

WATCH AND BE FOUND FAITHFUL

READ THE BIBLE. From Adam and Eve onward, even from the beginning, man has never been faithful to God for very long. Remember the universal flood, and what led up to it. Consider the nation of Israel under the judges. It seems to be one unending cycle, with judges having to be raised up to deliver Israel and call them back to God. Stephen in his defense before the Sanhedrin in Acts 7 makes it plain that Israel in its history by and large had never been faithful to God (although there usually was a faithful remnant). The prophets continually had the thankless task of calling the nation back to God. And because of the nation's continued unfaithfulness they experienced God's wrath by being taken into Babylonian Captivity. His ultimate wrath was seen in the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 A.D. by the Romans.

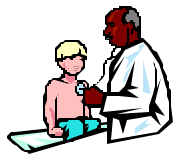
With the coming of the Redeemer and Savior into the world, we would think that things would be different. But the Lord warned of "false Christs" to come and said that many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved" (Matthew 24:11-13). He even asked the question, "When the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on earth?" (Luke 18:8) The apostle Paul repeatedly warned of a "falling away" that was coming (2 Thessalonians 2:1-12; 1 Timothy 4:1-7; 2 Timothy 3:1-4:5). He even said to the Ephesian elders, "For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things to draw away disciples after them. Therefore, *watch* and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears" (Acts 20:29-31). In Revelation chapters 2 and 3, the Lord addresses problems of departure and potential apostasy in the seven churches of Asia. Much of the New Testament was written to deal with "falling away" and unfaithfulness.

These words are not written to be pessimistic or to discourage, but to be realistic. It is true that Paul affirmatively asked, If God be for us, who can be

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Sick

Continue to remember in prayer:



Marguerite Charles,
Margaret Kratz, Betty Jenkins, Lynn &
Mary Anderson, Crawford &
Martha Keith, Mariam Majors, Cindy
Angelotti, Sandra Wood.

Happy Birthday this week to:



Grat Tucker—8/17
Roger Mays—8/20
Melissa Marshall—8/20
Bridgette Bush—8/21
Mickie Janney—8/22
Sondra Tyler—8/22

Happy Anniversary this week to:



Greg & Jo Ann Edwards—8/17
Jeremy & Jessica White—8/17
Jerry & Kay Anderson—8/22

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against us?” (Romans 8:31), and Christ said that the gates of hell would not prevail against the church (Matthew 16:18). (Yes). But, at the same time, remember, we are a fallen race of people. Our inclination, if not averted, is toward apostasy. (A child does not have to be taught to do wrong; he just does it —Proverbs 29:15). We must live close to the Lord and be on guard. In view of Paul’s warnings in Acts 20:28-32, elders, who are pastors of the flock, were instructed to “*watch*” to safeguard the church. (And in this connection, they were pointed to the Word of God, Acts 20:32). Hebrews 13:17 says that “they [the elders] *watch* for your souls.” This is their solemn responsibility. Likewise, in view of coming apostasy and in the same vein, Paul said to Timothy, “But *watch* thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry” (2 Timothy 4:5). Then, speaking more generally, Hebrews 3:12-14 reads, “Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God. But exhort one another daily, while it is called Today; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end.” More than once, Jesus said to his disciples to “*watch* and *pray*.” Then these words are expanded to include us: “And what I say unto you I say unto all. *Watch*: (Mark 13:37).

Any way we look at it, we need to watch. Because men are not watching, the church may plunge into darkness. Noble religious movements may fizzle out. Doctrines may erode and be lost. The trappings and ways of the world may be brought into the church. We may lose our convictions about right and wrong.

Remember. History bears out that man has never been faithful to God for very long. Let us watch and be found faithful.

Via— Sword and Staff

THANK YOU!

We love and appreciate **David Brown** for his faithful service as a deacon these past 11 years.

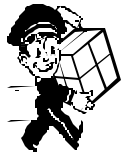
Though he is stepping down from this office, we know he will continue to be a diligent servant for the Lord. Squeaky Valentine will be handling the Team 3 responsibilities for now.

– the Elders

AUGUST ITEMS FOR THE

STAFFORDS: Flavorings (almond, butter, lemon) and slivered almonds.

Give your items to Jeanny and she will ship them over!



MILITARY

Kyle Nester– in Iraq

Erich Felps—in Iraq

Chris Coleman—in Iraq



Update on the Duffs

Tom has finished the summer quarter and did well in all his classes. Susan began her teaching duties last Monday. Preston began school Monday as well. Classes for Tom will resume on August 25. Be sure to include the Duffs in your prayers. Notes of encouragement would be much appreciated as well. Their address is: (Removed per privacy policy, see hardcopy bulletin)

F Y I

For Your Information

IN-HOUSE SUMMER SERIES

Be here this Wednesday night to hear Don Petit as our guest speaker!

Next Week: Tim Shoulders. Make your plans now to be here to encourage these men!

FALL LADIES CLASS

There will be a Wednesday night ladies' class offered during the fall quarter in the fellowship room. Class will begin the first Wednesday night of September. Nine (9) different ladies have volunteered to teach the class, focusing on "Everything I Needed To Know, I Learned From The Bible." Please sign up on the bulletin board if you plan on attending. See Jeanny if you have questions.

FALL PRIMARY TEACHERS

All lesson plans, activities and etc. from last fall need to be e-mailed to Tom Richardson or Danny Guard by August 31. Give all visuals to Tom.

PRIMARY TEACHERS MEETING

There will be a primary teachers meeting on Sept 7 at 4:30 in the fellowship hall. Second & Third Grade teachers are in charge of snacks!

POLISHING THE PULPIT— A Bible Conference for Preachers, Elders, Deacons, Youth Workers, and members of churches of Christ.

Dates: August 22—28, 2008

Address: Sevierville Events Center,
202 Gists Creek Road, Sevierville, TN 37862

HELP IN THE GARDEN?

Dale Ridge needs help harvesting their summer crops (mostly potatoes) on Saturday August 23 at 9 AM. An hour or more of your time would be most appreciated ("many hands make light work"). The food will be used to help needy families in the Roanoke area. For more details, contact Don Charles at 540-309-7007.

Note:

Squeaky Valentine will be handling **Team 3** responsibilities for the interim.



Teens

TNT
August 21, 7:30 p.m.

Youth Bible Study

The young men will conduct the services on August 31. Make plans now to attend and support our fine young men—they do a great job!

WOW

Please sign up on the WOW board for the video Auto-biographies being done by Richard Simms.

The 15th Annual West Side Invitational
Golf Tournament will be at
Blue Hills Golf Club on
September 27, 2008 at 11 A.M.

Mark your calendars now to participate!. A sign-up sheet will be posted soon.



SPECIAL REQUESTS:

Cards, phone calls and/or letters of *encouragement* are needed for the following:

Chelsea High

(Removed per privacy policy, see hardcopy bulletin)

Marguerite Charles

(Removed per privacy policy, see hardcopy bulletin)

August 2008

Life on Mars?

Announcements	Mike Durham
Song Leader (AM)	Jeff Durham
Opening Prayer (AM)	
8/3	Barry White
8/10	Jim Bush
8/17	Herb Baker
8/24	John Black
8/31	Josh Whitlow
Preside at Communion	Don Pettit
Serve Table	Bob Martin AC Janney Glen Hartman Bradford Durham
Closing Prayer	
8/3	Grat Tucker
8/10	David Brown
8/17	Jim Cooke
8/24	Wayne Dixon
8/31	Ethan Rogers
Song Leader (PM)	David Brown
Opening Prayer (PM)	
8/3	Jim Harrington
8/10	Danny Guard
8/17	Roger Mays
8/24	Greg Edwards
8/31	Jerry Anderson
Scripture Reader	Sam Valentine
Closing Prayer (PM)	
8/3	Shawn Simms
8/10	Eric Earnhart
8/17	Bob Garby
8/24	Charlie Maness
8/31	Jason Oldham
Serve Table (PM)	
	Mark Brooks Glenn Gabbard
Song Leader (Wed)	Josh Whitlow
Prayer (Wed)	
8/6	Tom Richardson
8/13	Greg Edwards
8/20	Fred Altizer
8/27	Squeaky Valentine
Open/Close Bldg	Jim Harrington
Greeters	White Gearhart
Nursery Attend	S. Neighbors M. Pettit
Ushers	Richard Simms Curtis Oakes
Handouts	Roger Mays Mitch Jearls Sam Valentine Cameron Brown
Alternates	Lyn Shrader
Prepare communion	
	Jeanny Gilpin Pat Gwaltney
Cards & Pencils	
	Jimmy Harrington & Dylan Tyler

Last weeks attendance 8/10 & 13/08

Bible Class—155 Worship Service—179
Sunday Eve.—122 Wednesday Eve.—156
Contribution—\$8241

(The main thought for this article was raised in a recent conversation with Jim Harrington. To him goes the credit...and to God be the glory.)

I was in elementary school when man first landed on the moon in 1969. I recall that in many science classes in those years space travel and moon landings topped the agenda. I recall making models of rockets, writing themes, and cutting and pasting hosts of pictures and articles about space exploration for school projects. This generation of elementary school students has witnessed a like phenomenon as the Phoenix Mars Lander touched down on the red planet on May 25.

On June 19 Phoenix uncovered what were thought to be ice crystals. On July 31, the findings (through scientific experiments conducted by Phoenix) were proven to be just that. Scientists (especially evolutionary scientists) are elated. Why? Since water is crucial to life, if there was no water to be found on Mars it would be very difficult to make a case for life on Mars, or for going even further and determining a source for life. Since water has been found, many are now leaping to the unwarranted conclusion that life exists or has existed on Mars.

Is it not amazing that these highly intelligent individuals can understand what it takes to determine life by looking at a soil sample from a robotic arm through a camera lens 200 million miles from earth, and yet they do not have the common sense to determine that there is life inside a mother's womb? To some of them, the mere presence of a droplet of water proves life. But, the presence of a heartbeat, brain activity, legs, arms, fingers, toes, separate DNA and actual physical activity from a being inside a sac filled with water (amniotic fluid) does not. It kind of makes one wonder- if they were to find a creature possessing these same characteristics on Mars, would they still say it wasn't a separate life? Food for thought indeed.

-Eddy

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