

## WHAT WE NEED IN THE CHURCH TODAY

**More knocking on doors and less knocking on each other.** The great commission demands that we busy ourselves in taking the Gospel to others (Mark 16:15). The Bible says, “Speak not evil one of another” (Jam. 4:11). It is so much better to be busy doing good rather than evil.

**More sound heads and fewer soreheads.** Perhaps there has never been a time in the history of the church in which we have had a greater need for men sound in the faith and wise in judgment. Sometimes the voice of the wise goes unheeded and the voice of the foolish takes over (cf. 1 Kgs. 12:6-8).

**More open hearts and fewer open mouths.** All conduct proceeds from the heart. Prejudice closes the heart to a true consideration of the facts. If the heart was made right before the mouth was opened, most church problems locally and universally would cease to exist (Jam. 3:5-6; Pro. 26:20).

**More seed-slinging and less mud-slinging.** The task of sowing the seed of the kingdom is so great that it should leave no time for the slinging of mud at a brother. The fact that we have the whole world as our foes should draw us closer together (Pro. 18:24). There should be no division in the Lord’s camp (1 Cor. 1:10). One can never whitewash himself by slinging mud at another. He who tries gets his own hands dirty.

**More sacrifice of self and less sacrifice of others.** There are plenty of members of the church who are willing to sacrifice the other fellow—his talent, his time, his money, and even perhaps his reputation. Sacrifice should begin at home (Luke 9:23).

**More concern over direction than speed.** This is the jet and missile age. Speed is being enthroned and multitudes bow before it. But in the Lord’s work, the greater question is not: “How fast are we traveling?” but rather, “Which way are we going?” (John 14:6; Mat. 7:13-14). All speed is not progress. On the other hand, neither is standing still.

**Leroy Brownlow**

## WILL YOU STAND?

In Jeremiah 20:7-8, the discouraged and downhearted prophet prayed to his heavenly Master. The Lord had encouraged him to become a prophet in earlier times. Unsure at first, he later came into the prophetic position with confidence of heart and soul. Yet, it seemed by doing such work, he only brought daily ridicule and continuous scoffing upon himself. He was nothing more than a fool to those he sought to teach. Jeremiah was not lifeless in his message. He delivered it in an energetic, fervent style with the fury of a passionate prophet on fire for the Lord. The great unpopularity of his message caused him to be viewed as a hindrance by others, just as men of God’s word are often viewed today.

If you continue to read to verse nine, you’ll see that at this point the prophet felt he wanted to return to his private way of life. If he did follow through with such an action, he would no longer speak the words with which the heavenly Father entrusted him! This was something that he would realize was easier said than done. God’s word was not an ineffective force in his life. It was the opposite. God’s word was as “a burning fire shut up in my bones” (Jeremiah 20:9). He realized he could no longer restrain it. The words he was given had to be spoken! They had to break out from his heart, for the word of God would not allow him to stop the saving message.

We see how the attitude and frame of mind of the prophet changes in the verses to follow. The insulting plans and the vicious strategies of his declared adversaries no longer frightened him. No longer are his enemies just hateful in the verbal sense. Now they are out to annihilate him. We see in verse 10 how in their cruel circles they encouraged each other to keep an evil eye of study upon him.

His familiar friends were against him and sought to destroy him. “All my familiars watched for my halting” (Jeremiah 20:10)! His friends spoke well of him to his face, but when his back was turned, they thrust daggers into it as they impatiently awaited his stumbling. We too find ourselves of similar situations. We are persecuted, laughed at, spoken

against, and betrayed just as Jeremiah was — just as Christ was!

In verse 11, we read of his trust in the rock that is our Lord, “But the LORD is with me as a mighty terrible one” (Jeremiah 20:11). We too should look to the Lord, our rock of salvation and “our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble” (Psalm 46:1).

We see how God has protected the assaulted Prophet. His vengeance brought on Jeremiah’s enemies would be a fearful weight for them. So the question here is this: when we are being spoken badly of, laughed at, made into a laughing stock, what will our reaction be? What will your reaction be? Will your reaction be as Jeremiah’s? Will it be of fierce dedication that couldn’t be shaken, or will we be beaten down like gravel on a pathway?

Will you stand strong on God’s word, believing and knowing that if you do so, he will deliver you from such enemies, and that they will reap what they have sown. For this writer, when these words are read, they are of great encouragement. We see how God puts His word in us as a burning fire. Words that cannot be held in. Words that must be preached no matter the outcome. Words that must be taught no matter the opinions of others.

We see the protection that God provides to the faithful. Did he say we wouldn’t be attacked? No. “As sheep in the midst of wolves” (Matthew 10:16), we are sent to preach the gospel. If we are faithful and do the will of the Father, we will receive our reward of eternal life with Him.

So how will you stand? Will you be able to stand as Jeremiah did, or “will you also go away” (John 6:67)?

**Russ Earl from West End Watchman**

*“Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.”*

**Ephesians 6:11**

## **ANNIVERSARY**

Ralph and Helen Franklin, 08-10 (60<sup>th</sup>).

## **BIRTHDAY**

Sarah Marcum, 08-08.

## **ILL**

**Sunday:** Chris Edwards (AM). John James' mother is being treated for blood clots at the Olathe Medical Center in Room 403. Allen Scott is scheduled for knee replacement surgery at Olathe Medical Center on August 11. Lynda Cole's second opinion was the same as the first and she will be scheduled for heart valve replacement surgery in October.

**Those battling cancer:** Diane Cannon, Ledgia Campbell and Ron Wood. Please remember these in your prayers, as well as: Janice Carter, Lynda Cole, Millie Robertson, Allen Scott, and Ralph and Helen Franklin.

## **HOME BOUND**

Bob Adams is in Room D-4 of the Johnson County Nursing Center in Olathe. Marion Stone is at home. Please remember these in your prayers and visitation.

## **OUT OF TOWN**

The Thomas family was in Minneapolis, MN last weekend to attend an award ceremony with Evan.

## **POT LUCK**

Our monthly Pot Luck Dinner will be held this Sunday, August 6<sup>th</sup> following our AM worship. Come and enjoy the good food and company!

## **MEN'S BUSINESS MEETING**

Our monthly Men's Business Meeting will be held next Sunday, August 13<sup>th</sup> following our AM worship. All men of the congregation are encouraged to attend.

## **ATTENDANCE**

Sunday AM, 53; Sunday PM, 51; Wednesday PM, 48.

## **Those To Serve**

August 6, 2006

**BUILDING AND COMMUNION..... Nelson**

### **MORNING WORSHIP**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS..... George Thomas**  
**SONG LEADER..... Joel Nelson**  
**OPENING PRAYER ..... Myron Nebergall**  
**PRESIDE..... Jeff Nemechek**  
**ASSIST..... Jared Nelson**  
**ASSIST..... John James**  
**CLOSING PRAYER..... John Cody Carter**

### **EVENING WORSHIP**

**OPENING PRAYER ..... Charles Tullis**  
**CLOSING PRAYER..... John Carter**  
**LORD'S SUPPER..... Jeff Nemechek**

### **WEDNESDAY 9th**

**SONG LEADER..... George Thomas**  
**INVITATION ..... Trent Thrasher**

## **WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

### **Sunday**

Bible Study ..... 9:30 AM  
Morning Worship ..... 10:30 AM  
Evening Worship ..... 6:00 PM

### **Wednesday**

Ladies Bible Study ..... 10:00 AM  
Bible Study ..... 7:00 PM

**Preacher: Ted J. Thrasher**

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