

LITTLE THINGS

The story is told of a giant tree in Colorado, which fell to the ground after having stood majestically on a hill for over 400 years. A mere sapling when Columbus landed in San Salvador over the centuries it had been struck by lightning 14 times, braved great wind storms, and even defied an earthquake. In the end, however, it was killed by some little beetles. Boring under the bark, they chewed away its mighty fibers until one day that lordly king of the forest came thundering down.

So, too, apparently insignificant things often make substantial inroads into our spiritual lives, and if left unchecked may cause our downfall. The idle word spoken, the prayer time omitted, and the occasional fleshly pleasure indulgences — these things “spoil” the vineyard much more than we realize.

If Satan gets an entering wedge on inconsistency, the leverage he then exerts is greatly increased.

No author credited via Bulletin Digest (April, 1998)



The Worker

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The Infallibility of the Bible

There have been many attacks on the Bible down through the ages because the Bible condemns too much of what men love to do. Without the Bible one can do virtually anything he wants to do. Man wants to live as he pleases without being accountable to God. Many want to live as though there is no God. Psalms 14:1 says, "The fool has said in his heart, 'There is no God'".

With many people, materialism and humanism have replaced God resulting in unbelief in the Bible. Today unbelief in the Bible is often seen as a badge of courage to be displayed openly and worn proudly. Satan plants seeds of doubt in the minds of people, which result in unbelief. Unbelief is a contagious disease, which causes one to depart from God. Hebrews 3:12 says, "Lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God". Unbelief will cause countless souls to be lost in eternity.

The Bible tells us from where all things came, why we are here, how we are to live while here, and where we are going. The Bible is the word of God, which is verbally inspired, infallible, inerrant, all sufficient, and authoritative. The Bible is "Not in words which man's wisdom teaches, but which the Holy Spirit teaches" (1 Corinthians 2:13). In the Bible, God has told us everything we need so we can please Him and go to Heaven. 2 Peter 1:3 says, "His divine power has given us all things that pertain to life and godliness."

Each of us will make the choice to either accept the Bible as our authority in religion or reject it. But we will bear the consequences of our choice. God's word is the authority or standard by which all people will be judged on Judgment Day. Jesus says in John 12:48, "He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him, the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day." People may ignore God's word now, but on Judgment Day they will not be able to ignore it. Happy will be the person who has shown his love for the truth of God's word and obeyed it. Because the Bible is the pure and inspired word of God it "is able to save your souls" (James 1:21). But woe be to those who have set it aside.

We must not neglect to follow God's authoritative word if we want to go to Heaven. Hebrews 2:3 says, "How shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation, which at first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him." There is no escape if one neglects to believe and obey God's authoritative and infallible word.

Ron Boatwright http://www.netbiblestudy.net/bulletin/new_page_49.htm

Leadership

Elders Hayward Blanton, Jerry Casey
Deacons Clint Smith Sr, Clint Smith Jr,
 Robby Stocksdale, Joe Sweeney
Pulpit Minister Eric Welch
Associate Minister Irvin F. Williams

Panama Mission

Pablo Sanchez

We Offer Free Personal Bible Studies and Bible Correspondence Courses - Phone (812) 284-3125

Visit Our Website: www.hamburgpikecofc.org Email: church@hamburgpikecofc.org

Sermon Titles

Sunday Morning: "In Return for His Soul" Mark 8:31-38
 Sunday Evening: "Let the Savior In" Rev. 3:14-22

Those Privileged to Serve

AM Service		PM Service		AM & PM Services	
Song Leader	Michael Hawkins	Song Leader	Clint Smith Jr	Announcements	Harold Tincher
Opening Prayer	Ethan Welch	Bible Reading	Leon Stocksdale	Lord's Supper	Greg Blanton
Scripture	Clint Smith Sr	Selection	36	Offering	Hayward Blanton
Sermon	Eric Welch	Prayer	Grover Blanton	Usher	Art Patrick
Lord's Supper	Luke 23:13-48	Sermon	Eric Welch	Count Offering	Robby Stocksdale
Message	Joe Sweeney	Closing Prayer	Ernie Marshall	Assist Count	Marc Owens
Attendant	Matt Johnson	<i>If you are unable to serve, please</i>			
Attendant	Brandon Montgomery	<i>call Art Patrick 502-819-9481</i>			
Closing Prayer	Jerry Casey	<i>or Harold Tincher 502-409-3511</i>			
				Last Sunday	
				Contribution	Attendance
				\$2,282	73

Size Matters Not

Eric Welch

On Labor Day, as my family and I were driving down Hamburg Pike between Veterans and Charlestown-New Albany Road, we noticed that the parking lot in the field was full of cars. As we turned down Charlestown-New Albany Road, we saw the reason. It turned out to be the annual Labor Day festival for one of the large denominations in Jeffersonville. As we passed by, the church building was surrounded by all kinds of bounce houses and games. People seemed to be having a pretty good time in the 90F weather.

A series of questions came to mind about the event. Was it a fund-raiser or if it was free? How many of those who came will come to the church services there? What does the Lord think of these activities? It is tempting to become discouraged and to compare what the Lord's church might be doing or not doing. Are we willing to do all that we can, short of sinning, to bring people to Jesus? Are fun activities the way to do it? It can be tempting to think that a small church is insignificant and has nothing to offer the world.

However, when we think carefully about it, many things that the Lord has chosen as his instruments have never been that significant. Israel was chosen not because of her size or importance (Deut. 7:6-8). Thirty-two thousand men showed up to be recruited by Gideon, but only 300 made the cut (Judges 7). One young man came out against Goliath while Israel's toughest warriors cowered at the sight of him (1 Samuel 17:45). A band of twelve mismatched men preached news about the kingdom that shook the foundations of the world while itself being unshaken (cf. Hebrew 12:28).

The Lord chose Israel because He loved her. The Lord told Gideon the reason why he wanted so few to go into battle against the Midianites: "The people with you are too many for me to give the Midianites into their hand, lest Israel boast over me, saying, 'My own hand has saved me' (Judges 7:2). David recognized that the battle belongs to the Lord (1 Samuel 17:47).

What does a small congregation do to grow? David wrote in Psalm 20:7, "Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the LORD our God." We cannot improve upon that which attracts people to God. We do not trust in human strategies like buildings, games, gimmicks, fads and flash. Rather, we trust in the gospel of Jesus to attract others. Jesus Himself said, "And I if I be lifted up from the earth will draw all men to me" (John 12:32). The good news of the cross both preached and lived out by His messengers is what will draw people. Who are His messengers? Those faithful followers in His church who live and breathe Jesus every day (cf. Acts 8:4).

Second, we remember that size matters not, but faithfulness to God matters in everything. Therefore, we focus on spiritual growth. Those who mature in the Lord will always see the need to teach others the gospel. They pray for more workers in his harvest (Matthew 9:38) and then they become one of those workers. They plant and water then they trust in God to grow it (1 Corinthians 3:6-7).

For the next few weeks, I want to focus on the strengths of a small congregation. If you would like to share with me your ideas on the strengths of small congregations, please feel free to share them.

Hamburg Pike Happenings

- The Monday Night for the Master group will meet September 14th at 6 pm. We'll have pizza for our first meeting. Please give names and addresses to Harold or Eric
- As part of Monday Night for the Master, Eric will begin a leadership training class for the boys K-12. The class will last one hour and it will be every first Monday of the month beginning October 5. We will focus on prayer, Bible reading, song leading, the Lord's Supper and Offering.
- During the Fall Quarter volunteers are needed for our Wednesday evening devotionals. The Elders invite/encourage your participation for this important service to the church. Please see the sign-up list on the board in the foyer.
- Teen activity is schedule:
 - September 11th, the boys will be camping, see Michael for details.
 - September 12th, the girls will meet at the building at 11:00 am and go to Megan Johnson's house for lunch, movies and games. The group will return to the building around 3:00 pm. See Megan for questions.
- The William's Fellowship Group will meet after the morning worship on September 13th. The meal theme is pot luck; please indicate on the sheet in the foyer what you intend to bring, no name necessary, this lets us know what needs to be provided.