

University Heights Church of Christ

BULLETIN

January 6, 2008

Little things

Time, like money, is easy to run out of. The reason is that expenditures of either commodity are hard to keep track of. If you doubt that time is hard to keep up with put a pot on the stove and stand and watch it until it boils, (it takes forever) then put another on the stove and run into the next room to do some little thing (instant boil).

Can you imagine that you will in 2008 spend over nine forty-hour workweeks of time doing incidental things without ever realizing that much time has slipped away? All it takes is one hour a day for three hundred and sixty-six days. Divide three hundred and sixty-six by forty and you have 9.15 forties. Since there are only two hundred and nineteen forties in 2008 it will be easy to run out of time just by spending an hour here and an hour there and not really get done some of what needs to be done. When people say that they do not have time for something they are usually correct. They really do not have time for **what they currently have in their schedule and something additional.**

The Bible advice is to buy time. **Ephesians 5: 14** "Wherefore he says, Awake you that sleep, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give you light. 15 See then that you **walk circumspectly, not as fools** but 16 **redeeming the time**, because the days are evil. 17 Wherefore **be you not unwise, but understanding** what the will of the Lord [is]." **Colossians 4: 5** "**Walk in wisdom** toward them that are without, **redeeming the time.**"

The way you "buy time" is by taking something out of your schedule in order to make room for something else. You make wisdom work for you in trading off what you cannot keep (things of this world) in order to gain what you cannot lose (eternal life in the eternal city of God). You move carnal things out of your schedule in order to make room for spiritual things. You put spiritual obligations at the middle of your desk top instead of back in the corner someplace. We let the dead bury the dead. **Matthew 8:21** "And another of his disciples said to him, Lord, suffer me first to go and bury my father. 22 But Jesus said to him, **Follow me; and let the dead bury their dead.**" Christians are set apart from sin and other worldly drains on time and energy in order to be suitable for the Master's use. **2Timothy 2: 21** "If a man therefore **purge himself from these**, he shall be **a vessel to honor, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, [and] prepared to every good work.**"

Christians are not set apart by some kind of mysterious, magical, incomprehensible means known only to God. Christians are sanctified (set apart) by a group of adding and subtracting commandments contained in the New Testament. As I read those commandments and obey them they tell me to stop doing certain things and start doing other things.

The things I stop doing give me time in my schedule to do the things that I am commanded to do. To Timothy Paul said, "**Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart.**" (**2Timothy 2:22**) When Timothy dropped the associations that youthful lusts would lead him into he would have plenty of time to associate with godly people in doing godly things like going to church, Bible study and caring for the needy. The purpose of all those commandments in the New Testament that add or subtract is to bring us body, soul, mind and spirit into subjection to Jesus Christ. **2Corinthians 10: 5** "Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, and **bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;**"

To be what God intends for me to be I must observe both the "do's" and the "do not's". If I fail to observe the "do not's" I will not have time to observe the "do's". The code of conduct that God has for His people is as accurately engineered to get the desired results, as are the wings of a honeybee or the wings of a duck hawk. The honeybee's wings are designed for buzzing around flowers, while the duck hawk's wings are designed to fly faster than any other living thing, and the whole bird, wings, eyes and all, is designed to remain uninjured by the great speeds at which it is able to fly. God's word is designed to put me in the proper place with the proper equipment to do the proper thing if I will respect, learn and obey God's word.

It is as King David said of the person that gives time and effort to knowing, understanding and obeying God's word, "**And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth his fruit in his season;** his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he does shall prosper" (**Psalms 1:3**). Like a well-watered tree, the person that knows and obeys God's word will be where he or she needs to be, doing what he or she needs to be doing when he or she needs to be doing it, and with the proper equipment to do it. If I substitute my own set of "do's" and "do not's" for those that God has given me I am not going to get the same results that I would if I used the set of rules that God has given me. I cannot use God's rules if I do know and understand God's rules.

That is the reason that part of a Christian's required equipment is the preparation of the gospel. **Ephesians 6: 15** "And your feet shod with **the preparation of the gospel of peace;**" The word of God is the only weapon we have in the fight that we are in. **Ephesians 6:17** "And take the helmet of salvation, and **the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;**" Taking the time required to learn God's word needs to be at the top of the list of the things we do every day. How else is God going to talk to us this year? The days of direct inspiration are gone. The voice we must hear is the voice of God that speaks through the written words of the inspired apostles of the first century AD, that are preserved in the New Testament. Study of God's word must take part of our time this year.

There are many things that I may hire people to do for me, but one thing that I may not do is hire somebody to fulfil my personal obligations to God for me. I cannot hire somebody to learn or to obey God's word for me. Learning and obeying God's word is my job and I must, by redeeming the time if need be, do that job myself.

Let us pray that the year 2008 will see the word of God grow as never before.

Remember to Pray For

Pray for the safety of all those who are traveling over the holidays

Pat Wallace, in the death of her mother Wilma Hovie at Marble Hill, MO.

Wilma was also Marc Nations' aunt.

Ann Harper and the baby Donnie & Tracy Oliver & their newborn baby.

Helen Stephens

Rick Estes

Brayden Grushon

Morgan Farmer

The mother of Lori Dailey

Chris Handshoe

John Brown

Anilinn Estill

Chris and Jen Dooley

Jeffrey Howerton

Ruel Baker

Addison Pervine

Carl Stripplehoff

Sybil Jamison

Blanch Thompson

Karen Handshoe

Tom Kemp

Freda Blakey

James Stauffer

We all need to pray that the influence of the word of God will continue to grow in every heart, in every family, in every nation and in every church across the face of this globe. There is no other influence that will do this world as much good, as the influence of the word of God.

We can have only one of two things working in our life at a given time, God's truth or our sin. Matthew 6:24 "No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon."

Christians love and do good to their enemies. Luke 6: 27 "But I say to you which hear, Love your enemies, do good to them which hate you, 28 Bless them that curse you, and pray for them which despitefully use you."

Christians love Jesus Christ. 1Peter 1: 8 "Whom having not seen, you love; in whom, though now you see [him] not, yet believing, you rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory:"

How can any today know enough about Jesus Christ to actually love Jesus Christ?

By reading the New Testament. John 17: 20 "Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word:"

We may only know Jesus through the inspired writings of the New Testament. Thank God that through the inspired writings we may know Jesus and believe.

Thoughts

A few days ago a notice in the newspaper said, "Syphilis is back. The sexually transmitted disease long associated with 19th century bohemian life is making an alarming comeback in Europe...Most cases of syphilis are men, and experts point to more risky sex among gay men as the chief cause for the resurgence." Syphilis does not arise from some unknown cause. Fornication is what spreads syphilis and all other sexually transmitted diseases. Fornication is a choice and fornication is sin. The lifestyle of every sinner is risky. Sin against God always results in guilt before God but usually also has other highly unpleasant consequences, such as disease, disgrace, disappointment, waste and in many cases death. Sins are sins because they are not the right things to do. God intends to be respected and those who refuse to respect God pay dearly. A person refuses to respect God and His word to their own destruction. We need to live and teach the gospel of Jesus Christ because all need the gospel. Sin against God is self-destruction. All need to know in order to be motivated to avoid sin. People who sleep with rattlesnakes should not be surprised if they die of snakebite, but we need to pray for God's mercy in helping all to know, understand and do His will through His word.

When the people in Athens made fun of Paul for preaching the resurrection of the dead, he preached it to them again and when they stopped listening Paul went right straight to Corinth and preached the very same thing again, and again. (Acts 17, 18; 1Corinthians 2) What does that indicate that we should do when we preach the truth and people scoff at the truth?

King Herod (Acts 12) knew exactly how to stop the growth of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Herod just decided to get rid of the apostles. Herod killed James the brother of John and put Peter in detention, chained between two guards in a cell with guards at the doors. When Peter disappeared Herod had the guards killed and left town. A short time later Herod died a gruesome death, eaten of worms, "But the word of God grew and multiplied." Those who seek to solve their problems by destroying the word of God contained in the Holy Bible pick a fight that they cannot win, no matter who they are.

When the word of God grows things change. Acts 19:18 "And many that believed came, and confessed, and showed their deeds. 19 Many of them also which used curious arts brought their books together, and burned them before all [men]: and they counted the price of them, and found [it] fifty thousand [pieces] of silver. 20 So mightily grew the word of God and prevailed."

The word grows when I read it and obey it.

Notes

Remember the singing at 7:30PM this coming Friday evening.

THERE WILL BE A BUSINESS MEETING FOR THE MEN AT 3:00PM ON JANUARY 13, 2008
THERE WILL BE A MEETING FOR THE ENTIRE CONGREGATION AT 4:00PM JANUARY 27, 2008

Long before Cyrus the Persian king was born God inspired the Hebrew prophet Isaiah to write a message in which God called Cyrus by name and stated that Cyrus would decree that Jerusalem and the temple would be rebuilt. At the time Isaiah wrote Jerusalem and the temple had not yet been destroyed. Isaiah 44: 28 "That says of Cyrus, [He is] my shepherd, and shall perform all my pleasure: even saying to Jerusalem, You shall be built; and to the temple, Your foundation shall be laid. 45:1 Thus says the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have held, to subdue nations before him; and I will loose the loins of kings, to open before him the two leaved gates; and the gates shall not be shut." We should never forget that God with whom we have to do knows all before.

God who guided Isaiah to name Cyrus before Cyrus was born also guided the apostle Paul to say in Acts 17: 30 "And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commands all men every where to repent: 31 Because he has appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by [that] man whom he has ordained; [whereof] he has given assurance to all [men], in that he has raised him from the dead." Cyrus came on schedule and performed to the letter. We may be assured that Jesus Christ also will. So wisdom dictates that we get prepared immediately and stay prepared always to face God in judgement.

Luke 12: 6 "Are not five sparrows sold for two farthings, and not one of them is forgotten before God?"

WHAT HAVE WE TO FEAR?

Schedule of Services

Sunday Morning

Bible Classes 9:45am

Worship Service 10:45am

Sunday Evening

Worship Service 6:00pm

Wednesday Evening

Bible Studies for all ages 7:30pm

Monthly Song Service

First Friday 7:30pm

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**COME STUDY THE BIBLE
AND WORSHIP WITH US**