

The Baptist Defence

Year: 2006 — Issue 1

January, 2006

College Classes Offered

Classes offered from Antioch Baptist Institute at First Baptist Church as follows:

- Baptist History
- Book of Acts

If you would like to take one of these classes, please go to our web site at

www.antiochbaptistcollege.org

and register for one or both classes. They will meet Tuesday and Thursday nights. Baptist History will be on Tuesday at 7:00 PM, and Acts will meet on Thursday at 7:00 PM.

Or call (513) 367-6713 and speak with Pastor Wolfe.

Read Your Bible

Your Bible should be read every day. Take a little time each day to read a little of your Bible. It does not need to be much—just a little.

Each line and each principle that you read will add to your character, your understanding, and your faith (Isa. 28:10).

There are many Bible reading plans. Search the worldwide web, or ask your pastor for a reading schedule. You will be glad you did.

Our Companion For The Year

By Pastor Ronnie Wolfe

Ex 33:14 *And he said, My presence shall go with thee, and I will give thee rest.*



Introduction

If the Lord awaits his coming throughout the coming year of 2006, we have many valleys to pass through and many mountains to climb. There is nothing more lonely than walking through a valley alone. There is nothing more stressful than climbing without the security and

assuring presence of another person along the way. Joshua said to the children of Israel as they were readying to go into Canaan in Jos 3:4 *Yet there shall be a space between you and it, about two thousand cubits by measure: come not near unto it, that ye may know the way by which ye must go: for ye have not passed [this] way heretofore.*

No, we have never gone this way before. This is a very new year, a new time, a new venture and a new adventure for us to pass through one more year under God's heaven.

As I sometimes visit my wife's grave, I feel a loneliness that some of you know and some of you do not. But, when I feel that loneliness, I remember what the Lord said here in Exodus 33:14, "My presence shall go with thee, and I will give thee

rest."

This year we will all go through times of relaxation, amusement, the stress of business, the changing road of experience and life; but along with that changing road is an unchanging Presence, that Presence is God Himself. He is there all the time. *there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother*, says Proverbs 18:24.

We will all travel down through the year with a common ignorance. Society, culture, wealth and poverty have no favorites. They visit one and all. We need a Companion for this unknown and changing road that we are about to travel.

Let's consider some lonelinesses that we may experience as we go through this new year and a Companion

(Continued on page 2)

How Poor We Are

One day, a father of a very wealthy family took his son on a trip to the country with the firm purpose of showing his son how poor people live.

They spent a couple of days and nights on the farm of what would be considered a very poor fam-

ily. On their return from their trip, the father asked his son, "How was the trip?" "It was great, Dad." "Did you see how poor people live?" the father asked.

"Oh yeah." said the son. "So, tell me, what did you learn from the trip?" asked the father.

The son answered: "I saw that we have one dog and they had four. We have a pool that reaches to the middle of our garden and they have a creek that has no end. We have imported lanterns in our garden and they have the stars at night. Our patio reaches to

(Continued on page 3)

Companion Through The Year

(Continued from page 1)

who can make the journey easier.

LONELINESS OF UNSHARED SORROW

- A. Sometimes there is a sorrow that can find no willing and friendly ear to hear and empathize with that particular sorrow.
- B. Ps 32:3 *When I kept silence, my bones waxed old through my roaring all the day long.*
- C. There is a sorrow that cannot be shared; and when this happens, the bones ache, muscles hurt, and depression can take us into deep waters.
- D. When there is no human being to sit close by and listen to our sorrows, then what?
- E. *My presence shall go with thee, and I will give thee rest.*

LONELINESS OF UNSHARED VICTORIES

- A. I suppose the only thing worse than unshared sorrow is unshared victory or triumphs.
- B. I recently read a story of a young man who was in school with an orphan boy. The orphan boy had no family, no kinsman, no friend at all. It was hard enough for this young man to go through his existence with the sorrow having no family; but the most sorrowful event of all was when he reached a distinguished position in his studies and was awarded for it. There was not one family member, one kinsman, not one friend to share in his triumphs. What sorrow that must have been!
- C. Again I read of a man who was working on writing a book, and he had spent several years in the work. Before the book was published, his wife died. His book was a great success, and he was at a book signing when a friend came by to congratulate him. With sadness in his face, the author said, "Ah, if only she were here to share it." His loneliness was almost unbearable even though he was in the height of his accomplishment of writing.

- D. In the times when I sin and am sorrowful for my wrongs, I need a great Companion. But even in my triumphs I need a Companion. *"My presence shall go with thee, and I will give thee rest."*

LONELINESS OF TEMPTATION

- A. This loneliness is one that is so deep that the dearest friend on earth cannot go into the depths with us as we encounter temptations.
- B. Temptation is experienced behind a door that our friends cannot enter. It takes place in a terrible and desolate loneliness where friend cannot go with friend.
- C. Temptation is not experienced in the public arena with many friends around, but it is experienced in the desolate loneliness of a troubled heart, a place where only the tempted can be, alone and away from the help of even the closest of friends.
- D. You may fight with beasts, as Paul says in 1Co 15:32 *If after the manner of men I have fought with beasts at Ephesus, what advantageth it me, if the dead rise not? let us eat and drink; for to morrow we die.* There in that public arena he may have literally fought with wild beasts and won the battle.
- E. But when a man fights the battle of temptation, he is not assembled with many spectators but in the desolate darkness of his room or his bed or behind muffled doors.
- F. But even in this deep and desperate loneliness, God says, *"My presence shall go with thee, and I will give thee rest."*
- G. Take the Lord with you into these lonely places where never a friend can go, where no heart can empathize, where no tears can be shared, no pain can be shared except for the Lord himself who was in the pangs of temptation himself and was tempted in all points like as we are, yet without sin (Heb. 4:15).

LONELINESS OF DEATH

- A. That lonely, lonely valley of

death is one that we must all travel alone. No one can go with us. No spouse, no comrade, no trusted friend can walk us through this desolate place. They all must stop at the shore and allow us to go on alone.

- B. The victim of death looks behind him and sees his loved ones and friends perhaps standing at his bedside. He longs to be with them. He desires that someone go with him through this dark and lonely place, but no one can.
- C. They are all saying "Good-bye" and praying for a safe and peaceful journey to another land. This we each must travel alone. The hands we may be holding must be loosed. The embraces that we are given must be left behind. We must go it all alone.
- D. What loneliness is that walk through this dark valley that I have not traveled before? Where can this loneliness be dispelled? Who will go with me?
- E. Ps 23:4 *Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou [art] with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.*
- F. So, even in this last valley that we must pass, the Lord will be with us. He has gone through this valley before. He has met the despair; he has experienced the loneliness; he has walked the valley and felt the shadow of death. Jesus has been there and has had victory over this deep shadow. He has conquered death so that Paul could say we are "more than conquerors through him that loved us" (Rom 8:37).

Conclusion

Now if all of us as God's children could firmly believe this verse, "My presence shall go with thee, and I will give thee rest," what a ministry we could have!

We could do our work without sorrow or dread. We would waste no energy in fearful watchings and in despair.

We could face the new year with new zeal and a new attitude, undaunted by

our infidelity, our ignorance and our lack of faith; because we would know that, no matter where we may need to trod down the year of 2006, the Great Comforter will be with us.

He will make sure that we have a glimpse of light around the next corner we will turn.

And we will not need to feel alone in our venture through the year. We must not try to do everything ourselves. Our Great Companion and Comforter has something to do, also. We must trust him and depend upon him for our strength and our understanding, our faith, and our fortitude and attitude.

Before we can have the rest promised in this verse, we must first of all understand the presence of God in our lives, and then we must throw our every care upon Him who is read and willing to take away our cares and to be with us in the darkest valleys and the highest triumphs of life.

ILLUSTRATION

An aged weary woman, carrying a heavy basket, got into a train and, when she was seated, she still kept the heavy burden on her arm. "Lay your burden down, ma'am," said a kind gentleman. "The train will carry both it and you."

That's the basis of it all. We must lay down our basket and let the train carry us both. You know the story of the Footprints, where the man complained that he saw only one set of footprints; but the Lord reminded him that when he saw only one set of footprints, that's when the Lord was carrying him.

We have such a Comforter in Jesus Christ! We have such a friend in Jesus.

My we spend every minute of the new year in the knowledge of His glorious

presence in our lives.

What a friend we have in Jesus, All our sins and griefs to bear.

What a privilege to carry, Everything to God in prayer.

O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear

All because we do not carry, Everything to God in prayer.

And when we pray, we pray for those lonely wives who have lost their husbands in war, the mothers who have lost their babies in death, the children who have lost their mothers and/or fathers, the husbands who have lost their wives,

the wives who have lost their husbands, the backslider who is going through the valley of despair due to sin in his life, the sinner who is angry with God and cannot feel the presence of the Comforter. Pray for the sinner who is here today who has never trusted Jesus Christ as personal Savior and is lost in his sins and on his way to Hell, awaiting a death through which valley Jesus will not accompany him, a valley that is so lonely that no one can even imagine how horrible this journey will be.

Pray for each and every one who has lost the meaning of the presence of God in his or her life. And let us commit ourselves to the confidence that Jesus

(Continued on page 4)

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Commentary On Book of Romans

By Pastor Ronnie Wolfe

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POOR

(Continued from page 1)

the front yard and they have the whole horizon. We have a small piece of land to live on and they have fields that go beyond our sight. We have servants who serve us, but they serve others. We buy our food, but they grow theirs. We have walls around our property to protect us, they have friends to pro-

tect them."

The boy's father was speechless. Then his son added, "Thanks, Dad, for showing me how poor we are."

Isn't perspective a wonderful thing? Makes you wonder what would happen if we all gave thanks for everything we have, instead of worrying about what we don't have. Appreciate every single thing you have, especially your friends!

Make 2006

A

Year Of Service

To Our

King,

Jesus Christ!

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF HARRISON, OHIO

(Continued from page 3)

will never leave us nor forsake us, that he will be with us through every hour of every day of every week of every month of the whole year of 2006.

For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little (Isaiah 28:10).

Service Schedule

Sunday School 10:00 AM
Preaching 11:00 AM
Sunday Evening 6:00 PM
Wednesday 7:00 PM



58th Church Anniversary

Service Scheduled For

March 26, 2006

Mark your calendar!

First Baptist Church

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Pastor Ronnie Wolfe

THE BAPTIST DEFENCE

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