

Plain Path

Weekly newsletter of the Fry Road church of Christ

Sunday, April 27, 2014

Volume 19, Number 17

“Teach me thy way, O Lord, and lead me in a plain path... Wait on the Lord; be of good courage, and He shall strengthen thine heart” (Psalm 27:11-14)

(Editor's note: Although written 44 years ago, this article is extremely appropriate for 2014. Brother Turner has a very important question to ask of you and me.)

THE “DO-DAD” HOUSE

by Robert Turner

Did you ever stay in a “Do-Dad” house? It is an exasperating experience for a fellow with reasonably functional tastes. (The advantage of being the writer - you get to be the “reasonable” one.)

You are welcomed into a living room, but the chairs are draped with dainty crocheted doilies. To avoid disarranging these you turn to the couch - cluttered with satin pillows that are decorated with stiff lace of intricately folded designs you would not dare crush.

You are shown to your room, where every available space has more “do-dads”. The desk where you hoped to place a typewriter and books is cluttered with useless trivia - a lady’s shoe covered with colored macaroni and filled with styrofoam, holding some imitation daisies. The dresser-top space is taken with painted bottles, a miniature “Chic Sales” from “Rock City”, and an unidentifiable curlicue made from a soft-drink can.

But the bathroom is the prize. In the tub sets a nylon-knit swan complete with three cygnets. And if that isn’t enough, a colorful ball of imitation flowers hangs from the shower nozzle. You could, perhaps, put the swan and her young

out of the tub and not use the shower, but the soap is beautifully decorated with sequins and pins. Some do-dad homes have tiny linen towels obviously not for use; while others have big fluffy bath-towels, done up to look like a cute doggie with the bath-cloths attached in the form of puppies.

In a desperate effort to stay the wrath of the talented women who make and display these “do-dads”, I’ll admit that I have grouped them in a hypothetical house and that many of them are attractive. But how does one kill a fly with a swatter all loaded with knitting, buttons and spaghetti?

Can you believe the Lord built a “do-dad” house? I believe the beauty of the Lord’s house (His people) is in its service, the functioning of every part in that work for which it was intended. Christians, “as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices” (I Pt 2:5). We must be “meet for the **master’s use**, and pre-
(“Do-Dad”, continued on pg 3...)

V.B.S. Countdown Schedule

May 17 - Workday
June 23-26 V.B.S.

(for Teachers *and* helpers/volunteers)

Each work session is scheduled for
10:00 AM

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Were Sightings of Jesus Like “Elvis Sightings”?

by Bob Pulliam

Elvis sightings... They’ve died down since the 80’s when they peaked. You used to hear about them fairly frequently. People compiled “eyewitness testimonials”. The devout refused to believe that he had died, citing these eyewitness reports as “proof”. But more recent years have found some foolishly likening the eyewitness testimony of Jesus’ resurrection to Elvis sightings. Why isn’t the resurrection of Jesus like Elvis sightings of more recent days?

Did you ever hear a reasonable explanation for Elvis faking his own death? There was no

rhyme or reason to the silly hype. He wanted to escape public scrutiny”, we heard. So he shows up at a gas station in Des Moines, Iowa... pumping his own gas? He did his own grocery shopping? Sightings of Elvis were always vague and ridiculous. If he wasn’t spotted in the shadows in an unlikely place, then he was in a supermarket or gas station. No one spoke to him. They just spotted him. Jesus, on the other hand, conversed with eyewitnesses. They even had the opportunity to touch the wounds in his hands and side (Jn 20:27). And why was he alive? It was all a part of God’s wisdom. His death was intentional, and His resurrection was a necessary part of the overall plan.

Sightings of Elvis were always made by people who had nothing to lose (and something to gain). No one is going to put them in jail for making their claim. And they certainly won’t be testifying under threat of death. And at the same time they will be like heroes to other dedicated Elvis fans. Sightings of Jesus, on the other hand, brought eyewitness accounts that had severe consequences. Anyone who imagines the two to be the same have missed an incredibly monumental aspect of the first century disciples’ faith. They didn’t just believe a convenient, mind consoling truth. These people died for their faith. Did the disciples make up the resurrection story? If they did, did they do it for gain? So tell me, what was their gain?... Fame?... I think you mean “infamous”. Yes, there were thou-

sands converted, but have you missed what they really received? Listen to it: “...after calling the apostles in, they flogged them and ordered them to speak no more in the name of Jesus, and then released them. So they went on their way from the presence of the Council, rejoicing that they had been considered worthy to suffer shame for His name.” (Acts 5:40f). And this is just one of countless encounters with peril (Acts 8:1-4). People don’t suffer pain and shame to further someone else’s lie. If Jesus was an imposter, then they never saw, spoke or ate with Him (Jn 20:19-29; 21:4-23; Acts 1:1-10). If they had never seen, spoken with, or ate with Him, then they knew the resurrection story was a lie. So, every time they told the resurrection story they were lying. And now they are being beaten and shamed for something they themselves know is not true?! Preposterous! One person in ten million may be mad enough to be so irrational, but never twelve in the same place and time! People do not suffer for something they know to be a lie!

My friend, Jesus was nothing like an Elvis sighting. The Chief Priests and elders could not explain the empty tomb (other than the contradicting story of guards who would have been put to death if their tale really had been true). The body was missing from the tomb. And reliable witnesses proved their testimony to be trustworthy by their own blood, giving us every good reason for our faith.



THIS WEEK'S DAILY BIBLE READINGS

NEW TESTAMENT READING

MARK 13 - 16

April 27 - 29

OLD TESTAMENT READING

LEVITICUS 1 - 9

April 30 - May 3

I TIMOTHY 4:13

FAMILY NEWS & NOTES

News and Notes of Interest
to Fry Road Members

Because of the large number of visitors to our services, we would ask those wishing to identify with the congregation to do so by expressing this interest directly to the elders.

Upcoming Meetings & Events:

V.B.S. ("We Would See Jesus")
June 23 - 26, 2014

Gospel Meeting (Rick Moore)
July 12 - 13, 2014

Annual Singing
September 6, 2014

Gospel Meeting (Joseph Casimier)
September 7 - 10, 2014

Sick and Shut-Ins

Sections have been removed to preserve members' privacy

Angels Rejoicing...

Sermons:

Next Sunday:

Jesus Christ: The Living Stone

Tonight:

Observations on Leviticus

("Do-Dad", continued from pg 1...)

pared unto every **good work.**"

Now how is the Lord's work to be done with a house full of "do-dads"?

(copied from
Stuff About Things)



"Speak to the sons of Israel
and say to them..." (Lev 1:2)

How many times have you heard someone say that the book of Leviticus was just for the priests? Some form of the command above is given 17 times. And while the priest needed to understand the sacrificial system, the people were expected to understand it too. Is there anything in the book of Leviticus that might be of value for you and me?

I've heard it said that the book of Leviticus is where all good reading schedules go to die. There is truth in that, to be sure. Tonight's sermon will be aimed at helping us see more purpose for us in the book. But this is a good time for you, as a family, to help each other wade through the sacrificial "red tape" of this book.

Look for interesting details within the book to share in your family studies. Talk about how portions of the book can be helpful in our service, and how our worship is far less complicated. Talk about the advantages of a spiritual service over a physically complicated one.

Preaching Abroad...

FOR THE RECORD

WEEKLY ASSIGNMENTS

MONTHLY ASSIGNMENTS

Sections have been removed to preserve members' privacy

IN KEEPING WITH OUR LONG STANDING AGREEMENT, THOSE SERVING PUBLICLY ARE REMINDED TO PLEASE DRESS IN A MANNER RESPECTFUL OF THE GOD WHOM WE SERVE.

ELDERS:

Ruben Amador
Matthew Heaton
Donnie Mangrum
Steve Voss



DEACONS:

John Coleman	Ken Dunsmore
David Ellison	Ray Farrell
Aubrey Garner	Steve Geraci
Steve LaGrasta	John Light
Steven Martin	Mike McMurray
Jason Mock	David Stevenson
Glenn Tomblin	

TIMES OF SERVICES

Sunday Bible Classes	9:30 AM
Sunday Morning Assembly	10:30 AM
Sunday Evening Assembly	6:00 PM
Wednesday Bible Classes	7:30 PM

EVANGELIST & EDITOR:

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