

## “A VERY LOVELY SONG”

*Lee Moses*

The preaching of the Gospel should be attractive to God’s people. Although there are certainly those who will plug their ears and run the other way, there are yet many people who appreciate good, sound Gospel preaching. Unfortunately, even among those who appreciate the faithful proclamation of the Gospel, there are many who do not heed the things that are said. “I sure enjoyed that sermon on seeking first the kingdom of God,” one will say, and then miss evening worship because the late football game went into overtime. “Boy, it sure is shameful the way some Christians act,” another will say following a sermon on the Christian’s example; and the following day he will regale his fellow employees with dirty jokes and foul-mouthed tirades against the boss and customers. “That was a great sermon on prayer,” another will exclaim, and fail to utter one private prayer the following week.

Such was the problem in Ezekiel’s day. Ezekiel did not have to face the same persecution other prophets did. He prophesied to Israelites who were in captivity, who could readily observe that God’s warnings were being fulfilled against them. The people, including the elders of the people, would often come to Ezekiel to receive counsel. And they often enjoyed hearing him, even though he offered stern rebuke against their practices.

“Also, thou son of man, the children of thy people still are talking against thee (“of thee,” American Standard Version) by the walls and in the doors of the houses, and speak one to another, everyone to his brother, saying, Come, I pray you, and hear what is the word that cometh forth from the LORD. And they come unto thee as the people cometh, and they sit before thee as my people, and they hear thy words, but they will not do them: for with their mouth they shew much love, but their heart goeth after their covetousness. And, lo, thou art unto them as a very lovely song of one that hath a pleasant voice, and can play well on an instrument: for they hear thy words, but they do them not” (Ezekiel 33:30-32).

To the people, Ezekiel was a good entertainer. He was probably a very eloquent speaker with a lustrous voice, able to hold the people in rapt attention as he prophesied to them the word of God. Nevertheless, as they heard his words, they had no intent of doing them.

It is a sad thing that many today hear the preaching of the Gospel and hear it as nothing more than “a very lovely song.” Indeed, the preaching of the Gospel is a very lovely song—even to God it is “a sweet savour of Christ” (II Corinthians 2:15). However, as we are “called by the Gospel,” we are urged and commanded to act upon its teachings: “Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle” (II Thessalonians 2:14 -15). It is only when we heed and obey the proclamation of the Gospel that we can truly appreciate it for the very lovely song it is.

## THE LORD IS MY HELPER

*Terry Joe Kee*

Sanballat the Horonite, Tobiah the Ammonite and Geshem the Arabian continually opposed Nehemiah while he was rebuilding the walls of the city of Jerusalem. Sanballat, Tobiah and Geshem went through three stages in opposing Nehemiah. First, they grieved that the work was being done. Then they tried to laugh Nehemiah to scorn. Finally, they came and fought against Nehemiah.

However, in none of this was Nehemiah halted or delayed in his building. In Nehemiah’s day they were seeking to rebuild the city walls that had been broken down and laid in ruins. Jerusalem had laid in ruins now for decades. Nehemiah and his workers would not allow outsiders who opposed the work of God to delay or derail them. They would not stop working for anyone or anything.

Many things then (and now) hinder us from our work and keep us from accomplishing more. Nehemiah was hindered from within by men who were discouraged by all the rubbish (Neh. 4:10). In the days of Christ many tried to hinder the work by their unbelief (Matt. 13:58). Unbelief today causes many to be hindered in our work. We face those who deny that God even exists (atheists). We also are hindered by those who try to argue for God while upholding evolution calling themselves “theistic evolutionists.” There is the problem of not believing that the Bible is the verbally inspired Word of God. And much more hindering us today.

But with God helping, Nehemiah would not be hindered, even when they had to work with one hand and hold a sword in the other, they did not quit building (Neh. 4:17,18). What is hindering us from doing more and accomplishing more in the kingdom today?

Are we hindered by those who ridicule, laugh, and make fun of us for our faith? Are we hindered by worldly matters and worldly riches like a young ruler (Matt. 19:16-22)? Do we not do more because we are imagining all the problems we will have in building? Are we like the women coming to the tomb and already imagining they would fail, because they did not have anyone to help them remove the stone (Mark 16:3,4)? Do we never cross the rivers of opportunity because we are afraid the bridge will be out or else it will not hold us up as we pass over? Are we failing because unbelieving family members hinder us in our work? Do we get ourselves sidetracked from what we are here to do?

The Lord is our helper. As surely as He was with Moses, He will be with us (Deut. 20:1). Christ is present with the smallest assembly when we are gathered to do His will (Matt. 18:20). Christ has promised to be with us to the end (Matt. 28:20). He was with Paul in Corinth (Acts 18:9,10). He is faithful to be with us too. After all, “The Lord is our helper” (Psalm 54:4).

# NEWS AND NOTES

“I was sick, and ye visited me...” (Matthew 25:36)

### Remember in Prayer:

**Marshall Lands** suffered a fall and broke his pelvis. He is in Encompass Rehabilitation Hospital room 226. **Barbara Jaress** is home after having a heart catherization during which she received 4 stents. She is recovering at home and some better.

### In Other News:

**Ukraine Missions** is in need of children’s Tylenol and/or children’s Ibuprofen. There is a bucket in the foyer for us to place these in. See Myra Morris for any additional information you may need.

**Directory Correction: Please make this addition to your new directory.**

**Powell, Jimmie, Vicki**  
4010 Cypress Springs Road  
Jonesboro, AR 72405  
870-206-5142 - Jimmie  
870-275-1527 - Vicki

## Those Privileged To Serve March 28, 2021

### SUNDAY MORNING

Song Leader: Ben Johns  
Opening Prayer: Steve Stoker  
Closing Prayer: David Loggins  
Bible Reading: Jerry Dodson  
Preacher: Gilbert Gough

### LORD’S TABLE

Presiding: Jason Garland  
Hal Baugh J. L. May  
Mitch Mosley Ryan Manley  
Jack Johnson Scott Pratt

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Randy Oden

### SUNDAY EVENING

Song Leader: Scottie Blanchard  
Opening Prayer: Jimmie Powell  
Closing Prayer: James Johnson  
Preacher: Gilbert Gough

### WEDNESDAY NIGHT

March 31, 2021  
Song Leader: Randy Oden  
Opening Prayer: Craig Nelson  
Closing Prayer: Carroll Morris

### DEVOTIONAL SPEAKER

March 31, 2021  
Ben Johns

## NUMBERS FOR THE WEEK Week Of March 21, 2021

Sunday Bible Study	85
Sunday AM Worship	106
Sunday PM Worship	76
Wednesday Bible Study	
Contribution	\$5565

**“Buy the truth, and  
sell it not; also  
wisdom, and  
instruction, and  
understanding.”**

**Proverbs 23:23**

# The Friend of Truth

Greensboro Road church of Christ

Jonesboro, Arkansas 72405

(870) 932-3920

“Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth?” (Galatians 4:16)

Vol. XXIX, No. 13

March 28, 2021

## KeeNotes

Today has finally arrived! Let us all be exhorted and strengthened in our faith as we have this special day. This is a **Day Of Exhortation** and we will all be lifted up and strengthened in our faith and in our resolve to walk before Him in faith. From this day we will all arise and build. All the excuses and even the reasons will not keep us from accomplishing our work in the Lord. Rejoice for the opportunity to be here today and let us be determined to get everything from this day that we can.

Our brother, Gilbert Gough, is with us to exhort, encourage and even to rebuke and reprove us. He will do his job, but we must be vessels ready to receive and use what we are being taught, so let us open up our hearts and receive. What we will gain from this time together will be up to each one of us. Please do not let this good opportunity to grow and be strengthened pass by without having given it every effort to help us individually and collectively.

Remember everyone who has come asking for the prayers of the saints this year and continue to pray for each one. This past Lord’s Day we rejoiced to go to the Father with our sister, Stacy Williams, who is struggling with many situations occurring in her life which Satan has been using to discourage and bring her down. Remember our sister in your daily prayers as she strives to show Christ living in her every day. Pray that her daily circumstances will improve and her faith will remain stronger every day.

**People who live it up in life find it difficult to live it down.**

### SHEPHERDS

Dan Nichols  
Randy Oden

### DEACONS

Scottie Blanchard  
Jerry Dodson  
Stacy Eddleman  
Mike Felts  
Jason Garland  
Scott Pratt  
Kevin Roush  
Mark Wooten

### MISSIONARIES

Guyana, South America  
Samrit Kammanee  
Micah Robertson, Montana  
Warren, PA

### SERVICES

#### SUNDAY

Classes 9:00 a.m.  
Worship 10:00 a.m.  
5:00 p.m.

#### WEDNESDAY

Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

### What Must I Do To Be Saved?

**Hear** the Word of God  
Romans 10:17

**Believe** the Word of God  
John 8:24

**Repent** of your sins  
Luke 13:3

**Confess** your faith in Jesus  
as the Son of God  
Romans 10:9,10

**Be Baptized** for the  
remission of your sins  
Acts 2:38

**Live faithfully**  
Revelation 2:10

“Lift up your eyes, and  
look on the fields; for they  
are white already to  
harvest.” (John 4:35)

**Each One Invite One  
in Twenty-One**