

Thus Saith God's Word

by Rev. Ted Brooks, Pastor, West Saddletree Baptist Church

"By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another." (St. John 13:35). Jesus in this verse points to submissiveness. Today there is a desperate need in our churches, not for intelligent folks or gifted persons, but there is a need for deep people who want to know what Jesus meant when He said "What I do thou knowest not now; but thou shalt know hereafter." (Verse 7)...And Brother Peter replied, "Lord not my feet only but also my hands and my head." (Verse 9). My friend you and I need to recognize the danger of not keeping close to God's word. Now for the next few sermons let's lay aside our commentaries, Wuest, Iron-side, Matthew Henry and all Biblical Illustrators. I know this will be hard for some of you, in fact, it will be like breaking a habit of smoking. Some of you are afraid to read God's word by itself. You feel like God's word needs your help. What we all need to do is to acquaint ourselves with God's word and do what God says to. When persons fail to act out God's word, they are either lost of found straying from the true doctrine of Christ. What you have failed to realize is that there are all sorts of lewd, wicked persons commonly called spirits who will come upon them and by falsehood and if language draw them further out of their way. And you wind up in a church that says and does not and they will refuse to be led by the good guidance of the blessed spirit.

These persons that keep not to the law and to the testimony, nor stick close to the word of God, which is in itself a lantern to their feet and a light unto their path, then no marvel if they meet with wicked spirits, seducers and false teachers who lead them captive at their will and that, not receiving the truth in the love of the truth, God gives them over to strong delusion to believe a lie. What madness for the church to court and to embrace such madness as a "Peter"... "Thou shalt never wash my feet."

Hold on now, leave that commentary where it may be. They are like cigarettes, you don't need them. You can break the habit if you leave them alone. So if you can for this week, put them away, also school notes and creeds of man's tradition.

Did you know one of the things Jesus could not do was to break folks tradition? Jesus spoke with authority and spoke not as a scribe. You and I can break this deadly habit called tradition. Jesus promised us freedom when He said "Truth shall set you free and ye shall know the truth." (John 8:32) Friend, you don't know the power of tradition until you seek to break loose. There are those of you who have been bound for years with tradition. Your souls have been crying for freedom, wanting real joy and wanting to apply the knowledge of God to your life. You long to be set free, to feel and to see that old man of sin die and pass away like the person who is on drugs and tobacco. You want to be set free but rather than break loose, you let them kill you (tradition). Man knows tobacco is killing him, shortness of breath, even at the advice of his physician, he keeps on smoking. Like church folks crying like Peter, "Never. Never." Oh my friend, the world wants to see your good works inside the church. Now lets look more closely at the word of God in St John 13:1 "Now here fore before the feast of the pass over, when Jesus knew that his hour was come that he should depart out of this world unto the father, having loved his own which were on the world, he loved them unto the end."

Let me ask you some questions. If you knew that you only had one hour to live, what would you do? What places would you visit, if you were going to die in the next hour? What would you do? Take a vacation? Buy a new car? Preach a sermon? Join the church choir? Rededicate your life? What would you do if you had one hour to live? Some folks would say, "I want to be like Jesus when I die."

My friend, if I had only one hour to live, I would want to hear from someone who had been there. I would want to know what he did with his one hour which he had to live. Jesus said, "You ought to obey God rather than man." (Acts 5:29)

We sing a song entitled "May the work that I do speak for me." I ask you again, if you had one hour to live, what would you do? Could you be submissive to God's will? May I ask you another question? What is it that a basin of water and a towel has that frightens you so? When Peter was confronted, he cried, "Never."

Next week, God does not have any saints whose feet are unworthy.

Dial Sheppard and Ransom Honored by "Strike at the Wind!" Former Cast Members on Saturday Night

Before the return performance of "Strike at the Wind!" on Saturday night, July 3, 1999. The cast members of the drama from the first twenty years finally got the chance to have their plaques presented to honor those that "made a difference." Money was collected from the cast members in 1998 in order to get portraits of Rev. Julian Ransom and the late Hope Sheppard painted. The portraits were not available to be presented as there is still the question of relocation and also the fact that the cast members were not allowed to present their own plaques.

Honored opening night was the first chairman of Robeson Historical Drama Association Dr. Adolph L. Dial with a plaque to honor his memory and his vast contributions.

The plaque was accepted by his daughter Mary Doris Dial Cagle who was instrumental in the acquiring of various facets of this memorial. "This is something that my father believed in," she proudly said as she accepted the plaque.

Back stage with the cast was Duel Sheppard the husband of the late Hope Sheppard who was the original Rhoda for the drama. "Maybe it was not meant for me to be on that stage, but I know that she is watching." Hope and her sister Dawn were part of the 1976 original cast. Unfortunately, Dawn died before opening night but she sent word before he left this Earth for Hope to do the show. To know Hope was to love Hope. She was the kind of person that always had

a smile and the familiar line in Hardee's of "Hi! How are you doing?" and most of all if you needed someone to talk to she was always there. I always say that there is an angel in heaven and her name is Hope.

The third honoree was Rev. Julian Ransom. In 1976 he created the role of the Leader for the drama. He was honored by the cast for his many thoughts, talents and prayers. You could say that we had a counselor back stage all of the years that he was with us. Both he and his daughter Victoria (Vickie) were part of the 1976 cast.

At the end of the memorial various cast member launched 20 red white and blue balloons to honor those who were deceased.

by Vinita Maynor Clark

Getting Away For A Day Or Two

By BILL HISTED

We all can have a bad day, feel burned out or just get a case of the doldrums. My greatest remedy for curing the blahs is to go somewhere for a day, even without advance planning. If you work required hours every day, wait until the weekend to go or just do something different for a couple of hours after work.

This cure may also be good for you in the event you need to cheer up your better half. Just get away. Get a quick change of scenery. It usually works.

The possibilities are endless, even within a day's drive of your home. It may just be stopping off to see an old friend or to stop at the new ice cream store and getting a sundae.

Some of the day trips I've taken may seem odd, but that's sometimes what it takes—something different to give your mind a rest from dealing with the same activities and problems.

I've gone on a sudden mobile home factory tour, ended up in a German restaurant, gone to the beach, visited a restored hotel, toured a candy factory, gone to outlet stores, gone to Amish country, and ended up at a horse show.

I once even went to the big city with a relative and ridden all afternoon on city bus. Using transfers, I saw about all of Orlando on 75 cents. I saw areas I would never have otherwise seen. I drove a dirt country road I'd often wondered about and after 15 miles on my trip odometer, I turned around and went back. It was different. The road got more narrow and bumpy the longer I drove.

There are farmers' markets, flea markets, new car lots to look over and even "open houses" held by real estate firms.

About once every two years I got to the cemetery to remember people from the past. Cemeteries are also historical sites and many states protect them as such.

One Saturday I drove to a little fan railroad and spent an afternoon. I think it cost \$6 to ride the train for an hour and a half—about the price of a boring movie. They even let me get up in the cab and ride when I told them I'm a reporter.

There's a place a couple of hours a way that is a year-round Christmas shoppe, closed only one day of the year—Christmas! I found the place fascinating.

Malls are starting to look alike to me—the same chain stores in about every mall. So I occasionally go to stores I would normally not go into and find items I didn't know existed anymore.

Libraries are still a popular place to get lost for an hour or two and even supporting your local school students by going to school games and school musicals and plays can be a change.

When it comes to getting away for a day or two or even for a few hours, you are only limited by your resourcefulness and creativity.

Bill Histed is a writer in Mulberry, Florida. If you have a topic you would like him to address, write him at: The Press, 1020 N. Church Ave., Mulberry, Fl. 33860-2040.

Special new cream shows promise in treating sore joints

(Indianapolis)—A small company in central Indiana has developed a special cream that relieves arthritis pain in minutes, even chronic arthritis pain—deep in the joints. The product which is called PAIN BUST•RII, is one of the fastest-acting therapeutic formulas ever developed in the fight against arthritis.

Immediately upon application it goes to work by penetrating deep to the areas most affected—the joints themselves, bringing fast relief where relief is needed most. Men and women who have suffered arthritis pain for years are reporting incredible results with this product. Even a single application seems to work remarkably well in relieving pain and bringing comfort to cramped knotted joints. To order just write "PAIN BUST•RII" on a sheet of paper. Send \$7.95 for 1 Large tube or 13.90 for 2 Large tubes (saves \$2.00) to: Continental Quest Research Corp, 220 W. Carmel Dr., Dept. ML059, Carmel, IN 46032.

SHE'S BACK!



Florence H. Bassi, M.D.

Florence H. Bassi, M.D., has returned to the medical staff of SRMC and is now in practice with Carolina Eye Associates in Lumberton.

A native of West Virginia, Dr. Bassi's practice includes general ophthalmology as well as laser surgery of the eye, and she is certified by the American Board of Ophthalmology.

Dr. Bassi is a graduate of the West Virginia University School of Medicine. She completed an internship at Mercy Hospital in Pittsburgh, PA, and residency training in ophthalmology at the Medical College of Georgia in Augusta.

We can all feel good about each new addition to the medical staff at Southeastern Regional Medical Center. Every physician brings years of education, specialized training and personal expertise to our highly diversified health care team—and to our community.

We'd like to extend a warm welcome back to Dr. Bassi. With your return, there is a significant improvement in the general health of this community.



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