

Tidings From Timothy

Today's lesson will be about the influence of the church and its work of evangelism. Tonight we will continue our study of Ephesians, Lord willing.

Request: The church is starting a new record book. The old book starts out with a list of the founding members and has been used since the 1850's (No, I don't know how it has stayed together for so long). We want to start the new book with a list of current members. There is a sack to put strips of paper in out front. Just put your name on the paper and your best guess on the date of your baptism for our new record book!

In Need of Prayer: Laura Key still doesn't have a definite diagnosis but is still being evaluated by the doctors and we will have more news soon. Mary Louise Earl, cousin to Sharon Goode, is in very poor health in a coma. Martha Pettet had a knee procedure done and is recovering well at home.

Have you every been called upon to lead a public prayer? Did you accept or reject the assignment? Did the thought fill you with anxiety and fear? Did the palms of your hands begin to sweat? Did you feel that you needed to know more about what you were doing?

I'm certainly not an expert on the subject, but perhaps a few practical suggestions might be of help.

The role your voice plays is important. When you pray, pray loudly enough to be heard. If you don't, how will the congregation be able to say "Amen"? (well, all 5 of us who say it won't know when to anyway, STM) Stay away from a "stained glass" voice. You can say "God." It doesn't have to be "Gawd."

It is a public prayer. What you say should be relevant for the whole congregation. Private matters should be dealt with in private prayers. Enter into your own closet and pray to God secretly.

Have the proper motive. You are not praying to be seen of men, or praised for eloquent speech.

Acknowledge Christ. Our access to God is through Christ.

Be sincere. Don't fall into the trap of vain repetitions, or the use of trite expressions.

Consider the time. The Model Prayer that Jesus gave his disciples is rather short. We should not think that we will be heard for our much speaking. I read once about a brother who had a habit of praying long public prayers. On this particular Sunday the prayer had been going on for some time when one brother leaned over to his neighbor and said, "Is he about through?" In a low tone the neighbor responded, "When he reaches the point of the Jews being in bondage he is about half through."

A prayer is not a sermon. You are speaking to God, not to men. I have heard prayer that were used to make announcements (O Lord, you know that the funeral service for brother Smith is going to be conducted at the Ruebel Funeral Home at 2 o'clock in the afternoon this coming Tuesday and we need additional singers). And I have heard prayers which were preached to the members, and even corrected the preacher for the lesson he had just presented. I have even heard prayers which quoted countless scriptures to the Almighty (apparently a reminder to God just in case he forgot what He said).

Take your time. Some public prayers are uttered at such a rapid rate of speech that they become almost unintelligible. I feel sure that much of this is due to stage fright. You may have to remind yourself to be somewhat more deliberate.

Practice praying aloud. If you always pray silently, you may be startled by the sound of your own voice. Pray aloud.

--John Gipson--

What must I do?

- **Hear the Gospel - Acts 15:7**
- **Believe the Gospel - Mark 16:15,16**
- **Repent of Sins - Acts 17:30**
- **Confess Christ - Rom. 10:9,10**
- **Be Baptized for the Forgiveness of Sins - Acts 2:38**

Then, as a Christian we must:

- **LIVE FAITHFUL UNTO DEATH - REV. 2:10**

Birthdays:

Kim	Stinson	01/04
Kevin	Cloyd	01/06
Monica	Price	01/06
Charlie	Williams	01/06
Sharon	Bartley	01/07
Jeffery	Cloyd	01/10
Jeremy	Myatt	01/10

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Verses for the Lord's Supper:

Ecclesiastes 12:7-8,13-14 "Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it. Vanity of vanities, saith the preacher; all is vanity... Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.

For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.

Elders:

- Keith Dyer.....427-4105
- Veachel Harlan.....487-5727
- Roger Deckard.....487-8544
- Steve Carter.....487-8746

Deacons: Larry Copas, Ray C. Lyon, Cass Thomas Froedge, Bobby D. Gerald, Bobby Harlan, Kevin Deckard, Jimmy High, Gary Rowland

Evangelist:

Tim McHenry, 931-258-3494
12955 Clay Co. HWY Moss, TN 38575

Schedule of Services:

Sunday:

- Bible Study... 9:30am
- Morning Worship... 10:05am
- Evening Worship... 6pm

Wednesday:

- Bible Study... 7pm

Listen to our **Sunday Morning Radio Sermon** on **WTKY 1370 AM & 92.1, 102.7, 101.5 FM** at 8:30am each week, and to our **weekday 10min program** after the **Noonday news and reports.**