

Galatians 6:10 *“Therefore as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those of the household of faith.”*

August 7, 2011

Remember in your prayers:

- **Macon Horne** (Linda's uncle) has a mass on his pancreas and will have a biopsy Tuesday. **Laura Andrews** is recovering from her surgery in a huge cast. **Marguerite Thompson** continues her recovery at home. **Rhonda Knowles** continues to need our prayers.
- **Tacoda Goshee, Bessie Sides, Xabien Hall, Paul Odom, Conard Rice, Lea Cooper,** and **Marvin Dryer's mother,** as they battle cancer.
- **Heather Flowers,** who is away at college. **Robert Langley, Jeremiah Hughes & all of our servicemen** who are defending freedom. **Our nation** and its leaders. **Those that preach and teach the gospel;** especially those who labor under hardships.

BLACK CREEK UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **Men's and Ladies Classes:** Monday and Tuesday @ 6:00 and 6:30

Area Gospel Meetings:

No notices received this week.



DOUBTING THOMAS, REALLY?

How would you like for me to survey your entire life, pick one of your weakest moments, and choose to identify from that point on by that moment? I don't think any of us would want this done to us, but it may precisely be what we have done with the apostle, Thomas. We are very familiar with the doubts that Thomas expressed in John 20 when he said that he needed to see the wounds in Jesus' hands and side to believe he had resurrected. However, what we fail to consider is that Thomas was not the only unbelieving apostles. Jesus abraded all the apostles for their unbelief following his resurrection and had them all examine his wounds.

That being the case, why don't we ever refer to doubting Peter or doubting John? Why just pick on Thomas. There was much more to Thomas than his moment of doubt. In fact, in John 11, when the other apostles were hesitant to follow Jesus, it was Thomas who boldly spoke up and encouraged the rest to follow Jesus to their deaths! No, there was much more to Thomas than his moment of doubt. He was more than a doubter, he was a hand selected, faithful apostle of Jesus Christ.

Next time you're tempted to dismiss a co-worker, an acquaintance, or a fellow church member that you witnessed having a "bad moment," be fair with them. Don't measure their entire life by their one act of weakness. Give them the opportunity to redeem themselves. After all, doesn't the "Golden Rule" demand such? (Matthew 7:12).
By **Steve Higginbotham**

The Banner of Truth

Black Creek church of Christ

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“You have given a BANNER to those who fear you, that it may be displayed because of the TRUTH. “ Psalms 60:4

Editor:

Van Cooper

Schedule of Services

Lord's Day

9:30 A.M. Bible Classes

10:25 A.M. Worship

5:00 P.M. Worship

Elders

Philip Jacks 436-3055

Truman Wallace 483-7016

Van Cooper 491-9695

Deacons

Keith Chaney 491-1596

Roger Key 491-3723

Evangelist

Sammy Bynum 368-3511

Who We Are: The Black Creek Church of Christ is simply a group of Christians dedicated to serving God. We believe the Bible to be the inspired Word of God and it is to be our sole guide. We are committed to preaching the gospel of Christ, which is man's only hope for eternal life.

We are interested in helping anyone who is searching for the way to God. We welcome the opportunity to privately study the Bible with you. If you would contact us, we would be happy to meet with you. In addition, you are invited to visit one of our public assemblies (information is above). At our public Bible studies, we have classes for adults and children of all ages. If we can help you in knowing more about God and His Word, then please visit, call, or write us.

(Visit us on-line at (WWW.blackcreekchurch.com)

WHAT I OWE MY HOME CONGREGATION!

It has been said, "Unto the Church of the Lord in every locality, I am under solemn obligation to the extent of my ability, but unto my home congregation, I am under special obligation." Notice the following special obligations:

1. **I owe a wholesome influence in the community.** Therefore, I owe the example of a good life. I must "live soberly, righteously and godly in this present world" (Titus 2:12; Matt. 5:13,16).

2. **I owe friendliness to the strangers who enter the door of the meeting house.** I want them to feel at home, learn to love us and return from time to time. I owe it to them and to the church to show myself friendly. I must not stand back and wait for others to greet them (Heb. 13:2).

3. **I owe regular and consistent giving.** Whether I give or do not give, the financial obligations of the congregation must be paid. If it is right for my congregation to pay its obligations each week, it is right for me to give each week. Though circumstances may force me to be absent at times, my contributions should find their way to the treasury of the Church (1 Cor. 16:1-2). Even when I go on vacation, I should leave my weekly contribution or make-it-up when I return home.

4. **I owe faithful and consistent attendance.** The attendance is the life of the church (Heb. 10:25). For this reason, I must attend the services...all the services. While attendance will not "get me to heaven," attendance is an excellent measure of my faithfulness.

5. **I owe encouragement and support to the leaders of the church.** The members of the

church make or break their leaders. Therefore, I must give them support to help them be strong and more efficient. I must pray for them and their families. As long as they are true men, I must not embarrass them in the work of the Lord (1 Tim. 5:19).

6. **I owe persistent effort in winning the lost.** I must set to the noble work of winning souls for Christ (Lk. 19:10). This I can do by sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ in word and deed (Rom. 10:1). I must be like Paul, who said, "Therefore, knowing the terror of the Lord, we persuade men."

7. **I owe warmth, forgiveness and edification.** I must not allow the church to become a place where hearts are chilled. I must make it a place where hearts are warmed. Therefore, I must forgive and forget (Matt. 6:14,15). Adapted from an articleby **Frank Cox**

DOING ALL THAT YOU CAN DO MARK 14:1-11

There are times in our lives when we look back at situations and we say, "I should've done this or that differently." Some parents feel this way after having raised their children and the children do not turn out how they parents expected.

"For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing." (2 Timothy 4:6-8) There were certainly things in Paul's life,

which he regretted. The stoning of Stephen (acts 7), and his being a persecutor of the church (acts 9), are some of the many things he probably would give anything to take back.

Most of us, like Paul, would be far better off making sure we did things right from the beginning so that there would be less regrets in the end.

Recorded in Mark 14:1-11, Jesus is presented with a woman desiring to do a good work unto Him. She wanted to anoint Jesus with precious oil, and so she does. However, there were some disciples who murmured against her "wasting" the oil, which could have been sold, and used to assist the poor. Jesus quickly rebuked those who murmured by telling them, "She hath done what she could..." (verse 8) Although simple in its context and understanding, there are some great lessons in this text, from which we might better our lives.

Lesson number one is that God requires us to "do" certain things – none of which are impossible. The Lord took down the walls of Jericho, but the people still had to march around the walls! (Joshua 6) You see the point? God requires such things as worship (Acts 20:7; John 4:24), work (John 9:4), and doing good deeds (Acts 10:38). The scriptures teach that we are to be "doers" of the Word, which we have heard. (James 1:27) This woman that came may not have had any other means to provide for Jesus' needs, but she did what she could.

Our second lesson is that there is work that needs to be done. It does

not take me long in looking around in the house or outside to find some type of work to do. There is always something to do. So much more true in the Lord's kingdom. As long as there is one soul outside of Christ, there is work to do! Jesus said that He had to WORK while it was yet day. (John 9:4) Our time is running out here on this earth. We must work while we have time left. The woman who anointed Christ worked while she had opportunity.

Another fine lesson gained for this text, is that the same work is not required of everyone. Those who murmured might have been jealous because they did not have anointment to use on Christ. We should learn from this that we can only do what we can do! God does not require of us what we are not able to do! We are all designed differently and we will always continue to have various talents and abilities. This stresses the importance of working together. (Romans 12:5,6) What if we were all good preachers? The singing would fall. Or, if we were all "Lord's Supper preparation specialists"? The preaching would falter. You see what I mean? She did what SHE could.

Am I doing all that I can in my study life, teaching and preaching, training my children, attending services, helping the needy, worshipping, and in giving of my time, efforts, influence and money? I pray that we are all doing what we can do.By **Larry Pasley**