

unspoken, then later to haunt you with regret. Not tomorrow, but today, tell someone you love how you feel. Remember, you and your loved one are dying.



Tori Beckett
07/24
Ken McWilliams
07/29
Don Lindsey
07/30



Travis & Amber
Durham 07/28
Roger & Angela
Hazelwood
07/28



The following girls would like to take this time to say thank you for sending them to Surprise Valley Youth Camp: Charity Ray, Hannah Gates and Kari Hazelwood. They all had a great time at camp.

Vacation Bible School July 27-29, 2011; On Wednesday July 27th, we will begin our VBS with the story of the Ethiopian Eunuch. Thursday night will be the story of Jocabed, Amram, Aaron, Miriam and Baby Moses. We will end on Friday night with the story of Naaman.

Prayer List: **Cancer:** Kenneth Dunn; Allen Mooney; Rhonda Bogus; Rick Campbell; Debbie Boggs; Johnnie Blaylock Lewis Blaylock; Lowell Crumfield & Barbara Hill and; Tammy Hodges; Barbara Francis Don Hill. **Health Problems:** Virgil & Emma Steele; Donald Rife; Eugene Holdren; Patricia Rotenbury; Steve and Pam Poorman's-daughter; Glenna Dempsey; Marlin Harles; Hazel Farr & JR Farr; Jean Walden; Sonya Radford; Kara Christian; Gary Durham; Arnold Dempsey; Ken McWilliams; Gene Booth; Wanda Rowe; Diane Haleston; Billy Myers; Zack Holland; Mini Mills; Calvin O'Donnell; Larry Scott; Darlene Myers. **Strokes:** Richard Clement; Amanda Lance. **Other:** Rex "Jimmy" Backus heart and lung problem; Tony & Robin Hodges-personal problems; Dosie Branscome-Heart problems; Brandon Grove-back broken; Katie Hensley arthritis; Shelby Lindsey-fibromyalgia; Beth Kosinar-baby—needs intestinal surgery; Junior Taylor-pace maker; Kenny Asbury- symptom of Parkinson's Disease and problems with his neck Kyle Hockenberry-stepped on a land mine and lost both legs above the knee, one arm, broken back and broken arm. Susan Burdette's son Jeff Wiley Hamilton has cancer; Gary Server- leg taken off. Betty Bailey-not eating; The Brooke family, Ken McWilliams friend Wolf - eye problem. **Alzheimer's:** Zella England; Mary Lou Thomas, & Leo Hamby . **Nursing home:** Peggy Barie is in the Loving Hands Adult Care; Ethel Pitzer- Country View Assisted Living; **Military:** Zachary McConnell. **Sympathy:** Nana Lou Asbury Compton loss of her husband Roy Compton, Debbie Jones loss of her Grandfather Robert Poore; Phyllis Davis and Nancy Tilley loss of their sister Sandra Pennington; Darlene Fletcher, Roger Hazelwood and Hazel Anderson loss of a relative-Melinda Neely.

Mini-Gospel
Meeting July 30-31, 2011

Mailing Address:
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Rich Creek, VA 24147
wwjd@exhorter.com

Preacher:
Roger Hazelwood:
Cell: 304-324-7799
rlh90@comcast.net

Services:
Sunday:
Bible Study: 9:30 AM
Worship: 10:30 AM
Bible Study: 6:PM
Wednesday: 6:PM

Serving Communion:
James Asbury
Don Davis
Darrell Fletcher

TV Programs on Sunday
In Search of the Lord's
Way 7:30 am
INSP Channel

The Gospel of Christ
10:am CW Channel
www.wvvacofc.com

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Church of Christ



 2011 Phyllis Davis

Exhorter July 24, 2011



IS GOD LIKE US?

By Dennis Curd

The creation record tells us that God has made us in His image (Gen. 1:26f). All that entails will never be perfectly clear, but we do know that it is true. Yet, the propensity of man is to turn that around and seek to define God after our image. We would rather God be accommodative to our design than for us to be patterned after His design. Man's suffering caused by sin is a direct result of our attempt to force God into our mold.

The Psalmist once wrote, "the mighty God, even the Lord hath spoken, and called the earth from the rising of the sun unto the going down thereof. He shall call to the heavens above, and to the earth, that he may judge his people" (Psa. 50:1,4). From God's perspective as Creator and Master, he can see all of man's works in light of His own tremendous work. All of His majesty indicts the feeble attempts of man to be a god unto himself.

Sacrifice provides an important reminder of who is in charge. God defines His saints, the holy people, as those that have made a covenant with Him by means of sacrifice (Psa. 50:5). The basic requirement involved in covenant relationship between God and man is for man to offer sacrifice before the one who is greater. As long as man's pride keeps him from humbly submitting before God, then man remains in defiance. One's pride strives to seek some way to force God to accept him as he is.

Sacrifice comes in various forms. In the past it was primarily in the form of animal sacrifice, but also in tithing of all the bounty of life. Blood sacrifice had the effect of atonement, but also the element of thanksgiving similar to tithing. The faithful offered to God out of humble contrition, submitting to the will of God (Isa. 66:2). The wicked either did not offer any form of sacrifice, or they offered it with an impenitent heart. They offered it as if it were a bribe that would pacify God the same way they themselves might be bought off. In the New Testament Jesus is the only sacrifice that is needed. But even there God expects us to bring to him all of our selves with an attitude that acknowledges His greatness.

How empty such service is before God if it comes from a heart that sees God as nonessential or a power to be pacified. The Psalmist again told the people: "Whoso offereth praise glorifieth me: and to him that ordereth his conversation aright will I show the salvation of God (Psa. 50:23)." God is never like us in our sin, and despite our attempts He can never be made what we

want Him to be. However, when we are like God in our lives He is capable of providing us the power to accomplish all that is good for us in every thing. Let's be wise enough to remember who it is that is to rule all things!



Family Radio: A "Non-Prophet" Organization by Steve Higginbotham

For more than a month now, I have been anxiously awaiting the date May 21, 2011. In fact, I listened to Mr. Camping nearly every day for more than a month as he emphatically proclaimed that Jesus would return on May 21. Of course his prediction was wrong. Jesus didn't return at 6:00 p.m. on May 21.

However, I made a prediction of my own leading up to May 21. I predicted to my wife that when Camping is proven to be wrong, he will "spiritualize" the event. In other words, he will claim that what he was teaching was fulfilled but in an "invisible way." Sure enough, last night Mr. Camping finally broke his silence and spoke. Do you know what he said? Here's an excerpt...

"On May 21, this last weekend, this is where the spiritual aspect of it really

comes through. God again brought judgment on the world. We didn't see any difference but God brought Judgment Day to bear upon the whole world. The whole world is under Judgment Day and it will continue right up until October 21, 2011 and by that time the whole world will be destroyed."

So if you ask me, my prediction was more accurate than his. I can understand and be patient with Mr. Camping about being mistaken. Countless people are mistaken about many biblical teachings. What I'm not as patient with is his unwillingness to acknowledge his error, and his apparent lack of concern and responsibility for all the people that he misled (many of whom are now facing financial ruin), and his flip-pant and calloused response when asked about those who are now suffering due to their trust in him. He dismissed those concerns by saying, that they just need to cope and that they aren't the first people to lose their homes, and that there are a lot of people who have it worse than the average "Family Radio" listener. Camping also emphatically asserted that they would not return any money to those who donated to him.

So while others suffer for their misplaced faith in a misguided teacher, Mr. Camping will continue to live with the temporary benefits and security that millions of dollars can provide. While I do not believe that Mr. Camping is any more right about his predictions of October 21, 2011 than he was with May 21, 2011, I am certain that Jesus is coming again and there will be a day of Judgment. My advice is: rather than preparing for the end Octo-

ber 21, 2011 as the day the world will end, we had all better live each day as though it may be our last.



Higgy, I'm Dying
by Steve Higginbotham

Earlier this week, I received an email from an old high school classmate and friend. During our high school years, we were very close. Had a lot of laughs, played a lot of pranks, and helped each other navigate that perilous path that leads one from a boyhood to a young adult. But after graduation from high school, we went our separate ways, and our paths have only briefly crossed once in the past 30 years until last week. Out of the blue, I received a message from my old friend and it said, "Higgy, I'm dying from cancer. Please pray for my family."

That was it. Nothing more. Short and to the point. What took only a few seconds to write has consumed my thoughts this past week. So many memories have flooded my mind. Though I haven't seen this friend but once in 30 years, I feel as though I've been transported back through time and the past 30 years haven't happened. But they have. And I'm heartbroken for my old friend, and will certainly honor his request.

But let this be a reminder to all of us. We're all dying. Whether we are cognizant of it or not, each day we are a day closer to our death.

Therefore, say what you need to say to your friends and family while you have time. Don't allow loving words to go