

Shadrach Youth Ministry

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GOD IS WAITING

It came to mind the other day that God is waiting. He is always ready and waiting for us to make things right with Him.

I have been going through several small challenges in my life and there have been times when my heart was not quite right with Jesus. I blamed the Lord and had trouble believing that He is good. I would find myself pretending I was not struggling, and I'd fill my days with meaningless things to pass the time, thinking when circumstances changed, everything would be right again. On the surface I did not even realize I was doing this. I would still talk to the Lord and read my Bible everyday; however, I now realize that I was not seeking Him with all my heart, and I was bearing the fruit of it: no peace, no joy, and no victory in my circumstances.

Yet, I thank God that He opened my eyes! In my devotions one morning I saw things clearly. I wasn't seeking Him with my whole heart. I did not have my eyes fixed on Jesus. But I praise the Lord because He reminded me that He is always ready and waiting for us to make things right with Him. God is big enough to handle our problems, struggles, tears, and even our complacency or worldliness. He is waiting there with His grace, mercy, and love! He is waiting to make us more like Jesus. The question is will we take the step.

When I was in college I had a girl confess to me that she knew she wasn't on fire for the Lord. She told me about a big Christian conference coming up, and said that once she went, she knew she would get right with the Lord and be on fire for awhile. I was so sad. I looked at her and said, "Why can't you get right with the Lord now?"

That is a question I have to ask myself from time to time. Why do I go some days when I know things aren't 100% with my Lord? Why do I keep filling my life with empty things, when I know that it is in vain and doesn't give me peace and joy or help other people know Him more? Well, I praise God that we don't need a big conference or even a Shadrach meeting to get right with the Lord. We can get right with Him anywhere and at anytime if we seek Him with all our hearts and come before Him honestly.

As this next Shadrach meeting approaches, I want to encourage you. Don't wait for the Shadrach meeting to get right with the Lord. Go to your room, shut the door, and seek the Lord with all your heart until you find Him. God is not a liar. He promises that if we come before Him honestly, we will find Him, even if it takes awhile. Praise the Lord that right now, every person reading this can have victory if we surrender to Him and give Him our all! Let's do it and I know that this coming Shadrach meeting could be the best one yet.

-Jenn

PS Please pray every day for the coming meetings. I'll be sending around an e-mail prayer list soon.

Fall Weekend

October 27-29!

*Shadrach Weekend at Kokomo
Christian Fellowship.*

\$10 per person.

*Please e-mail Jenn if interested so
she can mail the necessary forms!
lookingtgod@hotmail.com*

WITNESSING REPORT:

Last Saturday I stayed with my grandma while Mom ran some errands and Dad took Angela and Rebekah to the Bluffton Street Fair. Grandma Miller decided to go to Dollar General and took me with her. When I walked in I noticed that the cashier, Traci, was singing and I couldn't help but be drawn to her, her face seemed to glow. A couple of minutes later I realized that she was singing a hymn. I walked to where she was and told her that I liked the song she was singing. Well, we started talking about our favorite hymns and sang a verse or two RIGHT IN THE STORE (I was a little nervous because there were other people around). Grandma checked out and we were walking out the door when I felt that I should go pray with her. I told my Grandma that I would be right back and quickly went back to pray with her. I don't remember what I prayed, but I am very thankful that Jesus helped me to say something to Traci. ~Christa~

SERVANTHOOD REPORT:

For my servanthood report, I joined a group on campus called Campus serve. This morning, we went into downtown Lynchburg and went to a place with many apartment complexes. Our goal was to get the kids there to come out and play in the field. Before we started knocking on doors, we prayed over the field and just asked God to help us to do the right things. We knocked on several doors and got a lot of the kids there to come out and play. They probably ranged from about age 1-14. We played with them for about two hours. During that time, one of the girls told them the story of Jonah. We played different games with them and tried to show them Christ's love. Two of the little girls especially hung around me while we were there. I am praying that next time, God will give me an opportunity to talk to one of them about Jesus. I know that some of the kids there have never really heard about Jesus. I am trusting that God will work in them and eventually touch their parents' lives as well. Praise God for his help.

~Lauren~

ATTENTION! If you have *not* been active in Shadrach and would like to continue to get the newsletter, please email, call, or write! We are getting ready to purge our mailing list. If you are enjoying the letter, we would be happy to continue to send it to you. Otherwise, we will save us some postage and you some extra unwanted mail by removing your name.

ALL THAT IS WITHIN ME!

It was on a Sunday morning and I was reading Psalm 103. The first verse pricked my heart and resonated in my whole being. "My soul, praise the Lord, AND ALL THAT IS WITHIN ME, praise His holy name." It wasn't just praise from my lips - it seemed as though I could feel my entire inner being praising His name! Gratefulness didn't just come from the area of my chest where my heart is, but it seemed all of the matter in my body was lifting up and exuding praise toward Him. It's not just your soul that can praise God, but *all that is within you!* So the Scripture says. We are fearfully and wonderfully made! Are you keeping up with your praise time? How about praise throughout the day? Start with clearing your heart of any known sin and then sit and meditate on the good things the Lord has done. Let your *whole being* revel in His presence and His goodness. It will bring healing to body, mind, soul – all that is within you! -Karin

BOOK REPORT:

A Pilgrim Who Made Progress by William Deal, the life of John Bunyan, author of *The Pilgrim's Progress*.

This is a wonderful book; it is about the life of John Bunyan, who lived from 1628-1688, and who is the author of "The Pilgrim's Progress". It tells of his hard life as he was growing up, due to great amounts of condemnation from the devil, and then later in the story, after he is truly saved, the book goes on to tell about his ministry as an unlicensed preacher, prohibited by the laws of England, and due to such religious acts, he was arrested and jailed for 12 years. He married a lady named Mary, but after she died, he remarried a young lady whose name was Bitsy.

In the prisons in which he resided, he was bound by walls, but through the Grace of God, setting him free within his heart, his hand penned many books concerning Christianity that no cell wall could hold. Through writing and at times preaching within the second prison, he continued his ministry.

Even though offered the chance to be set free if he renouncing preaching anymore without a license, he held firm and vowed to preach the same day that he was released.

He was eventually released, greatly by the brave efforts of his second wife Bitsy. Later Bunyan died of a cold. He was born in Elstow, England, and later moved to Bedfordshire, England. He was a tinker by trade, and he had red hair and was broadly built. In the later years of his life, he wrote his most famous work, *The Pilgrim's Progress*, which he wrote for his daughter Mary. – Ben

"Heavens, sprinkle from above, and let the skies shower righteousness. Let the earth open up that salvation sprout and righteousness spring up with it. I, the Lord, have created it". Isaiah 45:8 CSB

A Word from Pastor Schultze... **The Half That Is Not Being Told**

One of the greatest shortcomings of the church today is that she preaches Christ without preaching what Christ preached. How many times do we hear people say, "Our church preaches Christ! Isn't that all that matters?" My answer is a resounding 'NO'. To preach, "Jesus paid it all" without preaching, "all to him I owe" leaves us short of His great salvation. If I don't give my all to Jesus as He has given His all to me, Jesus died for me in vain. And why do we not give our all to Jesus? It is because there is stubbornness, selfishness, and plain sin in our lives. Yet, with all this in our hearts, we are still made to think that heaven wants us. Not so - God is a jealous God, and if we are not all for Him, He will not spend eternity with us. "*Thus says the LORD of Hosts; I was jealous for Zion with great jealousy and I was jealous of her with great fury*" (Zach. 8:2). We need to preach: "Jesus paid it all," and we need to preach, "all to him I owe." Anyone who doesn't preach the second part of this formula as earnestly as the first is grieving the Holy Spirit. To preach Christ without preaching what Christ preached is putting people on the broad way to destruction. It is deceiving people.

Then what did Jesus preach? The two most dominant areas of Christ's preachings were repentance and the Kingdom of God. You find both of these truths in Mark 1:15 where we find Jesus at the beginning of his ministry. From that time Jesus began to preach and say, "*Repent, for the Kingdom of God is at hand*" (Mark 4:17). Mark 6:12 says, "*And they went and preached that men should repent.*" Jesus says in Luke 13:5, "*Except ye repent ye shall all likewise perish.*" He says in Luke 15:7, "*There is joy in heaven over one sinner that repenteth.*"

There is no forgiveness without repentance; i.e. without leaving the sin we ask forgiveness for. If this is not a cardinal theme in your church, your church is not preaching what Christ preached. There is a perception that the message of repentance was exclusively that of John the Baptist. This is not so. Jesus preached repentance as vehemently and fiercely as John the Baptist. Repent, repent, repent. We have run off with Martin Luther's doctrine of justification, but we forget that the first shot that was fired from Luther's gospel gun was a call to repentance! This is the first of the 95 thesis that started the Reformation:

1) OUR LORD AND MASTER JESUS CHRIST, when He said repent, He willed that the whole life of believers should be repentance.

What Luther meant is that we should live a life with our backs forever turned to sin and all unrighteousness. Oh, how far have we strayed from Jesus' teaching and that of our father of the great Reformation.

The second main theme of Jesus' teaching was the Kingdom of God. There are well over 130 references to the Kingdom of God and of heaven in the New Testament. Most of them are in the gospels. Jesus said that we are born again to enter the kingdom of God.

So, have you repented? Are you living with your back to sin? Are you born again and have you entered the Kingdom of God yet? This is what Jesus preached! Are we preaching this as earnestly and frequently as He did? It is not enough to 'preach Christ'. We must also preach what Christ preached. And **now** you know what that is!

Note: In the September newsletter, we printed an article called, "Are Choruses and Hymns Interchangeable?". The title clearly states the intent of the article – to discuss whether we can replace the traditional hymns with choruses and not lose anything. It is not to say that choruses do not have a part in our worship. We have all enjoyed and will continue to enjoy choruses together. This article is very important in our day because of the efforts of some to discard the hymns and replace them with choruses. The website address that was listed brings even more clarity and balance to the issue that we decided to put a short overview in the newsletter in hopes of the readers being enticed to look further into it on the website. Here's another opportunity to look at it: www.fretboardfellowship.com.