

The phrase “be not moved away” is grammatically in the passive voice, which means the one being moved is being moved by something other than himself. The protection needed to keep from being moved by this external force is to be grounded and settled into a firm stance. This firm stance comes from hearing the message of the gospel that was preached, in this case by Paul. The gospel provides an anchor to safely hold us through the storms of life. Paul warns the Colossians that the power of Satan and of sin’s allure are seeking desperately to take them. They are not truly passive in the sense that they have no choice, but Satan is truly a roaring lion (1 Pet. 5:8), and, seemingly, who can stand against such a beast? Only those properly armed and protected can defeat the stalking lion, and only the gospel provides such a defense.

Satan can move the Christian if he defeats our “hope of the gospel.” This hope is not the gospel as simply a sermon, or a letter, or a book, but rather, it is the message contained in it. The gospel tells us about Christ and His crucifixion. It tells us of the resurrection and the ascension. It tells us of the kingdom being opened and the Lord adding the saved to this blood purchased church. It tells us of His watchful care over the faithful, and assures us He is coming again to deliver us into His everlasting kingdom. These messages of hope from the gospel keep us focused on Christ. They are essential toward grounding and settling our spiritual lives.

While Satan’s forces are great, the power on the side of the faithful is

much stronger. That power to save is the gospel. The gospel cannot be something that is loosely connected to our lives, but rather it must be a living and active part of all we do and think. It is there that we make our stand firm. God will never leave us or forsake us.



### **Divine Initiative** By David A. Sargent

“The man I ate dinner with tonight killed my brother.”

These words were spoken by a stylish woman at a Prison Fellowship banquet in Seattle, Washington. She told how the man had murdered her brother during a robbery, served 18 years at Walla Walla prison, then settled into life on a dairy farm, where she had met him in 1983, 20 years after his crime. Compelled by the love of Christ, Ruth Youngsman had gone to her enemy and pronounced forgiveness. Then she had taken him to her father’s deathbed, prompting reconciliation.

At the same banquet that night, the forgiven murderer’s voice cracked as he addressed the assembly, “Christians are the only people I know that you can kill their son, and they’ll make you a part of their family. I don’t know the Man Upstairs, but He sure is hounding me.” \*

You and I are essentially guilty of murder, for it was OUR SINS that made the death of Jesus necessary (2 Corinthians 5:21). Yet, it was also for OUR FORGIVENESS that Jesus died that cruel death (Ephesians 1:7). We “killed” the Son of God, but through

His atoning sacrifice, we can be forgiven, become a part of God’s family (the church), and receive the gift of eternal life (Acts 2:38-41; Romans 6:23)!

Barry Newton has written, “We were the ones who broke the relationship by sinning [see Isaiah 59:1-2]. And yet, it was God who took the first step toward healing our relationship. Furthermore, although he was entirely without guilt, Jesus bore our penalty for sin by suffering an ignominious death upon the cross.” “God made the FIRST move! God placed greater value upon restoring our relationship with him than avoiding suffering an injustice. And so, Jesus died for us.” \*\* “But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us... For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life” (Romans 5:8,10).

When WE were the offenders, GOD made the “first move” toward reconciliation. In fact, reconciliation to God is ACCOMPLISHED through Jesus Christ. All we must do to be reconciled to God and thus receive forgiveness and the gift of eternal life is to ACCEPT His offer on His terms.

Through Jesus Christ, we may be reconciled to God when we place our faith and trust in Jesus (Acts 16:30-31), turn from our sins in repentance (Acts 17:30-31), confess Jesus before men (Romans 10:9-10), and are baptized (immersed) into Christ for the forgiveness of our sins (Acts 2:38). The problem of sin that separates us from God

(Isaiah 59:2) has been addressed and removed in the cross. It was accomplished by God in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:18). Won’t YOU accept His offer?



### **Turkey Hotline**

A telephone hotline was set up to answer questions about how to prepare and cook holiday turkeys. That’s right! The Butterball Turkey Company was ready to answer consumer questions about cooking turkey. One woman called to see if a turkey she had in her freezer would be suitable for baking. She told the representative how it had been in the bottom of her freezer for 23 years (yes, 23 YEARS).

The Butterball representative said the turkey would be safe to eat if the freezer had been kept below zero for the entire 23 years, but even if the turkey was safe to eat, the flavor would probably have deteriorated to such a degree that she would not recommend eating it. The caller replied, “That’s what I thought. We’ll give the turkey to our church.” This was a true story shared by Paul Harvey a few years ago (Paul Harvey, daily radio broadcast, 11/22/95). We may get a chuckle out of this story, but we must make sure we are not like the woman who wanted to give the 23 year old turkey to God’s people.

□ We may be like the lady when we do not assist others in the work of the church because it does not benefit us - the lady in the story probably just wanted to get the turkey out of the

freezer.

□ We may be like the lady when we do not truly give as we have been prospered - the lady in the story wanted to give God the leftovers.

□ We may be like the lady when we do not leave the right impression on others when we speak about the church - the lady in the story showed how much Christianity meant to her.

“Seek ye first the kingdom of God” (Matthew 6:33) —Shane Robinson (Bulletingold.com)



*Evelyn Scott*

11/21

*Ruby Biter 11/25*

*Nigel Maxey*

11/29



Our Christmas Dinner is set for December 4, 2011 after Sunday morning Services. Evening services will follow the dinner.

We would like to conduct our men's business meeting next Sunday evening (11/27). If you are going to be out of town and would like to attend please let me know and we can move it to Dec 4, 2011 after our Christmas dinner.



On Tuesday November 29, 2011 from 5-8pm Chick-fil-a at the Mercer Mall will host a fund raiser for Ethan Oliver. Ten percent of all proceeds will be donated to him. (Kathy Hazelwood's nephew).

Prayer List: **Cancer:** Kenneth Dunn; Rhonda Bogus; Rick Campbell; Debbie Boggs; Lowell Crumfield; Barbara Hill; Tammy Hodges; Barbara Francis; Jeff Wiley. **Health problems:** Virgil Steele; Donald Rife; Eugene Holdren; Steve and Pam Poorman's-daughter; Glenna Dempsey; Marlin Harles; Hazel Farr & JR Farr; Jean Walden; Kara Christian; Rex "Jimmy" Backus; Dosie Branscome & Katie Hensley. Arnold Dempsey; Ken McWilliams; Gene Booth; Wanda Rowe; Diane Haleston; Billy Myers; Zack Holland; **Strokes:** Richard Clement; Amanda Lance. **Other:** Shelby Lindsey-fibromyalgia; Kyle Hockenberry-recovering from military injuries; Betty Bailey-not eating; Brooke Family, Ken McWilliams friend Wolf - eye problems; David Carrico-Leukemia; Lura Durham-dizziness; Sean Smither involved in a bad car accident; Robin Hodges; Betty Scott-tests; Hazel Anderson-fluid around her heart; Debbra Lagos-issue with her pregnancy; Justin Begil's nephew Payton - meningitis; Hazel Lowe pneumonia; Whitney Lockman-health problems; Edna Roberts-tumor on thyroid; Kimberly Redden - Spots on lungs; Christine Asbury-recovering from back surgery; David Allen-surgery on his neck; Britney & Caleb Hill -foot and mouth disease; Travis Durham-back problem and pneumonia; Jean Myers-breathing problem; Ethan Oliver-Acute Lymphocytic Leukemia. Konner Lively-Mass; Kim Lively-spots on liver; Dominick Collins-blood in his urine; Kara Hicks-MRI; Krista Stowers-tests; Caleb Hill-swollen airway and asthma; Junior Taylor-recovering from surgery. Debbie Jones-car accident; Gary Durham-hit his head; Ken McWilliams-eye and health problems. **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.

**(No Bulletin Next Week)**

*Mailing Address:*  
211 Church Street  
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  
Evening: 6:PM  
Wednesday: 6:PM

*Serving Communion:*  
Darrell Fletcher  
Don Davis  
James Asbury

*Attendance:*  
November 13 2011  
A.M. Worship -  
P.M. Worship -  
November 16 2011  
Wednesday:

*Contribution: \$ 308.00*

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

*The Gospel of Christ*  
10:am CW Channel  
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## Church of Christ



## Exhorter November 20, 2011



### BE NOT MOVED AWAY By Dennis curd

Paul, in his opening chapter of the letter to the Colossians, reminds those brethren of the power of the cross and the pre-eminence of Christ. He tells them that they are in the church, which is the body of Christ. Christ's headship over them is to be central to their lives. Because of these great blessings from heaven they are obligated to hold onto the gift of God so graciously given. These blessings are contingent on their faithfulness. Notice the concluding conditional statement of Paul's introduction to that church: "If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister" (Col. 1:23) (emphasis mine, DLC).