

Heaven

May 18, 2008

"In my Father's house are many dwelling places... I go to prepare a place for

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Charlestown Road Church of Christ

4601 Charlestown Rd.
New Albany, IN 47150
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Web site:

www.Charlestownroadchurchof-christ.com

Our Services

Sunday

Bible Class: 9:30 am
Worship: 10:20 am
Evening: 5:00 pm

Wednesday

Bible Study 7:00 pm

Our Preachers:

Roger Shouse 816-260-1257
Patrick Cawthon 813-817-2810

Our Elders:

Larry Beckham 502-777-7720
Bill Densford 812-944-8446



I Wonder

Today someone I knew died. He had listened to me preach many times. His passing has caused me to wonder...

I wonder if he knew today was going to be his last day? His death was sudden. His death was unexpected. Did he have a sense that today was different than other days? This is a very humbling and sobering thought. Everything that we do today may be the last time we do it. Does this cause me to count my blessings and thank my Lord?

I wonder if my preaching did him any good? He had heard many sermons. Sermons are vehicles that can instruct us and move us closer to the Lord. Many of us have heard hundreds if not thousands of sermons in our life. I have preached over 2,000 sermons. I wonder if they have done me any good. Preaching can help us if we allow it to sink deep into our hearts. Preaching can change a person. We are preaching to people who are racing toward eternity. Preachers need to remember that!

I wonder if he was ready to meet God. I think he was. I want to hope he was. There are always things that need to be done. There are always words that need to be spoken. There are always rays of sunshine that we can send to sad and broken hearts. Our work is never over. But a person can live day by day, with the Lord. His relationship can be such that he is ready to meet God. We sing, "Are you ready, are you ready..." I wonder if he was ready. I wonder if I am really ready.

I wonder what his family is going through today. All

of their plans have been interrupted and changed today. A death has occurred. Funeral arrangements have to be made. Decisions must be made. Important papers have to be found. Phone calls must be made. Flowers must be ordered. Plans must be coordinated to get everyone to the funeral home and cemetery. The family is very busy today. The sun is still shining and the birds are still singing for the rest of us, but for this man's family, they won't notice because their thoughts are with their loved one. I hope they remember to pray today. I hope they thank the Lord for being blessed to belong to such a good man. I wonder what my family would do at my death? I will say a prayer for this family.

I wonder what he is doing right now?

I wonder what it is like to be carried by angels? I wonder what he saw the first five minutes after he died? I wonder what "comforted in Abraham's bosom" really means? I wonder who he has met today? I wonder if he has seen my Mom. Don't you think he is so glad that he believed in Christ? I wonder if he is singing? If he is, I wonder what song he's singing? I expect he wishes he could scoop up his wife and bring her up there to show her all the wonderful things he is now seeing. I'm certain that he is so glad that he is with the Lord. He has probably not thought much about his death. His attention is upon the heavenly scene that is before him. Finally home, what a wonderful thought! Do you ever "wonder?" It does a person good to wonder now and then.



Ecc 7:2 "It is better to go to a house of mourning than to go to a house of feasting, because that is the end of every man, and the living takes it to heart."

Understanding Toes & the Church



Go to the *American Lung Association* with a toe problem and ask for help. What would happen? Chances are good that those folks would be unable to assist you. Their area of expertise is the lung. They aren't the **American Toe Association**. They do lungs and anything associated with lungs.

Does that mean that they are not compassionate about toe problems? Does that mean that they don't care? Is the *American Lung Association* against toes? Do they hate toes? Are they really a medical organization if they don't take care of your toes?

Not at all. The *American Lung Association* has a mission. They stay committed to their mission. Their target is healthy lungs. Period.

Jesus established the church with a specific mission. The church is in the spiritual business of helping souls prepare for eternity. The church is to teach the Gospel of Jesus. The church is to encourage one another (Eph. 4:11-16). Everything the church does, must surround it's mission. The church must be committed to it's mission. The church must stay on target. The church focuses on souls. Period.

1 Tim. 3:15 but in case I am delayed, I write so that you may know how one ought to conduct himself in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth.

When people want to play sports, be fed, babysat, entertain teenagers, find a job, or a million other secular and social activities, they should not look to the church to provide these things. It is simply not the mission of the church. The church does souls. Just as the *American Lung Association* doesn't hate your feet because it remains committed to it's purpose of lungs, the church does not hate you because it will not provide these services. The church must stay on target of getting souls ready for heaven. The church is not uncaring, nor unChristian for refusing to do these things. If anything, it shows how serious and dedicated it is by refusing to abandon it's mission. Leading souls on a spiritual journey to Heaven takes all the effort and resources that the church has. Leading souls to Heaven is the most important job the church can do and it is precisely what you should want the church to do. Let us remain focused and stay true to our mission that Christ started. **The church is in the soul business!**



Family Connections

News for You

- **Patrick Cawthon** is preaching this evening's lesson
- **Shelena & Lark Mullins** are the parents of **Merick Ellis**, who was born on Thurs. (7 lbs, 21 inches long)
- The **Merry's** will be out of town for the next couple of weeks
- See the bulletin board for senior get-togethers

Our **Sam Jeffers** passes away

Sam left our world on Tuesday morning. Services were held yesterday. Sam was a vibrant, joyful man of God. He left his imprint upon his children and grandchildren. His kind doesn't come often and their passing is noted.



The Psalmist wrote: *The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord; He delighteth in his way* (Ps 37:23)

Remember Sam, Jr. Mike, Vicki, and all their families at this time. They were blessed to have known such a wonderful man.

For your Prayers:

- Be sure and remember **Malcom Hall** in your prayers. Charlene could use encouragement.
- **Imogene Hendricks** has been in the hospital.
- Remember **Blake Cunningham, Joyce Dalton, Carley Lile, and the Mullins family**
- **Melissa Linton's** father-in-law passed away Monday.

Personal work Group # 9 will meet today after AM services at Gabhart's home

