

“HOW TO BE A GOOD BAD GUY”

Neal Pollard

They made them so easy to spot in the old black and white cowboy movies. They wore the bandana, the black clothes, and talked like bad guys. Stagecoach robbers, bank robbers, and villains are usually depicted in such a way as to leave no doubt as to who they are. Everybody knows a bad guys looks, acts, and talks a certain way.

As a Bible camp director for ten years, a Future Preachers Training Camp director for four, and nearly twenty years as a preacher trying to preach the whole counsel of God, I have been perceived to be the bad guy more than one time. For years, I have said, "Nobody wants to be the bad guy." It's terribly unpleasant and usually unpopular. Whether enforcing the rules or proclaiming the truth, it can be rough business. Rather than rail against the unfairness of being perceived as the bad guy, maybe we should ask how one can be a "good" bad guy.

DON'T RELISH THE ROLE. Some enjoy being the bad guy. They seem to relish making others uncomfortable, confronting, and rebuking. They appear eager to bare their knuckles and jump into the fray. That's not a good bad guy. The good bad guy would rather do anything but stand up for what's right except displease and disobey God. Moses, Gideon, Jeremiah, and Peter were reluctant bad guys. Such people do not have big chips on their shoulders, daring you to knock it off from there.

MAKE SURE THEY SEE YOUR HEART. Are we afraid for people to know that we care about them, and that is why we are willing to play the bad guy role? We should not fear being thought a sissy, tender-hearted, or soft. Being a good bad guy does not mean bearing gritted teeth or railing and bitter speech. That's a bad bad guy. People must know you genuinely love them before you will have any effect in bearing bad news.

BE WILLING TO TAKE A STAND. Speaking the truth in love (Eph. 4:15) still means speaking the truth. Gently correcting those who are in opposition (2 Tim. 2:25) still means correcting. In Ephesians six, Paul repeatedly urges the church to "stand" (11, 13, 14). A good bad guy who knows what the Lord's will is will stand with the Lord. He is willing to do so at personal cost and sacrifice.

I want to be seen as the good guy. It certainly "feels" better and is more enjoyable. Yet, my highest priority is to be the guy who's right with God. I must do that, however others perceive me. My hope is that some day someone will be in heaven to thank me for having been the "bad guy."

(Brother Pollard's thoughts aptly describe our desire as your shepherds to do everything we can to help us ALL be together in heaven one day. – The Elders)

For Your Information

GOSPEL MEETING

John Shannon is here for our meeting starting today. All secondary and adult classes will meet in the auditorium this morning for class. All evening services, including tonight will be at 7:00 PM.

AREA WIDE PREACHERS MEETING

The monthly Area Wide Preacher's meeting will be tomorrow at 10:30 here at the building. All are welcome to hear guest speaker, John Shannon.

EVENING AT WESTSIDE HOSTESSES

There will be a meeting of all hostesses on May 16 at 4:30 in the fellowship hall. All hostesses need to attend!

EVENING AT WEST SIDE

Our Annual Evening at West Side Dinner will be held on May 22 at 6 PM. Ladies should be receiving invitations soon if you haven't already. Please respond to your hostess as soon as possible!

LADIES NIGHT OUT

Ladies' Night Out will be on Thursday, May 27th, 6:30 p.m. hosted by Jennifer Laplante and Jeanny Gilpin and will be at Jeanny's house. The theme will be "Sisters" and we will begin a "Secret Sister" year with the "reveal" next year at this time. Food will be provided. If you are unable to attend, but would like to participate in the Secret Sister for the coming year, please see Jennifer for a short information sheet and yours will be put in the hat with the others. You will get a "Secret Sister" for the year to surprise with little surprises throughout the year on special occasions. We hope to see you on the 27th.

GRADUATION DINNER

We will be honoring our graduates on Sunday, May 30, with a fellowship potluck dinner after morning services. Our grads this year include: Caroline Doss, Garrett Durham, and Ethan Rogers.

CHRISTIAN TRAINING SERIES

CTS at Freed-Hardeman will be held July 11-15. Registration forms and bus forms (green) are available in the foyer.

Recent Responses: Tom & Melissa Rogers, Jo Ann Edwards

Upcoming Area Meetings

The Fifth Annual Southwest Virginia Lectureships will be held May 9-14 at the Pulaski Church of Christ. See list of topic and speakers on the board.

Senior Servants

Lynn Anderson
Norma Biller
Betty Buckner
Marguerite Charles
Jim Dorsett
Al Farrow
Collin Gregory
Walter & Betty Jenkins
Martha Keith
Margaret Kratz
Miriam Majors
Jo Musgrove
Elsie Smith
Ruth Stanton
Evelyn White
EV Wimmer
WJ Wood



- **Annette Shrader** will be having surgery on May 24 at UVA.
- **Euline Gilpin**, Eddy's mother is in the hospital in AL.
- **Claude Crowe** will undergo more tests before his surgery is scheduled.
- **Glenn Hartman Sr.**, Glenn's father, is in the hospital in TN. His mother also needs our prayers.
- **Bob Watson**, Marguerite Charles' nephew, is in a coma due to diabetes and lung function.

Remember in prayer:

Madolia Rosette, Shannon VanRavestein, Grace Myers, Kathleen Soliday, Elizabeth Lynch, Joyce Leftwich

Sympathy is extended to Judy Jordan, customer of Jeff Durham's, whose husband passed away last week.

May 2010

Welcome to Our Gospel Meeting!

Announcements	Mike Durham
Song Leader (AM)	Eric Earnhart
Opening Prayer (AM)	
5/2	Barry White
5/9	Danny Guard
5/16	Tom Richardson
5/23	Charlie Gwaltney
5/30	Jim Harrington
Preside at Communion	Paul Mays
Serve Table	
	Ethan Rogers, Jim Cooke
	Marc Laplante, Jack Cook
Closing Prayer	
5/2	Bob Garby
5/9	Jeff Durham
5/16	Ron White
5/23	Herman Lowe
5/30	Bob Martin
Song Leader (PM)	Sam Valentine
Opening Prayer (PM)	
5/2	Herb Baker
5/9	Glenn Hartman
5/16	Jeremy White
5/23	Josh Whitlow
5/30	Roger Mays
Scripture Reader	Nathan Pelfrey
Closing Prayer (PM)	
5/2	Wayne Dixon
5/9	David McFalls
5/16	Don Pettit
5/23	Ethan Rogers
5/30	Gene Benefield
Serve Table (PM)	
	Jeff Guilliams, Bradford Durham
Song Leader (Wed)	Bob Garby
Prayer (Wed)	
5/5	Fred Altizer
5/12	Collin Gregory
5/19	Garrett Durham
5/28	Jimmy Harrington
Open/Close Bldg	Tom Rogers
Greeters	Anderson, Guilliams
Nursery Attend	Dee House (AM) Jo Hartman (PM)
Ushers	David Brown, Curtis Oakes
Handouts	Ron White, Claude Crowe Herb Baker, Mark Brooks
Prepare communion	Judy Durham, Michelle Earnhart

We welcome you to our Spring Gospel Meeting at West Side. Our speaker for this occasion is John E. Shannon, Sr. of Memphis, Tennessee. Brother Shannon is a native of Memphis. He is married to Sandra (Lott) and they have two children (John, Jr. and Erika) and four granddaughters. He is a 1988 graduate of the Memphis School of Preaching. He is a former Army paratrooper and Viet Nam veteran. He obeyed the gospel in 1978 and preached his first sermon ("The Blood of Christ") six months later. He currently preaches for the James Road Church of Christ in Memphis. He is in demand for gospel meetings, lectureships and tent meetings. He has preached in numerous states and also in the Bahamas. He is co-author (along with Burt Jones) of the book Here It Is In Black and White. He was instrumental in the establishment of "The Jericho Home for Children" (2001), a safe haven for siblings to be able to stay together during the foster care process. We commend our brother Shannon to you for his faithful proclamation of the truth. We welcome him to West Side and look forward to our time together.

If you are a visitor you are our honored guest. We hope you enjoy your time with us and will want to return. If we can assist you with any questions you might have we would be delighted to do so. There are a number of free publications in our foyer, so please avail yourself of any of these you would like. Following our morning services, we will be eating together and would be delighted for you to stay as our guest and eat with us. Thank you for coming our way.

If you would like CDs of any or all of this week's lessons, there will be a sign-up sheet on the audio room door (across the hall from the west auditorium exit). These are available free of charge.

I hope each of us has made every effort possible to clear our calendars for this event. Please do your best to be here for each of these services. The Lord expects our best efforts always. Continue to invite others to attend throughout the next three days. God can do great things through each of us, but we must be willing to attempt great things for Him. To Him be the glory for all that is accomplished.

-Eddy

Last weeks attendance 5/2&5/10

Bible Class— 125 Worship Service—171
Sunday Eve.— 129 Wednesday Eve.—127
Contribution—\$8996