

PRIED LOOSE FROM THE REINS

Twenty-Eight years ago, I conducted a funeral for a dear sister in Christ. After eighty-nine years this sweet sister left for her eternal home. She had lived a very blessed life before leaving. She was blessed with family and friends who dearly loved her and knew how special she was. She was not so vastly different from many of her generation.

One of the things that was related to me has impressed me even more than I had already been impressed by the godly life of Myrtie Kate Bradford. In her youth she had married a man who was not a Christian and they lived seven miles from the church building. Her only transportation was a wagon. Myrtie Kate's husband was not a Christian and tried to hinder her from attending the services of the church. It was left to her to rise early, feed and get the children ready for worship, and then get the wagon ready and take the seven-mile trip to the meeting house. In the winter she would heat bricks for her children to sit on and keep warm while riding to the building for worship. I was told that some of the men of the congregation would meet them when they arrived and pry her frozen hands loose from the reins so she could come in. Yet, with all this hardship, she was always there. This Christian woman loved the Lord and wanted to be with the saints on the Lord's Day. She was a woman with strong convictions.

Today we live in homes with inside plumbing and heat which comes on automatically. We get light by flipping a switch, breakfast in a box or package, milk that is as close as the refrigerator and so many more conveniences to enjoy and bless our lives. We ride to the meeting house in vehicles which offer heat in the winter and air-conditioning in the summer. Sometimes one will talk about going back to the "good ole days." Well, I for one, do not want to go back to those days. I like my conveniences and comforts. And yet, with all of these, we often have those who cannot get to worship on time and ready for Bible study and worship. Why?

If we had to go back to the good ole days, how many would be present today? Surely many would be here. Some would put forth the effort and be sure to be with the saints on the Lord's Day. But the fear is that some would not be present. Some attend now when it is convenient. What if it is not convenient? What if it all depended on my convictions? Convictions will keep us going even when adversity comes. Today, in 2020, we need more conviction and less convenience from members.

Someone who has strong convictions does not have to be made to do the work of the Lord. This person works in the Lord's vineyard because he loves the Lord. He finds it a joy to attend with the saints. What a joy to be part of a church whose members have to have their hands pried free from the reins. These are ones who must also have their hands pried free from every work of the church. These are the ones who keep the church striving forward. Are you a Myrtie Kate?

Terry Joe Kee

Worshipping Or Just Attending Worship?

Jesus made the following charge: "This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me" (Matt. 15:8). What an indictment for today's worshipper to consider. "Am I truly worshipping God, or am I just attending worship?" **I recall sitting in a Bible class when the teacher said, "I used to have pew-monia." He told us that when the doors to the church building were opened, he was there. However, he was not really there because his heart was not in it.** Jesus said, "God is a Spirit" and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth" (John 4:24). The actions of worship are important, yet the attitude in worship is equally important.

Sometimes, one who is just attending worship will stick out like a sore thumb. It is apparent in the fact that they are not participating. A gospel preacher, which I am, has the privilege of seeing every face in the auditorium. When he preaches he may notice individuals carrying on a conversation with a neighbor. Perhaps a baby is being passed back and forth. When the invitation is extended and everyone is asked to stand and sing to encourage a soul to come to Christ, there are some who look around and do everything but open their mouth in praise to God and in edification to the one who is so close to walking down the aisle and making a commitment to the Lord.

There are some who consider worship as having very little meaning. Those who think this way need to ask themselves the question, "Just how far do I put myself into the worship of God?" During the week, all Christians should be preparing themselves to worship on the Lord's Day. This preparation begins with holy living. Paul said, "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service" (Rom. 12:1).

- When leaving the house on Sunday morning for worship, pray for the church: the elders, preacher, and every member who will be worshipping with you.
- When you approach the church building, leave distracting thoughts behind.
- When the worship hour begins, lift your voice to God in song and bow your head as you approach His throne in prayer.
- Consider the words of the sermon and let their meaning penetrate the very depth of your soul.
- When observing the Lord's Supper, discern the body of the Lord.
- When giving liberally, be thankful for God's blessings.
- At the close of the worship hour, speak to everyone you know and greet those you do not.

When you leave the building, be convicted that you will do better tomorrow than you have done in the past. Ask yourself the question, "Am I truly worshipping God, or am I just attending worship?" Never be like the fellow with "pew-monia." Faithfully attend the worship services of the saints, and when you do, be sure to "...worship Him in spirit and in truth."

Author Unknown

NEWS AND NOTES

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

Remember in Prayer:

Kathy Williams fell recently and has been recovering at home.
Nina Carner will begin a new treatment process after seeing her doctor.
Carolyn Tinsley continues to have difficulties at home after her recent seizure.
Beverly Read, sister-in-law of Reginald Read, is not doing well in Michigan.
Bobby Pate, brother-in-law of Terry Joe Kee, had successful heart surgery last week.

Pray for those directly and indirectly affected by Covid-19, and please keep us updated.

Kara Kee Jan Hopkins

Please check the bulletin boards for updates on Prayer Request Lists.

In Other News:

Remember our Bible Classes for all ages at 9:30 Sunday mornings.

We will begin Wednesday night Bible Classes with the same groupings this Wednesday night, July 8th, at 7:00 for 30 minutes.

There will be a wedding shower for *Kara Kee and David Stone* Sunday, July 19th, at 2:00 in the basement. They are registered at Amazon and Target.

Those Privileged To Serve

July 5, 2020

SUNDAY MORNING

Song Leader: Noah Flanrey
 Opening Prayer: Jody Pickens
 Closing Prayer: Hillard Holcomb
 Bible Reading: Carlos Wood
 Preacher: Terry Joe Kee

LORD'S TABLE

Presiding: Stan Honeycutt
 Mike Felts Mark Wooten
 Reginald Read Ryan Manley
 Robert Stephens Scott Pratt

SUNDAY EVENING

Song Leader: Noah Flanrey
 Opening Prayer: Jerry Dodson
 Closing Prayer: Craig Nelson
 Preacher: Terry Joe Kee

WEDNESDAY NIGHT

July 8, 2020

Song Leader: Ben Johns
 Opening Prayer: Jeff Presley
 Closing Prayer: Jacob Eddleman

DEVOTIONAL SPEAKER

July 8, 2020
 Scottie Blanchard

NUMBERS FOR THE WEEK

Week Of

June 28, 2020

Sunday Bible Study	86
Sunday AM Worship	106
Sunday PM Worship	84
Wednesday Bible Study	74
Contribution	\$5,878

*“The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?
 The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?”
 Psalm 27:1*

The Friend of Truth

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Jonesboro, Arkansas 72405

(870) 932-3920

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

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KeeNotes

LOOKING AT THE GOAL

The snow covered the ground, and three young boys were playing in it. A man said to them, “Would you like to try to race with a promise of a prize for the winner?”

The boys agreed, and the man told them that his race was to be different. “I will go to the other side of the field,” he said, “and when I give you the signal, you will start to run. The one whose footsteps are the straightest in the snow will be the winner.”

As the race commenced, the first boy began looking at his feet to see if his steps were straight. The second lad kept looking at his companions to see what they were doing; but the third boy just ran on with his eyes fixed on the man on the other side of the field.

The third boy was the winner for his footsteps were straight in the snow. He had kept his eyes on the goal ahead of him.

A long time ago, another man using similar words taught the same principle. It was Paul who said, “Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus” (Phil. 3:13- 14).

Author Unknown

SHEPHERDS

Dan Nichols
 Randy Oden
 Jody Pickens

DEACONS

Scottie Blanchard
 Jerry Dodson
 Mike Felts
 Jason Garland
 Marshall Lands
 Mark Wooten

EVANGELIST

Terry Joe Kee

MISSIONARIES

Michael Hughes
 Samrit Kammanee
 Arnold Kelley
 Guyana, South America
 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

“Where there is no vision,
 the people perish....”
 Proverbs 29:18

God Give Us 2020 Vision
 in 2020