

# THE LEVITE

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**Profit from the Prison**  
Part I

*Leading like a Lion!*

“...Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, hath prevailed...”

*(Revelation 5:5)*



**A Call to Mordecai**  
...a beacon in a dark time...



**Making a Difference**  
Children, Church, & Community



**HPC** HODGENVILLE  
PENTECOSTAL  
CHURCH  
*Pentecostal by Experience - Holiness by Choice*



## LEADING LIKE A LION

**"..but the righteous are bold as a lion."**

Senior Pastor David Webb  
Hodgenville Pentecostal Church



Revelation 5:5 *"And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, hath prevailed..."*

Alexander the Great said, *"An army of sheep, lead by a lion is better than an army of lions lead by a sheep."*

Winston Churchill said, "You have enemies? Good. That means you have stood for something in your lifetime." When the leader's mind is weak, the opposition is a problem. When the leader's mind is simply balanced, the opposition is challenging. When the leader's mind is strong, the opposition is opportunity.

Just knowing what's right is not good enough; we must do what's right. We must lead like a Lion.

Napoleon Bonaparte said, *"If you build an army of 100 lions and their leader is a dog, in any fight, the lions will die like a dog. But if you build an army of 100 dogs and their leader is a lion, all dogs will fight as a lion."*

I believe one of the worst things about leading like a Lion is no one ever asks if you're ok. I believe that it is imperative that leadership be strong, but not rude; be kind, but not soft; be bold, but not a bully; be thoughtful, but not political; be meek, but not weak; stand proud, but despise arrogance; be able to laugh, but not act as a babbling fool.

Consider these three characteristics of a Lion...

### 1. A Lion is not intimidated

**Proverbs 28:1** *"The wicked flee when no man pursueth: but the righteous are bold as a lion."*

There is a spirit of intimidation roaming free in our land. Bullies roam the playgrounds of our public schools. Activist judges are no longer interpreting the law but choosing to impose their own agendas on the citizens of this great nation. I am ashamed to say that these tactics are no longer confined to the public arena but has made its way into the church. In some cases, members with money or prominent parishioners are bent on imposing their will upon the church of the living God. Few will stand up to the intimidator for fear of losing tithes or a member moving on to a hireling's church. **WE MUST LEAD LIKE A LION!!!** We must not back down. A Lion does not bow to the opinion of a mouse. Herbert Swope said, *"I cannot give you the formula for success, but I can give you the formula for failure, which is: Try to please everybody."*

### 2. A Lion is not inferior

**Proverbs 30:30** *"A lion [which is] strongest among beasts, and turneth not away for any;"*

Eleanor Roosevelt said, "No one can make you feel inferior without your consent." How many businesses, churches and homes suffer because of inferiority? We must come to grips that there will always be someone better than us. We can either enjoy the talents and abilities of others and count them as a blessing to our lives, or, on the contrary, we can find reason to exclude them from our lives because we can't stand that they are better than us.

Secure persons are happy for the success of others. They encourage the vision, they stoke the fire, and they offer advice learned from the school of hard knocks to those reaching for the greater. Average leaders raise the bar for themselves; good leaders raise the bar for others; great leaders inspire others to raise their own bar.

As leaders, we can't afford to be afraid to ask for help. Jeffrey Benjamin said, *"A sign of strength is seen in one who asks for help."* It has been said, "Great leaders surround themselves with people who are better than them." Many leaders suffer from *Atelophobia* (The fear of not being good enough). If I may, I feel that there are many congregations suffering for lack of help. Consider the cycle: the local church takes an upswing, attendance increases, finances are more readily available but there is a leader at the top who will

continued on page 4





## NAME OF NAMES

Brother Claude Powell  
Hodgenville Pentecostal Church

Philippians 2:10  
*That at the name of  
Jesus every knee  
should bow, of  
things in heaven,  
and things in earth, and things under  
the earth;*

### The name of Jesus! What a name.

- The Name of names.
- More imperial than Caesar.
- More musical than Beethoven.
- More holy than the pope.

The name of Jesus is:

- Whispered at bedtime by children.
- Used at the dinner table during grace.
- Called out in hospitals rooms.
- Murmured on the battlefield.
- Used from the pulpit of every true minister.
- Tearfully called upon by a sinful wretch at an altar of prayer to escape the pollution of this world.

There are names that I have loved to hear...family members, friends, great preachers, Godly world leaders, American heroes, etc. None are as pleasing as the sweet name of Jesus! HE TOOK MY SINS AWAY!

Lost men and women can say "God" easily, and some bolder individuals can say "Christ"; but the only way to say "Jesus", if you are lost, is to use the name as profanity.

Now, back to "every knee should bow". In my short time on earth, I think that no unsaved man or woman ever bends the knee, head, or finger in the name of Jesus. It is a privilege reserved for the born again Christian.

Before my wife Joann died, she

would hear music from the other world many times.

Let us take a trip out in space after this earth has melted with fervent heat. There will be two groups of people with only the word of God to stand upon. The books are opened. There is a curtain. We do not know what is behind the curtain. Everyone is on stage. The orchestra is playing.

The curtain opens, the orchestra has stopped and there sits King Jesus on his throne. Time has run out. On the left stand people that thought this would never happen. By now, everyone is a believer. You can't find a skeptic or agnostic in the whole bunch. Look out there on the rim of the universe. There is a Lake of Fire larger than the sun with plenty of room for all.

From the Throne of Glory, the Name is proclaimed. Every atheist, agnostic, infidel, communist, Buddhist, Confucius' disciples, Islamist, Hindu, Jewish, protestant or Satanist will bow their knees and proclaim JESUS IS LORD!

Look. There is Stalin, Hitler, Voltaire, probably lots of Pope's, Karl Marx, Judas, and Pharaoh. Then the false prophet, the antichrist.

The last one up is the devil himself. That prince of darkness has caused family trouble, church trouble, and nation trouble. That deceiver of the whole world enters and kneels. Before his followers, cohorts, principalities, powers, and worshippers, he cries, "JESUS IS LORD!"

continued on page 4 ➤➤➤

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Leading like a Lion	2
Name of Names	3
A Call to Mordecai	5
Making a Difference	6
When I Grow Up....	7
Reflections of Home	8
Profit from the Prison	9



➤➤➤ **Leading like a Lion** - continued from page 2

not relinquish any authority to an Assistant/Youth Pastor/helper. He may be fearful that the help he brings in will gain favor and split the church. Therefore, many times, unknowingly, the leader slams the lid on the growth and by default the church begins to decline. May I submit to you...A perfect associate/youth pastor does not exist. Quit looking for one. Furthermore, a perfect pastor does not exist. Lead like a lion!

**3. A Lion is not an Isolationist**

**Isaiah 11:6-9** *“The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together;”*

Lions are the only cat group that forms a social group. I believe sometimes in our attempt retain the old time holiness way, we isolate ourselves out of fear of being contaminated. We should be insulated but not isolated. How can we be salt and light as Christ commanded if we are confined between four walls? The condition called isolation can become so acute that we can dis-fellowship everyone until we are the only fellow in our ship! How sad. Abraham Lincoln said, *“Believing everyone is dangerous; believing no one is very dangerous.”* We must not mix

and mingle with the world and doctrinal issues cannot be compromised but...for us to separate over non-issues means we are practicing the first page in the devil’s play book. We need one another. Bro. Ralph Cox said at the Richland’s Camp meeting in the 1980’s that the Swiss had developed a device that would split the human hair 250 different ways. He said it reminded him of some church people. In the late 1800s there were two deacons in a small Baptist church in Mayfield, KY. The two deacons didn’t get along, and they always opposed each other in any decision related to the church. On one particular Sunday, one deacon put up a small wooden peg in the back wall so the minister could hang up his hat. When the other deacon discovered the peg, he was outraged that he had not been consulted. People in the church took sides and eventually there was a split. To this day, they say you can find in Mayfield, KY the *Anti-Peg Baptist Church*.

Finally, Abe Lincoln said, *“Nearly all men can stand adversity but if you want to test a man’s character, give him power.”* Lead like a Lion!

**Hosea 11:10** *“They shall walk after the LORD: he shall roar like a lion: when he shall roar, then the children shall tremble ...”*



4

➤➤➤ **Name of Names** - continued from page 3

Sometime, somewhere, someday, everyone that breathes will be a Bible believing Christian. But that “conversion” will be too late to affect the eternal destiny of those involved in that scene.

You will bow your knee now, or you will bow your knee then, but you WILL bow! You can confess Christ now or you will then.

I am glad that on February 17, 1980, I bowed my knee in a church in Hodgenville, KY, about 12:30 under a hellfire and brimstone preacher Brother Shivers. Now any repeat performance of bowing the knee is always a genuine pleasure!



# A CALL TO MORDECAI

Brother David Whelan  
Head Usher - Hodgenville Pentecostal Church



**Esther 3: 2-3 - 2And all the king's servants, that were in the king's gate, bowed, and revered Haman: for the king had so commanded concerning him. But Mordecai bowed not, nor did him reverence. 3Then the king's servants, which were in the king's gate, said unto Mordecai, Why transgresseth thou the king's commandment?**

If you want to find out what a man is really like, catch him when he is anonymous, when he knows no one will discover him. It is informative to read what people post after news articles online. There is anonymity and freedom to say most anything. It is a place to see what the people under the influence of the enemy think about us and about our Lord. I will summarize....they don't like us, and they are not satisfied. Big surprise?

Recently, Bro. Rusty Johnson preached at HPC about the generations X, Y, and Z, and how each generation has brought a different "revolution" to America: Generation X, the sexual revolution; Generation Y, the LGBT revolution; and he predicted that Generation Z would produce the reprobate revolution. It seems this march of wickedness knows no end short of the Lord returning. Is there any hope for our children to live in a land relatively free of this filth? Can revival return to America again?

The account of Esther in the Bible holds some parallel to what we are seeing. Haman, one of the Persian king's regents, had been granted a status that required all others to bow to him upon sight. Mordecai, a Jew

and closet uncle of Queen Esther, refused to do so. In Haman, we can see the irrational attitude of the LGBT community today. Nothing short of kissing the ring will do. It was not enough for the king to elevate him and give him a primary position; he was driven irrationally to compel Mordecai to comply with the smallest of requirements. It drove him into a rage.

We see the character of Mordecai in the case of Kim Davis, the Rowan County, KY clerk that refused to sign marriage licenses to same sex couples. These people had the option to travel to any of 10 courthouses within 100 miles of Morehead, KY to clerks that were gladly issuing licenses to same sex couples. However, nothing would do but to force her to pay homage to their cause. If you caught any of the clips online, you would see how driven these poor people are by their master, the devil. There is hatred dripping from their lips. As the saying goes, if looks could kill....

My point is not whether Mrs. Davis was right or wrong or to debate her salvation, etc. It is to point out the Haman nature of this spirit and to recognize the Mordecai response she

gave. It was simple and clear. She would not bow.

If you recall the rest of the story of Esther, ultimately Haman is driven to ask the king to execute all the Jews in the land in retaliation for Mordecai taking the stance of not bowing. Note that nowhere in the text does it say that any of the Jews were lawless, tax evaders, or undermined authority. In fact, they stood by and watched Esther be taken to the king's house to be one of his wives, a prospect that I imagine did not suit them too well. However, when confronted with bowing (a sign of more than respect, but a sign of worship for them) Mordecai refused. This so enraged Haman that he dedicated himself to plotting their demise.

At last, the tables turned on Haman when God's people began to work together to expose this wickedness to the king and to allow the king to see the value of the Jews to his kingdom. The Lord is coming back. That is fact. I don't know when, but I know how. I also know that He is coming to claim a bride without spot or wrinkle. That means there are going to be some Mordecai's left around when He comes.

continued on page 6



➤➤➤ **A Call to Mordecai** - continued from page 5

Does it occur to you that we will not win victory over this evil on our own merit? We will not be clever enough in the courts. We will not be violent enough. We will not win the war of ideals. God will give the victory according to His will and in His time. We will be the best soldiers serving at the things He told us to do...be salt and light, pray, study the Word, be a beacon in a dark time, live your holiness standard before people in humility, and be Mordecai. Take our children from their schools, abstain from their entertainment, and withdraw from their worship of the state, sports, work, education, and the

slavery of public assistance. Show them integrity, truth, modesty, fidelity, and be Mordecai. Become a peculiar people, set apart for his service. Love them for the sake of their lost and possessed spirits, but do not fellowship with their sin, and be Mordecai.

Ultimately, we should all consider that not bowing may cost us our freedom, our finances, or perhaps our lives. It is a time of choosing. The day of domination of the First Church of the Country Club is over. Never again will it be convenient or popular to wear the name of Jesus in this world. This is not your Grandpa's America. Be brave children; be Mordecai. HE is coming soon!



## MAKING A DIFFERENCE

*Pastor Doug Phillips*

*Tower Full Gospel Church English, IN*

“Few will have the greatness to bend history itself, but each of us can work to change a small portion of events. It is from numberless diverse acts of courage and belief that human history is shaped. Each time a man stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope, and crossing each other from a million different centers of energy and daring those ripples build a current which can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance.” Robert F. Kennedy

In the book of Jude we find the writer speaking about a group of men who had come in among them and perverted the true gospel of Christ for gain. He warned those to whom the letter would be read to beware of those types of heresies being preached. In verse 22, Jude makes the statement, “And of some have compassion, making a difference.” Not everyone who were following the teachings of the false preachers were without hope; some were doing so in ignorance. Of those that were ignorant there was hope of converting them to the true teachings of Christ.

The Bible reminds us there will be some who will not heed the call to turn from sin, BUT, thanks be to God, there will be some that will turn. God simply requires us to reach out to those who we come in contact with and be a witness of the power of the change that will take place in a life redeemed by the blood of Christ. I understand what this verse was speaking about, but I want to speak briefly about three areas of our lives in which we can make a difference.

### **First of all, we can make a difference in our Children.**

Our greatest possessions are not the riches of this world but our families. Our churches are no stronger than our families. We need to invest time in teaching our children to worship God in truth and Spirit, to prove to them God comes first in all we do. Our homes need to be a refuge from the enemy. Pray a hedge around our children that the enemy cannot penetrate.

I like how Nehemiah armed the workers when the enemy tried to stop the walls from being built, but he also did something else that needs to be commended. Chapter 4:13 “Therefore set I in the lower places behind the wall, and on the higher places, I even set the people after their families with their swords, their spears, and their bows”. In my words, Nehemiah was saying to the enemy, “We value our children too much not to fight for them and protect them; we will go down fighting for them.

continued on page 11 ➤➤➤



## WHEN I GROW UP.....

### A message from Transformation Junction

*Brother Don and Sister Debbie Woolett  
Kidz Church Directors  
Hodgenville Pentecostal Church*

I Corinthians 13:11

"When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things."

We hear children say this all the time, "When I grow up I want to be a \_\_\_\_\_." Just fill in the blank. The truth is we have all probably said this at some time as a child. A healthy child is always looking to reach the next level of "Maturity". As a young child they may not even know what the word maturity means, but it is a natural as well as healthy ambition. A baby or child that never makes an effort to sit up, stand, walk, talk, and the list could go on, has a serious handicap.

In many ways the life of a Christian is the same as a child growing up. We are always looking for ways to be a better Christian. Another way to express this is to say that we are always striving to become a "Mature" Christian. Let's take a few minutes to explore a few ways to recognize a "Mature" Christian.

First of all, we need to understand that a Christian that has been saved for 40 years should not be on the same level of maturity as a new Christian. If a veteran Christian has not spiritually matured at all there is a serious problem. We cannot stand still in our walk with the Lord. When an individual does not strive to grow in the Lord they WILL spiritually die! A lot could be said here, but this is not the topic at hand, so we'll move along.

In our HPC Kidz Church we have an age span of 3 - 12. Children develop and mature at different levels; therefore, some 3 year olds are very ready to attend Kidz Church while others are not quite as ready. Adult Christians mature at different levels as well, but they WILL mature or grow (up) in the Lord.

We need to know:  
Spiritual maturity is not about age. Some people get

saved at a very young age while others may not become a Christian until they are in their 50's, 60's, 70's, or older.

Spiritual maturity is not about achievements. One man said, "I've read through the Bible 25 times! I've memorized the entire book of James! I can say the books of the Bible in 12 languages...backwards! I have a Ph.D. in Religion from Harvard!" These accomplishments are impressive, but they are not marks of a spiritually mature person. Remember, the Pharisees knew a lot of Scripture and were very religious people, but were still far from God.

Spiritual maturity is not proven totally by appearance. I can put on a Police Officer's uniform, but that does not make me a Policeman. A Christian will want to dress properly to please the Lord, but spiritual maturity goes much deeper than the surface. Anyone can dress the part, but miss the heart!

Here are just a few areas of spiritual maturity we all need to consider.

#### **We need to hold to that childlike sense of wonder and awe.**

If not careful, as adults we can lose that childlike amazement to our spiritual surroundings. Church can become just an obligation and true worship can become boring. Now we all understand you don't have to stand on your head to show excitement, but our heart will reveal itself in time. Ever notice how children can even find joy in just eating Cheerios underneath the couch! :o) Could it be that Matthew 18:3 is telling us the importance of never losing sight of the wonder and awe ever present in the Lord? "Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven." If we lose sight of the Lord's glory and majesty we will lose spiritual maturity. Let us never lose our sense of wonder and awe toward the things of the Lord.

continued on page 10





## REFLECTIONS OF HOME

First Lady Sister Genell Webb  
Hodgenville Pentecostal Church

We pulled out of the drive of our home for the last time a few weeks ago, and I was feeling a little sentimental. The memories of almost twelve years in one place were somewhat bittersweet. I was sharing how I was feeling when Taylor, our oldest, said, "It's not the house." Her Dad and I looked at each other. It is humbling for your sixteen year old to put things in perspective. However, we immediately replied that she was right, the structure and location does not make up our home. Our family unit being together makes up our home. Our hearts became prayerful thanking Him for all His blessings on our lives.

The thoughts of home have led my mind to travel other avenues. As I considered the perspective "it's not the house", I thought of the family of God. How can we visit a congregation in Oklahoma or Georgia or another church across town and it feel like we are at home? It's because the people there are our family! It doesn't matter if the church is a majestic brick and mortar or a

street service in Mexico. The bond of being bought by the blood of Jesus unites us as family crossing all barriers. When I return home to the place of my childhood, there are things that are different, but the love of my family is what makes it feel like I have come home. The same applies to the church. The Bible says in 1 Corinthians 3:16 ...ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you... We carry His presence with us; therefore, being among our brothers and sisters in the faith makes us feel like we are right at home.

As I have been reflecting, this thought came to mind, "Make yourself at home." We say this often offering hospitality to guests or visitors. It invites someone to relax, to be at peace, to feel secure in the fact that they are welcome there. God, in His grace and loving kindness, allows us moments to experience the precious feeling of being at home while still in this world. A family living in the perfect will of God knows this feeling among their own home. It may be in the middle of a Holy Ghost service or a private pray-

er place, but suddenly we get the feeling as if we have come home. Outside of these times, however, the longer we walk with the Lord, the more we realize this world is not our home. Sometimes it seems as if we are living in a foreign country. The people around us don't seem to be speaking the same language. As children of God we truly feel like strangers in a strange land. That is where faith steps in. We know He has gone to prepare a place for us where we will be at home!

I was blessed to be able to sing the following lyrics to Sis. Powell while sitting by her bedside just days before her home going. The last phrase says it all...

*"That sounds like home to me  
Right where I want to be  
There'll be no tears to fill our eyes  
again  
The hills will echo with the stories  
As we sing of His grace and glory  
Where the saints of God will be  
That sounds like home to me."*



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## PROFIT FROM THE PRISON - Part I

Brother Jeremy Spurlock—Associate Pastor, Hodgenville Pentecostal Church



### Do you look at your “prison situation” as a curse or an opportunity for blessing?

In his little letter to Philemon, the Apostle Paul reveals to us the great mystery and ancient truth that something profitable can come out of even the worst of circumstances. He shares with us the secret to achieving confidence in God, gaining peace in the midst of the storm, finding a place of purpose, and discovering that there is profit to be had by enduring the trials and hardships of life.

Paul opens this epistle with a salutation written from his own chained hands - describing himself as the Prisoner of the Lord. He reiterates this again just a few breaths later in verse 9. From that cold, dark cell he inserts the key and opens the lock which causes the chains to melt away from the heart of man as he realizes that it makes no difference where we are or what the circumstances may be that are stacked up against us; none of this can change the fact of whom we belong to! Though he is bound in prison he discovers that his adversary can never bind his inner being. He is the Prisoner of the Lord! God is in control and nothing can change that.

It is possible to have peace even when we find ourselves in the prison cell. Now, you may say that it is hard for you to relate to Paul’s experience because you are not physically sitting in a jail cell, but I submit to you that in many instances we all have endured the prison cell of life. Our circumstances, very often, can form a boundary about us – a prison cell – that keeps us locked inside of our fears and frustrations. Paul had peace about his future because he knew who was in control. He did not blame his chains on Caesar; he did not pour out a complaint about his prison experience and bemoan the fact that he was bound. He put everything in perspective by proclaiming that he was the prisoner of the Lord. God

had him right where he wanted him; His hand of provision is clearly seen throughout the extent of Paul’s time in prison.

Do you look at your “prison situation” as a curse or an opportunity for blessing?

You see, God was preserving Paul in prison. In the 23rd chapter of the book of Acts we read about a group of men who bound themselves to a curse that they would neither eat nor drink until they had killed the Apostle Paul. So, in essence, Paul found protection in the pain of the prison cell. The same bars that kept him in, kept out those who had sworn to do him harm. Can’t you just see it? Paul sat in the prison, guarded by a garrison of Roman soldiers, while those 40+ men who sought to kill him wasted away and ultimately perished. God has a way of taking care of His own.



We must realize that it is possible for something profitable to be generated out of a prison experience. We often hear the age old question, “Why do bad things happen to good people?” While we must admit that we do not have all of the answers, one thing remains certain – God is in control. He is able to make the best out of the worst. He knows just how to bring something of profit out of a horrible situation. Very often we tend to look at one circumstance, one catastrophe of life, and ask how anything good could come out of that. Paul, who had learned the secret of suffering, wrote in the epistle to the church in Rome, “All things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.” The key to this scripture is the word “together”. You cannot take one piece of a puzzle and determine what the picture will be. You must, with patience, take every single piece and put them all together to see the big picture - so also with life.

continued on page 10 ➤ ➤ ➤

## ➤➤➤ Profit from the Prison Part 1 - continued from page 9

The purpose of Paul's prison experience was the saving of a soul. In verse 10 of Paul's letter to Philemon he tells how God used his painful experience to be a most joyous occasion for someone else. Simply because one preacher was willing to trust God to take him through the prison experience, we are able to read about the salvation of an eternal soul - the ultimate profit to be gained. God put Paul in prison for many reasons, but the greatest of those was to be a road block on the path of a runaway slave boy – Onesimus. Begotten in the bonds of Paul, this soul which was once an unprofitable servant was now "profitable". There is the great possibility that this boy would never have been saved if Paul had not endured the trial of the prison cell.

The rejoicing in heaven by the angelic host, the welcome home party at the house of Philemon, the personal comfort and joy given to a persecuted preacher - all things of profit which would never have come to pass if it had not been for the willingness of a soul to suffer for a while.

**Are you able to trust God with every mountain and valley that life brings your way?**

**Are you willing to concede to His divine will, and allow him to take you through the prison cell of life, so that something profitable can be birthed in your experience?**



(Part II continued in next issue)



## ➤➤➤ When I Grow Up - continued from page 7

**Our Relationship with the Lord should not be driven by the highs and lows in life.** Mature Christians do not ride a spiritual roller coaster. They are consistent. We will have sad times as well as happy times, but when our whole life, mood, and dedication to the Lord depends on the day we had we may not be as spiritually mature as we should. Mature Christians do not allow the highs and lows of life to impact their walk with God. Oh, yes, they celebrate the mountaintop moments, but they do not rely on those moments to sustain their faith. Hebrews 13:8, "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever."

**Our peace should not depend upon the world around us.** We are living in dark days that no doubt will grow darker. But mature Christians don't allow the latest buzz on the news to derail their lives. God is sovereign over everything. That includes ISIS and the apparent downfall of America, or anything else with which the media tries to bombard us. Acts 20:24 says, "But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy,..."  
Our spiritual disciplines should never take a back seat.

**Prayer, bible study, worship, family and church attendance are all of utmost importance.** People who

struggle with consistency and intimacy in their walk with God are the ones that constantly place everything ahead of God. We need to make whatever sacrifices necessary to live a spiritually disciplined life. Luke 10:27 says, "... Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself."

**Our Christian Values/Life does not have an ON/Off Switch.** Living our life for the Lord is 24/7/365. Spiritually mature Christians do not find ways to compartmentalize God because He is not part of their life...He is their life! Romans 12:1-2 says, "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."

Now this is by no means an exhausted list of ways to measure spiritual maturity, but we must continue to grow in the Lord. There is no time to be idle. Philippians 3:14 says, "I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."



## ►►► Making a Difference - continued from page 6

Noah was moved with fear and built an ark “for the saving of his house”. Moses’ mother was willing to risk everything to hide her son in the bulrushes rather than throw him into the river. Moses was not willing for the children of the Israelites to stay in Egypt, but he told Pharaoh they’re going with us. Rahab tied the scarlet rope in the window for the children of Israel to see from the outside, but on the inside she was busy gathering her family in her house.

God is looking for men and women who are willing to invest their time and energy to make a difference in their children. Our world would be a better place if more of our homes would become spiritual lighthouses shining the love of God in a dark world. You can make a difference in your children!

### **Secondly, we can make a difference in our Church.**

Unfortunately, church attendance seems to be at an all time low, and, as a result, many churches across our nation are suffering. Sadly, many churches are losing true prayer warriors, true worshippers, preachers and teachers that are not afraid to preach and teach the true Word of God.

Our lives are busier today than they have ever been, but I have seen a disturbing trend of misplaced priorities. It seems many Christians are placing more importance on making money than being faithful to the house of God. Many are involving their children in activities of the world that takes them away from faithful church attendance and needful youth functions. Our youth camps are vying for youth that are torn from going to church camps or sports camps.

It’s time we awake out of sleep and slumber and realize God is looking for people who will make a difference for the Kingdom of God. To believe all the work and prayer has to be done by the Pastor and his family or the deacons and trustees is a misconception.

There are two people the Bible mentions in the New Testament church that made a difference who were not preachers but were workers. In Romans, Paul refers to Aquila and Priscilla as “my helpers in Christ”.

These two were committed to the work of Jesus Christ and were supporters of the church. On one recorded occasion they were able to expound the word of God more perfectly to those who were already teaching and preaching. Unconcerned with receiving recognition or applause of men, they just wanted to make a difference for Christ in a world that needed him.

Paul thought so much of Aquila and Priscilla when he was finishing his last epistle to Timothy that he instructs him to “salute Prisca and Aquila”.

You may not be the pastor, song leader, trustee, Sunday school teacher or hold a prominent office but you can make a difference in your church! We are striving to hear the words “well done thou good and faithful servant”.

### **Thirdly, we can make a difference in our Community.**

It is my opinion the true church of God has taken a back seat in getting involved in the community where we live.

I encourage our church to be active in the community and be a part of it. For several years we have been a part of ringing the Salvation Army bells during Christmas time at a local merchant. We help during Thanksgiving

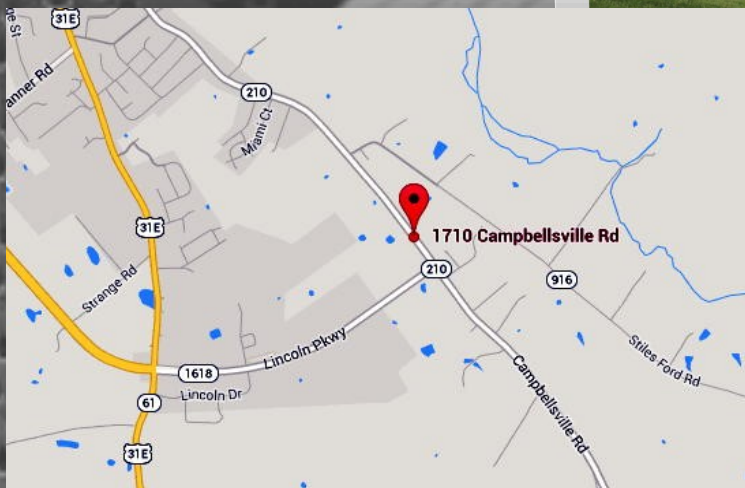
time to put together food boxes at a local church for families in need. We reach out to 30 – 35 kids every other Wednesday night before our service through the Royal Ranger and Girl’s M’pact Club. We tell them of the love of God and mentor them in hopes that they become young men and ladies that will serve Christ. Just recently my wife made a simple plate of cut fruit and served them to her girl’s class. One of the girls remarked to her “I wish you were my mom”.

If our gospel is hid, it is hid to those who need it. More than giving in the offering, the gospel is an active gospel. I am reminded of the woman at the well who Jesus went out of his way to meet. After her encounter with Christ she left her water pot and ran into town crying out to everyone “come see a man”! I believe Legion made a difference in Decapolis after Jesus set him free from his bondages. Mary Magdalene no doubt made a difference to those around her after she met Jesus. Look what a difference Paul made after being stopped by Jesus on the road to Damascus. Standing before magistrates and rulers, he proclaimed the gospel of Jesus Christ!

“Do more than belong: participate. Do more than care: help. Do more than believe: practice. Do more than be fair: be kind. Do more than forgive: forget. Do more than dream: work.”  
William Arthur Ward

Remember you may not save all, but you can save some. May God richly bless you in your efforts to make a difference in someone.





### Services and Times

Sunday School - 10:00 am

Sunday Morning Worship - 11:00 am

Sunday Evening Worship - 6:00 pm

Wednesday Night Worship- 7:30 pm

Kidz Ministry - Wednesday Nights



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