

don't be so hard on the announcement guy. In fact, thank him for his service.

Further, in our congregation one of the deacons is assigned to set and adjust the thermostat. He hears from many people on which way it should go, up or down. I must admit I always want it down; the cooler the better for me. No doubt, he gets tired of hearing me and others "suggest" to him how to do his job. He can never please everybody. It is truly a thankless job. But, here, let it be known that we say, "Thank you Bob." You do your duty without complaint and in good spirits. It is much appreciated.

Sometimes the little things are what get us. Let us appreciate those who labor for the congregation and overlook the minor differences or difficulties that arise. Give credit where credit is due. Look for and make an opportunity to thank the announcement maker, the temperature controller, the visitor card distributor, the Bible-class teacher, the lawn mower (man not machine), the building cleaner, the tract organizer, the attendants at the Lord's table, the prayer giver, the deacons, the elders, and all who serve the church. We are a body that works together (1 Cor. 12:26, 27).

- Steven F. Deaton



Hebron Herald

Published by the Hebron Lane Church of Christ
Shepherdsville, KY

Volume 32 Number 10

October 2008

Witness Against Me

The children of Israel pressed for a king like the other nations (1 Sam. 8). Though warned what this would mean for them, they insisted and the Lord complied. Through Samuel, the Lord chose the king for the people, Saul of the tribe of Benjamin (1 Sam. 9, 10). When he was coronated as king, Samuel addressed the people. He said

An now here is the king walking before you; and I am old and grayheaded, and look, my sons are with you. I have walked before you from my childhood to this day. Here I am. Witness against me before the Lord and before His anointed: Whose ox have I taken, or whose donkey have I taken, or whom have I cheated? Whom have I oppressed, or from whose hand have I received any bribe with which to blind my eyes? I will restore it to you (1 Sam. 12:2, 3).

The people affirmed Samuel had not cheated them nor taken a bribe (1 Sam. 12:4). Thus, all agreed he had conducted himself honorably before the Lord and Israel.

Samuel's example stands to this day for all men.

Every elder ought to strive to follow Samuel's manner of life. Their actions as leaders of a congregation need to be above reproach. It is not that some will try to accuse them of misconduct or favoritism; there are always those who are disgruntled. The thing is, they need to be of pure, moral character. Shepherds need to take care not to "lord it over the flock" (1 Pet. 5:3). To oppress the people of God, whether in ancient

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

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

Assemblies

Sunday Morning 9:00 a.m.
Sunday Evening 5:00 p.m.
Wednesday 7:30 p.m.

Elders

Tom Brown
Laymon Byers
John Smith

Evangelists

Ron Halbrook
halbrook@insightbb.com

Steven Deaton
steven@hebronchurchofchrist.com

502-957-5115

www.HebronChurchofChrist.com

Israel, or the Israel of God today is a grave sin for which men will give an account. Likewise, bishops cannot give deference to a member who makes large contributions to the work. To overlook sin in a wealthy member is sinful and will result in the bitterness and corruption of the congregation.

Preachers need to look to Samuel's example. Being in position of influence in a congregation can bring temptations. Some preachers may be tempted to hold back on their teaching because of those who make decisions regarding their compensation. In other words, some subjects may be avoided in the pulpit due to the elders being stung or some men in the congregation being involved in unrighteousness. Failing to "preach the word" and fulfill the ministry will cause a preacher to lose his soul (2 Tim. 4:2-5). Also, evangelists cannot use their position to pressure or put a guilt trip on brethren for material gain (1 Tim. 6:5). Those who have abused this have caused many troubles, put a black eye on ministers in general, and disgraced the Lord who bought them.

Every man and woman should model their life after Samuel's. In business, the family, and every day dealings to deal honorably, justly, uprightly with others is the only proper way to live. Would it not be great to find a politician on the state or national scene that could truly stand up and say, "Whose ox have I taken...whom have I cheated? Whom have I oppressed, or from whose hand have I received any bribe with which to blind my eyes?" It seems in our world, men and women of integrity are few and far between. Let us be counted among their number by following Samuel's way of life.

- Steven F. Deaton

Two Thankless Jobs

In 1 Corinthians 12 Paul castigated the Corinthians for their warped view and use of spiritual gifts. A major symptom of their problem was elevating one gift over another. They looked at speaking in tongues as the end-all of the gifts (1 Cor. 12:28; 14:18, 19). Some gifts received attention and praise, while others were diminished.

While we do not have spiritual gifts today, we do have various talents or roles in a congregation. One that readily jumps out to people, perhaps the most, is preaching.

The preacher(s) get a lot of attention, often more than they should. In some ways, they are like a president; too much credit is given when things are going good and too much blame when things are going bad.

Another function that draws attention is the song leader. Men of talent, some quite outstanding, lead the congregation in musical worship and are rightly complimented for it. These men do need to be valued as they assist us in our service to the Lord.

There are many other labors associated with a congregation that could be highlighted, but we will look at just two more—two more that are nearly thankless: announcements and temperature control.

Some may think it outside the realm of a bulletin to discuss these, but hear us out.

Whether we like it or not, or realize it or not, both of these things have a bearing on our services. Most congregations have a time of announcements before the worship service begins, and rightly so. The audience is informed about the sick, those traveling, funeral services, births of precious gifts from God, the order of services, gospel meetings, and is even admonished to worship in spirit and truth. This activity helps to set the tone for the hour or so that follows.

The facilities are a part of the worship and Bible classes. The warmth or coolness can affect people's ability to concentrate; some shiver while others sweat. Being either too cold or too hot can disrupt a worshipper's focus.

Those who do the announcements and control the temperature have thankless jobs.

I think many preachers will agree with me on this, I would rather preach several sermons than do the announcements. It is a tough job. If you forget to mention something you had written down (or thought you could remember) you feel guilty or look stupid. In such a case, a member may have specifically mentioned a loved one who was ill or in the hospital and is hurt, maybe even angry, that you did not mention it—though it was an honest oversight. At other times the one with the announcement duties was not informed but was expected to know what to announce. Thus, someone gets offended. To me, announcements are often a no-win situation. Here is the point,