

# SOUTH HEIGHTS BAPTIST'S WEEKLY

# REMINDER

Volume XVI

June 19, 2016

Number 23

### NURSERY MINISTRY WORKERS FOR THIS WEEK

10:50 a.m. Service ----- Cradle Roll 1: Charity Crawford  
 Cradle Roll 2: NEED VOLUNTEER!  
 6:30 p.m. Service ----- Cradle Roll 1: Kristi Hooper  
 Cradle Roll 2: Andrea Hooper  
 Wed. Evening Service ---- Cradle Roll 1: Shirley White  
 Cradle Roll 2: NEED VOLUNTEER!

### AND THE PEOPLE CAME...

Week of June 12, 2016

Sunday School ----- 13  
 Sunday Morning Service ----- 26  
 Sunday Evening Service ----- 21  
 Wed. Eve., 06/12/16 Service ----- 18

### AND THE PEOPLE GAVE...

Week of June 12, 2016

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings ----- \$ 994.00  
 Total Received for Week of 06/12/16: \$ 994.00  
 Average amount of Undesignated Offerings needed  
 to operate the church EACH WEEK,  
as a minimum = \$ 1,400.00

### PLUMBING REPAIR FUND -

Amount For Entire Project ----- \$6,606.99  
 Amount Received So Far ----- \$ 908.00  
 Total STILL NEEDED to pay off: \$5,698.99

**LISTEN TO -**



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### 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  
 Lois Mae Floyd ----- Pianist/ Organist  
 ----- Greeter  
 Shayne Hooper, Brian Crawford, Charity Crawford ----- S.S. Teachers  
 Larry & Mary Byars, ----- Outreach  
 Bertha Segebart ----- Custodian  
 Flowers ----- Shirley White, Charity Crawford

## Doing Something About It

by Vance Havner

*"They hear thy words but they will not do them" - Ezekiel 33:31*

*"But be doers of the Word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves" - James 1:22*



**Dr. Vance Havner**  
1901 - 1986

The prophet Ezekiel ministered in an evil time. It was his lot to prophesy to a generation that listened after a fashion, likened him unto one having a pleasant voice, told others about his preaching, but did nothing about his message. They heard his words but did them not.

Ezekiel was not the only man of God whose sermons fell on unresponsive ears. Earlier, God had advised Isaiah well in advance that his message would blink eyes and shut ears and harden hearts lest the hearers convert and be healed. And those words show up later in each of the four Gospels and still later in Acts and Romans to explain the poor response of Israel to the ministry of our Lord and of Paul. Israel heard but did nothing.

James warns against the same evil. Invariably we do not quote the entire verse. We say, *"But be doers of the word and not hearers only,"* and there we stop. But there is a most solemn further word, *"deceiving yourselves."* That is the worst thing about it: *hearing and not doing, we delude ourselves.*

Our Lord constantly warned against doing nothing about it. *"Everyone that hears these sayings of mine and does not do them, shall be likened to a foolish man who built his house upon the sand."* *"If you know these things, happy are you if you do them."* *"You are my friends if you do what I command you."* *"Why do you call me Lord, Lord, and don't do the things I say?"* In the Great Commission, we are told to go *"teaching them TO OBSERVE"* the things commanded.

**Chief among the Besetting Sins of the Saints Is Hearing Without Doing.** And it is a grievous sin, for *"to him that knows the good he ought to do and fails to do it, it is sin."* In Ezekiel's day they heard the preacher, complimented him, told others about him, but did nothing about the message. The centuries have passed, and today we listen to preachers, invite others to hear them, congratulate them with that very doubtful compliment, "I enjoyed your sermon." But we do nothing about it.

Let it never be forgotten that, although we may do nothing about the Word we hear, the Word will do something to us. The same sun melts ice and hardens clay, and the Word of God humbles or hardens the human heart. Truth heard and not acted upon is a dangerous thing. Spiritual impulses which are not translated into action have a disastrous reaction.

It is well known that many movie-goers who are continually being excited and stirred in the world of make-believe become emotional drunkards. But there are also religious drunkards and Bible-conference drunkards and church drunkards, who go from meeting to meeting, constantly being stirred but doing nothing about it, until their souls become fed-up, their moral muscles deteriorate and they lose their capacity for being aroused. Presently they suffer from a moral let-down, a religious hangover. They delude themselves. They have heard the best preachers, they have read the best books, they have had their ears tickled and their emotions thrilled, but as with a stimulant the doses have to be increased and after awhile there is no effect, no matter what they read or hear. An alarm clock that fairly blasts us out of bed on the first morning may eventually fail to arouse us. Something like that happens to those who hear and take no action upon it.

It is a serious thing to trifle with any emotion and not carry it through to its proper and legitimate conclusion. And it is most *(continued inside)*

dangerous to play with the holy stirrings of God's Spirit through His Word. I had rather take chances with forked lightning any time. For the Word of God is dynamite, it is a hammer, a fire, a sword; messengers of the Word are a savour of life unto life and of death unto death. The man who habitually hears the Word of God and does nothing about it is the greatest of fools, for he fools himself.

**Americans are a generation of spectators.** They sit, thousands strong, in a football stadium and watch twenty-two men strive for the mastery down below. Then they go to the movies and thrill to the sham of Hollywood. On Sunday some of them go to church, and once again they are spectators before whom the minister is expected to perform. Many of them have no more intention of doing anything about the sermon than they intend to act out what they experienced at the movies. **They are spectators, not participants.**

Modern Christians find it easy to hear the Word and do nothing about it. Preaching may be had on every hand, at church, at the turn of a radio dial. Sermons have become so commonplace that we take the truth for granted. But where much has been given, much shall be required. God forbid that we should go out of our churches merely comparing one minister with another; like the listeners of Ezekiel's day, complimenting the messenger without conforming to the message, passing it up as just another sermon, "enjoying" it when God meant that our consciences would be pricked by it. The task of the preacher is "to comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable" and we are comfortable enough. God help us if we let the fowls of the air snatch up the seed which should produce thirty-, sixty-, an hundredfold; if we behold ourselves in the mirror of the Word and straightway forget what manner of persons we are!

The great and holy themes of Scripture are always joined with a call to do something about it. The first part of Ephesians shows us our exalted position in Christ, but right out of those heavenly glories we move from doctrine to duty, to the believer's vocation, which too often is regarded as a vacation. There are those who enjoy a dissertation on "**The Lord knows those who are his**" but who resent an application of the rest of the verse, "**And let every one who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity.**" It is possible to revel in prophetic lectures, "**seeing that all these things shall be dissolved,**" without going on to do something about what manner of persons we ought to be. The coming of our Lord is a certainty, a coming certainty, a comforting certainty, and a challenging certainty, and if we hold properly this hope we shall do something about it, we shall purify ourselves even as He is pure. Alas, it is too often the case that the same brother who shouts "amen" ? and well he may! ? through the fifteenth chapter of First Corinthians, the resurrection chapter, shuts his mouth as tightly as his pocketbook on the sixteenth chapter, the collection chapter!

From start to finish, the Word of God joins creed with deed, and if "**cursed be he that handles the word of God deceitfully,**" let us remember that one way we can do that is by hearing it and

not doing it. "Sin will keep us from the Book and the Book will keep us from sin," and it is not the Word hidden in the head but in the heart that keeps us from sin. You can have a head full of Scripture and heart full of sin! **You can backslide with a Bible under your arm!**

It is possible to mistake a familiarity with Bible terms for a knowledge of Bible truth. We are not suffering from a lack of sermons. Maybe we have too many sermons. There is enough of the Word of God stored in the heads of Christians, if it were obeyed, to set America on fire and set off enough Divine power to put atomic bombs to shame in comparison.

But something has to be done about the Word. It is true, gloriously true, that God's Word will not return unto Him void. Ezekiel was assured that although the people would not heed his message, they would know that a prophet had been among them. Many a preacher, in an unresponsive day, has encouraged himself with that blessed truth. But that God's Word will not return void is no lollipop to roll under our tongues while we evade personal responsibility. The preacher has a responsibility to preach the Word, but his hearers have a responsibility to heed it. There is another verse about the Word not profiting Israel long ago, "**not being mixed with faith in them that heard it.**" There must be a volitional response, "**faith taking hold of the word.**"

We may have faith, but is it OBEДИENT faith? "**By faith Abraham OBEYED.**" Are you obedient to the truth you know? Let me confine myself to the book of James and ask you a few pointed questions from that brief letter whence came our text about being doers of the Word and not hearers only, deceiving ourselves. And don't put these verses in a dispensational cubbyhole, they are for us all!

**"Draw near to God and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded."** This is to Christians. Have you done anything about that lately?

**"When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures."** Have your prayers been unanswered because of sin?

**"Let everyone be quick to hear, slow to speak, and slow to anger."** Have you done anything about your tongue and temper lately?

**"Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up."** Have you been proud? We want to have a revival and still save our faces, but the first thing we lose in a revival is our face!

**"Speak not evil one of another, brethren . . . Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that you may be healed."** Are you critical? Is there someone to whom you owe an apology?

These are only a few verses, chosen almost at random. Think what would happen if the Church did something about one little book, the book of James!

God help us to do something about it, lest we hear God's words and do them not, deceiving ourselves.

**"Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them" (John 13:17).**

## **NEWS OF INTEREST TO CHRISTIANS**

**□ BAPTISTS AND EVANGELICALS SUPPORT CONSTRUCTION OF A MOSQUE** - Baptists and evangelicals have joined hands with Muslims to support the building of a mosque.

After the planning board of Basking Ridge, New Jersey, denied a building permit for the mosque last December, the Muslims filed a federal lawsuit. They are joined by two agencies of the Southern Baptist Convention (the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission and the International Mission Board), plus the Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty and the National Association of Evangelicals.

According to the New York Times, "*A leading opponent of the mosque project, who has said that Islamic Shariah law is 'one of the greatest threats to American values and liberties,' led a relentless campaign of challenges to virtually every aspect of the project*" ("Muslims Sue," New York Times, Mar. 10, 2016).

Brent Walker of the Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty says that this is a simple issue of religious liberty. "We really felt it was important to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with our Muslim brothers and sisters" ("Baptists join diverse faith groups to support mosque-building effort," Baptist News, May 26, 2016).

The "leading opponent" previously cited is correct. Islam is not just "another religion." It aspires to world dominion, and its mosques are outposts for this dominion. According to Islam, the world is divided into **Dar al-Harb** (the world of war or the non-Islamic people) and **Dar al-Islam** (the world of peace or the Muslim world). "*The presumption is that the duty of jihad will continue, interrupted only by truces, until all the world either adopts the Muslim faith or subjects to the Muslim rule*" (Gene Gerganus, Peril of Islam: Telling the Truth, pp. 59, 60).

According to Islam, humanity is divided into those who accept Muhammad as the prophet of Allah and those who do not. Those who do not are the Kafirs (pronounced ka'-fir). Kafir is the word that is used in the Quran, and it is a strong word. It is the word for Allah's enemies. It is the word for those who resist the truth of Islam. Kafirs are unclean, evil, cursed, ignorant liars, and partners of Satan.

**□ MUSLIM SLAUGHTERS ATTENDEES OF A "GAY BAR"**

On Sunday, June 12, Omar Mateen slaughtered 49 and wounded 53 in an attack at a "gay bar" in Orlando, Florida. Following are some facts about this case:

The Pulse nightclub is advertised as "Orlando's hottest gay bar," promising patrons "an unforgettable night of fun and fantasy." Mateen had been known to attend the bar and had a

profile on a "gay dating" app. Mateen is the son of Muslim immigrants from Afghanistan. **His father has a YouTube channel supporting the Taliban.** According to Pew Research, 99% of Afghan Muslims support Sharia law. Nearly 30,000 of them were permanently resettled in the U.S. between 2001 and 2013. More than 91% of recent Middle East immigrants in the U.S. are on food stamps and nearly 70% are on cash welfare.

Mateen attended the Islamic Center of Fort Pierce for more than 13 years. He traveled to Saudi Arabia twice on Islamic pilgrimages and took an online course from the Fundamental Islamic Knowledge, a group that promotes terrorism. He was investigated by the FBI in 2013 and again in 2014.

A former classmate said Mateen **celebrated** the destruction of the Twin Towers on 9/11. In telephone conversations with the Orlando law enforcement during the assault, Mateen made a "pledge of allegiance to ISIS." The Islamic State's Jihadist radio claimed Mateen as "*one of our soldiers of the caliphate in America.*"

An FBI source said that Mateen called the agency before the attack and claimed to be a follower of IS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi. Mateen's wife said he had scoped out Disney World as a possible target.

In March, Sheikh Farrokh Sekaleshfar, an expert on Shariah or Islamic law, spoke at the Hussein Islamic Center of Sanford, Florida, near Orlando, on "How to Deal with the Phenomenon of Homosexuality." He said, "**We know there's nothing to be embarrassed about this, death is the sentence. We have to have that compassion for people. With homosexuals, it's the same. Out of compassion, let's get rid of them now**" ("The United West," Breitbart, Apr. 6, 2016). Both Sekaleshfar and the Hussein Center have tried to distance themselves from these remarks since the shooting. But Abu al-Ayna al-Ansari, a senior official in the Gaza Strip, told NewsTalk 990 AM in Philadelphia the night of the Orlando attack, "**When the Islamic State throws gays from the roofs, it is not a sanction that they decided upon. This is our Sharia.**"

The Pulse bar was a "gun free zone." Mateen purchased his guns legally and was compliant with all gun laws. In fact, he was registered with the Florida Department of Agriculture as a private security officer with a Class G firearm license and a concealed carry permit, having completed 68 hours of training, multiple criminal background checks and medical examinations.

Mateen's shooting spree was stopped when he was killed by men wielding guns. The One World Trade Center building in New York and the Eiffel Tower in Paris were lit in rainbow "pride" colors to honor the dead.

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# HAPPY FATHERS DAY!