

sorrow over the sin around us. We need to allow this sorrow to motivate us to do something about it, namely teach the gospel to a lost and dying world (Matt. 28:19-20).

Did you mourn the death of Ronald Reagan or the tragedy of September 11? Do you weep over your sin that put the Savior on the cross and shames Him today? Are you filled with sorrow over the wickedness of the world?

- Steven F. Deaton

---

“ The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, A broken and a contrite heart-  
These, O God, You will not despise.”

- Psalm 51:17

---

#### Assemblies

Sunday Morning 9:00 a.m.  
Sunday Evening 6:00 p.m.  
Wednesday 7:30 p.m.

#### Elders

Tom Brown 502-921-2778  
Laymon Byers 502-957-3627  
John Smith 502-231-5341

#### Evangelists

Ron Halbrook 502-955-1748  
halbrook@insightbb.com  
  
Steven F. Deaton 502-428-6323  
sfdeaton@earthlink.net

**Phone: 502-957-5115**

Non-profit Org.  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Permit #10  
Shepherdsville, KY

Church of Christ  
3221 E. Hebron Lane  
Shepherdsville, KY  
40165-8959



# Hebron Herald

Published by the Hebron Lane Church of Christ  
Shepherdsville, KY

Volume 28 Number 7

July 2004

## A Time To Mourn

The wise man said there is a time to weep and mourn (Ecc. 3:4). We recently mourned as a nation over the loss of a great leader, Ronald Reagan. A few years ago we wept over the loss of nearly 3,000 lives on September 11. These occasions give us some measure of comfort knowing that our fellow citizens still care about our nation. We wish the same could be said in reference to spiritual matters.

How many people mourn over the death of the King of the Universe, Jesus Christ? It is true that we rejoice in the fact that God loved us enough to send His Son to die for us (Rom. 5:8). We are filled with gratefulness and joy knowing that God the Son willingly gave His life so we may live (Jn. 10:10-11, 17-18). However, we ought to be bothered that He suffered and died because of our rebellion.

Our sins put Jesus on the cross (Isa. 53). He died for the ungodly, which includes you and me (Rom. 3:23). He suffered humiliation and death as a direct result of your sin and mine. Paul said, “I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me” (Gal. 2:20).

Further, our continued sin brings reproach on the Lord. When a Christian sins, he “crucifies again” the Son of God and puts Him to an “open shame” (Heb. 6:6). When we are conscious of our sin, we are to have godly sorrow that leads to repentance (2 Cor. 7:8-10). James said, “Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom” (Jas. 4:9). Not only are we to mourn over our own sin, but also that of others.

We lament the loss of life, especially from tragedies like September 11. We grieve over a loss of money or possessions. Yet, few of us grieve over the loss of a soul (cf. Lk. 15:1-32). It is time we wake from our slumber and are filled with

Continued on back

**hebronlanechurch.com**

## We Must All Appear...

There are some things for which we need not show up, though others may want us there—weddings, funerals, business meetings, outings, etc. We may or may not attend services of the church. However, there is one appearance we will all make, whether we want to or not—the judgment. Paul said, “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad” (2 Cor. 5:10).

God committed all judgment to Jesus as a part of the scheme of redemption (Jn. 5:22). Some will be found guilty, while others will be innocent (Jn. 5:28-29). None who are guilty will be able to claim a prejudice Judge or faulty law. No innocent person will be found guilty, either. The judge will be righteous in all He declares and, thus, there will be no appeals (2 Tim. 4:8).

We are assured of the judgment by the resurrection of Jesus Christ (Acts 17:31). His resurrection guarantees ours (1 Cor. 15). Holding this conviction will help us abstain from sin, knowing we will live again to give an account (Heb. 9:27). Those who reject or suppress knowledge of the resurrection will enter into all manner of sin (1 Cor. 15:33). Therefore, we need to constantly remind ourselves of the coming resurrection.

Our judgment will be based on two things. First, our thoughts, words, and deeds will be brought out in the open. If we have harbored anger, lust, bitterness, or greed in our heart, it will come out (Matt. 5:21-32; Eph. 4:31; 5:5). That which we speak and do in the dark, will be brought to light. Nothing shall escape the Judge.

Second, the things done in the body will be compared to the gospel. Jesus said, “He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him--the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day” (Jn. 12:48). Therefore, it is imperative we learn and apply the gospel of Christ to our lives now.

We may avoid an appearance at a wedding or family reunion. Contrary to the will of God, we may skip worship services or Bible studies (Heb. 10:24-25). However, we will not miss an appearance before the judgment seat of Christ.

- Steven F. Deaton

## The Birth Of A Great Nation

July 4 marks the anniversary of the birth of the United States. The battle that ensued was vicious and painstaking, but brought forth great rewards for men everywhere. Therefore, we celebrate the founding of our nation annually.

While many people appreciate the United States, few appreciate the greatest nation ever founded upon the earth—the church of our Lord Jesus Christ. Peter said to the saints, “But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people” (1 Pet. 2:9). This nation eclipses all others in honor and glory.

The holy nation was built and bought by the Lord. Jesus said, “I will build My church” (Matt. 16:18). Since He is the builder of the church—founder of the nation—it deserves our greatest respect. Too, Jesus is the one who paid for its citizens with His blood (Acts 20:28; 1 Cor. 6:20). In the battle to establish such a great nation, He gave His life (Eph. 5:25).

The nation of the Lord is one in which all citizens enjoy equal rights before the King (Acts 10:34). They also have freedom from sin and the terrible taskmaster Satan (Jn. 8:32). Their freedom is not a license to do as they please, but one through which the cause of truth and righteousness may be served (Rom. 6:15-18).

The greatest nation is worth dying for. In times past, many men and women gave their lives to defend and advance it. Stephen, James, Antipas all died to preserve the nation, its principles, and blessings for mankind (Acts 7, 12; Rev. 2:13). We ought to be willing to defend it at all costs as well.

Becoming a citizen of the holy nation is simple: believe, repent, confess Christ, and be baptized (Acts 8:36-38; 2:38; 3:19). When you do this, you will be added to the special people of the Lord and enjoy all the privileges of a citizen (Acts 2:47; cf. Eph. 2:14-22).

While we are thankful for the United States, let us not forget to appreciate God’s holy nation, the church. Let us thank Him for the privilege to be a part of it, and let us respect it by honoring the One Who died for it.

- Steven F. Deaton