

Life In The Body

News and Notes for the :
Shelbyville
Church of Christ

March 18, 2018

On Faith and Doubts

“God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.” 2 Corinth 5:21 (NIV)

The heart of Christianity is Christ. He died on the cross, was buried, and rose on the third day. When he died, the scriptures tell us that he died for the forgiveness of our sins. Christians have faith that Jesus rose from the grave. We have heard all the reasons. First, the Jews and Romans would have presented the body if they had it. Second, the disciples would not have all died for a lie. The men in Watergate caved over much less and they had the backing of men in power. The list could go on. Even though plenty of plausible reasons can be given, ultimately faith is needed.

Do you believe the tomb was found empty? Do you live like he reigns from heaven? Human reasoning is helpful, but it can only go so far. People can conjecture as to where the empty tomb may have been. Today, no one truly knows which one. So we can't go to the Jerusalem area and examine an empty tomb. If our intellect was the answer, we could be saved by Ph.D.s, not by Christ. No faith would be necessary, just philosophical arguments.

Then, there is forgiveness of sins. At times, this can be a bigger faith hurdle than Christ's resurrection. The Bible teaches that we join Christ through belief at baptism. (Galatians 3:26,27). When God adds us to Christ's body, our sins are forgiven (Acts 2:38,39,41,47). God gives us his Holy Spirit as a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance (Ephesians 1:14). However, there is no physical mark that our sins are forgiven. When I went down into the water as a teenager, I looked visibly the same when I came back up. There was no ring on my right hand, no cross tattooed on my wrist, nor was there even a wet fleece or a dry fleece waiting in my back yard the next day. I simply had to take God at his word that my sins are forgiven.

It doesn't seem like Satan tempts us with doubts during the honeymoon period after baptism. Doubt creeps in during the years and decades to follow. If you are a Christian struggling with belief in forgiveness, I call you back to God and to his word. We look for a reason to believe and too often we come up in our logical minds with multiple reasons to doubt God. My intent is not to get you to stop thinking, but encourage you to re-focus on faith. Yes, thinking is not inherently an opponent of faith. Yet, if our thinking leads us to be seriously skeptical of God and his word, give Satan some credit. He knows how to use our thinking against us.

Christ died. He rose again. You joined him in baptism. You are forgiven. God acted in the life of Abraham. "Abraham believed the Lord, and he credited it to him as righteousness." (Genesis 15:6 & Romans 4:3 NIV) The same God who acted in the life of Abraham has acted with you. You believe and God credits it to you as righteousness. Trust him.

-- Jimmy Hodges

Care Enough To Listen

*He who answers before listening—
that is his folly and his shame.*

— Proverbs 18:13

"The first duty of love is to listen," wrote theologian Paul Tillich.

In *The Road Less Traveled*, M. Scott Peck wrote, “You cannot truly listen to anyone and do anything else at the same time.”

Intent listening may do more good than well-intentioned advice. Heed that fine line from Isaiah: “*He wakens me morning by morning, wakens my ear to listen . . .*” (*Isa. 50:4*).

Care enough to listen to those God puts in your path.

*The words “listen” and “silent”
consist of the same letters.*

— Joe Barnett

Successful Sweetheart Banquet ??

Last night was our first “*Sweetheart Banquet*” It featured **fun, fellowship and food.** We had a great time and lots of good food. If you missed it, you missed out.

Upcoming Events in Paris, IL (see board)

#1- Area-wide singing ... April 7 ... 3:00 to 5:00

#2- Paris Church of Christ, .. Lady’s Day .. April 21

Pride Packages For Soldiers: We rotate the items that we bring in so there will be a variety of things available for Pat to send to our soldiers. For the next two weeks we’ll be bringing: Writing tablets, Stationary, Black ink pens, Small white envelopes, Card games

Birthday : Pat Uphoff March 21
Madonna Nichols March 22

Reading : **II Peter 1: 16-21 ; II Timothy 3:12 – 4:4**

NEXT WEEK : (**March 25, 2018**)

Song Leader : **Stan**

Scripture Reader : **Jonathan**

Table & Announcements : **Bob**

Life is a continuous process of getting used to things we hadn't expected.

Prayer list :

Jeanne Shumard : Jeanne had a fall due to a broken hip. She was in great pain so she was taken to St. Anthony's in Effingham where she had hip surgery. She is recovering.

Rosanne Reynolds : She has seen a wound specialist at St. Mary's in Decatur and a hand specialist in Effingham about the pain in her hands and wrists. She's awaiting results.

Megan Nichols : Physical therapy is producing positive results

Robin Shumard : Painful Neuropathy is limiting her mobility

Aaron Stevens : Aaron is improving, but still needs prayers.

Mark Niehls : Awaiting surgery to replace heart valve.

Ron Bartanen : Enduring pain while awaiting surgery in April.

Those with ongoing need of prayer :

Those with age related issues :

Ruby, Doris, Mary, Jeanne, Delores, Marg, Pete & Hazel,
Betty, Francis

Other members with ongoing issues :

Nancy Miller : Parkinson's Disease, moved out to farm

Brenda Stevens : Ongoing severe painful back issues

Madonna : Her biweekly chemo will continue indefinitely.

Glenda Hyneman : Multiple recurring issues, some serious

Jerry Rankin : Heart Issues

Butch Reynolds : Heart condition and back issues

Bruce Miller: Madonna's brother-in-law .. chemo continues

Hailey Wilhour: Beginning to show some improvement

Ernie Wasson : Home, legs beginning to heal, can't walk yet

Dan Luidhardt : Wayne's friend is suffering from kidney failure due to diabetes. Stabilized, but remains an ongoing problem.

*** Each day as you pray for those on this list,
always include our congregation and her elders**

*Visitors are always welcomed.
We invite you to visit our assemblies.*

Schedule of Services :

Sunday Morning : Bible Study 9:30 a.m.
Worship 10:20 a.m.

Sunday Evening : Worship 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday : Bible Study 7:00 p.m.



Ya'll Come !