

Premillennialism and the Jews

One for the Books

A week ago Saturday, scores of youngsters explored the meaning of “The Gospels” through our day-long VBS. After such an effort it is only natural to lament such attitudes as “we don’t have the numbers like we’ve had before” or “it’s the same workers every year” or “is it really worth the effort?”

Well, let’s just set aside any such negative thoughts and look success straight in the eye. This Vacation Bible School was indeed one of the best ever. Our new, first-time director, Brother Greg Edwards, took the ball early on and ran with it. Through the volunteer and drafting method, he mustered together a group of indefatigable laborers—actors, monitors, skit leaders, prop builders (some of the best), costume designers, food providers, runners and clean-up crew. Advertising and photography were great.

This is how you spell s-u-c-c-e-s-s, and that’s what our VBS was put in the record books as. There were first-time participants—husband and wife team skit leaders, a host of our teens as actors and an angel you wouldn’t believe!. Perhaps most exciting was youngsters who were in our building for the very first time.

Does any worthwhile undertaking require planning and diligence? Yes, indeed! Will we continue to always strive to do our best? We believe that you will. As your leaders, we salute all who made VBS 2006 “one for the books”.

the Elders

Every time there is a conflict in the Middle East (and when is there not a conflict of some kind there), there are a host of doomsday prognosticators (usually the same ones) quick to advocate the “signs of the times,” the end of the world or the imminent coming of Christ. This has been the story ever since the false doctrine of Premillennialism became popular. Although every one of those predictions has proven false, it likely will not stop the advocates of the heresy from their predictive tendencies.

An interesting contrast is seen in looking at the difference between the Jews and premillennialists. The Jews fancy themselves a kingdom looking for its king. Premillennialism maintains that it has a king and is looking for a kingdom. The truth is that there exists both a King and a kingdom.

The Jews, by and large, rejected their King when He came (Matthew 21:33-45; Luke 19:14; John 1:11). Initially, a number of Jews obeyed the gospel and accepted King Jesus (Acts 2:41, 47; 5:14, etc.). However, as time progressed, because of the Jews’ rejection of Him, the church became more and more a Gentile institution (Acts 10:46). Today, Jews still look for the Messiah, failing to realize and/or refusing to accept the fact that He has already come. Their rejection of Him resulted in the final overthrow of their beloved city Jerusalem in A.D. 70 (Matthew 23:36-38).

Premillennialists accept the King (in theory), but reject His kingdom. They maintain that Christ is King, but that He failed in establishing His kingdom. How can He be a king without a kingdom? How could the Colossians of the first century have been “translated into the kingdom” (Colossians 1:13) if the kingdom did not exist? How could it be said of the Hebrews that they were “receiving a kingdom” (Hebrews 12:28) if such a kingdom were non-existent? How could John have been “in the kingdom” (Revelation 1:9) then if it still does not exist in our day?

Contrary to the teachings of Judaism, the King has come. He is Jesus, King of kings and Lord of lords (I Timothy 6:15; Revelation (continued)

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17:14; 19:16). Contrary to the teachings of Premillennialism, His kingdom has been established. It is His church (Matthew 16:18, 19), His body (Colossians 1:18) and His household (I Timothy 3:15). For it He shed His blood (Acts 20:28; Ephesians 5:25), and He is its Savior (Ephesians 5:23). The Jews will continue to maintain that they are a kingdom looking for a king, and premillennialists will continue to maintain that they have a king and are looking for a kingdom, when all along both King and kingdom are already here. Some folks never learn. —Eddy

Driving or Drifting?

“Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip” (Hebrews 2:1). We need to always be conscious of the possibility of our slipping or drifting away from God’s directions. Both individuals and congregations can float or drift away from God, so we need to be constantly aware of that possibility. Whenever we as individuals or the church find that we are doing less work, we are drifting with the tide. We are drifting away from our first love. Matthew 24:12 says, *“Because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.”*

A person is drifting if he is studying God’s Word less and less. If a person finds he is attending the assembly less, then he is drifting. Note Hebrews 10:25: *“Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is....”* *“Therefore to him that knoweth to do good and doeth it not, to him it is sin”* (James 4:17). When a person’s interest in the work of the church begins to sag, or if he becomes increasingly restless and discontent, then he is drifting.

Worldly pleasures are a very strong attraction to all of us, and if we begin to love these pleasures more and more, then we are drifting away from our first love. Do you offer foolish excuses for not attending church services or for not participating in the work of the church? If so, you are drifting.

A drifter always takes the path of least resistance and does not accept responsibility. The drifter takes the easy way out and shrugs off any responsibility. *“He is tossed to and fro and carried about by every wind of doctrine”* (Ephesians 4:14). He lacks a real enthusiasm for the work program of the church, and thus he is lukewarm. Jesus said if you are lukewarm, He will spew you out (Revelation 3:16).

We must all be aware of the signs of drifting, the signs of lukewarmness and the results of drifting. Do we want Jesus to spew us out, turn His back on us and leave us? I don’t. How about you? —Monroe Yoder

edited

“It is the heart that makes a man rich. He is rich according to what he is, not according to what he has.”

—Henry Ward Beecher (1813-1887)

Just in Case You Have an Interest!

On the aluminum cap atop the Washington Monument in Washington, D.C. are two words: *Laus Deo*. No one can see these words. In fact...most visitors to the monument have no idea they are even there and...for that matter...probably could not care less!

But they are there—555 feet, 5,125 inches high—perched atop the monument to the father of our nation—overlooking the 69 square miles which comprise the District of Columbia, capital of the United States of America.

Laus Deo! Two seemingly insignificant, unnoticed words—out of sign and, one might think, out of mind—but very meaningfully placed at the highest point over what is the most powerful city in the world. And what do those two words, comprised of just four syllables and only seven letters, mean? Very simply, “Praise be to God”!

Though construction of this giant obelisk began in 1848 when James Polk was President of the United States, it was not until 1888 that the monument was inaugurated and opened to the public. It took 25 years to finally cap the memorial with the tribute, *“Laus Deo! Praise be to God!”*

From atop this magnificent granite and marble structure a visitor can take in the beautiful panoramic view of the city with its division into four major segments. And from that vantage point, one can also easily see the original plan of the designer, Pierre Charles L’Enfant—a perfect cross imposed upon the landscape with the White House to the North, the Jefferson Memorial to the South, The Capitol to the East and the Lincoln Memorial to the West. A cross, you say? How interesting. And, no doubt, intended to carry a meaning for those who bother to notice. Praise be to God!

When the cornerstone of the Washington Monument was laid on July 4, 1848, deposited within it were many items including the Holy Bible presented by the Bible Society. Praise be to God! Such was the discipline, the moral direction, the spiritual mood given by the founder and first President of our unique democracy—“one nation under God”.

The prayer that Washington prayed—have you ever read it? Well, now is your opportunity. Read on.

“Almighty God, we make our earnest prayer that Thou wilt keep the United States in Thy holy protection, that Thou wilt incline the hearts of the citizens to cultivate a spirit of subordination and obedience to its government and entertain a brotherly affection and love for one another and for their fellow citizens of the United States at large. And finally that Thou wilt most graciously be pleased to dispose us all to do justice, to love mercy, and to demean ourselves with charity, humility and pacific temper of mind which were the characteristics of the Divine Author of our blessed religion, and without a humble imitation of whose example in these things we can never hope to be a happy nation. Grant our supplication, we beseech Thee, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.”

Laus Deo! As you might have guessed, I kind of like the idea that our Pledge of Allegiance (cont’d., p.3)

SICK

(at home) **Betty Buckner, David Wilcox** (bad back). **Robert Jeffries**, Charmaine Bush's dad, suffered two heart attacks; his condition is critical. **Kevin Roach**, Charlie Puckett's niece's husband, is in ICU, RMH. **Steve Harrah** is at home and not doing well.

Continue to remember: **Mary & Lynn Anderson, Norma Biller, Willard Campbell, Marguerite Charles, Dotty Collins, Jim Dorsett, Paul Faw, Collin & Luetta Gregory, Patti Gwaltney, Mr. Hamilton, Billy Lee Hart, Jo Hartman, Dee House, Dan Hudgins, Elmer Hurt, A.C & Mickie Janney, Betty Jenkins, Martha Keith, Lisa Knott** (will have surgery on 8/16), **Margaret Kratz, Oliver & Miriam Majors, Buddy Martin, Sophia Mays, Donnie & Susan Mountcastle, Jo Musgrove, Grace Myers, Larry Phillips, Charlie Puckett, Murphy & Evelyn Scott, Annette Shrader, Peggy Simpkins** (began her chemo treatments this week), **Ruth Stanton, Ken Upchurch, Velma Vaughan, David Wertz, Evelyn White, Jessica White** (much improved), **E.V. & Effie Wimmer, W.J. Wood**

RESPONSE: Ethan Rogers

MISSIONARIES: the Pearsons, the Staffords and the TZ2000 team.

MILITARY: Ty Stricklin, John Shannon and Gabriel Hayes who are in Iraq.

OTHER: Matthew Bumpus, nephew of Beth Glass at Lake Drive, is a Marine missing in Iraq. On-going Bible studies; "Restore 2006

THIS WEEK AT WEST SIDE

Today: Happy birthday to **Michelle Earnhart (35)!**

Monday: Happy birthday to **Caleb Guard!**

Wednesday: Fellowship meal, 5:45pm. Bible Study, Summer Series, **Michael Justice**, 7 Hills, 7pm. Happy anniversary to **Norris & Velda Gearhart, Collin & Luetta Gregory** and **Raymond & Shree Lowe!**

Thursday: Happy birthday to **Grat Tucker!** Happy anniversary to **Greg & JoAnn Edwards!**

Saturday: Team 3 (Brown) hosts get-together at the Bushes', 5:30pm.

Sunday, 8/20: Happy birthday **Melissa Marshall & Roger Mays!**



TURN, TURN, TURN 2006

"You Can't Always Have It Your Way" (Learning Contentment) (Philippians 4:11; Luke 2:52) is the theme for our Ladies' Bible Study "Weekend" this year which will be held only on Saturday as we were unable to find a camp. **Celicia Grider** of Collierville, TN, will be the featured speaker on **Saturday, October 7**. Activities begin at 8:30am with a continental breakfast. There is no cost for this year's event. Registration forms are available on the table in the foyer. Registration deadline is September 27.

LADIES, MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Suffolk Ladies' Day, September 30, 9:00am-12:30pm. "Clean Out Your Closet" (II Corinthians 7:1). Speakers are **Kristen Burr** (Suffolk), **Nancy Jett** (Gloucester) and **Renee West** (Peninsula). Registration and continental breakfast begin at 8:15am. RSVP to Carol Ficklen (757-539-9697; bio-teacher@myexcel.com) if planning to attend by Sunday, 9/17. There will be no child care.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Andy Duran & Erin Leddy have announced their engagement. We wish them every happiness.

TEAM 3 (BROWN) GET-TOGETHER

Saturday, 8/19, 5:30pm at the Bushes'. EVERYONE is invited. A sign-up sheet for food and a count is posted on the board in the hallway. If you have questions, see **David** or **Kim Brown** or **Jim** or **Rosemary Bush**.

HELP NEEDED

A lady is needed to sit in Diane Tucker's primary class for the Fall quarter. No teaching is involved. If you can help, please see **Danny Guard** ASAP.

TANZANIA TRIP—YOU CAN HELP

Items being collected for our guys to take in September: dry erase markers, ink pens, loose leaf notebook paper, ties (new/used) white t-shirts (new or clean, in good-repair ones), NKJV Bibles. Give to **Rebecca Durham**.

GONE TO DALE RIDGE

John Hawks and **Rob & Gloria Kinney** recently placed their membership at Dale Ridge. We wish them well and ask God's blessings on their time there.

Just in Case... (continued)

Includes the phrase, "under God". It is clear when one studies the history of our great nation that Washington's America was one of the few countries in all the world established under the guidance, direction and banner of Almighty God, to Whom was given all praise, honor and worship by the great men who formed and fashioned her pivotal foundations. And when one stops to observe the inscriptions found in public places all over our nation's capitol, one will easily find the signature of God!

We are a nation under God!!! *Laus Deo!* Praise be to God!!! "Except the LORD build the house, they labor in vain that build it: except the LORD keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain" (Psalm 127:1).

Author Unknown
via c/C, New Castle, VA

Choose the Color

The important and decisive factor in life is not what happens to us, but the attitude we take toward what happens. Circumstances and situations may color life, but by the grace of God, we have been given the power to choose what that color shall be. The effect that misfortune, handicap, sickness and sorrow have upon life is determined by the way in which we meet them.

—Charles R. Woodson

It isn't our position, but our disposition
that makes us happy.

Opportunities to Serve **August 2006**
Announcements.....Mike Durham
Reader (PM)..... Ethan Rogers
Preside..... David Brown
Serve..... H. Baker, M. Brooks, J. Hawks, T. Richardson
(PM) Danny & Luke Guard
Opening Prayer
8/6..... Don Pettit, (PM) Collin Gregory
8/13..... Jeff Durham, (PM) Jerry Anderson
8/20..... Danny Guard, (PM) Mike Durham
8/27..... Squeaky Valentine, (PM) Fred Altizer
Closing Prayer
8/6..... Grat Tucker, (PM) Mitch Jearls
8/13..... Andy Duran, (PM) Paul Mays
8/20..... Greg Edwards, (PM) John Black
8/27..... Charlie Gwaltney, (PM) Walter Jenkins
Greeters..... McFalls, Neighbors
Open/Close Building..... Don Pettit
Care of Communion..... M. Earnhart, W. Martin; alt. H. Maness
Song Leaders
Sunday... (AM) E. Earnhart, (PM) P. Mays... (Wed.) D. Brown
Care of Baptismal Garments..... Barbara Foley
Ushers..... Glenn Hartman, Tom Rogers
Nursery..... Marsha Cooke, (PM) Linda Maness
Alternates..... Bob Garby, Gary Sartain
Handouts..... Danny & Luke Guard, Tom & Weston Rogers

OUR RECORD..... 8/2, 6, 2006
Wednesday..... 147
Sunday Bible Study..... 132
Sunday Morning Worship..... 188
Sunday Evening Worship..... 126
Contribution..... \$4,626.00
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Don't Stay Away from Church...

...Because you are poor. There is no admission charge.
...Because you are rich. Money is not everything.
...Because it rains. You go to work in the rain.
...Because it is cold. It is warm and friendly inside.
...Because it is hot. So is fishing and the golf course.
...Because no one invited you. People go to a lot of places uninvited, and even pay to get in.
...Because of hypocrites. You associate with them every day.
...Because of company. Bring them along; they will admire you.
...Because you have little children. Jesus says, *"Let the little children come unto me."*
...Because your clothes are not nice enough. God looks on the heart.
...Because you do not like the preacher. He is human, as we all are.
...Because the church always wants money. That is not true here.
...Because you have plenty of time in the future. Are you sure?
Author Unknown
via *Beacon*, Bellview c/C, Pensacola, FL