

SOUTH HEIGHTS BAPTIST'S WEEKLY

REMINDER

Volume XVI

September 2, 2012

Number 39

NURSERY MINISTRY WORKERS FOR THIS WEEK

10:50 a.m. Service ----- Cradle Roll 1: Caryn Quinnelly
 Cradle Roll 2: Kayla Quinnelly
 6:30 p.m. Service ----- Cradle Roll 1: Piper Quinnelly
 Cradle Roll 2: Ryan Quinnelly
 Wed. Evening Service ---- Cradle Roll 1: Volunteer Needed!
 Cradle Roll 2: Volunteer Needed!

AND THE PEOPLE CAME...

Week of August 26, 2012

Sunday School ----- 21
 Sunday Morning Service ----- 39
 Sunday Evening Service ----- 35
 Wednesday Evening Service, 08/29/12 ----- 27

AND THE PEOPLE GAVE...

Week of August 26, 2012

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings ----- \$ 1,453.00
 A/C Repair (Fellowship Hall & Ed Wing Vandalism) ----- \$ 63.00
 Insurance Fund ----- \$ 103.00
Total Received for Week of 08/26/12: \$ 486.90

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 in August, 2012 ----- \$ 206.00
Amount Still Needed by 09/05/12 ----- \$ 67.08

Laodicean Church, the Bible says He becomes ill - not, I am convinced, because of some sort of overt, blatant vileness in it, but because of grief in His heart: seeing what is being done in our day to the Church for which His Son died, I believe, grieves Him to the point it just makes Him sick beyond description. ■

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
 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
(continued from last week)

I want to share with you what I consider to be the greatest illustration in the Bible of the providence of God. It is found in Genesis, chapters 45 and 50. The story is of Joseph and his brothers. They were jealous of Joseph. One day, Joseph came to meet his brothers in Dothan. They said, "Since Dad likes him best; let's kill him." Reuben said, "No, let's don't kill him. Let's not shed his blood. Let's just throw him over here in a pit. There's no water in the pit, so if we just leave him there, he will die." They sat down to have lunch and decided there was no profit in letting him die. Some Ishmaelites came by and they decided to sell him. "We'll kill two birds with one stone - we'll get rid of Joseph and make a little profit too." They said "Let's go pull him out of the pit." Before they got there, some Midianite merchants came along and drew him out of the pit and sold him to the Ishmaelites who took him into Egypt.

Seventeen years later, you know the story. A famine has come to the land and Joseph's brothers have come to Egypt because they have heard there is plenty of food there. Joseph meets these brothers two or three times and does not reveal himself. They do not recognize him, but he knows them. In Genesis, chapter 45, he just cannot contain himself any longer. He must tell these brothers who he is. He was weeping. Notice what he says, beginning in verse 4:

"Then Joseph said unto his brethren, Come near to me, I pray you. And they came near. And he said, I am Joseph your brother, whom you sold into Egypt. Now therefore be not grieved, nor angry with yourselves, that ye sold me hither: for God did send me before you to preserve life. For these two years hath the famine been in the land: and yet there are five years, in the which there shall neither be earing nor harvest. And God sent me before you to preserve you a posterity in the earth, and to save your lives by a great deliverance. So now it was not you that sent me hither, but God."

Three times in this passage he says to his brothers, who thought they were the ones who sent him to Egypt: ***"it was not you - it was God."*** He didn't want his brothers taking credit for something that God did. You say, "That's crazy - it was his brothers who sold him into Egypt." Well, I will take Joseph's word before I'll take yours. After all, he was the one who was there. Three times he says, "it was not you - it was God." That is not predestination. Predestination would mean that God made Joseph's brothers hate Joseph and seek to kill him. That's ***Providence***. God knew they were going to be filled with envy and try to kill him. What did He do? He made provision for it. He planned for it. God wasn't caught off guard. He had those Ishmaelites coming because He knew Joseph was going to be in a pit.

Look over in Genesis, chapter 50, verse 20. Joseph is again speaking to his brothers: ***"But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive."*** Friend, do you know how to have victory through every circumstance, therefore, victory over every circumstance? Would you like to know how to get the best out of the worst? You stand before every contrary, adverse circumstance and say two things to it: ***"It's not you - it's God. It's not evil - it's good."*** That is what Joseph said about the worst thing that ever happened to him - ***"It wasn't you that did it - it was God. It wasn't evil - it was good. You meant it unto me for evil; but God meant it unto me for good."*** My dear friends, God always means it for your good. All things are working together for your good, that ultimate good to make us like Jesus.

(continued inside)

The Providence of God does two things: (1) ***It provides for every eventuality in my life - it causes things to happen that are beyond my power to accomplish.*** For instance, there is no way that Joseph could have arranged for those Ishmaelites to be passing by just at that precise moment, but God provided for every event and had those Ishmaelites coming by at just the right time.

History tells us that the Egyptians hated the Hebrews. They would not even eat at the same table with a Hebrew. Yet, just by coincidence, Joseph falls into the hands of Potiphar, the one man in all of Egypt who recognized in Joseph a man of worth. He sat and ate at Potiphar's table - an unbelievable thing. He made him lord over all his house. The Providence of God caused things to happen that Joseph could not accomplish. Joseph couldn't have walked up to Potiphar one day and said, "I'm a good little Hebrew boy, and I want to sit down and eat with you and be lord over your house." They would have kicked him out. They would have put him to death. Hebrews were despised by the Egyptians. Miracle of miracles, Potiphar sits him at his table and makes him lord over all his house. The Providence of God causes things to happen that are beyond my power to accomplish.

Finally, he is thrown into prison by a lie of Potiphar's wife. It just so happened that a baker and a butler were there. They had a dream, and it just so happened that Joseph was able to interpret that dream. It just so happened there was going to be a famine. There was no way that Joseph could have arranged a famine in the land. The Providence of God is God causing things to happen that I could not accomplish. Why? In order to do me good. It provides for every eventuality in my life.

There is a second thing that the providence of God does:

(2) ***It protects me from every enemy in my life.*** It causes things not to happen that are beyond my power to avoid. This is humorous to me. Joseph's brothers wanted to kill him but they couldn't. They thought they had gotten rid of him but they hadn't. Potiphar's wife wanted to destroy him but she didn't. Listen carefully. The prison became the path to the palace. At every turn when his enemies tried to destroy him, God stepped in and used that mountain as a road, a freeway to accomplish his purpose.

The way you have victory through your circumstances is that God protects you from every enemy in your life. He does it by making servants out of those enemies. Would you say that Joseph's brothers were his enemies? You would, wouldn't you? If I had eleven brothers who wanted to kill me, it wouldn't take long for it to dawn upon me that these fellows are my enemies. Were they his enemies? Yes. What did God do? He turned them into his servants. Joseph ended up prime minister of Egypt. Would you say that Potiphar's wife was Joseph's enemy? I would say that she was. But God made Potiphar's wife Joseph's servant.

The Apostle Paul tells us that one day he received a messenger of Satan to buffet him, a thorn in the flesh - an enemy. He sought the Lord three times to get rid of the enemy: ***“Lord, remove the***

obstacle. Lord, I've got a circumstance I don't like, and I want to get victory around it. I want to get victory over it.” God said, ***“I've got something better than getting rid of the thorn. I'll give you grace. My grace is sufficient for you. Paul, the weaker you become, the stronger My power becomes in you.”*** God took that enemy of the Apostle Paul and made it into his servant and served him up glorious power - so much so that the Apostle Paul was able to say he now rejoiced in his infirmities, distresses, and persecutions.

Of course, the greatest illustration of this is the cross. You would say the cross was the greatest enemy of Jesus, but it was through the cross that Jesus Christ was exalted as Lord and Saviour. God took the enemy and made it into his servant.

Friend, I don't know what in your life today is your enemy. I want you to know that God wants to take that enemy and make it into your servant, to make you lord over your Egypt.

I hesitate to make this statement because I don't want anybody to misunderstand. Wouldn't you say that Joseph's brethren sinned in selling their brother into Egypt? If Joseph had not been in Egypt seventeen years later, they would have starved to death. Listen - their sin became their salvation. Wouldn't you say it was a sin to crucify Jesus? That sin became our salvation! You say, "Are you encouraging us to sin?" No, I am trying to get you to see a God who is so sovereign and powerful that He can take sin and turn it into salvation. The Providence of God takes every enemy and makes it into your servant. God is in charge of every circumstance in your life. God uses it. Where did God want Joseph? He wanted Joseph in a position where he could save people. Joseph said, "God did it that he might preserve you a posterity." God used that circumstance to accomplish his purpose.

Let's tie it all together -

God has a plan and a Purpose. That Purpose is to make you like Jesus. God has guaranteed that purpose is going to be fulfilled some day. But he doesn't want to wait until someday. He wants to do it right now so that you can be a display case to the glory of God to a lost and dying world, and so that you can be a source of life to others as Joseph became a source of life to others. God is right now in this life trying to accomplish that purpose. Do you know what tools God uses for that purpose? He uses the tool of ***Circumstances***. God will arrange for you a set of circumstances, tailor-made, that will fit you perfectly - they won't sag or bag anywhere. And the purpose of those circumstances is to accomplish God's purpose in your life.

Most of us are praying that God will change our circumstances. Friend, God is not the least interested in changing your circumstances - He is interested in changing your character! When those circumstances have changed your character, then God may change your circumstances. ■

ABOUT RON DUNN - A graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University, Ron was saved at the age of nine, began preaching at the age of fifteen and pastored his first church at the age of seventeen. After completing his Masters of Divinity at the Southwestern Baptist Theological

Seminary he pastored the Valley View Baptist Church and Munger Place Baptist Church of Dallas. In 1966, he became the pastor of the MacArthur Boulevard Baptist Church in Irving, Texas. During his time as pastor there, the church doubled in size and began a unique 24-hour Intercessory Prayer Ministry, which has become the model for similar ministries in churches and Christian organizations around the country. In 1975, Ron resigned to fully devote his time to an itinerate ministry of bible teaching and writing. Before his death June 29, 2001, at the age of 64, due to Pulmonary Fibrosis, Ronald Dunn had an extensive itinerate ministry of Bible teaching and preaching and served as the Minister-at-Large for the MacArthur Blvd. Baptist Church in Irving. He was also the president of LifeStyle Ministries, an organization that produces Bible study cassettes, which he founded in 1970. He preached Bible Conferences all over the United States, Europe, Australia, Canada, Central America, South Africa and the Caribbean Islands.

HIGH ON “WORSHIP” MUSIC

A 2012 study by the University of Washington concludes that megachurches ***“provide the same biological ‘high’ and euphoria as that produced by sporting events and concerts”*** (Ecumenical News International, Aug. 21, 2012). The study, entitled ***“God Is Like a Drug: Explaining Interaction Ritual Chains in American Megachurches”***, was co-authored by Katie Corcoran and James Wellman. They attribute the worship “high” to the ***“upbeat modern music, cameras that scan the audience and project smiling, dancing, singing, or crying worshippers on large screens, and an extremely charismatic leader whose sermons touch individuals on an emotional level.”*** They believe these things ***“trigger chemicals in the brain to give the individual an emotional ‘high’ and feeling of transcendence as well as a need to come back for another ‘hit.’”***

☛ ***Pastor's Note:*** About 40 years ago, God showed me that rock music - in any form, secular or “Christian” - does not build the spiritual side of our nature, but our fleshly, fallen nature instead. Since that time, I have been studying music and the Bible and doing all I can to warn Christians of the dangers of mixing Light with darkness, typically to no avail.

During my 25-plus years as a professional sound engineer, system designer, and installer, I spent countless hours training the operators of new systems that I had just installed. This included assisting them through the first uses of it in live church services, many of which were “contemporary” in style, especially in the later years of my career in that field. As I observed the behavior of the people in the choirs, praise teams, and pews of those churches, I watched people with whom I had interacted with during the design and installation process for their facility go through a transformation that neither time nor space allow me to elaborate on here. Suffice to say that watching the transformation of otherwise calm, quiet, sensible people into emotionally controlled hysterics defied belief. Over time, I became convinced that, by and large, the music being used in those services was actually ***counterfeiting*** the filling of the Holy Spirit, **not producing it!** However, since most of the people in those churches can't tell the difference between a feeling generated by the filling of God's Spirit and a **counterfeit feeling** produced by the sensual music, repetitious lyrics and rhythm, along with the ultra- and infrasonics generated by the electronic amplification equipment, the vast majority of the members of those churches, I believe, have become convinced that what they are experiencing is genuine, holy, and Spirit-driven.

In other words - they equate the **FEELING** they get from the music with the actual **FILLING** of the Holy Spirit, even though, in most cases,

that feeling is a ***COUNTERFEIT***: a substitute sent by Satan to **INOCULATE** them against the ***TRUE*** filling of the Holy Spirit!

Proof that this movement is not of God is how these members and music staff react when you point this out to them. The typical response that I have encountered (along with others I know who have attempted to share biblical principles of music as well) is one of often vociferous anger, ridicule, name calling, and almost without exception the one who is “into” the modern, contemporary “worship” music takes on an air of “spiritual superiority” against the one trying to help them see how unscriptural and non-Spirit filled it really is!

Because they've been conditioned to respond in their flesh and not through the Spirit (remember that counterfeit thing I just mentioned earlier), they **REACT** and turn things around, labeling **ANYONE** who ***DARES*** to even question the biblical correctness of using sensual music to, as I like to say, “bootleg the Gospel” as ***“immature”***; ***“unenlightened”***; ***“out of touch with modern culture”***; ***“stuck in a spiritual rut”***, “ and so on.

In other words - the IMMATURE have replaced the MATURE, and have labeled “Immature” that which is actually “Mature”.

We see this everywhere in our churches - even in so-called “conservative” ones: There are countless churches that once had truly Spirit-filled, biblical, Christ-honoring music of high standards (spiritually and musically), which now have gutted their once full-blown Music Ministries and replaced them with glittering, watered down substitutes. Where once were great choirs and orchestra's, children's and youth choirs and youth orchestra's, where once was dynamic congregational singing (WITH PARTS), where once was Spirit-filled music and lyrics that focused on the Lord, His Son, Salvation, and the Word, now these churches have replaced them with “Praise Teams” composed of the spiritual elite singing 7 words 11 times, rock bands that drone out their repetitious non-music while the people in the “Praise Team” gyrate in their tight jeans and skirts (and often blouses). If they DO still have a choir, the quality of the singing has disintegrated, and the congregation no longer sings parts from a hymnbook - instead, they sing in unison as the follow the bouncing ball on TV screens placed throughout the building. And - if you DARE to speak against this downward spiral that makes God sick, it is YOU who are the one who “doesn't understand”- YOU are the one with the spiritual “problem”. It is YOU that needs to RISE to “a higher level, spiritually” like THEY have, and it is YOU that needs to shut up and get right with God!

The sad decline in the level of quality of music (both spiritually and technically) and worship in the churches of this, the Laodicean era of church history, is a movement to a LOWER level of spiritual maturity, not a higher one. As we approach the very end of this dispensation, the church will look less and less like the Church and more and more like the world around it. Instead of the Church changing the culture - as it has in times past - these days, the culture is changing the Church. No - this is ***not*** a movement to a higher level, but actually a dumbing down to a lower, more visceral level. Of course, it is all part of Satan's preparation of mankind for the one-world religion of the antichrist: ***to dumb down all systems of faith to the point that they focus on the temporal, in order that they will be spiritually ready to accept him as god during the Tribulation.*** The really sad thing is that things in the Church are REgressing not PROgressing, spiritually, all the while those who are following the Pied Pipers of this falsehood actually believe that ***they*** are more spiritual, and if you disagree with them, it's YOU that has the problem, not them. This is legalism of the most heinous type, and is rampant throughout the current church age. As God looks on the

(continued on back page)