

Are You Studying?

It is incumbent on Christians to have a good working knowledge of the Scriptures. Peter wrote, “*Yea, and for this very cause adding on your part all diligence, in your faith supply virtue; and in your virtue knowledge*” (2 Pet. 1:5).

Do you take time daily to consult God’s word and seek His will? With His counsel nothing much can disturb your life. Think of this: “Thou wilt guide me with thy counsel, And afterward receive me to glory” (Ps 73:24).

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Assemblies

Sunday Bible Class 9:30 A.M.
Sunday Morning Worship 10:30 A.M.
Sunday Evening Worship 6:00 P.M.
Wednesday Bible Classes 7:30 P.M.
Ladies Class, Thursday 10:00 A.M.

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Valley Tidings

Set For The Defense Of the Glad Tidings

Volume VII, February 2006, Number 2

Gospel Meeting

April 9-14 - 7:30 p.m. Nightly

10 a.m. Monday— Friday

Rick Duggin

Of Murfreesboro, Tennessee

Everyone Welcome

No Collections nightly

Bring nothing but a Bible and a willing heart

ALL WHO LOVE GOD DO NOT NEGLECT ASSEMBLING WITH THE SAINTS FOR BIBLE STUDY AND WORSHIP

A Saturday Night “Nightmare”

A week or so ago a certain preacher was listening to a very intense basketball game over a local radio station. The score was close and the game was crucial for both teams. He had just consumed too much of a spicy pizza (with about 5 toppings.) At the half he picked up his sermon notes and started going over them again -- he promptly fell asleep.

It must have been the pizza or some of the trimmings, but he had a rather bizarre and weird dream. The poor man dreamed the following:

The head coach walked into the sweaty locker room at half time. He addressed team saying, “It is so nice to see you fellows. I know it is a bit of a hardship for each of you to be here but I sincerely hope our little time together will be beneficial to all of us.” He gave a quizzical look around and asked, “Where is Joe Blow, the center? I know I saw him during the first half”

One of the team explained to the coach, “Oh, his cousin was in the stands and Joe hadn’t seen him in a couple of days and they’re planning a hunting trip this weekend. He needed to stay with his cousin during the half.”

“Well, where is, what’s his name, you know our point guard?” asked the coach. The team trainer said, “Well, coach, you made him mad by correcting him because he wasn’t getting back on defense quickly enough, and he is sitting in the stands with his parents. He’s pouting, I think.”

The coach looked over the squad and said, “Well men, is the other guard here?” “No,” came the reply from one of the subs, “he said he was tired of hearing you what you have to say about being at every practice on time, so he’s decided to quit.”

About that time the door to the locker room flew open with a bang. In rushed the team’s all-star center. “Look Coach, I made it! How about that? Aren’t you glad?” he exclaimed. “Sure,” returned the coach. Have a seat, we need to go over a few things we need to do in the second half.” “Can’t,” replied the center, “One of the cheerleaders is sort of struck on me and I need to talk to her now. I may not make it for the second half, but I’ll sure be thinking about the team.”

“Thanks,” muttered the coach, and somebody thought he muttered something else that sounded like counting to ten, but

they weren’t sure.



The preacher woke to learn that his team lost by two points. He thought to himself, “One of these days, I’m going to go see the coach of the other team and see how he does it.”

Any resemblance to teamwork needed in a local church is purely intentional. DRS

A PREACHER'S PRAYER

I do not ask that crowds so throng the building that standing room is at a price.

I only ask that as I voice the message — they may see the Christ.

I do not ask for church pomp and pageant or music such as wealth alone can buy;

I only pray that as I voice the message — He may be nigh.

I do not ask that men may sound my praises, or the headlines spread my name abroad;

I only ask that as I voice the message — hearts may see the living God.

👏 Enthusiasm! 👏

Enthusiasm is a great asset. If anything worth doing is going to be done, enthusiasm has to be sort of like a main spring, wound tightly and often. To become enthusiastic somebody has to start it. One enthusiastic person usually prompts action in others. It can happen in any congregation of God’s people.

Standing in the way of enthusiasm are pessimism and a defeatist outlook with a comfortable “status quo” attitude. I’m reminded of the missionary who returned home

to report on his work. At a certain gathering of other preachers he heard several discussing their work. “Well,” said one, “We’re holding our own over at our congregation.” The missionary thought about it and could not keep quiet. He joined the group and remarked, “Don’t you think it is time we quit trying to hold our own and start winning the battle with the Devil for souls?”

It takes no enthusiasm to remain content with how things are and how they’ve always been. All the feeble excuses in the world won’t change the fact that our lack of enthusiasm is holding us back from true scriptural growth, the kind that results from winning people to Christ.

Ralph Waldo Emerson said, “Nothing great was ever accomplished without enthusiasm.” (*Essay on Circles*) A greater than Emerson said, “In diligence, not slothful, fervent in spirit serving the Lord” (Rom. 12:11). - DRS

