

THE GREENWOOD BULLETIN

Church of Christ
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Like A Vapor!

By Steve Niemeier

Well, here we are at the end of another year and the start of a new year. We will never have the year 2012 again and as we close out this year we will bid farewell to it forever! Paul states in Ephesians 6:15-16; ***“See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil.”***

Redeeming carries the thought process of “buying back” but we all know that you cannot buy back time even though each one of us would probably like to. So what is Paul referring to if we cannot buy back time? Paul is stating that we should value the time and understand that if we spend our time foolishly then the days will be evil. However, if we spend our time wisely we will have valued or redeemed the time.

Solemn states in the 3rd chapter of Ecclesiastes that there is a time for every purpose under heaven. The first eight

verses of this chapter basically cover the fact that there is a time for everything we will face in our lives from birth to death. As you read through these eight verses you cannot help but think about the events of this past year. There have been births and deaths, planting and harvest, killings and healings, break downs and building ups, weeping and laughing, mourning and dancing, casting stones and gathering stones, refraining from embracing and embracing, gaining and losing, keeping and throwing away, tearing and sewing, keeping silence and speaking, loving and hating, war and peace. How did we redeem the time of the year 2012 that is coming to a close?

Computation of time in the Bible is by, moments (Exodus 33:5); days (Genesis 8:3); weeks (Daniel 10:2); months (1 Chronicles 27:1); and years (Genesis 15:13). We can even find it designated by generations (Genesis 9:12). The statement of Paul in Ephesians

5:16 and even the exhortation by Solomon in Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 then have a meaning beyond what we normally comprehend. We should value our time regardless of what season it is. James 2:20 states; ***“But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead?”*** James 2:26 states; ***“For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.”***

The year 2012 will be closed forever, what works did we do this past year for the Lord? Oh I know many of us have attended services whenever we could. That is good and maybe for some it is all they can do. But really, most of us can do more than just attend. We can talk on the phone, write a card or letter, have folks in our homes, some of us can spend a little time maintaining the building, many of us can visit the elderly, care for sick, encourage the spiritually weak, teach a class, have the gospel meeting preacher over for a meal or take him out to eat, most of us can give a little more each week in the contribution, invite our friends and family to services or to a home Bible study, come better prepared for the public Bible classes, and the

list just keeps going on of the small things we can do to redeem the time the Lord has given us.

This year just as we did in 2011 we have emphasized the need to spread the gospel – not only to a foreign land like Sierra Leone or Moldova – but to our own community that we live in.

As we reflect on this past year and look forward to the New Year let us all revive our enthusiasm and strengthen our endurance to redeem the time of 2013 in a way that would be pleasing to the Lord as we bid goodbye to 2012 forever!

“For He says: ‘In an acceptable time I have heard you, and in the day of salvation I have helped you.’ Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.” (II Corinthians 6:2)

The elders will be bringing an update this evening and it will include information for the year 2013. As we have done for the last five years the congregation will focus on a theme for 2013. That theme is taken from James 2:18. The theme is ***“Showing my faith by my works”***. The elders will have more to say this afternoon about the events planned to support this theme.

We pray this New Year brings us new energy to do the Lord's work and a commitment to improve our personal spiritual growth.

Focus on **Evangelism**

By Dan Barker

Wise Men Still Seek Him!

This statement is based on the events found in Matt. 2:1-11, where we are told of "wise men" from the East came to Jerusalem saying, "Where is He?...we have come to worship Him." (v. 1-2) And also in v. 10-11 it says, when they found Him "they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy...and fell down and worshipped Him."

Of course we are familiar with these verses as they tell us of the birth of Jesus as had been prophesied in Micah 5:2 and other places.

Wise men still seek Him! Do you consider yourself to be wise? This is one of those questions that should give us pause. Am I wise? Sometimes the way we might answer this question could come from a position of pride.

The scriptures are full of warnings about this kind of thinking, such as Proverbs 16:18, "pride goes before destruction", or "there is a way that seems right to a man but its end is

the way of death." (Proverbs 16:26)

From a positive standpoint, we are instructed about wisdom this way,..."happy is the man who finds wisdom, and the man who gains understanding, for her (wisdom) proceeds are better than the profits of silver, and her gain than fine gold." (Proverbs 3:13-14)...When I read that, it causes me to say "wow"! Do I really understand and appreciate the wisdom from above?

But you might be asking, Dan, I thought this column is about evangelism. What does this title have to do with personal evangelism? I am glad you asked!

If we indeed are continuing to seek Jesus, we become aware of passages like these. "The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and he who wins souls is wise." (Proverbs 11:30) From this passage we learn that if we are truly wise men and women that are seeking Him...to please Him...to honor Him...to obey Him, we are to be bearing fruit by leading others to Christ! Now that should get our attention but if it doesn't, here is another one..."Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the firmament, and those who turn many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever." (Daniel 12:3)

Jesus expects us to follow Him by having the same motivation that He

had when He came to this earth...”For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.” (Luke 19:10)

So if we are wise men and women who seek Him, let’s be determined to let our light shine as we share the gospel with our friends and family.

A Personal Note:

By SJN

The next few months will be exciting months here at Greenwood. The month of January will be focused on the family. Sermons will be presented that will help us all be better family members in our physical families.

Starting in February we will be focusing on the differences between those who call themselves “churches of Christ”. This will be a study designed to assist us as we try to reach out to those calling themselves a “church of Christ” to worship and work in the unity of the Spirit according to God’s word.

A Special Saturday In January

January 26, 2013

9:00 AM until 12:00 Noon

Our Next Gospel Meeting

March 3-8, 2013

David Lanius

Remember

Evening Services Next Sunday
Start At 3:00 P.M.

Elders Update This
Evening!!!

All The Time

By Mavhuto Hamed

ALL THE TIME:

Good time, bad time, night time, day time, work time, off time, sad time, happy time, in the mean time God is thinking of you all the time. “Trust in him at all times; ye people, pour out your heart before him: God is a refuge for us. Selah” (Psalm 62:8, KJV).

Remember: “Blessed are they that keep judgment, and he that doeth righteousness at all times” (Psalm 106:3, KJV).