

WESTPORT WITNESS

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August, 2005

Hilltop Men's Retreat

Friday August 26

Speaker

David Roadcup

Theme:

“Living A Life Of
Holiness
In A Unholy World”

Mike's Message...

Recently I purchased some things for Bo Beau to hand out while he is clowning. One of the things that I got is called “Free B's.” That's right, now Bo Beau can go around and hand out “Free B's” to everyone. It usually gets a laugh and, most of the time at least, a strange look!

As Christians, each and every one of us has something free to hand out, it is the love of Christ! Think with me for just a moment. Have you ever heard the statement, “nothing is free?” As a matter of fact, the other day I was watching the news on T.V. and there was a commercial on about how nothing is free. There is a catch to everything. Now, as far as the world goes, I agree with that statement.

However, in the book of Romans we read in chapter six verse twenty-three, “the **FREE** gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus.” You see, eternal life in Christ is a free gift. There is absolutely nothing that a person can do for it. You can't buy it. You can't earn it. It's FREE! All one must do is receive it.

In order for it to be a gift, a person must accept it. However, a gift is no good unless one uses it. You see, God's gift is free to anyone who will take it and use it. I feel that many people don't understand the concept of using God's gift.

I mean, it's kind of like this. Let's say that I gave you a really nice plate to use when you eat. Now, you might be thinking, “this is a really nice plate and I don't want something to happen to it so I will put it in the cabinet to keep it safe.” Now is that plate doing you any good? Of course not. All it is doing is collecting dust. As a matter of fact, you may even forget that you have it or where it came from. What good is it then? What is the purpose of getting it if you're not going to use it?

Bo Beau has a whole bag full of “Free B's” but they will not bring about laughter or that strange look unless he gives them away. As Christians each and everyone of us MUST be sharing our faith with others. We must be sharing the love of Christ. This is not an option it is a command. Jesus Himself said, “go.”

So start today and share the free b's, (the blessings) that God has given to you! May God pour out His “B's” upon you.

Mike

Calling all youth

If you are driving on Highway #11 from Columbus to Seymour, you will see a barn with "visit Ruby Falls" painted on it's side. Then, as you are traveling down interstate 65 south, you will see more of these signs. I had the pleasure of living in Chattanooga, Tennessee in high school, the home of Ruby Falls. I can remember the first time I went to visit this amazing sight. I had no idea what was in store. You see Ruby Falls is a giant cave inside of Lookout Mountain. We started down the steps in the cave and you could automatically notice a change. You see, being in a cave, we had lights but there was no outside light from the sun and sky. We observed giant stalagmites and stalagmites, we saw blind cave fish, we saw the places that had been used by the confederate army during the civil war as a hiding place and as a ammunition dump. Pretty soon we started hearing water and, finally, we were there Ruby Falls. We were enjoying the spray of the water and the coolness of the cave when the guide did something that no one expected. He turned out the lights. We were in utter darkness. Now this was darkness like you had never seen before. You could not see the person next to you; you could not see your hand in front of your face. This was dark! But then a strange thing started to happen, my eyes started to grow accustomed to the dark, I could make out my hand, then I could see a shape of someone next to me. You see I started getting used to the dark. How many of us do this in our daily lives. We turn off the light of Christ in our lives as we go out into the world. The next thing we know we are used to the dark. Sin doesn't bother us, (if its not a big sin.) We are to be a city on a hill giving off light for the world, not letting the darkness of the world put out our light. So, is it time to change your lightbulb?

Kevin

And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me. John 12:32

When Leonardo Da Vinci finished the original version of his famous painting, *The Last Supper*, he invited a group of art students to view his masterpiece. They were immensely impressed by the delicate design of the lacework in the tablecloth. They studied it intensely and praised it highly. Upon seeing the reaction of these young men, Da Vinci took up a brush, dipped it, and made a few long strokes across the canvas, obliterating the lace. Then he passionately shouted, "Now, you fools, look at the face of Christ!"

Can people see Jesus in your life? Fine furnishings, expansive buildings, and professional performances may attract people to church, but they should not draw attention from Christ. Programs may draw a crowd, but only the Lord can draw hungry souls. Lift Jesus higher!

Kid's Proverbs

A first grade teacher collected well-known proverbs. She gave each child in her class the first half of a proverb and asked them to come up with the remainder of the proverb.

Their insight may surprise you:

As you shall make your bed so shall you ... Mess it up
Better to be safe than ... Punch a 5th grader
Strike while the ... Bug is close
It's always darkest before ... Daylight Savings Time
Never underestimate the power of ... Termites
You can lead a horse to water but ... how?
Don't bite the hand that ... looks dirty
You can't teach an old dog new ... math
If you lie down with dogs, you'll ... stink in the morning
The pen is mightier than the ... pigs
An idle mind is ... The best way to relax
Where there's smoke there's ... pollution
Happy the bride who ... gets all the presents
A penny saved is ... not much
Two's company, three's ... the Musketeers
Don't put off till tomorrow what ... you put on to go to bed
Laugh and the whole world laughs with you, cry and ... you have to blow your nose
Children should be seen and not ... spanked or grounded

What Ron Thinks,

Remember when we were kids and didn't worry where the next meal was coming from? We did not worry about school clothes, glasses, gas for cars or repairs. We did not worry about adult gossip because we never heard any. We did not see dad or mom arguing over us kids...they always provided a united front.

We had our own problems: Fighting with the neighbor kids, swimming in another neighbor's pond, riding another neighbor's cows and baling hay and straw, working gardens, mowing yards for book and treat money. Dad never did take our money from us but we did help on our own.

Some problems should never mix. Some should. I think the following are good rules to follow-Parents first:

Mom and Dad should not argue about the kids in front of the kids. As far as the kids are concerned, the parents are in total agreement. Parents should never talk negative in front of the children about other people...adult or children. Parents should not hide the fact that money is tight, but the children should not have details. Parents should provide healthy food for the children. The parents should limit TV and other non active games. Children need to exercise. Parents should really talk to and listen to the kids...patiently. Not silly talk, but serious and light talk. Parents need to let children solve some of their own problems sometimes.

Children, you should obey your parents and respect your elders. You do not have the experience or understanding to make a judgment call on adults. You should not expect your parents to wait on you hand and foot. You should earn money (when able) to gain the special stuff you just want. You should want to shadow your parents to learn all kinds of neat things your parents can teach you.

You kids are special and we parents are so proud of you and love you with all our hearts. We don't want you guys and girls to have a cares of the world on your heads. We want you to be exploring the life God has given to you. We want the best for you. We want you to know, it is hard to be a good parent and we need your help.

We only get to be parents once. There is no trial run.

We only get to be kids once and again there is no tail run.

This article came solely about because at times I think I was not a good parent and should have done better. I also think to the times I gave my parents rough times and now wish with all my heart I had been a better kid. I had no other person fictitious or real in mind.

Ron

Ladies For The Lord,

Ladies, ever have a mess on your carpet?

Carpet cleaning-stains, dirt, water, soap, cleaning agents..! What's it take to fix a stain, to make the carpet back to its original condition? And who decides if it is?

One big mess-leaves stains and upheaval in it wake. First, we do a self help job-Wet dry vacs, towels, fans, lots of moving things around. Then, the first bunch of professionals bring high powered vacs, high-heat dehumidifiers, fans (lots of fans). The stain is better-not as distinct-but still there. Plus, now we have new stains to add to the old from the stain removing process.

Then, the big guns are called in-the stain specialist-more vacs, more moving, more chemicals, more mess, aarghh!

Don't we do that in our lives though. When we have a sin problem, we try to clean it up ourselves. Then we look to the world for their advice and help.

Aren't you glad God doesn't do that with the stains for sin we have in our lives? Then is only one stains remover possible-the blood of our precious Savior Jesus Christ. He doesn't just remove the stains. He gives us a brand new heart-whiter than new fallen snow. AND there is a guarantee not for the life of the heart but for all eternity.

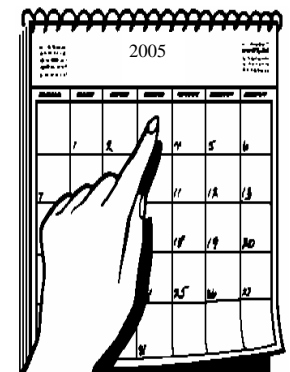
God even provides for spot cleaning to keep our hearts as good as new. 1 John 1 says, "If we admit our sins, He won't let us down"; He'll be true to Himself. He'll forgive our sins and purge us of all wrong-doing."

Don't settle for the world's stain cleaners or even their specialists-get a brand new heart and a guaranteed life with Christ for eternity.

See ya Sunday,
I'll save you a seat

UP COMING EVENTS

6th ALL Church work day	8:00-10:00 AM
7th Back to School bash	5:00-6:00
8th Women's meeting Debbie Peele	7:00
11th Board Meeting	6:00
14th ALL Church Pitch-In	
15th Hour of POWER prayer meeting	7:00
26th Men's Retreat Hilltop	
28th Morning Breeze	2:30



Westport Christian Church

Biblical Ed class 9:30

Worship 10:30

Sunday night & Youth Group 6:00

Wednesday night 7:00

August 2005

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 Bible Study & Youth	4	5	6 ALL Church work day! 8:00-10:00
7 Family Sunday No Wee-Worship Back to school BASH 5:00-6:00	8 Women's meeting At Debbie Peele's 7:00	9	10 Bible Study & Youth Group 7:00	11 Board meeting 6:00	12	13
14 ALL Church Pitch-In Following worship	15 Hour of POWER Prayer meeting 7:00 Parsonage	16	17 Bible Study & Youth Group 7:00	18	19	20 Elders Meeting
21	22	23	24 Bible Study & Youth Group 7:00	25	26 Men's Retreat Hilltop	27
28 Morning Breeze 2:30	29	30	31 Bible Study & Youth Group 7:00			

BIRTHDAYS

1st Cassie Weaver
Mike Bartlett
3rd Jill Sageser
11th Audrey Waltz
14th Carter VanSickle
Ethan Peele
16th Destiny Lozier
21st Donni Buchanan
28th Steve Black
29th Mildred Tweedy

ANNIVERSARIES

6th Larry & Norma
Rowe