

Reflections

Volume 1 Issue 14

A Weekly Publication Of The Pine Street Church Of Christ

June 29, 2008

Pine Street
CHURCH OF CHRIST
429 Pine Street
New Martinsville, WV
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ASSEMBLY TIMES

Sunday Bible Study
9:45 AM

Sunday Worship
10:45 AM & 6:30 PM

Wednesday Bible Study
7:30 PM

RADIO PROGRAM

"For The Glory Of God"
8:45-9:00 AM
MAGIC 99.5 FM
Cable Channel 15

WEB SITE
www.pinestreetcoc.com

Reflections is a weekly publication of the Pine Street church of Christ including Bible-based articles for the spiritual edification and education of all readers. Please contact us if you have comments or questions about the content of the paper.

Like A Grain Of Wheat

By Jeremy D. Joy

It was the Monday before the crucifixion. The streets of Jerusalem were crowded with visitors from out of town who had come to observe the Passover. It was also buzzing with conversation about a man named Jesus who had been welcomed the previous day by jubilant throngs of people as the long-awaited Messiah-King. He was certainly no ordinary man.

Until we die to self and imitate the humility and self-sacrifice of Jesus, we will not experience true living.

He had reportedly raised Lazarus from the dead and eyewitnesses to the event were spreading the word throughout the city. Who is Jesus...really? Is He the Son of God? What about His revolutionary teaching? What about His awe-inspiring miracles?

Among the thousands of pilgrims in Jerusalem were some Greeks (John 12:20) who were most likely Greek-speaking Jews, Jewish proselytes, or God-fearing Gentiles. They found Philip who was from Bethsaida, which had a large Greek population, and requested to meet Jesus (John 12:21). Philip was hesitant at first until he teamed up with Andrew and the two of them approached Jesus (John 12:22) providing the



**I will meditate on Your precepts, and contemplate Your ways.
— Psalm 119:18**

backdrop for a curious lesson about a grain of wheat:

"But Jesus answered them, saying, 'The hour has come that the Son of Man should be glorified. Most assuredly I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone, but if it dies, it produces much grain' " (John 12:23-24).

Jesus used figurative language to foreshadow His death, burial, and resurrection including the sign of Jonah (Matthew 12:39) and the rebuilding of the Temple (John 2:19), but He also referred to it as the "hour." It had always been a future event, but now the time had come—He would be glorified with the

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Father! The picture of a kernel of wheat illustrates the necessity of His death. He is the grain of wheat. Just as a seed buried in the ground must die before it produces a mature blade of wheat, Jesus had to die before He could draw all men to Him. To establish an earthly throne in Jerusalem would have been counterproductive to His purposes. He had to be like a dying grain of wheat.

Jesus used the opportunity to teach Philip and Andrew that death produces life:

“He who loves His life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. If anyone serves Me, let

Him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also. If anyone serves Me, him My Father will honor” (John 12:25-26).

We must be like a grain of wheat crucifying the old man of sin (Romans 6:3-4) with the former passions and desires (Galatians 5:24). Then and only then can Jesus dwell in our hearts by faith as we become more like Him in our attitudes, actions, relationships, thoughts, and words (Galatians 2:20). As we mature, our lives become less self-centered and more Jesus-centered (Colossians 3:17).

Until we die to self and imitate the humility and self-sacrifice of Jesus, we will not experience true living (Philippians 2:5-11).

Pine Street News And Notes

“Let brotherly love continue” — Hebrews 13:1

Members of our church family who are sick and in need of our prayers: **Judy Haught** continues to improve...**Jeremy Joy** is recovering from mono.

Members of our church family who are traveling: **Love Postlethwait** is visiting family in Virginia and Louisiana...**Barbara Williams** is visiting family in Texas.

Others who are sick and in need of our prayers: Jeremy Joy's grandmother, **Ruth Ann Joy**, is recovering from double bypass surgery...**Wanda Rockwell's**, brother-in-law, **Bill Price**, is in poor health...**Crystal Shockley's** grandmother, **Dorothy Myers**, is improving...**Janet Webber's** mother-in-law, **Florence Webber**, is confined to her home.

David Haught's wife, **Kelly**, was baptized this past week. They have been worshipping with the church at Marietta-Reno.

The next Training Class will be Sunday evening, July 20. The schedule is posted on the bulletin board.

A teacher is needed in the pre-school class beginning in July. Please contact **Jeremy** as soon as possible if you are interested.

Tim W. Haught will be preaching today and **Siegel Fetty** will be preaching next Sunday in order for **Jeremy** to rest.

If there is something that you would like published in the “Pine Street News And Notes” section of the bulletin, please contact **Jeremy** by Saturday morning.

Is there someone who needs encouragement? Look for opportunities to encourage one another this week.

The Scripture reading today is: Psalm 119:105-112.