

SOUTH HEIGHTS BAPTIST'S WEEKLY

REMINDER

Volume XVI

August 19, 2012

Number 37

NURSERY MINISTRY WORKERS FOR THIS WEEK

10:50 a.m. Service ----- Cradle Roll 1: Mary Byars
 Cradle Roll 2: Larry Byars
 6:30 p.m. Service ----- Cradle Roll 1: Shirley White
 Cradle Roll 2: Bertha Segebarrr
 Wed. Evening Service ---- Cradle Roll 1: Kayla Quinnelly
 Cradle Roll 2: Derek Quinnelly

AND THE PEOPLE CAME...

Week of August 12, 2012

Sunday School ----- 20
 Sunday Morning Service ----- 38
 Sunday Evening Service ----- 33
 Wednesday Evening Service, 08/15/12 ----- 17

AND THE PEOPLE GAVE...

Week of August 12, 2012

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings ----- \$ 2170.00
 Insurance Fund----- \$ 53.00
Total Received for Week of 08/12/12: \$ 2,223.00

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

INSURANCE FUND REPORT FOR AUGUST 2012:

Monthly Requirement ----- \$ 273.08
 Amount Received for August, 2012 ----- \$ 106.00
Amount Still Needed by 09/05/12 ----- \$ 167.08

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



*The late Dr. Ron Dunn
 1936-2001*

Ministry of Circumstances

by the late Dr. Ron Dunn

You can have victory over sin, victory over self and victory over Satan, but there is another area in which we must have victory if we are going to live a consistent Christian life. Unless we come to experience victory in this area, then in all of the other areas (sin, self, Satan) we will not accomplish the life of overcoming that God has intended all of us to experience. I want to speak to you today on victory over situations, or victory over circumstances. I want you to remember that phrase victory over circumstances because in a moment I am going to change the wording of this phrase, and it is going to be an essential change. In the changing of that wording you are going to find the key to being victorious over every circumstance.

There are two kinds of circumstances: (1) There are those circumstances that we can control and they pose little or no problem. If there is a circumstance we are not particularly fond of and we can change it, then we change it. But there are other circumstances that present problems in living in victory. (2) These are circumstances we cannot control. So - there are circumstances we can control, and there are circumstances we cannot control. There are circumstances we can change, and then there are circumstances that we cannot change—even though we wish we could.

I have an idea there are some of us here today that are dreading to see this conference conclude because we are going to have to return to a situation that we wish we could change but know we are powerless to do so. This is the circumstance over which we need to have victory. Unless you and I leave this conference knowing how to experience victory over uncontrollable and unchangeable circumstances, we are not going to live a consistent Christian life. You see, everywhere you go you are in the midst of circumstances.

Now - I want to change that phrase: *victory over circumstances*. Here was an adverse, contrary circumstance I didn't like. I viewed that circumstance as an Amalek standing in my way before the Promised Land saying, you will not go in. I would say, **“Lord, if I am ever to enter into the Promised Land, I must overcome this circumstance. Somehow I must change it, go around it or tunnel under it. Lord, help me to get victory over this circumstance. I have viewed my contrary, adverse circumstances as obstacles in my path, presenting a barrier to my progress in the Christian life.”**

The word I want to change is the word **over**. I want to change it to the word *through*. It is not victory **over** your circumstances; it is victory *through* your circumstances. If you ever change your viewpoint about adverse circumstances from trying to get victory over or around them, to not viewing them as an obstacle standing in your path or blocking your progress, that is the key to victory: they are the **MEANS** by which you enter into victory. That is the key. Victory *through* the circumstances gives you victory **over** the circumstances. I am really not going to speak to you about victory over your circumstances, I am going to speak to you about victory *through* your circumstances.

There is a verse I discovered sometime ago. Well, I didn't really discover it; that's like saying I discovered America! But, I ran across it. In Isaiah, Chapter 49, God is dealing with the people's exodus from captivity and how they are going to get back to the Promised Land. Along the way, they are going to meet some obstacles. It is going to be rough terrain as they make their journey from Babylon back to the Promised Land. They are going to have to go through mountainous terrain.

Notice what he says in verse 11: **“And I will make all my mountains a way, and my highways shall be exalted.”** Look at that

(continued inside)

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first phrase: “And I will make all my mountains a way.” Notice he does not say that he will make a way **over** the mountains.

He doesn’t say I will make a way **through** the mountains. He doesn’t say I will make a way around the mountains. He says the mountains will be the ROAD by which you get back into your land. The mountains actually **become** the road. In other words, he is saying obstacles, circumstances and mountains that stand in your way are **not** that which block you from entering into victory; they are the *means* of your entering into victory. “My mountains will be the way.” If the mountains are not there, you can’t get there. If it were not for the mountains, you could not enter in. It is not victory **over** your circumstances that you need, it is victory **through** your circumstances. That adverse, contrary circumstance is not a barrier or an obstacle; it is the means that God has divinely appointed by which you will pass into victory. It is the door, or the road.

Now we are ready to read our text in Romans 8, verses 28, 29 and 30:

“And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.”

I want you to imagine with me this morning the three points of a triangle. We are going to start with the apex of the triangle. The first point, the top of the triangle, we are going to label **The Purpose of God**. If I am to have victory in every situation of my life, then I must first of all understand the eternal purpose of God. He says we know that all things right now are working together for good (and that good is not the good of ease and comfort but the good of God’s purpose), and all things are working together to accomplish that purpose - to those who are called according to His purpose. Whom He did foreknow, He also did predestinate to become conformed to the image of His Son. There is the eternal purpose of God. What is it that God is trying to accomplish in my life? What is that good that all things are working together to accomplish? It is this: ***that I might be conformed to the image of his Son***. The word **conformed** means that my inner being, my essence and actuality, will become like the Lord Jesus. It does not refer to my appearing like the Lord Jesus by my actions only - it means that there is that Divine plan and purpose that I will actually in essence become like the Lord Jesus. That is the eternal purpose of God for every believer.

Salvation is simply God restoring the image that man lost in the fall. The Bible says that we were created in the image of God. The image of God is man’s capacity to know God, to worship God, and to fellowship with God, and do all three perfectly. Only man is made in the image of God. Only man has the capacity to know God, to worship God, and to fellowship with God. You never saw a dog bowing his head and thanking God for his dog

food. You never saw a cow worshiping. Only man has a thirst after God. There is born within every man an insatiable desire for God because man was made in the image of God. That image was not destroyed by the fall - it was marred by the fall. It’s like a bombed out building. The shell still stands. The semblance is still there, but it has been marred and perverted. There is still in man a semblance of the image of God but it is not as it was originally. That image, our ability to worship God, our capacity to know God and the fellowship of God has been marred, crippled, almost atrophied. God is seeking in salvation to restore the image of God to us.

He says that you and I have been predestinated to be conformed to the image of God’s son. That is God’s purpose for every person. The word purpose means *to design beforehand*. He is working this out on two levels. First of all, he is working it out in the future. You mark it down; there is going to be a day when every person who has ever been saved will be exactly like Jesus. This is a promise for the future. That is one level upon which God is working out his purpose. Someday in the future when Jesus comes, and we see Him, we shall be changed in the twinkling of an eye. This corruptible will put on incorruptible; this mortal will put on immortality, and we will all be changed into his glorious likeness.

But God is working on another level. He is also working on the level of the **present tense**. In other words, right now, today, God is conforming us to his image. II Corinthians 3:18 says that we, as we behold the glory of the Lord, are being changed from glory unto glory into the same image by the Holy Spirit. When I was saved, the Holy Spirit took up residence within me. The ministry of the Holy Spirit is to reveal Jesus to me through the Word and other means to open my eyes to see Jesus. As I am beholding the Lord Jesus Christ through the ministry of the Holy Spirit, I am being changed into the likeness of Jesus. How? From glory unto glory. That means from one degree to another degree, changing us bit by bit, gradually into the likeness of Jesus.

You are not changed in this life into the likeness of Jesus by one cataclysmic, ecstatic experience - it happens bit by bit. One of my greatest disappointments was in believing that one of these days I would turn the corner and God would put a holy zap on me. He would say, “POOF - you’re just like Jesus!” That’s not the way it happens. Sometimes people have offered us experiences in which we would be changed into the likeness of Jesus, the old sin nature would be eradicated, and everything would be just as it ought to be. It never happens that way. He is changing us bit by bit by bit. Why? Because he doesn’t want that final change when Jesus comes to be so traumatic. The goal that I have is that when he comes to finally finish off the job, there won’t be that much to do. The tragedy is that for a great many people the coming of the Lord will not be a rapture; it will be a rupture because the change will be so drastic. What God is seeking to do in my everyday life is to make me like Jesus. This is essential in understanding if I am to get the best out of the worst and if I am to have victory through my circumstances. I

must understand what the purpose of God is. God is working even today to make me like Jesus. That’s the apex of the triangle. - more next week

NEWS OF INTEREST TO CHRISTIANS

☛ **HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS OF MUSLIMS EXPECTING THE MAHDI** - A survey by Pew Research has found that an estimated 672 million Muslims expect to see the return of the “Mahdi” in their lifetime (“The World’s Muslims: Unity and Diversity,” The Pew Forum, Aug. 9, 2012). In the Middle East, North Africa, and South and Southeast Asia, more than half have this expectation. For example, the number in Afghanistan is 83%, Iraq 72%, Tunisia 67%, Malaysia 62%, Turkey 68%, Shi’as in Iraq 88%. The Imam **Mahdi**, or the Twelfth Imam, is often mentioned by Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. The Mahdi, believed by Shiites to have disappeared as a child in A.D. 941, is supposed to return and reign on earth for seven years before bringing about a final judgment and the end of the world (“Jesus, Mahdi Both Coming, Says Iran’s Ahmadinejad,” WorldNetDaily, Dec. 19, 2006). The Twelfth Imam is supposed to be accompanied by a Muslim Jesus, who will take a subordinate position.

According to the Bible, the next event on God’s calendar is the catching away of church-age saints (I Thess. 4:13 - 5:5), followed by the appearance of the antichrist (who will come on the scene as a man of peace) and a miracle-working prophet that will accompany him (II Thess. 2:3-12; Revelation 13:11-17; 20:10). These men will be accepted by Jews, apostate Christians, Muslims, New Agers, Hindus, and Buddhists alike. Mankind will rejoice that the Middle East problem has been solved and the long-awaited “Age of Aquarius” has arrived, but the peace party will be short-lived (I Thessalonians 5:1-3) and the antichrist will show his true colors, setting himself up in Israel’s Third Temple as God and requiring the world’s worship at the point of death (II Thessalonians 2:3-12; Revelation 13:15-17). The Aquarian Age Community has accredited NGO status with the United Nations and conducts its meetings in a conference room at the U.N. headquarters. AAC is based on Alice Bailey’s channeled messages from the supposed Ascended Masters and has the objective of ushering a Cosmic Christ into the world to create a mystical new world order. The AAC’s web site identifies this Christ as Buddha, Maitreya, and “the Imam Mahdi,” and says he “works by means of a meditation centered within the heart.” The Aquarian Age Community participates in meditation and other mystical practices in the Meditation Room at the UN building in New York City (<http://www.aquaac.org/un/medmtgs.html#dates>).

☛ **ATHEISTS CALL JESUS “USELESS SAVIOR”** - The American Atheists (AA) is purchasing billboard ads with the text, “Sadistic God; Useless Savior, 30,000+ Versions of ‘Truth.’ Promotes Hate, Calls it ‘Love’ -- Atheism: Simply Reasonable.” David Silverman, president of American Atheists, says, “Religion is silly” (“Atheist Group Targets Presidential Candidates’ Faith,” CNN BeliefBlog, Aug. 13, 2012). The Bible twice says, “The

fool hath said in his heart, There is no God” (Psalm 14:1; 53:1).

Who but a fool would say there is no evidence for God when he is surrounded by irrefutable evidence, from the breath-taking complexity of the living cell to the finely-tuned fundamental laws of physics to the life-cycle of the butterfly? The very existence of the American Atheists proves that the Bible is divinely inspired, for their rage against Almighty God was prophesied 3,000 years ago in Psalm 2 - *“Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord, and against his anointed, saying, Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us.”* By the way, we’ll see how that “useless Savior” thing works in eternity.

☛ **FALSE CHRISTS** - False christis already existed in the earliest days of the churches (II Cor. 11:4), and Jesus warns in Matthew 24:4, 5, 24, that they will increase as the time of His return draws near. There is the Hindu New Age christ. The Aquarian Gospel of Jesus the Christ claims that Jesus learned wisdom from gurus in India. There is the Islamic christ named Isa, who is not the Son of God, did not die for man’s sins, and did not rise from the dead. There is the Roman Catholic christ who is a wafer of bread and a helpless babe in Mary’s arms. According to Catholicism, you can worship Christ in the form of consecrated wafer in a little tabernacle in a Catholic church. There is the Mormon christ who is the spirit brother of Satan. There is the Jehovah’s Witness christ who is Michael the Archangel. There is the natural christ of theological modernism who was not born of a virgin. The influential theologian Nels Ferre, for example, said Jesus’ father was a German soldier. There is the liberation theology christ who is a communist freedom fighter and a social justice hero. There is **The Shack** christ who is a non-judgmental buddy-buddy who doesn’t require repentance and doesn’t put any “obligations” on people. There is the rock & roll party christ of the Christian rock crowd. There is the ecology christ who is out to save the planet. There is the universalistic christ whose love is “unconditional” and therefore will be effective for the salvation of all (e.g., Rob Bell’s Love Wins). There is the contemplative christ who is “experienced” by such practices as centering prayer and imagination prayer.

These are only a few examples. The number of false christis is increasing, just as God’s Word prophesies. ■

