

Those to Serve

Sunday 10-11-2009

Sunday Morning Worship:

Announcements..... Jerry Freeman
 Song Leader..... Randy Eubanks
 Opening Prayer Glenn Parham
 Closing Prayer Ron Traugher

Month of OCTOBER 2009

Sunday Morning Lord's Table

South Side:

Jerry Freeman
 Jody Sparks
 David Neal

North Side:

Grady Duncan
 Daniel McCary
 Austin Neal

Sunday Evening Lord's Table

Jim Duncan Charles Kyle

Sunday Evening Worship:

Announcements..... Jerry Freeman
 Song Leader..... Weldon Miller
 Opening PM Prayer..... Doug Abbey
 Closing PM Prayer..... Wayne Charlton

Serving Wednesday Night—Oct 14, 2009

Announcements Jerry Freeman
 Song Leader Hal Roper
 First Prayer..... Kris Groda
 Closing Prayer..... Daniel McCary

*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.

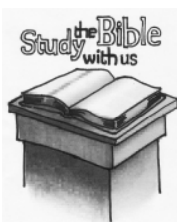
Attendance for the week of 10-04-2009

Bible Classes..... 92
 Morning Worship..... 145
 Evening Worship 92
 Tuesday Ladies Class 22
 Wednesday Night 134
 Regular Contribution \$ 4,352.76
 New Construction Fund Contributions.....\$ 180.00

Averages To Date This Year

Bible Classes.....101
 Morning Worship.....141
 Evening Worship 99
 Tuesday Ladies Class 13
 Wednesday Night 93
 Regular Contribution.....\$ 4,329.32
 New Construction Fund Contributions to date..... \$ 78,007.07
 (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)



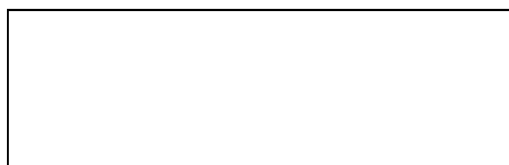
Today's Sermons

AM: Standing On The Promises
Kris Groda, Preaching

PM: To be Announced
Richard Rutledge of Mount Vernon

WITHOUT GOD . . . our week would be: Sindy, Mournday, Tearsday, Wasteday, Thirstday, Fightday, Shatterday. Seven days without God - makes one weak!

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



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. 33 Founded on the Word—Focused on the World October 11, 2009

The Christian System and Government Health Care

By Kevin Cauley

There are occasions when politicians appeal to Christianity as a reason for why they have voted for a particular bill. They might say that it is the "Christian" thing to do. I have a problem with politicians appealing to Christianity, whether Republican or Democrat, to justify some governmental action because they often fail to demonstrate how Christianity demands one sort of legislation or another. Most justifications used are taken out of context. That's not to say that legislation can't be either moral or immoral. However, I believe that many times when religion is called upon to support some particular piece of legislation its not the moral consequences of the legislation that are under consideration, but rather, votes for politicians.

and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?" We read of the generosity of the early church in Acts 2:45 who "sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need." We are especially to be concerned about those on the fringe of society. James wrote, "Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, to visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world" (James 1:27).

The recent 60 billion dollar health care legislation that was passed and which President Bush vetoed is a good example of what I'm talking about. I suppose many would say that such legislation was "Christian" in that it helps poor working families. My family would be a beneficiary of that legislation were it to pass and so would several families with children in many churches. In fact, a family of four with a combined annual income of \$80,000 a year could qualify for the benefits of this legislation under 2007 poverty guidelines and benefits for children would be extended to age 21. Is that a "Christian" thing?

On the other hand, Christian support of the poor and those in need doesn't come without condition. Paul told members of the church at Thessalonica, "For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat." Paul's instruction about the support of widows required family members to provide first: "But if any widow have children or nephews, let them learn first to show piety at home, and to recompense their parents: for that is good and acceptable before God," "But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel" and "If any man or woman that believeth have widows, let them relieve them, and let not the church be charged; that it may relieve them that are widows indeed" (1 Timothy 5:4, 8, 16). The order of support is from family first and then from the church.

There's no doubt that the Bible talks about helping the poor. Paul said of the apostles in Galatians 2:10 "Only they would that we should remember the poor; the same which I also was forward to do." The apostle John in 1 John 3:17 states, "But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, There aren't any scriptures, however, where New Testament church leaders expected the government to relieve them. Such thinking is conspicuously absent from the New Testament. The role of govern-

(Continued from page 1 *The Christian System and Government Health Care*)

ment from a Christian perspective is simply to punish evildoers and praise those who do well (1 Peter 2:14). The vast majority of passages that mention the Christians' interaction with the government speak of the Christian monetarily supporting the government, not vice versa. See Matthew 22:21, Mark 12:17, Luke 20:25, Romans 13:6-7, and 1 Peter 2:17. It is extraordinarily out of context to suggest that some government entitlement program is "Christian."

Moreover, such government programs may be contrary to Christianity. Being a Christian is about bettering one's self. Christians are individuals who have been converted from a life of sin and pledged to a life of righteousness (Romans 6:12-18). Such requires personal sacrifices and efforts. Christianity is about living for Christ on a daily basis (Galatians 2:20). For the government to step in and supply what the Christian is supposed to provide for himself undermines the genius of the call of the Christian religion for personal sacrifice (Philippians 2:17, 4:18).

Such governmental programs also supplant the benevolent arm of the church in her mission to edify the saints and evangelize the lost. If the religion-neutral government takes upon itself the task of caring for the poor, who among the poor will turn to the church for aid? That was one of the great reasons why the church grew in the first century. The poor saw the church as a place where they could receive legitimate help. Such help could also be appropriately regulated by the church. The balance is evident when properly considered. The church isn't merely a benevolent society because there are some conditions for aid. The poor aren't simply receiving unconditional handouts because they are exhorted to change their lives for the better so that they too can help others (Ephesians 4:28).

Such does not mean that the Christian may not accept any help whatsoever in times of difficulty or due to economic circumstances beyond his control. However, it isn't a God-less uncaring bureaucracy that is providing the aid. It is a loving and caring family that has the best interests of the recipient at heart.

What is the answer? It is counter productive to morality for the government to become a charitable aid society. We've seen this to be true in the failed welfare

system of the two previous decades. At the same time, it isn't unreasonable for government to help families who are contributing to society when their families and the church don't have the resources to help. In that regard, Christianity doesn't favor broadly and indiscriminately placing well-paid working families on the roles of government health care. Such families can provide for their own needs (1 Timothy 5:8). Failure to do so would be an act of infidelity to Christ. Christianity, would not, however, reject conditional and limited governmental help to families who are in challenging economic circumstances. Such is still not ideal because such families receive no remedial education for what got them into such circumstances to begin with (i.e. crime, immorality, neglectfulness, laziness, etc.). Only the church can provide solutions in this area.

Editors Note: *This article was originally posted October 20, 2007. Though the govt. benevolence example in this article is old news, the Biblical principles are timeless.* www.preachersfiles.com. **SKG.**

Mount Pleasant Cares, Inc.

1. Plan now to vote "No" on each proposition regarding the sale of liquor during the early voting period or on Election Day.
2. Beginning now, talk to your family and friends, stand for Bible principles and be influential in their voting "No" in the November 3rd election concerning having liquor for sale in our stores and restaurants.
3. Distribute literature concerning the negative impact of liquor. Pray for a successful effort to defeat this wicked proposal.
4. Display a sign in your yard to vote "No" to liquor.
5. Give liberally to "Mt. Pleasant Cares". Monies provided to "Mt. Pleasant Cares" will be used for media advertising, brochures and pamphlets concerning the problems that Mt. Pleasant will experience, yard signs. Contributions can be given to any member of the board of "Mt. Pleasant Cares" or mailed to P.O. Box 2334, Mt. Pleasant, Texas, 75456-2334.
6. Call the public relations office of Brookshire's (903-534-3000) and Wal-Mart (1-800-925-6278) to voice your opposition to the sale of liquor in their stores.

Thank you for your stand!

Prayer List: Justin Barker, Rachel Barker, Doris Bell, Billy Campbell, Gene Campbell, Suzanne Charlton, Barbara Duncan, Irene Duncan, Patsy Duncan, Wade Miller, Wayne Pickrel, Thelma Reed, Julia Terrell

Also: Carolyn (Katy) Cabell, Mary Jo Lee, Janice Lineberger, Ruby McFarland, Kent Stephenson, Charles Whitney

Congregational Shut-Ins:

Home: Doris Bell, **Pleasant Springs Assisted Living:** Annah Brown, **Home:** Irene Duncan, **Villa Assisted Living:** Georgia Lide, **Omaha Healthcare Center:** Alice Lovelady, **Pleasant Springs Nursing Center:** Julia Terrell

ITEMS OF INTEREST:

Miranda Freeman's phone number is 903-~~573~~-5089 rather than 903-~~753~~-5089.

Correction on Nancy Craig's phone number. In the directory change from 903-~~566~~-0189 to 903-~~556~~-0189

JAGGERS

Todd* & Jeanie Pat
3450 US Hwy. 67E
Mt. Vernon. TX., 75457
Home Ph. 903-537-3617

NORFLEET

Melvin & Betty
P O Box 1321
1807 Hogan Lane
Mount Pleasant, Texas 75456-1321
Home Ph: 903-575-2027
Melvin's Cell Phone: 903-573-4686
Betty's Cell Phone: 903-563-1977

Health Updates:

No update on Julia Terrell at the printing of this bulletin.

No update on the condition of Rance Robison's grandmother.

Dean Sparks, (dad of Jody) is in the hospital.

Dewey Traylor, father of LaShedria Traylor, passed away last week. Funeral Services are scheduled for 1:00 pm Tuesday, October 13, at Choctaw Baptist Church with burial at Edwards Cemetery.

Wayne Pickrel was admitted to TRMC ER about noon Thursday. He had run a fever and didn't feel good. According to Michelle they have run tests, will be giving him some antibiotics. He is weak and does not feel like having company at the present time. He is in room 532. They were scheduled to keep him at least over night.

At the funeral of Rance Robison's uncle, the one year daughter of one of Rance's cousins fell from the front seat of a pick up when a brother opened the door to get in out of the cold while at the cemetery service. After seeing a doctor in Ardmore, Oklahoma she is was sent to Children's Hospital in Oklahoma City. There appears to be a brain bleed. **The family is re-**

questing prayers for Olivia, the brother and all the family.

UPCOMING YOUTH EVENTS:

1) **This Sunday night** the North Jefferson congregation will begin participation is a preacher swap one time each quarter between Mt. Vernon, Pittsburg and ourselves. Bro. Richard Rutledge of the Mt. Vernon congregation will be our speaker. Bro. Kevin Ruiz of the Pittsburg congregation will speak at the Mt. Vernon congregation and Bro. Kris Groda will be speaking at the Pittsburg congregation. The elders feel this will be a good cooperative effort between our congregations who have been very supportive of each other as well as giving us an opportunity to become better acquainted with the other preachers and their families.

2) **Because of the above, we are moving our regular 2nd Sunday night Men's Business meeting to the 3rd Sunday night.**

3) **Area Wide Bible Bowl begins Monday night here at the North Jefferson building (7:00 p.m.) We will be the host congregation (meaning that we will provide refreshments, etc. following the service).**

4) **In connection with the above,** we would like to recognize, encourage and show our (congregational) support for our young people who have been preparing themselves to participate in Bible Bowl. We are scheduling a short period of time following services Sunday night in the multi-purpose for the congregation to share some desert and etc. with our young people and let them know how much we appreciate them.

Area Events:

Ladies Day at Mount Vernon church of Christ, October 24, 2009 from 9:00 AM to Noon (Lunch provided). *Cindy Armstrong of the North Jefferson church of Christ in Mount Pleasant will be guest speaker.* Topic will be "Are you Tiptoeing Through the Tulips or Running Through the Daisies?" - 1 Timothy 1:7

MARK YOUR CALENDAR ... BABY SHOWER For Autumn Miller Jones is today, October 11, 2009 at 2:30 p.m. here at the building in the Multi-purpose Room. [*She's having a BOY!*]

If you have cards to be mailed to the sick and/or shut-ins, please place those in the basket on the table in the foyer. Thanks.

THANK YOU ... "Thank you so much for the beautiful red & white floral spray. Your thoughts and prayers during this time have been most comforting to our family.

—In His Grace, The Family of James L. Clark"