

from success in their service to such a God? May our watchword ever be "perseverance!"

The Carriage Drive Messenger



Volume 4

May 10, 2009

Number 18

NEWSWORTHY NOTES:

This section removed to preserve member's privacy

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
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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

LET'S KEEP WORKING
by Bob Pulliam

Another gospel meeting has passed. It's easy to imagine that we can now relax. I'm not sure why we think that, but we do.

If you were busy coming to the meeting each night this past week, you are probably a little tired. But I think we all would admit that being tired never means the work is over. Our gospel meeting actually provided a pick-me-up, if we were taking advantage of it's opportunities.

Brother Slover did an excellent job of proclaiming God's word. He was prepared, and he delivered. I believe the number of visitors we had was indicative of the efforts put forth by the members here at Carriage Drive. And it was very encouraging to see many of the visitors from our community come more than once (commending George's work).

So now it is in the past, but the work isn't over. Let's be enthused about the work here. Keep inviting people to services. Invite them to study the Bible with you. If you need me, you know I'm available to study with contacts you may have. Let's keep working.

Don't Forget!!!
Sunday Evening Services
Begin at 6:00

FORMICIDAE TENACITY
(or Persistent Ants)
by Bob Pulliam

Long, long ago, a wise man used an ant to illustrate the virtue of toil and industry. He said:

"Go to the ant, you sluggard! Consider her ways and be wise, which, having no captain, overseer or ruler, provides her supplies in the summer, and gathers her food in the harvest. How long will you slumber, O sluggard? When will you rise from your sleep? A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep -- So shall your poverty come on you like a robber, and your need like an armed man." (Proverbs 6:6 - 11)

Solomon's words apply to life's temporal pursuits; but let's carry his wisdom over into the spiritual realm...

I sprayed a lot of fire ants while living in the south. I also put out a lot of poisoned bait for them. Now while they inflict a lot of discomfort in their sting, yet I can't help but admire the tenacity of this small creature. You can kill nearly every one of them and they still carry on as if nothing happened. As long as they have their queen they'll give their lives in her service.

Much happens around us to discourage us in the service of our God and His Christ. Brethren are led astray and defect from the service of our king. Physical hardships sometimes come and choke service from the hearts of once faithful members. Strife is generated by some amongst ourselves causing division at times. But as these distractions work to pull us from our king's service, let us go to the ant. Even if we were to lose all but a handful of members here at Carriage Drive, we must have the tenacity of the ant and continue our labor for the Lord with zealous hands. This is also the admonition of Paul:

"And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart." (Galatians 6:9)

Solomon also said, "There are four things which are little on the earth, but they are exceedingly wise: the ants are a people not strong, yet they prepare their food in the summer" (Prov 30:24 & 25). The ant works for the future, preparing for a time when they will not be able to prepare any

more. That is precisely what we are doing spiritually! The time will come when preparation is over and judgment commences. Even if hardship seems to dull our preparation, or error seems to have stolen our prize; we must dust ourselves off and even *start over* if necessary.

And then in verse 28 of this chapter we come to another little creature that should inspire zeal within us - the spider. Years ago, I recall coming upon a large spider's web suspended from the eave of our house. It draped to the ground as if to form a trellis. I considered the location of the web and decided to leave it. I also considered the intricate workmanship and effort it must have taken to create such a masterpiece of symmetrical beauty. It wasn't but an hour before I had forgotten about the web and walked through it's lower fibers, destroying what I had actually thought to save.

Lesson One: Let us beware lest we destroy through thoughtlessness that which we actually want to save!

The next morning the web was back. This time in a new location. The spider created in one night what I had destroyed in one footstep. It was just as big, and just as beautiful as before! The only difference was that it had moved.

Lesson Two: Work for God does not end when discouragements and setbacks occur. We must serve God with zeal, even when all seems to be going against us (Heb 10:32 - 39).

Unfortunately for this master craftsman, the new location of the web was not convenient for me. Needless to say, he lost that web too. This new location was also a threat to the children. His end came swiftly and without much warning. I must say, however; he was a diligent worker right down to his final hour. What about you?

Lesson Three: "Work for the night is coming." We sing the song... but are we doing it?... And will we continue to do it, even if the worst of trials are ours to endure?

I've killed spiders without number through the years. Some were big, some were little; but I never can seem to get rid of them! They clutter with their webs, and sometimes threaten by their presence; but they're always here. We have a lot to learn from ants and spiders.

We have an invincible king who will never forsake us to our enemy, or withhold the rewards He's promised. What can hold such a people back