

That's Close Enough To Perfect For Me

On one occasion a young man came to Jesus and asked "Good Master, what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?" Jesus instructed him to "Keep the commandments." The young man, in an effort to narrow down his obligation asked on which of the commandments he needed to concentrate his efforts. Jesus again responded, "Thou shalt do no murder, Thou shalt not commit adultery, thou shalt not steal, thou shalt not bear false witness, honor thy father and thy mother, and thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. The young man informed the Lord that he had done all of those things from his youth. He then asked the Lord, "What lack I yet?" Jesus staggered the young man with His response: "If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me." The Bible says "the young man went away sorrowful: for he had great possessions" (Matthew 19:22).

To his credit, this particular man wanted something strongly enough to inquire about it. In particular, he wanted eternal life and was prepared to do some "good thing" in order to receive it. However, when he learned the cost of being perfect (complete), he admitted by his actions that his present state was close enough to perfect for him. This young man's material wealth stood in his way and prevented him from moving forward. Admittedly, we will never reach a state of "sinless perfection." However, we are to grow toward perfection, spiritual maturity, and completeness in Christ (Luke 8:14; Hebrews 6:1; 2 Pet. 3:18; Colossians 2:10, 4:12).

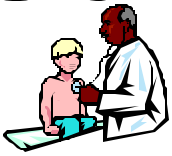
Interestingly, this young man well represents many of us, in that we certainly desire eternal life, yet because of the cost, many of us are unwilling to move forward in order to obtain it. Dear reader, have you reached a point in your spiritual development to where the cost of moving forward is more than you are willing to give? Have you determined that your present spiritual state is close enough to perfect for you? If so, please acknowledge what Jesus said in response to this young man's actions: "a rich man shall hardly enter into the kingdom of heaven." For some people, their love for money will keep them from reaching perfection, completeness and eternal life. Still for others, their love for this world, their ungodly associations, and their lack of spiritual priorities will keep them from ever seeing Heaven.

Sometimes we reach dead end streets in our spiritual growth. At that point we begin to rationalize our failure to meet the Lord's expectations by saying (at least mentally), "That's close enough to perfect for me." Such lack of resolve is truly sad and is certainly a disappointment to Christ Jesus, who, with unwavering determination, gave His life to pave the way to Heaven for us. Yet, many have grown weary and no longer desire to move forward. Just like that young man who came to Jesus, the cost just seems too great. Yes, at present "close enough to perfect" might be easier, but have you considered the eternal consequences of coming short of the Lord's expectations? Friend, do not grow comfortable with where you are spiritually. Do not ever say "That's close enough to perfect for me." Instead, develop within yourself a desire to grow spiritually and to truly seek that heavenly home. You can begin by asking yourself, "what lack I yet?" and then move forward to fill that spiritual void (Matthew 6:33).

-Joey Davis

Sick

Continue to remember in prayer:



Marguerite Charles, Margaret Kratz, Miriam Majors, Betty Jenkins, Jim Dorsett, E.V. Wimmer, Lynn Anderson, Peggy Paxton, Martha Keith, Emily Richey, David Platter

- WJ Wood was admitted to the VA Hosp last Sunday for a transfusion. He is now home.
- Jonnie Charles has returned home from Texas and is being made comfortable.
- Mary Rose Michael, Sandy Garby's aunt, had surgery on Monday.
- Charlie Puckett is in RMH.
- Dee Ritter, friend of Becky Cooke, is being treated for breast cancer.

Upcoming Events:



Team 2—Garby—will be having a cookout at the Janney's home on August 22 at 5:30. Sign up sheet on the board.

Also mark your calendars—Team 2 and the WOW Group will be traveling to Safari Park on September 19. More details to follow.

Teens



August Events:

- TBS—8/9
- SYD—Radford—8/10
- WOW/Youth Devo & Lunch—8/11
- TBS—8/12
- Lock In—8/14
- SYD—Lake Drive—8/15

Check the Youth Board or talk to Luke for detailed information you may need about upcoming events.

WOW

The WOW Meeting will be August 11 at 10:30! This will be a special meeting with the Youth participating and lunch will be provided!

On August 15 the WOW Group will be traveling to North Carolina to Hillbilly Hideaway. For the cost of \$26 you will get transportation, dinner, and entertainment. Give your money to Don or Mitzi to reserve your seat on the bus!!!

A Dozen Years! This week marks the 12th year of our work together. We are grateful for the opportunity to serve by your side in the kingdom. Thank you for 12 wonderful years. You have been and continue to be a most gracious people. We are privileged indeed to be working with such a fine congregation of God's children. We pray that there are many more years to come in our work together. May God continue to bless our efforts for His Cause.

-Eddy & Jeanny

Happy Birthday this week to :



- Michelle Earnhart—8/13
- Caleb Guard—8/14
- Marie Campbell—8/14
- Jack Cook—8/15
- Madolia Rosette—8/16

Happy Anniversary this week to:

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AUGUST ITEMS FOR THE STAFFORDS:

Instant sugar-free chocolate pudding and Dream Whip. Give your items to Jeanny and she will ship them over!



Weekly Reminders

For Your Information

SUNDAY EVENING SERVICES

Tonight we will be viewing the Butt/Barker Debate (Part 2) for evening services. We will begin services at 5:45 to allow plenty of time to view this debate. Please make every effort to be here for this broadcast!

2009 SUMMER SERIES

Our annual Summer Series will feature Luke Guard this Wednesday. Make plans to be here to hear all of the speakers that are lined up for this summer.

CPR/FIRST AID CLASS

There will be a **CPR/First Aid Certification Class** on August 15 from 9 AM to 3PM in the fellowship hall. Cost will be \$70. Contact Kim or Katelyn Brown for details. Sign up sheet on the board.

COLLEGE SENDOFF

We will be sending off our college kids with the Hudgins/Whitlock Scholarships on August 16 after evening services. Make plans to stay and send them off with best wishes.

POLISHING THE PULPIT

PtP will be starting August 28. Details are on the board if you would like to attend. Some from our congregation will be going down.

Prayer list:

Marguerite Charles
Lyn Anderson
Martha Keith
Miriam Majors
Betty Jenkins
WJ Wood
Margaret Kratz
Jonnie Charles
Jim Dorsett
E.V. Wimmer
Sandra Wood
Emily Richey
Peggy Paxton
Mary Rose Michael
David Platter
Charlie Puckett
Dee Riteer

Activities:

TBS—8/9
SYD—Radford—8/10
WOW/Youth—8/11
Teen Devo—8/12
Youth Lock In—8/14
SYD—8/15
CPR Class—8/15
College Send off—8/16

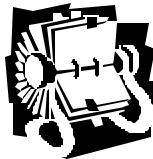
Share the Joy with Glenn & Sandra!

Luke Anthony Neighbors arrived Friday July 31 at 6.39am.

Mom (Kristie) and Luke are doing great.

Matthew was the perfect nurse.

Luke is 9 lb. 4 oz. and 22 inches with brown hair.



August 2009

“If Any Man” (14)

Announcements	Bob Garby
Song Leader (AM)	Charlie Gwaltney
Opening Prayer (AM)	
8/2	David Brown
8/9	Wayne Dixon
8/16	Gene Benefield
8/23	Jerry Anderson
8/30	Paul Mays
Preside at Communion	Squeaky Valentine
Serve Table	Bob Martin Jason Oldham Tom Rogers Ethan Rogers
Closing Prayer	
8/2	Richard Simms
8/9	Mitch Jearls
8/16	Don Pettit
8/23	Eric Earnhart
8/30	Glenn Gabbard
Song Leader (PM)	Sam Valentine
Opening Prayer (PM)	
8/2	Luke Guard
8/9	Bradford Durham
8/16	Jim Harrington
8/23	Greg Edwards
8/30	Herb Baker
Scripture Reader	Jimmy Harrington
Closing Prayer (PM)	
8/2	AC Janney
8/9	Glenn Hartman
8/16	Charlie Maness
8/23	Collin Gregory
8/30	Cameron Brown
Serve Table (PM)	Mark Brooks Nathan Pelfrey
Song Leader (Wed)	Garrett Durham
Prayer (Wed)	
8/5	Charlie Maness
8/12	Jerry Anderson
8/19	Danny Guard
8/26	Eric Earnhart
Open/Close Bldg Greeters	Tom Rogers Laplante/Jearls
Nursery Attend	Amanda Brown Sandra Altizer
Ushers	Norris Gearhart Curtis Oakes
Handouts	Chandler Jearls Dylan Tyler Caleb Reed Tanner Reed
Alternates	Lyn Shrader
Prepare communion	Gloria White Madolia Rosette
Cards & Pencils	Olivia & Natalie Valentine

Last weeks attendance 8/2&5/09

Bible Class—143 Worship Service—177
Sunday Eve.—117 Wednesday Eve.—153
Contribution—\$10916

We continue our study of the phrase “if any man,” which occurs some 62 times in the King James New Testament. Such a phrase naturally implies universal application and thus should be important to each of us.

Colossians 3:13 states, “Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, *if any man* have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.” This statement occurs in the midst of Paul’s assessment of things that we should “put off” (Col. 3:8-11) and “put on” (Col. 3:12-14). He preceded the current statement with the words, “Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering” (Col. 3:12). In order for there to be forgiveness between individuals, these traits must characterize them.

We are to bear with or be “forbearing” of one another. Each of us has his unique quirks. No two of us are exactly alike. There will be occasions when decisions are made, things are said and/or actions are taken that might not agree with our thinking. However, if such matters are not in violation of Scripture we should have patience and understanding with each other. Far too many wear their feelings on their sleeves and get worked up over matters of indifference.

We are to be a forgiving people. As surely as Christ can forgive, so can we; and we must if we are to please Him. Jesus taught forgiveness of each other in the plainest of terms. He said, “Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him. And if he trespass against thee seven times in a day, and seven times in a day turn again to thee, saying, I repent; thou shalt forgive him” (Lk. 13:3, 4). Repentance is indeed a requirement for forgiveness. But, if one repents, it is our duty to forgive him. Thus, the Divine formula “if any man” be involved in a controversy.

-Eddy

August 9, 2009

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