



October 17, 2004 #2542



Where Were You on Saturday, September 25, 2004?

Blacksburg, VA -N.C. State, 17; Virginia Tech, 16
Charlottesville, VA -Virginia, 31; Syracuse, 10 West Side Church of Christ Wendell Winkler.

Three big events took place on Saturday, September 25, 2004. N.C. State beat Virginia Tech, Virginia beat Syracuse and Wendell Winkler conducted one of the best leadership workshops that will ever be heard in the City of Salem. Many of you attended either the Tech game or the Cavalier game. Some of you attended Brother Winkler's workshop. Yet others attended other events throughout the Valley or stayed home doing laundry or cleaning the house.

More than a year ago we invited Brother Winkler to come and conduct a leadership workshop. Men like him are hard to schedule because they are in such demand! There's nothing wrong with going to football games on Friday or Saturday or attending local events in the Valley. It is our hope though, that given adequate time to plan, events such as this workshop will be planned in your schedule and attended by as many West-Siders as possible. Disappointedly, we had more attending from the surrounding congregations than from West Side. I'm reminded of Matthew 6:21: *"For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."*

The next activity planned at West Side is our Youth Rally with David Looney. Have you made your plans to attend? Mark your calendars NOW!

the Elders



"They Knew Not That Evil Was Near Them"

In Judges 19-21 we read of an outrageous even in Israel that led to the near annihilation of the tribe of Benjamin. A certain man was traveling with his concubine through the land of Benjamin and was intent on spending the night in the streets. An older inhabitant of that place warned him not to do so and invited them to lodge with him. Not long into the night, certain immoral Benjamites encompassed the house and demanded that the older man send out his visitor to them that they might have their way with him sexually (Judges 19:24). The man refused and instead sent out the traveler's concubine. The men of Benjamin abused her all night until she eventually died. The wayfaring traveler proceeded to cut up her body and send the pieces to each of the tribes of Israel. The other tribes approached the leaders of Benjamin about

this matter and requested that the evildoers be turned over to them for justice. The leaders of Benjamin refused, and the remaining tribes declared war against them, almost eradicating them in the process (all because the leaders of Benjamin wanted to protect a bunch of homosexuals!).

An interesting statement is made in regard to the Benjamites in Judges 20:34. It reveals that when the men of Israel came against them, the men of Benjamin were caught by surprise. Of them it states, *"but they knew not that evil was near them."* The "evil" was, of course, the destroying forces of Israel.

In borrowing this thought for our modern setting, one has to wonder just how many "know not that evil [destruction] is near them." Many go about their daily lives as if this world is all there is. They have little to no concern for any thoughts regarding a coming judgment and day of reckoning. They could not care less about spiritual matters. As the Benjamites, they are daily engaged in immoral practices with little regard for anything other than their own pleasure. We are reminded of the Lord's words regarding "that day" when He shall return. He used the days of Noah as an example. They went about their daily affairs as they always had *"and knew not until the flood came, and took them all away"* (Matthew 25:38, 39a). Of this Jesus said, *"So shall the coming of the Son of man be"* (Matthew 25:39b). Just like those of Noah's day, and just like the Benjamites, so may will have no idea that "evil [destruction] is near them."
Eddy

The Rationale for Evaluating Political Leaders

Jeroboam II was the 13th ruler of the northern kingdom of Israel. he reigned for some 41 years (793-753BC)--during those days when both Jonah and Amos were doing their prophetic work. His reign was one of the most prosperous in the 250-year history of northern Israel. He successfully conducted wars against Syria, and he recaptured territory that Israel had not possessed since the days of David.

During this era, Israel was very stable economically. Trade routes developed and wealth poured into the nation. The upper classes especially prospered, with certain families growing very wealthy in the acquisition of both land and money.

In view of his remarkable success as a political leader, one would think that Jeroboam's considerable abilities would have been heralded enthusiastically in the Old Testament record. But such is not the case. As able as the ruler was in regal affairs, the Bible largely ignores his administration. The writer of Second Kings records Jeroboam's entire regime--41 years long--in just seven verses (II Kings 14:23-29). And this is his brief epitaph: *"he did that which was evil in the sight of Jehovah"*.

This account, as well as numerous others of similar import, clearly reveal the fact that the Lord does not evaluate political administration in the same way men do. Of a politician who has built roads, increased revenues, expanded boundaries and created better living conditions most would say, "He was a great leader!" However, it is not riches that make a great nation; it is righteousness (Proverbs 14:34). It is not fortune, but faith. It is not smooth highways, but spiritual homes!

It is interesting to reflect upon how Americans generally evaluate national leaders today. It is superficial to the extreme. We want to know this: Can he lower taxes? Not, can he reduce moral corruption? Will he generate jobs? Rather than whether he will attempt to initiate a regeneration of the nation's ethical policies. Can we expect a higher standard of economic living? Irrespective of a lower sleazier level of laws that accommodate debauched lives.

What each citizen needs to be asking about potential leaders are inquiries of this substance: Does he acknowledge God as the sovereign over the nation? Does he seek to help the innocent and downtrodden find a fair level of justice? Does he value the sacredness of human life; of humanity as being in the "image" of the Creator (Genesis 9:6)? Does he act on principle, or is his approach the way of political pragmatism (practicality)? Will he labor for the stability of the human family (the divine arrangement), or will he cater to special interest groups who craft their own values from the perversity of their self-indulgent lifestyles?

Any individual who is swayed more by economic stability than moral stability has revealed a library of information relative to the content of his own character. Such folks are oblivious to the truth that prosperity is the result of goodness, not evil.

Wayne Jackson

Life Without Absolutes

A segment of our society has advocated and is advocating that there are no absolutes in life. Everything is relative. This philosophy has been stressed long enough for us to see first-hand what God has said in His Word all the time, i.e., there are not only absolutes in life, but life cannot exist without absolutes.

Truth is absolute! It is never relative! God' s Word, the Bible, is truth (John 17:17). Therefore, it is absolute. If truth is not absolute, but is relative, then truth really does not exist. If this be the case, then no objective truth exists to which we may appeal in order to evaluate any statement or condition. There would be no way for one to be wrong. But, there are absolutes. It is truth, and truth does not change simply because of an interpretation.

History should teach us that life does not long last where the people disregard truth (absolutes). It teaches that it is essential for human beings to see their own lives in relation to God, His Son, His Word and eternity. When this relationship is distorted and eroded through the concept that all is relative, man seeks to live his life purely in mortal terms. This means there are no terms. It is every man for himself. There is no regard for law, no respect for property, no value on life. Morals do not exist.

When such conditions prevail in a society, the need for absolutes becomes so acute that they are often arbitrarily brought in even by dictatorship. One man recently commenting on the condition of the nation said, "The only possible way that men and women can be free is through God and through Jesus... take that away, and they are utterly fated to be governed in an authoritarian manner."

When man chooses to disregard the total absolutes, the total collapse of order is the result. Failure to respect truth and accept absolutes brings chaos to life whether that of an individual or a nation. The answer to order and a meaningful life is truth. Truth must be believed and obeyed to be saved and to be free (II Thessalonians 1:7-9; John 8:32).

Charles L. Williams

PRAYER REQUESTS

SICK: Ed & Jean Argabright (virus), Yvette Mays (cold). Caretta Franklin, friend of Glenna, is to see a neurologist on Tuesday. Continue to remember: Lynn & Mary Anderson, Marguerite Charles, Debbie Christian, Jim & Addie, Dorsett, Wayne Draper (hospice has been called in), Luetta Gregory, Steve Harrah, Dan Hudgins, A.C. Janney, Betty Jenkins, Rob & Gloria Kinney, Margaret Kratz, Oliver Majors, Jo Musgrove, Clifford Newell (improving; hopes to be back in the pulpit by the first of the year), T.J. Overton, Truman Parker, Taylor Parks, Charlie & Jessie Puckett, Gary Sartain, Pansy Six (There are still dates available to help w/meals for her.), Sue Stout, Annette Shrader, Trey Stricklin (had heart surgery on Wednesday), Sue

Stout, Melony Webster (heart is fine, having further tests), Evelyn White, Effie Wimmer (was able to be with us last Sunday morning), W.J. Wood.

Names will remain on this list for four weeks without an update. Please give all updates to Glenna.

OTHER: Remember our missionaries the Staffords and the Pearsons; Steve & Cindy Hall, Ty Stricklin and the 300,000+ armed service personnel serving the world over. Please pray for the following that they will become more faithful: Nick Charles, Valarie Faw, Kelsey MacIntosh, Paul Mays. Cassie Birdwell.

SYMPATHY: Our love and sympathy are extended to Betty Buckner in the loss of her friend Alice Greenwell.

REJOICE! Josh Whitlow was baptized into Christ late Tuesday night (October 12). Josh is the Assistant Principal at Hidden Valley High School. Please welcome him to the family here. (Josh is out of town this weekend).

THIS WEEK AT WEST SIDE:

Today: Gospel meeting begins at Fort Chiswell w/Clayton Winters.

Monday: Happy anniversary to Glenn & Sandra Neighbors!

Tuesday: Happy birthday to Kathleen Pearson!

Wednesday: Bible study, 7pm.

Thursday: TNT Bible Study, 7:30-8:30pm.

Friday: Fries gospel meeting w/Charles Isenberg begins. Gospel meeting begins at Rich Creek, 7pm.

Saturday: SW VA Youth Rally w/David Looney. "Giants in the Land", 9am-2pm. Team 2 (Garby), corn maze/hay ride, Layman' s Orchard, 5pm. Team 3 (Brown), dinner/devo in the fellowship room, 5pm. Happy birthday to Shannon Lowe!

Sunday, 10/24: Area-wide singing, Fries, 2:30pm. Gospel meeting begins at Christiansburg w/James Watkins. Happy birthday to Mary Ellen Crowe!

CONGRATULATIONS!

Cameron Brown was named Salemite Team' s "Student of the Month" at ALMS

OUR GOSPEL MEETING

Our meeting with Brother Curtis Cates is scheduled for November 7-10. Be making plans to be at every service and to bring your friends.

ATTENTION, TEACHERS

If you purchase books, supplies from F-HU Bookstore and use the church' s accant, please give the ticket to Glenna or let her know you' ve done so. Since the bookstore does not include invoices w/its bill, this will save a lot of aggravation on everyone' s part-Danny

OCTOBER ITEMS FOR STAFFORDS: Dentyne "fire" gum, bottles of Dale' s steak seasoning, Dr. Grip medium-point pens, seasoning packets/beef stroganoff flavor

QUESTIONS? QUESTIONS? QUESTIONS?

Eddy will do a series of lessons on marriage/divorce and remarriage beginning next week. There is a box in the foyer for questions you may have regarding these topics.

LADIES' NIGHT OUT

There are still several spots open if you' d like to host an event for our ladies. The sign-up sheet is posted on the board in the hall

TURN, TURN, TURN 2005

There is a sign-up sheet for all the ladies who would like to help with the planning of next year' s Weekend. Please sign up by Sunday, 11/21.

CORRECTION

One vote did not put Hitler in charge of Germany in 1960. This was a typo. Should have read 1930.

"I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions and giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty" (I Timothy 2:1-2).

October 2004

Announcements.Danny Guard
Reader (PM).Luke Guard
Preside.Jerry Anderson
Serve.Glen Hartman, , Mitch Jearls, Ed Mickens, Gary Sartain
(PM) Garrett Durham, Norris Gearhart

Opening Prayer
10/3 Charlie Gwaltney, (PM) Fred Altizer
10/10 Bobby Martin, (PM) Jeff Durham
10/17. Barry White, (PM) Don Pettit
10/24 Collin Gregory, (PM) Mike Durham
10/31.. . . . Herb Baker, (PM) Tom Richardson

Closing Prayer
10/3. Tom Rogers, (PM) Mark Brooks
10/10. Paul Faw, (PM) John Hawks
10/17 Crawford Keith, (PM) Murphy Scott
10/24. Ortie Boyd, (PM) Wayne Dixon
10/31 Tom Duff, (PM) John Black

Pick Up Cards.
Greeters. Altizers, Bakers
Open/Close Building. Jim Harrington
Care of Communion. . . .Sandy Garby, Martha Wood; alternate, Linda Maness
Song Leaders
Sunday. . . .(AM) J. Durham (PM) C. Gwaltney . . . Wednesday , A.. House
Care of Baptismal Garments.Sandra Altizer
Ushers.Tim Smith , Bob Garby
NurseryEsther Greene, (PM) Charlene Guard; alternate, Jo Hartman
Alternates. Tom Richardson, Kirk Gilpin
Sermon Outlines. Mike & Cameron Christian, Tom & Weston Rogers

OUR RECORD. . . 10/6, 10 /04
Wednesday. ---
Sunday Bible Study.162

Sunday Morning Worship.	197
Sunday Evening Worship	142
Contribution.	\$5,181.00
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Four Versions of Mark 16:16

The Universalist says, "He that believeth not and is not baptized shall be saved." All are going to be saved whether they are baptized or not.

The Roman Catholic says, "He that believeth not and is baptized shall be saved." Whether it be a newborn baby or an adult at the point of death, the "sacrament" of baptism has validity to take away sins.

The Protestant says, "He that believeth and is not baptized shall be saved." Salvation is by faith only, without baptism or anything else.

The Lord said, "*He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved*" (Mark 16:16).

Which version should we accept?

Roy E. Foutz

Be sure to fill out your attendance card.

AM cards should be passed to the inside aisle; PM cards to the outside aisle for the ushers to pick up. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.