. Have you seen within yourself spiritual growth in 2010? Have you seen within yourself spiritual growth in the last 5 years, 10 years, 20 years? If not, consider why

not, then make the necessary changes which will improve your understanding resulting in a more consistent obedience which will allow you to grow in this knowledge and grace of our Lord and Savior.

Set for yourselves goals for 2011. Focus on the things which can enhance your spiritual lives and your dedication to God and to our Savior. Goals which will make you better servants of God and of Jesus Christ. Set out a plan which will help you achieve your goals and then (this is where most people fail) **follow your plan.**

We hope and pray that each of you have a successful new year in your growth in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Your elders

Sparing Life

Ever wonder why your life is not as bountiful as you would like, but is always sparingly just getting by? It could be due to you sowing sparingly. It is a principle of God, that "**He who sows sparingly will reap sparingly**"; while on the

other hand, he who gives bountifully, will receive bountifully in return (2 Corinthians 9:6; Malachi 3:8-10; Luke 6:38). Don't shortchange yourself by shortchanging the Lord.
--Via *Exhortations & Stuff*—

"Some folks aren't hard of hearing; they're hard of listening."

"Some people who stand up for their rights fall down on their duties."

"DO You Want To Go To Heaven?"

By Bill Beasley

At the pool of Bethesada Jesus asked a man who had been lame for thirtyeight years, ***"Wouldest thou be made whole?"*** (John 5:6). This may seem like a strange question since the man was near the pool, and like many others, ***"waiting for the moving of the water"*** (John 5:3) that he might,

if someone would help him, be first into the water and be healed (see John 5:2-7). Undoubtedly there were people then, as there are people now, who are content to work at being a beggar. Try offering a manual labor job to one of the able bodied men who hold signs that read "Will work for food."

Recently while walking and praying an idea came into my head. I considered writing a letter (similar to what is below) to a beloved brother in Christ. After more thought, and more prayers, I decided that it would be unfair to single out this one individual when there are others (some in the church of Christ) to whom the same letter would be just as appropriate.

Dear _____:
Do you want to go to heaven when your life on earth is done? (Please check one):

_____ Yes
_____ No

If you checked "No," continue to live as you are, and your *want* will, I believe, be accomplished. If you checked "Yes," you will need to make changes in your life. These changes would include (but assuredly not be

limited to) you forsaking your current habit (custom) of ***"forsaking our own assembling together"*** (Hebrews 10:25). We know that ***"it is appointed unto men once to die, and after this cometh judgment"*** (Hebrews 9:27). John was granted a vision of the coming judgment:

"And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne; and books were opened: and another book was opened, which is (the book) of life: and the dead were judged out of the things which were written in the books, according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead that were in it; and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works" (Revelation 20:12-13).

Our Year 2011

The elders have announced that 2011 will be a year we spend in sharing the fundamentals of the gospel of Christ.

As a congregation we should embrace this opportunity. We are good at this – we have

spread the gospel in foreign countries and now we will focus on sharing the gospel here in our own community.

Together we can show that God is alive in our community!