

SOUTH HEIGHTS BAPTIST'S WEEKLY REMINDER

Volume XVI

July 22, 2012

Number 34

NURSERY MINISTRY WORKERS FOR THIS WEEK

10:50 a.m. Service ----- Cradle Roll 1: VOLUNTEER NEEDED!
Cradle Roll 2: VOLUNTEER NEEDED!
6:30 p.m. Service ----- Cradle Roll 1: Kristi Hooper
Cradle Roll 2: Andrea Hooper
Wed. Evening Service ---- Cradle Roll 1: LeAnna White
Cradle Roll 2: Seth White

AND THE PEOPLE CAME...

Week of July 15, 2012

Sunday School ----- 14
Sunday Morning Service ----- 28
Sunday Evening Service ----- 28
Wednesday Evening Service, 06/18/12 ----- 24

AND THE PEOPLE GAVE...

Week of July 15, 2012

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings ----- \$ 1,005.00
Insurance Fund----- \$ 3.00
Total Received for Week of 07/15/12: \$ 1,008.00

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

INSURANCE FUND REPORT FOR JULY 2012:

Monthly Requirement ----- \$ 273.08
Amount Received for July, 2012 ----- \$ 16.00
Amount Still Needed by 08/05/12 ----- \$ 257.08

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...

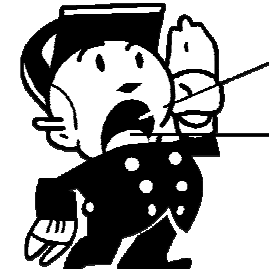
We encourage all of our membership to practice obedience to God by being faithful every payday to give back to Him His tithe (10%). *If every family in our church would practice this one simple discipline, we would never have weeks where we have to put off paying some bills until the following week!*

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
Shayne Hooper, Caryn Quinnelly, Todd W. White ----- S.S. Teachers
Larry & Mary Byars, Brian & Charity Crawford,
Dwayne English, Shayne Hooper ----- Outreach
Flowers ----- Shirley White



Sister... Show Some Mercy!

by Daniel J. Phillips

❑ **WHAT WILL CHANGE, AND WHAT WON'T** - Spring springs, and Summer heats up. Mercury rises, fashions change. But one thing that won't change, unless I'm badly and happily mistaken: *some good and regular churchgoers will not dress as helpfully as they could.*

I chose that word with care: "*helpfully.*" I am not talking about sin, shame, indecency, wantonness, or the like. Perhaps I could, with some justification, in some cases. But that's for

another time - and probably another writer. At this point, I just want to talk about being *helpful*.

Sister, if there's one thing you and I can certainly agree on, it's this: I don't know what it's like to be a woman, and you don't know what it's like to be a man. We're both probably wrong where we're sure we're right, try as we might. So let me try to dart a telegram from my camp over to the distaff side:

The Bible says "*Hell and destruction are never full; so the eyes of man are never satisfied*" (Proverbs 27:20). Solomon doesn't use the Hebrew words that would indicate males exclusively, so this and Ecclesiastes 1:8 may apply across the gender-board. My wife Libbie pointed out very ably to me that we men wrongly assume that we alone battle with temptations entering through the eye-gate.

But - if men aren't alone in the battle, they may have a particular weakness for this aspect of it. Consider passionately-godly King David, whose psalms express aspirations after God beside which our own are pale, bloodless things. One day, King David is in the wrong place, at the wrong time; he sees a naked woman bathing next door, and *boom!* -- *he's gone!* (II Samuel 11). Family, kingdom, God - all are forgotten, consumed in the flash-flame of a lust that was only visual in its inception.

And what of that Israelite Philistine **Samson** and his own "eye trouble?" He sees a fetching young pagan, and bellows at his dad, "*Get her for me; for she pleaseth me well*" (Judges 14:3). Where did Samson's passions take him? How did *his* course end?

Unless all the men that I've known personally or at a distance are completely unrepresentative, it's a lifelong struggle, a lifelong weakness. As I recall from a Proverbs lecture I heard, Bruce Waltke says that his dad, at around age 100, told him, "Bruce, I still have the same struggles I did when I was 50." It was sobering for Dr. Waltke to hear; *sobering for any man!* (In fact, put me down for "disheartening.")

Where am I going with this? Oh, don't try to look so innocent. You know exactly where I'm going.

So here comes this brother into the assembly of the saints, hoping for a rest from the battles of the week, a moment to regroup, sing, pray, get the Word, and fellowship with God's people. He looks up to the choir, or to his left or to his right, and in a tick of the clock, he's facing the **same struggle** he faced every time he turned on his TV, opened a magazine, or went down a city street. *He's seeing things that make it far too easy for him not to keep his mind focused where it needs to be focused.*

And he's not in a nightclub, he's not at a singles' bar, he's not at the beach. **He's in church!**

Now, some very direct disclaimers:

- Every man's sin is his own, and every man's struggle is his own (Proverbs 14:10)
- No one makes a man think or feel anything (Proverbs 4:23)
- It is each individual's responsibility to guard his own heart (Proverbs 4:23)
- Beauty is a wonderful gift of God (cf. Exodus 28:2; Song of Solomon 1:8, 15, etc.)

Having Said All That: while it may be true that I'm holding the matches, you won't help me if [To change the

(continued inside)

LISTEN TO -



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metaphor: matches + explosives = **bad combination**] you pile twigs all around my feet and douse them with lighter fluid. To be more specific: if you know I've had trouble with drunkenness, you won't offer me a glass of wine. If you know I battle covetousness, you won't take me window-shopping in high-end stores I've no business frequenting.

So I put this question: **WHAT ARE SOME SISTERS THINKING, IN HOW THEY DRESS?**

As the ladies pick clothes, they'll consider what's pretty, what's flattering, what's attractive. Who could blame them? But, "attractive" to whom? In what way? To what end? With what focus?

Consider the Questions Again -

- "Is it pretty?" Good question, no evil in it.
- "Is it comfortable?"
- "Is it complimentary?"
- "Is it fun?"

No problem with these questions, but I'd just like to suggest you ladies add one more question to your list:

"Is it helpful, or is it hurtful, to my brothers in Christ? Will this unintentionally contribute to their having a focus that is harmful to their walk with the Lord?"

Now, Lookie Here:

☛ **"In that day the Lord will take away the bravery of their tinkling ornaments about their feet, and their cauls, and their round tires like the moon, the chains, and the bracelets, and the mufflers, the bonnets, and the ornaments of the legs, and the headbands, and the tablets, and the earrings, the rings, and nose jewels, the changeable suits of apparel, and the mantles, and the wimples, and the crisping pins, the glasses, and the fine linen, and the hoods, and the veils"** (Isaiah 3:18-23).

☛ **"In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array; but ([that] which becometh women professing godliness) with good works"** (1 Timothy 2:9-10).

☛ **"Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; but let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price"** (1 Peter 3:3-4).

Immediately we'll swing in, as we always do, and say, "Now, the writer's not saying that women can't dress nicely, or wear jewelry, or blah blah blah." And we'll all disown our Fundie forebears who focused on nylons and lipstick, and came up with precise hemline measurements. We'll want to make sure that we're not advocating a new line of Burqaware for evangelical women. All that will be true and valid enough. 😊

But I'm concerned that, in our anxiety to be sure to prevent the wrong interpretation, we effectively cut off **all** interpretation. We have swung from making the passages say silly things, to not letting them say anything. These passages have to mean something! They must have some application! What is it?

Surely the emphasis of these passages is warning against vanity, externality, sensuality; and on highlighting and promoting focus on a godly character as true beauty. Who you are; not just what you look like. Remember: **"As a jewel of gold in a swine's snout, so is a fair woman which is without discretion"** (Proverbs 11:22).

Oh boy, I'm going to make it worse now. Deep breath....

What Are You Clothes Saying About You, Sister?

What are they supposed to say to your brothers? Are they supposed to be saying - **"Hey, look at this!"**????

Well, they actually **are** trying to look at the Lord; it's not good for them to be looking at that. No, it's not your fault that they have a problem - we've established that. Of course it's really great that God has made you beautiful, and I hope your husband (present or future) shows you how grateful he is for that about you.

But you can **help** the brothers who aren't your husband, or you can **not help** them - **which are you doing?** If you're not married, and a man looks at you, is he thinking, "She has great character", or are you giving him reason to think about something else?

Now - I know many of the responses: "You don't know what it's like to buy women's clothes, you ignorant man!" Mostly true. My first just-for-fun purchase for my wife was, well, it was appalling. What a good sport my wife was. I took it back to the store immediately, and made a much better subsequent choice.

But this comment that some women scream when this subject comes up - **"You can't find anything modest! It's all too revealing! It's impossible to get something that looks nice, yet isn't too tight, or too short, or too-something/not-something-enough!"**

Sorry, but that's a bunch of *baloney*.

I put **"modest women's clothing Christian"** in Google, and **453,000 pages came up!** Yes, some are funny and quaint at best. But are they **all** Amishwear - is really true that you "can't find" modest clothing?

More fundamentally: I do not accept that anyone has to wear clothes that are too tight or too sheer or too short - unless you are the largest and tallest woman living in the hottest part of the planet. Because I see larger, taller women walking around in hot weather, and they're all wearing clothes, every last one. They got those clothes somewhere, I reason. You could too.

"But - but they won't look good on me! The shoulders will



be wrong!"

I'm not sure that's necessarily true, but let's accept it and pose a counter-question.

You tell me which is worse:

Your shoulders hanging a half-inch too low, or a blouse/shirt that simply (shifting into turbo-delicate) **provides need-to-know information to those with a need-to-not-know?**

I'm sure we all agree that there are clothes that show what others have no helpful business seeing. Here's what to show, in clothes-selection: **show a Godward focus, discretion, a godly character.**

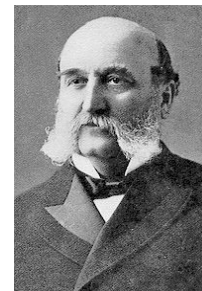
And show *mercy*.

A Parting Thought - Someone pointed me to a statement by Arthur Pink, which makes everything I've just said look awfully mild. But there's no denying that he has a point. I'll close with it:

"Again, if lustful looking be so grievous a sin, then those who dress and expose themselves with desires to be looked at and lusted after-as did Jezebel, who painted her face, attired her head, and looked out of the window (II Kings 9:30)-are not less, but even more guilty. In this matter it is only too often the case that men sin, but women tempt them so to do. How great, then, must be the guilt of the great majority of the modern misses who deliberately seek to arouse the sexual passions of our young men? And how much greater still is the guilt of most of their mothers for allowing them to become lascivious temptresses?"

Now, note, Pink and I speak to different ends. I speak to those who I assume are inadvertently dressing in an unhelpful manner. Pink speaks to those whose intent is to allure. Between the two of us, I can pray we've provided food for thought, prayer, reconsideration, and needed change.

*Daniel J. Phillips, Pastor
Copperfield Bible Church: Houston, Texas
edited for publication*



**Ira D. Sankey
1840-1908**

THE STORY OF GOSPEL HYMNS

by Ira D. Sankey

HE LEADETH ME

Words by Joseph H. Gilmore
Music by William B. Bradbury

**"He leadeth me, O blessed thought!
O words with heav'nly comfort fraught!
Whate'er I do, where'er I be
Still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me!"**

"I had been talking," said Mr. Gilmore, "at the Wednesday evening lecture of the First Baptist Church of Philadelphia, in 1862. The Twenty-third Psalm was my theme, and I had been especially impressed with the blessedness of being led by God-of

the mere fact of His leadership, altogether apart from the way in which He leads us and what He is leading us to.

"At the close of the service we adjourned to Deacon Watson's home, at which I was stopping. We still held before our minds and hearts the thought which I had just emphasized.

"During the conversation, in which several participated, the blessedness of God's leadership so grew upon me that I took out my pencil, wrote the hymn just as it stands to-day, handed it to my wife - and thought no more about it.

"She sent it without my knowledge to *'The Watchman and Reflector,'* and there it first appeared in print.

"Three years later I went to Rochester to preach for the Second Baptist Church. On entering the chapel I took up a hymn-book, thinking, 'I wonder what they sing.' The book opened at *'He Leadeth Me,'* and that was the first time I knew my hymn had found a place among the songs of the church. I shall never forget the impression made upon me by coming then and there in contact with my own assertion of God's leadership."

Mr. Bradbury, finding the hymn in a Christian periodical, composed for it the very appropriate tune with which it has ever since been associated.

HOW FIRM A FOUNDATION

Words by G. Keith
Music by M. Portogallo

**"How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
Is laid for your faith in His excellent Word."**

"Once at evening devotion in the old Oratory of Princeton Seminary," Dr. C. S. Robinson relates, "the elder Hodge, then venerable with years and piety, paused as he read this hymn, preparatory to the singing.

"In the depth of his emotion he was obliged to close his delivery of the final lines with a gesture of pathetic and adoring wonder at the matchless grace of God in Christ; and his hand silently beat time to the rhythm instead: **'I'll never, no, never, no, never forsake.'**"

Giving an account of a visit to General Stonewall Jackson at the Hermitage, in 1843, James Gallagher says in the *Western Sketch Book*:

"The old hero was then very frail and had the appearance of extreme old age; but he was reposing with calmness and confidence on the promise and covenant of God. He had now been a member of the church for several years."

During the conversation which took place, the General turned to Mr. Gallagher, and remarked:

"There is a beautiful hymn on the subject of the exceeding great and precious promise of God to His people. It was the favorite hymn of my dear wife, till the day of her death. It commences in this way:

'How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord.'

I wish you would sing it now."

So the little company sang the entire hymn. ■