



Choosing Sides

Often times we are tempted to believe that God chooses sides. He is either on your side or on my side. In the midst of a debate we may even say, *"I have God on my side."* It makes us feel good to think that God, in choosing sides, chooses our side. With God on my side, I can never lose.

There is a problem with that line of thinking. As we go back to the scriptures we are reminded that God does not choose sides. He does not pick teams. Joshua was reminded of this stark truth as he led Israel on the conquest of the Promised Land.

In Joshua 5 we find that the Israelites had crossed the Jordan River and they were now approaching Jericho. As Joshua neared Jericho he looked up to see a man standing before him with a sword in his hand. The first words that came from Joshua's mouth were, *"Are you for us or for our enemies?"* In Joshua's mind this man had to be for one side or the other.

The answer was surprising. The man with the sword responded, *"Neither side! I am the commander of the Lord's army."* I'm sure that is not what Joshua was hoping to hear, but it was a great reminder that this was not his battle. Joshua needed to remember that this was God's battle. God did not need to choose sides, Joshua did. In the end, it would not be a matter of where God would stand. Rather, it would be a matter of where Joshua would be standing. What side would Joshua choose: God's or the enemy's?

God does not pick teams. We do. The question is not whether God is on my side or your side. He has already stated that He is on neither side. He is the Lord. What side will we choose? That is the real question.

-Gilbert

***Our vision: Knowing Christ,
Making Christ Known.***

Redeemed

Redeemed, how I love to proclaim it!
Redeemed by the blood of the Lamb;
Redeemed through His infinite mercy,
His child and forever I am.
*"Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel,
because he has come and has redeemed his
people"* —Luke 1:68

The word "redeem" is used more often than you might initially think (unless, of course, you are particularly cognizant of modern word usage). We redeem coupons. We redeem frequent flier miles. We redeem loans when we pay them off. Redemption surrounds us in our modern world, and yet our definitions do not encapsulate what we mean when we use it in reference to our salvation at the hands of God.

For the authors of the New Testament, redemption was more than a coupon. It did not have limitations like black-out dates or minimum purchase amounts. It was not paying off a loan. It was much more.

In the Jewish context, a redeemer is nearly synonymous with "deliverer." It contains within it the concept of saving someone from peril. It also carries the definition of buying back land that was sold by a family member in a time of distress.

Another aspect of redemption that influences our spiritual understanding of the word comes from the context of slavery. Redemption was the purchase of a slave, with the intent to set that person free.

Paul often envisions us as slaves to sin, but redeemed us by Christ's blood. He has saved us, bought us, set us free, and delivered us from death.

Redeemed, how I love to proclaim it!
-Phil

Charles Carter continues to receive hospice care.... Continue praying for **Cara Gamble, Dick Waterstraat, Diann Doty, Jan Lucas, David Fulkerson, David Brutans** (*Shirley Farmer's son-in-law*), **Pete Swank, Charles Moore, Lorna Marshall** (*Amy Colon's mother*), **Robert Ruckh** (*Sally Smith's father*), **Linda Jetton** (*Dave Weckerly's sister*), **John Adams** (*Bill Adams' father*), **Eloise Shank** (*Andrea Browell's mother*), **Justin Thomas** (*Thelma Hoyt's brother*), **Hattie Coffel, Mary Tavana** (*Peter Tavana's sister*), **Ted Heitman** (*Becky Pitt's father*), **Annie Crowder, Dorothy Walters, Irene Fox, Edith McCoy, Eugene Zinn, Kaden Koebecke, Valley Stockton, Irene Sims, Marie DeWoody, Paul & Argie Verett, and Minnie Scott.**



In the military: Phyllis Simmerman's nephew, **Josh Martin**, is serving in Iraq.

Weekly Prayer Focus

This month our main focus is "Outreach." On May 23 our focus will be **our food pantry-- John Stafford's leadership and the people in need in our community and how we can help meet those needs in the name of Jesus.** Also, **Church of Christ Disaster Relief**, which we begin supporting in the new fiscal year. We value your participation in this effort to remember these people in your daily prayers.

L.U.M Meals

Many in our congregation have participated in providing meals for Lafayette Urban Ministry in recent years. The fourth Monday of every month Elmwood provides a meal (currently enough sandwiches or salad for 36 people who stay the night at LUM). Their facility is located at 525 N. 4th St. in Lafayette. The volunteer's job is simply to prepare the meal. A LUM staff person will serve, do the dishes and clean up the dining room. There are slots open for the month of May, June, August, and September. If you are interested in this ministry, please call Mandy Anderson at 448-4456.



Coming on Sunday nights in June:

June 7: VBS Prayer Walk

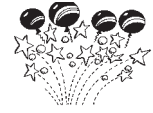
June 14: VBS Recap

June 21: Movie Night

June 28: Praise & Worship



Graduation Open House



Rejoice with us in celebrating the graduation of **Joshua Stafford**, valedictorian of McCutcheon High School. Graduation party is from 4:00 until 7:30 PM at the Stafford home, 408 Old Romney Dr., Lafayette. Joshua will be attending Harding University in Searcy, Arkansas, in the fall.

*God is good...
all the time.
All the time...
God is good.*



Thank you to all the people who moved me from the second floor to a ground level apartment. All your hard work is and was greatly appreciated!

*In Christian love,
Beth Holt*

May 17, 2009

Class: 174 Worship: 281

Contribution: \$7,207

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I want to start off by saying "hello" to everyone so....Hello everyone.

Good! I'm glad that is out of the way. Now, I want to thank the Elders here at Elmwood and the rest of my Christian family here for giving me this opportunity to participate in this internship. I am very excited about this summer and what it may bring. I have done a couple of internships already and each one has taught me new things. I know that this summer will teach me many new things and bring about new experiences for me. I am looking forward to working with Lee and learning many things from him.

Let me tell you a little bit about myself and where I have come from. I have worked two youth ministry internships, so I bring a little bit of experience already. I have five years of college under my belt, but I am sad to say that I have not yet received a degree. Much of that I take the blame for. I will be continuing school at David Lipscomb, God willing, this Fall. From May 2007 to December 2008, I worked as a missionary in Prato, Italy. I have experienced many things, some good and some bad. My prayer is that I can relate to the youth here and that they will use me, talk to me, and make me part of their family.

We have some stuff planned for the summer. We have the camps coming up, a trip to Cedar Point for some amusement, Youth in Action, and many other things to look forward to. Make sure you get in touch with me or Lee about attending these events.

If anybody has any questions or just want to talk about anything, please feel free to get in touch with me. My e-mail is randman_k@yahoo.com, and my verizon cell number is (334) 695-9412.

"For I am going to do something in your days that you would not believe, even if you were told"
(Habakkuk 1:5).
-Randy Kerrigan



Former Elmwood member, **Harry Linback, 62**, died Sunday, May 17, on their 40th wedding anniversary. Harry had extensive heart surgery in March and developed an infection in his repaired heart valve.

The family will receive friends on Wednesday, from 5:00 until 8:00 PM at Hippensteel Funeral Home. The funeral will be at Hippensteel on Thursday, 10:00 AM. Burial at Brookston with a meal at Camp Tecumseh following. Many know Harry had a passion for working with children and was an advocate for the underdog! His articles in the *Journal & Courier* were enjoyed by many. He will be greatly missed. Our sympathies to his wife, Peggy, and sons, Troy, Chris and Kyle and their families.

Vacation Bible School Crocodile Dock News

Thank you to everyone who has helped and volunteered so far. We will be having a workday this Saturday, May 23, and on Saturday, June 6, beginning at 9:30 AM.

Remember that for the rest of May we will be creating VBS decor on Wednesday evenings at 6:00 PM before the regular Bible study.

Your help is greatly appreciated. Remember to register your kids, friends, and neighbors.

**Save the dates:
Vacation Bible School
June 8-12, 6-8 PM**



May 20, 6:00 PM....Creating VBS decor

May 20, 7 PM....Bible classes for all

May 23, 4:00-7:30 PM....Josh Stafford's Graduation Celebration, 408 Old Romney Dr., Lafayette

May 24, 6 PM....Worship at Elmwood

June 8-12, 6-8 PM....Vacation Bible School

Read:
Psalms 75-92;
Hebrews 13; Matthew 1-5

2009 Spiritual Adventure

Week 23: June 1-7

Life-It Never Smelled So Sweet

Some books/chapters in the Bible contain incredible advice as a guide to daily living. Our New Testament reading (Hebrews 13) is one such chapter. Starting with the last 2 verses of chapter 12, let us try to form a template upon which we may build our lives to honor and love God and our fellow man. Let us attempt to incorporate the following recommended activities into our daily lives:

Give thanks. Worship God with reverence and awe. Continue mutual love. Show hospitality to strangers (for you may be entertaining angels without knowing it). Remember those in prison. Remember those being tortured (how appropriate to be reminded of this with regard to recent world news). Honor marriage and keep the marriage bed undefiled (look at so many of our TV/movie offerings). Free your lives from love of money, by being content with what you have. Remember your leaders (in Christ) and imitate their faith. Follow not strange teachings. Be strengthened by grace. Bear the abuse He endured. Continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God. Do good. Share what you have. Obey your leaders (in Christ) and submit to them. Pray (in all things, continually and in His will).

What an incredible 'recipe' to follow to present my life as a pleasing fragrance to God. Unfortunately, as I review Hebrews 13, I realize that my life is void (or in short supply) of many of the most savory ingredients listed here. I need to *Remember* to spice up my life with all of the actions mentioned above, in order to present myself as a living sacrifice to God, a pleasing aroma. And when I fail, as I most assuredly shall, I know that the love and grace of God always surrounds me, and I am forgiven of my shortcomings. I also plead with you, all of my fellow human beings, to forgive me and to lovingly correct me when I don't treat you with the love and honor that God commands. May God's love and peace be with you all the days of your life! -Farrell Simmerman

Weekly Schedule	Elders	World Missions
Sunday Worship 8:00 a.m. Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45 a.m. Life Groups 6:00 p.m. Wednesday Bible Study 7:00 p.m.	Bill Bell 463-1139 Joe Mathews 474-8369 Rick Swensen 463-6822 Don Vice 471-8653 Staff Ministers Gilbert Kerrigan 418-3652 Lee Porter 463-6993 Phil Travis 447-2874 Office Sherry Marks, Manager 447-2874 Carol Bell, Secretary 447-2874	Kevin Chambers World Christian Broadcasting Anchor Point, Alaska 99536 Loren and Penny Hollingsworth Phuket, Thailand 83000 E-mail: lholly54@yahoo.com Bren and Cheryl White P.O. Box 245 New Market, MD 21774
		



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