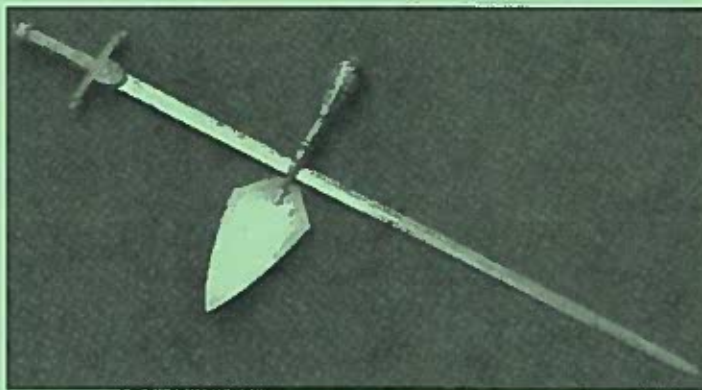


The Sword and Trowel

Church of Christ at Grissom
1461 Matador – Peru, IN
(765)689-9469

www.cocgrissom.org

December 24, 2018



We intend to build and defend: *“As for the builders, everyone had his sword girded by his side and so builded.”* Nehemiah 4:18

Shutdown

As I am writing this, the government is in a partial shutdown. The Republicans and Democrats cannot agree on whether to spend five billion dollars on a border wall. The House has passed a bill which includes this funding, but it has stalled in the Senate where it needs 60 votes to pass. Of course, both sides are blaming the other for the shutdown. It seems pretty obvious to me that this could never happen unless both sides are stubborn. It seems to me that party politics are once again more important to our senators than the security of our nation.

But this article is not really about the wall or the shutdown over funding for it. The current political situation just prompts our thinking on far more important issues. For example, with the government being shutdown you might start to consider priorities in your life. You might start to ask questions like, “How much does this shutdown really affect me personally?” If I am very affected by this shutdown, I might ask whether it is wise to depend on the government. We might ask whether politics are an effective way to solve any problems period.

One thing that is crystal clear to me is that governments of men are unreliable. It is also clear to me that politics are not the answer for mankind’s problems. Politics tend to divide people rather than unite them. It seems to me that government shutdowns are proof of the failure of man to manage even our shared problems. They are a rude reminder of how flawed our political process really is.

All this makes me thankful that heaven stands in stark contrast to all of this. It never shuts down. There is never a difference of opinion there that affects mankind. Politics have no place there. You can depend on heaven when you need help. *Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever Hebrews 13:8.* A friend of mine called Social Security last week (before the shutdown). He was told that the wait to speak to an agent was over two hours. Imagine if that was how our prayers worked.

God is able to manage the problems that mankind faces. He is not unconcerned about our problems. He is not unreliable. He can always be depended upon. He never puts His own good ahead of ours. Jesus was so concerned about our salvation that He gave His life as a sacrifice for us. Imagine if our national leaders were that concerned about our security and welfare.

Governments fail, they shutdown. They make promises that they can’t or won’t keep. God does none of these things. Don’t look to politics for the answers. Loom to God for them. Heaven will never shutdown. Why not take advantage of that today?

In His Service

Terry Carter, Evangelist

COMING EVENTS

- December 31 New Year's Eve Party at the church— 6:00 P.M. to ??? Bring games and snacks!
- January 5 Men's Fellowship Breakfast – 8:00 A.M. Please sign up.
- January 12 Ladies' Bible Study

PRAYER CONCERNS

<p>George Thurston for an evangelist for Grissom church to follow Terry Brenda's friend (daughter needs spiritual help) Karen VanNote (Brenda's mom) – doing better/ pray for Christian fellowship) George & Carolyn Spivey (spiritual) George Faull Theron Teachout (Walt's dad) – lower lung cancer Pat Long (Harold Bouthot's brother) – cancer has spread/spiritual Roger VanNote (Brenda's step-dad) – for his health Heather Bowman (Frieda's daughter) Sherry Barker (Brenda's sister) – spiritual Christians around the world being persecuted Kendall Faull (life situation) Bonnie Barnhill (deployed to Africa for 7 months) Paul McMahan (Mary Sue Friend's son) – spiritual Mark Whitsett our evangelist, elders & deacons (& their families) Don Emerick (health issues/ high blood pressure) Nancy Maggard's cousin's boyfriend Summit School of Preaching Sheri Smith (Joanna Ramer's sister) – broke ankle in several spots</p>	<p>Mary Copp Richard Kees (Melanoma) Don Pruitt (paralyzed on one side) Mallory Leak (depression) Lisa July (going to Korea in June) – safety & success Logansport church Mike White family (he overseas, wife pregnant) our missionaries Jeff VanCuren (continued recovery) John Merritt (life situation) Steve Emerick (lung problems) Ladies' Bible study Carol See James (Carter's nephew) - spiritual Gigi (James Andrews' sister) Ray & Nancy Maggard Rodney Freer (serviceman shot in Amsterdam) – in serious condition/ surgery Debra Isebrand Greg Ratliff (recovery after heart bypass surgery)</p>
--	---

Proverb for the Week:
Meditate on this Proverb:
10:28 *The hope of the*
righteous shall be gladness,
but the expectation of the
wicked shall perish.

SERVICES

Sunday School	9:00
A.M.Church	10:00
Men's Prayer Meeting	5:30
Women's Prayer Meeting	5:30
P.M.Evangelistic Hour	6:00
Wednesday P.M.	7:00
Youth for Truth (Wedn.)	7:00

ATTENDANCE

Sunday School	41
A.M.Church	93
P.M.Evangelistic Service	37
Tithes & Offerings	\$4,176
Wednesday Evening	83

A person should give a lot of thought to sudden decisions.

About the Bible from Lips of Men

In regard to this great book, I have but to say, it is the best gift God has given to man. All the good Savior gave to this world was communicated through this book. But for it we could not know right from wrong. All things most desirable for man's welfare, here and hereafter, are to be found portrayed in it.

----Abe Lincoln