

The Ultimate Prize

Much discussion occurred following Tiger Woods' impressive come-back victory at the U.S. Open golf tournament this past week. Winning his 14th major golf championship is amazing by itself, but upon learning that he was playing with a torn ACL in his left knee (and another injury) just adds to the uniqueness of this accomplishment. When he learned a few weeks ago that his knee problem was more serious than first diagnosed, he told his trainer that he would "play in the U.S. Open and he would win it". The prize of this prestigious golf event was so important to Mr. Woods that he was willing to go to any length to obtain it; no sacrifice was too great, no obstacle would deter him from his objective.

While the drive and competitiveness to receive such a prize is noteworthy, when we consider the temporary nature of such a prize, how much more should we be "driven" to obtain the greatest "prize" of all – eternal life? Let's notice some characteristics about the "ultimate prize" we hope to all receive:

1) It is not limited to one person. In most sports competitions, there can only be one winner. Thankfully that is not the case with heavenly reward; it is available to all who seek it (John 14:1-6).

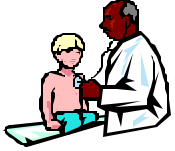
2) It never diminishes in value. Each year a new champion receives the prize in most sports. Most people forget who received the top prize from years ago (quick, who was the World Series champion in 1990?). God will never forget to whom He gives the reward. The eternal prize of heaven will have the same value forever (I Peter 1:3-7).

3) It cannot be achieved on our own. Tiger Woods was the only one who could win the U.S. Open. No one else could make the shots; he had to do it himself. Our sins separate us from God and will keep us from winning the "prize", but we cannot reconcile ourselves back to Him on our own. We need Jesus' help. 1 John 2:1 tells us, "My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: ". What a blessing to know that Jesus is there to help us!

The Devil is constantly trying to distract and discourage us from keeping our focus on the "ultimate prize" of an eternal life in heaven with God. Use every tool available to you (prayer, fellow Christians, the Bible, and so many more) to strengthen your faith as you journey through life. God has promised that He will make the "prize" worth our efforts.

Your Elders

Sick



Marguerite Charles will undergo a procedure on Wednesday to complete a series of tests.

Continue to remember in prayer: **Marguerite Charles, Margaret Kratz, Betty Jenkins, Lynn & Mary Anderson, Crawford & Martha Keith, Martha Keplinger, JD Lawson, Buddy Martin, Collin Gregory, David McFalls, Arthur Munsey.**

DEEPEST SYMPATHY

Sympathy is extended to the Brown Family in the loss of **Kim's** grandmother who passed away in Arkansas this past week.

Happy Birthday this week to:

David Brown—6/25



Happy Anniversary this week to:

Barry & Gloria White—6/25



JUNE ITEMS FOR THE

STAFFORDS: Ink pens and Poppy seeds. Give your items to Jeanny and she will ship them over!



MILITARY

Kyle Nester— in Iraq

Erich Felts—in Iraq

Chris Coleman—in Iraq

VBS

Water World at West Side

June 28—9:30 AM

We are still in need of a few more monitors and helpers with costumes and small props.

Drinks needed: Please help out by donating canned drinks and juice boxes. Please place in kitchen!

Attention all actors:

Check this section for practice schedules!!

The Wedding Feast (Bush) - will have practice on Wednesday evening, June 25

Noah's Ark (Rogers)/ Elijah and the Prophets of Baal (House) will have practice on Sunday evening, June 22 and Wednesday evening, June 25.

Paul's Shipwreck (Simms) will have practice on Sunday evening, June 22 and Wednesday evening, June 25.

Dress Rehearsal will be Thursday, June 26 at 7:00.
ALL PERSONS MUST BE THERE!!



VIRGINIA CHRISTIAN
CAMP NEWS!

The following West Side youth were named as Outstanding Campers this week!

Senior Campers
Claire Gray and Cameron Brown

Junior Camper
Tanner Reed

Congratulations to these fine young people for receiving this recognition!

F Y I

For Your Information

Attention adults: You are invited to the "Lessons from Camp" class on Sunday. The lesson will be "Christian Dating". There will be a new lesson each week.

IN-HOUSE SUMMER SERIES

Be here this Wednesday night to hear Squeaky Valentine as our special guest speaker!

Here's a list of other speakers for this summer: Jerry Anderson, Richards Simms, Luke Guard, Wayne Dixon, Fred Altizer, Steve Hall, Jim Cooke, Tom Richardson, Eric Earnhart, Don Pettit, Jeff Durham and Mark Brooks. Make your plans now to be here to encourage these men!

STUDENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Congratulations to all the students on their accomplishments in 2008 as featured in today's church bulletin. West Siders are very proud and salute you!

Celebration for the Duffs today!

There will be a pot luck meal after morning services to celebrate with the Duffs as they start a new chapter of their life in Memphis, Tennessee where Tom will enter the Memphis School of Preaching.



Teens

June dates

June 23—Summer Youth Devo—7-8:30 PM

June 28—VBS

June 29—Young Men conduct services

Summer Youth Devos

June 23—West Side

July 7—Christiansburg

July 21—Dale Ridge

August 4—Radford

August 9—Lake Drive (12-2)

All devos are at 7-8:30 unless noted otherwise.



The July and August calendars will be coming in your bulletin soon. I need all scheduled activities in the office by June 25.

office@westsidecoc-salem.com

WOW

The WOW GROUP will meet on TUESDAY, July 8 at 10:30 AM.

Please sign up on the WOW board for the video Autobiographies being done by Richard Simms.

June 2008

“He Does That Religiously”

Announcements Fred Altizer
Song Leader (AM) Charlie Gwaltney
Opening Prayer (AM)
6/1 Charles Maness
6/8 Wayne Dixon
6/15 Jeff Durham
6/22 Tom Richardson
6/29 Richard Simms
Preside at Communion David Brown
Serve Table Jeff Reed Adam House
Glenn Gabbard Mike Durham

Closing Prayer
6/1 Eric Earnhart
6/8 Jim Cooke
6/15 Crawford Keith
6/22 Bobby Martin
6/29 Jim Bush

Song Leader (PM) Eric Earnhart
Opening Prayer (PM)
6/1 Squeaky Valentine
6/8 Josh Whitlow
6/15 Don Pettit
6/22 Roger Mays
6/29 Jim Harrington
Scripture Reader Sam Valentine

Closing Prayer (PM)
6/1 Jerry Anderson
6/8 Tom Rogers
6/15 Gene Benefield
6/22 Greg Edwards
6/29 Youth

Serve Table (PM)
Caleb Guard Luke Guard

Song Leader (Wed) David Brown
Prayer (Wed)
6/4 Adam House
6/11 Caleb Guard
6/18 Bob Garby
6/25 John Black

Open/Close Bldg Bob Garby
Greeters J. & R. Durham Garby
Nursery Attend Hazel Maness Linda Maness
Ushers Curtis Oakes Danny Guard
Handouts Ryan Simms Sam Valentine
John Black Herb Baker

Alternates
Prepare communion
Jackie Dixon Audrey Gabbard
Cards & Pencils
Sydney Durham Olivia Valentine

Last weeks attendance 6/15& 18/08

Bible Class—167 Worship Service—186
Sunday Eve.—107 Wednesday Eve.—103
Contribution—\$9373

Have you ever heard the statement that someone does something religiously? The meaning is that the person is devoted, dedicated to the activity under consideration. One who does something

“religiously” lets nothing get in his way from participating in the activity. He is determined to engage in it regardless of other circumstances that come along that might otherwise hinder his participation.

It is sadly ironic that the very metaphor used to indicate devotion is itself the source of such inactivity and lack of dedication. Man has become religiously devoted to just about everything but religion. According to a recent Barna poll of religious people, only 43% attended a church service in the past week, only 38% read their Bible outside of “church services,” only 16% attended a Bible class, and only 18% gave money to a church.

Interestingly, Barna included the church of Christ in this poll (although I am sure that it would include all who call themselves such, whether they are the true church or not). Here is what was found to be true of churches of Christ during a typical week: 58% attended worship; 53% read their Bible; 92% prayed; 37% attended Sunday school; 29% gave money; and, 35% “shared their faith” (to use their terminology). While these figures are above the average, it is a shame that those who claim to be God’s true people have so little interest in the things that interest the true God.

If man truly engaged in other activities “religiously” (that is, with the same zeal and interest he shows in religion), there would be little consistent activity going on. How about you? Do you engage in Christianity “religiously?” Is it a priority in your life (Mt. 6:33)? Are you faithful in keeping God’s commands (Jn. 14:15), worshiping Him regularly (Heb. 10:25), giving to His Cause liberally (I Cor. 16:1, 2), studying His Word consistently (II Tim. 2:15), and telling others of His Way (Mk. 16:15)? Do you practice your religion religiously?

-Eddy

Number 2925
June 22, 2008