

And Whose Sheep Are You?

“My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: and I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand” (John

10:17,28). What is the passage saying?

1. If one does not obey Jesus' New Testament teaching, he is not a “sheep” of Jesus. “Hear” means more than a registering of sound. It means *hear* with the disposition to obey. (Compare Rev. 2:7; Heb. 3:7). Notice the double emphasis, “and they follow me”. John said, “He that saith, I know him and keepeth not his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him” (1 Jn. 2:4). No accountable individual can be identified as a “sheep” of Jesus apart from obedience. When the Lord commanded through Peter, “Repent and be baptized,” those who truly heard and were willing to follow, obeyed (Acts 2:38,41). It is the same with every command given. There is no quibble, no arguing. Sheep don't question the Shepard.
2. Notice the blessing poured out upon these sheep—I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish.” And who will receive this? Those who hear the voice of Jesus and follow his will. No one else is assured this blessing. Obviously, the “sheep” who grows careless, ceasing to follow Jesus is no longer counted a loyal “sheep”. In another passage, Jesus says, “He that hath my commandments and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me” (Jn. 14:21). Thus, conversely, when one lives disobediently, he is illustrating that he does not love the Lord. Similar teaching is found in John 15:14.
3. The last phrase of John 10:28 is assurance that no Christian can be separated from God against his will. That is, because God is on our side, if we have a settled purpose to live faithfully, no one can alienate us from God. Of course being agents of free will, some may choose to return to sin, but they who love the Lord and are intent on living for him, certainly can. Jesus' sheep hear and follow. Whose sheep are you?

A Touch of Magic? (1)

(Last week, while looking through some material, I found an article in the Firm Foundation which I had written in 1988. Nearly 20 years later, it is still just as true today. It will take a few installments to present it all.)

The basis of most “magic” is deception. The hand being “quicker than the eye,” the tricks performed through sleight of hand amaze youngsters and puzzle adults. Such deception is a part of the harmless game of innocent tricks. There is no such thing as “magic” (the supernatural control of objects). Nothing unexplainable by simple laws of nature exists. However, many claim a belief in such and take “magic” to the realm of the unnatural and supernatural. When this is the case, “magic” is condemned by the Bible. Sadly, there are many members of the Lord's church who take “magic” to this extreme. No, they are not witches or practitioners of voodoo. They are common people who see something mystical in many of God's commands. Their speech and actions along this line betray them.

Many in the Lord's church see baptism as containing “a touch of magic.” One individual, who is an alcoholic and wayward member of the church, in speaking to me about his son, expressed grave concern because his son (age 20) had not been baptized. There was no concern about his continued faithfulness after being baptized; no stress upon his studying, teaching others or attending future worship services; no inclination upon the father's part to return to the Lord and be the proper example for his son. There was only the expression, “If we could just get him baptized....” His prevailing idea was that there was something in being baptized that would take care of these other items. To this man baptism possessed a touch of magic! In his line of reasoning the “once saved, always saved” folks have nothing on us! Why is there such ignorance among God's people? No “Ouija-Board philosophy” can overcome such superstitious thinking. Only a knowledge of God's word will do that. Not only is faithfulness in being baptized commanded, but also obedience in every other phase of life (Heb. 5:8, 9; Rev. 2:10). “Baptism only” is as powerless to save as “faith only.” There is no “magic” in it.

-Eddy

Teens

December Dates:

12/9—Potters gifts are due

12/9—TBS

12/14—Youth Movie Night (**changed**)

12/30—Youth Conduct Evening Services

12/31—Youth Game Night

Memory Program

We will be starting a memory program for children ages 4 and up. It will begin on January 6, 2008 at 5:40 pm before evening services. If there are any men interested in leading this class on a monthly basis, please see Adam House before December 30.

Three Things

Three things in life, once gone, never come back —

Time, Words & Opportunity

Three Things in life that may never be lost —

Peace, Hope & Honesty

Three Things in life that are most valuable —

Love, Faith & Prayer

Three things in life that are never certain —

Dreams, Success & Fortune

Three Things that make a man —

Hard Work, Sincerity & Commitment

Three things in life that can destroy a man —

Lust, Pride & Anger

Three things that are truly constant —

Father, Son & Holy Spirit

His love is always with you, His promises are true. And when you give Him all your cares,

He'll see you through!

-Unknown

Team Events

All Potters gifts need to be wrapped and ready for pickup today!!

Team 1— will be having a Finger Food Fellowship in the Fellowship Hall on the evening of December 16. Sign up sheet on the board!

Team 4—

Team 4 will be having Team Pot-Luck Fellowship after morning services at Tom & Melissa's home.

WOW GROUP

The regular WOW Group meeting will be on Tuesday, Dec. 11 at 10:30. Velda will be preparing a lunch of sausage gravy and biscuits and she will need an accurate count of attendees so sign up on the WOW board today!

Special guest speaker will be there!

Evangelism occurs when Christians are so ignited by their contact with Christ that they in turn set fires. It is easy to determine when something is aflame. It ignites other material. Any fire that does not spread will eventually go out. A church without evangelism is a contradiction in terms, just as fire that does not burn is a contradiction.



What we do today, right now, will have an accumulated effect on all our tomorrows.

SICK

Effie Wimmer is in New River Medical Center.

Roy Doss is now home.

Mary Anderson had several medical procedures this past week.

Remember the following in prayer: **Betty Jenkins, Marguerite Charles, Betty Buckner, Effie Wimmer, Gail Webb, Revonda Mosser, Teresa White, Mary Anderson, Harold Gresh.**

Happy Anniversary this week to:

Jack & Lori Cook—12/9

George & Bonnie Mellon—12/16



MILITARY

Ty Stricklin—Stationed in Iraq

John Duran—overseas.

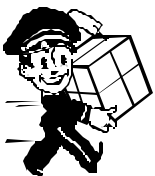
Kyle Nester— in Iraq

Erich Felps—in Iraq.



NOVEMBER & DECEMBER ITEMS FOR THE STAFFORDS:

Sweet 'n Low and Degree Deodorant.
Give your items to Jeanny and she
will ship them over!



CHANGES

Team 4 Fellowship Meal will now be at Tom & Meliisa Rogers' home immediately after morning services.

Youth Movie Night will be this Friday evening in the Fellowship Hall at 7 PM.

PINK/BLUE INFO & INVOLVEMENT

The Pink & Blue sheets need to be filled out ASAP. Return to Jo Ann or place in box on Media door. If you don't have one see Jo Ann or your Team Leader!!

PRIMARY TEACHER MEETING

The December Primary Teachers Meeting will be today at 4:30 in the fellowship hall. 2&3's are in charge of snacks.

POTTERS CHILDRENS HOME

Potters Children's Home Gleaner Cans will be picked up this week. Pick up a can and fill it up!! **Also** the holiday season wish list is located in the foyer. All items for Potters need to be in the Fellowship Hall tonight!!

AREA WIDE PREACHERS MEETING

The Area-Wide Preachers meeting will be Monday at 10:30 in the Fellowship Hall.

LADIES NIGHT OUT HOLIDAY PARTY

The LNO Holiday Party will be on Monday, December 10 at 6:30 PM at Jo Ann's home. Bring a gift-wrapped ornament for the exchange. Carpool if possible and remember you can park around back!

TEAM 1 FELLOWSHIP

Team 1 will have a Finger Food Fellowship next Sunday evening after services. Sign up sheet on the board.

UPCOMING EVENTS

New Member Dinner—1/19

Education Banquet—2/23

Smoky Mountain Marriage Retreat—2/14&15

December 2007

Announcements	Tom Duff	
Song Leader (AM)	Jeff Durham	
Opening Prayer (AM)		
12/2	Charlie Gwaltney	
12/9	Eric Earnhart	
12/16	Murphy Scott	
12/23	Charlie Puckett	
12/30	David Brown	
Preside at Communion	Tom Richardson	
Serve Table	Herb Baker	AC Janney
	Greg Edwards	Glenn Gabbard
Closing Prayer		
12/2	Paul Mays	
12/9	Squeaky Valentine	
12/16	Wayne Dixon	
12/23	Luke Guard	
12/30	Jim Harrington	
Song Leader (PM)	Tom Rogers	
Opening Prayer (PM)		
12/2	Charlie Maness	
12/9	Josh Whitlow	
12/16	Mike Durham	
12/23	George Mellon	
12/30	Youth	
Scripture Reader	Sam Valentine	
Closing Prayer (PM)		
12/2	Glenn Hartman	
12/9	Fred Altizer	
12/16	Roger Mays	
12/23	Grat Tucker	
12/30	Youth	
Serve Table (PM)	Preston Duff	Garrett Durham
Song Leader (Wed)	Adam House	
Prayer (Wed)		
12/5	Bobby Martin	
12/12	Don Pettit	
12/19	Richard Simms	
12/26	Caleb Guard	
Open/Close Bldg	Fred Altizer	
Open/Close Sun PM	David Wilcox	
Greeters	Keiths	Gwaltneys
Nursery Attend	M. Earnhart	M. Rogers
Ushers	N. Gearhart	D. Guard
Handouts	Mike & Bradford Durham	
Alternates	David Brown	
Prepare comm.	Gloria White	Marsha Cooke
Cards & Pencils	Jimmy Harrington	Dylan Tyler
Last weeks attendance	11/25&28/2007	
Bible Class—	141	Worship Service—178
Eve. Worship—	118	Wed. Service—148
Contribution—	\$8640	