

BULLETIN

Church of Christ Stallings Drive

Nacogdoches, Texas
P.O. Box 630035 (936) 564-7286

Sunday, May 4, 2008

A REVIVAL

The reign of Josiah was clearly one of the bright spots in Judah's history. A boy king became a man. Importantly, he served the Lord faithfully. "And he did what was right in the sight of the LORD, and walked in all the ways of his father David; he did not turn aside to the right hand or to the left" (2 Kings 22:2). Incrementally, Josiah began faithfully serving the Lord—at age eight, then at age sixteen, and then at age twenty-two—markers of his commitment to the Lord. This was further demonstrated by the repairs he made on the temple.

Yet, outward repairs, easily seen by all were not enough; they were secondary to the real reforms Josiah wrought. By ousting the pagan idols that were scattered throughout the land (in the northern kingdom, too), Josiah called attention to the true God of heaven. Idolatry had long plagued the children of Israel. Now the visible reminders of their sin were gone. And now the focus changes to house of God.

Solomon's magnificent temple was in a state of ruin, badly needing repair. Money was collected and the work began. Responsible men were entrusted to carry out the king's orders; this they did with obvious devotion to the king. In the midst of the building project came an unexpected serendipity—the book of the Law was found! Immediately, Josiah wanted to know what the book said. But the words of the book brought great distress to the king and spelled doom for God's rebellious people.

Upon hearing of the discovery, Josiah reacted with a contrite and broken heart. Judah's guilt and impending judgment would naturally be cause for great sorrow. But the words of God's judgment could not be avoided. The Lord's message was clear: His people would be punished. Soon the Babylonians would plunder the land of Canaan, taking God's people into captivity for seventy years. Why? Idolatry was one of the main reasons for this severe judgment. In contrast, the responsive and humble Josiah would not live to see the blows of invasion—this was meant to be a blessing to him.

Josiah's short-lived revival quickly turned into a time for mourning and sorrow. God's people had for too long ignored His message to them. Absorbed in their everyday activities of idolatry, perversions of justice, and general neglect of God's instructions, why would Judah care about what God was saying to them? A persistent course of wickedness and idolatry could only dull their spiritual senses, rendering them unable to rally in faithfulness.

We haven't lost God's word. Or, have we? To the extent that God calls us to put Him first, we have. The idols in our hearts dull our spiritual appetites to the point that we really don't want to "find the word of God." Maybe it would be better if the Lord did not dig around in the temples of our lives. He might find something we really don't want. He might call us to an unwanted revival.

Randy Harshbarger

SENTENCE SERMONS

Share your joy! It will bless others and mean more to you.

* * * * *

No matter how high a man may rise, he needs someone to look up to.

* * * * *

Don't brag - it is not the whistle that pulls the train.

* * * * *

Home is the place where the great are small and the small are great.

* * * * *

It is wrong to be false to the true God, and to be true to a false god.

F Y I : For your information....

Average Attendance For April:

Sunday Morning Class	196
Sunday Morning Worship	235
Sunday Evening Worship	201
Wednesday Evening Class	189

Comments in preparation for the Lord's Supper: May 11 - James Kittrell

Sick: Larry Schmidt was in the hospital this week, but is home now. Thetys Beard remains at home. Continue to remember Hilary Johnson, niece of Angela Whitaker. Remember Ronnie Westmoreland and others who have serious health problems. Check on these and see if you can be of any help.

Shut-Ins: J.D. Blankenship; Ethel Burkett; Pauline Hicks; Myrtle McCall; Wayne Polk; Jimmie Standley and Auline Whitaker. Remember these in your prayers and see if you can be of some encouragement to them.

Bible Reading Schedule: May 4-1 Kings 8,9, Luke 23:39-56; May 5-1 Kings 10,11, Luke 24:1-35; May 6-1 Kings 12,13, Luke 24:36-53; May 7-1 Kings 14,15, John 1:1-28; May 8-1 Kings 16-18, John 1:29-51; May 9-1 Kings 19,20, John 2; May 10-1 Kings 21,22, John 3:1-21.

Meeting this week in Tyler, Rice Road congregation, with Jay Taylor. Details posted.

Brian and Angela Legg have indicated their desire to be members at Stallings Drive. They have recently moved here from Ft. Smith, Arkansas. Welcome them and their daughters, Hailey, Riley, and Shay. Address: 250FM 3314, phone # 1-936-569-0755.

Daryl Sparks maintains our web page. We thank him for his hard work. This is a good source for keeping up with current news here at SD. Take a look at: www.stallingsdrivechurchofchrist.com

Wednesday Evening - May 7		Schedule of Services	
Scripture Reading	Stephen Sikes	Sunday: Bible Classes	9:30 A.M.
1 Song & Invitation	Daryl Sparks	Worship	10:15 A.M.
Exhortation	Cory Beasley	Worship	6:00 P.M.
Closing Prayer	Glenn Millard	Wednesday: Bible Classes	7:00 P.M.