



"Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you..." Matthew 28:20

Church of Christ • 13800 S. 4080 Road • P.O. Box 527 • Oologah, Oklahoma 74053

"Hats Off To The Rattlesnakes"

Leroy Brownlow

Once upon a time there was a family of wayward members of the church who had lost interest and fallen away. There was a father, and three sons, Jim and John, and Sam. The elders had talked with them about their lost condition. The preacher had done everything within reason that he could think of to lead them to repentance. Many of the brethren had tried to encourage them but nothing seemed to help in the least. One day when the boys were out in the pasture, a large rattlesnake bit John, and he became very ill. The physician was called and after an examination, he pronounced that John was in very critical condition. Said he, "About the only thing left now is prayer. You had better call the elders and your preacher at once." Acting upon this advice, the old man called the preacher, and in tears told him of John's condition and urged him to gather the elders and come to John's bedside as soon as possible. The preacher arrived in due time, and was asked to lead the prayer for John's recovery. This is what he prayed:

"Oh wise and righteous Father, we thank Thee that Thou in Thy wisdom sent this rattlesnake to bite John in order to bring him to his senses. He has not been inside the church house for years, and it is very doubtful that he has in all this time felt any need of prayer until now. Now we trust that this will lead him to genuine repentance. And now, our Father, wilt Thou send another to bite Sam, and another to bite Jim, and another BIG ONE to bite the old man? We have all been doing everything we knew for years to restore them but to no avail. It seems, therefore, that what all combined efforts would not do, this rattlesnake has done. We thus conclude that the only thing left that will do this family any good is rattlesnakes. So Lord, send us bigger and better rattlesnakes. In the name of Jesus, Amen."

Be Right with Man to Be Right with God

Bill Jackson

Regardless of dispensation, the sum of God's will has always been **Duty to God** and **Duty to Man**. Under **Duty to Man** would be the category of **Duty to Self**. In the great Sermon on the Mount, Jesus spoke in these areas, especially beginning in Matthew 5:21, where the Lord mentions unjustified anger and vicious, judgmental speech. It is here that Jesus then speaks of man, coming to worship, and with knowledge that things are not right between himself and another man: "Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee; Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift" (verses 23-24). This tells us plainly that one cannot approach God when there is a matter between himself and another man, when there remain steps that he can take toward reconciliation. One, then, cannot be wrong with man and right with God! There is a great hindrance to the worship when such is tried. Romans 12:18 requires that move toward peace, "as much as lieth in you." I need to make it right, going as far as I can go, and then, responsibility rests with the other side.

These points are critical when we realize that, around the world, there are brethren who have never made themselves right with other brethren, or with other men, and somehow tell themselves that they still can worship with acceptability. That will be one of the judgment day surprises! Long ago, God warned, "They consider not in their hearts that I remember!" (Hosea 7:2).

- A PREACHER WHO WOULDN'T DO -

A church was in need of a preacher. One of the elders was interested in finding out just what kind of a preacher the church wanted. In order to do this, he composed a letter as though it had been received from a preacher and read it to the committee selecting a new preacher. This is what the letter said:

“Gentlemen:

“Understanding that you need a preacher, I would like to apply for the position. I have many qualifications that I think you would appreciate. I have been blessed to preach with power and have some success as a writer. Some say that I am a good organizer. I have been a leader in most places I have gone.



“Some folks, however, have some things against me. I am over fifty years of age. I have never preached in one place for more than three years at a time. In some places, I have left town after my work caused riots and disturbances. I have to admit that I have been in jail three or four times, but not because of any wrongdoing. My health is not too good, though I still get a good deal done. I have had to work at my trade to help pay my way.

“The churches I have preached in have been small, though located in several large cities. I have not gotten along too well with the religious leaders in different towns where I have preached, and I am sure that they will not recommend me. In fact, some of them have threatened me, taken me to court, and even attacked me physically. I am not too good at keeping records. I have been known even to forget whom I have baptized. However, if you can use me, I shall do my best for you, even if I have to work to help with my support.”

The elder read this letter to the committee, and asked if they were interested in the applicant.

They replied that he would never do for this congregation. They were not interested in any unhealthy, trouble-making, contentious, ex-convict; and were insulted that his application had ever been presented! But one of them did ask the preacher's name.

The elder replied, “the apostle Paul.”

— author unknown;

(This article was widely circulated in church bulletins in the 1950's.)

Interesting Quote from the forefathers of the United States:

“I am a firm believer in the Divine teachings, perfect example, and atoning sacrifice of Jesus Christ. I believe also in the Holy Scriptures as the revealed Word of God to the world for its enlightenment and salvation. I will make it a point never to do anything inconsistent with the character of a friend and true patriot. To be such a person it will be necessary to act in accordance with the precepts of the Bible, in which I firmly believe.” – Rutherford B. Hayes, nineteenth President of the United States (Page 223; S.A. Northrop)

Observations and Concerns

November 2, 2022

Welcome Visitors! We are delighted to have you as our guests.

“Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever: for wisdom and might are his” (Daniel 2:20).

Expression of Gratitude: To those who are in attendance each time the “doors are open.”

We appreciate the encouragement such provides for one another.

Men's Business Meeting is this coming Sunday, November 6 after evening services.

Remember in Prayer:

- ▶ **Bill Dilks** is going through treatments for his cancer and is experiencing several difficult side effects that have prevented him from being with us for a few weeks.
- ▶ **Sammy Gray** will be having a defibrillator placed soon.
- ▶ **Vance and Darla Smith** are currently staying with their daughter, Sandra. Vance fell recently and is bruised. For more information, see Chris or Chelley.
- ▶ **LeAnna Shafer**, wife of John Shafer, is going through treatments for cancer. John is an evangelist in Kearney, Nebraska and friends with several of our members.

Extended Prayer List: **Joyce Cash** – ongoing health difficulties; **Dan & Marcella Dennis** – ongoing health issues; **Bill Dilks** – cancer; **Sammy Gray** – continual health concerns; **Chuck Northrop** – blood disorder; **Vance & Darla Smith** – extended health problems; **Pat Taylor** – ongoing health issues; **Dale & Betty Jackson** – prolonged health issues; **Sam Orr** – extended health concerns.

Schedule of Services Sundays Bible Classes. . 9:30 AM Worship 10:30 AM Worship 5:00 PM Wednesdays Bible Classes. . 7:00 PM Website: oologahcofc.org	Assignments			
		Wednesday, Nov. 2	Sunday, Nov. 6 AM	Sunday, Nov. 6 PM
	Announcements	Chris Nelson	Russ Earl	Chris Nelson
	Song Leader	Ross Swearingen	Ross Swearingen	Doyle Jackson
	Prayer	Paul Praschnik	Doyle Jackson	Paul Praschnik
	Lord's Supper (speaker)		Chris Nelson	Chris Nelson
	Lord's Supper		Russ Earl	
	Lesson	Doyle Jackson	Chuck Northrop	Russ Earl
	Prayer / Door Attendant	Chuck Northrop	Paul Praschnik	Ross Swearingen