

# Harmony Newsletter

Web Site: [www.harmoniypbchurch.org](http://www.harmoniypbchurch.org)

## HARMONY PRIMITIVE BAPTIST CHURCH

P.O. Box 351, Donaldson, AR 71941

Pastor: Neil M. Phelan, JR

Phone: 501-337-6456

Email: [phelanneil@sbcglobal.net](mailto:phelanneil@sbcglobal.net)

*"Come thou with us, and we will do thee good..."-Numbers 10:29*

*March 2012*

### REMEMBER LOT'S WIFE!

*"Remember Lot's wife. Whosoever shall seek to save his life shall lose it; and whosoever shall lose his life shall preserve it." -Luke 17:32-33*

One of the shortest verses in the Bible abounds with wisdom. It is a solemn warning to God's children after the Holy Spirit has weaned them from the world, and led them in the paths of righteousness. The warning is simple: never look back upon former sins with fondness. Though the journey may seem long, and there may be times of darkness and sorrow, it is better to be with Jesus in tribulation, than to take the pleasures of sin for a season. Never look back! Those that do, may become ensnared once again with the very sins they were delivered from: "Remember Lot's wife."

If you will recall, Lot and his family had situated themselves in the well-watered plains adjoining Sodom and Gomorra. Eventually, they made their home within its gates. Lot became very wealthy, and as a result of his wealth, a prominent citizen of the city. Because of the great sin found within its walls, God had passed judgment to burn it up. In mercy, God sent His holy angels to rescue Lot and his family from the impending danger with this solemn warning: "Escape for thy life; look not behind thee, neither stay thou in all the plain; escape to the mountain, lest thou be consumed."(Genesis 19:17).

A few verses later, we read the fatal outcome of Lot's wife: "But his wife looked back from behind him, and she became a pillar of salt."(v26). She did not listen to the wise counsel of God.

I can just see her, as Lot was pressing his way from the impending danger, shirking back just far enough from her husband's glance, to take one final look at the city of her delight, a city she loved, a city steeped in sin. God's judgment was sure. She became a pillar of salt.

This seems to be a harsh judgment for just once glance over the shoulder. A pillar of salt! Surely, the Lord is giving us a solemn warning here. He is highlighting a fatal mistake made by many. This is indeed, a wide, and dangerous pit that has swallowed many unsuspecting pilgrims. Do not look back upon your former sins with fondness!

From experience, I would say, that there are times we all look back on our former life with pleasure. Most of us have many happy memories of the past. But we must be careful. As we are perusing the past, our minds may wander into some fields of sin that produced some evil fruits. Before we know it, we may begin to partake of these and the battle ensues. What we had escaped from begins to overtake us.

We have all heard of the mid-life crisis. The man

or woman, who has raised a family, been faithful to their spouse, then all of a sudden they want to be a teenager again. They have looked into the past, and thought to themselves: "If only I knew then what I know now. I could really have some fun." Then, off they go and fall into a pit. They wind up with many heartaches and sorrows for the rest of their days. They have essentially become: "a pillar of salt." This is truly a most common and dangerous pit.

God's word is replete with warnings of this nature for those who know, for those who have been delivered.

In Luke 12:47-48, Jesus compares the punishment of those that knew God's will, and those that were ignorant of it: "And that servant, which knew his lord's will, and prepared not himself, neither did according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes. But he that knew not, and did commit things worthy of stripes, shall be beaten with few stripes. For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more."

Paul gives the same warning to church goers in Hebrews 10:26-27: "For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries."

Even Solomon, gives his warning in Proverbs 26:11: "As a dog returneth to his vomit, so a fool returneth to his folly."

Peter gives further comment on Solomon's words in 2 Peter 2:20-22: "For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning. For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them. But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire." Enough said!

When Jesus gave he warning that day, to "remember Lot's wife", he was warning the Jews not to return to Jerusalem. God was about to judge the city that had once honored God but had now crucified the Lord of glory. Don't go back there. I

have delivered you from their error. Sad to say, many did not heed the words of our Lord. Over a million lost their lives in the city in 70 A.D. when Titus surrounded its walls and cut off their food and drink.

Jesus gave further commentary, though, on the three words that we are to remember. He also said, *“Whosoever shall seek to save his life shall lose it; and whosoever shall lose his life shall preserve it.”*

Yes, those that go seeking to save a sinful lifestyle they have left behind will lose their lives. This does not mean they will die physically. It means that their life will be brought to destruction and misery through sin. But those who choose to lose their lives, give up their lives to Christ, give up their own selfish desires preserve their life from destruction and misery.

Has the Lord delivered you from some great sin? Has He delivered you from this present evil world? Don't look back. Go forward and serve the Lord with cheerfulness. Remember Lot's wife!

### THE DOCTRINES OF GRACE

We just completed our series of messages on the doctrines of grace as represented by the acronym TULIP. This acronym stands for:

#### ◆ T - Total Depravity

Man is a depraved, fallen sinner and is unable to save himself from his fallen condition.

#### ◆ U - Unconditional Election

God's sovereign choice of a particular people out of the fallen human race to save unconditionally (not based upon any human merit.)

#### ◆ L - Limited Atonement

Christ died for the elect only and by his death He made complete atonement for all of their sins.

#### ◆ I - Irresistible Grace

The irresistible call of God, void of any human means, which gives spiritual life to a person dead in sin that can neither be frustrated or denied.

#### ◆ P - Preservation of the Saints

All of those elected of God, atoned by Christ, and called by the Spirit shall be preserved blameless to everlasting glory.

In all of this we see the Holy Covenant entered into by the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, made before the foundation of the world to save the elect. We see their complete agreement in the work, and their particular parts.

These messages are now available on our web-site:  
[www.harmonypbchurch.org](http://www.harmonypbchurch.org)

If someone wants to know what we believe, send them this link or copy the messages off and share them. That's evangelism!

### MEETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- March 18<sup>th</sup>: Singing at The Crossing at Malvern on the third Sunday after lunch.
- Our annual meeting will begin on Friday night, April 6<sup>th</sup>. Supper will be at 5:30 and our singing will start about 6:45. Elder David Pyles has promised to be with us. Please pray for Elder Pyles as he comes our way and pray that the Lord will bless us with a manifest felt presence of His Spirit. Bring some friends!
- Elder Michael Gowens is scheduled to be with Sardis Church the following weekend. Times will be announced.
- Elder Charles Kitchens is scheduled to be with Macedonia Church this Saturday night, March 10<sup>th</sup>. Supper is at 5:30 with services following.
- Over the past few years we have designated the Saturday before our annual meeting as a cleanup day at our church. We have brought sandwiches and drinks for lunch. Since the first day in April falls on a Sunday, the cleanup day would be Saturday, March 31<sup>st</sup>. Bring your brooms, power sprayers, and whatever you have to prepare God's house for our meeting. We will start about 9 a.m.
- Daylight Savings Time starts on Sunday, March 11<sup>th</sup>. On Saturday night set your clocks forward one hour or you might be late for church!

### PRAYER REQUESTS

- ✓ Sister Brenda Stafford: Due to her diabetes Sister Brenda had to have her foot and lower leg amputated. Please pray for her and her family. It was a special blessing to see her back in God's house.
- ✓ Sister Louise Beason has had surgery on her leg to open up some arteries to her lower leg. She has also been diagnosed with congestive heart failure.
- ✓ Sister Norma Phelan has fallen several times over the past week and is suffering from dementia.
- ✓ Sister Lema Clayton is recovering from hip surgery at the Malvern Nursing Home
- ✓ Sister Virgie Sandage has been hospitalized due to a kidney infection.

“Ye fearful saints, fresh courage take,  
The clouds you so much dread  
Are big with mercy, and shall break  
In blessings on your head” - Cowper