

A THOUSAND DOLLARS IN QUARTERS

“And whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold water only in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward” - Matthew 10:42

Fred Craddock, in an address to preachers, caught the practical implications of consecration. “To give my life for Christ appears glorious,” he said. “To pour myself out for others ... to pay the ultimate price of martyrdom-I’ll do it. I’m ready, Lord, to go out in a blaze of glory. We think giving our all to the Lord is like taking a \$1,000 bill and laying it on the table- ‘Here’s my life, Lord. I’m giving it all.’”

“But the reality for most of us is that He sends us to the bank and has us cash in the \$1,000 for quarters. We go through life putting out 25 cents here and 50 cents there. Listen to the neighbor kid’s troubles instead of saying, ‘Get lost.’ Go to a committee meeting. Give up a cup of water to a shaky old man in a nursing home. Usually giving our life to Christ isn’t glorious. It’s done in all those little acts of love, 25 cents at a time. It would be easy to go out in a flash of glory; it’s harder to live the Christian life little by little over the long haul.”

—Unknown



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The End of Your Search for a Friendly Church . . .

THINGS I HAVE LEARNED

14% have learned that, no matter what happens, how bad things are today, life does go on, and it will be better tomorrow.

I’ve learned that you can tell a lot about a person by the way he or she handles four things: a rainy day, the elderly, lost luggage, and tangled Christmas tree lights.

I’ve learned that, regardless of your relationship with your parents, you’ll miss them when they’re gone from your life

I’ve learned that making a “living” is not the same thing as making a life.”

I’ve learned that you shouldn’t go through life with a catcher’s mitt on both hands. You need to be able to throw something back.

I’ve learned that if you pursue happiness, it will elude you, but if you focus on God, your family, your friends, the needs of others, your work, and doing the very best you can, happiness will find you.

I’ve learned that even when I have pains, I don’t have to be one.

I’ve learned that I still have a lot to learn.

—Unknown

The South Florida Avenue MESSENGER

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SUNDAY SERVICES

Bible Study.....9:30a.m.
Worship.....10:30a.m.
Evening Worship.....6:00p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Ladies Class.....10:00a.m.
Bible Study.....7:00p.m.

HOME OF

Florida School of Preaching

MISSION FIELDS

Dub Hill.....Russia
Don Iverson.....India
Randy Judd.....Malawi, Africa
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WEB PAGES

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A Seat in the Lifeboat

A SEVERE POTATO famine in the nineteenth century motivated many Irish to come to the New World to find new opportunities.

One little boy who did not have money for fare to board a ship to the New World secretly boarded as a stow-away. The ship eventually hit an iceberg and began to sink. Passengers filled lifeboats to escape to safety. At first the boy, who had been hiding in the hull of the ship, was not aware of what was going on. When he realized what was happening, he rushed up to the deck and saw the captain taking the last seat in the last lifeboat. In the highest tradition of the sea, the captain got out of the lifeboat and gave the boy his seat. As the lifeboat pulled away the captain said to the boy, "Never forget what's been done for you."

The boy became successful in the New World and was asked the secret of his motivation. He said, "Whenever I begin to doubt myself or let up from what I ought to be doing, I always remember a captain standing on a deck and saying, "Never forget what's been done for you."

You and I are much like that little boy. All of us have sinned and fall short of the glory of God and the "ship" onto which we have boarded is sinking, headed for destruction (Romans 3:23; 6:23). Noticing our plight, the "Captain" of the Universe—Jesus Christ, the Son of God—willingly and lovingly gave His life that we might be saved (1 Thessalonians 5:10). Because of His death on the cross, we can be saved from our sins when we place our trust in Him (Hebrews 11:6), repent of our sin (2 Corinthians 7:9-10), confess Jesus before men (Romans 10:9-10), and are baptized (immersed) into Christ for the forgiveness of our sins (Acts 2:38; cf. Mark 16:15-16; Acts 22:16; Romans 6:3-4; Galatians 3:27; 1 Peter 3:21).

The call from the cross of Calvary upon which Jesus died is, "Never forget what's been done for you." May each of us gratefully respond to that wonderful gift by submitting our lives to the One who died for us. —*David Sargent*

"And He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again." -2 Corinthians 5:15

ANY CHRISTIAN CAN BAPTIZE

—Roger D. Campbell

Most people believe that a preacher must baptize them or it does not “count.” This doctrine comes out of medieval church tradition; the Bible places no such restriction on baptism. If a man can teach another what to do to be saved, then he can also baptize him. The great commission applies to all equally (Matthew 28:19-20). Many people, following a Bible study with Christian friends, are surprised to find out that they do not have to wait to be baptized. They figure that there will be a special “baptismal service” at the end of the month or six months. In the New Testament, it is clear that in every case when people wanted to be baptized, there was no waiting (Acts 2:41; 8:36-38; 10:47-48; 16:14-15, 33-34).

What Jesus did for you and me was an incredible demonstration of genuine love. What Jesus did for us, we do not deserve. What He did for us was an act of grace. We could never repay the debt that we owe Him. But, we can (and should) be grateful for Him and His life-giving sacrifice. Not a day should pass without us expressing our thanks to God for what His Son has done on our behalf; *“But thanks be to God which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ”* (1 Corinthians 15:57). Jesus did four amazing things for us.

HE CAME. He came from heaven to earth. He Himself said, *“For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me”* (John 6:38). In heaven Jesus shared in the glory of the Father *“before the world was”* (John 17:5), but He left heaven to come to earth. Why? *“...Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners”* (1 Timothy 1:15). Let us admit it without shame: if Jesus had not come, we could not be saved from our sins. Consider some of the beautiful words of the song “He Still Came:”

Yet the King of kings left heaven to become a lowly man,
He left all heaven’s glory to fulfill His Father’s plan,
He still came just for me, He still came.
Knowing all He would endure, He still came.
Disregarding every cost, from the manger to the cross,
He still came just for me, He still came.

HE WENT. He went to the cross. When the mob came to take Him in the Garden of Gethsemane, He could have called *“twelve legions of angels”* to protect Himself (Matthew 26:53), but He did not. Jesus had the power to run away from the interrogations of the Jewish council, Pilate, and Herod, but He chose not to do so. Instead, He endured mockery, physical and mental torture, and with the help of Simon carried His cross *“to the place which is called Calvary; there they crucified him”* (Luke 23:33). Why did our loving Lord go to the cross when He could have avoided it? The Bible’s answer is plain: *“Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree”* 1 Peter 2:24). If Jesus had not gone to the cross, we would still be hopelessly lost!

HE STAYED. He stayed on the cross. After He was crucified, He hung on the cross for six hours (Mark 15:25, 34-37). While He was still hanging there, some mockingly spoke these words of blasphemy: *“Save thyself, and come down from the cross...He saved others; him-self he cannot save”* (Mark 15:30, 31). Did Jesus have the power to come down from the cross? Of course! But He stayed right there until the end. Why? Because of His great love for us and because He knew that in God’s plan, His death was a necessity.

HE RETURNED. He returned to heaven, where He sat down at the right hand of the Father (Mark 16:19). He went *“into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us”* (Hebrews 9:24). Upon His return to heaven, He was given *“dominion, and glory, and a kingdom”* (Daniel 7:13, 14), There He *“ever lives to make intercession for us”* (Hebrew 7:25).

May we ever thrill at the story of Jesus!

SFA FAMILY MATTERS

Prayer List

Our Members: Chuck Wyatt had reconstructive surgery on his head July 26th. Dick Burbage is at Oakbridge HCC (rm. 115) for rehab. JoAnn Hoback is scheduled for heart surgery August 9th. Gene Patterson is recuperating at his home. Also: Louise Starks, Jacquelin Dopwell, Joyce Burbage, Margaret Coone, & Sharon Washington.

Relatives: Earl Anderson, Jimmy Mathis (cancer), Bonnie James, Annie Beth Coone and the Kirkland family.

Shut In Members: Artis Bassett, Mary Shoemake.

Others: Steve Roberts, Teresa Moore, Gene & Irma Dampier, Bonnie Hendrick, Christina Feussner, Kathy Peel, Danny Edmonds, Katelyn Donavant, James Cribbs, Cheyenne Roberts (auto accident). David Clem. (ICU).

Upcoming Events

July 31st-Aug. 2nd - Vacation Bible School at Central Church of Christ in Winter Haven. 6:30 - 8:30 pm.

Aug 5th-9th - VBS - Kissimmee Church of Christ. 7:00 pm.

Aug. 10th - One day VBS at Orange St. from 8:30 am to 2:00 pm at the church building.

Aug. 17th - Men's Breakfast at N. Jackson in Bartow at 8:00.

Aug. 18th - Dub Hill will report on the work in Russia.

Visitors

Barbara Adams, Finley Barfield, Dominic Boedallo, Linda Gunn, Fran Hinson, Art Johnson, Aaron & Ethan Questel, Mr. & Mrs. Will Vann and son, Mac.

Anniversary

Dick and Joyce Burbage had their 65th wedding anniversary on July 30th. Although Dick is in Rehab following back surgery and Joyce is sick at home, we wish the best for them.

Hither, Thither and Yon

Phil & Dottie Fife will be traveling to Kentucky July 31st & plan to return Aug. 8th. Sharon Egolf will be traveling to Savannah, Ga. to visit her brother from Aug. 19th-Aug.30th. Please keep them in your prayers for a safe journey.

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

August

Kenny French **Table** Charles Paulin
Charles Sanford **Assist** C. J. Grimes

Sunday, August 4, 2013
9:30 A.M.

Song at Bible Class Ken Walker
Prayer Jim Turner

10:30 A.M.

Announcements David Anderson
Song Leader Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer Brian Kenyon
Closing Prayer Tim Croson

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader Casey Paulin
Opening Prayer Jeff Bingle
Closing Prayer Paul Romine
Greeters Josh & Marissa Estridge
Att. Cards Paul Sweeney & Ian Enamorato
Open & Close Building Jimmy Sweeney

Wed. August 7, 2013

Song Leader Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer Phil Fife
Closing Prayer Kyle Bingle

Please meet in the library. If you cannot serve, please call Jason Hendrix, so he can get a replacement - 537-0857

August 11, 2013
9:30 A.M.

Song at Bible Class Jim Turner
Prayer Fred Strickland

10:30 A.M.

Announcements David Anderson
Song Leader Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer Bobby Sheumaker
Closing Prayer David Williams

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader Casey Paulin
Opening Prayer Kyle Williams
Closing Prayer Jason Hendrix
Greeters Phil & Dottie Fife
Att. Cards Ian Enamorato & Sebastian Rapley
Open & Close Building Kenny French

Wed. August 14, 2013

Song Leader Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer David Williams
Closing Prayer Josh Estridge

~ HOW WE ARE GIVING ~

Jul 07 \$3,205.43
Jul 14 \$3,244.89
Jul 21 \$3,494.17
Jul 28 \$3,906.78
Contribution Average \$4,150.19
2013 Weekly Budget \$4,255.13

HEAR OUR RADIO SPOTS

This Week - *Saying or Doing*

WONN 1230 and WLKF 1430

or on our web page

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