

Trinity Bible Church

The Carpenter's House

December 9, 2007

FIRST SERVICE MESSAGE:

**Strategies for Preparing to Stand Before
The Judgment Seat of Christ
Romans 14:13-17**

Please join us for refreshments between services

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Monday	10 Dec	Youth Group Meeting. 6:30-8:30
Wednesday	12 Dec	Bible class-2 Corinthians 3
Thursday	13 Dec	Ladies Prayer Meeting.
Saturday	15 Dec	Christmas Party. 5:30 at the Church.
Monday	17 Dec	Deacons' Meeting.
Monday	17 Dec	Youth Group Meeting. 6:30-8:30
Wednesday	19 Dec	Bible class-2 Corinthians 3
Thursday	20 Dec	Ladies Prayer Meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & OFFERING

Worship

SECOND SERVICE MESSAGE:

Encouraging One Another

GLENHAVEN YOUTH RANCH

**Quentin Swafford, Executive Director
December 2007**

First of all, thank you so much for your response to my letter. Your prayers and concern for everyone at the Ranch are appreciated more than words can say. Also, the generosity that you have shown to this ministry is such an encouragement. We are truly grateful for how the Lord uses the hearts of our supporters to provide for the needs of Glenhaven both financially and in lifting us up in prayer.

I would like to give you some updates. Jeff Rice is home and doing excellent. He is back teaching the kids and working in the office but taking it slow. By the time you get this letter Leigh Ann will have had her baby and we will be enjoying him/her. Becky has gone home to be with the Lord. She was in the Hospice Wing of the hospital and they took very good care of her. Scooter and her family made sure she was never alone. Marge Thompson is doing very well. She is tutoring two younger girls. She continues to be a true woman of faith and tremendous example to all of us.

I also wanted to let you know that while in Spokane Washington, for some speaking engagements and a Pastors Conference, I suffered a major heart attack. They performed quintuple bypass surgery on me on October 19th. Beverly was with me already, which was a huge blessing and the kids flew to Washington the day after the heart attack. It really helped to be surrounded by family. The pastors and friends located in Spokane and surrounding area really stepped up and were a huge help with providing vehicles, places for my family to stay, food, among other things. I am out of the hospital and I am doing very well. Beverly and I are ready to be home and hopefully by mid November we will return to the Ranch.

Again, we are so grateful for your support and the many, many prayers that are being lifted up on our behalf. Keep those prayers coming!

Due to the rising cost of health insurance we have a situation that has caused me to write this letter. We have never experienced this kind of medical cost before. Because of very high premiums we were forced to settle for a \$5,000 deductible on staff members, which has resulted in many medical bills apart from insurance coverage. We have had four of our staff experience major medical situations and eleven others with visits to the hospital emergency room with six of those in admission for short stays. We have been thankful that we have had a good group insurance policy in place this year that protected us from having over \$260,000 in medical bills to date. However, one of the major medical situations is a pre-existing condition (they have applied for aid through the Hospital) that could result in over \$80,000 in cost.

Due to the sacrifice and low pay that our staff deals with, it is the Ranch's policy to assist our staff whenever and however possible. This has been a critical issue for us this year and at this point we are not even sure we can continue this practice next year. In the meantime, our staff is faced with almost \$50,000 in deductibles that we are trying to help financially in covering out of the general fund.

Please pray for Scooter and family on the loss of his wife and for Jeff as he recovers from his recent surgery and looks ahead at possibly two more surgeries.

Our income has also dropped in August and September which has compounded our financial short fall. We are in need of \$40,000 to catch up our general fund. We felt we should inform those of you who have shown an interest in prayerful responding to the special needs we've had in the past. We want you to know that our financial policy, of course, is all grace. Please don't feel compelled to give. But we hope you understand that within our ministry right now we have a financial need.

We have had a number of deaths with parents of our staff members this year which has affected us greatly. With all the medical situations and family deaths our staff has worked tirelessly to cover each other's responsibilities. On top of all of that we had the disappearance of John Thompson. He is still missing with absolutely no clues. Through all of this I have seen the staff step-up to the challenges like never before. They have been unified and determined and most importantly through all they have continued to give excellent care to the kids that God has entrusted us to serve. It has been incredible to see in the lives of the staff, as well as, seeing the positive impact it has had on our kids.

As we have seen wonderful changes in the hearts of our kids on a daily basis we know that these challenges only proves that we must continue and that it makes us stronger in our faith and ministry. We know God is bigger than any medical or financial shortfall. We ask you to pray with us as we look to the Lord to continue to sustain us and provide for our needs.

Thank you, again, for your long term support for this ministry and for the fact that you have made such a big difference for our staff and especially for the kids in which we serve.

In His service.

DAVID AND DENISE LOVE
Fellowship International Mission

VOICE OF THE MARTYRS -- EVANGELICAL PASTOR KILLED - Associated Press

Pastor Diego Armando Bejarano, 27, was killed recently in the region west of Bogota, Columbia. Witnesses say hooded men took Bejarano by force and stabbed him. The motives for the killing are unknown; however, it is common knowledge guerrillas groups view Protestant pastors who encroach on territory under their control as military objectives.

In the last 10 years, guerrillas have assassinated 133 pastors, Protestant missionaries and Catholic priests, according to the Evangelical Council of Columbia.

Ask God to encourage and minister to the pastor's family and church as they mourn. Pray his testimony draws his attackers and nonbelievers into the knowledge of Jesus Christ. Matthew 5:4

Three Strategies for Preparing to Stand Before
The Judgment Seat of Christ
Romans 14:13-17

- F. In Relation to Other Christians (14:1–15:13)
1. Judge Not One Another. 14:1-12
 2. Build Up One Another. 14:13-23
 3. Be of Same Mind with One Another. 15:1-6
 4. Accept One Another. 15:7-13

Rom 14:13 = First Application of the Judgment Seat.

14:13 C.T. = Therefore may we not judge one another anymore, but rather judge this-- not to put an obstacle or a stumbling block in a brother's way.

Summary:

1. Our desire should be to replace wrongful judging with the proper use of our liberty. 1 Cor 8:9
2. As with judging, there is a legitimate counterpart to not putting an obstacle in another's way.
3. Many people "stumble" over Jesus Christ but it does not mean that we do not tell them about Him so they don't stumble. Rom 9:30-33; 1 Peter 2:7-8

Principle: Judge the use of your liberty _____ judging others' use of their liberty.

Strategy #1: Seek to _____ wrongful judging from your life.

Rom 14:14 = An Example Of Wrongful Judging.

14:14 C.T. = I know and am convinced in the Lord Jesus that nothing is unclean in itself; but to him who thinks anything to be unclean, to him it is unclean.

Summary:

1. Paul considers the issue of what one believes to be true.
2. We should at least have consideration for the other person's viewpoint and give that person the liberty to hold a different position.
3. When Paul wrote this passage the question of the clean and unclean foods was not yet settled in the early Church, so it was his apostolic opinion.
4. Peter testified to the issue of food around 40-41 A.D., but the second apostolic witness was evidently not yet well known in all the churches, so it was a questionable issue. Acts 10
5. Paul's writings would actually establish the doctrinal standard which would be confirmed by other apostles and prophets.
6. Here Paul is addressing the "weaker" believer and is telling us to treat the person with consideration so that they might come to believe the truth in this area.
7. It is also teaching us that just because we believe something to be true does not make it truth.

Principle: Meet people where they are _____ you try to lead them.

Rom 14:15 = The Issue Is Love.

14:15 C.T. = For if because of food your brother is being made sorrowful, you are no longer walking according to love. Do not destroy with your food him for whom Christ died.

Summary:

1. While food may be essential to physical life, the specific foods eaten are not essential to our spiritual life.
2. The point is the destruction of another person over an item that is not a moral issue.
3. We have enough moral issues to consider without adding things to the list.

Principle: Our liberty should function in love and not leave behind us a path of destruction.

Strategy #2: Respect the ongoing work of the _____ in the life of others.

Rom 14:16 = Spiritual Conclusion.

14:16 C.T. = Therefore do not let what is for you a good thing be blasphemed;

Summary:

1. Freedom is good but when your freedom intentionally harms another over non-moral issues, the objective of loving others is lost.
2. The unbelieving world will look at the extent to which those in the Church do damage to others in the Church.
3. When we wrongfully judge others in the Body, then the world will label what is good (your liberty) as evil (harm to others).

Strategy #3: Consider the bigger picture that life is not just about _____.

Rom 14:17 = The Doctrine.

14:17 C.T. = for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

Summary:

1. We are already in the spiritual Kingdom. Col 1:13-14
2. We are to live like it. Heb 12:25-29
3. Three results of Spiritual Kingdom living:
 - A. Righteousness refers to Christian character seen in living the Father's plan, which is based in love.
 - B. Peace, which refers to one who is at ease with the Father's plan.
 - C. Joy, which is the enjoyment of the Father's plan.

Principle: True Kingdom living is not based on the _____ of life, but on the important spiritual matters.

1. The Need to Encourage One Another:

- A. Encouragement is important business and we are _____ to encourage one another. Heb 10:25

1. Because words have the power to deeply affect people we must consider our speech.
 2. Words can encourage, discourage, or do nothing. Shallow words accomplish little, death words discourage, and life words encourage.
 3. Seek to speak honestly and compassionately so as to encourage other Christians to endure and/or adjust.
- B. Christians _____ one another to grow: Eph 4:11-16
- C. We are reminded that difficulties along the path of obedience can weaken our _____ to follow Christ-and therefore we should encourage one another. Heb 3:12-14
- D. We are to give _____ thought as to how we can encourage one another. Heb 10:19-25
- E. The Objectives of Encouraging one another.
1. Grow in our _____. Heb 10:22
 2. Grow in our _____. Heb 10:23
 3. Grow in our _____. Heb 10:24
- F. The Elements of Encouraging One Another.
1. *Sincerely Draw Near to God* because the problems of the _____ and _____ have been taken care of. Heb 10:22
 2. *Tenaciously hang on to Hope* because God is consistently _____ to us. Heb 10:23
 3. *Consider how to stimulate one another to _____* the Christian life. Heb 10:24
- G. True Encouragement is _____ driven. John 14:16-17