

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).*



A Ministry of the Cooper School
of Missions and Biblical Studies
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Vice President of Church Relations
William Carey College
498 Tuscan Avenue
Hattiesburg, MS 39401

(601) 318-6460
dcaldwell@wmcarey.edu

Education and Church Relations 2002-03 Report William Carey College

William Carey College is dedicated to encouraging students to reach their highest potential, to providing an environment for quality academic programs, and to strengthening our relationship with Baptist churches, associations and conventions. The following report briefly highlights a few of our accomplishments this past year.

Our students were able to mature in their leadership skills and in understanding the need to serve both locally and globally. Through the Baptist Student Union programs, our students were able to receive invaluable ministry experience from opportunities in church ministry. For example, students participated in Disciple Now evangelistic teams, revival teams, fine arts ministries, nursing home visitation teams, and backyard bible clubs. These teams ministered in over 25 churches in Mississippi and in 11 different Mississippi Baptist Associations. Mission trips were taken to remote villages in Mexico to assist with food distribution, evangelization and health-related clinics for adults. Teams of students gave up their spring breaks to serve on mission ventures in New York City and in New Orleans. In addition to these trips, students participated in various forms of mission service both in the continental United States and around the world (Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand and Southeast Asia). Over \$12,000 was raised to support mission endeavors. To add to these achievements, a new missions coordinator, Dr. Sharon Thompson, was hired and conducted mission trips to Chile. Future trips are planned to Kenya and China. It is our sincerest desire to instill within our students a zeal for service that will continue to flourish in their future places of ministry.

We continue to serve the needs of Mississippi Baptist ministers. Through the Cooper School of Missions and Biblical Studies, opportunities for completion of degrees in religion are offered. We give priority to enlisting and preparing Southern Baptist men and women who have made a public commitment to enter into full-time Christian ministry. Last year we provided over 200 church-related vocation students with scholarships. As well as degree offerings, the college also sponsored the Thirteenth Annual Winter Bible Study preview. The Cooper School of Missions and Biblical Studies continued the semiannual publication of *The Carey Pulpit*. This periodical, developed to be a tool to assist ministers in sermon preparation, is sent free of charge to all pastors of Southern Baptist churches in Mississippi and in selected regions of Louisiana, Alabama and Florida.

We were privileged to host the World Changers ministry teams and area church ministry teams this past summer. It was a delight to support our state Baptist constituency in this way. We were honored this past year to have the opportunity to attend and to address six fall associational meetings and to also attend the Mississippi Baptist Convention. It was a joy to take part in each of these events and to greet the alumni and supporters of William Carey College.

The college experienced many additional achievements this past year. Dr. Larry Kennedy, president, reported a record number of alumni giving to the college. In the spring 2003 trimester, we had a record student enrollment of 2401 students. This past summer we also had a record enrollment of graduate students and an overall record summer enrollment.

Enrollment records weren't the only blessings we experienced. In 1997 the college's long term debt was \$7.5 million. A balloon note of \$5.4 million was due in 2003. Because of the wise foresight of our trustees and our college president, we prepaid \$3.5 million of the balloon note amount and only had to refinance \$1.9 million. This remaining debt should be eliminated in less than five years. Due to the monthly savings of this refinancing, two existing buildings are undergoing extensive exterior renovations (Green Science Hall and Thomas Business Building) and should be completed by early fall. The exterior structure of the library was completely renovated in 2002 and dedicated in April of 2003 as the Dumas L. Smith / I. E. Rouse Library.

We are grateful to Mississippi Baptists for the support we have received. Your prayers have been cherished and your contributions to the Convention through the Cooperative Program have been a sincere blessing in our continued efforts to serve our students. Thank you for your generous commitment to William Carey College.

Respectfully submitted,
Daniel P. Caldwell
Vice President of Church Relations

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RUNNING TO WIN

Hebrews 12:1-2

Introduction:

Long distance runners incorporate a variety of activities to help them reach their desired results. A proper diet, ample rest, and a balanced exercise program are essential to enable them to reach their maximum potential. Each ingredient contributes to the success or failure of the runner. There are several factors we must remember to effectively run the race God has set before us.

I. Remember, It Is Your Responsibility to Persevere (12:1b).

- A. This passage reminds us to run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Perseverance characterized the long ministry of Paul.
- B. Paul even encouraged others to do likewise. To Timothy he said, "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith" (2 Timothy 4:7).
- C. William Carey remained conscience of his need to persevere in the midst of problems. He even said that if someone were to write anything about him, they should say, "If he gives me credit for being a plodder, he will describe me justly. Anything beyond that will be too much. I can plod. I can persevere in any definite pursuit. To this I owe everything." (John Woodbridge, *Great Leaders of the Christian Church*)

II. Remember, It Is Your Responsibility to Get Rid of the Sin (12:1a).

- A. Hebrews 12:1a encourages us to "...throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles." Sin can be fun for a season and bring about instant gratification, but the scars it leaves behind can last a lifetime. David learned this as a result of his sin with Bathsheba.

B. How is the sin removed? You have several options.

1. You can play the blame game. This will only serve to make you angry, bitter and a casualty of life.
2. You can play the procrastination game. However, this never removes nor solves our sin.
3. Finally, you can stop playing games, be honest and confess your sin (1 John 1:9). Confession is the answer.
4. Sin prevents us from running the race at full speed.

III. Remember, It Is Your Responsibility to Focus on Jesus (12:2).

- A. Hebrews 12:2 says, "Let us fix our eyes on Jesus." Your focus will determine how effectively you run the race.
- B. If Satan can get you to focus on the problems around you instead of the opportunities before you, he will defeat you. Remember, your outlook determines your outcome.
- C. If Satan can get you to focus on the imperfections of people rather than their need for Christ and His love, he will defeat you. Remember, your attitude determines your altitude.
- D. Circumstances can change, churches can change and people can change. It is only Jesus that remains constant (Hebrews 13:5, 8).

Conclusion:

Long distance runners need a proper diet, rest and a balanced exercise program to reach their maximum potential. Likewise, we need to remember our key ingredients to effectively run God's race. Perseverance, sensitivity to sin and focus will enable us to reach our maximum potential for kingdom glory.

THE BARNABAS FACTOR

Acts 4:36-37; 11:23; 15:37-39

Introduction:

Have you figured it out yet? Why did God put you here? Most people move from the womb to the tomb without making a ripple on the sea of life. What a sad commentary on our society. Unfortunately, far too many Christians spend their lives as spectators instead of participants in the game of life. It doesn't have to be that way.

Would you like to make a difference in your community, home, school, or place of business? You can if you will apply the characteristics found in the life of Barnabas.

I. Characteristic #1: We See Barnabas As an Encourager (4:36-37).

- A. God supernaturally poured out His spirit and blessings at Pentecost. Thousands gave their hearts and lives to Jesus. Many of these first Christians were Jews who traveled to Jerusalem for the Passover celebration. They could not return to their homeland after accepting Christ because of religious persecution. They left jobs, homes, families, and friends, all for Jesus. Consequently, there were needs on every corner. Barnabas now enters the scene. Our text tells us he sold a field and gave the money to the apostles to meet needs. This was a simple yet tangible way to encourage those new Christians.
- B. Mark Twain once said, "I can run a whole month on one good compliment." Moreover, a wise man once said, "A swift kick in the pants is only eighteen inches from a pat on the back, but the results are miles apart."
- C. Hebrews 3:13 reminds us, "But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called today..."

II. Characteristic #2: We See Barnabas as an Influencer (11:23).

- A. Barnabas appears again with the church at Antioch. Apparently, the gospel

message reached Jew and Gentile alike. This created some tension in the church. Consequently, they called their trusted friend to offer counsel. Scripture teaches us, "When he arrived and saw the evidence of the grace of God, he was glad and encouraged them to remain true to the faith with all their hearts." In short, he influenced them in the ways of the Lord.

- B. Your words, attitudes and actions will influence people in your community for better or worse. How do you measure up in this area?

III. Characteristic #3: We See Barnabas as an Investor (15:37-38).

- A. The scene was intense. Paul and Barnabas were preparing to depart for their second missionary trip. Barnabas wanted to invite John Mark on their mission endeavor. Paul did not want John Mark to tag along because he had abandoned them on their first mission trip. Paul and Barnabas almost came to blows over the situation. The first church handled it wisely. They instructed Barnabas to take John Mark and minister in Cyprus while Paul took Silas and ministered in another area. John Mark's ministry was saved because Barnabas dared to invest.
- B. God may be calling you to be an investor. How can you do this? You can invest in people with your time, talent and resources.

Conclusion:

Why did God put you here? He put you here to make a difference in your communities, homes, schools and businesses. How can you make this happen? You can apply the characteristics found in the life of Barnabas. God may be calling you out of the passive voice into the active voice to do His heart's desire.

TRADING TREASURE FOR TRASH

Genesis 25:24-32

Introduction:

Did you know you are a wealthy person? Your life is full of precious treasures. These treasures are easy to overlook because most of them defy financial and worldly value. They are treasures such as family, friends, contentment, purpose, happiness, joy, and peace with God.

Yet, as priceless as these are, we often are tempted to trade them away for things that in comparison are worthless. That is precisely what happened with Esau. Rather than keeping what was precious, Esau sold his birthright for a bowl of stew. He traded treasure for trash and would regret that decision for the rest of his life.

How can we avoid doing the same? How can we learn to develop a perspective that will help us to hold on to that which is priceless?

I. Take Your Time.

- A. The essence of verse 30 indicates Esau was in a rush and came in quickly to eat. He knew that at any moment he was going to collapse and die. In the heat of the moment, he sold his birthright for a bowl of stew. Why? Being in a hurry did not give Esau time to make a good decision.
- B. Learn to stop and think when it comes time to make a choice. Hasty decisions are often wrong because all the factors have not been taken into account (Proverbs 21:5 & 29:20).
- C. Take time to consider the trade-off you are making in your life. You'll have less chance of trading a treasure for trash.

II. Think About the Future.

- A. Part of Esau's problem was that he did not see the big picture. He was so nearsighted that he could not see further than that bowl of stew. He lived only for the moment but never for the future. How do we see the big picture?

1. Determine what is really important. Albert Einstein said, "Not everything that counts can be counted and not everything that can be counted counts." Esau "despised his birthright." Esau considered the responsibilities and honors of his inheritance unimportant. He was totally uninterested in them. For him, the stew was more important because he wasn't willing to look at the big picture.
2. We need to be able to look past the moment. A limited perspective may cause us to devalue what is most valuable. If we can't see, then we will probably make the bad trade and we won't know it until these "so called" treasures have faded. The things that we didn't take seriously are suddenly gone. By then, it is too late.

- B. Not only do we need to see the big picture, but we must also count the cost for our decisions. That was most likely a good bowl of stew, but ultimately the bill for the meal came due. Esau probably didn't give the cost of his decision a second thought until years later when Jacob received what should have belonged to him. That small bowl of stew cost Esau more than he could ever imagine. Before we make those trades in life, home, work, or in our walk with God, we need to ponder the cost and ask ourselves, "Is it really worth it?"

Conclusion:

Esau's story is a story of opportunity lost. Every day, we are confronted with choices. Will we recognize the most valuable treasures in life? If so, will we make the right decisions to ensure that we will never trade away those treasures for trash? The choice is ours. Take your time. Think about the future.

WHEN YOU'RE READY TO COME BACK TO GOD

Psalm 103:8-12

Introduction:

If we have fallen away from God, the question we must face is, "Will God want me back?" The answer to that question comes in Psalm 103.

This is a psalm of praise to God for the many blessings of salvation. As I read of those blessings, I become more aware of the resources God has given me, not only in salvation, but also in everyday life. If you have fallen away and want to come back, you simply need to remember a few things about God.

I. Remember the Depth of God's Character (103:8-9).

- A. These verses are a part of a great Hebrew confession of faith presented first in Exodus 34:6. In it, we are reminded of the character of God.
- B. The depth of His character runs deeper than any of us can imagine. Why is that important? Have you ever had to admit wrongdoing? How did you feel? Quite possibly, you were afraid because you did not know how that person might react. But the message here is that with God, you and I don't have to wonder. He is not shallow like humans.
- C. His compassion runs deep. Compassion is related to the Hebrew word for "womb" and expresses a parent's love and compassion, a feeling of pity and devotion to a helpless child. Our God has compassion and pity on us even when we have made a terrible mess of our lives.
- D. His patience runs deep. God is slow to anger. He is the God of the second chance.
- E. His Grace runs deep. The psalmist declares: He does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities. God is full of grace and always treats us better than we deserve.

- F. We never have to worry that God will treat us as the world treats us. He will not. That is the depth of the character of God.

II. Remember the Height of God's Love (103:11).

- A. The Psalmist doesn't know how far it is from Earth to Heaven, but he knows that even that vastness could not contain God's love. His Love knows no limits.
- B. We can be totally assured of the fact that God's love is greater than our sins. His love is greater than our rebellion. It is greater than the distance we might have traveled away from Him.
- C. Scripture also paints us another picture. Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus (Rom 8:35-39).
- D. No matter how far you and I might have gotten away from God, we can never get so far away that the love of God can't reach us.

III. Remember the Width of God's Forgiveness (103:12).

- A. Those who have fallen away can know that God will deal with their sin. So the Psalmist again gives us a picture of the width of God's forgiveness. He does not know how far it is from the east to the west, but he knows that God's love has removed our sin even farther than that.
- B. Our confidence is that not only is the Lord's mercy great enough for His ability to forgive, but that His forgiveness is so great that we will never have to worry about that sin ever again. With God, when it is done, it is done. That is it. Case closed.

Conclusion:

What a wonderful God we serve! If we fall away, we can be assured that because of the depth of His character, the height of His love, and the width of His forgiveness, He is ready to accept us again.

JESUS WITH NO BAGGAGE

Mark 3:1-6

Introduction:

What is your image of Jesus? As a young boy, I liked the picture of him sitting on the ground with children all around. Another one I liked shows him carrying a lamb on his shoulders. My grandmother had a picture of Jesus with a halo around his head. None of these images of Jesus explain why he died. The shadow of a cross, not a halo, falls early on Jesus in the Gospel of Mark. Why did this kind, gentle man wind up on a Roman cross? This passage reveals Jesus without the baggage of images we have of him.

I. Jesus Notices the Wrong People (3:1, 3).

- A. Jesus could have recognized any number of people in the synagogue that day. The ruler, a visiting rabbi, elders, prominent business men, or other notables could have drawn his attention. But Jesus noticed a man with a withered hand. Jesus was continually doing things like this. Tax collectors, little children, the blind and lame, prostitutes, and other marginalized people of his day drew his attention and concern. Jesus did not lavish attention on the "important" people...and he paid a price for his neglect. From their perspective, Jesus noticed the wrong people.
- B. Do you notice only the right people? Or, like Jesus, do you reach out to the "wrong" people.

II. Jesus Challenges the Status Quo (3:4).

- A. Sabbath observance was carefully scrutinized. A person could be helped on the Sabbath if his life was in immediate danger. However, if a person was not in dire jeopardy on the Sabbath, then help and healing could come later. The sanctity of the Sabbath took precedence.
- B. Jesus challenged this line of reasoning and it got Him into trouble. From their perspective, He was subverting time-honored conventional wisdom. Jesus still challenges the status quo.

III. Jesus Expresses Anger (3:5).

- A. Anger is an emotion we do not normally connect with Jesus. Perhaps a reason for this is that we think of a person losing his temper. The Greek language comes to our aid here. The word for anger in this verse has to do with a settled opposition to sin. It does not have the emotional psychological outburst that we usually associate with a display of anger.
- B. Jesus' anger was coupled with grief over the hardness of heart displayed by the Pharisees. Settled opposition to sin got Jesus in trouble. Still today, Christian opposition to sin often meets with a hostile and hard-hearted response.

IV. Jesus Creates Tension (3:6).

- A. When Jesus healed a man with a withered hand on a Sabbath day, the Pharisees were infuriated. They left the synagogue and sought counsel with the Herodians, supporters of the ruling dynasty of the Herods. Politics and religion were joined at this point against Jesus. Pharisees were opposed to Herodian rule over Israel, yet when it came to Jesus, they wanted their help.
- B. Politics and religion have always made strange bedfellows. Jesus created tension that day. By the way, he still does.

V. Jesus Brings God's Restoration (3:5).

- A. We have almost forgotten the man with the withered hand. There he was standing in the middle of the synagogue all by himself. Jesus commanded him to stretch out his arm. When he did, his hand was restored. He was healed.
- B. Jesus brought restoration that day. By the way, he still does. All you have to do is reach out your hand to Him.

Conclusion:

So, why did this kind, gentle man wind up on a Roman cross? Jesus went against tradition, against the status quo to do the job He knew He had to do. What does our baggage of images look like? Are we willing to take a stand in today's world to win people for Christ?

TRANSITIONS

Acts 15:36-16:10

Introduction:

All of us face transitions in life. Do you remember your first day of school? What a transition that was! Getting on the big yellow bus and waving goodbye to your mother was both an exciting and traumatic transition. Perhaps you are facing a transition time in your life right now.

The apostle Paul experienced a transition time in his life. He and Barnabas had recently completed their first missionary journey together and were questioning what to do next. This account, as well as many others in the Bible, can help Christians through the difficult times in their lives. Let us notice some dynamics found in this passage.

I. Transition Can be Painful (15:36-16:7).

- A. Stress in relationships causes pain (15:39). Paul and Barnabas were good friends and colleagues in ministry. Their disagreement over the issue of John Mark caused stress in their relationship to the point of going in separate directions.
- B. Compromising a conviction is painful (16:3). Paul strongly believed that circumcision was not essential for salvation, yet he realized for cultural/religious reasons Timothy needed to be circumcised. A physically painful act for Timothy was ethically painful for Paul.
- C. Dealing with secondary matters is painful (16:4; 15:29). Paul viewed himself as a missionary church planter, not a letter carrier.
- D. Frustrated plans cause pain (16:6-7). Paul and Silas tried to enter Asia Minor, but their plans were not fulfilled.

II. Transition Can be Navigated (16:8-9).

- A. Find a place. Paul and Silas went to Troas, a beautiful seaport city on the western coast of modern-day Turkey. We need to seek a place for rest and solitude.

- B. Follow a procedure. Walks on the beach, quiet sunsets, prayer, and scripture meditation were helpful to Paul and Silas.
- C. Figure in patience. The text does not tell how long they were in Troas before divine direction came. We need to be willing to wait on the Lord and not be in a hurry or put God on a stopwatch during this time. Transition is a process that takes time.

III. Transition Can Have Positive Benefits (16:10).

- A. A new mental freshness can result. Sometimes during transition times our minds seem to get stuck in neutral. The verb "concluding" in this verse means to put things together. When divine direction comes, our mental abilities are reinvigorated.
- B. A new energy is experienced. During transition we are affected by a slow-down of physical energy. The verb "sought" indicates that divine direction stimulates us physically.
- C. A new assignment from God opens new possibilities. When divine direction comes, it moves us to new challenges and opportunities.

Conclusion:

Yes, transition can be painful. But the good news is that it can be navigated. Positive benefits can result from transition. In fact transitions have the potential to open you and me up to new and exciting opportunities. But even better than that, transitions move us closer to God and His will for our lives.

AS FOR ME AND MY HOUSE

Joshua 24:15

Introduction:

Many people are talking about the family today. We hear politicians, educators, newscasters, and preachers talking about family values. But long before the concept of family values was a topic in the news, it was a topic in the Bible. I want us to look at Joshua's challenge to the people. It was a challenge to serve the Lord, and Him alone. Joshua said, "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." Through the words of Joshua, God challenges us to make a decision. What kind of decision is God calling us to make?

I. The Decision To Serve the Lord Is a Reasonable Decision.

- A. Serving the Lord does not seem logical to some. But when we begin to put our minds to it, we conclude that serving God is reasonable.
- B. Joshua thought it was sensible in light of what God had done for the Israelites. God had called them, delivered them, and protected them.
- C. When we think of what God has done for us, it is a reasonable decision to serve the Lord. When we think of our health, finances, home, and spiritual blessings, we conclude it is reasonable to serve the Lord.

II. The Decision To Serve the Lord Is an Exclusive Decision.

- A. Joshua challenged the Israelites to serve the Lord exclusively. They could serve the Lord or the gods they had encountered in the past. However, they could not serve both.
- B. Our choice too must be exclusive. While we can choose to serve other "gods" in our lives, we cannot serve both the Lord and rivals to him.

III. The Decision To Serve the Lord Is a Serious Decision.

- A. Joshua told the people that they could not serve the Lord only with words. He challenged them to more than a nominal confession of allegiance. Their commitment involved both allegiance and actions. Their decision must be serious in light of God's holiness and zealouslyness.
- B. Our commitment to the Lord also must be a serious and true commitment evidenced by our allegiance and actions. It may be difficult to prove our commitment to the Lord while we are, at the same time, breaking the Lord's commands, violating the Lord's Day, forgetting the Lord's goodness, forsaking the Lord's house, criticizing the Lord's people, taking the Lord's tithe, neglecting the Lord's Word, or ignoring the Lord's work.

IV. The Decision To Serve the Lord Is a Pressing Decision.

- A. Joshua challenged them to choose "this day." His call to covenant renewal was a decision they needed to make that day. It could not be put off until a later time.
- B. Some of us may be challenged to make a pressing decision to serve the Lord "this day." It is a decision we should not put off until a later time.

Conclusion:

In any day, the decision to serve the Lord has its challenges. Joshua exhorted the people to "choose." He exhorted them to make a thoughtful response to allegiance and actions. Let us say along with Joshua, "As for me and my house, we will serve the LORD!"

GOD'S CALL TO THE CHURCH

Acts 13:1-3

Introduction:

As we consider God's call, we generally recognize that God calls individuals. God certainly called Paul and Barnabas to be missionaries, but God's call is not just to individuals. It is also to the full body of believers, the Church.

This passage of Scripture is usually dealt with from the perspective of the missionary call to individuals. However, it is also evidence of God's call to the church. In this passage the writer of Acts informed his readers of the reality that the church at Antioch should be sensitive to or open to God's call. There is a lesson in this for the modern church. We also are to be sensitive to God's call. This text contains three conditions associated with being a church that is sensitive to God's call.

I. God's Church is Called to be a Functioning Church (13:1).

- A. The writer of Acts informed his readers that the Antioch church was operating the way God intended.
- B. The modern church must be a functioning church.
 - 1. If the church is not doing what God has called it to do, then it is not proper to call it a church. Too many times we attempt to make the church something it should not be.
 - 2. Every church is equipped by God to do the work He has called us to do (I Corinthians 12:7).

II. God's Church is Called to be an Attentive Church (13:2).

- A. The writer of Acts informed his readers that the church at Antioch was open to the leadership of the Holy Spirit. As the Spirit spoke to them, they listened!

- B. The modern church must be attentive to the leadership of the Holy Spirit.
 - 1. In life it is necessary to pay attention when we are given directions.
 - 2. God has called the church to "pay attention" in order to hear His instructions to us (John 5:24).
- III. God's Church is Called to be an Obedient Church (13:3).**

- A. The writer of Acts informed his readers that the Antioch church was obedient to the Holy Spirit's leadership. When God desired for them to "set apart" both Paul and Barnabas, the people obeyed.
- B. The modern church must be an obedient church.
 - 1. Organizations such as the military require obedience in order to function.
 - 2. Jesus called us to obedience (John 14:15).

Conclusion:

The church at Antioch represents a wonderful model for the modern church. We don't have a lot of detail about that early church, but it is obvious from the scriptures that this body of believers was sensitive to the leadership of God's Holy Spirit. The modern church needs to demonstrate this same sensitivity.

Are you willing to make a commitment right now to dedicate yourself, as a part of the church, to be what God has called you to be? Are you willing to do your part in allowing the church to be a functioning church, an attentive church, and an obedient church?

THE CHURCH

Acts 9:31

Introduction:

Several years ago when he was serving as the director of the Southern Baptist Convention Church Growth Office, Ken Hemphill spoke at the chapel services of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. He made the statement that people often ask him how many Southern Baptist churches have reached a plateau or are in a state of decline? Although statistical information was available, he responded by saying he couldn't give them an answer. He continued to explain that the church of the Lord Jesus Christ is a body of believers who are doing the work of Christ—evangelizing and making disciples. There are many buildings that bear the name “church” on them where people are holding meetings, but regrettably are not doing the work of Christ. Based on that observation, he was led to the question, “How many of our churches really qualify to be called ‘churches’?”

Dr. Hemphill was making a statement about the church that leads us to the question, “What is the church?” This forces us to take a look at who we are, how we got here and what our purpose is.

I. The Origin of the Church.

- A. The church was created by God through Christ.
 - 1. Genesis 1:1 defines the creation by God.
 - 2. Jesus is identified as the agent of creation (Colossians 1:15-16).
- B. The church is sustained by God through Christ.
 - 1. Science attempts to describe the physical forces that hold the universe together.
 - 2. The Bible tells us that Jesus holds all of creation together (Colossians 1:17).

II. The Identity of the Church.

- A. The church is the body of Christ.
 - 1. The Bible identifies the church as the body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:27).
 - 2. If part of the body is not functioning, then the entire body is weakened.
- B. Christ is the head of the church.
 - 1. A body cannot function without a head.
 - 2. The Bible tells us Christ is the head of the church (Ephesians 1:22-23).

III. The Mission of the Church.

- A. The church is called to witness. The Great Commission anticipates this mission. David L. Larsen states in *The Evangelism Mandate*, “Evangelism is not simply one of the many important things we do, but is in fact the first priority in all we do.”
- B. The church is called to make disciples.
 - 1. Making disciples begins with evangelism and proceeds to nurturing.
 - 2. Jesus has called us to make disciples (Matthew 28:19-20).

Conclusion:

We began by asking the question, “What is the church?” Hopefully, we are in agreement that it is the creation of Christ, the body of Christ, and commissioned for ministry. Now we must each ask ourselves if we are all that God wants us to be in relation to our call to be a part of His church. Am I doing all that He has called me to do as a member of His church?

Scholarships for Church-Related Vocations Students

William Carey College

2003-2004

The church-related vocations scholarship could provide up to \$5,000 per year for eligible on-campus residents. Commuting students could be eligible for up to \$3,500 per year.

In order to be eligible to receive a church-related vocations scholarship, a student must:

1. Have an ACT composite score minimum of 17 and a high school transcript, or a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.0 on 15 semester hours from a college.
2. Be a current and active member of a church affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention.
3. Have made a public commitment to a church-related vocation (ministry or missions) in a church affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention.
4. Have a letter from the pastor stating that a public commitment to a church-related vocation was made or a copy of a license/ordination certificate.
5. Make application to the college and application for scholarships and grants.
6. Meet all admission requirements to the college.

Winter Bible Study Preview

Sponsored by

The Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

Wednesday, September 24, 2003

9:00 – 3:00

Kresge Room, Thomas Business Building
William Carey College

Led by Dr. Les Hughes
Westwood Baptist Church, Alabaster, AL

For more information, call (800) 748-1651, ext. 295.

Winter Bible Study Preview

Sponsored by
The Cooper School of Missions
and Biblical Studies

*1 & 2 TIMOTHY: The Church
Anticipating the Kingdom's Appearing*

Thursday, October 9, 2003
9:00 – 3:00

Kresge Room, Thomas Business Building
William Carey College

Led by Dr. Waylon Bailey
First Baptist Church, Covington, LA

For more information, call (800) 962-5991, ext. 115.



William Carey College Eighth Annual Minister's Golf Tournament

May, 2004

Details will be announced later.