



Life Lines

Dover Church of Christ
Dover, Arkansas 72837-0299
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How Much Is A Sermon Worth?

At his death, Jonathan Edwards, the celebrated colonial preacher, left an estate valued at 900 pounds. Included was a collection of 30 manuscripts and 1,074 sermons which were assigned a total value of just six pounds by the appraiser. In modern terms, that works out to less than 14 cents each for the sermon of one of the greatest religious thinkers in the history of America!

Tragically, many in our world would agree with that low assessment of the value of a sermon. It has been widely concluded that preaching is useless, powerless and irrelevant. In U. T. Holmes' book, *The Future Shape of Ministry*, the charge is made that preaching is "futile" when "relied upon as a major communication tool." (p. 142)

But is it so? Is preaching really so meaningless and ineffective? How much IS a sermon worth?

1. **A Sermon Can Change the Course of History.** The preaching of Micah postponed the destruction of Judah for more than a century! (Jeremiah 26:18-19) Jonah preached a sermon in Nineveh which produced such deep penitence that God spared the doomed city! (Jonah 3:4-10) The sermons of Luther, Hus and Zwingli stirred the conscience of a continent and turned the

history of Europe into new channels.

2. **A Sermon Can Change the Hearts and Lives of Men.**

So powerful was Peter's Pentecost sermon that 3000 people were pricked in their hearts and submitted to the Lordship of Christ in baptism. (Acts 2:37, 38, 41) Girolomo Savanarola was walking in the country one Sunday when he came upon a small rural church. He wandered in without any awareness that he had embarked upon a course which would eventually lead him to the stake for his outspoken opposition to the Papacy. His biographer describes what happened: "The sermon, or rather, one single sentence of it, changed Girolomo's life. Preacher's words went ringing into his head and into his heart and overpowered him. He was a prisoner of the word of God from that moment until the end of his life." (Pierre Van Passen, *A Crown of Fire*, p.43)

3. **A Sermon Can Change the Destiny of Souls.** Paul knew that the Gospel was ". . . the power of God unto salvation

to every one that believeth."

(Romans 1:16) There is no salvation without the proclamation of God's Word. Preaching occupies a central place in God's plan for the redemption of lost souls. Only when we recognize what the soul is worth will we begin to understand what a sermon can be worth!

Many people (and churches, too) are no longer interested in preaching. Pulpits are being filled with psychologists, performers and publicists while real sermons have become few and far between. Many have lost faith in the power of God's word, and so they tell us that preaching is outmoded and ineffectual.

But it is not true! It never has been true, and it will never be true, because ". . . *it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.*" (1 Corinthians 1:21)

*Bobby Dockery
The Seeker (Spring 2008)
Fayetteville, Arkansas*

"If God brings you to it, He will bring you through it.

Lines for Ladies

By Pat McAlister

“Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.” (1 John 4:7-8)

These two verses tell us a lot about this nature of God. God is love and He loves us. He loves those who love Him and keep His commandments. God has other natures, other than love, that we learn when we read the Scriptures. You can find others in reading the book of Judges. You will see that He is a forgiving God. But, you will also see that He is a vengeful God! The God of those people is the same God we have today. He expects the same of us as He did of His people long ago.

There was much turmoil during the time of the judges. The people would worship the Lord and would enjoy peace for a time. Then they fell into idolatry as did the surrounding countries. During this sinful time, God would allow one of those countries to conquer His people. They would be oppressed until they cried out to the Lord. He would again appoint a judge over the people and they would rest for a time.

I especially like to read the story of Gideon in the book of Judges. He was one of the judges during this time. God really shows His patience while dealing with this man!

Gideon reminds me of how Moses complained that he was not a speaker and he was sure the people would not listen to him. Gideon asked the Lord why He chose him; his clan was the weakest in Manasseh, and he was the least in his father's house. Doesn't this sound like Moses? The Lord has to convince Gideon that He will be with him.

Gideon has his doubts. He makes an altar and puts meat and unleavened bread on it as a sacrifice to the Lord. As a sign, the Lord sends fire out of the rock that consumes the offering. This isn't enough! Gideon needs another sign.

The story of the fleece is one that children like to hear. First, Gideon places a piece of fleece on the threshing floor. He asked the Lord to wet the

Continued, same page, third column -

Remember Our Sick

Iris Bates – home, receiving therapy, improving.

Eugene Cox – Rose Lee's son-in-law serious surgery scheduled for March 20.

Hoyt Ensey – in rehab.

Tim Green – friend of Bonnie Vinson, fighting cancer.

Clara Hefley – serious health problems, running tests.

Carl Keathley – Rose Lee's brother, in his eighties, in ICU, double pneumonia.

Bob Lee – homerecovering.

Janette Litch – started chemo treatments.

Billie Nichols – fell, broke both arms.

Leonard Oakes – Tommy Oakes' father, home recovering from hospital stay.

Marge Ratchford – still battling cancer.

Sherry Strick – Brain tumors

Shut-ins – need prayers and visits:

Dover Area: **Evelyn Burton**
Robert Lee

Russellville Nursing & Rehab Center:
Joyce Austin
Evelyn Driver
Lorene McNutt

Stella Manor: **Louise Killer**

Others Who Need Our Prayers:

Yvonne Adkisson, Amie Barkley, Bob/Carolyn Bennett, Bill Boley, Lloyd Boley, Lois Boley, Susie Boley, Tommy Causey, Troy & Rachel Curtis, Jeff Davis, Melvin Davis, Pauline Dale, Barbara Dawson, Charles Ensey, Sarah Ensey, Carol Graham, Sue Griffin, Pat Holloway, Dorothy King, Rose Lee, Daniel McAlister, Linda Melton, Helen Moore, Julie Moss, Kristen Nordin, Eugene Qualls, BJ/Don Sheeran, Reddie Smith, Tanya Smith, Juanita Townsend, and Judy Will.

Special Children: Zeke Church, Garrett Hogan, Tiffany Knight, Elysia Lee, Keith Martin and Noah Williams.

Our Military: D. J. Bandy, Travis Coe, Byron Lee, April Morgan and Billy Joe Ralston.

H 4 H

**Hunger for Healing
Continues at the Dover Church of
Christ every Tuesday, 6:00 PM
thru March 31, 2009.**

Tribute to Paul Harvey

1918-2009

The Rest Of The Story

A radio icon!
Paul Harvey's "Good Day",
Let America know
that things were okay.
He gave millions a lift,
in his own unique way,
And brought us the rest of the story.

We'll miss his voice
as we turn on the news.
Sprinkles of humor
and common sense views.
A gentle giant,
no one could refuse.
As he shared the rest of the story.

A name we trusted,
a voice that we knew.
If Paul Harvey said it,
it had to be true.
When he lost Angel,
his faith saw him through.
He knew the rest of the story.

For 90 full years
this world was blessed.
An American voice,
he gave life his best.
Now he has joined Angel.
Paul is at rest.
Enjoying the rest of the story.

By Peter Enns, 2009

**Lines for Ladies – continued from
Column one . . .**

ground with dew, but leave the fleece dry. The next morning Gideon finds it just like this. He still has doubts. Next, he asks the Lord to wet the fleece but make the ground dry. The next morning he gets a bowlful of water from the fleece, and the ground is dry. I guess Gideon finally believes the Lord!

The Lord did just as He promised Gideon. Gideon and the Lord saved the people and their country was quiet for 40 years during his days as judge.

Events

Dover Church of Christ Children's Church

Every Sunday
11:15 - 12:00 Noon
Ages 4 thru 8
Bible Story and
Activities
Ages 1 thru 3
Nursery Class

2009

Lads to Leaders
Leaderettes
Overall Theme:

*"... All that You command
us we will do,
and wherever You send
us we will go."*
(Joshua 1:16)

The song leading, songs
of praise and scripture
reading will continue
every Sunday, 5 PM, for
Lads to Leaders/Leaderettes.

They are getting ready
for the Lads

To Leaders/Leaderettes
Convention, Memphis TN,
April 9th thru April 12th!

5th Sunday Celebration
& Potluck following
Young men's Evening
Services

Mark Your Calendars

Dover Ladies Night (Devo)
4th Thursday, 7 PM,
March 26th
Hostess: Diane C. Walters

Dover Ladies

CCSC Noon Meal
Wednesday, April 8

DOVER LADIES' DAY!

April 25, 2009
Dover Church of Christ
Dover, Arkansas
Continental Breakfast and
Registration 9:00 AM
Program 9:30 AM
Lunch: 12:00 Noon
Theme: "Today's Moments
become . . .

Tomorrow's Treasured
Memories . . .

11th Annual Evangelistically Speaking Lectureship April 17th thru 19th

Mars Hill Church of Christ
Vilonia, Arkansas

Speakers: Oran Burt, Dean
Fugett, Dennis Gullede,
Tom German, Bob Harris,
Ted Knight, David Riley and
Robert Swain.

MARCH Birthdays

02 Kelly McDonald
03 Keaton Creel
Rick Hollis
Aidan Pointer
05 Austin Myers
07 Sarah Ensey
Harold Turner
Colton Williams
10 Janette Litch
12 Carl Lawley
13 Matthew Moss
17 Jim Killer
21 William Boley
22 Alan Herron
25 Ethan Letson
26 Mike Creel
27 Shelby Statler
Wilma Johnson
Gary Shinn
28 Kaeli Miller
Elizabeth Robbins

If we missed your birthday, *please*
let us know so it won't happen
again.

COMMUNITY EASTER EGG HUNT

Saturday, April 4th
Camp Caudle 2-4 PM

Anyone interested
in helping contact:
Kim Miller

THOSE TO SERVE

March 29, 2009

Sunday A.M.

Announcer: Randall Walters
Song Leader: Merrell Shoptaw

Prayers

Alan Boatright
Allen Veasman

Communion

Podium: William Boley
Serve: Marion Helton
Rex McDaniel
Rick Hollis
Sid Womack

Scripture Reading

Earl Stamps

Sunday P.M. Prayers

William Boley
Steve Pennington

SPEAKER

Sunday A.M.
Micah Williams

Sunday P.M.
“Young Men”

Prepare Table for Communion

Sandra & Alan Boatright

Communion to Shut-Ins

William Boley

Greeters

Allen & Marilyn Veasman

Wednesday Night Devotional April 1, 2009

Rex McDaniel

Meeting Times

Sunday Morning Bible Classes
9:45 A.M.

Sunday Morning Worship
10:45 A.M.

Sunday Evening Worship
6:00 P.M.

Ladies Tuesday Bible Class
10:00 A.M.

Wednesday Bible Classes
6:30 P.M.

Minister: Micah Williams
Church Office: 479-331-3428
Or Cell: 479-264-9244

Elders:

William Boley 858-7131
Jim Killer 331-2802
Allen Veasman 331-2156
Sid Womack 967-2367

Deacons:

Chris Besterfeldt
Donny Forehand
Brent Hottinger
Chris Loper
Rex McDaniel
Chris Moss

Nursery Attendants:

Sunday Class: JoAnn Killer
Sunday Church: Pat McAlister
Kaeli Miller

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