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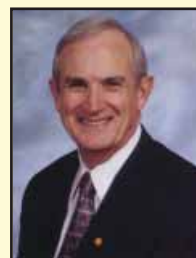
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From The Director

"A GREAT DOOR AND EFFECTUAL" AND A REHEARSAL



The Lord greatly blessed the work of the apostle Paul, one of the exemplary Christians of the first century whom we are to imitate (1 Cor. 11:1). Paul informed the Corinthian brethren that he would "tarry in Ephesus until Pentecost; for a great door and effectual is opened unto me, and there are many adversaries" (16:8). In a number of letters, Paul emphasized the importance of "time," such as "redeeming the time" (Eph. 5:16; Col. 4:5). The ASV (1901) marginal reading is "buying up the opportunity." It is seizing the opportunity.

"OPPORTUNITY"

Professor Eris B. Benson stressed that "We should work for the Lord while we live, for we shall not have the opportunity to work for him after we die. (See John 9:4; Ecc. 9:10)." He pointed out how the Greeks pictured opportunity:

The Greeks pictured opportunity as a woman whose feet were wrapped in wool. This indicated that opportunity might come silently and unannounced. Furthermore, the woman would have one lock of hair, which hung over her forehead. This signified that opportunity must be seized or grasped when it approaches, for it cannot be utilized after it is gone (**The Bible Teaches**, III, 107).

The apostle Paul believed that doors of opportunity opened by the Lord should be entered; indeed, he was "ready" (Rom. 1:13-15).

Numerous congregations of God's people were also "ready" to help Paul teach the pure gospel to the lost. One, the church at Antioch, for example, separated him and Barnabas "for the work whereunto [God] had called them"; "They sent them away" on Paul's first missionary journey (Acts 13:1-3). Two, after Paul established the church in Philippi, on his second missionary journey, they participated financially in his work. Paul wrote, "I thank God...for your fellowship in furtherance of the gospel from the first day until now" (Phil. 1:5). In the "defense and confirmation of the gospel," the Philippians were "partakers of [Paul's] grace" (1:6), for they gave and received funds to help him as he preached the gospel (4:15); in fact, they "sent once and again unto [his] necessity" (4:16). It was not that he was "motivated by

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Co-Editor's Column

ARE WE INVESTING WISELY?



Every wise person provides for the future. Whether we have little or much, we like to lay aside savings for the future, preferably at interest. Since various investments are available, a wise choice is very important. Consideration must be given to the safety of the investment and the interest rate offered.

Whatever our investment may be, we are faced with the fact "You can't take it with you." As the Bible says, "We brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out" (1 Tim. 6:7). This is true, whether we are rich or poor. Our investments and savings are left behind.

There is, however, one important exception to this rule. The Christian can make investments that will endure beyond his own life and brighten into eternity. Jesus said, "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth...but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt and where thieves do not break through and steal" (Mat. 6:19-20). Laying up spiritual treasures in heaven is accomplished by following the Lord's instructions.

First, one should become a Christian (also described in the New Testament as a member of the church, a member of the kingdom, a member of Christ's spiritual body). One becomes a Christian by submitting to the Lord's will--hearing the gospel (Rom. 10:17), believing its message (Heb. 11:6), turning from sin (2 Pet. 3:9), and being baptized into Christ's spiritual body (1 Cor. 12:13), for forgiveness of sins (Acts 22:16).

Then, as a member of the kingdom, or church, the Christian is instructed as follows: "And whatsoever ye do, in word or in deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus" (Col. 3:17). He is further taught to "do good...be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate" (1 Tim. 6:18). All who so dedicate themselves are promised that they are "laying up in store...a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life" (1 Tim. 6:19).

With this long-range view of a completely safe investment, the Christian is less tempted to lay up temporal treasures upon this earth. "But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and

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Memphis School of Preaching



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NEWSLETTER from MEMPHIS SCHOOL OF PREACHING

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GENERAL INFORMATION

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Attend The Annual

MSOP LECTURES

Which Begin the Last Sunday of March and Continue Through the Following Thursday.

(Cates Continued) money," as some might have charged: "Not because I desire a gift: but I desire fruit that may abound to your account" (4:17).

A REHEARSAL

For forty years, the Memphis School of Preaching has been educating "men of the Book." The School has faithfully taught the pure gospel, and her graduates are preaching the truth throughout the world. The Lord has certainly blessed this work of the Forest Hill [formerly Knight Arnold] church of Christ.

"A GREAT DOOR AND EFFECTUAL"

Through the Lord's wonderful providence, He has opened another great door of opportunity--that of student housing. After many years of Forest Hill's planning and praying, the City of Germantown has given full approval for the four apartment buildings [thirty-two apartments] to house these devoted men and their families. The buildings are being constructed, with projected date of completion [barring unforeseen complications] of February, 2007. These apartments will enable our students to live on-campus and will save millions of dollars in rent. What an opportunity!

Of course, as with any other project, such as this, in this world, it takes money. In other words, we need your help. The MSOP still needs approximately 1.6 million dollars, one-half of the 3.2 million dollars for the project. We wish to thank the friends of Forest Hill and the Memphis School of Preaching for your prayers, sacrifices, and work to make this very significant blessing come to fruition. Many individuals are giving personally, the graduates have been challenged to give or raise \$1,000.00 each, congregations are making substantial gifts, some congregations are planning on donating their fifth Sunday contribution on October 29th, still other Christians/congregations are giving monthly toward the apartments, and even other churches are planning to host informational dinners.

Dear friend(s), we at Forest Hill and the School believe this door which is open to the educating of faithful preachers is providential. It will mean very much to the cause of truth and right. Our deepest gratitude to all who have helped! Dear reader and friend, can you help seize the opportunity which the Lord has provided? The students and the cause are truly worthy.

Curtis A. Cates

"EPISTLES TO CORINTH"

MSOP Lectures March 25-29, 2007 Plan now to be present!

(Elkins Continued) perdition. For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows" (1 Tim. 6:9-10).

Even those who have become wealthy have found, by experience, that they are not satisfied. "He that loveth silver shall not be satisfied with silver; nor he that loveth abundance with increase: this is also vanity" (Ecc. 5:10). Jesus said, "Beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things of which he possesseth" (Luke 12:15).

With the Word of God as our guide, we must view money in its proper perspective. As Christians, we should not--and cannot--devote our lives primarily to the making of money, but should seek first the kingdom of God (Mat. 6:33). We should joyfully receive the blessings that God gives us, use them wisely, and give generously. Our Lord said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35).

Only the Christian has the privilege of investing in the eternal future. He is laying up treasures in heaven, because that is where he is going. Are you a Christian? Gave gave. His Son gave--that you might receive, and then give.

Garland Elkins

AN ALUMNUS DIES IN THE PULPIT

Mike McDaniel

We extend our sympathy to the family of Bobby Gene Tillman, 66, who died on Sunday, August 20th, while preaching the gospel. Brother Tillman had been asked to fill in for the local preacher at Adamsville, who had not been feeling well. When brother Tillman's heart began to race, while he was preaching, he asked for a drink of water. Not long after that, it is believed that he died of a massive heart attack. Brother Tillman was a 1970 graduate of the Memphis School of Preaching. I did not have the pleasure of knowing brother Tillman, but I think it commendable for one to breathe his last breath while trying to do the Lord's work. For those who knew him, I am enclosing his obituary and also a poem, which his wife Jean wrote, and which was read at his funeral.

Obituary For Bobby Gene Tillman

Bobby Gene Tillman was born April 9, 1940, in McNairy County, Tennessee, the son of Reatha Moore Tillman Smith and the late Jonah Tillman. He was united in marriage to Jean Smith on August 31, 1962. Mr. Tillman was the owner of Tillman Plumbing & Electrical, and was a member of the Adamsville church of Christ, where he served as an elder. He preached for various congregations throughout the area. Mr. Tillman served in the United States Army for 3 years (1959-62), and played basketball for the U. S. Army team. He studied for 2 years at the Memphis School of Preaching. Bobby loved sports of all kinds, and especially enjoyed playing the guitar and singing with his family and friends.

Mr. Tillman departed this life on August 20, 2006, in Adamsville, Tennessee, at the age of 66 Years, 4 Months, 11 Days. He is survived by his wife of 44 years, Jean Smith Tillman of Stantonville, Tennessee; three sons: Steve Tillman and wife Carol of Cookeville, Tennessee, Stan Tillman of Huntsville, Alabama and Jeff Tillman of Nashville, Tennessee; three grandsons: Jonathan Tillman, Cory Tillman and Caleb Tillman; his mother, Reatha Moore Tillman Smith of Selmer, Tennessee; two sisters: Nancy Sweatt of Topeka, Kansas and Judy Weichman of Washington, Illinois; a brother, Larry Tillman of Clarksville, Tennessee; and a step-brother, Wayne Smith of Akron, Ohio.

POEM IN HONOR OF HER HUSBAND

When we were dating, I thought his too-large hands and double-jointed fingers were ugly, and I was embarrassed at them.

Yet I have seen those same hands tenderly hold a baby and guide a toddler's first steps.

I have seen his hands pat a Little Leaguer's shoulder with encouragement and throw balls for practice to timid players.

I have seen his firm hands' friendly handshake given along with a genuine smile and outstretched hands for the downtrodden in life.

I have seen the generosity of hands giving without grudge when his children needed money he didn't really have.

I have seen his nervous habit of rubbing and twiddling his thumbs on the steering wheel of the car when he was worried or preoccupied with details of the day.

I have seen him comfort terminally ill patients by simply sitting by their bedsides and laying his hand on their arm to let them know they were not alone.

I have seen his ambidextrous hands as he hammered a nail first with his right hand and then his left, and I have seen his skill as he repaired the intricate workings of a television.

I have seen the clenching of his hands and the tightness around his lips when he feels that someone isn't being treated fairly, as he boldly defends what he believes to be right.

I have seen these hands playing the guitar as he softly sings a love song to me, often when I'm drinking my morning coffee.

I have seen the suntanned, dirty, calloused hands of a man who does physical labor to provide for his family so that he can volunteer his time to help send the gospel to the whole world.

I have felt his touch as he dries my tears and encourages me to be all I can be even when I am reluctant and content with the status quo.

I now hold his brown, often-blistered hands in mine and wonder how I could have ever been so shallow to see ugliness in these hands of steel and velvet that I love -- the hands of the one who has brought both strength and gentleness, love and laughter, and contentment and challenge into my life. Jean Tillman

