

# Heart Hurt



If you are like me, you have overwhelmed your mind with images of destruction over the past week. I simply cannot stop reading articles, looking at pictures, and watching videos of the devastation that has taken place on the coast of Japan. Too many times I find myself disconnected from the pain and hurt that others experience in other places but in times of great tragedy such as this, I find my heart hurting. The sense of helplessness is overwhelming. It hurts to know that people have lost their houses, their livelihoods, their transportation, their city, their loved ones, their health and their lives.

However, the fact that many of those people who died may have lost their souls because they failed to be spiritually ready is even more difficult to handle. Unfortunately, if a tragedy similar to this one were to take place in our area, there are those in our families and in our circle of friends that would suffer the same loss. Yet you and I many times stand by and think we have all the time in the world to address the issue.

I am confident that many of the men and women who were lost in the earthquake and tsunami thought they would have another chance to make things right, say what needed said, or simply spend more time in the things that needed to be done. Maybe some of them had thought about giving their life to the True and Living God, but had simply put it off. Maybe some of you think the same thing. Don't get caught unprepared. We never know what today will bring. And to think that any of you would go to eternity unprepared makes my heart hurt even more.

Ben

## Lads/Leaders

Speeches Sunday Night, April 17<sup>th</sup>

## Leaderettes

Speeches Wednesday night, April 20<sup>th</sup>

WINTER YOUTH SERIES  
TONIGHT  
Stony Point Church of Christ

## MISSION TRIP PAYMENT DUE

Our first payment of \$50 for the summer mission trip is due now. Please give your check to Rhonda or Ben ASAP.



## KIDS RALLY

This Saturday, March 26<sup>th</sup>  
Ethridge Church of Christ  
"Friends"

1st - 6th Grade

(No teens allowed)

We will leave at 8:00 am and return to H.P. at 4:00.

## MAYWOOD CHRISTIAN CAMP

June 26-July 2 Ages 8-18

Applications are on the table below the youth picture board. If you plan to go you need to send in your application ASAP



## SENIOR PICTURES

I have only received one set of Senior pictures. So get them in ASAP.



## Heritage Golf Scramble Benefit

April 29<sup>th</sup> at 8:00am

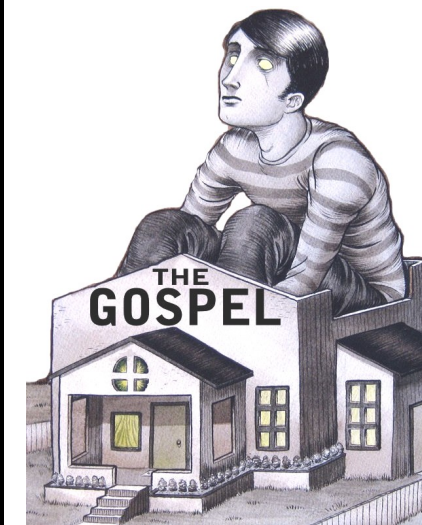
Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail. See



# The Highlighter

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## Has Man Outgrown The Gospel?

Times change. Today's "new" is tomorrow's "old", this morning's break-through is this afternoon's castaway, this year's popular is lost in next year's "latest." The up-to-date is soon out of date.

Truth doesn't change. It reads the same today as yesterday and as it will tomorrow. It is "once for all delivered to the saints" (Jude 3). Some feel they have outgrown the ancient Gospel. The idea that there is a standard which absolute is to them, obsolete. **Has man outgrown the gospel?**

**Not unless he has found another food for the soul.** Vegetables and fruits have been on kitchen tales since Eve prepared meals in the Garden, but no one is

calling them outdated. Noah must have grilled the first T-bone steak just after the flood, but, though several thousand years have passed, steakhouses still do plenty well. What nourishes the spirit? The Gospel fills those who "hunger and thirst after righteousness" (Mt.5:6). Christians first take the "sincere milk of the word (1Pt.2:2), and progress until they can eat "strong meat" at God's table (Heb.5:12-14). No one has found a substitute for God's "soul food."

**Not unless he has found another cure for man's most serious disease.** Medical treatments have been around at least since Moses (Lev.12:1-4), but nobody's in a hurry to close hospitals and pharmacies. A cure for sin (forgiveness is still man's most basic spiritual need (Rom.3:23;6:23). We all have ancient Israel's contagion: "From the sole of the foot even unto the head there is no soundness in it; but wounds, and bruises, and putrefying sores: they have not been closed, neither bound up, neither mollified with ointment (Is.1:6). The only antidote has "Gospel" on the label (Rom.1:16).

Since God is the One who determines what sin is, sin does not change from culture to culture or with the passing winds of time. Men may change what they consider sin or what they call it (Is.5:20), but it will not alter reality. We are still prone to give in to the lusts of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life (1John2:15-16). Sin is still transgressing God's law (1John 2:4), violating one's conscience (Rom.14:23), omitting duty (James 4:17), and, in general, "all unrighteousness" (1John 5:17). We've all done it; thus we all need the cure that only the Gospel can give.

**Not unless he has unearthed another map to heaven.** This world is not all there is. It is but the prelude to the main performance, the foyer to a grand hall, the gestation period of an endless life. Jesus used another figure. It is a short trip to an everlasting home. He plainly mapped out the road that leads to life (Matt.7:14). He stated the conditions by which man can reach salvation. He must believe in Christ (Mk.16:16), change his sinful life by repenting (Luke 13:5), confess Christ's name before others (Rom.10:10), and be immersed for the forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:38; Rom.6:4). Some have tried to invent their own ways to heaven, but their maps will only get a person lost! Jesus called this the "broad and narrow way that leads to destruction" (Mt.7:13). Jesus is the only "Way, Truth, and Life" - and His way can be found no other place than in the Bible.

**Not unless he has found another weapon against Satan.** The old "lion" is not dead, he is still "roaring... walking about seeking whom he may devour" (1Pet.5:8). The serpent is not hibernating; he still lurks to entice, entrap, and engulf the simple (Gen.3:1-7; 2Cor.11:3). Man is still in as much danger as ever; therefore he needs the one weapon which makes Satan cower. Just as a lion fears not the rock in a child's hand, Satan does not fear man's strength in a man's hand. He does however fear God's power when it's placed in man's hands (Matt.4:1-11; James 4:7).

ALLEN WEBSTER

### Elders

Tim Fulmer  
Glen Grubbs  
Russell Smelser

### Ministers

Mike Brooks  
Ben Hayes  
Michael Jackson  
Michael South

### Secretary

Rhonda Cole

### Contact

Office: 381-8311  
Fax: 381-8362

### Email:

hpcc\_office@comcast.net

### SERVICE SCHEDULE:

#### SUNDAY:

9:00am Bible Class  
10:00am Worship  
5:30pm Prayer Session  
6:00pm Worship

#### WEDNESDAY:

7:00pm Bible Class

### The Record You Help Make

Bible Class .....210  
AM Worship .....269  
PM Worship .....177  
Contribution.....\$ 9,859  
Child Care.....\$ 145



**OUR SICK:** Carolyn Calvert is in ECM in ICU with a blood clot in her lung. Sterlin Smith is home recovering from surgery to repair a tear in his knee.

Betty & Austin Davenport are home Wayne York will have valve replacement surgery on his heart in Birmingham March 23. Gloria Holden is home recovering from bypass surgery on her leg. Albert Sharp is in ECM recovering from surgery. Alicia Reaves is home. Betty Barnes is home with pneumonia and is still having trouble with her eye. David Henson is in Cypress Cove on Avalon. Wayne Green is home recovering from surgery. Pat Quinn is home recovering from a broken hip. Sonny Watkins (Jerri's Friend) will be confined another week recovering from a broken knee. Keith Jones (Heather Morgan's dad) is recovering from a badly broken leg. Christine Kirchner has asked that we remember her in our prayers that she will soon be able to return to worship.

## Sympathy

We extend our sympathy to Terry Williams in the loss of his grandmother, Elsie Black this past week. She was a member at Spring Valley Church of Christ.



## Wedding Shower!

There will be a wedding shower for **Angela Kimbrell**

Sunday, March 27th in the MPR immediately following PM Worship. This shower is for everyone, both men and women. They are registered at Linda's Loft and Bed, Bath, & Beyond. Please bring finger foods & drinks and join us! For more info see Becki Henson!

## Helping Hands

Meets tonight following PM worship.

## Meals-On-Wheels

This Week! See Donna Kimbrough to help!



## Covered Dish Luncheon For All Seniors!

Thursday, March 31<sup>st</sup> at 11:30 in MPR  
If you are over 50, thank God and be happy that you are a "Nifty". The older we get, the sweeter life is. Who wants to be 18 again? Please come and let's enjoy each other while we can. You'll be glad you did! For info see Bobby Denton.



## Secret Sisters

If you are interested in participating in the Secret Sisters Program this year, please fill out an information sheet and return it to Stacey Jackson by March 27th (the last Sunday of this month). Information sheets can be found on the table before you enter the education building (where we typically leave our gifts). We would love to have more ladies participate in this program--if you have any questions, please see Stacey.

## New Dorcas Project!

The Dorcas Group has taken on a special new project and we need help. We're making shirt dresses for Nepal/Bangladesh and also for the Clewiston Mission Trip this summer. If you would like to help you can cut fabric, gather the skirts, press and/or assemble the dresses. There is something for everyone to do. We are purchasing tee shirts & socks for the boys. Your help or donation would be very much appreciated! Dorcas workers meet 2nd & 4th Wednesdays each month!

## Ladies Day at Eastside

Saturday, April 9th

8:30am lunch served at 11:00  
Speaker—Patsy Gray

**Gospel Meeting at Valdosta**  
April 3 - 7 7:00pm Mon-Thurs Nights  
Speaker - Stan Dean



## THOSE TO SERVE

### 10:00 AM WORSHIP

Read Scripture..... Blake Allen  
Opening Prayer... Michael Jackson  
Closing Prayer..... Kenneth Jackson

### 5:00 PM SERVICE

Read Scripture.....Harold Howard  
Opening Prayer..... Kenny Ford  
Closing Prayer..... Neil Wells  
Greeters..... Tyrus & Lori Mansell  
Building Lockup .....

**MARCH CONTACT ELDER**  
**Tim Fulmer**

## Prayer Lists:



Mabeth Jones, Pauline Jackson, Harvey Hasha, Rayburn Moore (Melinda Logan's brother-in-law), Wylodean Dabbs, Vic & Margaret Addington, Lois Black, Opal Farris, Guy Jeffreys, Austin & Betty Davenport, Jimmy & Olene Hanback, Albert Sharp

## Please remember our cancer patients:

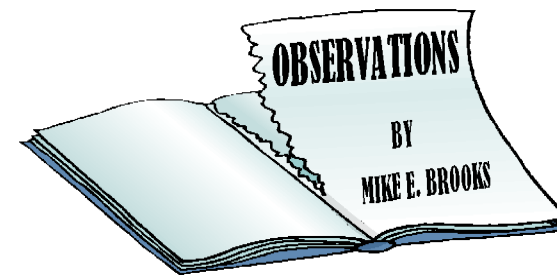
Robin McCollum, Brenda Pettus, Howard Jeffreys  
Adrian West (Robin McCollum's mother), Norma Hallmark  
Kenneth Harrison (Dot Crowden's brother), David Blazer, Ann Hargett, Betty Barnes, Mike Farris  
Mozelle King (Faye Smith's friend)  
Spruell Fretwell (Faye Smith's cousin)

## Widows & Singles

Will meet at **BoJangles** tonight after worship!



Pantry item **RICE**



# Camel Lag

*"So I came to Jerusalem and was there three days. Then I arose in the night, I and a few men with me; I told no one what my God had put in my heart to do at Jerusalem; nor was there any animal with me, except the one on which I rode" (Nehemiah 2:11-12 NKJV).*

It is more than 10,000 miles by air from my home in Alabama to South Asia, to where I have traveled this past week. There is twelve hours difference (twelve time zones) between Alabama time and Bangladesh time. In other words they are exactly on opposite sides of the earth.

Jet lag is a concept with which I am very familiar. After flying for about 26 hours of actual time in the air over an elapsed total time of 36 to 42 hours on average, I am always tired and physically confused. My mind may say "It is morning, let's get to work." My body however responds, "I am tired; it is time to sleep."

When Ezra the scribe led a company of Priests and Levites from Babylon to Jerusalem, the journey required exactly four months (Ezra 7:7-9). We do not know how long Nehemiah and his guards took to make the same trip, but it was certainly a long and arduous journey.

Similarly, we are not told just why it was three days after arrival in Jerusalem before Nehemiah began his mission. My own personal experience suggests he may have required a little resting time. Perhaps he was suffering from "Camel Lag" from his long trip across the desert.

Time is a valuable resource, yet our use of it must reflect physical reality. Nehemiah's example leads us to a few reasonable guidelines which will help us become good stewards of our time.

**First**, do not hesitate to use necessary time for rest and recuperation. When the disciples returned from the limited commission Jesus invited them to "Come aside by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while" (Mark 6:31). He understood the body's demands. It is not a waste of time for us to get the rest which is required for good health and strength.

A recent news report suggested that in America there is an epidemic of sleep deprivation -- too many people just don't get enough sleep to be healthy. However, the body's need for rest however in no way justifies laziness and idleness (Proverbs 24:30-34; 2 Thessalonians 3:10).

**Second**, Nehemiah shows us that when rest has been acquired, promptness and careful haste are appropriate. Certainly his arising in the night was partially in order to preserve secrecy for his mission. Yet there is also the inescapable conclusion that Nehemiah wanted to waste no available time. His task was urgent. He moved decisively and quickly.

The New Testament teaches us, "Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation" (2 Corinthians 6:2). We are to "Walk circumspectly, . . . redeeming the time, because the days are evil" (Ephesians 5:15, 16). Time is one of God's gifts to us. Let us be good stewards in its use.

**Third**, Nehemiah made excellent use of the time which he was given. When he asked the king of Persia to be appointed governor of Judah, the King said, "How long will your journey be?" (Nehemiah 2:6). Nehemiah was conscious of a limited time-frame in which to act. He worked swiftly therefore without delay or hindrance.

When enemies of Israel sought to distract him from his labors he responded, "I am doing a great work, so that I cannot come down. Why should the work cease while I leave it and go down to you?" (Nehemiah 6:3). As a result of his determination, the wall of Jerusalem was completed in a remarkable span of only 52 days (Nehemiah 6:15).

There are physical limitations within which we all must work. Yet we must also give an account for the way we use our time, as is the case with all our possessions and resources. Nehemiah teaches us to be time conscious. In so doing, we too can accomplish great works for the Lord.