

THE FOREST HILL NEWS

Published weekly by the Forest Hill church of Christ

Visit our Website at www.foresthillchurch.org

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VISIT US SOON!

Sunday:

Bible Study..... 9:30 A.M.
Morning Worship.....10:30 A.M.
Evening Worship..... 6:00 P.M.

Wednesday:

Bible Study7:00 P.M.

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WENDELL WINKLER 1931-2005

"A Giant Has Fallen"

by
Barry M. Grider

It was Sunday evening, October 23, following a busy Lord's day, that I received a telephone call at home, while enjoying a snack with my family. The call was from my dear friend Jason Roberts who preaches for the Forrest Park Church of Christ in Valdosta, Georgia. His voice filled with emotion, Jason stated, "A giant has fallen." Though I had not previously heard the news, I knew immediately he spoke of Wendell Winkler. Just a week before, at the Spiritual Sword Lectureship, we received word that his health was quickly deteriorating. Brother Winkler was to have appeared on that program. Unable to do so, brother Perry Cotham preached in his absence. At the time of his passing, Wendell Winkler was 74.

Jason Roberts was right when he identified brother Winkler as a giant. He was a giant as an evangelist. This son of a gospel preacher dedicated his life to proclaiming the good news of human redemption. His remarkable ability caused his audiences to sit in rapt attention as he preached. One could always expect brother Winkler to exalt Christ through his preaching and you always knew his sermons would be biblical. There has never been a preacher, in my judgment, who could preach more effectively on the cross. In September, at *Polishing the Pulpit* preacher's workshop, in Huntsville, Alabama, which was brother Winkler's final appearance on a brotherhood program, he spoke on "*The Seven Sayings of Calvary*." Those of us who were present shall never forget those messages. We are so thankful that through the preaching of Wendell Winkler, thousands of souls will be saved on the Day of Judgment.

Brother Winkler was a giant as a Christian educator and Bible scholar. He served for a number of years as director of the Brown Trail School of Preaching in Fort Worth and later served as chairman of the Faulkner University Bible Department. Brother Winkler was a master in the field of homiletics. He had zero tolerance for negligence in the pulpit. As a result, his sermons were always well delivered, with much use of scripture, powerful illustrations, and practical application. Brother Winkler's scholarship can clearly be seen in what he has written. His bible class series, *Sound Doctrine for Everyday Living* and most recently, *Life Changing Studies With an Open Bible*" (authored along with his sons, Dan and Mike), will continue to attest to his depth of Bible knowledge.

Brother Winkler was a giant as a person. He was a Christian gentleman. He was a lover of good men and good men loved him. The outstanding evangelist George W. Bailey once said to me, "Wendell is a prince of a man." Flavil Nichols once stated to me, "If we could have heard the Apostle Paul preach, I believe he would have sounded much like Wendell Winkler." Brother Winkler was a hero of mine. His kindness, his advice, and his balance I shall forever appreciate. In recent months, he has especially served as a source of strength and encouragement to me. I can only pray that the Lord will allow me to do for others what brother Winkler has done for me. I am confident that though he be dead, he will continue to speak, through the vast number of us who learned from him. God bless his rich memory.

The funeral service of Wendell Winkler was conducted Tuesday, October 25, 2005, at the Northport Church of Christ, in Northport, Alabama, just across the river from Tuscaloosa. His three sons, Dan Winkler, preacher at Huntingdon, Tennessee; Mike Winkler, preacher at Madison, Alabama; and Dr. Tim Winkler, Tuscaloosa physician, officiated at the service. Burial was in Tuscaloosa Memory Gardens. Please remember in your prayers the

THE SAVIOR OF THE WORLD (Part Three)

Barry M. Grider

Second, Jesus is qualified to be man's Savior, because of what he did? Jesus died for our sins. The Messianic prophet wrote,

"**He** hath borne **our** griefs" (v.4)

He "carried **our** sorrows" (v.4)

He was "stricken", "smitten," and "afflicted" (v.4)

"**He** was wounded for **our** transgressions" (v.5)

"**He** was bruised for **our** iniquities." (v.5)

"The chastisement or **our** peace was upon **him**" (v.5)

"With **his** stripes **we** are healed." (v.5)

"The Lord hath laid on **him** the iniquity of us **all**." (v. 6)

"**He** was oppressed" for **us**. (v.7)

"**He** was afflicted" for **us**. (v.7)

"**He** is brought as a lamb to the slaughter" for us. (v. 7)

While Jesus in no way became a sinner when he died on the cross, he did bear our sins on the cross (I Pet. 2:24). Perhaps this is one reason he was so filled with agony in the Garden of Gethsemane (Heb. 5:7), because the weight of sin and the sorrow that accompanies it were placed upon him. Paul wrote, "For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him" (II Cor. 5:21). Jesus was the perfect offering for sin (cf. Isa. 53:10). He alone appeased the wrath of the Father.

Third, Jesus is qualified to be our Savior, because of where he has gone. Where has he gone? Jesus has returned to heaven (Acts 1:10,11; cf. Dan. 7:13,14). He is seated at the right hand of God (Heb. 1:3). All power and authority has been given unto him (Matt. 28:18). What does he do on behalf of his followers from his position on high? He is our mediator. "For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus" (I Tim. 2:5). A mediator goes between two parties who are estranged one from another. Like a divine lawyer, Christ represents the redeemed before the throne of God.

My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the world (I John 2:1,2).

Jesus is also identified as the Christian's high priest.

Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need (Heb. 4:14-16).

Our Lord identifies with God because he is the sinless Son of God. He identifies with man because he "was in all points tempted like as we are..." Why can a Christian be confident when he bows his head in prayer? How can he be sure that the Father hears? Because Jesus intercedes on his behalf. He has the ear of the Father and the Father always hears his Son. While it is true, Jesus taught his followers to address the Father in prayer (Matt. 6:9), are we to become so extreme in our thinking that we believe Jesus is not supposed to hear our prayers? If he does not hear, how can he be our mediator, advocate, or high priest? The child of God takes his burdens, including his sins, and lays them before the throne of God. Jesus, identifying with man pleads the case before God, and the Father always honors the request.

Jesus is qualified to be our Savior because of who he is, what he did, and where he has gone.

Accepting Jesus As Savior

While there are many varied and contradictory opinions regarding what a person must do to be saved, if he is to do anything at all, the wise individual will listen to Jesus' words, since it is Jesus who is the Savior of the world.

Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon the house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand; And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it (Matt. 7:24-27).

(To be continued)

