



BLODGETT CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Time of Services:

Sunday: 10:00 A.M. class, 11:00 A.M. worship, and 6:00 P.M. worship

Wednesday: 7:00 P.M. class

Preacher:

Larry Black (cell) 903-588-4253 email: lblk@peoplescom.net

Youth Leaders:

Heath & Carla Hines 903-717-1423 email: hhines@hotmail.com

Benevolence - Rick Toland: 903-220-9825

Building Maintenance - Mark Sharpen 903-573-3993

Dwayne Porter: 903-563-7161

Grounds & Van - John D. Porter: 903-563-5945

Finance - Larry Reynolds: 903-767-0742

Wednesday Devotional Speaker: Heath Hines

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Do You Fumble?

During the past few weeks, many spent countless hours watching football as the college bowl games were being played and the NFL playoffs began. In some cases, the favored team won and in others the underdog won. Sometimes the underdog won because the favored team committed unexpected turnovers, and frequently those turnovers were fumbles. Fumbles can lose ballgames.

Perhaps no play in football carries with it more disappointment and devastation than the fumble because it kills a team's spirit and is a disappointment for a team's followers. Fumbles can be caused by any number of factors. There can be a poor exchange from one player to another; there can be a vicious collision with the opponent; there can be carelessness on how loosely the player protects the ball, or perhaps simply a lack of concentration. Sometimes it can be a mental attitude. Retired NFL football coach Jimmy Johnson once told a player that was prone to fumble, "Hold on to the ball," instead of telling him, "Don't fumble." Both expressions meant the same thing, but one reinforced a positive mind set while the other a negative.

Fumbles are not confined just to the sports world. All of life can be plagued by fumbles. To fumble is to squander away an opportunity, and we all are guilty of wasting away opportunities for the advancement of God's work. There are times when we fail to attend worship as we should, or when we do attend, our hearts are somewhere else. Let me emphasize how your absence to the assembly is like a fumble to the football team; it demoralizes and discourages the rest of the team that is present. Notice what the Hebrew writer says and understand that he is right on target.

Heb. 10:25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching. One purpose for assembling is to "exhort one another." That means to encourage one another and you do that by your presence. When you are not here, it's like a fumble near the goal line. It's most discouraging and devastating.

Most fumbles can be eliminated by commitment and concentration. Your worship attendance too is a matter of commitment. Let me encourage you to make the decision that worshiping together is high on your priorities and that you are NOT going to forsake the assembling. Let's all understand that worship is not simple about "me;" rather it is about the ones I influence.

Remember Paul's words: "*This one thing I do forgetting those things that are behind, and reaching forward to what is ahead, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.*" *Philippians 3: 13-14.*

Let's make a New Year's resolution to not fumble opportunities (especially forsaking the assembling of ourselves) but score for God and His team. ~ Larry

The Walks of Ephesians

Walk denotes activity; more than that, it denotes continuous activity. In Paul's letter to the Ephesians, the figurative use of walking for living or carrying on our life is employed several times. How very important and impressive is the lesson.

Walking in disobedience "And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience" (2:1-2).

Walking in good works: "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them" (2:10).

Walking worthily: "I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, with all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" (4:1-3).

Walking in vanity: "This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind" (4:17).

Walking in love: "And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet smelling savour" (5:2).

Walking as children of light: "Now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light" (5:8).

Walking in wisdom: "See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise. redeeming the time, because the days are evil" (5:15-16).

Family News

- The Bible Bowl team will practice tonight following the evening service.
- Wanda Williams' brother, Terry, is critically ill.
- Kendall, Toby Davis' cousin is in the advanced stages of cancer.
- There will be a "youth training session" this afternoon at 5:00 pm. We ask that all of our youth attend this session.
- Next Sunday evening we will have a resident from HRR preach the sermon.
- Next Sunday evening after services we will have a men's business meeting.

PRAYER LIST:

Vicki Dodson, Mark Sharpen, Lisa Fields, Robert Ballard, Steve Newman, Clem Williams, Nina Wharton, Jean Martin

Evangelism That Counts

Kyle Campbell wrote in a bulletin about how important and significant visitors were to the services where he preached. As I thought about it, visitors are important to us at Blodgett as well. Rarely do we have a service without visitors in attendance. Whether or not someone returns may depend upon the initial welcome they receive. You can only make one "first impression," and a good first impression is essential. Let's make every visitor feel welcome.

Recent studies indicate that the number one factor in the growth of congregations centers on the worship assembly. That is, our prospects are usually ones who decide to attend a worship service. Asked why people chose one church over another, the responses indicated the importance of the following:

- Visitors feel warm and welcomed.
- The preaching and teaching is Bible-based and practical.
- The singing is inspiring and encouraging.
- People have a genuine care for one another

If we will embrace these four points, we will continue to attract visitors and see them return. Growth is not that complicated. Most all congregations have choices as do individuals, and what they choose to do regarding their visitors can contribute to either growth or decline.

There are two great tasks that you can do to help us grow: 1) invite your friends to worship with you; and 2) demonstrate friendliness toward those invited by other members or those that decide to visit on their own initiative. It works. ~Larry