

HAVING GOD ON OUR SIDE

Often we hear people talk about having God "on their side." Certainly the idea is comforting and reassuring. However, does God look at Himself as being "on our side," even if we are His faithful children? In one way He does, in the sense that He has promised to be with us in our lives as Christians (Matt. 28:20; Heb. 13:5-6). One of the richest blessings the Christian has is that of the abiding presence of God and His constant help.

There is another sense, however, in which it would be presumptuous to view God as being "on our side." In the days just before the conquest of Jericho, Joshua looked up and saw a man standing near him with a sword in his hand. Obviously startled and momentarily unguarded, Joshua asked him, "Are you for us or for our adversaries?" The soldier answered, "Nay, but as captain of the host of the Lord am I now come" (Josh. 5:13-14). The commander of God's army was on God's side. Whatever else that meeting did for Joshua, it certainly reminded him that God was not in his army, but that he was fighting for God's cause.

It is possible for people to approach God with the idea of trying to force Him (or at best, to make Him appear) to be on their side of some issue or dispute. What begs to be understood, however, is that God is not there to line up with us on our side of some human cause; rather, we need to make His cause our cause. We might imagine Him to say, "I'm not joining your team — you need to join Mine."

The question to ask regarding any situation, dispute, doctrine, practice, organization, or personal agenda is not "Whose side is God on?" but rather, "Who is on the Lord's side?" (Ex. 32:26).

- Author Unknown (via *Beacon*, Bellview Church of Christ, Pensacola, FL) -

*Who will follow Jesus? Who will make reply,
"I am on the Lord's side; Master, here am I"?*

- Eliza E. Hewitt, 1891 - [from the song]

Temptation

James 1:12-17

- ◆ The *source* of temptation (1:14): It's not God; it's me. We are drawn away of our "own" lust.
- ◆ The *force* of temptation (1:15-16): Lust conceives, sin is born, and death occurs. That's forceful.
- ◆ The *course* of temptation (1:15): We are drawn, enticed; lust conceives and births sin and death. That's a process.
- ◆ The *remorse* of temptation (1:15): "brings forth death"! Nothing sadder than spiritual death.
- ◆ The *recourse* of temptation (1:17): The only help in this difficult time is God!

—Mark Posey (via *Glad Tidings of Good Things*)

People lose their religion by their failure to use it.

News & Notes

SYMPATHY: To **Brad Zaney** at the recent passing of his mother, Lulabelle Zaney. Also, word has been received of the passing of **Betty Henthorne**. She was a former faithful member here having moved a few months ago to Marietta, OH because of health reasons and to be near her son. God bless and comfort the families.

REQUEST FOR PRAYERS: **David Stefl**. Also for **Marcia Murphy** (Noni Scadden's sister). Marcia was diagnosed with heart issues; her address: 133 Woodlyn Dr., Weston, WV 26452.

NEW CONVERT CLASS: Each Sunday a.m. Bible Class in Room 401.

CARE & SHARE BEARS: Resumes **this Tuesday, Nov. 27th at 9:00 a.m.**

MEN'S ENRICHMENT CLASS: Each Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. for 1 hour. Men, come fellowship and study together with other men of the church.

MEN'S BREAKFAST: Next Saturday, Dec. 1st, 8:00 a.m. at EJ's Restaurant in Chester.

FELLOWSHIP DINNER & EARLY SERVICE: Next Sunday, Dec. 2nd about Noon at the Fellowship Building followed by our **early afternoon service at 2:00 p.m.** at the church building.

NURSING HOME DEVOTIONAL RESCHEDULED: Due to holiday activities planned by the City of Chester, the nursing home visit will be **Saturday, Dec. 8th at 2:30 p.m.**

MEMBER VISITS: Elders and Minister visits with members can be scheduled in your home or to meet here at the building. If you have not made arrangements for this visit, please do so for this work to be completed before year's end.

PANTRY: Peanut butter & jelly.

SEND CARDS:

Alex Harless, 1322 North 4th Street, Toronto, OH 43964.

Bob & Patty Eddy (Bob is undergoing cancer treatments and Patty is recovering from an auto accident & broken hip). Their address: 4898 Oroszy Ave., Lorain, OH 44052.

SICK & SHUT-IN: Weirton Medical Center: Ray McCullough (ICU - **no visitors except family**). **At Home:** David McCoy, Nancy Hadley, Charlie Delong, Jenny Rhodes, Arlen & Joann Webb, Russell Martin, Blondenia Orr, Doris Dunham, Alex Harless. **FOX NURSING HOME:** Mary Jane Bowers (Room 19). **CROSSROADS:** Sarah Miller. **IN FLORIDA:** Ilene Rayl.

JESUS BORROWED ...

A place for His birth ... a house to sleep in ... a boat to preach from ... an animal to ride on ... a room to meet privately with His friends ... and a tomb to be buried in. **He who owned it all had nothing for His own!**

"For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich." (2 Corinthians 8:9)