



*For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth... in every place.
(1 Thessalonians 1:8)*

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Schedule of Services

Sunday

Worship 9:30 AM
Bible Study 10:30 AM
Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday

Bible Study 1:30 PM
Bible Study 7:00 PM

Bible Call

(618) 667-9603

www.collinsvillecoc.org

THOSE TROUBLESOME OBJECTIVE FACTS

BY TERRY M. HIGHTOWER

One day an actress tried to take her tiny white poodle through customs. She knew it was against the law, but because poor little dogs suffer away from their masters, she tried to smuggle him through, covering him up under her coat. Smiling her prettiest, the actress *sailed up* to the customs barrier. Everything went splendidly—until her *coat* barked! We laugh at people trying to fool fallible humans, but some try to fool the infallible God:

Then came the word of Jehovah unto Samuel, saying, It repenteth me that I have set up Saul to be king; for he is turned back from following me, and hath not performed my commandments.... And Samuel came to Saul; and Saul said unto him, Blessed be thou of Jehovah: I have performed the commandment of Jehovah. And Samuel said, What meaneth then this bleating of the sheep in mine ears, and the lowing of the oxen which I hear? (1 Samuel 15:10-14).

God told Saul to smite the Amalekites, utterly destroying everything, both “man and woman, infant and suckling, ox and sheep, camel, and ass” (15:3); but he thought that his way concerning religious instruction was better than (or at least as good as) the Almighty's way. Amazingly, Saul twice claims that he had obeyed the voice of God and had gone the way that the Lord had sent him (15:13, 20). But (instead of a dog) sheep bleated and oxen lowed to call him a liar! Objective facts are hard for even a king to get around. No one ever gets *so big* or powerful that he or she can ignore “obeying the voice of Jehovah” (15:22). When we reject God's objective Word, He will in turn reject us (15:23).

Like the movie plots involving the so-called “perfect crime” where the perpetrator thinks he has planned every move and every “cover-up” so perfectly, we actually believe we can avoid a day of reckoning. On a vacation trip to the mountains a man and wife from Vermont met a quiet, pleasant couple from New York. All four of them had a great time together. Later, the gentleman from Vermont made up an album of snapshots he had taken of the other couple and mailed it to them in New York. The gift was never

acknowledged, until one day a big-city lawyer appeared and asked the man if he had prepared the album. “Sure,” was his reply, “Did they get it?” “It was received all, right,” said the lawyer, “And I m representing the man's wife in the divorce suit. You see, she wasn't the woman in the album!”

Are you trying to fool the infinite God? Do you really think that you can hide personal sin from the One who formed you in your mother's womb (Psalm 139:13) or from the One of whom it is said that “there is no creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and laid open before the eyes of him with whom we have to do” (Hebrews 4:13)? Are you really irrational enough to believe, even for one moment, that the Bible is wrong when it declares a “day when God shall judge the secrets of men, according to my gospel, by Jesus Christ” (Romans 2:16)?

If you know that the Bible requires belief (John 3:16), repentance (Luke 13:3), confession of Christ (Romans 10:10), and baptism for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38), then why not do these things if you have not? If you know that you are an unfaithful Christian, why not come back today by repentance, confession, and prayer (8:13-22)? “But if ye will not do so, behold, ye have sinned against Jehovah; and be sure your sin will find you out” (Numbers 32:23).

Via Beacon

Bellview Church of Christ
Pensacola, FL

Marshalltown Youth Campaign Update:

We rejoice with Kayley Wright and Emily Amos and their families, as they were baptized into Christ Tuesday night.

After arriving, the campaigners had a good weekend. Monday and Tuesday, despite the rain, they where able to go door to door working five hours a day, half in the morning and half in the afternoon. Terry further reports that the kids have been real troopers and they are working hard. There have been few complaints and no real problems. He also asks that you keep them in your prayers.

HUMBLE YOURSELF**1 SAMUEL 28**

As we began this story in the life of king Saul, keep in mind where he started. Before he was king he was just a boy doing his fathers work. That was of course before he fell as God's servant and became a murderer; how quickly sin can change lives.

As we can read from the beginning of this chapter, Saul is frightened again. The Philistine army had come out to fight with Israel, and when Saul saw the armies he began to look for answers in places that had been silent for him for many years. (Samuel 28:5). Saul had every reason to be scared but it should not have surprised him, and certainly it should not surprise us. God has not been with Saul since he disobeyed a command to destroy the Amalekites (15:28). He seeks answers from God by dreams, prophets, and by the Urim.

After God did not answer Saul, he turned to sin. Saul had killed all the witches in Israel as God commanded (Leviticus 20:27; Deuteronomy 18:10-12) and then seeks one out to find answers. Consider his decision. He was at rock bottom spiritually and quite possibly politically, and he turns to sin for answers to fight the enemies of God.

Saul could not see a way out and it is no wonder he turned to witchcraft because he had never looked to God to begin with. Ask yourself what other option did Saul have? I would suggest that like every sinner, he could have repented of his sins, humbled himself before God forgiven (1 Peter 5:5-6; 1 John 1:9). God had rejected Saul as king (1 Samuel 15) but not his soul.

Saul knew he was doing wrong, this is evident by his disguise he wore to see the witch (1 Samuel 28:8). Instead of seeking God's forgiveness when he should have (1 Samuel 15) he continued down the path of sin and fear until it lead him to seeking the advice of a witch in secret. A true sign of wrong doing is when it is done under cover of darkness.

For Saul, he had clearly traveled down the path of sin for too long to turn back (2 Thessalonians 2:11). He had turned his back on God too many times to truly seek his guidance and forgiveness. However, every sinner's story does not need to end as Saul's did. Take a leaf from David's book and humble yourself (Psalm 51). We need to remember what Peter's first letter said "casting all your cares upon Him, for He cares for you" (5:7).

Andy McDonald

The Sower

Arnold church of Christ

March 29, 2009

**Mabery's
Minutes**



By the time you read this, nine teens and five adults will be laboring with the church in Marshalltown, Iowa. Stephen Davis, Katie & Kelsey Lambert, Drew & Emily Waldram, Kaylee & Taylor Wright, Myrisa Tame, and Emily Amos are the teens. The adults are Maegan Janes, Mary & Terry Mabery, Ryan Weaver and Jason Wright. The two weeks before leaving, we did some door knocking to get some experience. Eighty-four doors were knocked on. Of those, thirty-five people answered the door and allowed us to talk with them. Seven agreed to receive our offer of a DVD to study. Another five enrolled in a Bible Correspondence course. Keep us in your prayers while we are away.