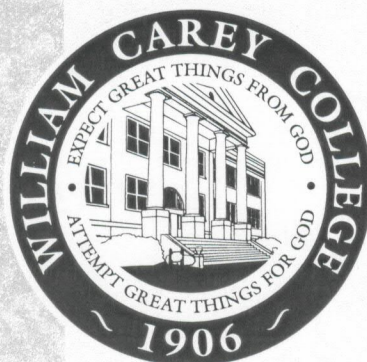


McMullan LRC
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The **CAREY PULPIT**

*In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus...
I give you this charge: Preach the word
(2 Timothy 4:1-2a).*



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For, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?

And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"

Romans 10: 13-15

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SIMPLE EVANGELISM

Acts 3:1-8

Introduction:

Evangelism is not that complicated. Peter and John give us a simple model for sharing our faith: giving others what we have received without trying to give them what we do not have.

I. Begin with Prayer and Worship (3:1).

- A. Peter and John went up to the temple. Evangelism and worship cannot be separated. Evangelism is a natural outgrowth of worship.
- B. They headed for the hour of prayer. Since Jesus had left, these men had become men of prayer. The better part of the battle for men's souls is won on our knees.
- C. Pray that God will give you opportunities to witness.

II. Open Your Spirit-Led Eyes and Ears. (3:2-4)

- A. The lame man was found daily at the temple. How often had Peter and John seen and heard this man?
- B. Peter and John saw him afresh and anew. The lame man had been there every day for a long time. Peter and John saw and heard him this day in a new way and encountered him with a new purpose.
- C. Pray that God will open your eyes to the lost in your life.

III. Don't Give What You Do Not Have. (3:5-6)

- A. The man felt that he needed money. All those who carried him daily to the temple were trying to meet his felt needs.
- B. Today, we think we can meet people's felt needs with psychology. Psychology is void of all but the most temporary solutions—like money for a lame man. God's Word and salvation through Jesus Christ provide eternal answers. When we get away from Jesus, we really have nothing to offer. People already have Oprah and Dear Abby. What they need

is Jesus. That is who you have to offer. Do not offer something that is nothing.

- C. Pray for focus on people's real need.

IV. Give What You Do Have. (3:6-8)

- A. Peter introduced the man to Jesus.
- B. Peter allowed himself to be used by God, so that the man might be touched by Jesus. Whatever you have, give it away. Start simply. God probably is not asking you to heal physically a man lame from birth. He is asking you to step up and say and do something. Give them what you have. Give them the chance to know Jesus.
- C. Once you have prayed, look around with the eyes of the Spirit and give Jesus to whomever you see in "need."

Conclusion:

If you and I will become men of prayer with Spirit-led eyes and ears who do not try to give what we do not have but are willing to give to people what we do have, we will reach many we never saw before for Christ. We will tell them of Jesus' death, burial, resurrection, and ascension. We will tell them of His forgiveness of sin and grace toward us sinners. We will tell them that they can be forgiven if they will surrender their lives to Him as Lord. We will tell them that we have already surrendered to His love and invite them to do the same.

VOWS

Ecclesiastes 5:1-7

Introduction:

A promise just isn't what it used to be. Seldom do we do business with a handshake anymore. Fine print, attorneys, and legal interpretations rule the day as we seek to conform the world to our own benefit. God sees things differently. Integrity in God's eyes is still integrity. A vow made to Him is better kept than broken. He considers a man or woman a fool who makes a vow they will not then keep. It is a sin that incites His anger. Nothing less than the fear of God is at stake in how we make and keep our vows. What are God's guidelines for vows?

I. Fear God in Listening (5:1-2)

- A. Prepare yourself to listen. The Hebrew in 5:1 tells us to "keep your feet" and to "draw near to hear," or better yet, "to heed." We should guard our ways and draw near to God, to His Word, and hearken obediently to him before entering into vows. We should not enter God's holy presence nor vow a vow before Him unless our ways are right before Him.
- B. Listen actively. Listening is a very "active" activity! We all know the story of the little boy whose mother, being ill, stayed home from church. The pastor preached a powerful sermon with the title, "Many Are Called, But Few Are Chosen." The little boy was not an "active" listener that day, and when his mother asked him about the sermon, he recalled that the pastor had preached, "Many Are Cold, But a Few Are Frozen." That story rings true to us because we all know real listening requires preparation and participation.
- C. Speak few words. I am not sure that God gave us two ears and only one mouth because He wanted us to listen twice as much as we talk, but it probably is not a bad policy. With "Talk Radio" and "Talk TV" and professional wrestling and courses on assertive

verbal communication, we live in a world of talk. God's wisdom teaches us to be a people of few words. In a vow, the more I say, the more for which I am responsible.

II. Fear God in Speaking (5:3)

- A. "For richer or for poorer; for better or for worse; in sickness or in health; so long as we both shall live." These vows are repeated in one form or another every day, and these same vows are abandoned and denied every day, as often it seems by Christians as by the world.
- B. The old saying, "Talk is cheap" has new meaning today as people promise most anything only to abandon that promise when it becomes a problem to keep. A vow before God is not a dream; it is a rock-solid reality. Ask and think before you vow. (Proverbs 20:25)

III. Fear God in Doing (5:4-7)

- A. "Oops" carries no weight with God. When we vow, that vow must be kept without delay. It is better not to vow in the first place than to vow and not keep it. God is pleased with one who keeps a vow even when it hurts. (Psalm 15:4)
- B. Failure to keep your word will incite God's anger, anger even at the sound of your voice. Vows must be made with all gravity and with great care, in the fear of God, not as a dream and running away at the mouth.
- C. Nothing less than the fear of God is needed. Nothing less than the fear of God is at stake. Fear God.

Conclusion:

What have you vowed to God? In the fear of God and in the integrity of His Son, Jesus, keep your vows, trusting God to honor your faithfulness both now in this life and in eternity with Him. God keeps His vows. He has vowed to redeem those who will call upon the name of Jesus, surrendering to Him as Lord. Will you call upon His name today?

FOUR FACTS ABOUT SIN

2 Samuel 11:1-12:14

Introduction:

We ask God to send revival in our church. We want the Lord to handle the problems in our lives. We pray that each day will bring more hope, better health and greater prosperity. We desire to have fewer troubles, less uncertainties and fewer hassles. Yet, often we forget that God is not there just to give us what we want. He is the supreme sovereign of the universe. As a result of our misunderstanding, we sometimes fail to realize that we are here for Him! We need to be asking, "Lord what do you want of me?" Interestingly, God has answered this question for us, and His answer remains the same for us today. He desires for us to repent of our sins and turn to Him in faith. Let us look at some known facts concerning sin.

I. The First Fact of Sin Is "Everybody Is Doing It!"

- A. David has been described as a "man after God's own heart." This does not mean that David was perfect.
- B. In 2 Samuel 11:1-27, David is shown at the lowest point in his life. He is portrayed as a man guilty of adultery, deceit and murder (2 Samuel 11:1-27).
- C. Like David, we are all sinners (Romans 3:10, 23).

II. The Second Fact of Sin Is "You Cannot Hide It!"

- A. David had a problem. Bathsheba was expecting his child. In order to avoid recognition, he tried twice to get Uriah to be with his wife so that the pregnancy could be explained away (2 Samuel 11:6-13).
- B. Unsuccessful in his attempts to persuade Uriah to go to Bathsheba, David had Uriah killed in battle so that he could marry Bathsheba and give a look of legitimacy to his adultery (2 Samuel 11:14-27a).

- C. While David thought he had covered himself, God saw David's sin and was displeased (2 Samuel 11:27b).
- D. God also sees our sins. We cannot hide them.
- E. David tried to hide his sin with Bathsheba. His attempt was unsuccessful!

III. The Third Fact of Sin Is "Sin Carries a Penalty."

- A. As a result of David's sin, the Lord revealed to him that the sword would never depart from his house (2 Samuel 12:10).
- B. The consequences of David's sin was duplicated in the lives of his children (2 Samuel 13:1ff.).
- C. Like David, our sin carries a penalty as well (Romans 6:23b).

IV. The Final Fact of Sin Is "God Deals With Sin Decisively."

- A. After Nathan the prophet confronted him, David confessed his sin before the Lord (2 Samuel 12:13a).
- B. As a result of his sincere confession, the Lord put away David's sin (2 Samuel 12:13b).
- C. Though forgiven, David had to live with the consequences of his actions (2 Samuel 12:14).
- D. In Christ, God has dealt with our sins decisively and completely.

Conclusion:

If we sincerely want to see revival come to our church, we will allow God to deal with the sin in our lives. We will admit our own sinfulness to the Lord and realize that we cannot hide our sins from Him. As we accept His provision for our sins through Jesus Christ, we can and should thank Him for paying our penalty on Calvary's cross. By allowing God to purify our hearts and souls, we can experience the times of refreshing that come from the Lord.

STAND STILL FAITH IN A DRIVE-THRU WORLD

1 Samuel 9:27; 12:7, 16

Introduction:

We live in a drive-thru world! We are all familiar with drive-thru cleaners, drive-thru restaurants, drive-thru grocery stores and even a drive-thru funeral parlor. Due to our hectic and busy schedules, we do not even take time to get out of the cars anymore. Because of our advancements, we are able to get money from the bank, food from a fast food restaurant and our clothes from the cleaners without ever opening the door of our car.

The most fascinating drive-thru I have witnessed was the funeral parlor. The owner of the parlor placed his business in an old bank building. As a matter of convenience, he arranged for the deceased loved one to be rolled in front of the drive-thru window, where friends of the family can roll by, honk their respects and keep on going. Now that's what I call being too busy!

This same busy lifestyle may have its conveniences but it also has its hindrances. One main hindrance is that it keeps us from staying in fellowship with God. The prophet Samuel asked Saul to "stand still" so that he could help the new king strengthen his relationship with the Lord. Let's look at some reasons why we should "stand still."

I. Stand Still and See the Word of God (9:27)

- A. A trip that had begun as a search for the lost donkeys of Saul's father had ended in a revelation that Saul would become Israel's first king.
- B. Samuel gave Saul three signs that would confirm his appointment as king in accord with the Word of God (10:1-9).
- C. God will interrupt our routine "busyness" to set us on a path of service for Him.

II. Stand Still and See the Ways of God (12:7)

- A. Samuel was at the point of retiring and turning the reins of power over to the new king (12:1-6).
- B. Samuel asked the people to "stand still" in order that he might remind them of the saving acts of God toward them in the past (12:7-12).
- C. We need to slow down and see the ways of God. When we slow down long enough to consider what the Lord has done in our lives for our benefit, most notably salvation, we will appreciate and love Him more.

III. Stand Still and See the Will of God (12:16)

- A. Having recounted God's ways in the past, Samuel turned the people's attention to the "here and now" (12:13).
- B. What was God's will NOW? It was for the people to reverence Him, to serve Him, and to follow Him (12:14-15).
- C. Samuel told the people to "stand still" and see what the Lord would do (12:16).
- D. God wants us to slow down long enough to establish His will in our daily walk.

Conclusion:

If we are too busy to hear God and to seek His will in our lives, then we are simply too busy! We need a "Stand Still" faith for our drive-thru world. God is known more fully in the times we stop our hassled schedules and spend a few peaceful moments with Him. As you run through life why not take a moment to stand still with God!

BOTTOM LINE LIVING

Matthew 18:1-9

Introduction:

What motivates you in your daily life? What tugs at the strings of your heart? What excites you? What will take you away from the most important thing in your life?

Too often we focus on external beauty and not the heart. For example, a used car may look clean on the exterior and have a fresh coat of paint. But truth will be revealed after an extensive test drive and a close examination of the motor and under carriage. The eye may be deceived by what can be seen on the outside.

Jesus took a teachable moment with his disciples to teach them something about living out their Christian faith. What does living out our Christian faith involve?

I. Living Out Our Christian Faith Involves Complete Change (18:3).

- A. We must become like children. We must be converted—changed. Jesus illustrated the parable by placing a child in their midst. He doesn't directly answer their question on greatness, but affirms that unless they develop a different spirit they will never enter the Kingdom of Heaven. The requirement that those entering the kingdom become like little children closely parallels the "birth from above" analogy in John 3:3.
- B. We must be converted. Conversion is a reversal of life's basic attitudes and course. Concern for personal greatness is the direct opposite of concern of true discipleship. There is no allowance for partial change or partial commitment.
- C. We must be visibly changed. We cannot claim to be Christians when the love and respect that Jesus had for others is not demonstrated in our daily decisions.
- D. Christ desires to bring these changes to our lives. But we must be willing to surrender our lives to him. He wants to be the motivation for us to love the

world even when life and people are not lovable.

II. Living Out Our Christian Faith Involves Complete Surrender of Pride (18:4).

- A. Childlikeness is the measure of greatness within the kingdom of God as well as the condition of entrance to the kingdom.
- B. Dependence and humility are the child-like qualities that Christ seeks and are the opposite to the disciple's proud ambitions.
- C. Pride in its various forms must be eliminated.

III. Living Out Our Christian Faith Involves an Open Heart (18:5-6).

- A. An open heart will welcome the little ones of the world.
- B. An open heart will guard against causing others to sin.
- C. We have a responsibility to welcome others as Christ would. We cannot choose to ignore this responsibility.

IV. Living Out Our Christian Faith Involves Daily Examination (18:8).

- A. T. B. Maston in *Why Live the Christian Life?* said, "There is a least one other major condition for entrance into the kingdom of God. It is single-minded devotion to the kingdom and the things of God."
- B. We must be willing to give up anything that stands between us and God (John 14:16-19).

Conclusion:

Bottom line living requires complete surrender, which includes our attitudes, values and trust. We must be willing to surrender our pride and learn to depend on Christ in all circumstances. We should approach God with an open heart and in daily reflection. If Christ is our primary passion, we will gladly surrender and give up all for Him. May we take the necessary steps to grow dependent on Him.

Y2K FATHER

Introduction:

One cannot help but hear, more than once a day, something related to the Y2K computer problem. The question is, "Will your computer or computer chip roll over to the year 2000 or will it revert back to the year 1900?" Failure of a computer to recognize that it is the year 2000 will generate numerous problems causing systems to malfunction and interrupting the vital flow of information to which we have become accustomed. There are countless computer programs and hardware available to PC users that will remedy the problem. Business organizations and government agencies have spent many hours and millions of dollars getting ready for the inevitable challenges that they will face at the turn of the century. Organizations that have failed to prepare will likely face major operational problems and tremendous financial losses. It pays to be prepared.

What will it take to be a father in the next millennium? As with the Y2K problem, we can't afford to put off our efforts to be prepared for the challenges we will face as fathers in the 21st century. We must begin preparing now with an urgency to be ready. We do not have to look far to see that our world is changing at a rapid pace. Parents need to be ready, working together to strengthen the family unit. It is time that fathers realize that their role is vitally important to the stability of their families. What will it take to be a father in the next millennium?

I. The Y2K Father Must Acknowledge that the Lord is God (Deuteronomy 4:39-40).

- A. God demands that we take to heart that he is God and that we be obedient to Him. He demands our allegiance and requires us to determine our priorities based on His priorities. Many of us claim to follow Him, but we fail to keep His statutes.
- B. Our actions are the indicators of our true attitude and priorities. And we must always consider that we are Christ's

example to our children. Our actions display our attitudes:

1. If we harbor hatred, we become embittered.
2. If we love money more than people/God, we bow down to its demands.
3. If we love God with all our heart, we will "love" all that he values and shares with us.

II. The Y2K Father Must Live a Blameless Life (Proverbs 20:7).

- A. The children of a righteous man who chooses integrity receive the benefits of his character.
- B. The man of pure life (integrity), who continually performs his duty towards God and man, shall bring a blessing on his children. They will have a good example to follow, both during his life and after his death.

III. The Y2K Father Must be Anchored in the Word (Psalm 119:9).

- A. Anchors by themselves are useless. In order to be of value and to keep the family from drifting, the anchor must find something to grasp. Any Y2K father who wants to impact his family for generations should anchor himself on to the Rock.
- B. The father is the anchor of the family. When the family begins to drift because it has lost its anchor, it can quickly begin to produce children who are insecure, self-conscious, emotionally starved, and without a moral compass.

Conclusion

Wherever you are, God is ready to act on your behalf. No matter how great the pain is in your family, He is there. No matter what mistakes you've made, He is there. Are you ready to prepare to commit to Him today?

A MISPLACED TRUST

Mark 10:17-22

Introduction:

In beginning the invitation, a pastor called upon those present that day to place their trust in the Lord. His request was simple and easy to comprehend. Yet, it poses a challenge greater than any you have faced. Our commitment to this challenge is essential for having continued fellowship with Christ. It is a commitment that must be renewed daily and takes a lifetime to fulfill.

Jesus encountered a man who trusted in the things of this world more than he did in Him. In his pursuit to learn the truth, the man asked all the right questions. Regrettably, he came to value all the wrong conclusions. What happened on that eventful day?

I. The Truth Desired (10:17-22).

- A. In verse 17 we are introduced to a man who was wealthy, young (Matthew 19:16-22) and powerful (Luke 18:18-24). By the world's standards, he had it all. Yet, he was not content. Unlike the Pharisees (10:2), the rich man's purpose was not to test Jesus. He was eager to learn. His eagerness is demonstrated by his running, bowing and addressing Jesus as Good Teacher.
- B. The man's questions reveal much about him. He wanted to have eternal life. Yet, he asked what he must do. Rather than looking to Jesus in faith, he was searching for some other means to obtain eternal life.
- C. The rich man would soon learn that the only means to salvation was faith in Jesus. Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth and the life. No man comes to the Father but through me."

II. The Truth Proclaimed (10:19-21).

- A. Jesus responded to the rich man by quoting commandments that emphasized a person's relationship to other people. Jesus had a reason for addressing these commandments. He

knew that to be right with God meant to be right with one's neighbor.

- B. Jesus' response disappointed the rich man. He said he had kept the commandments from the birth. His response was more naïve than dishonest. If he had actually done this, why was he seeking Jesus?
- C. By coming to Jesus, he acknowledged a lack of fulfillment and contentment in his life. A life without Christ is a discontented life.
- D. Jesus could have rebuked the man. Instead, he responded to the man with love. Jesus sought to meet his need for eternal life. Rather than seeing what he was, Jesus looked to what he could become.
- E. Jesus told the man to sell all he had, give it to the poor and to follow Him. Jesus was not condemning wealth nor praising poverty. He simply challenged the man to remove any obstacle holding him back from faithfully following Christ.

III. The Truth Rejected (10:22).

- A. The rich man's retreat was in distinct contrast to his approach. What made the difference? He learned both the nature and the price of what he needed.
- B. This contrast is seen in many realms of our life today. We enter into something with great anticipation and excitement. Later, upon learning the high cost of commitment necessary, we back away.
- C. By rejecting Christ that day, he missed the greatest treasure of all!
- D. We face the same command today. How we respond to this command will affect us for eternity.

Conclusion:

Are you eager to follow Christ today? How do you respond to Christ's leadership in your life? Learn from the mistake of the rich man.

BEING RESPONSIBLE

Mark 12:41-44

Introduction:

In the temple precinct area, there were 13 containers used to collect offerings. The containers were called "trumpets" because of their unusual shape, narrow at the top and wider towards the bottom. The offerings from each trumpet were assigned for different purposes—to purchase wood that would be used to burn the sacrifice, to buy incense to be burned upon the altar, and to obtain materials for the upkeep on the temple and temple items. It was important to have these items for their worship.

Jesus and his disciples sat opposite the trumpets and observed both the wealthy and a widow placing money into the containers. Her amount was small but it was everything she had. What if the widow had not been willing to uphold her responsibility that day? The widow could have handled her responsibility in a variety of ways. Let us examine some of the ways she could have responded to her responsibility.

I. One Way Could Have Been to Evade Her Responsibility.

- A. The widow could have easily concluded that she could not afford to be responsible (12:42).
 - 1. The text described her as a "poor widow" (See also Luke 21:2).
 - 2. She may not have had any close family to assist her or they may have been unwilling to help (see Mark 7:11).
- B. What would have happened if everyone evaded his or her responsibility to support the temple that day?
- C. What would happen if we evaded our responsibilities to the church? What would happen if we avoided our responsibilities in the home?
- D. It is not a question of can we afford to be responsible. It is a question of can we afford not to be responsible.

II. A Second Way Could Have Been to Put Off Her Responsibility.

- A. The poor widow could have concluded that it was someone else's responsibility to support the temple work.
 - 1. She could have said it was the responsibility of the rich to financially support the temple.
 - 2. She could have said it was up to the Levites to obtain the necessary items.
- B. What would have happened if everyone put off his or her responsibility to support the temple that day?
- C. What would happen if we put off our responsibilities to the church? What would happen if we put off our responsibilities in the home?
- D. We are often guilty of saying we have no more time to give to further commitments, but find the time to do what we want to do.

III. A Final Way Could Have Been to Accept and to Share the Responsibility.

- A. This was the conclusion the poor widow reached.
 - 1. Her amount given that day was small in comparison to the wealthy (12:41, 43).
 - 2. The poor widow's two coins had an impact that day. She felt the blessing of accepting responsibility, of supporting the work of the temple. She helped in the work of the temple and lightened the burden on others.
- B. No single person can do all the work at the church. Yet, there are those who serve because others are unwilling.

Conclusion:

The poor widow made the right decision that day. She accepted and shared in the responsibilities of the temple. By accepting and sharing in the responsibilities, we can have a tremendous impact in our churches, homes and communities.

MAKING WISE DECISIONS

I Kings 3:5-15

Introduction:

We all face choices and must make decisions in our lives. We need help with the decision-making process. The psychologist Albert Bandura emphasizes the importance of following a model to learn new skills. No greater model of wisdom can be found than King Solomon. This passage reveals how God appeared to Solomon.

The place of His appearance—the designated place of worship and sacrifice. What better place for God to appear to us?

The form of His appearance—in a dream. God appeared to Solomon in a dream. He appears to each of us in the form which we can best receive Him.

The purpose of His appearance—to offer Solomon a choice. “Ask what I shall give thee.” If someone came to you and said, “I’ll give you just one wish”—what would you wish? Let us look at Solomon as a model for wise decision-making.

I. His Wise Ways.

- A. He loved the Lord (vs. 3).
- B. He obeyed the Lord (vs. 3).
- C. He habitually attended the place of worship (vs. 4).

II. His Wise Wish.

- A. “Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart to judge,...to discern between good and evil” (vs. 9).
- B. Let us look at the decision-making process which Solomon used to arrive at this wise wish.
 1. He looked back. “Thou hast showed unto thy servant David my father great mercy” (vs. 6). He looked back and gained a perspective on history for aid in making present decisions. He observed models of great men before him. He had a positive outlook.
 2. He looked within. “I am but a little child: I know not how to go out or

come in” (vs. 7). What an admission for a king to make. I don’t know how to do the most simple things of life (go out and come in) without God’s help.

3. He looked around. “And thy servant is in the midst of thy people which thou hast chosen, a great people...” (vs. 8). He saw himself in light of his role and responsibilities. Again his positive outlook is evident. In verse 8 and again in verse 9, he refers to them as a great people. (As with David, he overlooked the rebellion, sin, and failure of Israel, and saw only their greatness.)
4. He looked up. His prayer was “Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart.” He admitted that the task was too much for him alone. He needed God’s help.

III. His Wise Words.

- A. The wisdom of Solomon is renowned. The book of Proverbs is a collection of his wise sayings. He was “wiser than all men” (I Kings 4:32).
- B. The Queen of Sheba proclaimed: “Behold, the half was not told me: thy wisdom and prosperity exceeds the fame which I heard.”
- C. The greatest illustration of wisdom in all literature is the story in I Kings 3:16-28.

Conclusion:

If someone had the power to grant you just one wish, what would you wish for? A group of young children was asked this question, and one of them spoke up and said, “I’d wish that every wish that I ever wished would come true.” Solomon asked for wisdom, and God said, “Because thou hast asked this thing, behold I have done according to thy words, and I have also given thee that which thou hast not asked, both riches and honor” (3:12-13).

Solomon got what he wished for and everything else he could want.

PICTURES OF BAPTISM

1 Peter 3:18-22

Introduction:

You probably have experienced many baptismal services. Most if not all of these services took place in a church. However, this was not always the norm. Several years ago a small country church was having a baptismal service in a nearby river. The service was a time of rejoicing for the members. The only problem was that the service took place on a cold January day. The preacher took one of the men and quickly dipped him below the water. Because of the frigid conditions, the fellow came out of the water sputtering. The preacher good-naturedly asked him, "Is the water cold?" The man wheezed and blew, and replied, "Naw, it ain't cold." One of the deacons piped up and shouted, "Dunk him again, preacher. He's still lying!"

There are many things we notice in a baptismal service. 1 Peter is known as the book of baptism. In this passage we find three images of baptism. Baptism is a picture of forgiveness, a picture of trust and a picture of power.

I. Baptism is a Picture of Forgiveness.

- A. All people are in need of forgiveness. The road to forgiveness begins with Christ.
- B. Peter proclaimed that Christ died for the sins of the people. His purpose was to bring people to God (3:18).
- C. Peter said Jesus Christ was at God's right hand (3:22). Paul proclaimed that Christ was at the right hand of God for the purpose of interceding on our behalf (Romans 8:34).
- D. In baptism we see a picture of forgiveness as our sins are forgiven.

II. Baptism is a Picture of Trust.

- A. Peter said that baptism "saves you." He did not mean that baptism had a saving effect. He meant that baptism was "an appeal to God for a clear conscience" (3:21).

- B. The act of baptism does not save someone. Peter said it was not for the purpose of the removal of dirt. It is the attitude and the trust of the believer that is important.
- C. Most United States coins and currencies have the imprinted motto, "In God We Trust." Recently a lawsuit was brought against the United States challenging the use of the motto as a violation of the separation of church and state. However, a United States District Judge dismissed the suit. They argued that the national slogan has no personal value. The judge stated that the slogan is merely of historic, patriotic and ceremonial significance! But you and I know that it does have personal value.
- D. Baptism does not save someone. It is a picture of one's trust in Christ.

III. Baptism is a Picture of Power.

- A. Peter said that Christ died for our sins but He was "made alive in the Spirit" (3:18).
- B. "Through the resurrection of Jesus Christ" links directly with the act of salvation (3:21). It is the power of the resurrection of Jesus Christ that affects salvation.

Conclusion:

Back in early 1991, Desert Storm took 100 days to rout Saddam Hussein. Our military leaders expected many casualties on our side. Predicting this, they shipped numerous caskets over there so they would be prepared. We know today that few of these caskets were needed for the bodies of fallen soldiers. However, the caskets did serve a useful purpose. While serving in Desert Storm, many people serving in the military accepted Christ as their Lord and Savior. So in that desert land of few pools and ponds, the caskets were the handiest container they could find to baptize the believers. It was a picture of forgiveness, of trust and of triumph over death.

Scholarships for Church Related Students

William Carey College

1999-2000

Members of churches associated with the Southern Baptist Convention may receive ONE of the following scholarships. These amounts may be added to academics or talent scholarships.

1. **Baptist Student Scholarships** of up to \$300 per year are available for students who are recommended by a pastor of a Southern Baptist church. This amount may be added to academic and/or talent scholarships. (Requires pastor nomination.)
2. **CRV Dependent Student Scholarships** of up to \$1,000 per year are available for sons, daughters, and spouses of pastors, and other full-time ministerial employees of local Southern Baptist churches, Southern Baptist Associations, or other Southern Baptist agencies. This amount may be added to academic and/or talent scholarships. (List parent/spouse name & place of work above.)
3. **CRV Scholarships** of up to 75% of the cost of tuition on 30 hours per year for on-campus students and up to 50% of the cost of tuition on 30 hours per year for commuting students are available for qualifying students. A CRV student is defined as one who has made a public commitment to a church-related vocation (ministry or missions) in a church affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention. These amounts are comprehensive and may not be combined with any other scholarships or grants offered by WCC. (Requires letter from church or license/ ordination certificate.)

Southern Baptist CRV students may also apply to the Board of Ministerial Education of the Mississippi Baptist Convention for additional financial aid. This aid is applied for in a separate process through the School of Missions and Biblical Studies at William Carey College.

*William Carey College
Fifth Annual
Minister's Golf Tournament*

Location: Canebrake Golf Course, Hattiesburg, Mississippi.

Date: May 22 and 23, 2000.
(Tournament will begin 12:00 pm Monday and 8:00 am Tuesday.)

Cost: \$90 per person. A \$50 deposit is due by April 28, 2000.

Format: Two man scramble.

Lodging: The college will provide free lodging on the campus.
(You will need to bring linens and towels.)

Director: Jeff Smith (head golf pro at Canebrake) and his staff will direct the tournament.

Dress: Golf collared shirt with slacks or shorts.

Food: Snacks will be provided by the college.

Space is limited to 100 golfers.

For reservations or more information, call (601) 582-6115.