

THE EMPTY SEAT

It is always there, usually in front.
 It is uninspiring, nonpaying, silent but disturbing.
 It is the mortal enemy of the preacher.
 It never helps with the singing,
 It never responds to the invitation. It just sets there.
 It robs the preacher of his power; takes the joy out of a song.
 It chills the saint and cheers the sinner.
 It doesn't whisper, it doesn't squirm.
 It never looks at the clock. It just sets there.
 It is visible and a living testimony that someone doesn't care.
 It is evidence of spiritual degeneracy.
 It advertises better than a billboard the indifference of our church people.
 It is where people sit who are present "in spirit."
 It is stabbing pains to our Master and a delight to Satan.
 It cannot be moved. The only way to get rid of it is to fill it!
IT IS THE EMPTY SEAT!
Hebrews 10:25 – Do not forsake the assembling of ourselves together.
 - Danny Rodgers, *Beacon*, Bellview Church of Christ, Pensacola, FL (adapted) -

YOU ARE PREACHING

There isn't a word that a preacher can say,
 No matter how lovely or true,
 Nor is there a prayer that his eager lips pray,
 That can preach such a sermon as you.

You vowed to serve Christ and men know you did,
 They're watching the things that you do;
 There isn't one action of yours that is hid,
 Men are watching and studying you.

You say you're no preacher? Yes, but you preach
 A wonderful sermon each day.
 The acts of your life are the things you teach,
 And all the things that you say.

So Christians, remember you bear His dear name;
 Your lives are for others to view,
 You are living examples, men praise you, or blame,
 And measure all Christians by you.

- Author Unknown -

Exercise daily – walk with the Lord.

News & Notes

CONFESSIONS: Daniel Mehlmauer.

SYMPATHY: To the family of Jackie Parsons at her recent passing. Bob & Anne Peters are Jackie's son-in-law & daughter. Jackie and her husband, Wayne were faithful members of this congregation for many years. May God comfort this family.

CARE & SHARE BEARS: Tuesday at 9:00 a.m. Ladies are encouraged to participate to help make stuffed bears for kids.

MEN'S LEADERSHIP CLASSES: Each Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. All men are urged to attend this class.

STUDY ON REVELATION: Each Wednesday at the 7:00 p.m. Bible study hour.

LADIES BIBLE CLASS: Each Thursday at 11:00 a.m. at the Brown's home.

PANTRY: Canned fruit.

REMEMBER IN PRAYER: Imogene Aebi, (radiation treatments for five weeks). Her address: 2660 Layman Rd., Vincent, OH 45784. Irvin & Barbara Gainer in Texas (Jenny Rhodes' parents), and Tasha Hall Beatty (member at Southern Hills). She is to have very serious surgery on Jan. 26th for recurring cancer.

SICK & SHUT-IN: LIFE LINE: Jim Smith (preacher at Langeloth, PA), 200 School St., Wintersville, OH 43953. OTHERS SICK: Janet Malcomson, Lois Hissom, Eva Stefl, Mae McMahan, Jim & Shirley Beagle, Doris Dunham, Betty Henthorne. Ruth Wright (Sharon Williams' sister) 1211 Mound St., Salem, OH 44460. CROSSROADS: Jim Mick, 13280 Echo Dell Road, East Liverpool, OH 43920. CALCUTTA HEALTH CARE: Sarah Miller & Ella Beagle. WORTHINGTON NURSING AND REHABILITATION CENTER, Margie Logston, 2675 - 36th St., P.O. Box 4010, Parkersburg, WV 26104.

We Pray

Some people in applying the Bible to their lives are like the little boy with his geography. He prayed as he went to bed: "Bless my mama and papa, and please make St. Louis the capital of Missouri." When his mother asked him why he said such a thing in his prayer, he said, "Well, Mama, that is what I put on my examination paper."

Some people act in religion without studying and then pray that they are right. The study should come first, and when we follow the will of God, we will then know how to pray aright. People should never ask God to use His divine power to make up for their ignorance.

- Author Unknown (*Bulletin Digest*)

What Am I?

I have been re-reading the record of the Rich Young Ruler and his obviously wrong choice. But it has set me to thinking. No matter how much wealth he had, he could not – ride in a car, have surgery, turn on a light, buy penicillin, wash dishes in running water, fly on an airplane, sleep on an innerspring mattress, or talk on the phone.

Dear Lord, if he was rich, then what am I??

- Author Unknown (*Bulletin Digest*)