

The Southeast Sower

S O U T H E A S T C H U R C H O F C H R I S T

The Southeast
church of
Christ meets
at:

35 Walnut Ct.
Mogadore, OH
44260

Phone:
330.628.7432

SERVICES:

Sunday

Bible Study:

10:00 am

Worship:

10:50 am

6:00 pm

Wednesday

Bible Study:

7:30 pm

NOTE: Late last year some of our young men approached me and asked about submitting articles for the Sower. I encouraged them to do so and in this issue we have published articles by Jaron Smith and Jared Jenkins. We appreciate the effort our young men are putting forth in serving the congregation. Be sure to thank them!

HUMILITY

By: Jaron Smith

Celebration dances are a big thing in modern day football. On TV, after every touchdown, sack, or other big play, the athlete usually celebrates, portraying the excitement, and drawing attention to himself for the play that he made. He exalts himself over the other players, showing how much better he performed during that play. When you look at these celebrations, these athletes are forgetting about the team effort that was put in, and are caught up in the moment of what they just accomplished. They let their ego get in the way, and forget about all of the events that led to their success. Sometimes we can be like these athletes, relying on our own

talents, and thinking that we are better than we really are, leaving God in the background. We have been warned of this mistake in Matthew 23:12, where we are told that if we exalt ourselves we will be humbled. We must not get big headed, and exalt ourselves because as Proverbs 11:2 says, "When pride comes, then comes dishonor, But with the humble is wisdom," and Proverbs 16:18, "Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall."

In the Bible, there are many instances where pride becomes a problem, and one must humble himself before God. An example of this is Naaman in the Old Testament. Naaman was a commander of the king's army, and was plagued with leprosy. As the

story goes, Naaman went to Israel to be cured of his leprosy, and was told to go wash in the Jordan. Nevertheless, being a high-ranking commander, Naaman's pride caused a problem. Naaman thought he was too good to wash in the dirty waters of the Jordan. He thought that there should have been some grand celebration like Elisha performing some magnificent miracle, or some magnificent ritual to cure him. However, if he wanted to be cleansed, he had to humble himself and accept the instructions given by Elisha through his servant. We must learn from this example, and humble ourselves so that God can cleanse us.

Another example of one being humbled is the Pharisee in the parable of the Tax collector and the Pharisee (Luke 18:9-

14). As the story goes, the Pharisee and the tax collector are in the temple praying. While the Pharisee was praying, he was basically saying, "God, look at how great I am compared to the others. Look at all I do for you," and brags about how great he is. The tax collector on the other hand, would not even look up as he prays, and asks the Lord to have mercy on him. The reason for this parable we are told was because of the ones who "trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others." The point of this parable is that physical works will not gain entrance to heaven, but our humble obedience to God. In Matthew 6:2-4 we are told, "Therefore, when you do a charitable deed, do not sound a trumpet before you as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory from men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. But when you do a charitable deed, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, that your charitable deed may be in secret, and you Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you openly." Only when we achieve humility in spirit throughout a faithful life will we receive our reward in heaven.

Know The Whole Story
By: Jared Jenkins

We all know those Biblical accounts that we have been told from our childhood on up. Those stories that taught us valuable lessons. As valuable

as those things are, if we put ourselves in those people's shoes some of us might have done the same exact thing.

Take Moses, in Exodus chapter 3. God called upon Moses to lead his people out of Egypt. Moses was making excuses not to go. Looking back in Exodus chapter 2 verses 11 to the end of the chapter we see, what I believe, is the reason why he was reluctant to go.

In verse 12, he killed an Egyptian for smiting his fellow Hebrew. In verse 15 it reads, "Now when Pharaoh heard this, he sought to slay Moses." Then he flees to the land of Midian and works for his father-in-law.

To recap, God was asking Moses to go back to Egypt (a land he is wanted dead by Pharaoh) to lead his people out of the land. Knowing this, would we be willing to go back? Would we make excuses?

While Paul was in Lystra in Acts 14:19-20 it reads, "Then some Jews came from Antioch and Iconium and won the crowd over. They stoned Paul dragged him out of the city, thinking he was dead. But after the disciples had gathered around him, he got up and went back into the city. The next day he and Barnabas left for Derbe." Paul was stoned almost to the brink of death (I believe God played a part in his survival, but it's not said); and he still went back into the city. Could you have done it?

Note: Again, appreciate the efforts of these two young people. I believe next month we will have an article for publica-

tion written by Janson Smith, another of our young men.

"His Great Love With Which He Loved Us" (Eph. 2:4)
By: Ed Holcomb

The Ephesians are reminded of the marvelous favor shown them by God. They had been dead in their trespasses and sins, living lives as dictated by Satan (2:1-3). They were enemies (Rom. 5:10; Jam. 4:4), doomed sinners without hope and without God in the world (2:12). But due to the greatness of His love and the richness of His mercy, even when they were dead in sin, they were made alive in Christ (2:5). When they accepted Jesus as Lord (as preached by Paul, Acts 19:4-5) and united themselves with him in baptism (Rom. 6:3-5; Acts 19:5), being baptized into him as they put Him on (Gal. 3:26-27), they were saved by grace through faith as the context makes clear (Eph. 2:8). Now in Christ Jesus they had been brought near by the blood, reconciled to God and with their Jewish brethren in the church (2:16). They now were no longer aliens and strangers, they no longer belonged to Satan but were fellow saints and citizens and of God's household! A holy temple in the Lord built into a dwelling of God in the Spirit (2:19-22). O what wonderful and marvelous love, grace, and mercy.

Note: Our Spring meeting has been set for April 12-17 with brother David Flatt