

North Jefferson Messenger

As the cold of snow
in the time of harvest,
so is a faithful messenger
to them that send him"
Proverbs 25:13

Volume 11 No. 10

Founded on the Word—Focused on the World

May 03, 2009

A Non-complacent Priest

Numbers 25:6-9

Trent Kennedy

As the children of Israel wandered through the Judean Wilderness and across the Jordan River, they made their camp in Shittim. Unfortunately, as the case is even with God's people, immortality tends to corrupt (cf. Genesis 6:2; Genesis 19 (Lot); Judges 2:4-10; 1 Corinthians 15:33) those who are around it. This is exactly why God now calls us out of the world (2 Corinthians 6:17-18) and tells us not to love the world (1 John 2:15-17) nor to be even a friend of the world (James 4:4). While Israel dwelt in Shittim, the influence of ungodly neighbors, Moab, began to rub off on the Israelites. God's people began to commit harlotry with the people of Moab, both physical and spiritual, individually and collectively (Numbers 25:1-3,6). The result of this sin was some sort of plague which ultimately killed over twenty thousand people (Numbers 25:8-9).

God gave the command through Moses that the leaders of Israel were to slay those who were joined to idol worshipers (Numbers 25:5). However, one of the Israelites brought a strange woman into the camp even into the sight of Moses and the entire congregation of Israel (Numbers 25:6). Then (as now) people of God had a hard time understanding that God is a jealous God (Exodus 20:5, 34:14; Deuteronomy 4:24, 6:15; Joshua 24:19; Nahum 1:2). He created and sustains all mankind; therefore, He alone deserves affection and praise. God demands monotheism. In the midst of the weeping and mourning, one of the children of Israel directly violated God's command. As others stood by and watched the atrocious action take place, one priest, **Phinehas**, was not complacent.

"And when Phinehas, the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, saw it, he rose up from the midst of the congregation, and took a spear in his hand; and he went after the man of Israel into the pavilion, and thrust both of them through, the man of Israel,

and the woman through her body.
So the plague was stayed from the children of Israel, "Numbers 25:7-8.

One man was willing to stand for truth, act upon that stance, and stay the wrath of God from the people.

As we set here two thousand years removed from the valor of Phinehas, we can talk about how it was a different time, a different covenant, and so on. Although true, God has always expected His people to attack sin in the camp (Joshua 7, 1 Corinthians 5). In the case of Phinehas, drastic measures called for daring action. While we will not be called upon to slay anyone (physically harm them), God still expects us to give the same combative attitude to sin. How should we react to sin:

1. Purge sin from our own lives (Ephesians 5:3- 5)
2. Purge ourselves from sinful situations (Ephesians 5:7-14)
3. Stop ignoring sin when we are around it (2 John 11)
4. Stand up for the One who was lifted up for us (John 3:15)

Phinehas loved God and His people so much that he was willing to take it upon himself to act in such a way that showed how much he hated sin. God blessed him. If we defend God and act upon our convictions being jealous with a **godly jealousy**, God too will bless us.

"Phinehas, the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, hath turned my wrath away from the children of Israel, in that he was jealous with my jealousy among them, so that I consumed not the children of Israel in my jealousy...and it shall be unto him, and to his seed after him, the covenant of an everlasting priesthood; because he was jealous for his God, and made atonement for the children of Israel," Numbers 25:11, 13.



“give attention to reading.....” 1 Tim. 4:13

Does Church Attendance Help?

A recent study published by Cornell University talks about the influence of church attendance on teenagers today. This study was aimed at kids from two parent households while also speaking to the growing percentage of homes where only one parent is present. Entitled “The State Of Americans”, it offered several studies about us since the 1970's. Does it make any difference at all in the attitude and behavior of these kids when they regularly go to worship and Bible study? Folks at Cornell say yes. We read, “High School seniors who attend church are less likely to believe that those who have and raise children out of wedlock are either 'experimenting with a worthwhile alternative lifestyle or doing their own thing and not affecting anyone else.' 68% of seniors who attended church weekly are drug free compared with 49% who attend less frequently.”

What can “church” do? Proverbs 22:6 explains, “train up a child in the way that he should go...” Ephesians 6:4 says, “bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.” A sense of self-worth, integrity and honesty, and love and concern for all mankind should be there. That's the theme for Gods' plan for life brought by Jesus. John 10:10

Gary Montgomery

Waste of Time?

By Jerry Joseph

In the minds of some, Bible classes are not important. They may even consider them "a waste of time." Why do we have Bible classes on Sunday and Wednesday? Are we trying to waste people's time?

Bible classes are significant because They help promote the work of the church. The Bible Classes are the one avenue through which the Word of God can be taught.

Bible classes are significant because They help provide a way for the elders to "feed" the flock. The Ephesian elders were instructed to "Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers,

to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood" (Acts 20:28). Through our Bible classes we are helping the elders to do their work.

Bible classes are significant because They help produce tomorrow's elders, deacons, preachers, and teachers. We want to encourage our young people to grow up being servants of God. In our Bible classes, we are training potential soldiers in the Lord's army. The Bible classes are helping to train the young in the way they should go (Prov. 22:6).

Bible classes are significant because They help prevent unfaithfulness in the church. We all need encouragement in living the Christian life. Through our Bible classes, we can encourage and edify one another (Heb. 3:13, 10:24-25) to be strong in the Lord.

Bible classes are significant because they help prepare one for eternity. Who is it that has doubts about the importance of studying the Bible? We must come to understand and know God's will (Jn. 8:32, 1 Tim. 2:4). The time we spend studying the Bible in our classes is helping us to be prepared for eternity to come.

Are Bible classes a waste of time? I think not!

(Bible classes aren't a waste of time - they help!)

Brotherhood Events:

May 3-6 — Blodgett — Spring Gospel Meeting

July 26-30—Oak Grove—Gospel Meeting

September 13-16—North Jefferson—Gospel Meeting
(with Mike Hisaw)

November 1-4—Blodgett—Fall Lectureship

Watch your bulletin for more events forthcoming.

Prayer List: Justin Barker, Rachel Barker, Louis Bell, Doris Bell, Jim Duncan, Irene Duncan, Dorothy Kyle, Wade Miller, Thelma Reed.

Also: Carolyn (Katy) Cabell, Wesley DuBose, Jennifer Freeman, Janice Lineberger, Wayne Lineberger, Charles Whitney

Congregational Shut-Ins:

Home: Doris Bell, **In Tyler:** Louis Bell, **Pleasant Springs Assisted Living:** Annah Brown, **Home:** Irene Duncan, **Home:** Joyce Lee, **Villa Assisted Living:** Georgia Lide, **Mt. Vernon:** Alice Lovelady, **Home:** Marie Plemmons

ATTENTION: Anyone leaving a note of any kind on the Secretary's Desk for inclusion in the bulletin will need to sign the note and show your telephone number in case I need to verify or clarify your meaning. — Thanks, Rhodney Freeman

*All supply items needed for new purchase need to be submitted to the elders for approval utilizing the **new Purchase Order Form**. You can get copies from either Cindy Armstrong or Rhodney Freeman. Then you can make the purchase and furnish the receipt and a copy of the PO in to Jim Duncan. A tax exemption letter will also be furnished to go along with the Purchase Order.*

Health Updates:

Jim Duncan was in Paris Friday having pre-op work done. If there is no change in the lab results from those done previously, he will go back to Paris this coming Friday for a biopsy. Depending on the results of the biopsy, surgery will probably be scheduled for the near future. Jim has asked that we keep him in our prayers during these uncertain and troublesome times.

Proud grandparents, Jim and Barbara Duncan, want everyone to know that their grandson, **Joshua, was baptized in Christ Wednesday night by his dad.** *The proud parents are Odis and Kim Duncan.*

Brenda Riley is not feeling well. Please keep her in your prayers.

Sister **Joy Dell Doddy**, of the Shepherd Street Congregation, was admitted to the hospital on Monday and

was flown to Tyler on Wednesday. No update at the printing of this bulletin.

Jennifer Freeman, Hallie Lang's daughter-in-law, is experiencing serious health problems. Please keep her and her husband, Larry, in your prayers.

EVENTS, PAST AND UPCOMING:

MEN'S BUSINESS MEETING is next Sunday, following evening worship service. All the men of the congregation are encouraged to attend.

The Clothing Drive (which has been on-going the first Sunday of each month, continues today. If you bring clothes please place them in the Multi-Purpose Room for pick up and packaging.

The **Teacher Appreciation Banquet** on Friday night, April 24, was a great success. They had a mystery guest speaker arranged by Bob Hedges, who turned out was Michael Light.

A big thank you to everyone who made the Ladies Day a success and especially to Elna O'Neal and Nelda Dunn who decorated and donated many items.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL for 2009 is scheduled for June 15 through 19 (Monday through Friday) from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM each day. Planning is enthusiastic. You are encouraged to enroll your child(ren) and bring a friend.

If you would like to make a monetary contribution to help provide snacks and refreshments for our students, please give it to Veleta McFerrin or Dorothy Kyle.

THANK YOU"We want to thank each of you for the prayers, cards and phone calls offered in behalf of the loss of our loved ones.—in Christian Love ...

Wanda Carlock, Fay Gilmore
and the Kaylee Beck Family"

Anyone desiring to make a donation to the Prom Alternative may give their contribution to Kris Groda.

Prom Alternative

A formal banquet will be held on May 8th at 7:30 pm at the OS2 restaurant in Marshall, Texas. This event is being planned for youth that choose not to attend a school prom. It is open to youth in 9th – 12th grades. There will be a lock-in following the banquet at David McCain's bowling alley (also located in Marshall). There be free bowling throughout the night and breakfast will be provided Saturday morning. High School youth attending the Prom Alternative must R.S.V.P. by April 30th. Contact Richard Rutledge at 903-537-4129 or thepreacher@suddenlinkmail.com

Those to Serve

Sunday 05-03-2009

Sunday Morning Worship:

Announcements..... Rance Robison
 Song Leader..... Hal Roper
 Opening Prayer *Rance Robison*
 Closing Prayer *Ronald Traugber*

Lord's Table—Month of May 2009

Southside:

Wayne Pickrel
 Frankie Sargent
 Doug Abbey

Northside:

Grady Duncan
 George O'Neal
 Austin Neal

Sunday Evening Worship:

Announcements..... Rance Robison
 Song Leader..... Hal Roper
 Opening PM Prayer..... *Bob Hedges*
 Closing PM Prayer..... *Randy Cooper*

Sunday Evening Lord's Table

Darrell Cooper Fred Harkrider

Serving Wednesday Night—May 06, 2009

Announcements Grady Duncan
 Song Leader Daniel McCary
 First Prayer..... *Jon McCain*
 Closing Prayer..... *James Browning*

*If you plan to be out of town or are not physically able to serve, please call someone to take your place or call the church office.

Attendance for the week of 04-26-2009

Bible Classes 101
 Morning Worship 150
 Evening Worship 133
 Tuesday Ladies Class 10
 Wednesday Night 114
 Regular Contribution \$ 4,787.12
 New Construction Contributions\$ -0-

Averages To Date This Year

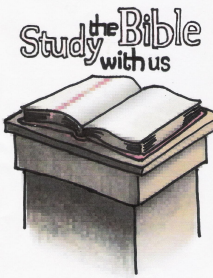
Bible Classes 104
 Morning Worship 145
 Evening Worship 108
 Tuesday Ladies Class 11
 Wednesday Night 101
 Regular Contribution \$ 4,598.46
 New Construction Fund Contributions to date.... \$ 56,755.00

PLEASE NOTE: *This bulletin is formatted Friday morning each week. Any news items or articles you wish included must be submitted to the Editor no later than Thursday Night. You may call Rhodney Freeman at 903-572-1181 (home) or 903-572-1136 (Office)*

Next Sunday's Sermons

AM: Who Shall Separate Us from the Love of Christ
Kris Groda, Preaching

PM: The Bible Doctrine of Self Love
Kris Groda, Preaching



Assembly Times

Sunday

Bible Classes9:00AM
 Worship 10:00AM
 6:00PM

Tuesday

Ladies Bible 10:00AM
 (September through April)

Wednesday

Bible Classes7:00PM

Website:

www.njcofc.com

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njcofc@sbcglobal.net

Church Office:
 903.572.1136

Elders

*Gene Campbell
 Weldon Miller
 Wayne Pickrel*

Deacons

*Grady Duncan
 Jim Duncan
 Jerry Freeman
 Bob Hedges
 Rance Robison
 Hal Roper*

Gospel Preacher

Kris Groda

Secretary

Rhodney Freeman

North Jefferson Church of Christ
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Address Correction Requested