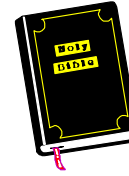


WEST COLUMBIA CHURCH OF CHRIST



“every disciple that is perfect, shall be as his master.” Luke 6:40b

DAVID AND HIS NEW CART

Jehovah called David from the sheepcotes of Bethlehem to the throne of Israel. One of his first cares, on becoming king, was to obtain possession of the stronghold of Zion, and this very thing he did. “And David dwelt in the stronghold, and called it the city of David. And David built round about from Millo and inward. And David waxed greater and greater...” (2 Sam. 5:9-10 ASV).

It is worthy of note here that David “perceived that Jehovah had established him king over Israel, and that he had exalted his kingdom for his people Israel's sake” (2 Sam. 5:12 ASV). In receiving the blessings of God, unlike many, he did not fail to recognize the God of the blessings. Next, after Zion had been occupied, David desired to bring the ark of the covenant up to Jerusalem from Kirjath-jearim, where it had been left after being restored by the Philistines in the early days of Samuel (1 Sam. 7:1). Elaborate preparations were made to bring up this treasure.

Gathering Of Thousands: “David again gathered together all the chosen men of Israel, thirty thousand” (2 Sam. 6:1 ASV). Someone has well said, “In bringing up the ark to Jerusalem, the king showed a commendable desire to interest the whole nation, as far as possible, in the solemn service. The people, numerous as they were, grudged neither the time, the trouble, nor the expenses. A handful might have suffered for all the actual labor that was required, but thousands of the chief people were summoned to be present, and that of the principle both of rendering due honor to God and of conferring a benefit to the people.” It is not a few preachers, elders, and deacons only that should be called to take a part in the service of religion. Christians generally should manifest an abiding interest in the worship and service of the Lord. It does not require a large audience to “break bread,” conduct a Sunday night worship, or a Wednesday prayer meeting, but it is infinitely better for all who can attend these meetings.

Doing The Right Thing In the Wrong Way: No one can doubt that it was right to remove the ark under proper conditions, for God told His people how it should be moved (Num. 4:1-16) — that is, it should be carried by the Levites. Also it was right to bring it to Jerusalem. But the great trouble in this case came through the use of “a more modern method” of transportation by David.

The Philistines, in bringing up the ark from Ekron to Beth-shemesh, had used a new cart (1 Sam. 6:7), and used it successfully. So, instead of following the instructions given through Moses, David copied the example of the philistines. — **(Cont on page 3)**

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VOLUME 34, NUMBER 24 June 15, 2008

RECORDS 6/8/2008

Sun 10 AM Bible Study: 58
Sun 11 AM Assembly: 109
Sun 6 PM Assembly: 70
Wed 7 PM Bible Study: 72
CONTRIBUTION: \$2401

SERMONS 6/15/2008

AM: Jerry Manning
SIN IS MAN'S GREATEST PROBLEM
PM: Jerry Manning
THE UNPARDONABLE SIN

“For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?”

- Matthew 16:26

Note, there will be no bulletin next week, June 22, 2008

A Warm Welcome awaits you at all our services. Come see!

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SERVICES

Sunday 10 AM Bible Study
Sunday 11 AM, 6 PM Assembly
Wednesday 7 PM Bible Study
Office Phone (803) 794-5320
Nursery provided

Bible Classes for all ages

LADIES CLASS

Tuesdays (except 1st) 10 AM

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“PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER” - James 5:16

- **REMEMBER IN PRAYER:** Beryl Parks, Nina Ruth Meadows (Marcella Klieves' mother), Jack and Elma Berrier, Nathaniel Manning (Jerry and Lynn's grandson), Lynn Drago (Jerry's sister) and Phyllis Johnson.
- **Brian Parks** will be going to New Mexico for a 70 mile hike with the Boy Scouts at the Philmont Scout Ranch. He'll be back 6/27/08.
- **Gerald Boyd** had cataract surgery Thursday.
- **Jan Kelleher** requests prayers for **Lib Hudson**, a member of the church in Walterboro who has had serious surgery.
- **Don Klieves** is working in Greenville during the week for the next 3 months or so. He's able to return home on the weekends. His cell phone is **381-5489**.
- **Helen and Vince Reusser** request prayers for their daughter **Debbie Sightler**.
- **Jan and Ed Kelleher** are off visiting family till Tuesday, June 24.
- The **Fields** are doing well in Arkansas and send their love, though Donnie is having some difficulty and they request prayers for him. Their new telephone number is **501-223-9094**.
- **Megan Stoyk** will be in Virginia, with Michael's family for the month of June working on her Pharmacy degree. **Michael** will be with her the first week, but then will return home. Remember them as they are apart.
- **Jeanette Reeves** continues to struggle with sin. Pray for her repentance.
- Remember all these, our new brothers and sisters in Christ, and brother **Manning** and those he studies the Bible with, in your prayers.

“Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do.”
- 1 Thessalonians 5:11

“AND THEY CONTINUED STEADFASTLY” - Acts 2:42

- The Youth (and the old folks too) had a fun and edifying time together at the **Sprinkles** in Georgia where 40 attended their youth retreat and devotional.
- We need people to sign up to clean the building.
- The **youth** are now meeting on a regular basis at the building, **Fridays** at 7 pm to work on murals for our upcoming VBS.
- **VBS! Invite People! Mon-Friday 7/21—7/25, People of the New Testament: Paul, Peter, Timothy, Steven and Cornelius.** If you would like to work on material for VBS and have some time, an hour or a day, get in touch with Jerry who has a list of things that can be done to help.
- **SAVE THE DATE!** Our **Fall Gospel Meeting** is scheduled Sun-Wed, **Sep 14-17, 2008** with **Billy Bland**, well known Gospel preacher and instructor at MSOP.

“Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.” - Titus 2:14

WORK TEAM SCHEDULE: 6/15—C 6/22—D 6/29—A 7/6—B
Choose the Straight Gate in 2008!

DAVID AND HIS NEW CART- (cont. from page 1)

The "new cart" seemed to work well for a while. The procession had reached "Nachon's threshing floor," when the "oxen stumbled," and Uzzah, putting forth his hand to stay the ark, was smitten dead (2 Sam. 6:6-7). The ark was left in the house of Obed-edom, and the thousands disbanded.

Why all this trouble? Had Uzzah sinned in that he touched the ark? Yes, but someone had sinned in this matter before Uzzah. Speaking to the Levites, David said, “**For because ye bare it not at the first, Jehovah our God made a breach upon us, for that we sought him not according to the ordinance**” (1 Chron. 15:13 ASV). Thus David located the trouble at the right place. The king and his people had tried to do a good work in a bad way.

It is frequently said that the end justifies the means, but it did not in this case. What matter is it, some of this generation say, if the money has been obtained in ways that are not commendable, just so it is used for the poor or the preaching of the word? Does it matter how or by whom the gospel is preached, if the evangelization of the nations is the purpose? Does it make any difference what is done in worship, if it is all intended for the glory of God? All who speak after this fashion should remember that David could have asked, "What difference does it make how we move the ark, just so we bring it to Jerusalem?" with as much show of reason as they. It is never right to set aside God's way of doing things for man's way.

One great hindrance to primitive Christianity today is the use of Philistine carts in the service of the Lord. They may seem to make some show of success for a time, but sooner or later — usually sooner — the "oxen stumble," and they fail. The modern missionary society is very like a Philistine cart as a means of transporting the gospel. In the use of it, there has been some bovine stumbling, some Uzzahs have been smitten, and, at times, the cart wheels have been badly bogged in the Serbonian mire of "open membership," "institutionalism," and "centralized control." The church is God's only means for carrying the gospel to the nations and no modern organizations will He accept.

Doing The Right Thing In The Right Way: David could never have been a man after God's "own heart" (1 Sam. 13:14) if he had been unwilling to confess his sins and make amends for them. The ark remained in the house of Obed-edom for three months. In the meantime David grew in respect for the word of God, for he said, “**None ought to carry the ark of God but the Levites: for them hath Jehovah chosen to carry the ark of God**” (1 Chron. 15:2 ASV). God's way was employed. It worked. "The Levites bare the ark of God upon their shoulders with the staves thereon" to Jerusalem in triumph and joy. How different the result from that of the first effort! How different the means employed! “**As for God, his way is perfect**” (Psa. 18:30).

- **Benton Cordell (B.C.) Goodpasture**, 1895-1977, Gospel Preacher

“... See, saith he, that thou make all things according to the pattern showed to thee in the mount” - Hebrews 8:5

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