



"To stablish your hearts unblameable
in holiness before God" 1 Thess. 3:13

May 6-12

Friday's Activities:

- Friday— Punt the Prom

The Weekend:

- Saturday — Punt the Prom for Jrs/Srs
- Sunday School at 9 a.m., choir practice at 5:00 p.m.,
choir sings in evening service!
- BRR practice after evening service

Next Wednesday:

- Meganight, Visitation, and Teentime!

Important Dates:

- May 21st — Nats/Orioles Game 4-11:30 p.m.
- May 22nd — BRR practice (guys only)

Ephesians 5:29

**For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but
nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord
the church:**



**Better than I've ever been
in 2010!**

Bro.

Steven



“What’s your response?”



Psalm 50:15 “And call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me.”

During my many years on this earth, I have noticed that there are basically two different ways in which people are tempted to react to troubles, problems, and issues in their lives—these both are fleshly responses! The first is the way in which I am tempted . . . **trouble or problems come, and you immediately react! You burst out verbally or even physically, you let your displeasure be known clearly.** It is a very transparent reaction, with people around you being very much aware of your displeasure.

The second way in which people respond is to internalize their response. It appears that troubles and problems don’t get to them, but this isn’t true; the reality is that they simply internalize all their frustration and either become **bitter or keep it all in until they “snap” at a breaking point** and everyone around them is left wondering what happened. Often, our personalities help determine in which way we will react to adversity, problems, or troubles; but the bottom line is that if we yield to either of these two responses, we are following our flesh and sinning.

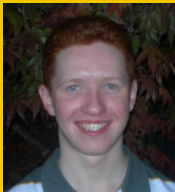
So how do you respond when a problem arises, or someone wrongs you? Do you lash out, get angry, and physically express your displeasure? Just last week a Major League Baseball player was called into a game as the “closer.” His name is Ryan Madson and it was his job to “save” the game for the Phillies as they were leading late in the game—all he had to do was get three outs and the game would be over. However, he allowed a run to tie the game up, and his coach removed him from the game. Obviously, he was upset with himself, and upon entering the dugout, to top his disappointing outing off, he slipped on one of the steps. This pushed him over the edge, and in anger and frustration, he kicked a folding metal chair. *Unfortunately, the chair was up for a fight!* Come to find out the next morning, Madson could barely walk due to a broken toe . . . **the knockout goes to the metal chair!** He is to have surgery causing him to miss much of the rest of the season.



We laugh at the plight of Mr. Madson, but how many of us do the same thing without it being captured on national television and by 100’s of baseball writers? **Do you react in anger when things don’t go the way you want them to go? Do you internalize it and become bitter in life or all of a sudden explode at some point?** Why not today purpose in your heart to follow the Biblical way of responding to troubles and problems—take it to the Lord in prayer as the verse above encourages us to do! Anger accomplishes nothing when it comes to our responses to problems, **but trust in God does.** Analyze your own responses today, and make sure you are responding Biblically when troubles and problems arise!

Teen of the day

Scripture Reading



II Chronicles 28:29; Ps. 83

Missionary of the day

Schrocks in Belarus

Courtner

Prayer Requests:

1. _____

2. _____

DONE! - (check box)

Thursday May 6th

Darren

Bro.

"Don't Quit on Faith"



Exodus 15:22 – “So Moses brought Israel from the Red sea, and they went out into the wilderness of Shur; and they went three days in the wilderness, and found no water.”

Do you know what false hope is? Have you ever played the

McDonalds Monopoly game? Every time McDonalds runs the Monopoly game I am always catapulted day by day on a roller coaster of emotions. Here’s my problem: I always think I just pulled off the winning piece. But I didn’t! For example, when I peel off Pennsylvania Avenue, I’m sure I’ve already pulled off North Carolina and Pacific Avenue. If I ever peel off Park Place, I always have a moment when I remember already pulling off Boardwalk. And then, two seconds later, reality hits and I realize all I’ve got is one blue monopoly stamp worth nothing.

Moses was on the up and down emotional roller coaster in Exodus 15:22. In case you don’t remember, Exodus chapter 14 is the record of Israel and the Red Sea. At this point in Exodus 15, the people had just come from the red sea. They had just witnessed the greatest miracle ever done on earth. Not only were they witnesses of the greatest miracle, but they were the reason for the miracle. God had blessed them in unimaginable ways and they were becoming accustomed to God’s blessings.

They were so expectant of God’s blessings that they headed off into the wilderness with no water. They figured that God would take care of them. That was amazing faith! They had gold and silver, but they took no water believing God would pave the way. However, “they went three days in the wilderness, and found no water.”

Sadly, their faith quickly turned into doubt. Their unimaginable victory turned into an unforgettable defeat. They went from national rejoicing to national murmuring in three days. They started off so well. They were full of faith. But the moment that something UNCOMFORTABLE happened, they lost faith. And the moment they lost faith, they seemed to lose it all. On the roller coaster of emotion, they quit on faith.

Teenager, don’t lose faith when something uncomfortable happens to you! The very reason we have faith is so that in times when we travel three days into the wilderness and find no water, we’re okay! We’ll still trust the Lord! Many people in their youth have great faith. But, the reason they have great faith is because nothing uncomfortable has happened in their life; then, when uncomfortable happens, they lose faith. They can’t trust the Lord.

You’ve got to understand what Israel did not – *faith is not for the good days, faith is for the bad days*. God is not impressed if you can trust Him through blessings. God is impressed when you can trust Him through distress. The faith you are building now is to be stored up for a day of difficulty. But, that’s why you have faith – to make it through the hardships. Win the battle that Israel could never win and don’t quit on faith.

Teen of the day Scripture Reading

Prayer Requests:



III Chronicles 30-32

Missionary of the day

Runkles in Belize

1. _____

2. _____

Mala

DONE! - (check box)

Friday May 7th



Bro.

"Principles of Godly

Steven



As we have taken our time to thoroughly study what God says about music, we have uncovered many principles from God's Word dealing with music. *It is always important for us to have these principles in the forefront of our minds as we daily make choices about the music we listen to and are subjected to as we live our lives.* In his book, *Music Matters*, Cary Schmidt gives us a list of some of the guiding principles for Godly music which we find in Scriptures. I give this excerpt here as a reminder for each of us—**make sure your music is meeting ALL of these guidelines!**

"Guiding Principles for Godly Music:

- It should not sound like "war in the camp." (Exodus 32:17-18)
- It should sound like praising. (II Chronicles 5:13)
- It should be different from the world. (Romans 12:2)
- It should be Psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs. (Ephesians 5:19)
- It should be "singing with grace." (Colossians 3:16)
- It should be a new song (different from the world). (Psalm 40:3)
- It should facilitate the filling of God's Holy Spirit. (Ephesians 5:18-19)
- It should instruct me in God's Word. (Colossians 3:16)
- It should be spiritual, as opposed to fleshly or carnal (melody led rather than beat driven). (Ephesians 5:19-20)
- It should facilitate God's transforming work and combat the world's conforming work. (Romans 12:1-2)
- It should witness to others of Christ. (Psalm 40:3)
- It should repel evil spirits and welcome God's Spirit. (I Samuel 16:23)
- It should strengthen my life. (Psalm 81:2)
- It should be pleasant. (Psalm 81:2)
- It should be joyful. (Psalm 100:1)
- It should be understandable. (Psalm 47:7; I Corinthians 14:15)
- It should let God's peace rule in my heart. (Colossians 3:15-16)
- It should express thanks. (Psalm 100:4)
- It should produce godly emotions. (Isaiah 65:14)
- It should produce spiritual fruit in my life. (Romans 6:16)
- It should help protect my heart. (Proverbs 4:23)
- It should worship and extol my God. (Psalm 29:2)
- It should be orderly and not of confusion. (I Corinthians 14:10, 33)
- It should glorify God. (I Corinthians 10:31)

Take a couple minutes and look up some of these verses and principles directly in Scriptures; then go and use them in your life!

Teen of the day



Scripture Reading II Chronicles 33-36

Missionary of the day

Whites in Bolivia

Isabo

Prayer Requests:

1. _____

 2. _____

DONE! - (check box)

Saturday May 8th



"Trust Me"



Have you ever wondered why certain sins are wrong? For example, why is it wrong to lie? What's wrong with telling someone a story that didn't happen? What's wrong with telling your teacher you did your homework when you actually didn't? God commanded us to tell the truth because God knew if people lied enough, one day, *no one would trust anyone*. That's exactly what kind of world we are living in today.

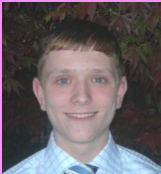
Have you ever heard of the International Flat Earth Research Society? The "organization" consists of 1400 members across the world. Surprisingly, many of the members are lawyers, doctors, engineers and architects. In fact, the majority are doctors. What unites these men and women of success is a common unbelief. They distrust almost anything that they are told. Because they are told that the earth is a sphere, they believe that the earth then must be flat. The society even considers the American space program to be one big hoax. The president, C.K. Johnson, believes, "The moon walk was done in a Hollywood set. All faked!" The International Flat Earth Research Society doesn't really believe anything and that's what brings them together.

God was right. When people are lied to over and over, eventually they don't believe anyone. Having someone trust you is a rare privilege these days. Trusting someone these days is a rare act of goodness we'll do because we feel guilty if we don't.

From my heart, I want to beg you to do two things: trust the Bible and trust your preachers. I know people have lied to you. I know your enemies have lied to you. I know your friends have lied to you. Because of that, it's hard to trust anyone anymore. Yet, as a Christian, you have no other choice but to trust the Bible and to trust your preachers because God sends His truth through the Bible and through those that preach the Bible. Trust was God's idea.

Increasingly, I am noticing that teenagers do not trust what they're being told in Church. If they did trust the preacher, they'd do what they were told. Apparently, we have our own little International Flat Earth Research Society who believes in everything except for what they are told. Trust me, you can trust what you hear in church. Your life will be better if you do. You can trust the Bible to transform you into what you wish you were. Unlike a salesman in a business deals, your pastors have no reason to lie to you. What you hear on Sunday is a conclusion from hours of study, prayer, and passion – passion for you and your own good. Listen up! Trust the Bible and trust your preachers. You'll be glad you did.

Teen of the day Scripture Reading



Ezekiel 1-3

Missionary of the day
Alexanders (Ed) in Brazil

Josiah

Prayer Requests:

1. _____
2. _____
- _____

DONE! - (check box)

Sunday May 9th

Bro.

"Why not CCM?"



Some of the books that I have been reading that cover the topic of music have been written by authors who have spent time within the "music world." One of them was a musician in secular music, then CCM, and now is serving God through Biblical music. Another one listened to the world's music while she was growing up, tried to transition to Christian Contemporary Music once she was saved, and then moved on as she grew in the Lord and His Word to God-honoring music. I like reading what these authors have to say because "they were in the ship while it was sinking." **They have seen the errors from the inside out.** One of these authors is Kimberly Smith, who wrote the book, *Let Those Who Have Ears to Hear*. In this book she gives her testimony—the excerpt below picks up with the point in her life where she finally embraced the Biblical principles found in Scripture and gave up her CCM. Read carefully . . .

"Do I still struggle? Yes. If I hear a song from my past, it pulls up all of the old garbage that went with that point in time. I can understand that, and accept it, though. Every true believer in Christ Jesus will struggle until we receive our redeemed bodies that are no longer subject to the pull of this sinful world.

What I cannot accept is the fact that most CCM can pull up those same kinds of feelings because CCM uses those same secular rock music techniques, powerful techniques that call to the carnal, fleshly self, no matter what the words. As with secular rock music, I feel the pull of the world when I listen to CCM.

This is an important fact to realize. This is why CCM cannot be pleasing to God, Who wants us to overcome our flesh and be conformed to the image of His Son. God wants His best for us, even if it's not 'cool' in the world's way of thinking.

Let's face it, all of us are fearful of not being accepted, of not being like everyone else. Oh, we claim to be different because we're Christians, but we still want to be cool within the parameters of Christendom, and CCM gives us the arena in which to be cool. We can sing like the world, we can dance like the world, we can act like the world, all under the umbrella of Christianity, with CCM as our musical conduit. CCM now makes it cool to attend church because in many of today's churches there is cool music.

The Bible says, 'Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world' (I John 2:15-16)."

CCM has great appeal to "carnal" Christians—those who live more for the flesh than they do for the principles of God found in His Word. Ask God to help you see CCM for what it is today, and commit yourself to listening only to that music which follows the principles laid out in Scriptures.

Teen of the day Scripture Reading

Prayer Requests:



Ezekiel 4-7

Missionary of the day
Alexanders (Shawn) in Brazil

Morgan

1. _____
2. _____

DONE! - (check box)

Monday May 10th

Larry

Bro.

"Be All That You Can Be"



The slogan "Be All That You Can Be" was coined many years ago by the army to encourage young people to enlist in service for their country. The idea was that army training could help you obtain more of your potential. Studies have been done to prove that the average person only reaches between 2-5% of their potential in their lifetime. When I read that statistic I was shocked. That means there is 20 to 50 times more that you could do, learn, know, and achieve during your lifetime than you are currently on pace to. WOW!

There is an old joke that goes something like this...What do you call a person that speaks 3 languages? Trilingual. What do you call a person that speaks 2 languages? Bilingual. What do you call a person that speaks 1 language? American.

**ARMY.
BE ALL YOU CAN BE.**

The sad part is that there is a ton of truth to that joke. I sat on a plane next to a guy from Singapore that spoke 6 languages. We are wasting our potential as Americans!

The more I think about that fact the more I realize that the 2-5% numbers are probably a little high for Christians reaching their spiritual potential. I'm guessing the people that are around 5% are people that we think of as Godly leaders in the church. If you see someone around 10% they may be a Pastor or a missionary. Those numbers are pathetic. D.L. Moody once said, "The world has yet to see what God can do with a man fully consecrated to Him." Doesn't God deserve more?

Paul recognized this lack of reaching potential in I Thess. 4:1 when he wrote, "Furthermore then we beseech you, brethren, and exhort you by the Lord Jesus, that as ye have received of us how ye ought to walk and to please God, so ye would abound more and more." God wants all of us to live up to the potential that He has given us. The Bible tells on Ecclesiastes 9:4 "...a living dog is better than a dead lion." We have a bunch of teenage Christians that are dead lions. They have all the potential in the world, but they aren't using any of it for the Lord. They are dead lions. My 5 pound Yorkie is tougher than a dead lion, but she doesn't have nearly the potential.

You have the potential, are you using it? I really think that we have some great teenagers that are far above the national standard. I think we have some that are living much higher than 5% of their potential. Those things I think, this I KNOW! EVERY TEEN WE HAVE IS NOT LIVING AT THEIR POTENTIAL! You can do more! Will you? Enlist in the service of the Lord. Be All That You Can Be!

Teen of the day



Scripture Reading
Ezekiel 8-11

Missionary of the day

Hope Bennetts in Brazil

Prayer Requests:

1. _____
2. _____
- _____

DONE! - (check box)

Tuesday May 11th

Bro.

"Sensitive"

Occasionally I have been asked if I have ever seen a glimpse of revival. I must say that I wish I could say I have seen great works of revival in churches or youth groups or certainly in individuals. I can truly say that I believe I have seen glimpses of greater works in people's lives, especially in teenagers. I remember once in Singapore when God came down in a mighty way during a Teen Camp. There were approximately 150 teenagers attending this camp; people I had never met and teenagers who had expressed no desire for preaching to occur during their time at camp. To say it briefly, God met with us in a mighty way and many young people were broken during that week. I saw many tears and watched several get things right with the Lord.

In Isaiah 1, God tells His people that they had lost their sensitivity to Him. They were going through the motions of their "religious" activities. They attended the worship services at the temple, gave their offerings, sang their songs, but God didn't have their hearts. The Lord said, "Bring no more vain offerings...." They were simply going through the motions; they had lost their sensitive hearts. Then the Lord said, "Wash, make you clean... If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land...." God was calling them to genuine repentance.

Is the Lord calling you to be genuinely broken before Him today? Why not evaluate your heart today? Take a good look and determine if you are simply going through the routine of your Christian life. Freshly dedicate your heart to Him. Ask for fresh tears! Isaiah later said this—"...to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word."

Teen of the day

Kirsten

Scripture Reading
Ezekiel 12-14

Missionary of the day

Johnsons in Brazil

Prayer Requests:

1. _____
2. _____

DONE! - (check box)

Wednesday May 12th