

From the Preacher's Desk

Beating A Dead Horse

Jim Davis, a grocery store clerk who loves his job, prides himself on his good work. One of his pet peeves is out-of-control toddlers and parents who yell at their kids but do nothing to correct their children's obnoxious behavior. One evening, Jim was checking out a customer who had a shopping cart full of groceries. While ringing up the sale, a child behind him began screaming very loudly, and an angry man responded by shouting, "Get down!" What a jerk, thought Jim, without even looking up. He kept on calling out prices and moving the groceries past the scanner. The kid behind him was still crying, and again he heard the man yell, "Get down!" Sheesh. Talk about poor parenting, Thought Jim. This guy is a total jerk. He kept on checking groceries without looking up. Finally finishing the customer's cart, Jim looked up and said, "That'll be \$89.95, ma'am," however there was no one there. Confused, Jim began looking around and noticed that everyone, including his customer, was lying face down on the floor. He turned around just in time to see a gunman leave the store. The checker behind him, still lying on the floor, calmly said, "Jim, you know the second time you heard 'Get Down!,' his gun was pointed right at your head."

This world may not be our home (1 Peter 2:11), but we still have to live with it. Everywhere we look some people have embraced the world, so much so that their lives are filled with the pride of life, and lusts of the flesh.

As Christians, although we do our best to flee from the world, we can easily get accustomed to the noise of our culture. When we have friends, family members, and co-workers who love the world, that can become a distraction. The world that we live in can sometimes be so loud that it diverts us from the important things in life.

It's for this reason that I find it important to preach and teach about the dangers of the world. To our youngest kids, our youth, young adults, and older members; I will stand in the pulpit or in the midst of a Bible study and preach and preach about the dangers of the world. I speak so often on it that sometimes I'm afraid people just ignore the message, perhaps believing that it's a lesson for somebody else. Or worse, they think to themselves, "Not this topic again!"

The idiom, "Beating a dead horse," means to continue an endeavor that is a waste of time as the outcome is already decided. Sometimes I wonder if people think we preachers are really good at "beating a dead horse."

"There goes the preacher again, talking about faith!" "There goes the preacher again talking about attendance." "Somebody wake me up when he's done!" We can not for a second put our guards down. When we blow off what's being said, whether it's in Bible class, a sermon, or in the Word of God, we put ourselves at great risk. This is particularly true if the message is one that can save your life. Sure, hearing the same thing over and over again might get old, and you might want to ignore it and go on with business as usual, but the time will come when there'll be no more opportunities to act on the message. Be grateful that you still have the chance to make changes, because some have lost that ability and their fates are sealed. So, listen when people speak. Listen when the Word of God is being preached. Listen, even if you've heard it a hundred times, because one day you might respond and be grateful for a saved life. 2 Corinthians 6:2, "For He says: 'In an acceptable time I have heard you, and in the day of salvation I have helped you.' Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation."

David Olmos



If you would like to share a 3 to 5 minute devotional thought as part of our Mid-Week Bible Study on Wednesday evening, please come talk to me. Even if public speaking isn't your forte, I'm happy to sit down with you and help put something together. It is a blessing to all of us when we get to see our brothers in Christ get up and speak from the oracles of God's Word, and I would highly encourage you to consider doing just that.

Our brother, Dakota Moody, from the Westside congregation in Alvin has invited us to take part in the Gulf Coast Youth Summit, a three day long weekend event that will start on Friday, September 30, and go until Sunday, October 1. Guest speakers will include Wes McAdams from the church of Christ on McDermott Road in Plano, as well as local guests like Bro. John Baker from the Katy congregation. The cost for the weekend is \$60 for food, a t-shirt, and to help reimburse the travel expenses of some of the speakers. Don't let money be an issue, talk to me if you have any need and we'll take care of it. Registration is now open at <https://www.gulfcoastyouthsummitcoc.com/>. Take some time and get signed up now!

Upcoming Events:

- Sept 11 Youth Devo (@ the Ratcliff's)
- Sept 18 Youth Devo (@ the King's)
- Sept 30-Oct 1 Gulf Coast Youth Summit in Alvin

I gave the Date
Elizabeth Stephens
100th birthday
Saturday, December 10 from
2:00 PM to 4:00 PM CT
West Houston church of Christ
Cypress, Texas
Given by her daughters

Wednesday Night with the Master

Our Wednesday Night with the Master program will resume September 7th. We will have taco salad at 6:00 p.m. Then at 6:30 you can write cards, make phone calls or visit people. Our Bible classes will begin at 7:00 p.m.



Please Pray

Lucille Hudgins was scheduled for knee replacement surgery September 6...Jean Timaeus continues to make progress following surgery...Ted Kelly, father of Carol King, is home...James Parsons, grandson of Richard Thompson, had surgery for a broken collarbone.