

How Will You Melt?

Have you ever watched a candle after the wick has been lit? What happens to the wax that was formed into the tall slender shape of the candle? As the flame burns, the wax of the candle begins to melt in the heat and runs down the side to the base of the candle. Just as the wax of the candle melts from heat, we too will one day "melt." Luckily, we have an option of how we will melt. We can either melt in repentance or melt in resistance. The choice is one that we must make.

MELTING IN REPENTANCE

The Psalmist wrote, "The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise" (Psa. 51:17). "The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit" (Psa. 34:18). What does the Psalmist mean by "broken heart" and "contrite spirit?" He is speaking in reference to the attitude of the individual. God requires that man serve Him with his whole heart (Matt. 6:24; Matt. 22:37-40). What should be our attitude toward God when we sin against Him? For those who desire to please God, our sin should break our hearts and cause us to have Godly sorrow. We should be pained to know that we have wronged our Heavenly Father by transgressing His laws (1 John 3:4). Our Godly sorrow should cause our hearts to melt in repentance and to return to our Father. Paul wrote to the Corinthians, "Now I rejoice, not that ye were made sorry, but that ye sorrowed to repentance: for ye were made sorry after a godly manner, that ye might receive damage by us in nothing. For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death" (2 Cor. 7:9-10). Those who choose to melt their hearts in repentance will also search out the old paths of righteousness and walk in them looking forward to an eternal reward. May the Word of God convict us when we are wrong (Heb. 4:12) and cause us to turn from our sin to serve the Living God!

MELTING IN RESISTANCE

Sadly, most individuals will reject the opportunities they have to melt their hearts in repentance before God (Matt. 7:13-14). These individuals will one day "melt" because of their resistance to the Gospel call. The Psalmist said concerning those who resist God, "Let God arise, let his enemies be scattered: let them also that hate him flee before him. As smoke is driven away, so drive them away: as wax melteth before the fire, so let the wicked perish at the presence of God" (Psa. 68:1-2). Jeremiah wrote, "Therefore thus saith the Lord of hosts, Behold, I will melt them, and try them; for how shall I do for the daughter of my people?" (Jer. 9:7). One day, Christ will come again to take vengeance on those who have not known God and on those who have never been obedient to the Gospel (2 Thess. 1:6-9). On that great day, all nations will be brought before the bar of judgment to receive their reward or their punishment (2 Cor. 5:10), and those who have refused to follow after the commandments of God will suffer for eternity because of their choice to be the enemies of God. They will not be able to stand in that day (Psa. 1:5) and argue with God, but they will be as wax that "melteth before the fire" (Psa. 68:2).

Now, the question is, "How will we melt?" Will we allow the Word of God to melt our hearts in repentance unto God? Or, will we continue to reject the Gospel message and melt as wax in resistance to God? May we not harden our hearts to the message of God, but may we develop hearts that are broken and contrite!

Chance

Remember in Prayer

Wayne Burger (Janice Goolsby's brother) is scheduled for surgery on Friday in Colorado.

Guy Echols, a deacon at Hillview, is at UAB in S518.

Frances Zorn is at UAB in Trauma Burn Intensive Care.

Tom Ekpot, Jr. and his dad, Tom Ekpot Sr. are both very sick. Tom Jr. is one of our missionaries that we help support in Nigeria.



Long Term Needs

Barbara Cobb, Rebecca Dawes, Jessica Ingle, Maude Bell, Theola Brown, David Burford, Buddy Dunn, Mary Guy, Sara Morgan, Jimmy Russell, Charles Webb, Martha Wiley, Robert L. Williams (Freeda Reid's brother) and Ramona Yeilding

Shut In

Gertrude Blackwell, Ruby Glidewell, Vurvel Jones, Earl Martin, Ruth Parsons, Annette Roddy, Bernice Snow, Ginger Shadix, Glenn Terry

Military

Please remember the following who are currently serving for our country: Tyler Burger, Mark Davis, Chris Ham & Chris Pridmore

Please continue to pray for our unfaithful brothers and sisters.

Continue to pray for our young people facing temptations of the world. We do have a great group of young people!

Sympathy

Russell & Nicole Thomas' (Cecil & Polly Short's grandson & wife) baby girl, Katie, was born and passed away on Wednesday, February 11, 2009. Her funeral was Sunday, February 15, 2009. Their address is: 4408 Alexander Rd., Quinton, AL 35130. Our deep sympathy is also extended to the friends and family of Christine Dodd Burns who passed from this life on last Sunday. She is the sister in law of Betty Burns. Her funeral was at Crestview on Tuesday, February 10, 2009.

Please remember all in your prayers!

Mark Your Calendar/2009

Feb. 22 -- Elders Meeting @ 2:00 PM

Chairman of the meeting: Tommy Reid

Mar. 15 -- Area Wide Devo @ Adamsville

Apr. 10-11 -- Lads/Leaders Nashville

Apr. 17-18 -- Prom Alternative

Apr. 25 -- Ladies' Day with

Cindy Colley

June 7-10 -- Gospel Meeting: Ken Tyler

July 5-10 -- Ronnie's week @ ICYC

July 26-29 -- VBS

Oct. 11-14 -- Gospel Meeting:

Curtis A. Cates

Oct. 17 -- Family Fun Day @ Tannehill

Dec. 31 -- New Year's Eve Singing

Lads/Leaders

The Bible Bowl Test on all 24 chapters and the Pearls Test will be given on Sunday, February 22, 2009. These tests determines the top 10 in each age group for the awards given in Nashville.

Keenager

Keenagers, your next trip is to *Jean's on the River* in Jasper on Thursday, February 19, 2009. The bus will leave at 10:45 AM and the cost will be \$1.00 plus your meal.

Attention Sisters

Ladies, we will have an organizational meeting in preparation for our Ladies' Day on Sunday after the PM service in the Library. Please plan to stay for this important meeting.

Visitation Team Meeting

Visitation Team #4 which includes their Captain, Stentsen & Erin Ellenburg and members: Eulan & Robbie McCaleb, Paul, Alberta, & Hunter McCaleb, Alan, Michelle & Sarah McCaleb, Nathan & Crystal Harr, Marcelle Yeilding, Becky & Caleb Kersh, Tera & Robby Harden, Brian & Ivy Wolfe, Gloria Wolfe, Pat Graham, Linda Graham, Nick & Jennifer Rouse, Billy & Betty Cash, Chad & Teale Yeilding, Mark & Shanna Griffin and Finley Tuggle will meet Sunday after the morning service. Visitors will be invited as an honored guest to share this meal with Team #4. This is a great opportunity to work in God's Kingdom. Continue to make your plans to prepare food and enjoy this time of fellowship.