



2010

From the Desk of Pastor Burden

Real Men

“Now the days of David drew near that he should die, and he charged Solomon his son saying “I will go the way of all the earth; be strong therefore, and prove yourself a man.”

I am writing this article on Wednesday, January 27th, a mere four days before our Baptist Men’s Day and just a couple of days before our Men’s Conference this weekend at Crosspoint. We are anticipating a mighty work of the Lord in the hearts of our men! In our text, we see the charge of King David, the Sweet Psalmist of Israel, and the most quoted man in the New Testament, to his son Solomon. Before dying, he charges him to behave like a man (male). He instructs him to “show himself to be a man.” What then is a real man in the eyes of God as spoken through his servant David? First, **he is one who demonstrates the qualities of maleness.**

David said to “show yourself to be a man.” So what is the quality? It is to be strong. Strength is the signature quality of manliness. It goes without saying what physical strength is, but is that what David was primarily interested in? No.

He tells Solomon (verses 1-4) that his strength ought to be demonstrated in the strength of courage and faithfulness. A real man, David says, is to demonstrate the courage to obey God rather than man, “Keep the charge of the Lord.” Likewise, a real man should demonstrate strength in faithfulness to God’s plan and not embark on a quest to “do his own thing.”

He is also, **one who answers the challenge of manhood.** What is the challenge? Is it to achieve fame and fortune? Is it to aspire to meet Hollywood’s opinion of maleness, whatever that is? No, the challenge is to put your God-given strength to work to glorify God.

Real men will answer the challenge to be loyal to God, obedient to God’s moral code and committed to His word.

Finally, he is **one who strives to achieve the goal of manhood**, “that you may prosper.” This doesn’t mean materially, because verse four reveals what type of prosperity David is speaking of in this passage. It is prosperity of the soul to continue in His word. Even more so, that David’s grandchildren would follow God also. What good does it do if you gain the wealth of the world, but you and your children go to hell? Do you want an example of one who measured up to these expectations? Look at Jesus. Pilate said of him after he was brutally beaten until barely recognizable, “Behold the man!” Thank God he didn’t say behold the wimp. Fathers, when you are gone, what will your children say about you? **Let’s strive to be Real Men of God in**

2010!

Pastor Phillip Burden

February

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Look us up on the internet at:

www.cropwellbaptist.org

Ephesians 4:29

“Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.”



***I saw them tearing a building down
A group of men in a busy town.
With hefty blow and lusty yell
They swung with zest and a side wall fell.
I asked the foreman, “Are these men skilled,
The kind you would hire if you have to build?”
He gave a laugh and said, “No indeed!
Unskilled labor is all I need.
Why, they can wreck in a day or two
What it has taken builders years to do.”
I asked myself as I went my way,
Which of these roles have I tried to play?
Am I a Builder with rule and square,
Measuring and constructing with skill and care?
Am I shaping my deeds to a well-made plan,
Patiently doing the best I can?
Or am I the Wrecker who walks the town
Content with the business of tearing down?***

-- Anonymous

PRESCHOOL MINISTRY

Mothers of Preschoolers come pamper yourself during our **Spa Day on Saturday, February 6th from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.** in our church fellowship hall. Also, our preschoolers will be having their **“Love One Another” party on Wednesday night during DIG, February 10th at 6:30 p.m.** The preschoolers will talk about the love of Jesus and make fruit baskets for sick members of the church. Children should bring fruit as follows: 3 year old class - oranges, 4 year old class - apples, and 5 year old class - bananas.

**Coming in March a Parenting Conference !
More details coming soon!**

“Thank you so much for the wonderful appreciation time on Sunday night, January 24th. Your kind words will live in my heart and memory forever. Thank you for all the cards and monetary gifts. It is indeed a blessing and privilege to serve Christ among you at Cropwell. I praise Him for all He has done and continues to do in the Preschool ministry. We will always remember James 1:17 “Every good gift is from above and comes down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.” Praise God He blesses and He never changes!

-- Patsy Flournoy, Preschool Director

**SHUTTLE BUS**

Due to our parking being somewhat limited because of construction, we are offering our members the option to ride the church shuttle bus on Sunday mornings. The bus will be available during the Winter and/or Inclement weather months and will pick up people in the back parking lot.

Our Love

Jesus asked Peter “Do you love Me?” (John 21:17) It goes to the heart of the purpose of man and it is the greatest commandment, to love God with all of your heart, soul, mind, and strength. What about us? Who among us has kept the great commandment for even a few minutes? We were created for a deep, abiding, consuming love for God, yet we busy ourselves with trying to avoid sinful traits, rather than realizing that the source of our sin problem is a loveless heart toward God. True discipleship is an outgrowth of love for Him. After years of trying to follow in Jesus’ steps, we may discover, like Peter, that Jesus values our affections even more than our works, for only out of the former do the latter flow. Let’s pray that God will revive our love for Him. Does Jesus’ piercing question hit home? Ask Him to kindle in your heart an abiding love for Him this year.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

This is a reminder to all of the children that signed up to attend the **Children's Mission Explosion on February 20th at North Shelby Baptist Church**. We plan on leaving the church around 7:30 a.m. and return by 2:45 p.m.

Don't forget that the children's ministry is sponsoring a mini-mission project. We are collecting birthday party supplies to be used in Children's Homes in Alabama so that the children will be able to celebrate their "special day". You can place your supplies in the Laundry Basket located in the Children's area by Wednesday, February 17th. Suggested items are: Cake mix/frosting; cupcake liners; birthday candles; party favors; hats and horns; and decorations. Adults, please remember to **pray for our children who are participating in the Bible Drill**. Also, **we still need Vacation Bible School Workers for the week of June 13-17, 2010!** Please see either Ashley or Patsy if you can help.

FESTIVAL OF CHOIRS

Please join us on Saturday, **February 20th @ 6:00 p.m.** for the St. Clair Baptist Association Choir Festival.



WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE MENTORED ?

Praise the Lord! We have more and more people expressing a desire to be discipled or mentored. Pastor Bill has been working with individuals at Cropwell to equip them to "disciple or mentor" others. If you have a desire to be mentored, please see Pastor Bill. It doesn't matter if you are a new Christian or if you have been saved for a number of years, we all need to go a little deeper in our

2010

Dates to Remember :

- Deacon's Retreat @ PonderosaMarch 5-6
- Student Ministries Spring Break Trip.....March 21-27
- Worship Choir Easter Presentation.....March 28
- Children's Bible Drill @ Cropwell.....March 28
- DIG Children's Musical.....May 2
- Women's Ministry Table Decorating Expo.....May 15
- Vacation Bible School.....June 13-17
- Ocoee Mission Trip.....Tentatively set for June 20-26
- Revival with Sam Cathy.....August 8
- Back to Bethlehem.....December 3-5

*Look at how
great a love
the Father has given us, that
we should be called God's children.*



1 John 3:1

WOMEN ON MISSION NEWS . . .


We are so excited to see that the WOM Ministry at Cropwell is growing ! Please make plans to join us for our "WOM Field Trip" on Tuesday, February 16th. We will be visiting some of the ministries that the WOM supports, such as the YWCA, the Children's Place, and the Ronald McDonald House. After our visits, we will have lunch together. Please meet at the church at 8:15 on the 16th !

Also, we really need to get all of our POP TABS turned in during the next couple of weeks. Please deliver all of your pop tabs in a Ziploc bag to the church fellowship hall. You do not need to count the tabs!



February 2010



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Be sure to pick up in the Welcome Center a financial report through December 2009	1 Women's Bible Study @ 10:00 RA 1.2.3 BB Game @ 5:30 @ FBC	2 WOM/Knifty Knitters @ 10:00 in FH	3 Prayer Svc, DIG, Student Ministry & Women's Bible Study @ 6:30	4	5 RA 4.5.6 BB Game @ 7:30 @ FUMC	6 MOPS SPA DAY (2:00-6:00)
7 Dedication of New Bldg; Student Min. Mtg @ 4 pm; Deacon's Mtg @ 4:30; Women's Bible Study @ 5:00	8 Women's Bible Study @ 10:00	9	10 DIG for Preschool & Children @ 6:30; WORK NIGHT FOR ADULTS	11	12 STUDENT MINISTRIES DISCIPLE NOW	
14 Women's Bible Study @ 5:00  Valentine's Day	15 Women's Bible Study @ 10:00 RA 4.5.6 BB Game @ 6:30 @ FBC SCHOOL HOLIDAY	16 WOM/Knifty Knitters Field Trip	17 Prayer Svc, DIG, Student Ministry & Women's Bible Study @ 6:30	18	19 SS Game Night in FH RA 1.2.3 BB Game @ 6:30	20 St. Clair Baptist Assoc. Choir Festival @ 6:00 pm Child's Mission Explosion: Leave @ 7:30
21 Women's Bible Study @ 5:00 Deacon Ordination of Ryan Wood	22 Women's Bible Study @ 10:00 RA 4.5.6 BB Game @ 7:30 @ FBC	23	24 Prayer Svc, DIG, Student Ministry & Women's Bible Study @ 6:30	25 OMEGAS	26	27
28 Children's SS Teachers Mtg @ 4:30 Women's Bible Study @ 5:00	Average January Attendance Sunday School: 315 Morning Worship: 379 Evening Worship: 157 2010 Offerings as of 01/24/10 \$69,759.52** ** \$9,571 over budget			CROPWELL BAPTIST CHURCH STAFF Phillip Burden, Senior Pastor Bill Daniel, Associate Pastor Andy Hadley, Worship Pastor Josh Dorough, Student Pastor Ashley Anderson, Director Children's Ministries Patsy Flournoy, Director Preschool Ministries Sherry Daniel, Ministry Assistant/Senior Pastor Jacque Owen, Financial Secretary Linda Williams, Church Custodian You can contact the staff at (205) 338-7995		