

Those to Serve

Sunday — January 24, 2010

Sunday Morning Worship:

Announcements.....Frankie Sargent
 Song Leader.....Hal Roper
 Opening Prayer Gene Campbell
 Closing Prayer Darrell Cooper

Month of January 2010

Sunday Morning Lord's Table

South Side:

Bob Hedges
 Melvin Norfleet
 Chuck Kyle

North Side:

Royce Armstrong
 George O'Neal
 Daniel McCary

Sunday Evening Lord's Table

Jim Duncan Fred Harkrider, Jr.

Sunday Evening Worship:

Announcements.....Frankie Sargent
 Song Leader.....Rance Robison
 Opening PM Prayer..... Wayne Charlton
 Closing PM Prayer.....Rodney Cook

Serving Wednesday Night—January 27, 2010

AnnouncementsFrankie Sargent
 Song Leader.....Hal Roper
 First Prayer..... Fred Harkrider, Jr.
 Closing Prayer.....Tim Jones

*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 Jan-17-2010

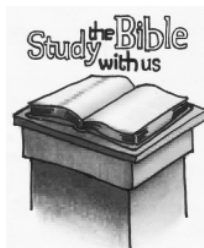
Bible Classes..... 103
 Morning Worship.....141
 Evening Worship 102
 Tuesday Ladies Class13
 Wednesday Night 86
 Regular Contribution \$ 3,963.55
 New Construction Fund Contributions.....\$ 135.00

Averages To Date This Year

Bible Classes..... 98
 Morning Worship.....139
 Evening Worship 97
 Tuesday Ladies Class 12
 Wednesday Night 92
 Regular Contribution.....\$ 4,224.07
 New Construction Fund Contributions to date..... \$ 80,245.88
 (Also includes transfers and interest earned)

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)

Today's Sermons



AM: **"Great Unity Must Fill the Church"**
 Kris Groda, Preaching

PM: **"Standing In Grace"**
 Kris Groda, Preaching

North Jefferson Church of Christ
 P.O. Box 963
 Mt. Pleasant, TX 75456



Address Correction Requested

Assembly Times

Sunday

Bible Classes9:00AM
 Worship10:00AM
 6:00PM

Tuesday

Ladies Bible Class ..10:00AM
 (September—May)

Wednesday

Bible Classes7:00PM

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

Website:
 www.njcofc.com

Email:
 njcofc@sbcglobal.net

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. 48 *Founded on the Word—Focused on the World*

January 24, 2010

God and Government: What Our Government Officials Need to Hear

By Kris Groda

The Great Commission in Mark's Gospel account states, "... Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." (Mark 16:15) The apostles were to preach to every creature in every nation (Matthew 28:19). They were to preach to the rich and to the poor (Matthew 19:22; Luke 7:22); to the handicapped, broken-hearted and the oppressed (Luke 4:18). They were to preach to servants and to masters (1 Peter 2:18; Col. 3:22; Col. 4:1). They were to preach to men who were lowly or of low estate as well as dignitaries and government leaders (2 Peter 2:10; Romans 12:16).

Governments are to use wisdom as they rule (Proverbs 8:15-16). Proverbs 17:7 says, "Fine speech is not becoming to a fool; still less is false speech to a prince." In other words, politicians and elected officials are not to lie. Proverbs 28:2-4; 29:4 advises rulers to be orderly and to keep the law, striving against the wicked. Government rulers should punish the wicked (Prov. 20:26) and not pervert justice.

The New Testament reveals that government officials, (elected or not) are ministers and servants of God (Romans 13:3-5). Christians are to, "Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good. For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people" (1 Peter 2:13-15).

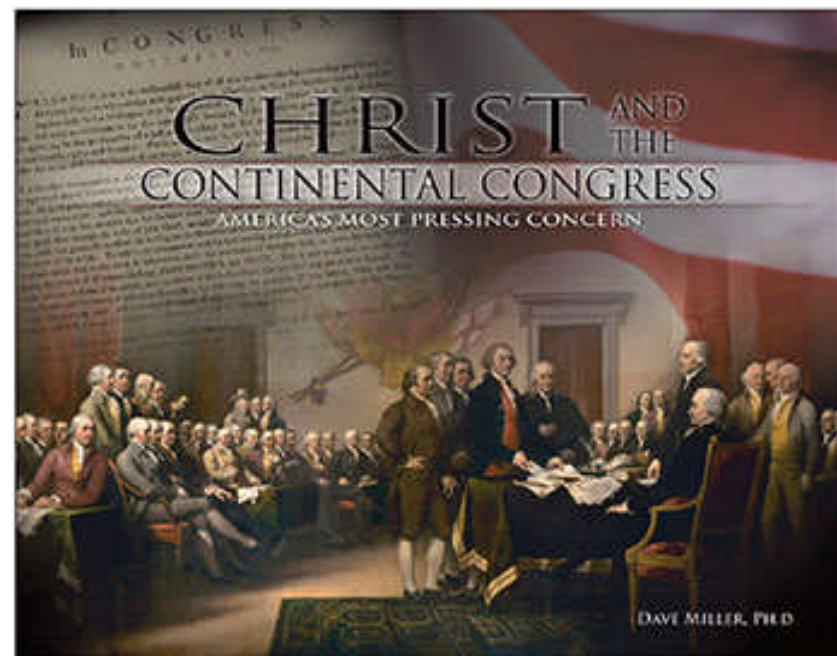
Government leaders will be held accountable to God for how they have conducted themselves. Moses instructed the judges to "not pervert justice", "show partiality" or "accept a bribe". They were to only follow justice, "that you may live and inherit the land that the LORD your God is giving you" (Deuteronomy 16:18-20).

Consider some of the preachers who preached to the Government leaders of their day.

- ◆ Joseph influenced Potiphar.
- ◆ Moses warned the Egyptian Pharaoh as he worked with God to deliver the Israelites.
- ◆ Elijah influenced Hazael and warned Ben-ha-dad, kings of Syria.
- ◆ Elisha instructed Naaman, captain of the host of the king of Syria.
- ◆ Daniel took a stand and influenced Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon.
- ◆ John taught Herod the Tetrarch.
- ◆ Jesus taught Gov. Pontious Pilate,
- ◆ Paul taught King Agrippa, who was 'almost persuaded' to be a Christian.

Perhaps, one of the most impressive accounts of a preacher teaching a Government official is that of Paul and Governor Felix. Sometime after Paul made his defense, Felix and his wife Drusilla wanted to meet with Paul to hear him concerning the faith in Christ. Paul discussed three topics with Felix that all government leaders should hear. Paul reasoned of: 1) righteousness; 2) self-control; 3) and the coming judgment. (Acts. 24:25). Felix trembled being terrified and said, "Go away for the present. When I get an opportunity I will summon you." At the same time he hoped that money would be given him by Paul. So he sent for him often and conversed with him." (Acts 24:26 ESV). The Bible never mentions if Governor Felix ever obeyed the Gospel. The last we hear, "after two years Porcius Festus came into Felix' room: and Felix, willing to shew the Jews a pleasure, left Paul bound" (Acts 24:27).

As Christians, living in a government "by the people and for the people", let's consider our responsibility to preach the gospel to "every creature" and in particular to our government officials.



New Book from AP:

“Christ and the Continental Congress”

The 75 page sequel to *The Silencing of God: The Dismantling of America's Christian Heritage*, which documents the sinister attempt to expunge America's religious heritage, this fascinating book answers the question: Did the Founders believe that the survival of the Republic depends on America's acknowledgment of Jesus Christ? Revisionist historians, who now firmly dominate academia, answer that question with a resounding—“absolutely not”! But the truth is that the Founders stated over and over their deep conviction that, indeed, acknowledgment of God and the Christian religion are integral to the survival of the nation.

In the 15 supplication proclamations that they issued to the entire nation during the tumultuous years of the Revolutionary War, the Continental Congress called upon all Americans to set aside entire days for the sole purpose of petitioning God. In those public pronouncements, they openly acknowledged Jesus Christ as “our gracious Redeemer” and advocated the exclusivity

and priority of Christianity. They affirmed the critical importance of the Bible to the people and beseeched God to spread Christianity throughout the Earth. They requested that God establish American Independence on Christianity and Christian morality and urged Americans to keep all of God's laws. They enjoined on Americans the practice of Christianity as the foundation of national happiness, and credited God with America's military success and national prosperity. You must see for yourself the evidence that establishes these facts.

\$14.95 Plus Shipping

Focal Point 2nd Annual Preachers' Workshop April 25—29, 2010 University church of Christ San Marcos, Texas

“Keeping our feet firmly planted by keeping our focus on Jesus”

This workshop is aimed at encouraging and strengthening those who preach the Gospel but is opened to all members of the Lord's church. With a classroom setting, Focal Point is designed to provide Biblical insight combined with practical application.

The cost of the workshop is free. Some members of the University congregation have also agreed to open their homes for lodging for workshop attendees.

For registration information and a schedule of the topics and speakers, see the bulletin board. Email the University church of Christ at office@univcofc.com or phone at 512.353.2487.

Please Remember in Prayer:

Justin Barker, Rachel Barker, Doris Bell, James & Sue Browning, Billye Campbell, Gene Campbell, Suzanne Charlton, Randy Cooper, Jim Duncan, Barbara Duncan, Irene Duncan, Patsy Duncan, Wade Miller, Wayne Pickrel, Thelma Reed, Bud Roach, Helen Roper, and Rebecca Tippit.

Also: Carolyn (Katy) Cabell, Gary Duncan, Denise Hess, Cato Jones, Mary Jo Lee, Janice Lineberger, Kent Stephenson, and Charles Whitney

Congregational Shut-Ins:

Pleasant Springs Assisted Living: Doris Jean Bell, Annah Brown, **Home:** Irene Duncan, **Villa Assisted Living:** Georgia Lide.

HEALTH UPDATES

Patsy Duncan met with her doctor Thursday to see if she needs back surgery.

Jimmy Duncan met with his doctor on Monday for his six-month visit. Barbara said that all the tests came back perfect! He doesn't have to see the doctor again for another six months. Last Sunday Jimmy expressed his heartfelt thanks for all the prayers, cards, and kind words he has received during his battle with cancer.

Helen Roper traveled to Tyler last week to begin treatments to hopefully stop the bleeding in her eye. Her doctor is prescribing a series of treatments over the next few months. Please remember Helen in your prayers that the therapy will restore her vision.

Sue Browning, will have back surgery this coming Wednesday in Tyler, TX

CHURCH HAPPENINGS

Today at 5:00 PM VBS Planning Meeting in Multi-Purpose Room—East. This is for all teachers and assistants.

Today at 5:30 PM Planning Session for Annual Spring Ladies Day in the Multi-Purpose Room—West. This is for all ladies interested in beginning the planning. The meeting will be short. Please attend if at all possible.

Bible Bowl Practice at 5pm today in Classroom No. 4. This is for all young people from the 1st-12th grades.

Ladies Bible Class this Tuesday at 10:00am. We will be studying Titus Chapter 2. Mothers are encouraged to attend. Child care will be provided in the nursery.

ATTENTION ... there is a **NEW Condensed Church Directory** on the long table in the foyer. Please take one per family.

Don't forget that next Sunday, January 31 ... will be **Children's Bible Hour** for ages 3 through 10 ... following church services ... from **11:00 am to 12:15 pm.**

Wednesday Night Supper There has been interest in having a light potluck meal on Wednesday nights prior to services to help with our busy families. Meal time would be from 5:45pm to 6:45pm in the fellowship hall. If your family is interested in participating, please contact Keely McCary at (903) 563-7895 by Tuesday of each week to see how you can contribute to the meal.

And they ...did eat their food with gladness and singleness of heart.- Acts 2:46

PRAYER REQUEST

“I have to take my teaching test on Feb 6th at 2pm in Mt. Pleasant. Please pray for me that I have recall of those things I need to know. Thank you so much.” —

Jodie O'Rand

THANK YOU NOTE

THANK YOU ... “Dear North Jefferson family— You have loved us tremendously during a very difficult time. We are already missing our sweet, gentle, loving mom. Your hugs, cards, calls, and visits have been a great source of encouragement. Your hospitality and the delicious meal for our entire family were deeply appreciated. And the food presentation was beautiful and so well-organized. You have it down to an art! Thank you for the wonderful singing at the service. It was so pleasant. Thank you also for the gorgeous flowers. Mom loved the North Jefferson family and always spoke so well of you and the kindnesses you showed to her.

— With loving gratitude,
Roger Grimes
Dave & Christy Grimes
John and Sharon Grimes”

AREA EVENTS

There will be an area wide Worship service at the **College church of Christ in Paris.** The service will start at 5pm, Sun. 24th January (that's today), with Sam Dilbeck speaking. Get there at least 30 minutes early for a seat.