



The Caller

A Weekly Newsletter of the Elizabethtown church of Christ
Vol. XXXIV October 14, 2007 No. 41

From Where I Sit

Michael D. Greene

I will be way this Sunday morning. I have been invited to speak at the 60th Homecoming at the North View church in Columbia, Tennessee. This is the church I served before coming to Elizabethtown four years ago. We were there for 17 years and made

many friends, not only in the church at North View, but also in the community. We are looking forward to seeing a lot of folks we have loved and labored with over the years. Our plan is to be back for evening services this Sunday, if the traffic on I-65 cooperates!



I know I talk about this a lot, but there is no way I can over emphasize how dangerous what comes over the television is to our spiritual well being, particularly our young folks. Want to know what those who make the television programs think of Jesus? Here is part of an article from the pen of fellow gospel preacher Sellers Crain who preaches in Nashville, Tennessee. He quotes an actress who had just received an Emmy award for her work on television. Understand that Emmys are given to what the industry considers the best television has to offer as entertainment. One of her comments is, to say the least, vulgar, but it shows the contempt these "creative folks" have for your Savior!

*A woman named Kathy Griffin who is billed as a comedian received an Emmy for a program she did entitled **My Life on the "D" List**. When she received her statue, she held it up and made an inflammatory attack on Christianity. She said "A lot of people get up here and thank Jesus for their award. I am not going to do that. No one had less to do with me receiving this award than did Jesus. Jesus had nothing to do with it. I did it myself" Then she said "Suck it Jesus!" and holding her statue high, she added. "This reward is my god now." On interview shows after her appearance, she made no apologies for her statements.*

There you have it. While this may not reflect the feeling of everyone in the television industry, it reflects the feelings and opinions of many. How can we change what is on the television? Turn it off and let the networks and sponsors know that you will not watch what is insulting to your convictions. That is the only way it will ever change!

Ray's Ramblings

Ray Pack

While sitting and listening to Mike's sermon Sunday morning about What Children Need, a thought ran through my mind. Mike was making the point about how the media influences our lives on a daily basis. As he made

his point about teaching about marriage God's way I was reminded of a radio commercial that I had heard earlier in the week. This radio commercial was sponsored by one of the large insurance companies. It went something like this.

"Hey Ron, I heard you got married last week,."

"Yes I did Joe, but my new wife hates college football"

"That's a disaster Ron"

"No, not really, I just bought new wife replacement insurance, I can get a new wife anytime within three years if things don't work out"

That statement about getting a new wife anytime will be what many remember from that commercial. The church is faced with a great challenge to teach God's plan for marriage. This teaching must not only be by the church, but needs to be taught in the home by parents.



Young folks you need to remember to sign up for the trip to Ethridge, TN. The deadline is rapidly approaching. We do not want anyone to be left out.

The monthly devotional will be October 21 at the home of Ken & Monica Bybee. Stay tuned for more details.

Let me offer a word of encouragement to both parents and children. When Bible Study time rolls around have your child bring their own Bible to class. It will also be helpful if you as a parent will take the time to teach them the books of the Bible, so when they are asked to find a passage of scripture, they don't have to ask the teacher, "Is that in the Old Testament or the New Testament?"

Sunday's Sermons:

A.M. - *On Trial for Jesus*
1 Corinthians 4:1-5

P.M. - *My Jesus I Love Thee*
1 John 4:19

“Why Did My Savior Come to Earth?” No. 2

“Why did my Savior come to earth?” is a question that begins a hymn that all of us have sung over the years. The song answers the question with the repeated line “because He loved me so.” Did Jesus Himself ever say why He came? Are there any words in scripture from our Lord as to why He came from heaven to earth? Indeed there are. While love may have been the motivation of God’s sending Jesus, and His willingness to come, the Bible records Jesus as giving at least eleven reasons or purposes for His coming. Six are found in Matthew, Mark, and Luke. Five are found in John’s gospel. In a previous article we looked at those in Matthew, Mark and Luke. In this article we will look at the five in John’s gospel.

The first is found in John 6:38: “For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.” In John 4:34 Jesus said: “My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work.” His food, His meat, His purpose was to do God’s will. Not that it was always easy to do so. In the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus agonized over God’s will in prayer three times and the final time His agony was so great His sweat became as great drops of blood. But each time He resolved Himself to God’s will saying “Not My will, but Yours be done” (Matthew 26:36-46, Luke 22:39-46). All of this for a practical purpose for us: “...though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered. And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him...” (Heb 5:8-10). Jesus then joins the great cloud of witnesses who encourage us to finish the race set before us as He has obeyed by “enduring the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of God” (Hebrews 12:1-2). Therefore we should not become weary and discouraged (Hebrews 12:3-11).

In John 9:39 Jesus said to the man healed of blindness after the Pharisees had cast him out of the Temple: “For judgment I have come into this world...” Here is a picture of Jesus most folks ignore. Perhaps because they do not like the idea that Jesus would judge someone. They prefer a Jesus that will never judge anyone. But not only did Jesus judge and condemn folks while on the earth (Matthew 23, John 2:13-22), He will be the eternal judge who will judge us by His words as we stand before “the judgment seat of Christ” (John 12:47-48, Romans 14:10, 2 Corinthians 5:10). Make no mistake, we are glad it will be Jesus who will judge, for His judgment will be tempered by grace and mercy, for without both grace and mercy, none of us would have any hope.

The third reason for Jesus coming is found in John 10:10. As He is declaring Himself to be the Good Shepherd, He compares Himself to the thieves and robbers who come to steal, kill, and destroy the flock. He, on the other hand, as the Good Shepherd, “came

that they might have life and have it more abundantly” (John 10:10). As one commentary suggests, that means to “impart a life before unknown.”

What Jesus teaches us to be and to do will come closer to restoring that pure relationship and fellowship between God and man enjoyed in the Garden of Eden than anything experienced since it was lost. In Christ we can begin to fulfill the destiny and divine dreams that called man into existence. When Christ dwells in our hearts through faith, and we are filled with the fullness of God, our lives will be filled with the abundance of which Jesus speaks. For then we will be bringing glory to God and will be fulfilling the purpose for which He called man into existence.

Then in John 12:46 Jesus gives the following as a reason for His coming: “I am come as a light into the world, that whoever believes in Me should not abide in darkness.” For all of man’s history, in both sacred and secular writing, light has stood for good and darkness for evil. Man has an amazing propensity to evil to his moral and eternal detriment. Jesus comes to bring light to lead men out of moral darkness into the purity of divine light.

In the Eternal Word that became flesh and dwelt among us was “life, and the life was the light of men” (John 1:1-14). Paul urges us to “walk as children of light...understanding what the will of the Lord is” (Ephesians 5:1-17). John also reminds us that “God is light and Him is no darkness at all.” And “...if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin” (1 John 1:7). Jesus came to light the path from moral evil to moral goodness, from impurity to holiness, from earth to heaven. Indeed, He is the light of the world (John 8:12) and as we take on His nature, we too become the “light of the world and the salt of the earth” (Matthew 5:14).

Finally, one of the most profound of these statements is found in John 12:27. As the hour of Jesus’ destiny on the cross was approaching, He said to His disciples: “Now My soul is troubled, and what shall I say? ‘Father, save Me from this hour’? But for this purpose I came to this hour. Father, glorify Your name” (John 12:27-28). All of the other statements as to the why of Jesus’ coming can be tied to this one. It was for this hour, this destiny, this purpose, which was in the mind of God from the foundation of the world that Jesus came. All the rest are accomplished or find their meaning and power in the cross, the hour of Jesus.

Why did my Savior come to earth? Without a doubt because He loved me so. I am grateful that He came, for all the reasons He gave and because of what it all means to me.

—Michael D. Greene

News and Notes

CHARLENE RICH is having therapy on her knee at her home. **BRADEN BYBEE** had outpatient surgery at Kosair's Hospital, Tuesday to have his tonsils removed. **GRACE BROWN** from Lebanon Junction is in Hardin Memorial Hospital.

MEMBERS TO INCLUDE ON PRAYER LISTS

Betty Addington	Roy Johnson
Alyenne Bates	J Martin
Neil Burden	Tom Morgan
Elonda Crafton	Marie Rose
W. C. Davis	Terry Showers
Howard & Millie Gardner	Grace Speer
Barnard Gillim	Barbara Underwood
Faye Guess	Lonnie Underwood

Let us continue to remember the following military personnel in our prayers: Dave Fulbright, Scott Allen, Robert E. Wooten, Justin Gardner, Kelly Leverett, George Edwards, Joe Betterton, Myles Brothers, Dale Martin, Terry Turner, Cameron Ponder, Brett Fleming, Mike Chandler, Nathan Blair

Additional Prayer List: Jan Allen, Delsie Axton, Gil Berry, Christa Bradley, Sue Cantrell, Louise Clymer, Michael Clymer, Lindsay Corman, Betty Davis, Martha Dillow, Sydney Dover, Ellen Duvall, Kevin Fox, Sadie Gentry, Betty Goheen, Renee Green, Jane Hack, Louie Hodge, Rose Johnson, Beulah Lasley, Michelle Lawson, Lina Lee, Gayle Massey, Erman McClaskey, Lucinda McCune, Terri McDonald, Phil Noltemeyer, Joe Pawley, Ann Peters, Stephen Pitcock, Charles Pottinger, Patsy & Joe Richter, Roge-Ge-Neal Smith, Florence Stull, Reiko Tarasavage, Patsy Taylor, Juanita Tillery, Andrew Verble, Laura Walker, Kevin Weaver, Butch Yates

Sympathy

We extend our sympathy to John and Dorothea Weaver in the passing of John's brother-in-law, Otte Whittaker in Monroe, Ohio.

Area Gospel Meetings & Ladies Days

Please check the bulletin board for congregations in our area who will be holding special activities in the coming weeks.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **YOUTH RALLY** at Ethridge Church of Christ, Ethridge, TN, **October 26-27**. A sign up sheet is posted on the Youth bulletin board. See Ray Pack or Terry Nowland if you have any questions.
- **FALL GET-TOGETHER**, Saturday night, **October 27**, at the Muncy home in Bardstown, 6:00 p.m. Bring finger foods.
- **LADIES RETREAT, November 9-10** at White Mills Camp with Billy Jo Douglas from Holladay, Tennessee. The topic: "Teach Me Lord..." A sign up sheet and information packet is in the lobby. Registration fees can be given to Mary Greene, Kim Whobrey or Mary Woodring.

Pantry Item of the Week

Week of 10/14/07 Pkgs. of Rice

Think About it:

Gossip! Office gossip, shop gossip, church gossip. It makes headlines and heartaches.

Before you repeat a story ask yourself:

Is it true?

Is it helpful?

Is it necessary?

If not keep it to yourself! Read: James 3:2-12.

BENEVOLENT CENTER SEPTEMBER 2007

Food Center	137 families helped
Clothing Center	80 families helped

BIBLE CORRESPONDENCE UPDATE SEPTEMBER 2007

Courses graded	549
New enrollees	41

OUR RECORD FOR October 14, 2007

Sunday Bible Study	131
Sunday Morning Assembly	200
Sunday Evening Assembly	138
Tuesday Ladies Bible Class	14
Wednesday Bible Study	105
Contribution (Budget -- \$5,885)	\$5873

**Elder/Coordinator for October
Ron Carter**

Elizabethtown Church of Christ
P. O. Box 652
1211 N. Dixie Ave.
Elizabethtown, KY 42701

Church Office: 765-6446
Fax # 737-0491

Elders:

Ron Carter	358-5792
Dennis Hogan	234-0705
Henry McAlister	765-7386
Mike Pence	737-8123
Rick Whobrey	769-9267

Ministers:

Michael D. Greene	862-9971
	cell # 735-6908
Ray Pack	982-3460
	cell # 723-7564

Secretary:

Kim Whobrey	769-9267
-------------	----------

Email: churchofchrist@kvnet.org

Visit us on the World Wide Web:
www.etowncofc.org

Bible Question

This Week's Bible Question: *What infant was hidden for 3 months after being born? (Give both Old and New Testaments references)*

Last Week's Bible Question: *What cleanly dressed people are slated to walk with Jesus according to a New Testament passage? The correct answer is some of the saints in the church at Sardis who had maintained purity in a wicked environment, Revelation 3:1-6.* Mary Greene, Edna Ashlock, Kay Pack, Joyce Pack, Bloria Taylor, Mary Walker, and Kay Thomason correctly answered the question.

Please write down your answer and give it to Ray, put it in the box outside the church office before next Wednesday or email your answer to rpack119@bbtel.com by Tuesday afternoon. Please include the Scripture reference and your name.

Schedule of Services

Sunday:

Bible Classes	9:30 A.M.
Morning Worship	10:30 A.M.
Evening Worship	6:00 P.M.

Tuesday

Ladies Bible Class	10:30 A.M.
--------------------	------------

Wednesday

Evening Bible Class	7:00 P.M.
---------------------	-----------

Daily Bible Reading Schedule
Week 38
1. Psalms 49-51; 2 Cor. 5:11-6:10
2. Psalms 52-55; 2 Cor. 6:11-7
3. Psalms 56-59; 2 Cor. 8
4. Psalms 60-63; 2 Cor. 9
5. Psalms 64-67; 2 Cor. 10
Oct. 21 — Youth Devo
Oct. 26-27 — Youth Rally, Ethridge, TN
Oct. 27 — Fall Get-together, Muncys
Oct. 28 — Singing at Atria
Nov. 9-10 — Ladies Retreat

PARTICIPATION

Are You Part of the

Elizabethtown Church of Christ
P. O. Box 652
Elizabethtown, KY 42702

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit # 118
Elizabethtown, KY 42701