



8:17; Galatians 3:26-4:7) is, beckoning us Home (Hebrews 12:1-2). It is where all those whose names are written in the Book of Life will be, eternally glorifying the God with whom we've so longed to be (Revelation 21:22-27). It should hurt us to be away from God to the point that we hasten His return (2 Peter 3:11-13). It should hurt us even more when we sin against God and separate ourselves from His love. We all need to long for and hasten the Day when we will finally get to come home to Him forevermore.

Heaven. In John 14:2-3, Jesus tells us that He has gone to Heaven to prepare a place for us to live eternally with Him. That is our Home; it's where we belong. It is where our loving Father is, standing on the edge of eternity, awaiting our arrival. It is where our "Brother" (Romans

Just for kicks, I'll close by telling you one more thing that I've learned. A good teacher always asks his students to tell him or her what *they* have learned (Matthew 16:13, 15). So, in the year that Becca and I have been here, what have *you* learned? I look forward to hearing what you have to say.



Faithful Sayings Issue 11.42 October 18, 2009

Welcome Visitors

We are so glad that you joined us today.
Please come again.

● Let us know if you have any questions.

ISSUE

11.42

BULLETIN OF
THE OLSEN
PARK CHURCH
OF CHRIST

Faithful Sayings

October 18
2009



Services

Sunday: 9:30 AM
10:20 AM
6:00 PM

Wednesday: 7:00 PM

Elders:

Ken Ford
Charles Kelley
Pat Ledbetter

Deacons:

Dean Bowers
Eddie Cook
Bill Davis
Pat Goguen
Neil Ledbetter
Jeff Nunn
Fred Perez
Rusty Scott

Evangelists:

Kyle Pope
Curtis Carwile

Three Things I've Learned So Far

by Curtis Carwile

This last June, Becca and I went back to Kentucky for her sister's wedding. While we were there, a good friend of mine asked me what I had learned since being in the program. I told him that I had learned some Biblical Greek (even though I still have a lot I need to learn). And, I listed a few more "factual things" that I have learned in the year-plus that I've been in this program. After I felt that I had answered the question sufficiently, he asked me, "No. What have you *really* learned?" I must admit that, at first, I was taken aback by the question. However, after the shock wore off, I remembered why I love this friend so dearly; he always made me go deeper than casual, surface level stuff. (He's a good friend and I miss him daily). So, I've thought about it ever since and now, four months after the fact, I think I'm ready to answer his question. I'd like to share three of those things with you today.

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I. People are the same everywhere you go. While it is true that you're going to find people with similar personalities wherever you go, that's not quite what I mean. What I mean by saying that "people are the same everywhere you go" is that, no matter where you go, the people there need the Gospel. We (or should I say, I), really shouldn't be too surprised by this fact.



If you look in the Bible, it is clear that everyone needs the Gospel no matter where they are. In Matthew 28:19-20, Jesus told His disciples (and, in essence, us today) to **"Go and make disciples of ALL NATIONS, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you"** (emphasis mine). Similarly, in Mark's account of the Great Commission, Jesus tells His disciples to **"Go into ALL THE WORLD and preach the gospel to every creature"** (Mark 16:15, emphasis mine). This was the command of Jesus right before He ascended into Heaven in Acts 1:8 when He said, **"You shall be witnesses to me in Jerusalem, and in Judea and Samaria, and to the end of earth."** The rest of the book of Acts and, really, the rest of the New Testament is about His disciples bringing the Gospel of the crucified, resurrected, and ascended Savior to the world. Everyone in the 1st Century needed the Gospel and everyone since then has needed it. The people living in Amarillo, Texas in 2009 need it just as much as those living in Jerusalem, Athens, and Rome 2000 years ago. It is our job as disciples of Christ to bring the Gospel to people wherever we are.

II. If I preach to myself, I'll always have an audience. I know this may come as a shock to some of you, but I don't always know what to say. I become acutely aware of this when it comes to

deciding what lessons to do for a sermon or article. That's when I have to sit back and remember that, since people are the same everywhere you go, the things I need to hear are probably the things someone else needs to hear as well. In Peter's second epistle, he tells them that he is writing that letter to Christians in general so that they wouldn't forget the Truth. In that letter, he encourages them to diligently grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord and to be on the look out for false teachers (2 Peter 3:17-18). Even though Peter was an apostle and a God-inspired writer, don't you think he needed to hear those same words? In Galatians 2:11-21, Peter was carried away with hypocrisy when he refused to associate with the Gentile Christians when Jews from Jerusalem came to Antioch. Peter definitely needed Paul to rebuke him to his face. Peter needed to hear that the Gospel is for all and that we are all equally loved by God. The Apostle Peter needed to hear the Gospel just as much as those to whom he spent his lifetime preaching it. I know that I'll always be speaking to the hearts of those listening if I simply speak the things that I need to hear. We can all take confident comfort in that fact when we go into all the world preaching the Gospel to everyone we meet.

III. It hurts to be away from home. Every time Becca and I go back home, the pain of leaving

becomes sharper. There is not a day that goes by that I don't miss being with my parents, my sisters, brother-in-laws, my niece and nephews, my Mammaw, and my friends in Kentucky. I fondly look forward to the next time we can be together. Now, don't misunderstand me; I love everyone here very deeply and you all will always have a special place in my heart (I'm sure that I'll miss you all very much when Becca and I have to leave). However, I'm sure that any of you who have been so far away from home understand that there are days that it physically hurts to be so far from home. As Christians, we need to have that same homesickness for