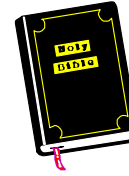


WEST COLUMBIA CHURCH OF CHRIST



“every disciple that is perfect shall be as his master.” Luke 6:40b

A Leader Gone Astray

“But there was none like unto Ahab, who did sell himself to do that which was evil in the sight of Jehovah, whom Jezebel his wife stirred up” (1 Ki. 21:25 ASV).

Leaders have a great responsibility, because they have a great deal of power. Ahab, the king of Israel, began his reign with very little conviction in his heart. His wife was Jezebel, a foreign woman who worshipped idols. When she came to Samaria, she brought her idol worship with her. Ahab's religion meant very little to him, so it was not much of a sacrifice of conviction for him to give up the worship of God and worship Baal along with his strong minded wife. She ruled Ahab and Ahab ruled the nation.

The religion of Baal became the dominating religion of the kingdom. All the court lords and ladies followed the lead of the king and queen, and all the people who loved to be in style — and that was most of them — followed the lead of the king and court. Of course they all knew that the religion of Jehovah was the true religion, but it was not the style any more to worship God. So nearly all of them went the popular way.

The Stubborn Prophet: Elijah was not a crank. He was not stubborn for the mere sake of being different or odd. He was not anxious to stir up trouble. He loved peace and harmony, but he loved God more. His conscience would not allow him to forsake Jehovah.

His courage led him to stick by his convictions, even though it meant a break with the king and even though it made him a social outcast. He had sense enough to look beyond the authority and demands of an earthly king to the authority and will of the King of the universe. He had discernment enough to see through the glamour and show of unthinking multitudes to the real principles of conduct and teaching. He could see the paltriness and emptiness of Baal's religion in contrast with the genuineness and abiding quality of the religion of Jehovah. To Elijah, persecution and even death were minor things as contrasted with loyalty to God.

Misrepresentation And Ill Treatment: Of course Elijah was misrepresented. At court he was spoken of as, "the troubler of Israel." He was so hated by the queen that she planned constantly for some means to get him out of the way. At times it was necessary for him to flee for his life; but while that was extremely discouraging, it did not take away his loyalty to God.

He preferred to eat the scraps of the ravens' food in the dark canyon near the Dead Sea than to sit as a liveried nothing in the palace of Ahab in Samaria. He chose rather to hear the voice of Jehovah in the lonely mountain cave than to listen to the empty jabber of Queen Jezebel.

It cost Elijah just about everything that flesh holds dear to maintain his religious and moral integrity, but he knew that the reward was worth far more than the price he had to pay. Every age has its Elijahs, unpopular, misrepresented, and abused while they lived, but the foundation stones upon which humanity has been enabled to step across one swirling crosscurrent after another down through the stream of time.

- Continued on Page 3

VOLUME 35, NUMBER 20 May 17, 2009

RECORDS 5/10/2009

SERMONS 5/17/2009

Sun 10 AM Bible Study: 50
Sun 11 AM Assembly: 82
Sun 6 PM Assembly:
Weds 7 PM Bible Study:
CONTRIBUTION: \$1937

AM: Jerry Manning
PM: Jerry Manning
LIFE
GOD'S POWER MADE PERFECT

“And why call ye me, Lord, Lord,
and do not the things which I say?” - Luke 6:46

A Warm Welcome awaits you at all our services. Come see!
www.WestColumbiaChurchOfChrist.org

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SERVICES

Sunday 10 AM Bible Study
Sunday 11 AM, 6 PM Assembly
Wednesday 7 PM Bible Study
Office Phone (803) 794-5320
Nursery provided

Bible Classes for all ages

LADIES CLASS
2nd Tuesday of month 7-9 PM

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“PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER” - James 5:16

- **REMEMBER IN PRAYER:** Lamar Reeves, Beryl Parks, Nina Ruth Meadows (Marcella Klieves' mother), Jack and Elma Berrier, Lynn Drago (Jerry's sister) and Phyllis Johnson.
- Brother Bryan Widner, Don and Marcella Klieves son-in-law is believed to have had a heart attack last Friday the 8th.
- Margie DeYoung's sister Daisy is in ICU in Kentucky after a stroke.
- Prayers for Lynn Drago are especially coveted as she is in final stages of cancer.
- Eddie and Doris Sheppard made it back safely from Florida.
- Carolyn Lee's son Michael and his step-son Ethan, are having great family hardship.
- Phyllis Johnson is fighting illness.
- We rejoice with Anna Porter, that Brig. Gen. Rick Porter, a brother in Christ and son of Ernie Porter was elected to the Military Hall of Fame.
- Remember our new brother and sister in Christ Amy and Travis Wintermute.
- Remember all these, those that are grieving and recovering from loss, and brother Manning and those he studies the Bible with, in your prayers.

"It is a faithful saying: for if we be dead with him, we shall also live with him: If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: If we deny him, he also will deny us:" - 2 Timothy 2:11,12

“AND THEY CONTINUED STEADFASTLY” - Acts 2:42

- **Young Ladies** class starts June 5, 6:30 pm at Vernicia Matthews' home. Please see Lynn Manning if you need a book.
- **Transportation** is needed for sisters Betty Mathis and Marilyn Brooks.
- **WORSHIP SERVICE** training for the men, Wed 6 pm.
- **VBS Meeting**, Wed after the evening classes.
- **BABY SHOWER!** For Natalie and Landis Cobb, Sun 5/17 after the evening assembly. See Martha Geiger for details.
- **Volunteers** needed to clean the building. Sign up sheet in the foyer.
- **Foundation Class**, Saturdays 11 am at the building. All are invited.
- **Visual Aids** help needed for VBS, see brother Manning.

"And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God." - Revelation 21:3

“... PEOPLE, ZEALOUS OF GOOD WORKS.” - Titus 2:14

WORK TEAM SCHEDULE: 5/17—C 5/24—D 5/31—A 6/7—B

All members in the congregation are assigned to a Work Team
Check your Work Team assignment—your participation is vital!

Let Your Light Shine in 2009!

A Leader Gone Astray-(Continued from page 1)

The Real Test: Pomp and pageantry and show are not a test of principles, but they do command a big following. What is in style and what is right are often two different things. The real test is the will of God! Just as the Rock of Gibraltar still stands, though it has been obscured by many a cloud and lashed by many a storm, so the will of God is supreme and eternal, though often clouded and lashed by the conflicting currents of earthly leadership and popular clamor.

Ahab and Jezebel were drunk with power. The nation reeled like a drunken man in the intoxication and revelry of Baal worship. But out on Mount Carmel one day the proud king and his clamoring followers saw Baal's worship go down in defeat (1 Ki. 18). They saw the prophets of Baal — 400 of them — work themselves up in an all-day frenzy of pleading and shouting and bodily mutilation, but no answer came from their idol.

Then in the evening they heard the prayer of faith borne from the heart of Elijah to the throne of God. They saw the answer of Jehovah as the fire fell and consumed the sacrifice, the altar of stone, and even the water in the trenches. Fallen to the earth in penitence and humility, the people acknowledged their wrong. From their hearts went up the cry, "Jehovah, he is God" (1 Ki. 18:39 ASV).

A Modern Application: Baal is abroad in the land today — not the old fish god of the Philistines and Sidonians, but the god of human exaltation and lust of the flesh. His religion is voiced in the maxim, "Whatever is, is right." It is further explained in the teaching, "Follow the earthly great and powerful, no matter what they do. Do not be out of style." This is the philosophy of "Political Correctness."

This god has all but taken possession of even the religion that claims to be Christian. He has branded the God of the Bible as "out of date" and fit only for the age of superstition. He is proclaiming from the ivy towers of educational institutions and from the centers of social prominence that to be religious in the Bible way is a matter of ignorance and lack of sense. Like the Pied Piper of Hamelin, he plays his tune in the halls of colleges, in the pulpits of fine churches, and echoes his claims from the lips of the prominent and powerful among religious denominations.

But men and women of Elijah's type will fear God and keep His commandments, though ostracized socially and belittled religiously. We must not think that days like Elijah's are gone. There is plenty of opposition now, and discouragement and persecution for people who love the Lord and are willing to serve Him. It takes different forms, but it is just as effective and deadly. A good old song says,

"Am I a soldier of the cross,
A follower of the Lamb;
And shall I fear to own His cause,
Or blush to speak His name?"

The Lord Himself has issued this challenge: "For whosoever shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of man also shall be ashamed of him, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels" (Mk. 8:38 ASV).

- Batsell Barrett Baxter, 1916-1982, Preacher, teacher, elder, church of Christ

Let Your Light Shine in 2009!