

ON A DAILY BASIS (continued)

It is one thing to think that we would die for the Lord if our faith were so tested. It is quite another thing truly to live for Him on a daily basis. Egos may be fed on the "big moments," but true spirituality develops through daily prayer, study and meditation.

Our lesson is this. Set your goals for the future, and set them high. But recognize that it's the little, day-by-day moments, the often forgotten moments, accumulated through the years, that truly shape our destiny. Tomorrow's success depends upon the choices and decisions that are made today. Make them with care.

— Bill Hall



Navarre News and Notes

Remember Those On Our Sick List: Jim Wetzstein, Kenny Cauley, Francis Mansfield, Starr Wilkins, Debbie Kingsmill, Carrie Hare, Sister Gerry Wiemert.

Remember in your prayers: Houston Perry now in the states from Iraq. Mary Serilli is overseas.

We meet on James M Harvell Rd next to the public library in Navarre. Call us for directions and more information (850) 939-8109



Navarre church of Christ
8490 James M Harvell Rd
Navarre, FL 32566

Place
Stamp
Here

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday
Bible Class for all ages.....9:00 AM
Morning Worship Service.....10:00 AM
Evening Worship Service 6:00 PM

Wednesday
Bible Class for all ages.....7:00 PM

**VISITORS ARE
WELCOME!**

If you know of someone who would like to receive this publication, please let us know.

For a free Bible correspondence course by mail, call us.

Navarre Messenger

"Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee." Matthew 11:1

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ON A DAILY BASIS



A man, asked recently to describe memories of his college days twenty-five years ago, replied, "A few big moments; many goofs, but, overall, pleasant memories."

Would these words not describe our memories of life generally? As we recall our years, there are always the "big" moments, the emotional "highs," that we love to relish. Then there are the "goofs," the embarrassing occasions that just keep coming back to haunt us. But, through it all, the pleasant memories sufficiently prevail to enable us to feel generally good about life.

But, in reality, success or failure in life is not determined by the "big moments" or "the goofs." We will not be eternally saved on the basis of a few great spiritual achievements or eternally lost on the basis of a few gross mistakes (assuming they have been repented of). Life consists of everyday actions and decisions, and it is these that bring ultimate success or failure, eternal happiness or eternal damnation. "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me" (Luke 9:23).

our children as we talk of their future spirituality and faithfulness. It is quite another to provide on a daily basis a spiritual atmosphere in the home, a good example of godliness and faithfulness, consistent and loving discipline and a love for God and respect for fellowman that are so essential to the training of our children. It's the little impressions that are made day by day that prove to be so decisive.

It is one thing to dream of some day being appointed an elder in the church. It is quite another thing to put forth the effort on a daily basis to learn the scriptures, to develop leadership ability, to grow spiritually, and to live as to gain the confidence of a discerning congregation. One does not qualify for the eldership in one big leap. It comes through daily development.

It is one thing to talk a "good line" on priorities. It is quite another thing to put God first on a daily basis. The devil knows so many ways to test our resolve in these realms. Our intentions are good, but, through his subtlety, he has us selling our souls for a mess of pottage or thirty pieces of silver.

It is one thing to express concern for

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Thought To Ponder

"A holy life is a voice; it speaks when the tongue is silent and is either a constant attraction or a perpetual reproof."

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Jim Bell
Evangelist & Editor

Check us out on the internet: www.navarrechurchofchrist.net

“CHURCH GROWTH: From Decline To Growth” The Need For A Plan For Outreach

A church that seeks to grow must have a plan of outreach through which the church works as a team with a common vision and with the use of the energies and skills of all its members.

Importance of Forging a Congregational Purpose

The first step in forging a plan is for the church to spend some time in communication so that we may hear one another and develop a sense of congregational purpose (Cf. Neh. 2:17).

The Value of Consultation

It is wise to avail ourselves of the studied advice of those who have experience in observing and helping churches. It would be useful to knock the dust off useful material devoted to church growth, like Harold Comer's "Biblical Evangelism" series, or even consider further consultation with churches that are growing effectively in similar environments to see what is working for them (1 Thes. 1:6-7).

Creating a Plan of Outreach

Understanding the processes of growth will enable the church to take productive steps to reach out effectively rather than waste energy and time on outdated approaches or unproductive efforts. Some of the key questions we must answer are:

- How do we define ourselves? What features do we possess that might give us appeal to people seeking a better and spiritual way of life?
- Who do we want to reach? Frankly, it is hard for groups to be "all things to everybody".

This doesn't mean that we are not interested in the salvation of everybody. It is just a recognition of the limitations that smaller groups may have in using their resources effectively.

Consequently, it would be useful to define a target audience and work effectively toward reaching a particular group.

- How will we engage the people we seek? After defining our target audience, we may need to think creatively about how to reach this group (i.e. with what messages and approaches).
- How will we equip and train our people for service? Each member must be given some help in how to effectively participate in the congregational goals we agree upon.
- How will we monitor and evaluate our successes?

We must periodically evaluate how well we are working our plan and what alterations or adjustments need to be made.

Implementing the Plan

Each member must embrace the plan and see how he or she can become more productive in realizing the congregation's goals. The leadership must regularly remind the church of the goals we hope to accomplish and provide continued help and encouragement (Cf. Neh. 4:14,20). When these things happen, the church will succeed in reaching others. And every success fuels enthusiasm to keep doing more. Each member feels increasing encouragement as the church begins to grow again.

The challenge for us!

Will each of us make the effort to communicate, to get involved, and to do our part to make the church grow?

— Johnny Felker



THREE DAYS AND THREE NIGHTS

In Matthew 12:40 Jesus says, "For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth." How do we harmonize all accounts about the time that Jesus was in the grave? There are some things we know for sure. Whatever conclusion we draw and explanations we offer must conform to those known facts.

The first thing we know for certain is that Jesus was raised from the dead on "the first day of the week." That can be demonstrated plainly from Luke 24:1, 7, 13, 21 and 46. Notice carefully the wording of these verses. V. 1 says that the woman came to the grave "upon the first day of the week..." The two men in shining garments at the tomb reminded the women that Jesus had told them that he would "be crucified, and the third day rise again," (v.7). Two disciples were walking to Emmaus "that same day" (ie., "the first day of the week") (v. 13). As these two disciples walked along the way, Jesus joined them but they did not know who he was. In the course of their conversation with Jesus, they observed, "...and beside all this, today is the third since these things were done" (v. 21). By putting all the available information in this context together we understand that the third day, on which Jesus predicted that he would be raised, was the same day that the women came to the tomb and that day was the first day of the week. Without question, Jesus was raised on the first day of the week.

The next thing we know for certain is that Jesus was crucified the day before the sabbath (Luke 23:54-56; Mark 16:42). Was this sabbath the regular seventh day of the week or was it a special sabbath? Some feast days are referred to as "sabbaths" (cf. Leviticus 16:31; 23:31-32, 39). However, the "sabbath" mentioned in the gospels as "approaching" was called a "high sabbath." This was a way of describing a seventh day sabbath which occurred during one of their annual feasts. Vine says, "3. MEGAS (megas), great, is translated 'high' in John 19:31, of the Sabbath Day at the Passover season..." (p. 559). The crucifixion,

then, had to have occurred on the Friday before the seventh day Sabbath. There are three different expressions which cover the amount of time that Jesus was in the grave -- "three days and nights" (Matt 12:38-42); "the third day" (Matt 16:21; 17:23; 20:19; Luke 9:22; 18:33; 24:7, 21; Acts 10:40; and "after three days" (Mark 8:31; 9:31; 10:34). Remember that time was always counted by the Jews with the night preceding the day. What we are now faced with is how to fit the expressions covering the time that Jesus was in the grave into the framework of time between Friday and the First Day of the week. Any effort to make this span of time an absolute 72 hour period of time will always result in a contradiction of the expression "on the third day." Try to figure it out that way and you will see. In figuring a full three days and nights (72 hours), it matters not what time you have Jesus put in the grave, when you project 72 hours in the future, his resurrection would have to be **ON THE FOURTH DAY**.

How do we explain "three days and three nights" so that there is no contradiction in the accounts? "Three days and three nights" is actually an idiom which covers any part of three days and nights. Compare 1 Sam. 30:11-13 & Esther 4:16-5:1 -- if these were literally "three days and three nights," then, in both accounts, it would have to have been the "fourth day" and not the "third day." Bullinger says, "From this it is perfectly clear that nothing is to be gained by forcing the one passage (Matt. xii. 40) to have a literal meaning, in the face of all these other passages which distinctly state that the Lord died and was buried the day before the Sabbath and rose the day after it, viz., on the first day of the week. These many statements are literal and are history: but the one passage is an idiom which means any part of 'three days and nights.' The one complete day and night (24 hours) and the parts of two nights (36 hours in all) fully satisfy both the idiom and the history,".

— Jim Everett

