



OAK GROVE ENCOURAGER

“And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works” Hebrews 10:24

AUGUST 20, 2006

A Man and His God

by Norm Wakefield

Storm Insurance

Therefore, everyone who hears these words of Mine, and acts upon them, may be compared to a wise man, who built his house upon the rock. And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and burst against that house; and yet it did not fall, for it had been founded upon the rock. And everyone who hears these words of Mine, and does not act upon them, will be like a foolish man, who built his house upon the sand. And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and burst against that house; and it fell, and great was its fall. Matthew 7:24-27

The rain, floods, and winds of life blow with relentless indiscretion. No man, wise or foolish, escapes them and very seldom does one avoid

them. How about you and your house? How's the weather where you live?

I imagine you and your family are noticing the same social weather patterns as we. The rain of unrighteousness pours. The deluge of immorality swells above flood stage, and the winds of self-gratification, self-indulgence, independence, greed, and lust seemingly blow unabated. How does a man lead and equip his family to stand in times such as these without casualty and catastrophe?

As I have considered through the years how to lead my family, I have not found a better piece of advice than found here in Matthew 7. Base your life and the foundation of your family on the words of Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount.

What can we do to insure ourselves and our families against storm damage? Here are some suggestions. Perhaps ask the Holy Spirit to impress upon your heart one that would best meet the needs of your family, and begin today.

Memorize the entire Sermon on the Mount this year as a family.

- Read the entire Sermon each week for a month as a family and discuss it.
- Each family member make a Lessons for Life notebook from the Sermon on the Mount. Also make a family prayer list.
- Choose one of the character qualities in the beatitudes as a monthly focus for study and praise. Matt. 5:3-12
- Discuss as a family the purposes of salt and light. Lead your family in projects which would fulfill those purposes. Matt. 5:13-16
- Discuss and examine your motive for spiritual disciplines. Demonstrate and teach your family to be God-pleasers instead of man-

pleasers. Matt. 6:1-18

- Learn the two things which cloud the eye of the heart from seeing God and what to do about them. Matt. 6:19-7:12
- Lead your family to apply God's Word, not just talk about it. Discuss what God spoke to you after each Sunday service with your family. Hold your family accountable for obedience and application. Matt. 7:13-23
- For younger children, build a house (Lincoln logs perhaps) in a pan on a foundation of dampened sand using a small box with the bottom cut out for a mold. (Although it won't stick, anchor the house to the sand with duct tape like you would do to a house on the rock.) After the house is built, carefully remove the form. Sprinkle or spray water to represent the rain. Use a hair dryer for the wind. Observe the foundation.
- Build a second house on a rock foundation and anchor it to the rock with duct tape. Contrast its stability using the same procedure.

How about you, men? On what are you building your houses? If you'll build on the rock of the words of Christ, the next generation of sons and daughters will already have their foundations set! Your relationship to God is your most important relationship. You're the head (the source of God's Word) to your family. Let the words of Jesus Christ rain, flood, and blow through your family for His name sake.

Oak Grove church of Christ
9203 Thixton Lane
Louisville, KY 40291

Oak Grove Church of Christ

(502) 749-9209

Sunday

Bible Class: 9:30 AM
Morning Worship: 10:30 AM
Evening Worship: 6:00 PM

Wednesday

Bible Class: 7:30 PM

Evangelist:

Bruce J. Dehut
Home Bible Studies Available
Upon Request

Death Can Be Beautiful

By Bruce J. Dehut

Soon Summer will be over and the foliage in our area will don its finest apparel again this year. Many of the State parks along with numerous other scenic areas will be overflowing with visitors enjoying the kaleidoscope of oranges, browns, yellows, and reds. It is hard to imagine anyone not seeing the hand of God in this splendor of color.

Romans 1:20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse.

But we may forget that this transition of hue, from green to another tint, represents the final stage of a leaf's life. The leaves are dying, yet the time just prior to their inevitable fall to the ground they display their greatest intensity.

The closing years of a person's life should emulate that grand finale of a leaf.

Psalms 116:15 Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of His saints.

Ecclesiastes 7:1 A good name is better than precious ointment, and the day of death than the day of one's birth;

The Creed of a Dynamic Leader

By Eugene P. Harder

My calling is clear, my mission is mandated and my guide is God. My face is fixed on the goal and I WON'T QUIT. I will not be delayed, deluded, detoured, compromised nor marginalized. I will not flinch in the face of sacrifice, hesitate in the presence of adversity, negotiate at the table of the enemy, ponder at the pool of popularity, nor meander in the maze of mediocrity. I WON'T QUIT.

I won't give up, shut up or let up, until I've stayed up, prayed up, paid up, and spoken up for my Savior. I am a disciple of Jesus Christ and I must go on till He comes. I will give till I drop, preach till all know, and work till He calls me home.

Even when hit by disease and disaster I will not quit, because God my Father designed me, Jesus my Savior died for me and the Holy Spirit guides me into God's eternal purposes. My family, friends and associates are counting on me to finish life well. THEREFORE I WILL NOT QUIT."

Mathematical Proof

From a strictly mathematical viewpoint, what equals 100%? What does it mean to give more than 100%? Ever wonder about those people who say they are giving more than 100%? We have all been in situations where someone wants you to give over 100%. How about achieving 101%? What equals 100% in life?

Here's a little mathematical formula that might help you answer these questions:

If;
A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U
V W X Y Z
Is represented as;
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19
20 21 22 23 24 25 26;
Then
H-A-R-D-W-O-R-K,
 $8+1+18+4+23+15+18+11 = 98\%$
and
K-N-O-W-L-E-D-G-E,
 $11+14+15+23+12+5+4+7+5 = 96\%$
but;
A-T-T-I-T-U-D-E,
 $1+20+20+9+20+21+4+5 = 100\%$
and look how far the love of God will take you:
L-O-V-E-O-F-G-O-D,
 $12+15+22+5+15+6+7+15+4 = 101\%$.

Therefore, one can conclude with mathematical certainty that:

While Hard Work and Knowledge will get you close, and Attitude will get you there, it's the Love of God that will put you over the top!

Love them good this week, even the unlovable... and we all get there!

- Via Don Dunn

THE LORD'S DAY PRIVILEGE LIST

Sunday Morning Service

Announcements: David Shepherd

Song Leader: Greg Walker

Opening Prayer: Chuck Sharp

Lord's Table: Mike Shepherd
Jim Phelps
Robert Hood
Jr. Stout

Scripture Reading: Steve Smith

Sermon: Bruce Dehut

Closing Prayer: Bill Milliner

Sunday Evening Service

Announcements: David Shepherd

Song Leader: Greg Walker

Opening Prayer: Mark Smith

Sermon: Bruce Dehut

Lord's Table: Mike Shepherd

Closing Prayer: Kenny Case