



Vision Riders



February 2017 Newsletter

Happenings

Well, our second meeting in the new location came out well. We had a good turnout and the food was great. If you haven't been to a meeting this year, keep in mind that we now meet at the Creek Side restaurant. The time is the same.

Due to the time the information gets to your editor and when the newsletter is released, some situations may have changed. With that in mind, please keep those that have had or are having problems, medical or otherwise, in your prayers. We all have our trials at one time or another, so we should be able to empathize with those that are going through them now.

Coming Up Next Month

February 25: KY state officers meeting

March 2: Next chapter meeting

For details or last minute changes, check our Web page: www.visionriders.org

VP Thoughts

Revival or Reformation

By Dan Hayes

In a recent sermon my pastor talked about the difference between revival and reformation. Revival describes a renewing of one's spiritual life, while reformation deals with the renewal of the forms and structure of society and culture. While it is not possible to have reformation without revival, one can experience revival without reformation. Revival can occur as an individual item and go no further, so no changes are made. But, if revival occurs and true growth occurs then reformation must occur. These rules apply to both social and spiritual realms. Here, the spiritual realm is our focus.

The first area is revival with no reformation. This happens when either conversion or reconciliation to the Holy Spirit occurs. In this instance, most of these souls will be spiritual babies. We all know that babies cannot have any or at the most very little impact on the structure of social institutions. This is also true in spiritual matters. Babies in Christ, are not knowledgeable about the word of God, have a very limited prayer life and very seldom make a difference

in the lives of others. This means institutions, like the CMA, can't make social or life changing reformations in the lives of those we minister to if we are just babies in Christ.

Reformation can only occur after we have had revival in our lives and we have become adults in Christ. It is in this stage that we can reform the social mores in the areas we dwell and operate in. Reformation is, in my humble opinion, what we should be striving for in our chapter. To be changers of people's lives, to cause change to how they speak, think and act. If we are truly God's warriors we can do ministry, not just amble along being spiritually ineffective.

My question to you, my fellow Vision Rider, is this: Do you want revival or reformation in your life? Will you be just a time clock pushing Christian living a few hours a week to worship or will you be a spirit filled warrior of God whose life is in full companionship with Jesus?



Although Mitch has a short ride to work, he was able to get the mileage award for the month. He must have been able to sneak a few extra rides in those few nice days we had.

Chaplin's Corner

Do we recognize our puppet master? Do we let God pull our strings or do we give that over to Satan?

"Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares

February 2017 Newsletter

for you. Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you.” 1 Peter 5:6-10 ESV

If we view Satan as the roaring lion seeking someone to devour then we need to understand that it is the hungry lion that seeks something to devour, and with hunger comes aggressive desperation, he's hungry and wants to be satisfied now. As we look at the urgency and aggressive nature that Satan attacks us with and start to consider the tools he uses against us every day then we can begin to see how he manipulates us and leads us astray.

Satan's greatest tool is deceit, he has convinced you that you are right in your opinion, you are justified in your anger and you are righteous in your vengeance. This is not so, this is merely justification we use to rationalize our position.

If we draw a parallel between two sins, addiction and hate, then we can see how Satan shifts the daily influence in our lives to maximize his chances of leading us from God; in this example we will use alcoholism as our addiction and racism as our hate.

If we start with the alcoholic we know that he is weak and Satan knows he is weak and as he begins turn from his sin then his sin will show up everywhere in his life, he will be constantly tempted. Liquor advertisements in a magazine will call to him, driving past the liquor store will let him hear in the back of his mind "its ok, one drink never hurt anyone," he will see an increase in stress at work to push him to reach for that crutch; he will be irritable and in a foul mood from this internal struggle and it will begin to affect his home life and cause further strife. Satan has allowed this man to beat himself down based on the external factors that Satan controls. How different would this man be if every time he seen a liquor advertisement he would thank Jesus for his sobriety and every time he drove by the store he prayed for strength from God, would he still hear that voice? If he was praying and thanking God more would the stress at work be as bad as it could be? Will it in turn lead to more conflict at home?

If we look at the racist, as he tries to start to walk away from the hate and anger how will Satan use that? Satan will fill his news feed on social media with things that prey on his anger. One after another,

these images and stories will appear, keeping the hate burning. He will see the victim of his hate in public and they will do something or say something that brings those hateful feelings back. These things will let that anger boil back up and cause the rage to burn within. He will see how that person that he hates has done something against his church, family, country, social class or almost anything he can relate to will become a personal attack against him. Now what if every time this man had these things pop up in his news feed he would instead say: "God give me strength" and then block that source of content, how long would it be until his social media was no longer his stumbling block, but instead his source of inspiration? When he seen these people in public he would pray for God to give him understanding and forgiveness, could they still make him mad? When they do something against a group this man identifies with and instead of being angry he prayed for God's blessings on them, would Satan still have influence or sway over his temper?

Do we recognize the ways in our own life that we have unwittingly allowed Satan to manipulate us?

Some will be manipulated through anger, the love of money, jealousy, addiction, hate, lust, arrogance, pride and so many other selfish desires. These are the ways that Satan can use and manipulate the world around us and are far too numerous to count. They are often so common and everyday that we never recognize Satan as the puppet master that he is. That is the genius of his nature, to give you emotions, desires and reactions that separate you from God without you knowing he was involved.

God is not deceitful and not hidden so the tools He has armed us with are not as numerous; stay humble, give him your problems, pray continuously and love one another seem to hit the high spots. You see there is not much needed when you are washed in the blood and filled with the Holy Spirit, my brothers and sisters it's time to look within and ask God to show you how Satan has fooled you and start to correct this in your life. We serve a beautiful and loving God and we face a deceitful genius of an enemy but that love of God will unravel the best laid snare of Satan, unlike the puppet we can choose the master for which we dance.

May God Bless you and watch over you, Dave.