



BLODGETT CHURCH OF CHRIST

9278 FM127, Pittsburg, TX 75686

Email: blodgettcofc@gmail.com

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Time of Services:

Sunday: 10:00 A.M. class, 11:00 A.M. worship, and 6:00 P.M. worship

Wednesday: 7:00 P.M. class

Preacher:

Larry Black (cell) 903-588-4253 email: lblk@peoplescom.net

Youth Leaders:

Heath & Carla Hines 903-717-1423 email: hhines@hotmail.com

Benevolence - Rick Toland: 903-220-9825

Evangelism - Heath Hines: 903-717-1423

Edification - H. L. Robertson: 903-856-5461

Building Maintenance - Mark Sharpin: 903-573-3993

Grounds & Van - John D. Porter: 903-563-5945

Finance - Larry Reynolds: 903-767-0742

Wednesday Devotional Speaker: Randy Ballard



BLODGETT CHURCH OF CHRIST

PUTTING YOU ON THE RIGHT PATH

BLODGETT CHURCH of CHRIST Bulletin

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"In Olden Times - It Was Different"

Written by Tim Archer

"It is, unfortunately, one of the chief characteristics of modern business to be always in a hurry. In olden times it was different."

Do you know the feeling? It seems like things just get worse and worse; surely things were better before.

The author of the above quote certainly thought so... back in 1884, when those words were published in The Medical Record. About 130 years ago, someone was convinced that "modern business" couldn't compare to the way things had been. "In olden times it was different." The fact is people have always let nostalgia shape their views of the past. Over two thousand years ago, the author of the book of Ecclesiastes in the Bible wrote, "*Do not say, 'Why were the old days better than these?' For it is not wise to ask such questions*" (Ecclesiastes 7:10).

Rather than glorify the past or even vilify the past, we should learn from it. The apostle Paul wrote, "*For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope*" (Romans 15:4). We should look at what went on in the past and let history teach us. We should try to live better lives because of things we learned from the past.

Rather than saying "In olden times it was different," why not say "In times to come, it will be different"? As Paul said, thinking about the past should fill us with hope. Hope based not just on what we will do in the future, but hope based on what God will do in the future.

I can assure you, the future will be very different. The last book of the Bible, the book of Revelation, tells us of that time: "*Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away*" (Revelation 21:3-4). That future will be very different indeed.

Joe Hubert Blue (1875-1954)

An interesting old pulpit is found in a classroom at the West Main church of Christ, Tupelo, Mississippi. Cliff Roden, now deceased, brought the old pulpit to the West Main congregation from the Pleasant Valley church of Christ, Greenway, Arkansas. On this well made yet simple wooden pulpit, there are two plaques. One small metal plaque reads: "Pleasant Valley C.O.C. Greenway, Arkansas, 1929-1984." The second plaque has a four paragraph typewritten statement in a plastic encasement. I will share this statement about the old pulpit that was originally located at the Pleasant Valley church.

"Ephesians 3:8: Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, was this grace given, to preach unto the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ. Perhaps no one appreciated the grace of God which allows men to preach better than Brother Joe H. Blue. History is often made by those who are unaware of their historical position. Such is the case with brother Blue.

In July of 1929, brother Blue was invited by the church in Pleasant Valley, Arkansas, to come and preach a gospel meeting. The church in Pleasant Valley was young, as was the community itself, both having been founded in 1910. Construction of the meeting house was in 1924. It was in this meeting house that brother Blue preached with great success. The church was growing to the glory of God, but to the chagrin and consternation of local denominational adherents.

The windows of the building had been removed to assist with air circulation. Uncouth youths took advantage of the situation by pelting brother Blue with everything from rotten eggs to green walnuts. However, like the apostles of old, brother Blue was undaunted by this persecution and continued to preach the gospel in truth and simplicity. As a final, yet feeble, effort to end the preaching of the unsearchable riches of Christ, dynamite was placed under the pulpit one night after services so that the building might be destroyed. Providence and ignorance, unlikely allies, cooperated that evening. The men were not skilled in working with explosives. A bad blasting cap was used. The fuse burned until the oxygen was exhausted, and burned itself out leaving only a hole burned in the pulpit where the dynamite had lain.

The pulpit behind which you now stand is the very one behind which brother Blue preached in that meeting. An examination of the underside will reveal the charred reminder that even in this century there are those who are not open to the preaching of the Word of Truth, and will resort to any means to see it halted. This stand remains as a memorial to brother Blue, and to all those who have endured and will endure persecution for the gospel's sake."

NOTE: Brother Blue confirmed the Pleasant Valley church of Christ incident. He wrote, "I have been stoned with green walnuts, and with eggs. I have had dynamite put under the pulpit while I was preaching; yet have not begun to suffer what our Lord suffered."

Family News

- **Frank Caldwell's** heart procedure went well.
- **Billy Max Collins** went to the hospital.
- We are to host the devotional at the Mt. Vernon House on Aug. 11 at 2:00 p.m.
- The House of Blessings is now open two days a week, Thursday and Saturday from 9:00 am to noon. Last week we helped nine people. **Lisa Toland** distributed ten bags of clothing to needy children.
- SYS at Mt. Vernon tomorrow evening. Van leaves at 6:30 p.m.
- Oak Grove is having a Ladies Day on Saturday, Aug. 3 followed by a gospel meeting Aug. 4-7. **Janice McCain** will be the Ladies Day speaker and **Kerry Clark** will be the gospel meeting speaker.

Husband Humor: Booksellers conducting a market survey asked a woman, "Which book has helped you most in your life?" The woman replied, "My husband's check book!!"

Pharmacist to customer: "Sir, please understand, to buy an anti-depression pill, you need a proper prescription; simply showing marriage certificate and wife's picture is not enough.

"He came into my restaurant asking me for some money. I looked at him and asked him why don't you have a job? You are strong & healthy from what it appears. And nothing was ever given to me for free, right?"

The man responded, "I have a lot of felonies, and nobody wants to hire me because of that. I had to turn to the streets. I had to start stealing and robbing, in order to survive"

I was short staffed that day, so I asked him, "Do you want to work"?

His eyes opened up so wide and a big smile came across his face, and he said yes!! He said I will do anything for some food.

So for two weeks now, he has been on time for his two hour shift. He helps me with taking out the trash and doing dishes. I pay him at the end of each shift, and you know what he decides to do; to spend it in the restaurant on some nice warm food.

I try to offer it to him for free, but he refuses. So I discount it all. He told me today that he enjoys to being able to finally pay for something, that it makes him feel good inside.

The moral of this story, is to do something nice for someone no matter what their situation is. Even if they are asking you for some spare change, because we really don't know their story, or what they are going through. And everybody deserves a second chance.