

to do what they could otherwise do.

Finally, let me suggest that you show disregard for what the preacher and teachers say. When you disagree with them about something you do, or want to do; don't go to them with Bible in hand with a desire for truth. Simply do as you please! Let this attitude become your creed and the motto of your children: Do your own thing... Go with the flow... Do whatever pleases you without regard for consequences.

Now that you know how to tear down and destroy the work of God; avoid such. Make every effort to purge these from your life. Carriage Drive will grow if her members are busy in every way they can be... How about you?

The Carriage Drive Messenger



Volume 4

August 2, 2009

Number 30

NEWSWORTHY NOTES:

- Vicki Wilson's step-father remains in the hospital in critical condition after suffering a stroke. Remember him and the family in your prayers. The procedure performed on Josh Baker this past week was successful.
- Please keep our shut-ins in your prayers, and make every effort to visit them when possible. In assisted living or nursing homes are: Elizabeth Fink (Heartland); Cathrine Brooks (Summer Co. Rehab); June Mabe (Greystone); Georgia Cook (Rockin' Chair Residential Care). At home is Larry Anderson; Laura Godbey; Pat Lushbaugh; Marie Short and Datus Lively.

Radio Program: WJLS 99.5FM every Sunday at 9:00AM
Website: www.beckleychurch.com

The *Carriage Drive Messenger*
is published weekly by the
Carriage Drive church of Christ,
Beckley, WV
Editor: Bob Pulliam
Building Phone: 252-8108

TIMES OF SERVICES

Sunday: Bible Study 10:00am
Morning Worship 10:50am
Evening Worship 6:00pm

Wednesday: Bible Study 7:30pm

IT WASN'T WHAT IT SEEMED

by Bob Pulliam

Never has there been a time when so many people prospered at once. The affluence of our society is beyond belief. While many people are becoming alarmed at the physical poverty that exists in the world, let us become alarmed at the physical riches influencing so many today. And I include *us* in that "so many". We have not escaped mammon, the love of which is the root of so much evil (I Tim 6:10).

We begin with the world around us. We could be alarmed at the amount of domestic violence. Having money was supposed to take away the anxieties that create many of these situations. What happened? As purses grew, so did the desire to have more. People buy because they want, and they'll never have enough to satisfy the insatiable appetite that has overtaken them. Note the increase in mental health problems. Could it be that these are the people that don't have? Some are; but for the most part mental illness is a problem of people that do have. The old saying that "Money can't buy happiness" is ringing truer than ever! Women seeking a "better life" than their mothers had have pursued careers rather than homes. They've reached the pinnacle of their success and looked back only to find that they've missed out on something. Many have discovered too late that motherhood really was the better life (Titus 2:4 & 5). They've discovered that the "home" the feminists conned them out of was really

"the good life" they sought. Money was the great 20th century answer to the question of happiness. But the silver spoon turned out to be silver plated.

Closer to home we find difficulties among members of the church. Some of the difficulties above have spilled over. But we have problems that reach beyond these. We have equated "earning a living" with "making all the money we can get". Earning a living is necessary, not only to live, but also to fulfill our responsibilities. Making all the money we can get is not necessary, and yet you would think so by some members of the church. Attendance in some places is influenced by the number of luxury items being paid out on time. And then we look into the home. Children are no longer raised by their parents. The parents provide funding and shelter, leaving all else to the school, TV, music, child, friends and church (in that order). But we're "earning a living" for our family!!! I've heard of children (not here) taking work home from Bible class, asking their parents for help, and being told, "I don't have time". We justify such by the magnificent dollar and the worthwhile social programs in which we engage. But such is destroying the true future of our young people. They are learning to seek something other than God. They are learning that some things are more important than God.

We might grasp at holding that silver spoon in our mouth; even for "noble" causes. But we, above all others, should realize that the silver spoon is only silver plated... and not a very good grade of plating at that (Mt 16:24ff).

HOW TO TEAR DOWN GOD'S HOUSE

by Bob Pulliam

Paul had much to tell churches in the first century about edification. His desire was that they work together as a team to strengthen each other and glorify God. This, I am certain, is the desire of each one reading this article. At the same time, we must be careful that our lives reflect the desire to which we pay lip service. The church at Carriage Drive has seen some growth. But every member should be doing their part to grow spiritually.

For the next few minutes, I would like for you to consider God's work from the standpoint of what one might do to hinder it. Read this with care. If you see yourself, take appropriate action...

The best way I've ever seen to hinder God's work is to be indifferent

about it. This is done by two primary means: (1) Don't participate. Don't go to all of the services. You have a life, you know! Just go when it's convenient for you! You get vacation time from work, don't you? Surely God won't mind if you take a little vacation from righteousness! Or you might go all the time, but not do the things you know you could be doing. Use excuses like, "Someone else can do it better." or, "That's not my responsibility." Or perhaps you would participate but you don't want to do it the way it is given to you. By all means, don't be a team player. You know far better than anyone else. And then you might (2) discourage those who try. Criticize them for not getting it done the way you thought it ought to be done. Never mind that you wouldn't do it; just lay into them! Tell them that it won't work, or that it is a waste of time. Don't let it bother you that they are doing it the way they were told to do it! Just knock them down!

As any group grows in number, the individuals tend to feel unnecessary at times. There are so many others to do the work, and the question arises, "Why do I need to do anything?" Embrace that attitude quickly, and try to nurture it in others. A chain breaks when just one weak link arises. The church is put under a strain when members must make up for the negligence of others.

Another good way to discourage and tear down is to come to all of the services and distract others from worshipping God.

Play with that baby that isn't yours. Clean out that purse. Talk and pass notes. Clip your nails during services. Satan loves to draw our minds from service to God, and he has no better way than for you to help! Show others how little you revere the God who created you, and try to distract them from worshipping Him.

Go ahead and nit-pick at others behind their backs (gossip). You could be the monarch of information on everyone in the congregation. This will discourage everyone who hears it, whether they agree with you or not. Their discouragement will cause them to drop out, and further discourage others who may have "heard". They will become fearful of your nit-picking, and refuse

