

Announcements

SICK & THOSE SEEKING OUR PRAYERS

Jo Byrnes * Betty Cannon * Joyce Coones * Sleatha Gore * Evelyn Griffin
Essielene Henderson * Faye Kilpatrick * Ray Knisley
Randy McElroy * Shane Brewer

GROUP MEETING

Lord willing, next Sunday night (July 19th) **Jamey & Cindy Hinds** will be hosting a group meeting after our evening worship services. Please see *Cindy Hinds* for details as to what to bring.

Song leaders Class

By request of the elders, Brother Hinds has been asked to teach a class for song leaders. This class is for those men who are *currently* leading us in song, and for those men who *desire to help* lead in this act of worship.

PHOTO DIRECTORY

Immediately following this morning's worship service, families with last names A-H please go to the classroom building for a family photo for our revised directory. Next Sunday (July 19th) will be I-P, and the following Sunday (July 26th) will be Q-Z. *Thank you!*

OUT OF TOWN

Buddy & Hildreth Johnson * Sherry McElroy * Bonnie Lord

AREA GOSPEL MEETINGS

- July 12-15 | Northside congregation (Mayo). Various speakers, 7:30 PM.
- July 12-17 | Bronson congregation. Al Sandlin speaking, 7:30 PM.
- July 19-24 | Old Town congregation. Danny Allen speaking, 7:30 PM.
- July 20-24 | Northeast (High Springs). VBS, 7:00-9:00 PM.

Chiefland Church of Christ

Meeting at 211 NE 2nd Street in *beautiful* Chiefland, Florida
PO Box 2539 • Chiefland FL 32644 • (352) 493-1242

THINGS ABOVE

"Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth"

— [Colossians 3:1-2] —

July 12, 2009  Vol. 5, No. 17

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Where the Tree Falls, There It Lies

By Jamey Hinds

The wisest man to have lived, other than the Lord Jesus Christ Himself, was King Solomon, Israel's third king. Three Old Testament books are attributed to him — *Song of Solomon* (written when it seems he was a young man); *Proverbs* (written mostly by him, although some passages were definitely not written by him, e.g. chapter 31); and finally, *Ecclesiastes*.

In this final book — probably written later in his life as he looks back and, like many people have done through the millennia, considered his life — he writes various passages which sound very Oriental. For example, the title for our article comes from Ecclesiastes 11.3, "If the clouds are full of rain, they empty themselves upon the earth; and if a tree falls to the south or the north, in the place where the tree falls, there it shall lie."

I don't know exactly what Solomon means by what he writes here in 11.3, but I believe there's something that can be learned from it. *The fact is, unless the Lord comes before we die, then we're all going to die* — whether we are rich or poor, tall or short, man or woman; and whenever that time comes it will come. As the writer of Hebrews put it, "it is **appointed** for men to die once, but after this the judgment" (9.27).

This last week two famous men died. Michael Jackson and Steve McNair. Why? Because it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment. With both men there are extenuating circumstances — with Jackson there remain questions about medication; and with McNair's murder the question remains about who did it. The fact is, it is appointed that men die and that we will be judged.

"It is appointed" — this is simple enough. God has appointed, or ordained, that men will die. Even the atheist Bertrand Russell, an English philosopher, once wrote: "There's an amazing statistic among men that one out of every one dies." We know we're going to die, but we also need to know that we're going to be judged by God.

"We shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. For it is written: 'As I live, says the LORD, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.' So then each of us shall give account of himself to God" (Ro 14.10-12). There are no exceptions on this matter. No, not one!

Two things to gain from the events of this last week is to understand that (1) we don't know when our time to die will come (or even if we will because the Lord might come before it happens), and (2) we all will stand before God in judgment. Knowing these things should affect how we think and behave at all times.

"There were present at that season some who told Him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. And Jesus answered and said to them, 'Do you suppose that these Galileans were worse sinners than all other Galileans, because they suffered such things? I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish. Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them, do you think that they were worse sinners than all other men who dwelt in Jerusalem? I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish'" (Lk 13.1-5).

"The race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, nor bread to the wise, nor riches to men of understanding, nor favor to men of skill; *but time and chance happen to them all*. For man also does not know his time: like fish taken in a cruel net, like birds caught in a snare, so the sons of men are snared in an evil time, when it falls suddenly upon them" (Ecc 9.11-12).

Michael Jackson, Steve McNair, you, and me — we each are going to stand before God in judgment (*see* 2Co 5.10). "The conclusion, when all has been heard, is: fear God and keep His commandments, because this applies to every person. For God will bring every act to judgment, everything which is hidden, whether it is good or evil" (Ecc 12.13-14).

