



## BLODGETT CHURCH of CHRIST Bulletin

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### 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](mailto:lblk@peoplescom.net)

#### *Youth Leaders:*

Heath & Carla Hines 903-717-1423 email: [hhines@hotmail.com](mailto:hhines@hotmail.com)

Benevolence - Rick Toland: 903-220-9825

Building Maintenance - Mark Sharpin 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: Dwayne Porter

### **"Is This Baseball?"**

With baseball season just around the corner, I thought you might enjoy the following article written by Jeff Proctor. Jeff used to preach at the Gilmer church of Christ. LDB

*The All-American past time is in full "swing." The crowd sits anxiously in the stands awaiting the umpire to yell, "Play Ball!" The roar is deafening, but it is not the crowd, only a train. Cameras are flashing, video tape rolling and young children with snow cone juice running down their faces, watch anxiously through the fence hoping for a foul ball. The parking lot is almost full with 10 or 12 cars. If you gathered, this is not a Major League event, I would argue that is in the eye of the beholder. To this little group of first time "Tee-ballers," it might as well be Wrigley Field. The chaos and fun that ensues at a T-ball game is quite amazing. Many are still wondering why the glove goes on the hand they don't use very much. Batting is its own set of thrills and base running would be a lot easier if nobody would stand on the bases.*

*A while back I coached one of these little T-ball teams and during one game in the heat of the second inning; I was attempting to encourage the outfield. To one young fellow I said, "You're doing good, you are a good baseball player." Then out from under a cap smashed down so tight his ears were flattened came this response, "Is this baseball?" Before I could respond, the next question he asked was when it would be time to go home?*

*I realize at the age of five and in the outfield of a T-ball game things can be pretty dull. At that particular moment, baseball had less appeal than nachos, and*

he wasn't extremely impressed. However, this young player is just getting started, and in the process of learning, he may really enjoy the sport.

Religion for some does not ever get past this point. "Is this religion?" "Oh, so when do I get to go home?" The heart is not touched, the effort is minimal and the life is not changed. What a tragedy for people to not recognize the greatness of having a loving Father in heaven who has given so much to a world that deserved so little. Light the fire in your soul and get in the game. You can only get better by playing, and you can only play if you are on the team. Get to know the Coach. He has a game plan for life.

**Neither the authority of years, the weight of numbers, nor the intensity of sincerity can make a thing right if it is fundamentally wrong ."**

The human heart is the battlefield in the age-old struggle between right and wrong. The tempter seeks to deceive us and turn our will from God, and each time we allow it, evil gains a foothold.

Every part of our being faces this challenge: our mind must choose truth over deception, our heart love over hatred, and our will obedience over defiance. Without vigilance, wrong thinking and wrong-heartedness can overwhelm the good we were created to enjoy.

These truths call for humility and alertness—but also courage and hope. As Paul told Timothy, *"For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind"* (2 Timothy 1:7). Though we face a cosmic struggle, the Creator reigns supreme.

The devil can tempt, but he cannot force us. God gives us freedom to choose and calls us to resist deception and embrace life in Him. Moses put it plainly: *"I have set before you life and death... therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live"* (Deuteronomy 30:19). See Joshua 24:15.

The devil wrestles with God, and the field of battle is the human heart.

(Feodor Dostoevsky).

### **Family News**

- **Gary, Janice, and Patsy** (Gary's mother) **Casey** want to make Blodgett their church home. We welcome them and look forward to a long relationship.
- **Joan Rule** is in the Sulphur Springs Hospital undergoing some medical tests.
- **Sharron Grolemond** has been diagnosed with cancer and will be undergoing surgery soon.
- We are glad to report that **Jimmy Jones** returned home from the hospital.
- A youth game night is scheduled for Friday evening from 6:00 to 7:30
- HRR pantry item for Feb. is pasta sauce and dry spaghetti.

### **PRAYER LIST:**

Vicki Dodson, Mark Sharpin, Lisa Fields, Steve Newman, Jennifer Boyd, Clem Williams, Nina Wharton, Jean Martin

### **Power, Not Fear**

*For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind. 2 TIMOTHY 1:7*

The only fear that God encourages in a Christian's life is the fear of God (2 Cor. 5:10-11; Heb. 10:31). Fear of people *does* not come from God. The problem is that many Christians fear people more than they fear God. Their fear hinders them from pleasing God because they waste their efforts appeasing other people.

Timothy was a young man, timid by nature, and probably not strong physically (1 Tim. 5:23). He knew of Paul's frequent trials and persecutions. He knew that he, too, might suffer those same persecutions. Paul reminded his young colleague that fear of others does not come from God.

Fear causes us to stop and question what God has clearly told us to do. Perhaps we were confident in our obedience until persecution came; now we doubt whether we heard God correctly. Most fear is fear of the unknown. We do not know what lies ahead of us, so we become apprehensive. Our imaginations can magnify problems until they seem insurmountable. We need a sound mind to see things in proper perspective. That is why God gave us His inspired scriptures, to enable us to see things as God sees them.

Fear is no excuse to disobey God. There is no reason to live in fear when you have the mighty presence of the Holy Spirit within you. Fear will enslave you, but Christ has come to set you free. Ask God to free you from any fear you are experiencing and to open your eyes. As He reveals the reality of your situation, He will enable you to continue in obedience.