

A Time For Things Positive & Negative

In observing current attitudes that are prevalent in our society, we notice a clear emphasis on things that are sensational. In close connection with this attitude, it seems that the modern media has as its driving aim only to focus on things that are negative. Sometimes people will voice the opinion that we should only focus on things that are positive in nature, and stay away from anything that might be considered negative. Is this really the proper response?

Everyone will agree that people need to be made to feel good about themselves and what is around them. People who are always being berated and made to feel unjustly guilty often suffer needlessly. In many ways, there is a great need both in our world and in the church for a sensible balance between things positive and negative.

The cause of our Lord is greatly harmed by those who desire that everything be positive. It is this kind of attitude that creates a false sense of security. It blinds one to reality. Anything that might be considered negative is "swept under the rug". Also, this kind of attitude presents a perverted view of the gospel and Christianity. Imagine if the apostle Paul had observed a "positive only" mandate. He would not have been able to tell the elders of the church at Ephesus, "I shrank not from declaring unto you the whole counsel of God" (Acts 20:27). In declaring the whole counsel of God, it was imperative that Paul make mention of some negative things. In this conversation he warned these elders of how false teachers would arise up from among them and they would be speaking perverse things, and disciples would be drawn away. (Acts 20:29-30). If Paul had just ignored this impending situation and had not warned these brethren, undoubtedly the church would have been more adversely affected.

To be sure, there is also the danger of exclusively emphasizing things that are negative. This attitude also does a disservice to the cause of Christ. The person who is bent on being negative is always able to find something wrong with everything and everyone. Indeed, such a person always relishes the opportunity to find fault or error in the life of someone else. The correct response at all times is for us to maintain the proper balance between things positive and negative. There are always problems when a person devotes himself to either extreme. The apostle Paul did not say that proper preaching involves only reproof and exhorting. But rather, it involves a balance of all three elements (See 2 Tim. 4:2).

Let us strive for a sensible and scriptural balance between things positive and negative. We must be able and willing to commend the good and to exhort and encourage generously. And at the same time we must not refuse and neglect our responsibility toward those things that might be considered negative. First and foremost, we must always remember that our primary obligation is to be faithful to our Lord and his divine truth.

- Bruce Ligdon

For Your Information

TURN, TURN, TURN

There will be a meeting today at 4:30 for the T3 Planners.

AREA WIDE PREACHERS' MEETING

The Area Wide Preachers' Meeting will be held at Radford on March 15 at 10:30. All are welcome!

MARCH LADIES NIGHT OUT

The March LNO will be held at the building on March 18 at 6:30. We will be preparing Spring Baskets for the elderly. Sign up on the board.

MEN'S RETREAT

The Men's Retreat sponsored by the Lake Drive congregation will be held on March 19 & 20. Registration forms are located in the foyer. Please respond ASAP!

PRIMARY TEACHERS MEETING (UPDATE)

The Primary Teachers Meeting to be held on March 28 at 4:30. Second & Third Grade teachers are in charge of snacks.

EVENING AT WEST SIDE

There will be a meeting for hostesses on March 21 after evening services to choose invitees. All hostesses are urged to attend!!!

MSOP LECTURESHIPS

The Annual MSOP Lectureship will be held March 28—April 1 in Memphis, TN. See Eddy for details.

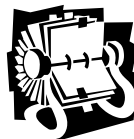
The Lake Drive congregation has established a fund to help Ben and Tabitha Simmons with their expenses for their daughter Isabelle's cancer treatments/medical expenses.

If you would like to participate in their support, make your check payable to the "Lake Drive church of Christ"; be sure to note on your check that it is for the "Simmons Family Fund".

The mailing address is: Lake Drive church of Christ, P.O. Box 109, Vinton, VA 24179

Welcome Newest (Old/Former) Members

West Side welcomes back Herman & Norce Lowe. Their address is: Contact office for address.



Make sure you add this to your directory and welcome them back!

Weekly Reminders

Prayer List:

Marguerite Charles	Collin Gregory
Lynn Anderson	Evelyn Scott
Martha Keith	Danny White
Miriam Majors	Jo Musgrove
Walter & Betty Jenkins	Ruth Stanton
WJ Wood	Leslie Brothers
Margaret Kratz	Jo Hartman
Jim Dorsett	Glenn & Ruth Hartman
E.V. Wimmer	Al Furrow
Sandra Wood	Pat Shelbourne
Thad Hoose	Jackie Dixon
Josh Van Ravenstein	

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March 2010

Announcements:	Charlie Gwaltney
Song Leader (AM):	David Brown
Communion:	Marc Laplante (preside) Glenn Hartman, Bob Garby Greg Edwards, Josh Whitlow
Prayer:	Adam House (open) Charles Maness (close)
Next week prayer:	Tom Richardson (open) Sam Valentine (close)
Song Leader (PM):	Eric Earnhart
Scripture Reader:	Ethan Rogers
Prayer:	John Black (open) Collin Gregory (close)
Next week prayer:	Don Pettit (open) George Mellon (close)
Communion:	Sam Valentine, Jimmy Harrington
Song leader (Wed):	Garrett Durham
Prayer:	Charlie Gwaltney
Next week prayer:	Jim Bush

Open/Close Building:	Bob Garby
Greeters:	R. White, D. Guard
Nursery:	Velda Gearhart (AM) Linda Maness (PM)
Ushers:	Roger Mays, Tom Rogers
Handouts:	M. Brooks, D. Tyler, C. Jearls
Prepare Communion:	Lori Cook Jean Argabright

Attendance	3/7&10/10
Sunday Class	—143
Worship	—160
Sun. Eve.	—129
Wednesday	—131
Contribution	—\$5554

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First 100 Days

“A Nation That Could Not Save Us”

Mar. 14 (Romans 9)

- Read Romans 9 three times today
- Pray today
- Memorize contents of Romans 9
 - Why the Jews were rejected and the Gentiles accepted
 - Memorize Rom. 9:33
- Write a note or card this week
- *Increase your contribution by \$1 today

Mar. 15 (Romans 10)

- Read Romans 10 three times today
- Pray today
- Memorize contents of Romans 10
 - Israel's only hope - the gospel
 - Memorize Rom. 10:17

Mar. 16 (Romans 11)

- Read Romans 11 three times today
- Pray today
- Memorize contents of Romans 11
 - Jewish rejection is not irrevocable
 - Memorize Rom. 11:22

Mar. 17 (Romans 12)

- Read Romans 12 three times today
- Pray today
- Memorize contents of Romans 12
 - Practical matters of Christianity
 - Memorize Rom. 12:2

Mar. 18 (Romans 13)

- Read Romans 13 three times today
- Pray today
- Memorize contents of Romans 13
 - The Christian and the state (1-7)
 - The law of love (8-10)
 - Spiritual awakening (11-14)
 - Memorize Rom. 13:1

Mar. 19 (Romans 14)

- Read Romans 14 three times today
- Pray today
- Memorize contents of Romans 14
 - Christian freedom and optional matters
 - Memorize Rom. 14:12

Mar. 20 (Romans 15)

- Read Romans 15 three times today
- Pray today
- Memorize contents of Romans 15
 - Mutual concern (1-14)
 - Paul's plans for the future (15-33)
- Memorize Rom. 15:4

Sadly, the book of Lamentations is often overlooked and seldom studied. It is a product of the Holy Spirit through the prophet Jeremiah. It contains a funeral dirge for the city of Jerusalem. It looks back on the destruction brought upon the city by the invading Babylonian army, an occasion foretold earlier by Jeremiah in the book that bears his name. There are many notable statements made in this short book. Our own country would do well to read of the fall of Judah and take heed lest we continue on our own path of destruction.

In Lamentations 4:17, Jeremiah made the statement, “As for us, our eyes as yet failed for our vain help: in our watching we have watched for a nation that could not save us.” His remark refers to Judah's belief (for the most part) that she would be delivered from Babylon's threat with the help of Egypt. This she thought even though Jeremiah had revealed that Jerusalem and Judah would be overthrown by Babylon (Jer. 32:26-29). In vain she trusted in “a nation that could not save.”

Many individuals of our day have become so enraptured with politics that they have put state ahead of God. They seem to think that America is going to be (and act as if it is) their savior. They place their trust in this nation and its leaders and have the idea that through the political efforts of a few all will be delivered. Others who oppose the current leadership believe that another cycle of elections will turn things around and get them headed on the right track again; and, through that this nation will once again be great. To be sure, some changes need to be made. However, it is not this nation or any nation that will save us. Perhaps we as Christians have become guilty of the same thought that those of Jerusalem had in Jeremiah's day: we look for a nation to “save” us. As great as this country has been and still is, it can never deliver us from the greatest enemy of all. If we see the United States as the greatest power in our life we, like Judah, look in vain “for a nation that could not save us.”

-Eddy