



There To Protect

It happened just across the square from my office.

Last week two doormen from a security company kid-napped and killed 38-year-old Lara, a resident of the building they were hired to protect. They forced her to sign a check for about \$6800 and write a letter to her bank manager authorizing one of the men to cash it.

The manager suspected foul play and alerted the police. Unable to explain the money, the man was apprehended and, on the way to Lara's apartment, confessed the crime. The police discovered the woman's body in her bedroom, suffocated with a plastic bag. The men hired to protect her and the other residents robbed and killed her.

Spiritually, the same happens daily all over the world. People in charge of the spiritual welfare of others take advantage of them and, to satiate their own greed and ambition, leave them injured and dying.

In Ezekiel 34:10, the Lord condemned the leaders of Israel for being shepherds who were making food of the sheep for themselves.

Paul warned the Ephesian elders of those who would arise in their midst, "not sparing the flock," but using them as their own personal projects (Acts 20:29-30).

He wrote 2 Corinthians, in part, to expose those who would

make slaves of them, devour them, or take advantage of them (11:20) and "to undermine the claim of those who would like to claim that in their boasted mission they work on the same terms we do" (11:12).

To the Galatians, Paul warned that there were those false prophets who required circumcision of them "that they may boast in your flesh" (6:13).

Even though the Philippian church is relatively peaceful, the apostle to the Gentiles



warns them of those who would destroy their life in Christ: "Look out for the dogs, look out for the evildoers, look out for those who mutilate the flesh" (3:2).

Paul writes to the Colossians "in order that no one may delude you with plausible arguments" (2:4) which would take them captive by philosophy and empty deceit (2:8) and open them to judgment in matters of

food and drink or celebration of special days (2:16).

Peter also warns of false teachers "who will secretly bring in destructive heresies," because many would "follow their sensuality" (2 Peter 2:1-2). "And in their greed," he adds, "they will exploit you with false words" (v. 3).

The New Testament spends a tremendous amount of space and energy to warning Christians against those who have been placed in positions to protect us and encourage our growth, but who wind up catching us unawares and destroying us for their own greed and ambition.

Just like Lara never dreamed her doormen, hired to protect her, would be her assassins.

We thank God for the many faithful shepherds, deacons, evangelists, teachers, and saints who dedicate themselves to helping us step each day closer to Heaven.

At the same time, we don't want to delude ourselves that the danger is out there somewhere, far from our front steps. It may be happening at our very door.

Because the false shepherds will insinuate themselves wherever people are half asleep, the keepers of the door may be plotting our own deaths.

*J. Randal Matheny
Via www.forthright.net*

Jesus Loves Me— For Seniors



Jesus loves me, this I know,
Though my hair is white as snow.
Though my sight is growing dim,
Still He bids me trust in Him.

Though my steps are oh, so slow,
With my hand in His I'll go.
On through life, let come what may,
He'll be there to lead the way.

Though I am no longer young,
I have much which He's begun.
Let me serve Christ with a smile,
Go with others the extra mile.

When the nights are dark and long,
In my heart He puts a song.
Telling me in words so clear,
"Have no fear, for I am near."

When my work on earth is done,
And life's victories have been won.
He will take me home above,
Then I'll understand His love.

I love Jesus, does he know?
Have I ever told Him so?
Jesus loves to hear me say,
That I love Him every day.

Yes! Jesus loves me.
Yes! Jesus loves me.
Yes! Jesus loves me.
The Bible tells me so!

We'll Remember Jesus.

As we partake of the supper,
We remember the death of our Lord,
We know it's His commandment,
And we must honor His word.

The bread is to remind us,
Of His body that He gave.
So cruelly did He suffer,
That He all men might save.

And as we take of the fruit of the vine,
For His blood so freely given,
We think about our Savior's side,
The side where the spear was riven.

It's hard to think of the pain he felt,
As he endured that cross,
But for the joy that was set before Him,
He counted it gain, not loss.

So this memorial we must keep,
Until He comes again.
We must never forget the price He paid,
That we might be free from sin.

As we assemble together,
The first day of every week,
We'll remember the death of Jesus,
Our Savior so lovely and meek.

--Wilma Morris

"For as often
as ye eat this
bread, and
drink this cup,
ye do shew the
Lord's death
till he
come." (1
Corinthians
11:26)

Selected

"And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body. And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins." (Matthew 26:26-28)



Bible Studies for the week of December 11th, 2005

- AM Sermon.....Irrefutable Facts of Life
- Scripture Reading..... Proverbs 3:13-22
- PM Sermon..... The Thousand Year Reign
- Scripture Reading..... Revelation 20:1-10
- Sunday ClassThe Book of Matthew
- Wednesday Class.....Minor Prophets: Haggai

Kevin's Korner

A couple of days ago, my wonderful wife had another birthday. No, I'm not going to tell you how old she is, but if you can count all of your fingers and toes, multiply by two, and then subtract a couple, you should be able to figure it out (oops). We had a great time celebrating her birthday at Crystal Mountain with Michael and Nancy Morrell. The place wasn't very crowded at all and on a cold winter's evening, the spicy and hot Mexican food hit the spot like nothing else!

We had a wonderful men's breakfast yesterday morning. As I write, the smell of sizzling bacon still fills the air. I'm very thankful to Rusty and the others who get up so early on Saturday morning to come in and cook for us once a month. I know that the other men are thankful as well, but we do need to let him know how much we appreciate him from time to time.

This past Friday, Ken and I played racquetball at the community center. It has been a while since I played and Ken took an early lead, two games to none, but after it all started coming back to me, I rallied and was able to tie up the series 2-2. We certainly enjoyed playing together, but my back is protesting its vigorous treatment today. We have the court reserved for next Friday. We shall see how well my back does this week before making a full commitment.

While I am writing this column BEFORE our annual holiday party at the Smith's house, let me go ahead and say that I'm sure we all had a wonderful time. Let me say "thank you" to the Smiths for hosting this gathering every year. It is a delight to have wonderful Christian friends like them who will go out of their way to host such an event. I know that it is a lot of work in order to

get everything "done" to be ready for such. And we're so thankful for their hospitality in that regard. As for the events that transpired last night, well, if you didn't come then I guess you really will not know the full extent to how everyone behaved (wink). It is ALWAYS interesting, to say the least!

Just so that everyone will be AWARE, my family and I will be taking a vacation when the kids get out of school for the holidays. We will leave December 22nd and will return on December 30th, Lord willing! Our plans are to go to Mary Lynn's parents' house first in Hemphill, TX and then drive down to Austin, TX and visit with my folks for a few days. I'm very excited and I do thank you, the congregation, and the eldership for allowing us to have the time to spend with our families over the holidays. We will be back for New Year's eve and the BIG GAME.



"And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not." (Galatians 6:9)

Records for the week of December 4th, 2005

Sunday Bible Class	53
Sunday AM Worship.....	64
Sunday PM Worship.....	47
Wednesday Night Study.....	44
Contribution.....	\$1186.08
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!
- We extend our sympathies to the family of Molly Milligan in her untimely passing.
- Please remember the following in prayer: Shane Blackston, Arlis Eddings, Justina Goucher, Brian Guess, Opal Hull, John Stuckey, Julie Thompson, James Tabor, Rocky Whitely Sr.
- Our monthly potluck is scheduled for next Sunday afternoon. Please make your plans to be with us.
- Our weekly Bible study at the nursing home will be this coming Thursday at 2:00 PM.
- Unless something unexpected occurs, then the Cauley family will be on vacation the week of the 22nd through the 30th.
- Thank you everyone who made our holiday party at the Smith's a big success!
- Our pantry isn't quite as full as it usually is. We will accept any donations you have for it at this time.
- Our pantry item is: Toothpaste.

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

11 December 2005 18 December 2005

Sunday Morning

Songs:	Barrett Brown	Ken Smith
Preaching:	Kevin Cauley	Kevin Cauley
Opening Prayer:	Rusty Windle	Glenn Williams
Scripture Reading:	Perry Foster	Ray Duncan
Lord's Table	Bob Moore	Dan Hand
(assist)	Michael Morrell	John Gass
	Jack Gentry	Jerry Roller
	Matthew Morrell	Brandon Foster
Closing Prayer	Dan Hand	Clay Bozarth

Sunday Evening

Songs:	Rusty Windle	Glenn Williams
Preaching:	Kevin Cauley	Kevin Cauley
Opening Prayer:	Dan Hand	Leon Duncan
Scripture Reading:	Ray Duncan	Perry Foster
Lord's Table	Dale Pinkley	Clay Bozarth
	George Eddings	Michael Morrell
Closing Prayer	Ray Duncan	Ervin Hand

Wednesday

Songs:	Clay Bozarth	Rusty Windle
Opening Prayer:	Glenn Quigley	Glenn Williams
Invitation:	Leon Duncan	Bill Fort
Closing Prayer:	Kevin Cauley	George Eddings

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