Meditation

Don't just hear God's word, listen too

Meditation



Dr. Jeff Hensley **Pastor** Baptist Church

a story about a man named Eutychus, who was sitting on the sill of a third-floor window listening to the apostle Paul preach when he fell asleep and then fell from the window to his death. The story doesn't end there, for Paul healed the man, but it is a story I think about whenever I see someone fall asleep in church.

Of course, we are living in Kings Mountain a busy world and many people work 60 hours a week before they ever come to church on a

Sunday morning, so what right do I, or any other pastor for that matter, have to condemn someone for going to sleep in church? Some people also fall asleep because of their medications, and sometimes they fall asleep because we pastors can be boring, so there are obvious reasons for the weariness.

As a general rule, I don't say too much about this, and if a congregation is healthy and growing in Christ then why should the preacher worry too much about a few mid-sermon catnaps? Yet, there are times when I find myself wondering if the Church today has not gone to sleep spiritually, and if I sense that is the case then I think it deserves a nudge from the pulpit.

Listening is not an easy task, of course, and far

In the book of Acts there is too few of us really know how to listen actively. I have watched worshipers for example, as they have sat in their favorite spots with their arms folded and a scowl on their faces. Although I am no expert in body language, even I can see that such a person is closed off to the Word that is being preached. Furthermore, when there are believers who sit weekly in a pew with their bodies awake but their souls obviously asleep, I find myself wanting to scream out: "Wake up Church!"

> Those who are faithful believers need to remember that God's Word demands active listening, but even more so, it demands active doing. Whether we read it in our own quiet time with God, hear it spoken or taught by another believer, or receive it from a preacher in a pulpit, God's Truth demands a response from us.

> I have always been told that if you don't practice your gifts or talents, whatever they may be, you will lose the use of them. It was as Mars Hill College that I first learned to read the Bible in its original languages of Hebrew and Greek, and every since then I have forced myself to read the Scriptures in the original languages on a regular basis so that I would not allow my skill to become rusty.

There is nothing that frustrates me as a pastor any more than to see believers let their ability to hear the Word of God rust for lack of use, which is why I think we all need to be reminded of the importance of listening actively to God's Word.

Briefs

Women's Explosion

Adams Chapel AME Zion Church will sponsor Women's Explosion 2010 Nov. 20 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. on the theme "There is A Queen for You" and on the topic, "Triumph over Evil."

Registration is free beginning at 9 a.m. Lunch will be served after the

Featured speakers are Elder Dakota McCullough of Friendship Christian Center in Gastonia, Evangelist Robin Bamberg of Mount Zion Restoration in Gastonia, and pastor Tresia Hicklin of Gilmore Chapel in Concord. Gwen Berry will be soloist, and praise and worship will be led by the Life of Worship Praise Team with dance by Tiffney Williams, special presentation by Louise Lomick and special testimony by Sinetra Jeter.

Door prizes will also be presented. Call Dorothy Gill at 704-868-9381 for more information.

Singing Christmas

The Singing Christmas Tree at Double Springs Baptist Church will start the Christmas season with services Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings Nov. 26-28. Tickets are free of charge but are required and may be

obtained by calling the church office. at 704-434-2258 or calling Debbie Bridges at 704-692-2975.

Chicken Pie supper

Dover Baptist Church, 1501 Polkville Rd., Shelby, will serve a chicken pie supper Saturday from 5-7 p.m. Takeouts are available or enjoy Christian fellowship in the dining area. All proceeds are earmarked for construction of a new picnic shelter. The public is invited.

"Southland" to sing Saturday

The popular gospel singing group "Southland" will sing Saturday, Nov. 20, at 7 p.m. at Harvest Baptist Church, 144 Ware Rd. The public is invited.

Grover 2011 calendar

Grover Woman's Club is conducting the annual listing of birthdays, anniversaries and memories for the 2011 Community Calendar which will go on sale at \$3 and 50 cents per listing. Call Betsy Wells, 704-739-1545 for more information.

Fellowship & Faith

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704-739-3773

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dixonpresbyterian.com

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704-739-3215

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308 York Road

704-739-8055

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tist Church

704-739-9939

Church

East Gold Street Wesleyan

East Kings Mountain Church

Hwy 161, Bessemer City/KM

Eastside Baptist Church

Ebenezer Baptist Church

El Bethel United Methodist

Emmanuel Independent Bap-

Notice

In order to accommodate the

number of churches in our

communities, we will print two

alternating lists of churches

each week. If you don't see the

church you're looking for, be sure

to check next weeks paper.

1621 County Line Road

122 El-bethel Road

602 Canterbury Road

Faith Ablaze Church

1128 S. York Road

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704-739-0310

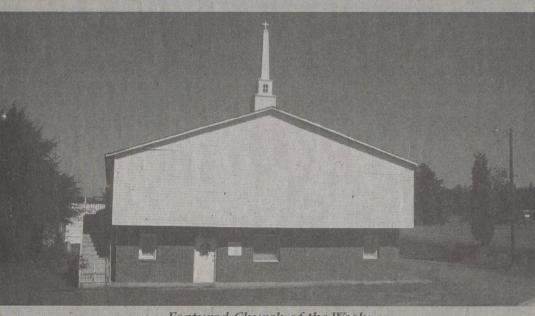
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Baptist



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Calvary Way Holiness Church 1017 Second Street Pastor Clifton Morgan

Carson Memorial Baptist Church 262 Sparrow Springs Road 704-739-2247

Central United Methodist Church 113 S. Piedmont Avenue

704-739-2471 Cherokee St. Baptist Church

421 S. Cherokee Street

704-739-7697 **Chestnut Ridge Baptist**

Church 618 Chestnut Ridge Road 704-739-4015

Christian Freedom Southern **Baptist Church** 246 Range Road 704-739-4152

Christ The King Catholic Church 714 Stone Street 704-487-7697

Church at Kings Mountain 108 E. Mountain St. (KM Women's Club Bldg.) 704-739-1323

704-739-4747

Faith Baptist Church 1009 Linwood Road 704-739-8396

704-739-8496

Faith Holiness Church Hwy. 161/Bessemer City Rd. 704-739-1997

Family Worship Center 1818 Shelby Road 704-739-7206

First Baptist Church 605 W. King Street 704-739-3651

First Church of the Nazarene 121 Countryside Road 704-734-1143

First Presbyterian Church 111 E. King Street 704-739-8072

First Wesleyan Church 505 N. Piedmont Avenue 104-139-4200

Galilee United Methodist 117 Galilee Church Road 704-739-7011

Gospel Assembly Church 202 S. Railroad Avenue 704-739-5351

Good Hope Presbyterian Church 105 N. Cansler Street 704-739-1062

Grace Fellowship 144 West Mountain Street 704-481-8888

Grace United Methodist Church 830 Church Street 704-739-6000

Harvest Baptist Church 144 Ware Road

704-734-0714 Kings Mountain Baptist Church

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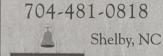
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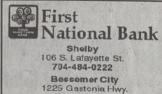
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