

**I Heard a Baby Cry**  
by Tom McLemore

As I sat among the faithful on a Sunday in July,  
My attention was diverted as I heard a baby's cry.  
Not a wail that would disturb you, just a whimper, like a sigh.  
But it caused my mind to ponder of the child's life, by and by.  
I thought about how blessed it was that its young mother cared;  
How she nurtured and caressed it and all her love had shared.  
I know that its direction is a part of mother's plan,  
To teach and correct it by the rules that God has made for man.  
And so, she's starting early in its life of so few days,  
To assemble with the saints of God that "it" might learn His ways.  
It almost went unnoticed amid the preacher's words,  
Just a tiny whimper, but I'm sure the Savior heard.  
To hear a baby cry in church is music to my ears,  
For it can learn to please its God, because somebody cares.



# The Worker

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## Softer Stances on Doctrine

Recently, I was contacted by a retiring minister. He said he had become an elder with the congregation and was given the job of seeking his replacement. We spoke for nearly an hour and things seemed fine until he asked me about certain doctrines. He was specific about a few and I quoted the scripture pertaining to them. He then told me he had preached for over 50 years and in the last 20 or so he had "softened his stance" on these key doctrines we discussed. He admitted he had no scripture for his position, he just "felt" differently now. I told him that I wouldn't be a good fit and we parted ways.

Brethren, he unknowingly summed up one of the largest problems in the church. He and others would like to move God's boundaries because of their unpopularity. Proverbs 14:12, "There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death." Solomon summed up God's position on "softening" His doctrine. Jesus said in Matt. 7:21 that not everyone who called Him, Lord, would go to heaven but those who do His will. How can any serious-minded person not understand the severity of ignoring God's commands or "softening" them? "Softer stances" are going to bring warmer climates on judgment day, if you know what I mean.

Of course, we all sin! Romans 3:23 reminds us that we all fall short of the glory of God. But, there is a difference in occasionally stumbling and intentionally being disobedient or willfully ignoring what God has said.

"Therefore whoever hears these sayings of mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock, And the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. But everyone who hears these sayings of mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand" (Matthew 7:24-26). Jesus was preaching in this passage about standing on the "soft" ground or soft stances. It won't hold up!

I pray that we would all seek to build on the "rock" or true foundation. We can't change it, only live by it. In the end, the climate will be better too!

Chris Moore Clarendon (TX) church of Christ Bulletin Digest (April 2012)

**Leadership**

**Elders** Hayward Blanton, Jerry Casey  
**Deacons** Clint Smith Jr, Robby Stocksdale  
Joe Sweeney  
**Pulpit Minister** David Wright  
**Associate Minister** Irvin F. Williams

**Schedule of Services**

**Sunday**

Bible Class 10:00 AM  
Morning Worship 11:00 AM  
Evening Worship 6:00 PM

**Wednesday**

Bible Class 7:00 PM

**Panama Missions**

Evans Campbell Pablo Sanchez

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

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**Those Privileged to Serve**

**AM Service**

Song Leader Michael Hawkins  
Opening Prayer Clint Smith Sr  
Scripture Ron Iverson  
Sermon David Wright  
Lord's Supper  
Message Irvin Williams  
Attendant Marc Owens  
Attendant Jeremy Montgomery  
Closing Prayer Clint Smith Jr

**PM Service**

Song Leader Robby Stocksdale  
Bible Reading Leon Stocksdale  
Selection 19  
Prayer Joe Sweeney  
Sermon David Wright  
Closing Prayer Rick Martin  
*If you are unable to serve,  
Call Art Patrick 293-4745 or  
Harold Tincher 288-5956*

**AM & PM Services**

Announcements Harold Tincher  
Lord's Supper David Blackwell  
Offering Greg Blanton  
Usher Art Patrick  
Count Offering Robby Stocksdale  
Assist Count Art Patrick

**Last Sunday**

Contribution Attendance  
\$2818 81

## **Peddling False Hope**

[David Wright](#)

Dr. William Bennett hosts “Morning in America,” a radio program aired every weekday on Louisville AM station WGTK. One morning he quoted someone who had said that Democrats could sell freezers to Eskimos easier than Republicans could sell them blankets. Acknowledging this to be so, Bennett explained that “this is because Republicans tell the truth.”

Although I couldn’t agree that politicians of either major party consistently speak the truth, the freezer/blankets analogy intrigues me—especially when applied to spiritual things. Have you ever noticed that wolves dressed in sheepskin can peddle false hope easier than Gospel preachers can persuade the lost to embrace true life? A charming and eloquent preacher, full of lies and smiles, comes to town, and boom! In no time at all, “his church” (that’s how he himself thinks of it) grows to a membership of hundreds or thousands. But when an equally gifted man comes along preaching only Christ and him crucified, the congregation he works with experiences comparatively modest numerical growth.

Why is it easier to sell Eskimos freezers than blankets? The apostle Paul warned Timothy that “the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own likings, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander into myths” (2 Tim. 4:3-4). In other words, most people vastly prefer to hear what is appealing, even if it is false. This explains the success of financial scams. Suppose that you get a check in the mail for \$5,000. To claim it, all you have to do is wire \$2,000 to someone in Nigeria. Which is more appealing—the prospect of winning \$3,000 or the possibility of being cheated? And which is more appealing—the false doctrine that no one can ever fall from grace or the biblical truth that Christians must be faithful until death (Rev. 2:10)?

[Online Audio Sermons](#)

Acts 16:25-34

What Shall We Do? (a.m.)

Crucifying God’s Son Again (p.m.)

<sup>13</sup>“Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. <sup>14</sup>For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few. <sup>15</sup>“Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. <sup>16</sup>You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? <sup>17</sup>So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit. <sup>18</sup>A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit. <sup>19</sup>Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. <sup>20</sup>Thus you will recognize them by their fruits. <sup>21</sup>“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. <sup>22</sup>On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?’ <sup>23</sup>And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.’

Matthew 7:13-23

## **Prayer Requests**

**Prayer List:** MARTIN BONNEY, Larry Coulter (Lou Ann), JAYNE CRAVENS, Jerry Crick (Ann), Todd Cunningham (Hank), Esther Davis (Marian), JANICE DIMMITT, MYRNA DIMMITT, PATTY DIMMITT, MILDRED ELLIOTT, Zachary Ferguson, Elma Fielder (Marian), Lillian Foster, Diana Fulks (Norma), FRANK & MARY HARRIS, Pricilla Hudkins, ALLENE HUSTON, Steve A. Hueston (Harold), RON IVERSON, Elise Jackson (Christine), Alice Jenkins (Ann), Charles & Marlyn Jenkins (Ann), Arletha Kenty (Nathan), Josephine King (Polly), MERLE & JOYCE KNUCKLES, FRANCES LAWTON, SUE LINNE & Rhea, Shelly Marshall, POLLY MCCLINTOCK, JERRY & SONJA MONTGOMERY, CAROL MOUSTY, Gary Peyton (Jean), Jerrie Phillips, CHRISTINE RHOTON, Cindy Roeder (Christine), Wendell & Betty Smith (Polly), Lynn Sullivan (Ann), THRESA TEMPLE, FERN TINCHER, Lynn Tincher (Fern), Fulton Wilson (Ann)

**Military Service:** Stephen Blanton, Scott Viers, Zach West, Jeremy Whitlow

## **Hamburg Pike Happenings**

The Monday Night for the Master group will meet Monday February 10<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm. Please come join us and sign the sheet if you plan to attend.

Robby and Kirsten’s Fellowship group will meet Sunday February 9<sup>th</sup> after the morning worship service for a soup lunch. A sign sheet is on the table.

Kids Movie Night is scheduled for Friday February 28<sup>th</sup>, 6:30pm to 9:00pm. The featured movie is “Veggie Tales: Jonah.” Flyers are available on the table and details are posted on the board. Invite your friends and family to join you for this fun event. Please sign the sheet in the foyer if you plan to attend. See Clint Smith Jr. for any questions.

## **God’s Getting Better**

A little girl was sitting on her grandfather’s lap as he read her a bedtime story. From time to time she would take her eyes off the book and reach up to touch his wrinkled cheek. She was alternately stroking her own cheek, then his again.

Finally she spoke up: “Grandpa, did God make you?” “Yes, sweetheart,” he answered. “God made me a long time ago.” “Oh,” she paused. “Grandpa, did God make me too?” “Yes indeed, honey,” he said. “God made you just a little while ago.” Feeling their respective faces again, she observed, “God’s getting better at it, isn’t He?”