

What Makes the Church Strong?

Charles Pugh, III

Much has been said about what makes a strong church. In my judgment, to much of what has been said on church growth and on strengthening the church simply does not get to the heart of what it's all about. We want to consider some things in which the strength of the church is not found.

1. The Strength of the Church Is Not in Physical Facilities. Strong churches existed before fine, commodious church buildings. In fact, the church has never been stronger than when it was hounded from pillar to post. We are grateful for the good meeting houses with which we have been blessed. However, we must always remember the warning of these Words of old: "For Israel hath forgotten his Maker, and buildeth temples" (Hos. 8:14).

2. The Strength of the Church Is Not in Academic Degrees. The education level in the church is perhaps at an all time high. However, this does not mean the church is the strongest it has ever been. The strength of the church does not rest in intellectual attainment because, "ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called" (1 Cor. 1:26).

3. The Strength of the Church Is Not in Large Numbers. Too many measure strength by numbers. The strength of God's people has never been (and never will be) in numbers, because God's people always will be outnumbered (cf. Mat. 7:14).

4. The Strength of the Church Is Not in Material Riches. We know of some churches with big budgets which we by no means would consider strong. Laodicea was a rich church materially but poor and weak spiritually (Rev. 3:17). Smyrna, on the other hand, was poor materially, yet, rich and strong spiritually (Rev. 2:9).

5. The Strength of the Church Is Not in its Community Image. Some feel that the more members the church has among the socially elite the stronger it is. Not so! We should never desire that the church be resented by the community. However, the church **cannot** be truly strong and have everyone in town think it (the church) is great (cf. Luke 6:26; 2 Tim. 3:12). The church has never been stronger than it was when it was called by its enemies a "sect...every where it is spoken against" (Acts 28:22).

- The Getwell Reminder, Memphis, Tennessee 38111 -



"I am weak, but Thou art strong."

News Notes

SYMPATHY: To Mickie Barrett and her daughter, Theresa Davis at the recent passing of Theresa's husband, Noah Davis. God bless and comfort those who sorrow.

BIBLE MEDITATIONS: Monday-Friday 12:30-12:35 p.m. on WOHI 1490 AM and 103.9 FM.

CARE & SHARE BEARS: Each Tuesday, 9:00-11:00 a.m. All ladies welcome.

CONVERT'S CLASS: Each Thursday, 11:00 a.m.-Noon. Open to all.



This Friday, Oct. 24th, 5:30-7:30 p.m.
at the Fellowship Building.
Refreshments provided.
Everyone invited.

GRIEF FELLOWSHIP: This Saturday, Oct. 25th, 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. at the St Clair Ave. Church of Christ. Refreshments provided.

LADIES DAY: Saturday, Nov. 1st at the Hanoverton Church of Christ. Registration & morning snacks: 8:45-9:25 a.m. Program: 9:30 a.m. to Lunch. Topic: "Cooking Science" with Tam Raynor, speaker. Lunch served about Noon. Additional details on the Bulletin Board.

LUBECK MEN'S DAY: Saturday, Nov. 8th, 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., Lubeck Church of Christ, Washington, WV. Topic: "Set In Order The Things That Are Lacking" with Doug Pell, speaker. RSVP requested @www.lubeckcoc.org or call (304) 863-6504. Additional details on the Bulletin Board.

PANTRY: Pumpkin.

SICK & SHUT-IN: At Home: Peggy Linger, Scharlotte Jones, Harry Huff, Nancy Cox, Barbara DeLong, Marlene Evans, Cheryl Renfro Walker, Brian Haught (Skip's brother), Micheal Sabol (Karen Strum's daughter-in-law's father). **Serra Manor, Weirton:** Jean Haught (Skip's mother). **Fox, Chester:** Mary Johnson. **Elsewhere:** Herman McHan, 29 Jenny Lane, Columbiana, OH 44408.

LECTURES & GOSPEL MEETING

WV School of Preaching, Moundsville ... Oct. 19-23 Different Speakers
Barnesville (E. Main) Nov. 2- 6 Wes McAdams

CHRIST AND HIS PEOPLE

He became poor that we might become rich (James 2:5).

He was born that we might be born again (John 1:14).

He became a servant that we might become sons (Gal. 4:6-7).

He had no home that we might have a home in heaven (Matt. 8:20).

He was bound that we might go free (John 8:32-36).

He was made sin that we might be made righteous (2 Cor. 5:21).

He died that we might live (John 5:24-25).

- Author Unknown -