



August 19, 2007

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Reflections

Echoes of Mercy, Whispers of Love

Dr. Neil Lightfoot, noted scholar and longtime professor of Bible at Abilene Christian University, is among the most skillful Bible expositor I've ever known. His deep devotion and stirring insight to the Biblical text is truly inspirational.

Some time ago, I was privileged to sit at the feet of this capable, distinguished lover of God's word for the class "The Gospel of John." The notes I took from Dr. Lightfoot's lectures are among the most cherished in my personal library.

Among the many remarkable insights he shared with the class, there is one which stands out in particular. It has its roots in John, chapter ten. Jesus said, "...*the sheep listen to the voice of the shepherd...His sheep follow him because they hear his voice. But they will not follow a stranger: in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger's voice. I am the good shepherd.*" (vv. 3-14)

Commenting on this text, Dr. Lightfoot noted, "As sheep must be close to the shepherd to hear his voice, so must we stay close to the Good Shepherd if we are to hear His call." Then came the heart-warming, thought-provoking insight, "And, gentlemen, if you are especially close to Him, you can hear Him whisper."

"...Hear him whisper." The thought captivated me. The nearer I am to the Christ, the more tender His accents falling on my ear. The closer I am to the Good Shepherd, the less He has to "Shout!" for my attention. The deeper I am to the Good Shepherd, the less He has to "Shout!" for my attention. The deeper into His heart I go, the more I realize that He had much rather whisper me into the right path than to whip me into line. But if I am to hear His "echoes of mercy and whispers of love," I must draw especially close to Him.

When the Lord is truly "my shepherd" (Psm. 23), I will hear Him whisper His love to me when I lie down in green pastures and when He leads me beside quiet water. His mercy echoes through the deep canyons of my soul with the assuring message that my soul is restored and that He is guiding me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake. And, of course, when I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear not evil, for, even there, He whispers His love to me. His mercy provides a rod and staff for the protection of my soul against the vicious predator—eternal death! When He honors me in the presence of my enemies, and He anoints my head with oil—all are His echoes of mercy and whispers of love.

Such love causes my cup to overflow! Such love will follow me all the days of my life! But His love will whisper sweetest of all when I am at last swelling in His house forever.

Listen.

Do you hear Someone whispering? If not, may I suggest that you come closer.

Scotty Harris

We would like all of our Guests to join our members in filling out an attendance card so that we might have a record of your visit.

There are two things that we would like to explain to you about our worship service. Our singing *is acappella* or *without accompaniment*. Although instruments of music were used by the Jews in the Old Testament, they are conspicuously absent in the church of the New Testament. We are told to, "Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord." (Ephesians 5:19)

We partake of the *Lord's supper* or *Communion* every Sunday as the early church did (Acts 20:7). The partaking of the bread and the fruit of the vine is a weekly memorial that reminds us of what our Savior did for us. (I Cor. 11:23-26)

WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?

HEAR (Luke 11: 28)

But He said, "More than that, blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it!"

BELIEVE (Mark 16: 16)

"He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned."

REPENT (Acts 2: 38)

Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit"

CONFESS (Matthew 10: 32)

"Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven."

BE BAPTIZED (Acts 22: 16)

"And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord."

WELCOME VISITORS:

We are so glad you decided to be here today! It is always such a blessing to be able to meet you and be encouraged by your presence. Thank you for coming our way.

FOR THE CHILDREN:

Children's Worship Bulletins are available at the back for ages 3-6 and ages 7-12.

Attended Nursery for infants through age two. Parents may leave their children in the nursery before the worship service begins.

A Training Room for parents to use anytime during the worship service is also provided across the hall from the attended nursery.

For Your Convenience:

Hearing aid devices are available and may be received from the attendant in the sound room at the rear of the auditorium.



Prayer List

- ❖ **Robert Underwood** will be having 3 epidural procedures in the future.
- ❖ **Dwain Chambers** is waiting for approval for more surgery.
- ❖ **Betty Parker** is on bed rest at home.
- ❖ **Marvin McElwain** is at Royal Care Nursing Home in Avon Park, Room 119 and welcomes visits and phone calls. His cell # is 664-9129. Please call after 9pm and anytime on weekends.
- ❖ **Lori Barnett** has a frozen right shoulder but it is showing signs of improvement.
- ❖ **Elsie Gannon** is improving.
- ❖ **Oletia Wallis** is still recuperating at home.
- ❖ **Don Ware, Sr.** had surgery on 8/10 to replace a brain shunt.
- ❖ **Helen Piety, Don and Elizabeth Ware** our shut-ins.
- ❖ **Carolyn Thomas** has a pinched nerve in her back.

EXTENDED FAMILY AND FRIENDS

- ❖ **Heidi Jones**, Hayden Parker's mother, is out of the hospital in Naples and will be having more tests.
- ❖ **Glenda Friend**, sister of Carol Johnson is at home.
- ❖ **Clint Chaney**, nephew of Pat Voce, **Cindy LaForte**, sister of Mary Welsh, **Bob Loush**, friend of Bob Maire, **Becky Gates**, **Jim Lawrence**, a friend of John Roberts, and **Jayne Davis**, a friend of BJ & Carolyn Thomas, are all undergoing treatment for cancer.
- ❖ **Jan Fannin**, Cari Waller's mother, is having problems with diabetes and blood pressure.
- ❖ **Becky Hansbarger**, daughter of Joey Rugenstein, has to remain in bed until the birth of her baby. She welcomes phone calls and visits.
- ❖ **Mary Ballew**, mother of Anne Gunter, is in Kenilworth for a while with a broken arm.

MISSION EFFORTS

- ❖ **Anil Tejpaal and family** in Guyana.
- ❖ **Vovo Shoot and family and Dema Galook and family** in Chernovtsy.
- ❖ **F. H & Becky Gates** in Brazil.

Sympathy

Condolences to Susan Gurganus and her family in the death of her sister-in-law Gayle Gore. The address for Susan's brother is:

Larry Gore
1701 Commerce Dr; Lot # 147
Haines City, FL 33844

Our Record: August 12, 2007

Bible Study	76
Sunday AM Worship	115
Sunday PM Worship	NA
Contribution	\$3825
Wednesday Bible Study	83
Building Fund	\$50
Ukraine Building Fund	\$0
F.H. Gates	\$450
Special Mission – Guyana	\$0
World Bible Translation (Ladies Class)	\$0
Clothing Room/Pantry 08/16	56



Chris Dale	08/23
Kathryn Taylor	08/24
Linda Henderson	08/25
Dale Spung	08/25
Loretta Jo Welsh	08/25
Dwain Chambers	08/31



Tracey and Nancy Stalter	08/14
Bill and Trudy Benton	08/21
Frank and Betty Parker	08/29
Bill and Barb Cole	08/29

Visitors for August 12, 2007

Ray Fisch	Mike Thompson and family
Billy and Lyndey Varnadore	Jacqueline Aleshire
Sandy McClure	Charles and Sheila Marcum

Upcoming Event

The next Water Game Day will be on Saturday, August 25th from 3-6PM. James wishes to invite ALL AGES to join in this fun time.

Thank you

Dear Sebring Family

We appreciate all the prayers, calls, cards and emails during Herman's recent medical procedure. We really love our Sebring family and thank God for you always.

Herman and June Klahn

THANK YOU TO AMY AND DELLA FOR CLEANING THE OLD FELLOWSHIP HALL.

Pig Roast Thank You

Tracey Stalter and Chris Ritenour wish to say thank you to all the people listed below who helped with the preparations for the meal.

Bill Benton	Jeanette Chambers
Edison and Carmi Green	Don Gunter
Doc and Amy Horton	Harry Johnson
Carl and Della Martin	Nancy Stalter
BJ and Carolyn Thomas	



Preaching Schedule

AM Jason Waller
PM Timothy Class

Ladies Class Schedule



The Ladies Class will resume their weekly meetings on Tuesday, September 4th at 10:00 am.

Clothing Room

On Thursday, 9-11am, the clothing room is open for the community. **On the last Thursday of each month the time will be changed to 4-6pm.** If you have any furniture or household items to donate for use in this ministry, please let Betty Abrams or Harry Johnson know.



Searching For Truth

A new supply of copies of World Video Bible School DVD *Searching for Truth* has come in and copies are available on the tables in the back. The elders encourage everyone to use these DVD's and share them with friends, family, and those in the community.



Communion Sign-up

The sign up sheet for 2007 for communion preparation is on the bulletin board in the foyer. Your help is needed. The months of **September** and **November** still need people willing to do this.

From the Elders

If anyone has anything that they want discussed when the elders meet, present it to the elder in charge. From July – September that will be Dave Marcum.

The most recent financial statement is posted on the board in the educational building. Anyone who desires a copy request one from the elders or secretaries.

Fellowship

Tonight after the evening service, there will be a **Back to School** finger food fellowship. Bring sandwiches, desserts and drinks. Be sure to stay and join in this time of fun.

Notice

Next Sunday at 5:00 PM will be the monthly prayer meeting for group #3.

THE EYES

The jury reentered the courtroom. "Guilty or not?" was the question on the mind of everyone in the courtroom. But the judge already knew the verdict and so did the defending lawyer. Their years of experience had taught them to read the verdict in the eyes of the jury as each individual returned to the courtroom. The eyes of the members of the jury looked down at the floor, scanned the room and the walls, but never focused on the man that they had found guilty.

When I was growing up, there was this rule: Whenever you talk to Daddy you looked him dead in the eyes. He also had another rule: "Look at me when I talk to you." How I hated those talks! The guilty never went free! No matter how good a story I could make up, Dad could tell when I was lying, because he listened to my eyes.

If you know the eyes well enough---eyes can say a lot---they can pierce your heart like a sword. Take Peter, for instance. On the night that Jesus was betrayed, Peter followed afar off. He wanted to see what happened to Jesus, but he didn't want to be identified with him. The third time that Peter was accused of being with Jesus, he vehemently replied, "***I don't know what you're talking about.***" (Lk. 22:60-62)

Can you imagine how Peter felt as he looked into the eyes of his friend that he had just denied knowing? This eyes of Jesus cut into Peter's heart; he went out and wept bitterly.

One day we must all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. We, too, must look in the face, in the eyes, and give an account to Him. (II Cor. 5:10) How would you feel if today was that day?

Dwight Lawson

Across the Chasm

Over a deep gorge in Arizona lies a great tree, forming a natural bridge. Ages ago it fell in its prime, apparently a failure. Yet, gradually changed. It is now a tree of solid agate. It has become of noble use and great value, being used by countless human feet to cross the chasm.

Christ Himself seemed a failure to the eye of man, yet He has become the bridge between earth and heaven on which His redeemed may pass over. Once rejected-now honored!

SHEPHERDS

Harry Johnson 655-3386
(Evangelism/Membership
Directory/Membership
Fellowship Clothing Room)

Dave Marcum 385-8899
(Treasurer/ Administration)

Olin Shinholser 382-1060
(Worship Services/ Education)

Paul Talbert 385-3756
(Building & Grounds/
Benevolence/ Membership
Services)

DEACONS

Bill Benton 453-6002
(Treasurer/Visitation)

Chris Fowler 386-4661
(Youth Director/ Services
Director/ Substitute Teacher
Assignments/Sound Room)

Roger Gurganus 453-3939
(Building & Grounds
Maintenance (Outside)/
Transportation/ Communion)

Tracey Stalter 471-9736
(Building Maintenance (Inside)/
Membership Directory/ Pews)

BJ Thomas 385-7270
(Building Maintenance (Outside)/
Benevolence, Clothing Room)

Don Ware 382-0194
(Special Mission Efforts/
Timothy Class)

MINISTER

Jason Waller 385-0488

**OUR
WORDS
may hide
our
thoughts
BUT OUR
ACTIONS
will reveal
them.**

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

ORDER OF SERVICE FOR MORNING WORSHIP

THIS SUNDAY

Prepare Communion:

Carolyn Thomas

Greeters:

Ron Horton Dave Marcum
Bill Sweeton Sandy Marcum

Pick Up Cards:

Nicholas Stalter & Nathan Ramer

Pick Up Communion Cups:

Joshua Fowler & Victor Oregon

Sound Room:

Roger Gurganus

Secure Building This Week:

Roger Gurganus

Announcements:

Chris Fowler

Song Leader:

Paul Talbert

Opening Prayer:

Carl Martin

Lord's Supper:

Preside:

Mike Tubbs

Serve:

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Harry Johnson | 4. James Ware |
| 2. Herb Ellis | 5. Troy Talbert |
| 3. Telles Oregon | 6. BJ Thomas |

Closing Prayer:

Edison Green

Sunday Evening

Song Leader: Opening Prayer:

Timothy Class Timothy Class

Lord's Supper: Closing Prayer:

Mike Tubbs Timothy Class

Wednesday Evening

Song Leader: Invitation:

Chris Fowler Jason Waller

Closing Prayer:

James Ware

NEXT SUNDAY

Prepare Communion:

Carolyn Thomas

Greeters:

Ron Horton BJ Thomas
Bill Sweeton Carolyn Thomas

Pick Up Cards:

Austin Ritenour & Joshua Fowler

Pick Up Communion Cups:

Forest Ritenour & Nathan Ramer

Sound Room:

Bill Benton

Secure Building Next Week:

Bill Benton

Announcements:

Paul Talbert

Song Leader:

Mike Tubbs

Opening Prayer:

John Roberts

Lord's Supper:

Preside:

Dave Marcum

Serve:

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1. BJ Thomas | 4. Edison Green |
| 2. Robert Capps | 5. Leon Tubbs |
| 3. Dale Spung | 6. Mike Tubbs |

Closing Prayer:

Tracey Stalter

Sunday Evening

Song Leader: Opening Prayer:

Robert Capps Bill Benton

Lord's Supper: Closing Prayer:

Dave Marcum Roger Gurganus

Wednesday Evening

Song Leader: Invitation:

Troy Talbert Jason Waller

Closing Prayer:

Gordon Smith

Announcements: Chris Fowler

Opening Prayer: Carl Martin

Song: 144 O Worship the King

Song: 4 To God be the Glory

Song: 344 Low in the Grave

Communion

Offering

Song: 197 O 'Twas Wonderful Love

Lesson: Jason Waller

Invitation Song: 926 What Will You Do with Jesus

Song: 594 Live for Jesus

Closing Prayer: Edison Green

Reminder

If for some reason you find that you cannot serve as scheduled in the monthly assignment schedule, please call Tracey Stalter or Chris Fowler as soon as possible so that a substitute can be selected.

Those serving are asked to be here at least 10 minutes before the service starts.

Those who participate Sunday morning are asked to wear appropriate dress attire, preferably, though not required, a dress shirt and tie. At other services casual sport shirt and slacks are acceptable; no T-shirts or shorts should be worn while serving the congregation.

Thank you for your cooperation.

FREE BIBLE STUDY BY MAIL

If you would like to receive a series of Bible Study Lessons, send this request to:

Sebring Parkway Church of Christ
3800 Sebring Parkway
Sebring, FL 33870

Name _____

Address _____

Age Range:

0 - 10 yrs 11 - 17 yrs

18 - 50 yrs 51 - ?? yrs

MEET WITH US

Sunday Bible Study.....9:00 AM

Sunday AM Worship.....10:00 AM

Sunday PM Service.....6:00 PM

Wednesday Bible Study....7:00 PM

Website: <http://www.sebringcoc.com>

Email:

sebringparkway@sebringcoc.com

Office Hours: 9am-2pm M-F

It is easier to preach ten sermons than it is to live one.