

## **“DIFFICULTY FROM THE DEVIL”**

From the beginning of time, it has apparently been Satan's intent to overthrow the good creation of God. By temptation, he introduced sin and rebellion into the world, and since then he has worked with evil to obstruct God's work of bringing us back to Himself. We are called upon daily, both in our individual lives and in our congregational work, to overcome the devil's obstacles in our path to heaven. Since he does not want us to be saved and go to heaven, **we can expect the devil to make things difficult for us.** As Peter put it, he “**prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour**” (1 Pt. 5:8).

In the message of Christ to the saints in Philadelphia, He spoke of the threat of Satan to their well-being, but He also spoke of His power to help them: “**I know your works. Behold, I have set before you an open door, which no one is able to shut. I know that you have but little power, and yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name. Behold, I will make those of the synagogue of Satan who say that they are Jews and are not, but lie — behold, I will make them come and bow down before your feet, and they will learn that I have loved you. Because you have kept my word about patient endurance, I will keep you from the hour of trial that is coming on the whole world, to try those who dwell on the earth. I am coming soon. Hold fast what you have, so that no one may seize your crown**” (Rev. 3:8-11). It's a fact that our adversary is a terrible foe. But it's also a fact that God is greater than our adversary (1 Jn. 4:4).

The wonderful, triumphant truth is that we serve a Risen Savior who has overcome every work of Satan. Eventually, God will crush his efforts completely (Rom. 16:20). This week, let's concentrate our minds on the overwhelming victory that we are assured of in Jesus Christ. He never promised us that life in His kingdom would be without resistance; He only promised to help us deal with that resistance by His strength. He said, “**I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world**” (Jn. 16:33). Yes, we do have an enemy — but our God is a mighty fortress! “**If God is for us, who can be against us?**” (Rom. 8:31).

### **SERMON PREVIEW**

**April 10: How to Live in Babylon**

**April 24: Why Acapella Music?**

**April 17: Gospel Meeting, Jerry Brewer  
Christ**

**May 1: The Death of**

# *The Salisbury Beacon*

Salisbury Church of Christ

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Douglas Post, Minister

410-742-4831

Office Hours: Tues–Thurs. 10AM–2PM

**April 10, 2016**

## **WELCOME TO OUR FAMILY**

Dear friends – we appreciate your willingness to worship God with us this Lord's Day! If you would like more information about the Church of Christ, or if we may assist you in other ways, please let us know. **BECOME PART OF OUR FAMILY – THE SALISBURY CHURCH OF CHRIST.**

\*\*\*\*Please fill out a Visitor's Card and place it in the collection plate\*\*\*\*

## **ORDER OF OUR WORSHIP**

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS & OPENING PRAYER**

SONG # 429 ..... I COME TO GARDEN ALONE

SONG # 536 ..... HEAVEN CAME DOWN

### **PRAYER**

### **SCRIPTURE – DANIEL 1:1-2**

SONG # 356 ..... TIS MIDNIGHT AND ON OLIVES BROW

### **LORD'S SUPPER**

### **CONTRIBUTION**

SONG # 119 ..... GRACE GREATER THAN OUR SIN

### **SERMON: "HOW TO LIVE IN BABYLON"**

SONG # 358 ..... WHEN MY LIFE TO CHIRST GROWS WEAK

SONG # 480..... VICTORY IN JESUS

## CLOSING PRAYER

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS, PRAYERS, & CONCERNS**

**LET US PRAY FOR:** Church Growth: Pray for both spiritual and numerical growth of our church. Debbie Post, Stella Reidy, Jack Callaway, Katie Gray, Flossie Hull, Barbara Kuykendall, John Tillman, Paul Marchesault, Marilyn Artis, Linda Alaban, Florence Tucker, the Jones/Dale family, the Gibson family, Larry Laten, Prince Ituen and all missionaries and military personnel serving overseas.

- **Elaine Bradley's** son, Bruce Lauder, is dealing with addiction issues as well as seizures. Please keep Bruce in your prayers.
- **Jimmy McMillion**, friends of Bob & Diane, has leukemia. He is 43 years old and raising 2 teenage girls and other children. He has been fighting this for 20 years.
- **Jenn Striecker** has been battling cancer for some time but is now refusing treatment. Please keep her in your prayers.
- **Jan King**, Bob's sister, will be having surgery on 5/1 for removal of kidney. Please keep her in your prayers.
- **Wilma Duke's**, mother needs our continued prayers as she struggles with dementia.
- **Jane Willie** has been suffering pain in her back and hips. She had blood work done, which came back negative. Please keep her in your prayers for the alleviation of pain and for a quick recovery.
- **Vaughn Russell** friend of Jerry & Barbara passed away last week. Please keep the Vaughn family in your prayers.
- **Geri Plourde**, Doug's aunt in NC, was diagnosed with stage 4 cancer and given 6 months to one year. Please keep her and her family in your prayers.
- **Gospel Meeting (7 more days and counting).** INVITE, INVITE, INVITE!!! PRAY, PRAY, PRAY!!!
- **VISITORS:** Julie & Benjamin Fisher, Snowhill, MD.

### **MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

**April 15-16 (Friday - Saturday)** Men's Days (Laurel COC, DEL)

**April 17 (Sunday)** Gospel Meeting with Jerry Brewer/ Pot Luck & Song Service

**April 18, 19, 20 (Monday 7pm, Tuesday 7pm, Wednesday 7pm)** Gospel Meeting

**April 23, 2016 (Saturday)** – Ladies Day, Laurel, Maryland Church of Christ

**May 7 (Saturday)** Ladies Bible Class

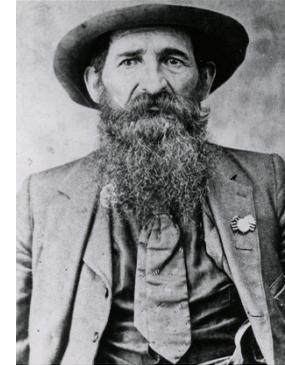
**May 8 (Sunday)** Pot Luck

**GOSPEL MEETING APRIL 17 – 20**

**Sunday 10 AM & Mon. – Wed 7 PM**

**ETERNITY! ARE YOU READY?**

**“Return to Me and I will return to you”- God!**



### **Devil Anse: A Sinner Redeemed?**

The book, *Blood Feud: The Hatfields & The McCoys, the Epic Story of Murder & Vengeance*, chronicles the often-confusing causes and effects, crimes and consequences between these two families. While it was neither the longest-standing nor bloodiest feud of its kind in 19th-Century America, it, probably is by far the most famous. The book details many fascinating facts concerning the feud, but none interested me more than something that is mentioned several times throughout the book. Long after the feud, an elderly **Devil Anse Hatfield**, the patriarch of the Hatfield side of the fight, was baptized by Dyke Garrett, a former

Civil War chaplain, and Devil "went on to found a Church of Christ congregation in West Virginia" (142; cf. Hatfield and Spence, *Tale of the Devil*, 97).

The Christian Chronicle did a feature on this in 2012, authored by Bobby Ross, Jr. Ross interviewed Doug Foster, church historian at Abilene Christian University, who seemed doubtful that the Hatfields were anything other than primitive Baptists. However, Foster confirmed that Garrett was a member of the church of Christ. A genealogical site managed by Charles Douglass Brown echoes the book's report that Hatfield helped establish a church of Christ in an unspecified West Virginia location. A man taught by Alexander Campbell, Alexander M. Lunsford, is said to have converted Dyke Garrett in the 1870s. "Garrett began his ministry near Crooked Creek in Logan County on December 14, 1878" One year later there were nearly 100 conversions in Logan and Boone Counties, and growth continued to occur in the area built on the foundation of their work (ibid.).

All of this lends credence to the multiple reports that Hatfield, a murderer, responded to the gospel call about a decade before his death. How sincere he was at the time or how faithful he was thereafter is difficult to tell. But, if he was, there is truth to the book's tongue-in-cheek designation of Hatfield as "**a sinner redeemed**" (p. 171). What Scripture makes clear is, that a sinner who sincerely turns from sin and obeys the gospel from the heart (cf. Rom. 6:17), does what the apostle Paul did. The apostle wrote, "**Yet for this reason I found mercy, so that in me as the foremost, Jesus Christ might demonstrate His perfect patience as an example for those who would believe in Him for eternal life**" (1 Tim. 1:16). If so, what a redeeming end to a tragic, tragic tale. Certainly, whatever our past, obedience to the gospel brings triumph where there was once tragedy! "Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!" (2 Cor. 9:15).

**WHEN THE SAINTS MEET HERE IN SALISBURY**

**Sunday Bible Study – 9:30 AM    Sunday Worship – 10:30 AM**

***Wednesday Bible Study - 6pm***