



“Devil Disease”: Illustration of Gal.5:15

The Tasmanian Devil population is being decimated by a strange, deadly malady known as “Devil Facial Tumor Disease.” It is a cancer that horribly disfigures an ever-growing portion of the carnivorous marsupial’s body until it suffocates or starves from the lesions in the neck. Horrific as the disease is, its means of spreading through that animal population is even more so. The best guess of scientists is that the cancer cell is transmitted when the Devils bite each other during the course of fights. In attacking their fellow species, they are infecting themselves and likely precipitating their own demise. Their infamous ill temperament may be facilitating their own extermination.

False teachers troubled Galatia. This troubled Paul, who by inspiration denounced especially the Judaising troublemakers in the latter part of the epistle. Paul used many graphic ways to describe their doctrine and approach. It was “bondage” (5:1). It nullified the effect of Christ’s atonement in their spiritual lives (5:2). It indebted one in a way impossible to pay (5:3). It estranged one from Christ, causing that one to fall from grace (5:4). It hindered true obedience to God (5:7). It was destructive leaven (5:9). It was brought by troublemakers and persecutors (5:11,12). It was fleshly (5:13,16ff). It led to spiritual destruction (5:17-21). It was harmful to “one another” relationships (5:26).

Yet the most graphic description in the midst of several is found in Galatians 5:15. Paul warned, “But if you bite and devour one another, beware lest you be consumed by one another.” Paul had just hyperbolically yearned that the troublemakers would figuratively mutilate themselves (5:12), but now he says those with such a divisive, ungodly methodology were destined to spiritually wound and even destroy those likeminded.

Liberalism is a dominating, troubling concern in spiritual Israel today. The church faces so many battles centering on proposed changes that threaten to undermine its authority and identity. Many want to change things clearly and principally set forth in scripture to suit their own desires and inclinations. In some places, there is an outright push to denominationalize the church of Christ and pollute our pulpits and classrooms with blatantly false ideas.

However, one is naïve who believes only one side (i.e. the “left”) is attacking biblical center. There are too many from another direction who are equally damaging and vicious in their attacks on the body of Christ. In one sense, they are more dangerous due to their contention that they are rooting out all false doctrine and exposing all error. When they are doing so with proper ethics, attitude, and balance, they are to be applauded. Yet, there is

a mentality that seems wholly obsessed with fulltime heretic detection, slandering brethren, and scrupulously elevating minutia as on par with Christ’s doctrine. They unnecessarily divide brethren and split congregations. They polarize and draw away disciples after themselves. They are fight-pickers, seemingly eager to engage in lengthy, unending diatribe and debate to the exclusion of other Christian obligations, of righteous, Christ-like conduct, and of a charitable spirit that “is not rude...keeps no record of wrongs...does not delight in evil...” (1 Corinthians 13:5-6).

Yet, a pattern seems to be emerging among such contentious brethren. First, they are increasingly turning on one another. Further, they are succeeding in inflicting themselves by their biting and devouring. Then, they are facilitating their own demise—that of their influence, reputation, trustworthiness, and respectability. However, they have also viciously wounded good men and women from among us in the process. It is an epidemic that deserves closer attention and needs eradication.

If there is a biblical center, it can be abandoned in more than one direction. The antidote is Christ-like love that leads to love of truth and kind treatment of brethren. To do less leads to horrific disfiguring of the body of Christ.

Neal Pollard

Our Gospel Meeting Was a Great Success!



“God doesn’t define success as man defines it. It is defined in God’s terms. As long as we are on those terms we have succeeded.”

Last week we had our fall gospel meeting and I, for one, thought that the effort was tremendous. First, I want to acknowledge the efforts that brother Ray Sullins put into the meeting. Brother Sullins drove down from Springfield each day. He selected a good and balanced assortment of lessons. His lessons were biblically based. They were timely. They called us, as a congregation, to acknowledge God’s sovereignty and move in His direction. We thank brother Sullins for calling our attention to God’s message and not preaching a message of man.

Second, I believe our meeting was a success because we had good participation from our members. Oh, there were a few who didn’t attend like they should have, no doubt, but by and large, the congregation as a whole supported the meeting. Our involvement in our activities is absolutely critical to their success. Why is that? Because

WE are the success or the failure of the church. If we as individuals succeed, then the church will succeed. If we as individuals fail, then the church will fail. The church is composed of the people who are her members (1 Corinthians 12:27).

Third, I believe the meeting was successful because we had several visitors attending. I believe we had visitors each night. Some of those visitors were from neighboring congregations. Some, however, were not members of the Lord’s church. Through our meeting we were able to encourage those other Christians in the area who heard about our meeting and came to attend. Hopefully, they will return to their home congregations with a sense of renewal and desire to do the Lord’s will. I want to especially note, however, that those members of other congregations encouraged us as well! It was TRULY wonderful to see so many from the area

come and participate with us in song, study, and prayer. I was uplifted in knowing that there are Christians not of our number who are out there wanting to do the Lord’s will. The Green Forest church of Christ had especially outstanding attendance and they are appreciated so much for coming over.

Finally, perhaps most importantly, our meeting was a success because it was an effort to do God’s will and to please God. Let’s assume that we didn’t have such a good speaker. Let’s assume that we didn’t have good attendance. Let’s assume that we didn’t have a lot of visitors. Could we still have a successful meeting? Yes! How so? Providing that God’s word is preached and He is glorified, then we can succeed! Why is that? Because God doesn’t define success as man defines it. It is defined in God’s terms. As long as we are on those terms we have succeeded.

Bible Studies for the week of October 30th, 2005



- AM Sermon..... Raising Our Ebenezer
- Scripture Reading..... 1 Samuel 7:7-12
- PM Sermon..... Quarterly Singing
- Scripture Reading..... TBA
- Sunday ClassThe Book of Matthew
- Wednesday Class..... The Book of Zephaniah

Kevin's Korner—An Extremely Scary True Halloween Story!

It was a seemingly average Sunday morning when I awoke last week around 7:00 A.M. Our gospel meeting was beginning today; it was also pot-luck Sunday. Sure signs that Mr. Murphy was lurking near by. My wife was in the shower and so I patiently waited for her to get out. Before I decided to get into the shower I thought I would let the water heater build up a little bit. That's when she came in and asked me if there was something wrong with it. I blinked. I was still partly asleep. "Why would there be anything wrong with the water heater?" So I decided to take a peek. Some clothes were in the way. I moved them. I opened the door and (frightening music plays here as Kevin's eyes bulge and he screams in horror) the water heater was making a loud hissing noise and there was water on the floor. I couldn't get to the shut off valve, so I did what

any good church member would do—I called Bruce! He arranged for a plumber to come right away who was gracious enough to come over early on Sunday morning and find a way to shut off the water without leaving our house down and out of all water whatsoever (the very thought caused my wife to faint). But it gets worse. Now, I have no place to shower. Believe me, there is nothing more scary than a preacher who hasn't had a shower on Sunday morning! What to do? I called one of my friends at the community center—Jim. He graciously opened the doors for me at the community center so I could take my shower which I did rather quickly (It was already 8:30). Time was running out. I got back in 15 minutes, just in time to get ready and crack the whip on the boys so that they would get ready as well. We made it. It was a close call, but we survived the

scariest Sunday morning preacher's scenario ever. Not many preachers have lived to tell such a tale and those who have usually end up in the "Old Preachers Home" putting one too many pearls in their knits. I was "lucky." The next morning, we drained that old water heater and the plumber returned to install a new one. The threat was over and we could now resume our normal activities. The hot shower felt especially good that day, the water especially well heated. There was an uneasiness, however, to my shower taking because in the back of my mind there was a lingering question: "Who knows when the next catastrophe will strike?" Until that day, I wait and watch, ever vigilant, ever mindful, that it could be the refrigerator next! Now THAT WOULD be a scary Halloween! (eeeeeeee — Mwa ha ha ha ha).



"If wisdom's ways you wisely seek, five things observe with care: to whom you speak, of whom you speak, and how, and when, and where."

Selected

Records for the week of October 23rd, 2005

| | |
|----------------------------|-----------|
| Sunday Bible Class | 60 |
| Sunday AM Worship..... | 75 |
| Sunday PM Worship..... | 62 |
| Wednesday Night Study..... | 59 |
| Contribution | \$1533.98 |
| Budget..... | \$1662.00 |



Praises, Prayers, and Proclamations

Announcements

- We are thankful to God for this new Lord's Day. It is the day we honor His Son and the Love that He has shown us through Him. Let us worship in spirit and in truth!
- Please remember the following in prayer: Vaughn Farmer, Bill Fort, Jack, Herring, Opal Hull, our soldiers overseas.
- Many are suffering from seasonal ailments. Please remember all of these in prayer.
- Please check the back bulletin board for several spiritual events at neighboring congregations.
- The regular elders and deacons meeting will be next Sunday evening after services. If you have a business item, please see one of these men.
- Today is our quarterly singing at the nursing home. I hope that everyone will be able to come out and help us sing.
- Tonight we have our quarterly singing for our evening services. This is always a wonderful time of praise to God.
- Our weekly Bible study at the nursing home continues this Thursday with Luke 4.
- Our pantry item is: Pinto Beans.

God's Salvation Plan

1. **Hear** the Gospel—Romans 10:17
2. **Believe** on the Lord & His Word—Mark 16:16; John 8:24
3. **Repent** of your sins—Luke 13:3,5; Acts 17:30
4. **Confess** Christ—Matthew 10:32,33; Luke 12:8; Romans 10:9
5. **Be Baptized** for the remission of sins—Acts 2:38; Mark 16:16; Galatians 3:27
6. Live a **faithful**, dedicated life—Revelation 2:10; 2 Peter 1:5-10

Welcome!

Visit our web site: <http://www.the-churchofchrist.com>

Family Times for Worship and Study

| | |
|-----------------------------------|----------|
| Sunday Morning Bible Class: | 9:30 AM |
| Sunday Morning Worship: | 10:20 AM |
| Sunday Evening Worship: | 6:00 PM |
| Ladies Bible Class: | 10:30 AM |
| Wed. Evening Bible Class: | 7:00 PM |

Serving Each Other

October 30th, 2005 November 6th, 2005

Sunday Morning

| | | |
|--------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Songs: | Barrett Brown | Ken Smith |
| Preaching: | Kevin Cauley | Kevin Cauley |
| Opening Prayer: | Clay Bozarth | Michael Morrell |
| Scripture Reading: | Ken Smith | Ray Duncan |
| Lord's Table | Michael Morrell | Bruce Foster |
| | Leon Duncan | Bob Moore |
| (assist) | Matt Morrell | Jerry Roller |
| | George Eddings | Brandon Foster |
| Closing Prayer | Rusty Windle | Dan Hand |

Sunday Evening

| | | |
|--------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Songs: | Glenn Williams | Clay Bozarth |
| Preaching: | Kevin Cauley | Kevin Cauley |
| Opening Prayer: | Ervin Hand | Dale Pinkley |
| Scripture Reading: | Jack Gentry | Brandon Foster |
| Lord's Table | Jerry Roller | Leon Duncan |
| | Ray Duncan | Michael Morrell |
| Closing Prayer | George Eddings | Clay Bozarth |

Wednesday

| | | |
|-----------------|--------------|--------------|
| Songs: | Bruce Foster | Clay Bozarth |
| Opening Prayer: | Ken Smith | Rusty Windle |
| Invitation: | Leon Duncan | Ken Smith |
| Closing Prayer: | Dale Pinkley | Ray Duncan |

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