

# REMINDER

Volume XV

May 3, 2009

Number 18

**NEXT SUNDAY IS -**

# MOTHER'S DAY!



***EVERY MOTHER PRESENT NEXT SUNDAY WILL  
RECEIVE A SPECIAL GIFT FROM OUR CHURCH!***

**WE WILL ALSO HONOR -**

- ***The Oldest Mother Present***
- ***The Newest Mother Present***
- ***The Mother With The Most Children Present***
- ***The Mother With The Most Children AND  
Grandchildren Present***

***BE SURE AND BE HERE!***

# COUNT ON ME!

(continued from last week)

## II. Counted on to Act from the Heart:

**2. Fulfillment Means Jesus Satisfied Every Requirement Perfectly.** By saying he had come to fulfill the law, Jesus also meant that he would fully obey it, without any exception, without any flaw, and without any sin, and would therefore demonstrate before all humanity how the expectations of God are to be met. In other words, Jesus himself is God's illustration of perfect humanity. Adam and Eve would have been like Jesus had they never fallen. Never mind that we realize we are not and cannot be perfect while in this world. We still need the perfect example Jesus gave us, as a means of interpreting the law of God. The highest authority on the meaning of the Ten Commandments or any other Bible exhortation or rule, is the life of Jesus Christ himself.

**3. An Example of Fulfillment.** One example of the law Jesus fulfilled is the observance of the Sabbath. This commandment was one of the ten great ones, and for centuries the Jews had observed the seventh day as the Sabbath - a day of worship and rest. The New Testament book Hebrews points out that the "Sabbath" was a rest commemorating creation, but that it looked forward to another rest yet to come, a rest secured in the work of Jesus Christ, through his finished work on the cross (Hebrews 4:4-11). Since Jesus said he came to fulfill the law, clearly he fulfilled this commandment. In Jesus *work* on the cross, the saving work of God, the new rest of man became his trust in the divine work, resting from "*works salvation.*"

Christians became aware of this fundamental change early on. Very soon after the resurrection of Christ they were meeting on "the Lord's Day," or the first day of the week, instead of the seventh. As Gentiles came into the church, and then dominated it, there was, in fact, no Jewish Sabbath any longer, but the celebration of the Lord's Day instead, in a new spirit of living worship.

This example of the Sabbath being fulfilled suggests that other Old Testament laws whose chief importance was as symbols of other things were also fulfilled by Christ and have changed form or significance for Christians. Among these laws is the tithe. While the ministry needs of the church or the needs of the poor to be fed and clothed has not changed, what the tithe represented *has* changed. The tithe, as an offering of the tribute God required, always represented one's surrender to his sovereignty (after all, God doesn't need money - it just represents our giving ourselves). Since Jesus has come and satisfied every divine requirement for our holiness, the tithe can once again be what it was before it became law: an offering of thanks-giving.

## We must both teach and "do" tithing

While we must grow spiritually to the point at which we give the tithe from the heart, without any feeling that we "have to," if we are really to be able to be counted on by our church, God expects us both to teach and to "*do*" tithing. Read again the words from Matthew 5:19: "*Whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.*"

We must not only be obedient in the matter of stewardship ourselves, but boldly teach the next generation the joy of stewardship, or the church will lose its support to the entertainment of the world. On the other hand, we could as easily observe that some people don't have any problem teaching "tithing lessons" in Sunday School, or listening respectfully to stewardship sermons, but if you actually examine their lives, they aren't really being good stewards of what God has given them.

The point is that we cannot just do just *teach* giving, we must do both. We ourselves must obey, and we must teach the next generation of Christians and church leaders to be sacrificially generous with the cause of Christ, through their own churches. If we do not do both, our church cannot count on us, and God may not count on us, to support the great mission he has given his church, to "*go into all the world.*"

How can we illustrate what it means to obey from the heart, and not just obey the letter of the law? Anyone who drives knows that many rules of the road are regularly broken. How many reading this have *never* gone over the speed limit?

Probably many reading this in fact make a habit of going 60 m.p.h. in a 55 m.p.h. zone, or five to ten miles over the limit on interstate highways. The justifications are easy: "everybody else" is going that fast; I think it's safe; I need to hurry, etc. But what happens to the excuses when a patrolman is spotted? On go the brakes, down comes the speedometer, and we're all perfect motorists. Amazing, isn't it! But why do we do it? Not because we have an inward motivation, but because we have to, or else we'll get caught.

But consider laws against littering. Perhaps some reading this lesson throw fast-food bags or cups out the car window when they're through with them, but many - we hope most! - wouldn't dream of it. Many were simply raised to regard littering as one of the most slovenly things that could be done. The bumper sticker comes to mind: "Trashy people litter." To people raised to use garbage cans, there is no need for a law against littering: it's a law



written on their very hearts. They *like* clean roads and yards.

Obedying God's law from the heart is like this. When Christians grow to let the Holy Spirit within them dominate their thinking and feeling, they will be good stewards, good givers, good churchmen and churchwomen, not because someone browbeats them every week from a pulpit, but because the desire to obey God comes out of their hearts like water from a spring.

### **III. Counted on to Meet the Needs of Others**

Finally, we need to ask ourselves if our church can count on us to support its ministries that meet the needs, including the greatest need of all, of others. Our giving is not just a private thing that measures our love of God: it is a corporate thing that measures our love and the love of our church for other people God has made. Under the inspiration of God, Paul wrote in Acts 20:35,

*“I have shewed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive.”*

Paul was addressing the Ephesian elders. Surely he had in mind the mission work and the benevolent work of the church. The great and enduring need for years through the time of Paul's ministry and beyond was the need of the Jerusalem church. After the time of prosperity and favor with the community, the Jerusalem congregation fell into hard times, as persecution also grew. Part of the challenge of churches abroad was to take on themselves a commitment to helping the poor brethren in Jerusalem.

While we are thinking lofty thoughts about the spiritual sacrifice involved in stewardship, or the challenge of the gospel ministry around the world, we must not fail to include the less "glorious" sounding -but equally necessary- ministry of service to those in need. Part of Christ's expectation of his church is to reach and touch people through the simple act of meeting their daily, human needs.

*“If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit?” (James 2:15-16)?*

Sometimes meeting needs like food, clothing, and shelter is a way - perhaps the only way - to open the door to witness. On occasion, however, meeting the human need may not have any other possibility attached to it: we must meet the need simply because it is there and because we are constrained by the love of Christ. Can your church count on you to help it with ministries like that? Can God?

### **IV. A Bible Illustration of A Man Who Could Be Counted On:**

The Bible gives us many illustrations of people who were good stewards. In the Old Testament we read of the first patriarch, Abraham (Abram), who gave what is the first recorded instance of the tithe.

*“And Melchizedek king of Salem brought forth bread and wine: and he was the priest of the most high God. And he blessed him, and said, Blessed be Abram of the most high God, which hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand. And he gave him tithes of all” (Genesis 14:18-20).*

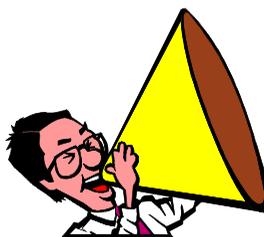
Abram had returned from battle bearing the spoils of war. In his joy in victory, he was prompted from the heart to express his thankfulness for the Lord's blessing on his mission - he had gone to deliver kinsmen from certain enslavement by attacking kings. When he met up with Melchizedek outside Salem, he spontaneously responded by giving him a tenth of all he had taken. Since Melchizedek was a priest of the most high God, Abram's offering - which was really more like tribute - was clearly directed toward God. And since priests anywhere performed sacred duties like worship leadership, benevolence, and teaching, Abram obviously realized his gift would support the work of the Lord - *and he intended it that way.*

While this is no full-blown description of church offerings and their use in church ministries, it is nevertheless a compact story of dependable, reliable stewardship, the kind that both responds in crisis and performs with regularity, and that makes possible the forward movement of the Lord's work.

Whenever your church conducts a stewardship campaign, whenever a budget is adopted, indeed every Sunday when offering plates pass through the rows of worshipers, the question is being asked,

***“Can your church count on you? Can God?”***

*- Biblical Stewardship Group  
Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma*



***BEGINNING  
SUNDAY, MAY 17,  
WE WILL BEGIN A  
CLASS ON -***

## **FINANCIAL FREEDOM**

***Learn Biblical Principles For Finances That  
Will Free You From The Bondage Of Debt!***

This class, though designed for our young adults, is open to all from high school age and upward. Every Christian needs to learn how to handle their finances God's way!

***Classes will begin promptly at 9:45 each Sunday  
morning in the Auditorium starting May 17.***



## THE REPROACH OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

*“Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people” (Proverbs 14:34).*

Three hundred and eighty years ago a brave group of people left their homes in Europe and crossed the Atlantic Ocean to find the Virginia colony in the new world. They landed instead at what is now Plymouth, Massachusetts and over the years they have become known as *“the Pilgrims.”*

What made these people different from all the others coming to the new land was that they came not for gold or power, but they came for God. What they suffered in hunger, sickness, cold and fear would have caused others to abandon their search for worldly treasures. Their faith was more precious to them than life itself. They brought with them a book that just a few years earlier had been translated by the greatest group of scholars ever assembled for any single task. That book was the Bible. It became their Sword. And what the cold of winter and starvation had robbed from them, they recovered through prayer and faith in God. After suffering all of that, they got on their faces before the God of heaven and thanked Him for His Providential care.

Through the years, history has recorded how our country was built upon the heritage of faith that is a legacy they left us. Our country's most treasured documents were all based upon the principles and precepts of the Word of God. George Washington insisted that before a territory be permitted to join the union as a state that there constitution require that children be taught Bible morality and principles in addition to secular knowledge. The first amendment of the U. S. Constitution does not teach that religion should not be in government, but rather, government should not establish or control religion. "The Pilgrims" came to these shores to escape a government controlled religion. *God was important in those days.*

When the world's greatest, humanly written, governmental document was penned, there were no minority groups present to demand their rights, no women's factions present to make suggestions, no sodomites present to offer alternate life styles, and no children present to throw fits of rebellion. There were only men who had fought for liberty and freedom by jeopardizing their fortunes, their lives, their sacred honor. They had a heart full of God. *God was important in those days.*

Our country was built upon prayer. Through the Valley Forges of the American Revolution, the Fort McHenry's of the War of 1812 and the Gettysburg's of the War Between the States,

American soldiers and their families prayed. Through the Spanish-American War, and two World Wars, Americans prayed. As a small boy I remember praying for our men in Korea during school. And then later as a teenager and young adult for the American in Viet Nam. But you see, *God was important in those days.*

We thanked God and gave Him glory. America used to know Who guided her and provided her. Every farmer in this country planted in hope and harvested in joy. "Thanksgiving" started as an expression of genuine gratitude to the Lord God. And people would gather to give thanks together for the great blessings God had bestowed. It wasn't the food or the day off from work or the football game that meant so much to them, but *God was important in those days.*

And families were together. Divorce was almost unheard of. Children were brought to church by Dad *and* Mom, not sent on a bus. Many a young man and young lady found their life's mate at the local church, not the local bar or nightclub. Going to God's house was family time together, not sitting in front of the TV or trips to the lake every weekend. The name of Jesus Christ was exalted, not thrown in the gutter. Parents taught the kids, not vice versa. And they taught them the values of the Bible: to be honest with all men and with God. Oh, the family budget was tight, but God came first. You see, *God was important in those days.*

A man's word was his bond, because men used to believe they would stand before God for every word they said. To rob your neighbor was to rob God. To lie was to mock God. To break a vow of commitment brought judgment from God. Man a man would have built the house of the Lord before he built his own. Those were days of commitment. *God was important in those days.*

This America that once our ancestors bought with their sacrifices, sufferings and prayers; this America that once was a refuge for those who craved to worship God according to the Bible and not the government; this America that once God used time and again to rescue the world from tyrants; this America that once embedded "In God We Trust" upon its coins and "One Nation Under God" upon the hearts of its children; this America that once had her preachers of the Word as her greatest heros; this America that once sang "God Bless America" and "God Shed His Grace On Thee;" this America has gone into apostasy and immorality and has become a stench in the nostrils of Almighty God.



No longer are Americans willing to sacrifice, suffer or pray for that which is right; no longer do Americans flock to the house of God on the Lord's day to cling to the Word as it is preached and worship with grateful hearts. Today's America has become the "patsy" for the United Nations instead of *"One Nation Under God."* No longer in America are laws made to protect the citizens. Instead, they are made to take away rights from law obeyers and

give rights to law breakers and moral perverts. No longer can America say, "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord," because He is no longer our God. Preachers no longer stand firm upon the Blood bought Book and God's people no longer believe it.

America's greatest enemy today is not the cold winters of Plymouth Colony or the tyrannical rule of King George of England. Our enemy is not a usurping dictator or the threat of economical collapse. The ruin of America will not come by a bomb, but by her own reproach. America's greatest reproach is her own spiritual and moral decline. And America's greatest enemy is the Lord God Almighty. Our only hope of survival is an unconditional surrender to Him and make God once again important in America.

- Dr. Larry Groves, Pastor  
Faith Baptist Church - Indianapolis, Indiana

## TOOLS FOR SALE

It was advertised that the devil was going to put his tools up for sale. On the date of the sale, the tools were placed for public inspection; each tool being marked with its sale price. They were a treacherous lot of implements...Hatred, Envy, Jealousy, Deceit, Lying, Pride, and so on. Laid apart from the rest was a harmless looking tool, well worn and priced very high.

"What is the name of this tool?" asked one of the purchasers, pointing to it.

"That is Discouragement", replied the devil.

"Why have you priced it so high?"

"Because it is more useful to me than the others. I can pry open and get inside a man's heart with that when I cannot get near him with my other tools. Once I get inside, I can make him do what I choose. It is badly worn because I use it on almost everyone, since very few people know that it belongs to me."

My friend, don't let Satan discourage you in anyway. You are God's child and have the victory already won. All you have to do is keep your faith on the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, Jesus Christ. The devil will not have a chance to discourage you, even with his best tools.

- Author Unknown

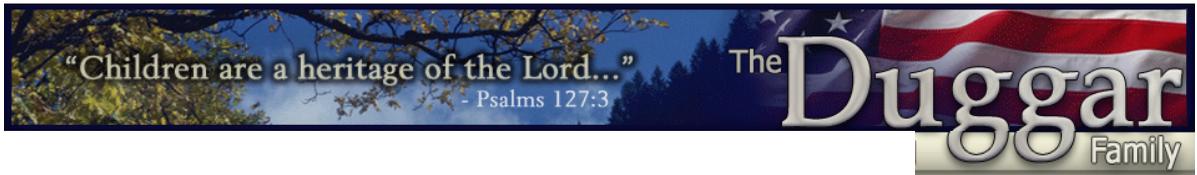
*If God had a refrigerator,  
your picture would be on it.*

*If He had a wallet, your photo would be in it.  
He sends you flowers every spring and a sunrise  
every morning. Whenever you want to talk, He'll  
listen. He can live anywhere in the universe,  
and He chose your heart.*

*And the Christmas gift He sent you in Bethlehem?  
Face it friend - He's crazy about you!*

- Author Unknown

**BE PLANNING NOW TO BRING SOMEONE TO MEET -**



**Sunday Morning  
June 28, 2009**

- Duggar-family Musicians Will Play and Sing For Our Service!***
- Jim Bob Duggar Will Be Speaking In The Morning Service!***
- Michelle Duggar To Give Devotional At Rebekah White's Baby Shower At 1:30 p.m.***

**PLAN NOW TO BE HERE!**

***NURSERY MINISTRY WORKERS FOR THIS WEEK***

10:50 a.m. Service ----- Cradle Roll 1: Caryn Quinnelly  
 Cradle Roll 2: Derek Quinnelly  
 6:00 p.m. Service ----- Cradle Roll 1: Piper Martin  
 Cradle Roll 2: Ryan Quinnelly  
 Wed. Eve. Service ----- Cradle Roll 1: Rebekah White  
 Cradle Roll 2: Nathaniel White

***AND THE PEOPLE CAME...***

*Week of April 26, 2009*

Sunday School ----- 19  
 Sunday Morning Service ----- 30  
 Sunday Evening Service ----- 31  
 Wed. Eve. Service, 04/29/09 ----- 23

***AND THE PEOPLE GAVE...***

*Week of April 26, 2009*

*Undesignated* Tithes & Offerings ----- \$ 1,486.00  
 New Hymnals Fund ----- \$ 16.00  
 Parsonage Renovation Fund ----- \$ 1.00  
**Total Received for Week of 04/26/09: \$ 1,504.00**

**Average amount of Undesignated Offerings needed  
 to operate the church  
 EACH WEEK,  
 as a minimum = \$ 1,400.00** 🇺🇸

***FUND DRIVE REPORTS***

***NEW HYMNAL FUND***

*Offerings Received To Date:* \$ 1,346.00

***NEW PIANO FUND***

*Offerings Received To Date:* \$ 570.00

***PARSONAGE RENOVATION FUND***

*Total Received, To Date:* \$ 330.00

***THE KINGDOM OF  
 GOD CANNOT BE  
 BUILT WITH  
 LEFTOVERS.***

***WHAT IT MEANS TO BE SAVED***

1. ***Admit that you are a sinner.***
2. ***Admit that God says all sins must be paid for.***
3. ***Accept the fact that Christ took upon Himself the suffering necessary to pay for all your sins.***
4. ***You must change your mind about sin and sinning (God calls this repentance).***
5. ***By an act of your will, accept by faith the Lord Jesus Christ, who can save you from the penalty of sin. Then, tell God about this in a simple prayer. Believe that God keeps His promise to save you, and thank Him for His salvation.***



***Please Remember To  
 Be Faithful to Give!***

As with everything else, the costs of keeping a church going never go down - they always go *up*. Bills wait for no one, and churches are no exception to this. An extra, sacrificial gift today by everyone present would go a long way...

We encourage all of our membership to practice obedience to God by being faithful every payday to give back to Him His tithe (10%). *If every family in our church would practice this one simple discipline, we would never have weeks where we have to put off paying some bills until the following week!*

Everything is expensive, especially for a small church like ours, but ours is a BIG God, and He LOVES to bless His children when they are obedient to Him!

If you are already a tither, we thank you, and encourage you to also give offerings as well. If you're currently not tithing, won't you please start *today* - **OK?** Thank you.

***Church Directory***

Todd W. White ----- Pastor  
 Mickie Shatwell ----- Pianist  
 Dickie Eberle ----- Greeter, Custodian  
 Larry Mathews, Caryn Quinnelly, Todd W. White ----- S.S. Teachers  
 Larry & Mary Byars, Brian & Charity Crawford,  
 Nathaniel & Rebekah White ----- Outreach