

The McLish Avenue Messenger

This is the message we have heard from Him... God is Light (1 John 1:5).

April 4, 2010

MCLISH AVENUE CHURCH OF CHRIST • 607 McLish SW • Ardmore, OK 73401



This New Testament passage quotes an Old Testament passage. Where is the Old Testament passage found?

“He has blinded their eyes and hardened their hearts, Lest they should see with their eyes, Lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, So that I should heal them.”

John 12:40 (NKJV)

Evangelist

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Schedule of Services

Sunday

Bible Study 9:30 am

Worship 10:30 am

Worship 6:00 pm

Wednesday

Bible Study 7:00 pm

Gospel Meeting April 18-21

Buy the Truth

“Buy the truth, and do not sell it, Also wisdom and instruction and understanding.” Proverbs 23:23

The Value & Need for Truth

Ben Bailey Sunday class

God’s Word is Truth

Floyd Johnson Sunday morning services

The Truth About Morality

Cole Tidwell Sunday evening services

The Truth About Heaven & Hell

Kevin Pendergrass Monday evening at 7:00

The Truth About Baptism

Larry Jones Tuesday evening at 7:00

The Truth About the Kingdom

James Gravelle Wednesday evening at 7:00

Liberalism: Are We Drawing Closer to God?

Ben Bailey

God does not want people to rebel against His will but to obey it (Lk 6:46, Matt 7:21). King Saul serves as the perfect example of how rebellion leads to change in worship. In I Samuel 15, God told Saul to utterly destroy the Amelekite nation, including every animal, man, woman, and child. For the most part King Saul did utterly destroy the Amelekite nation, except for the King and the best of the animals, which he planned to give as a sacrifice to God. However, the Lord saw his action as a form of rebellion, and it made Him regret that He made Saul king, and He eventually tore the kingdom from Saul. Surely, none of us would doubt that Saul's motives were good. He simply wanted to change God's command a little so that he could make a more pleasing sacrifice to the Lord. But, God did not want Saul changing what he commanded, even if Saul thought he could improve his worship to God. God said to Saul, "Behold, to obey is better than to sacrifice and to heed than the fat of rams" (I Sam 15:22). In the eyes of God, rebellion is sinful and results in spiritual death (James 4:17; Lev 10:1).

Another major cause for the change epidemic that is plaguing the church is emotionalism. We live in an age where our emotions often overrule truth (Jn 4:24). Change agents equate emotions and feelings with spirituality. Many worship assemblies have turned into an entertainment circus, instead of a place where man and God could be brought together through reverent worship.

"For example, Lynn Anderson cites a Sunday morning assembly in which a 'communion trio' sang to the congregation and thereby 'helped us express emotions for which the congregation knew no song. The congregation sat profoundly moved and with uplifted faces as tears flowed'" (David Miller, *Piloting The Strait* (Pulaski, TN., Sain Publications, 1996) pg. 52).

Notice how Anderson equates an unauthorized act of worship (a communion trio), crying and emotions with spirituality. The Bible clearly teaches that emotions should not guide our worship. Christians are commanded to "prove all things" (I Thes 5:21). God says to man, "Come let us reason together" (Isa 1:18). The Bible commands man to combine reason, logic, truth and emotions in our worship (Jn 4:24). The truth of God's word should govern

our worship, and then our emotions should be engaged. The Apostle Paul is a perfect example of how our emotions should not be our guide in life. In Acts 23:1 Paul claimed that he had lived all his life in good conscience before God. Basically, Paul is affirming that everything that he did in life (including killing Christians) he felt was right in God's sight. But, Paul's feelings about the church and Christianity were not a proper guide. Jesus said truth, not emotion alone, is what saves a person (Jn 8:31-32).

A final cause for change in the church is biblical ignorance. In the past 20-30 years, a growing ignorance of the Bible has erupted among our children. This has led to biblically uneducated adults who are now leading the church. In the past Christians were known for their biblical knowledge. People used to think of members of the church as walking Bibles. For instance, in a small town court, when the judge was informed that there was no Bible present to swear the defendant in, instead of adjourning court, the judge asked a member of the church of Christ to come forward and allow the defendant to put his hand on the Christian's head since he knew the Bible so well. But today, most Christians do not know the Bible well enough. God said in Hosea 4:6, "My people are destroyed for a lack of knowledge." Many today are like the first century Christians in Rome who had a zeal for God but not according to knowledge (Rom 10:2-3). To counteract this biblical ignorance that is pervading the church we must study to show ourselves approved unto God, workers who do not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth (II Tim 2:15). Solomon, the wisest man to ever live, said, "The heart of the righteous studies how to answer" (Prov 15:28). God has a pattern for worship, and He expects us to "hold fast the pattern of sounds words" (2 Tim. 1:13).

The words of the Proverb writer are concise and to the point; "Do not associate with those given to change; for their calamity will rise suddenly" (Prov 24:21). Truly, those who are bringing in unauthorized change are walking down the broad and wide path that leads to destruction (Matt 7:13-14). May God help us to not give in to the push for change in the church. "Whatever you do in word of deed do all in the name of (by the authority of, Acts 4:7) our Lord Jesus Christ" (Col 3:17).



*Remember
Our Sick*

Dora Hector is in room 203 and will be there several more days. Loretta Willis, Marvin's mother, has been diagnosed with cancer. Both Betty Higgins and Christie Bailey have back procedures scheduled for the 8th. A friend of Christie Bailey's, Polly Wilson, had back reconstruction surgery on April 1st. Krystal Lewis and Alyssa Pearson ask for prayers for Clyde Smoot who is having problems with a blocked artery. Please continue to remember: Esther Godwin • Jacob Johnston • Darrell Johnson's wife, Gladys • Nita Padgett • Hattie Williams • Laci Sandefur's grandfather, Dale Hougland • Jean Cary • Ben Tomlinson • Brenda Anderson • Olga Sue Stinson • Gracie Smith • Jean Parker • Jamie Feroli • Mary Ann Ashley • Ruth Parker's great-grandson Emory Raney • Bessie Childress • Jean Cary's nephew, Kent Barker • Ruth Minyard • Mildred Pennington's sister, Geneva Long and her sister-in-law Billie Gilliam • Patti Culpepper • Jerry & Glenda Vinson • Murray Goforth • Deborah Thomas' mother • Pat Morrison, Olga Sue Stinson's sister • Dorthea Phillips • Pat Ballard's mother • Madeline Minyard • and those shut in/nursing home members.



Congratulations! Lynzie

Elizabeth Bugbee made her appearance at 6 lbs 15 ozs on April 1st. Both Nancy and baby are doing well. They even made an outing yesterday to have a photo taken with a big bunny. Sean and the boys already are doting on her.

Request The Vinsons ask that we remember their son-in-law, Spc Bradly Skaggs, as he turns 25 on April 14th while deployed in Iraq. His address is B Co 4-31 Inf., 2 BCT Hammer, FOB Hummer, APO AE 09308.

Celebration After our monthly fellowship meal on April 18th (*notice the date change*) we will have a celebration of the recent marriage of Joshua and Erika Gravelle. A money tree will be presented to the couple. If you would like to make a monetary donation, please see Mary Aldridge, Arlene Castleman, Dana Meece or Christie Bailey.



Birthdays & Anniversaries

April

- 8 Glenda Vinson
- 9 Martha Dillard
Jerry & Lois Beavers
- 10 Brent Castleman
Michael Tipton
Brent & Gypsy Castleman '92
- 12 Robert Schumacher
- 13 Dorothea Phillips
Norma Perkins
- 15 Savanna Mann
- 16 Bessie Childress
Melba Wallace
Chock Aldridge
Jerry Beavers
- 21 Scott & Tina Saner '84
- 25 J.W. Hobbs

May

- 2 Kaitlin Aldridge
- 6 Sean Bugbee
- 7 Todd Hicks
- 8 Arlene Castleman
Bo & Huberta Fore '51
- 11 Bo Fore
- 14 Helen Walker
Claire Castleman
Floyd Johnson
- 16 Rhenea Aldridge
- 18 Ben Bailey
- 19 Edith Hobbs
- 21 Gerald Beavers
- 23 Alex Vinson
Brooke Murray
Larry Waller

