

The Oologah Informer  
December 8th, 2013

Address

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Service Times

**Sunday**

Bible Class: 9:30 A.M.  
Worship: 10:30 A.M. & 5 P.M.

**Wednesday**

Bible Study: 7 P.M.

Preacher:

Russ Earl

AM Sermon:

You are needed (Matt 5:13-16)

PM Sermon:

Why I am a member of the church of Christ - Lesson 6 – because it teaches the Biblical way of Salvation (Acts 2:36-41)

Sunday AM Bible Class:

The Book of Job – D. Jackson

Wednesday Bible Class:

The Christian Do's - Swearingen

In SEARCH of the Lord's Way

Tulsa KWHB TV 47  
Sunday mornings at 7:30am

For the Record: 12/1

AM Bible Class: 22  
AM Worship: 25  
PM Worship: 20  
Contribution: \$1569  
Weekly Budget: \$2800  
Wednesday Night Bible Class: 16

**On being a small church**  
**Guy Orbison, Jr – Durango, Colorado**

While we desire to be a larger church in the sense that we would love to save as many souls as we possibly can, it occurred to me that there are some advantages to being a small congregation... and, of course, there are some disadvantages. Let me list a couple:

Advantages

We know everyone and everything going on.  
The men have the opportunity to participate often in leading the assembly.

Disadvantages

We know everyone and everything going on.  
The men have the opportunity to participate often in leading the assembly.

O.K. so the advantages and disadvantages seem to be the same. It's really a matter of perspective, isn't it? It is either seeing the glass half full or half empty.

We choose the way we perceive things and then act accordingly. Some people would prefer to "get lost" in a large congregation where they don't know everyone and some men prefer not to lead public prayer almost every time they come to an assembly. Yet, most of us enjoy the family feeling we have here and our brothers want to engage in the public worship.

Although Jesus often had a large following of thousands He chose only 12 as His co-workers. Large crowds are frequently fickle and could turn against Jesus in a heartbeat (John 6:66), but the 12 remained true (v. 67-68) with only one betrayer (v. 69-71). It's all a matter of perspective, so how do you see yourself in a small church?

**COTTON CANDY PREACHING**

**\*Taken from the Preacher's PC by Tom Moore\***

If I were to ask you what would be worse, to give your children cotton candy or poison, what would you say? In answer to this question most people would very quickly say that poison would be the worse thing to give our children. But consider this, what if all we gave our children to eat was cotton candy? What if cotton candy was their favorite food and that was all they wanted, and any time they received anything else they would throw a fit? Would we only give them cotton candy? Would we be loving and concerned parents if we only fed our children this cottony pile of sugar? Most assuredly not! We understand that our children could not survive only on sugar, for they would soon grow weak and sick, and would soon die. So, what is worse for us to give our children, only cotton candy or poison? The truth is that both will eventually kill our children.

Now let us make a spiritual application. Is it worse to teach in the Lord's church false doctrine or to teach simple pleasant truths from God's word? In answer to this question most people would quickly say that false doctrine would

be the worst thing of all to teach. But consider this, what if we only taught concerning the loving story of Ruth, or about benevolence, or about the need for loving families, or about the need to feel good about ourselves? Now these are topics that we should be concerned about and are issues of interest, and should be taught. But, can a Christian survive spiritually solely on this kind of diet? Can a child of God mature and be grounded in the faith solely on these kinds of meals? The answer is no!

There are many preachers and teachers in the Lord's church who are not teaching error, but neither are they being distinct in their preaching and teaching. Many are given more to proclaim what the brethren want to hear than what they need to hear. Concerning the people of Isaiah's day, the Lord declared, "For it is a rebellious people, lying children, children that will not hear the law of Jehovah; that say to the seers, See not; and to the prophets, Prophecy not unto us right things, speak unto us smooth things, prophesy deceits" (Isa. 30:9-10). Many today are clamoring for the same things as the Israel of old - smooth things, and sweet and pleasant words. And what is even more disturbing are the preachers and teachers who are giving into their cry with sermons and lessons filled with nothing but "lovey-dovey mush."

Many preach to please men and tickle their ears with what they like to hear. Paul said, "For do I now persuade men, or God? Or do I seek to please men? For if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ" (Gal. 1:10). Paul warned Timothy about people who have "itching ears" and warned that such people will gather around those who will scratch their ears by teaching lies (2 Tim. 4:3-4). The whole counsel of God must be preached, regardless of how it is received (Acts 20:26-27)! The truth is truth and must be preached! I didn't write the book (Bible) and have no right to "water it down" to please men.

The apostle Paul declared, "I shrank not from declaring unto you anything that was profitable, and teaching you publicly, and from house to house...Wherefore I testify unto you this day, that I am pure from the blood of all men. For I shrank not from declaring unto you the whole counsel of God" (Acts 20:20, 26-27). If we really care for our families and brethren the actions of Paul will be true of us! Furthermore, Paul also said, "Preach the word; be urgent in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching" (2 Tim. 4:2). You will notice that good gospel preaching demands positive and negative proclamation of truth. But as already mentioned, some "will not endure the sound doctrine; but, having itching ears, will heap to themselves teachers after their own lusts; and will turn away their ears from the truth, and turn aside unto fables" (2 Tim. 4:3-4). But we must not allow this attitude to influence us away from preaching the whole counsel of God.

We have too many "cotton candy preachers and teachers" in the brotherhood who are "sugar coating" the brethren into spiritual decay! Tell me, which are worse, false teachers or cotton candy preachers? The truth is they both will cause the spiritual demise of their listeners. Beloved, our preaching and teaching must be true to the Book, straight forward without apologies, address the spiritual needs of the people, encourage the faint hearted, rebuke sin, and loving set forth the whole counsel of God.

Will you help me in this effort? Will you be as Jeremiah who said that the word of God "was in mine heart as a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I was weary with forbearing, and I could not stay [or, I could not hold it back]" (Jer. 20:9). May we all feed the brethren a well balanced diet from the word of God!

## **Announcements**

### Food Pantry

Our December food pantry is this Saturday the 14th. Please keep this work in your prayers.

### 2nd Sunday Fellowship

Our 2nd Sunday fellowship is today after morning services. This month's fellowship meal will include a gift exchange for those who wish to participate.

### Recent Prayer Requests

Larry Overson – (friend of Denise) who is suffering from cancer.

Thurman Smith- (Dad of Dan Smith) is now home and doing better.

Patti Payne – will be going back to the doctors on the 18th.

Ed's brother wife Roxy – has Alzheimer's and is in a home in Jacksonville, IL.

Barbara Coats – will be having surgery on her eyes soon.

Jerry Creek – (Ed's son in law's brother) recently had surgery for throat cancer but has found out that his cancer has spread.

Granddaughter of Steve Lay – was born during the week of Thanksgiving but only weight about 2lbs.

Kenny Payne – will be having surgery on the 6th in OKC.

**Please keep all of these in your prayers.**

**Please keep the following in the prayers.**

Ed & Barbara Coats

Allen & Joyce Cash

Mary Ann Haugh

Emma and Ruth (Darla's sisters)

John Babb

Kennedy Cox

Larry Brown