

Those Who Serve

Opening Prayer	June 5 Joe Holloway	June 12 John Story
Song Leader	Kwesi Garvin	Joe Burnsed
Communion	Olan Bacon	Joe Burnsed
Assist	Mike Powell	Olan Bacon
Assist	Aaron Burnsed	Kwesi Garvin
Dismiss Services	Joe Burnsed	Kwesi Garvin



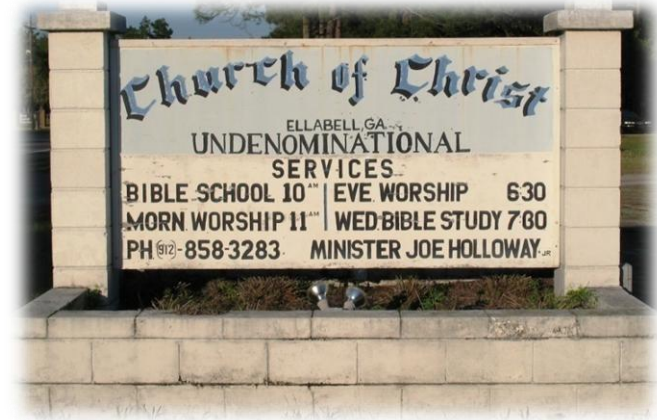
"OUR DAD JUST GOT HOME FROM A 'DAD THE FAMILY SHEPHERD' CONFERENCE!"

If you enjoyed reading our bulletin, please pass or forward it to others interested in the Cause of Christ

<http://ellabellcofchome.webs.com/>

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ELLABELL CHURCH OF CHRIST



Speaking Where The Bible Speaks; Silent Where The Bible Is Silent

June 5, 2011

Dumbing Down of Christianity

By Phil Robertson

Did you know that 10% of church goers in America believe that Joan of Arc was Noah's wife? That really should not surprise us, since less than 20% of "church goers" will attend Sunday school this week. A lack of biblical knowledge in churches seems to be a sign of the times.

Popular Christian researcher George Barna claims people are soft when it comes to committing to God. "Americans are willing to expend some energy in religious activities such as attending church and reading the Bible, and they are willing to throw some money in the offering basket. Because of such activities, they convince themselves that they are people of genuine faith. But when it comes time to truly establishing their priorities and making a tangible commitment to knowing and loving God, and to allowing Him to change their character and lifestyle, most people stop short. We want to be 'spiritual' and we want to have God's favor, but we're not sure we want Him taking control of our lives and messing with the image and outcomes we've worked so hard to produce" (www.barna.org - April 18, 2006).

As frustrating as this may be for church leaders, we need to ask ourselves, "Are we seeking ways to reverse this trend or are we contributing to the problem?" It seems churches have resorted to entertaining the masses instead of educating. You may be more likely to

get a drama or extravaganza when you “go to church” than a Bible class or a sermon. In fact, a local news station recently ran a story on a church that had replaced all preaching with plays.

Jesus was faced with a similar dilemma during His ministry. He knew people were not following Him for the right reasons. So, He refused to feed them. “Most assuredly I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw the signs, but because you ate the loaves and were filled. Do not labor for food which perishes, but for food which endures to everlasting life, which the Son of Man will give you” (John 6:26-27).

Instead of seeking to emulate theaters and concert halls, maybe churches would have better attendance and more commitment if they to looked and acted like a church. In its infancy, Christianity was grounded in teaching and preaching the gospel of Christ. Young evangelists were admonished to “Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching” (1 Timothy 4:2). Why was there such an emphasis on education? Because the gospel, and only the gospel, “is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes” (Romans 1:16).

In conclusion, this may be the most disturbing statistic. About one-third of Americans who describe themselves as “born again” believe that if a person is good enough they can earn a place in heaven. That is scary! Many in churches do not understand the most fundamental biblical doctrine – grace. No one will ever be “good enough” to go to heaven (Ephesians 2:4-9). The gospel is “good news” for this very reason. Jesus died in our place and then was raised from the dead (2 Timothy 2:8). We are saved by His blood not our own goodness (Romans 6:3-10).

However, if we do not preach it, people will not learn it. Biblical faith begins with the word of God (Romans 10:17). That is why the apostle Peter said, “Beware lest you fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen” (2 Peter 3:17-18). (All statistics from www.barna.org)

The Cleaning Woman

There was a little old cleaning woman that went to the local church. When the invitation was given at the end of the service, she went forward wanting to become a member. The preacher listened as she told him how she had accepted Jesus and wanted to be baptized and become a member of the church.

The preacher thought to himself, "oh my, she is so unkempt, even smells a little, and her fingernails are not clean. She

picks up garbage, cleans toilets – what would the members think of her." He told her that she needed to go home and pray about it and then decide.

The following week, here she came again. She told the preacher that she had prayed about it and still wanted to be baptized. "I have passed this church for so long. It is so beautiful, and I truly want to become a member."

Again the preacher told her to go home and pray some more.

A few weeks later while out eating at the restaurant, the preacher saw the little old lady. He did not want her to think that he was ignoring her so he approached her and said, "I have not seen you for a while. Is everything all right?"

"Oh, yes," she said. "I talked with Jesus, and he told me not to worry about becoming a member of your church."

"He did?" said the preacher.

"Oh, yes" she replied. "He said even He hasn't been able to get into your church yet, and He's been trying for years."

(Yet another great piece of literature shamelessly copied from the bulletin of the Booker Church of Christ, Booker, TX - Thanks Brother Don!)



Another item of interest from Booker. Their fine preacher, Brother Bob Taylor recently celebrated his 65th birthday. Bob Taylor
Booker Church of Christ
PO Box 490
Booker, TX 79005
Booker has supported us in Missions for years and provided many bulletin articles for the stealing.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Save –Labels, Food Pantry Items, Change Jar, Cans, Medicine Bottles, & OTC Medicines

Calendar for June– on back pew

Raintree Village Truck-coming in **TOMORROW**, List of needs on back pew

SOCIAL – This Wednesday night after Bible Study