

The Old Paths

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“Ground Hog Day Celebration!!”

Jarrold Jacobs

For those visiting with us today, we welcome you to our first annual “Ground Hog Day” celebration. Our little ones will be performing for you this morning in a skit to salute God’s creation, the groundhog. One Bible verse will be read concerning the majesty of God’s creation, and then we will have a child dressed up as a ground hog who will come “popping” up around the pulpit area to see his shadow. The other children will stand around and watch in excitement for the “big moment.”

A little later, brother Dale Barnes will lead us in songs which relate to this special day. We also plan to have a guest speaker today who will speak about the humane treatment of not only groundhogs, but all of God’s creation. Unfortunately, he is not a Christian, but we have talked with him about this, and the elders have decided to go ahead and let him speak because he has given many stirring speeches on this subject in his career.

Sadly, due to time constraints, we will not be able to partake of the Lord’s Supper today. We plan on partaking next week though, since we were not able to partake this week. We will also forego any prayers today because there will be several visitors, and we don’t want them to be offend-

ed, or get the wrong idea about us. We don’t want people to think we’re some kind of cult, but want them to return again, and visit on their terms, in a comforting, non-threatening, non-confrontational, atmosphere. Perhaps next week we will offer up prayers to God.

Our evening services are cancelled because we know that there are many who wish to be with family/friends during this holiday. The elders at Caneyville understand this, and hope that all will have a wonderful Groundhog day. We look forward to seeing you back again next week, Lord willing!

P.S. Don’t forget that Valentine’s Day is coming up, and there will be something “sweet” for all the “sweethearts” on the 14th. (A worship service is planned with special music on Friday, 2/14!) Then, there will be a St. Patrick’s day observance on March 17th. Be sure and keep up-to-date on all the celebrations and special services planned this year by visiting our website regularly!

BUT SERIOUSLY ...

What did you think, dear ones, as you read those paragraphs above? Were you shocked? Dismayed? Amused? Would you be surprised to learn that some among our brethren, are trying some of these things? The only difference between them and what is described in the paragraphs above, is that I combined the activities into

one day. They simply practice these types of things in “piece-meal.”

For example, I know of a congregation in Lexington, KY who gathered folks together for a whole week to learn about creation, and never prayed one time! They had no songs sung, and the Bible was not preached! Why? Put simply, it is because they thought they would appeal to the evolutionist in terms he would accept rather than using the Bible he would not accept! Further, I know of congregations in this part of the world who engage in plays/skits during their Vacation Bible Schools. They have the young ones practice skits in their “Bible” class, and then have them perform for the rest of the group. I don’t know where it has happened on a Sunday (yet), but if they could do such Monday-Friday (and they did), why not Sunday, too? There are also congregations of God’s people right now who have allowed false teachers in their midst under the pretense that, “He won’t teach (the false doctrine) from the pulpit. We have an agreement.” Brethren, where will it end?

In all seriousness, what we at Caneyville do today, we do every Sunday. We’re assembling this morning to worship God “*in spirit and in truth*” (Jn. 4:24). We do this through: singing praises from our hearts to God, prayer, partaking of the Lord’s Supper, preaching, and giving of our means (Acts 2:42, Eph. 5:19; I Cor. 16:1-2; etc.). We do this every first day of the week, because this is what the first century Christians did (Acts 2:42, 20:7; I Cor. 16:2). When it comes to who occupies the pulpit, we recognize that only those men who are “*faithful and able*” ought to be teaching us (II Tim. 2:2). Further, the mandate from God is to “preach the word”, and

nothing else (II Tim. 4:2)! This is what will be done when we assemble. Those who have fellowship with God, have fellowship with us; and for us to "receive" any man (sincere as he may be) who is not teaching the truth, is to make us a "partaker of his evil deeds" (II Jn. 10-11). Thus, the reason we use great caution when asking men to preach here at this place. We want nothing preached except the word of God.

We will also meet this evening at 5:00 pm. (The disciples met at night, ex: Acts 20:7). Furthermore, it is still the Lord's day. When we assemble at 5:00 pm, we will gather for the same purpose that brought us here this morning; to worship the Lord "in spirit and in truth."

In an age when folks try to use gimmicks, games, and other things to try and "win folks" to them, let us recognize that this is not God's way. The Bible makes it clear that folks are won to the Lord through the gospel (Rom. 1:16-17; II Thess. 2:14). At Caneyville, we are intent on doing things the Lord's way, and not succumbing to the desire to "win folks" by practicing error. God has told us what He expects in worship, as well as how to please Him day-by-day (Col. 3:17; Jn. 4:24). Therefore, we want to be found doing this instead of practicing men's ideas (Isa. 55:8-9).

"16 MINUTES AWAY"

Jarrold Jacobs

Eleven years ago, on February 1, 2003, the crew of the space shuttle "Columbia" died, and their spacecraft disintegrated in the sky over East Texas and western Louisiana. According to news reports, this spacecraft was just 16 minutes away from a "picture-perfect" landing at Cape Canaveral in Florida when the event happened. Sixteen minutes separated these people from a continued life on this earth with family and friends, and a "hero's welcome." Now, they belong to eternity to await the judgment decree from our Lord, "the righteous judge" (Jn. 5:22, 27; II Tim. 4:8).

Sixteen minutes is not a long time. Sixteen minutes means very little to a culture whose TV shows normally last about 22 minutes (excluding commercial time). Sixteen minutes is only 960 seconds. During a day, we could waste those seconds like we might burn a piece of paper! If we are on a long drive, or on an airplane flight, and we know we have 16 minutes to our destination, do we not usually settle back, and take comfort in

the fact that we are "as good as there"?

What might you do if you were assured that you had only 16 minutes to live? Might you pray? Might you repent? Might you try to restore old friendships? Might you take steps to make sure you were right with God? In truth, we do not know if we have sixteen minutes or sixteen seconds left to live, right now! We do not know when we will die. We have no promise of what a day might hold (Prov. 27:1). At one point in his life, David declared, "...there is but a step between me and death" (I Sam. 20:3). How true that is for all of us!

We do not know when our lives will end, but we can be prepared by becoming a Christian now before our time on earth is over. Are YOU prepared? (II Cor. 6:2; Mk. 16:16)

- ♦ "The noise of escaping gas does not interest me, whether it be from a leaky pipe or a man's mouth."
 - ♦ "Some seem not to know the difference between prejudice and conscience."
- R.L. Whiteside, *Doctrinal Discourses*, p. 136

Visit our Website:
<http://caneyvillechurchofchrist.com>



I want the truth, give me book, chapter, and verse!
Come and meet with the church of Christ in Caneyville.
Location: 103 N. Main Street Caneyville, KY

David Said: The blessed man will not associate with evil people, "But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night." (Ps. 1:1-2)
Something to Think About... Is the Bible your delight, or something that is keeping you from doing what you like???

Meeting Times:

Sunday Bible Study	-----	10:00 a.m.
Sunday Worship	-----	10:45 a.m.
Sunday Worship	-----	5:00 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study	-----	7:00 p.m.

Watch: "The Ancient Landmark" Television Show airs on You Tube (www.youtube.com/TheOldPaths1994) and Insight Cable, channel 6

Listen: "The Ancient Landmark" Radio program airs on WXMZ, 99.9 FM (10:30-11:00 am) and WLBQ 1570 AM (8:30-9:00 am) Monday-Friday. It is also broadcast online at: thez999.com and beechtreeneews.com

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