

Thank You!
Today's Speaker
Ron Robinson

In Memoriam

Our beloved sister Peggy Woodruff passed away peacefully last Thursday morning.

REMINDER...TIME CHANGE NEXT SUNDAY!!!

Please remember to turn your clocks BACK an hour on Saturday night.

Becoming Effective Christians

“From whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.” Ephesians 4:16

November Birthdays

10 Daniel Brown

November Anniversaries

2 Shannon & Susan Hudson

Regular Meeting Times

Sunday.....9:45 a.m.

Sunday.....10:45 a.m.

Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.

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Determining Faithfulness...God's Standard

The following are “bullet points” from another of brother Randall Jarrell’s lessons which can serve as valuable reminders for each of us as individuals and our congregation in determining our faithfulness! Review the emphasis in Ephesians 4:16 on back page of this bulletin.

The spirit of “we” rather than “me”

The church is an organism, not an organization. Colossians 1:18 ; I Corinthians 12

An organization often takes on these characteristics...

- *Pay your dues.*
- *Obey the rules.*
- *Attend the meetings.*

An organism has these characteristics...

- *A sense of belonging.*
- *A sense of equality.*
- *A sense of interdependence.*
- *A sense of “we”, not “me”.*

The spirit of “we” is the spirit of the local congregation... It is precisely what a congregational family is all about. Without it, there is no family, no congregation... *it's just people worshipping under the same roof.*

Brethren who want to be effective in their Christianity work as hard at building mutually beneficial relationships that foster support and respect as they do in being doctrinally correct. They don't act selfishly, nor as a martyr but rather seek to treat others as they would be treated.

In our culture...Someone wins.....which means that someone loses. In our culture...we have this inherent problem...no one likes to lose. In the place where we are not the effective Christians we should be...*Someone wins...someone loses.*

When brethren are more concerned about who is right than what is right or are more concerned about having their way instead of building up relationships within the congregation, they become enablers, doormats, or martyrs. When brethren engage in any of those kinds of actions, they are making the mistake of failing to move from “me” to “we.”

However, notice the example of Abraham and Lot in Genesis 13. Both of men “won”. Both showed care and concern for each other. Both were effective in their actions...*the relationship mattered as much as who was right.*

Conclusions:

- When brethren belong to one another, when they actually love one another, then the sacrifice of not getting our way is nothing more than trading something small for something big...peace, and a chance to do great things for the Lord.
- The spirit of “we” is the spirit of the local congregation. It is precisely what a congregational family is all about. Without it, there is no family, no congregation...*just people worshipping under the same roof.*

Reminders...To be continued...watch next week.

It's Not About Me

By Joe Chesser

We live in a society that basically believes, “It’s all about me.” Almost every message that advertisers use promotes “me.” Check them out and see if I’m right. Pamper yourself. Please yourself. Protect yourself.

No wonder so many marriages are breaking up. No wonder so many people are having a difficult time at work. No wonder

there’s so much crime and overcrowded prisons. No wonder there’s so much mud-slinging in politics. No wonder there’s so much road rage. No wonder children are so difficult to control. No wonder there are so many lawsuits. No wonder there are so many people crying that their rights have been violated. No wonder there are so many churches being split.

One of God’s irrefutable laws says that whatever you sow, you reap. We are seeing the vivid results of sowing the seeds of self-centeredness, and it’s not pretty.

However, God’s law of sowing and reaping works both ways. If we actively sow seeds of selflessness and service to others we will definitely reap a different harvest. What we see in Jesus, and what actually cost him is life, is that God is not happy with self-centeredness in any realm of human existence: not in the home, not in the workplace, not in the church. So, Jesus repeatedly taught us that Christianity is not about “me,” it’s about others.

- The greatest command is to love God (not self).
Mark 12:29-30
- The next greatest is to love our neighbors (not self)
Mark 12:3
- We are to die to ourselves Luke 9:23
- We are to bless those who persecute us Romans 12:14
- We are to do nothing out of selfish ambition
Philippians 2:3
- We are to consider others better than ourselves
Philippians 2:3

As much as we are bombarded by advertisers, politicians, educators, and even clergy to “look out for #1,” it will be difficult to believe and practice the teachings of Jesus that it’s “not about you.” But we must.

Yet, here’s the blessing. When we learn to do things the way Jesus taught and lived, we learn that putting others first is the best thing we can do for ourselves. There’s nothing on earth to compare to becoming like Jesus!