



FROM THE MINISTER'S DESK:

Does God Grieve?

Have you ever thought about the notion of God grieving? What would cause God to grieve? We are told early in the bible, in Genesis 6:6 that it repented God that he made man. The term "repented" in that passage is translated "grieve" in the NIV. It's clear God does grieve. No writer in the Bible expresses the grief that comes to God because of sin more than the prophet Hosea. At chapter 4 verse 10 and at 13:3 there is a lamentation over the want and waste of the people because of their empty lives. Their lives were empty and meaningless; they had squandered them on matters that usurped God and as a result he was heartbroken.

All of us have certain little goals in life. As these are reached - graduation from high school; college; marriage; establishment of a career; children; home; retirement and so-called "golden years" - there comes a feeling that these don't really mean anything. This lonely, empty feeling often comes because we are separated from God and that comes because of sin.

I reminded of the luxury liner which was making its way to Europe. On board were hundreds of people on vacation and every kind of diversion had been provided for them. One night the ship was raided by pirates and the captain killed. When the passengers learned the captain was dead and unknown people were sailing the ship to an unknown destination, there was no longer an interest in entertainment. They were seized with anxiety. So it is with us when we lose touch with God.

When the prodigal son was separated from his father, he had both an empty stomach and an empty soul. Think what pain our empty lives must bring to God. He yearned over Israel. Hosea said, "My heart recoils within me, my compassion grows warm and tender." life yearns over us as the father of the prodigal yearned over his younger son. He has so much for us that we have rejected. He would pour his love into our vacant lives, but we have embraced futility.

God's yearning reached the ultimate breaking point at Calvary. The pain Jesus endured was intensely physical, but even more deeply, he suffered because he was rejected by those he loved. His heart apparently was literally broken (John 19:34). But his heartbreak began as he wept over a careless city. It still breaks as he views his church with its empty pews and empty people. It is not pleasant to think we cause God grief, but it can be redeeming in that it may prompt us to return to him.

Only one thing can heal the heart of God and that is the repentance of his people. Repentance, deep and real, is urgently needed within the church. Let us fill our heads with God's word, file our pews with God's people, fill our hands with offerings and the lost, and fill our lives with the love and Spirit of Jesus Christ. When we do this the heartbreak of heaven will be soothed.

Hosea closes his prophecy with this gracious invitation, "Return unto the Lord.. . turn to the Lord and say unto him, take away all iniquity and receive us graciously..." (14:1-2). Does God Grieve? The answer is Yes! God joys and delights in the return of just one sinner that repents!

Bro. Gene Cooper

If God be for us, who could be against us....

Welcome

Welcome to the assembly of the church of Christ that meets at Georgia Avenue, where we strive to follow God's plan for the New Testament church as closely as possible. Thank you for coming. We are encouraged by your presence and invite you to search the scriptures with us.

Sermon Text & Title

AM Sermon:
"The Growth of Judah"
Genesis 43:1-10

PM Sermon:
"Seeing Through The
Master's Eyes"
Matthew 9:36-38

Schedule of Services

<i>Sun Bible Study</i>	9 AM
<i>Sun AM Worship</i>	10 AM
<i>Sun (1st and 3rd) 'Fundamentals'</i>	3:30 PM
<i>Sun PM Worship</i>	5 PM
<i>Wed Bible Study</i>	7 PM

Our Ministers

Gene Cooper
703.380.6008 (c)

Melvin Otey
202.345.4528 (c)

“RIGHTLY DIVIDING THE WORD”

THE BOOKS OF THE BIBLE— 2 TIMOTHY

#53 Paul wrote Second Timothy knowing that his life was quickly coming to an end. He sought to encourage his son in the faith to remain steadfast in his work as a gospel preacher and servant of the Most High God. Paul reminded Timothy that the work of an evangelist is trying, and opposition would continue, but Timothy was well prepared through his upbringing, his knowledge of the scriptures, his experiences with Paul, and the talents God had given him. Finally, the aged apostle encouraged Timothy to make haste in coming to his side.

Bro. Melvin Otey

Earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Welcome to the Family!** George Wilson, Jr. baptized 7/26.
- Toddler Worship training class.** Each Sun. in Aug @9AM. Pls. bring children by 8:50AM. See bulletin board or talk with Ivy for details.
- Nursing Home Visitation, TODAY, 2PM.** Wash. Center for the Aging.
- Fundamentals of Faith Class, TODAY @3:30PM.** “The Work of the Church.”
- Singles’ Service Weekend, 8/7-8/9.** See Letitia for details or to request help.
- Door Knocking, 8/8, 9:45AM-12PM.** All hands on deck!
- Marriage Ministry Mtg, 8/14 @7PM.** @ the Merriweather’s home.
- HU Bible Studies, Thursdays @ 7PM, Bus. School #548.**
- 2nd AM Service @ 7:45AM beginning Sept. 13, 2009.** Pls. let Bro. Otey know if you’re interested.
- Sun. Toddler & Children’s Bible Class.** Each Sun. @ 9AM beginning Sept. 13, 2009.

PRAYER REQUESTS

WORSHIP LINE-UP

AM

Usher	C. Merriweather
Song Leader	A. Johnson
Announcements	M. Otey
Invocation	L. Clemons
Scrip Reading	L. Clemons
Message	G. Cooper
Lord’s Table	A. Brown
Assist	O. Eaton
	R. Fuller
Giving	A. Brown
Benediction	C. Pendergrass

PM

Usher	C. Merriweather
Song Leader	C. Pendergrass
Announcements	M. Otey
Invocation	K. Wall
Scrip Reading	K. Wall
Message	G. Cooper
Lord’s Table	R. McQuirter
Assist	M. Williams
	L. Clemons
Giving	R. McQuirter
Benediction	W. Ford

God’s Plan of Salvation

- Hear the Gospel.** Rom. 10:17
- Believe in Jesus.** John 8:24; Heb. 11:6
- Repent of Sin.** Luke 13:3; Acts 17:30
- Confess Christ.** Rom. 10:9-10
- Be Baptized.** Mk. 16:15-16; Acts 2:38
- The Lord adds you to the church.**
Acts 2:47

STATISTICS

July 26, 2009

Sunday Class: 38 AM Worship: 67 PM Worship: 42 Wed Class: 42

Cleaning:

Letitia Mosby & Janisha Richardson

Communion:

Visa Ferrell & Sheila Merriweather

Food Pantry Items of the Month: Canned fruit and vegetables; dry beans and pasta.