

WESTPORT WITNESS

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August, 2006

Hilltop's

Men's Retreat

August 25th

Featured Speaker

Steve White

Plainfield Christian Church

Mike's Message...

Recently, we started a study on Sunday nights that I would like to call, "Knowing what you believe." Peter writes in 1 Peter 3:15, "*But sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence.*"

Now, before I go on, let me clarify a word, and that word is "sanctify." The basic meaning of this word means to "set apart." Therefore, are set ourselves apart from the things of the world--to Christ.

But, read the rest of that verse. We are to be ready to share with others what we believe and why! If someone were to ask you what you believe and why, what would you tell them. The worst answer you could give is, "well that is what the church teaches or that is what my preacher says." That is a **terrible** answer! If you don't know what or why, then you need to find out. If you say something like, "well that is just the way I *feel* in my heart," **wrong** answer! Again you need to find out.

God does not want His people to be ignorant about His ways or His plan for salvation. That is why we have a written instruction manual we call the Bible. God has revealed to us through the writings of the prophets, apostles, and leaders from the New Testament Church concerning the things of God. There is *no* excuse not to know.

We need to know because there is more and more false teachings. I am amazed at some of the *crazy* things that I hear and read. Some of it is down right scary. The apostle Paul writes about this, "*For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths.*" (2 Tim 4:3-4)

Now, in that verse is the word doctrine, which means teachings. This is in reference to the teaching of the truth. This is the teaching of the truth found in God's word. Read what Paul writes in Galatians 1:6-9, *Continued inside. . .*

CALLING ALL YOUTH

What a *great* time we had at VBS! This is the first time since I have been here and according to some, the first time ever to have a Jr.-Sr. High school group. What a wonderful turn out. We averaged 21 Jr.-Sr. High each night! I am VERY proud of each of you!

For those of you who are younger that maybe are reading this, I am extremely proud of you as well. Keep it up!

It seems like the summer has gone so fast. With many of you working, going to camp, sports and many other things, we haven't had a chance to enjoy getting together like I wanted. Ronda and I are planning a couple of events for both age groups. Those in the Youth Group and those younger. So please keep your eyes and ears open for an opportunity to have fun.

I would like to take just a moment to say something about camp. First of all, those of you who have already been, and those who will be going soon, I would like for you to make a note about camp. I would like for you to include some of the things that you did and some things that you learned. Also, I would like for you to include if you feel that camp had made an impact in your life for Christ and why.

The reason that I am asking you to do this is because many people at the church help to send some of you to camp. So, I feel that it is important to share with them a word of thanks and for those who don't know what camp is like, a chance for them to know from your experience.

On Sunday mornings and Thursday nights, we have been looking at our relationship to Christ. Is it *real*? Are you really who you say you are? We have looked at some people who shared that for years they were just playing the game. Going to church with the family was just a way to keep mom and dad off their back. But, for the most part, each one shared that when they got older, they realized how important their relationship to Christ truly was. They wanted Christ to be real in their lives and wanted the church to be a vital part of their life!

Again, I must ask are you for real or are you just doing this to keep mom and dad off your back? I pray that you don't have to wait to know!

Later Tater,
Mike

Mike's Message ...continued

"I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you by the grace of Christ, for a different gospel; which is really not another; only there are some who are disturbing you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to what we have preached to you, he is to be accursed! As we have said before, so I say again now, if any man is preaching to you a gospel contrary to what you received, he is to be accursed! (NASU)

Therefore the teaching (doctrine), of the church today, **must** be the same teaching (doctrine), of the church from the beginning! I've had people tell me they don't agree with the doctrine of the church, all you need is Jesus. Let me share with you something Jesus said. *"If you love Me, you will keep My commandments."* (John 14:15) In the same chapter, Jesus said in verse 21, *"He who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me; and he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will disclose Myself to him."*

When Jesus used the word commandments, He is not talking about the "Ten Commandments." He is talking about His teachings and the teachings of the Holy Spirit after His resurrection. For Jesus told His disciples, *"But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you."* John 14:26

It is extremely important that *you* know what and why you believe. It is important for your salvation and it is important that *you* can share with others, so they too may come to know Christ and His saving grace! May God bless you as you strive to grow in His knowledge and love.

Mike

Sawdust Gospel Meeting

On August 26th, New Point Christian Church will be hosting the first annual meeting. This is an opportunity for you to join our sister congregations throughout Decatur county. It begins at 4:00 with a carry in meal. (Meat and drinks will be provided) Then a program featuring members from various churches followed by a great concert by the Melton Family Singers.

If you are planning on going, please let Mike know by August 6th.

From the Congregation

I would like to give each of you an opportunity to help with the Newsletter. If you would like to submit something to be put into the monthly addition, I would like to encourage you to do so. You may submit something that you have wrote or something that someone else has written. (Remember, we must give the source from where it came.) You may submit a recipe, a word of thanks, or just a word of encouragement.

If you would like to do this, it must be turned into Mike no later than the 15th to have it in the next Newsletter.

Scripture Cake

This is a good time to get the kids involved in figuring out the ingredients.

This recipe comes from the cook book, "O'le Hillbilly Recipe" volume 2

You will need the o'le family Bible and follow directions. Bake with a moderate heat. (360-375)

2 cups Judges 5, 25th paragraph

3 ½ cups Exodus 29:2, last clause

3 cups Jeremiah 6:20

2 cups Samuel 30:12

½ cups Judges 4:19

1 cup Genesis 42:11

6 Isaiah 10:14

2 teaspoons 1 Corinthians 5:6

1 tablespoon 1 Samuel 14:25

Season to taste with 1 Kings 10:10 and Levi. 2:13

Follow Solomon's advice for making good boys and you will have a good cake.

Ladies For The Lord,

I've been taking a walk down memory lane. My two nephews are here for the week and I' remembering what it's like to have two growing boys around the house. Lots of fun—lots of help—lots of talking—lots of cooking—eating—time for bed!

Seriously, it has been a great week. It's hard to realize it's nearly over and the boys will be back home again. It does remind me of the challenges facing parents whose kids are still young and at home—the challenges and the rewards (Blessings!) My hat is off to you-all!

My sisters, I hope you are remembering to pray for your secret sis. Prayer is the #1 thing you can do for her but be sure to send her a card or remembrance so she will know she is being brought to Jesus. Our support and encouragement for one another is so important as we live for the Lord.

While we're on the subject of prayer, moms, be sure to pray for your kids every day (no matter how old that are!) Grandmas, it's just as important or even more important to pray for your grandchildren. Preacher Mike mentioned the other day that all Christians are priests. That gives us the job of representing God to those around us and those around us to God. We MUST do this for the children. It breaks my heart to see what some kids have to contend with. We don't have much power to help but God does—so make sure you're praying for your kids and our church kids. We can make a difference through Jesus.

I'll see you Sunday!

Thanks to **EVERYONE** that help out with VBS. Is was a GREAT success!

Donni and Jill

UP COMING EVENTS

1st Ladies meeting	7:00
8th Board meeting	7:00
20th Pitch-in	After Worship
21st Elders / Deacons meeting	7:00
25th Hilltop Men's Retreat	
27th Morning Breeze	2:30

Revival Sept. 17-20



Westport Christian Church

Biblical Ed class 9:30

Worship 10:30

Sunday night & Youth Group 6:00

Wednesday night 7:00

August

Birthdays
1st Cassie Weaver Mike Bartlett
3rd Jill Sageser Shirley Nugent
14th James Nugent Ethan Peele
21st Donni Buchanan
28th Steve Black
Anniversaries
6th Larry & Norma Rowe

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Ladies Meeting 7:00	2 Bible Study 7:00	3 Jr.-Sr. High Youth Group 7:00	4	5
6 Family Sunday No Wee-Worship	7	8 Board Meeting 7:00	9 Bible Study 7:00	10 Jr.-Sr. High Youth Group 7:00	11	12
13	14 1st Day of <i>School</i>	15	16 Prayer Meeting 6:15	17 Jr.-Sr. High Youth Group 7:00	18	19
20 **ALL Church Pitch-In** Following worship	21 Elder's/Deacon Meeting 7:00	22	23 Bible Study 7:00	24 Jr.-Sr. High Youth Group 7:00	25 Hilltops' Men' Re-treat	26 **Sawdust Trail Gospel Meeting** at New Point 4 PM
27 Morning Breeze 2:30	28	29	30 Bible Study 7:00	31 Jr.-Sr. High Youth Group 7:00		