

Macedonia Primitive Baptist Church

Pastor: Elder Will Martin

www.macedoniapbc.org

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Looking Back

By: Elder Guy Hunt

Luke 9:62, "And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."

When I was a young boy on the farm, our method of plowing was between the time when it was done by oxen, and the time it was done by tractors. We used mules for all our plowing. I was the youngest of the boys. While Dad and the older boys plowed, Mom and I were the primary hoe hands. We had to dig the grass out of the cotton that the plows missed. If you used a hoe, it was easy to tell when someone had done a good job plowing. Your work was much easier as you did not have as much grass to dig out from around the plants. As a young boy, I thought it would be better and easier if I could plow, rather than spend all my time hoeing. It looked so easy to plow as I watched Papa and the older boys.

But, when I started to learn to plow, I found it was much harder than I thought. It was necessary to plow a straight furrow when laying off ground for planting and it was necessary to hold the plow close to the plants to lap the soil over the millions of crab grass plants that had just sprouted after the last rain.

Many times I would think, I need to look back and see what kind of job I am doing, or to see how bad I messed up. Every time I looked back, I made a bigger mess than if I never looked back. I learned to always look forward, and try to learn by my experiences, and do a better job ahead of me. After a time, I became a good plow hand, all because I learned to never look back.

After my farm experience, I could better understand the lesson the Lord was teaching those who wanted to go back and handle something else before they followed him in an acceptable manner. People who have professed a love for the Lord and a belief in him, uniting with his church, have put their hands to the plow. If we start looking back on all the mistakes we make, we will never be properly trained to be a good soldier. But, the Lord finishes that with a statement that should chill us to the bones, if we catch ourselves looking back. He says no man is fit for the kingdom of God who does this!

There is a sense that in remembering our past, we are, and remain, humble and forgiving as Christ forgives our sins. The apostle Paul remembered the wickedness he practiced before that fateful day on the road to Damascus. Though Paul felt unworthy of the blessings, because he persecuted the Church of God, he never let this hinder him from looking forward.

Phil. 3:13-14, "Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended; but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."

Many people ruin their lives by looking back in life. Psychiatry would be a dead trade if people were looking unto Jesus, looking forward. Many lives are warped by the experience of days gone by. They are warped, because the person has rendered himself incapable of looking forward. Much of psychiatry is spent trying to get people to move on from some terrible experience they have had. Sometimes it is abuse in childhood. Sometimes it is a bad experience, such as losing a child, and the mother or father, begin to second guess themselves, and the decisions they made. I had a friend who became so obsessed with his hatred of a man he had a dispute with, that he spent the last fifteen years of his life in total misery. Bitterness brought from the past is like acid in a vessel; it will totally consume the vessel it is in.

Marriages are often torn apart by looking back. Those of us, who have been involved in trying to save marriages, know the signs of looking back. We know when we are trying to find the cause and the woman says, "Why didn't he give me a Valentine's card in 1988?" Or he may say, "Right after we married in 1979, she made a hateful statement about my mother." If people were as capable of forgetting that part of

the past that keeps them from looking forward, while they are living, as they are when someone dies, it would be a wonderful life. Did you ever see a negative thing on a tombstone? People tend to forget the bad that hindered their joys, when the loved one dies.

This simple message that the Lord gives is applicable to the church that is in dispute, and without a pastor. Church trouble is caused by people, who have put their hands to the plow and are looking back. As long as you spend your time thinking and talking about what someone in the church said or did last week, last month, or last year, you are looking back. A church must look forward, and not look back on the little things that disturbed them.

I can tell any church how to solve its problems. Put your hand to the plow and don't look back. Look unto Jesus, our Lord and Redeemer. Look at how wonderful the joy is as you sit under the sound of the true gospel in sweet communion with God and fellowship with the saints. Remember the church as a place of refuge. A place on the mountaintop where God gives you wonderful glimpses of glory. Remember, Christ had his joy set before him. Neither is our joy behind us, but before us. Aren't we glad that God is not looking on our sins of yesterday, but seeing us some sweet day as white as snow? Christ saw all his sheep in heaven during the pain and suffering of the cross.

It may be that the reason we cannot get along with those who have been purchased by the blood of Christ, is all *because we are not fit for the kingdom!* (Feb., 2003)

Elder Guy Hunt was one of the most well respected ministers among our people for many years. Elder Harold Hunt republished many of Elder Guy Hunt's articles in a book a couple of years ago. That is where I got this article. Brother Guy speaks right to the heart of the common man and I have found much comfort from his articles. He went home to be with the Lord less than a year ago. I never had the privilege to hear him preach in person, but I have enjoyed many of his sermons on CD and from the internet. It is my prayer that Lord adds his blessings to the reading of this article.

In His Love,



Elder Will Martin

Macedonia Church Announcements:

1. Sunday, September 6th, we will have communion following morning service and lunch. Elder Coy Thomas will be with us for our communion service. Please be in prayer for that service.
2. We were blessed to have an uplifting afternoon song service on the 3rd Sunday in August. We tried several new hymns and even sang a few that we had tried before. Below is a list of the songs we sang.
 - i. 605 – The Great Redeemer
 - ii. 537 – Constrained By Their Lord
 - iii. 497 – The Bride's Mansion
 - iv. 474 – My Soul, Come Meditate The Day
 - v. 268 – I Would Be True
 - vi. 482 – If Jesus Goes With Me

Lord willing, we will sing again on 3rd Sunday of this month.

Announcements from Sister Churches:

1. The Marietta Old School Association will convene on Friday October 2nd and Saturday October 3rd at Crossroads Church in Atlanta. Services will start on Friday at 10:30, will continue all day Friday, Saturday morning and conclude following afternoon services on Saturday.
2. Friday October 9th and Saturday October 10th, Rome church will host their annual meeting. Elders Ricky Harcrow and Harold Hunt are their invited speakers. Services begin on Friday night.