

Sun Valley Bulletin

Sun Valley Church of Christ

May 24, 2009

Birmingham, Alabama

Righteousness Will Not Stop the Bullet

There must have been excitement among the disciples of Jesus when news arrived about what Pilate had done in the Temple courtyard. They told him of the Galileans, whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. This is all we know about the incident. The Temple had an outer court for the Gentiles, but they were prohibited from entering the court of the Jewish women, or of course the deeper court of the Jewish men, or certainly the priestly court where the altar of burnt offering and laver were located just outside the Holy Place. Occasionally a non-priest entered the court of the priests to fulfill the legal requirements of certain sacrifices. Apparently these Galileans were doing precisely that, placing their hands on the sacrificial animal confessing their sins before slaughtering the animal offered in sacrifice for their sins. For whatever reason, the soldiers passed the barriers intended to keep the Gentiles and all the unclean or unqualified out. They marched directly into the courtyard of sacrifices with swords drawn and struck down the worshippers. That is pretty frightening. You might suppose that they were in a pretty safe place doing only

what pleased God. Why weren't they protected by that same God?

The prevailing thought among the Jews was not to address the sinfulness of the soldiers but rather the guilt of the worshippers. They must have been great sinners for God to have permitted their slaughter, right?

Jesus said, no! "Suppose ye that these Galileans were sinners above all the Galileans, because they suffered such things? I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish." (Luke 13:1-5) Even some modern commentators assume that these must have been agitators and they had this coming. I suppose, we feel that if we are faithful Christians, God will keep the evil men from hurting us and incidents such as these upset our sense of security. Then again, if evil men don't hurt me, that must be proof that God is protecting me because He accepts me as righteous, or at least righteous enough. So if I am safe and secure, what do I have to repent of? If I am happy and content, why do I need to listen to someone who corrects my sins? Jesus answers, "Not at all!" ... "and unless you repent, you can be sure of a much worse fate than those Galileans!" Bad things happen to good people. tp

Sun Valley

Church of Christ

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News and Notes

The sick and injured

Unaking and James Currier
Jim Padgett's brother Milton
Paul Stallings' sister-in-law Rhonda
Elaine Phillips

The shut-in

Bernice Odell
Elsie Kirkpatrick
Varina Corbin
Francis Walling
Arranelle Meisner
Osburn and Marjorie Holt

Gospel Meetings

Kimberly

May 31-June 5

Monday-Friday: 7:30 pm

Issues in the Last Great Divide

Hollis Creel, Ed Bragwell, Reginald Ginn,
Harold Comer, Jackie Richardson, Charles
Maples

Eastside in Athens

June 12-13

"A Well-Rounded Christian"

9th grade through college age

For study materials, go to the website:

www.eastside-church.org

Pea Ridge, Montevallo

May 31-June 5

Monday - Friday: 7:30 pm

Bennie Williams

Worship Leaders

Lord's Table: Lee Roy Golden, Larry Courington, Wayne Odell, Joel Resendez

Song Leaders: May 24-Fred Watts, 27-Roger Golden, 31-Bill Lammons

Bible Study Scripture reading
Bible Study Prayer
Sunday AM opening prayer
Sunday AM dismissal prayer
Sunday PM Scripture reading
Sunday PM opening prayer
Sunday PM dismissal
Wednesday PM Scripture reading
Wednesday PM Opening prayer
Wednesday PM Offer invitation
Wednesday PM Closing prayer

This Week

Terry Partain
Don Womble
Jim Padgett
Fred Watts
Roger Golden
Charles Bain
Bill Lammons
Paul Stallings
Larry Courington
Bill Lammons
Forrest Berry

Next Week

Wayne Odell
Fred Watts
Herb Palmer
Bryan Golden
Bill Lammons
Don Womble
Roger Golden
Lee Roy Golden
Forrest Berry
Wayne Odell
Paul Stallings

Announcements for May: Herb Palmer - 854-2029