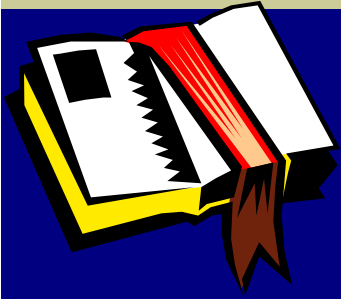


Sunday

May 24, 2010



ESSEX VILLAGE CHURCH OF CHRIST

Reflections

“Hebrews” *By: Stefano Mugnaini*

I have recently been studying Hebrews. The book of Hebrews places much of its emphasis on the difference between the two covenants. This dichotomy was, for its earliest readers, aimed at convincing them that the New Covenant, inaugurated by Christ, was far superior to the way of life that they had known under the Mosaic Law. The writer contrasted the blessings, promises, mediators and sanctuary—all essential components of each covenant—to prove conclusively the superiority in the Law of Christ. The intended purpose of this was to discourage apostasy among Jewish Christians, and encourage continued faithfulness.

To the modern Christian, this may seem like an unimportant message: we are probably not considering a return to Judaism. However, there is an underlying message in the midst of this discussion of covenants that speaks to all readers, in any situation. It is a message that deals, not strictly with covenant theology or observance of Jewish ritual Vs. Christian freedom. This perpetually important message underlying the obvious in the text speaks to our entire worldview, to the way we approach life and how we determine our value system. It speaks of the conflict between worldly wisdom and Godly wisdom. It speaks of the struggle between egotism and altruism, selflessness and selfishness. It is a message that essentially determines how we will live our life, for whom we will live, and it is neatly tucked within the discussion of the superiority of the New Covenant over the Old.

The main thrust of this discussion could be summed up in Hebrews 8:13, quite possible the theme of the book: “Now when He said, ‘a New Covenant,’ He has made the first obsolete. But whatever is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to disappear.”

That is the main difference between the Old and New Covenants. God has always intended for the old to become obsolete. It was a partial revelation, a primary school of salvation that paved the way for the Messiah. He has assured this obsolescence with the perfect sacrifice of Jesus (Hebrews 9:28), which ushered in the New Covenant. Something that we must not miss in all this is the fact that the sunset of the Old Covenant was not accidental; it was the plan of God. The law did not cease to matter; it ceased to

*continued on page 3

Church Office : 843-556-1792

Church Fax: 843-556-6085

Email: evcoc@bellsouth.net

Website: www.essexvillage.org

Sunday

Class: 9:00 am

Worship: 10:00 am

Worship: 6:00 pm

Wednesday

7:00 pm



**For the Record
Week of 05-16-10**

**Elder for the Month
of May**

**Program of
Worship**

Helen Embry
Mark Embry
Polly Fowler
Leonard McNeill
Lois Ott

Bible Classes: 58
AM Worship: 110
PM Worship: 40
Wednesday Evening: 48
Contribution: 4,000.00

Howard Streets 766-7727



Announcements:
Howard Streets

Song Service:
Roddy Akers

Opening Prayer:
John Such

Communion:
Jim Lamm

Serving:
Ron Herman
Chuck Spence
Tex Patton
Durwood Collins

Sermon:
Stefano Mugnaini

Closing Prayer:
George Brown



Military
Robert Bagley
Kristopher Black
RJ Boris
Adam Bowles
Chris Branham
Adam Carlucci
Russell Coble
Ryne Collins
James Dalton
Ellis Flenoid
Steven Hilton
Michael Hilton
Matthew Lemieux
Katie McCaskill
Derrick Menrique
Kevin Mitchell
Scott O'Connor

Preparing communion: Brenda Streets

Baptismal Garments: Natasha Streets



We Are Praying For...

Judy Cox, the mother of Natasha's friend, had a biopsy and scan last week and there was no evidence of disease. More tests will be run over the next few weeks to determine if her port can be removed.

Mary Crabtree had knee replacement surgery on Monday and is doing well.

Maxine Doll has congestive heart failure and diabetes. Maxine is Pam Ragland's mother.

Emily Fowler, Scott Fowler's mother, has some health problems and would like our prayers.

Duke Gregory, Doris and Janie's brother, has been moved to a medical facility in McMinnville, TN.

NHC Healthcare
928 Old Smithville Road
Room 213A
McMinnville, TN 37110
Tel # 931-474-2929

Clara Haselden has cancer and is receiving chemo treatments.

Esther Lamm is having some health problems.

Val Mabry, Ann Mabry Standefer's aunt, has Alzheimer's.

Agnes McLawhorn had surgery on Tuesday at Str. Francis. She is doing well. She is expected to be released on Friday to recuperate at home.

Nell McIntire has cancer and is the sister of Lois Ott.

Angie Ashburn Schooff is doing much better. Thank you

for your prayers.

Sam & Barbara Truscello, Raymond Boynton's neighbors, are in need of prayers. Sam has health problems and Barbara is the caregiver.

Verdie Whitson is having some health problems.

Paul Quesenberry, Clara Haselden's nephew, had surgery to remove a tumor on his spine and is in serious condition.

Here is what is happening...

Soup Kitchen

If you would like to help prepare lunch at the Crisis Ministry on Monday, May 25th, please see Raymond Boynton.

Vacation Bible School

Our theme is “Jungle Journey—Exploring the Nature of God” and will be held Wednesday, June 9th—

Saturday, June 12th. We will have classes Wednesday—Friday 7:00 pm—8:30 pm and our fun day will be on Saturday from 10:00 am — 1:00 pm.

Ladies’ Retreat 2010

The Ladies’ Retreat will be August 6th— 7th. Please be sure to mark your calendars.

*Vacation
Bible School*



*June 9th– 12th
Bring a friend!*

House to House, Heart to Heart...

We received the latest edition of House to House, Heart to Heart in the mail this week. It has been placed on the table in the foyer. Please be sure to pick up a copy and some of the many tracts that they send to share with your friends and neighbors.

World Bible School...

The latest edition of “Action” newsletter has arrived and has been placed on the table in the foyer for anyone who would like a copy.



Happy Birthday!

Article continued...

be the primary means by which man approached God. The difference choices faced by the earliest readers of Hebrews, boiled down to serving God according to His plan, or according to their own. He intended, from the beginning, to establish a New Covenant (Heb 8:7-8). His children, therefore, must abide by His plan. And that highlights the great underlying message of the book. Mankind, throughout all ages, has had to make a choice. A choice that will direct all others. How will we view the world? How will we live our lives? What will our view of time be? Are we to live as though

God has “placed eternity in our hearts,” or as though this life is all there is? Our answer to that question will determine the course of our lives, and it is that question that is answered in the Book of Hebrews. The writer argues that man can live by the temporary, or by the eternal. But it is only by living a life focused on the eternal plan of God, the covenant in Christ’s blood, that we have hope of eternal comfort in Heaven. A focus on the temporal still brings us to eternity, but to an eternity of torment rather than blessing.

5/24

Hayden Parker Panos

5/26

Tex Patton

5/27

Haylie Moseley

5/30

Frances Wakeland

Bulletin Board

Palmetto Bible Camp Senior Week

Grades 7-12 Date: July 18—24, 2010

Check it out on the web at: www.palmettobiblecamp.org

Palmetto Bible Camp

Keith will be a counselor and Sandy will be running the canteen at Palmetto Bible Camp during the week of June 20th—26th.

2010 Santee Ladies' Retreat

Theme: "It's Harvest Time"

Date: November 19th—21st at the Landmark Resort Hotel in Myrtle Beach, SC.

Registration cost: \$60.00 for ages 12- adult, \$35.00 for 4-11 and free for 3 and under. Each participant will be responsible for their own hotel accommodations. Please see the bulletin board for more information.

ELDERS

Larry Casbeer 795-0429
Howard Streets 766-7727

MINISTER

Stefano Mugnaini 329-3704

DEACONS

Jim Lamm 556-6756
Benevolence
Lloyd McLawhorn 556-6709
Worship
Roddy Akers 559-3565
Song Service
Larry Polutta 795-5266
World Bible School
Bill Ragland 810-0227
Building Maintenance
Hilton Googe 766-4670
Lynn Smallwood 766-8579
Grounds
Eddie Haselden 991-5020
Financial
Durwood Collins 869-4199
Youth Activities

Essex Village Church of Christ
736 Savage Road
Charleston, SC 29414