

Announcements & Prayer Requests

- Let's keep the following in our prayers:
 - Jean LeQuire: Has moved to Chattanooga to live with her son and daughter-in-law
 - Bernida Wolf: Minor knee surgery went well
 - Kim Self: Cancer and stomach ulcers
 - Angie Self: Arthritis and Parkinson's
 - Joann Larkin: Advanced dementia
 - Barb Agee's son (James)
 - Rick Parks' parents: Roy has prostate cancer; Helen has dementia
 - Jimmy Woodall's sister: Cancer
 - Dorothy Macon, Sandra Perez's grandmother: Dementia
 - Frank Wineinger, Sandra Perez's uncle: Stage 4 cancer

THE GOSPEL PLAN OF SALVATION

- Hear Gospel – Rom. 10:17; Acts 8:30-31
- Believe – Heb. 11:6; Mk. 16:16
- Repent of & Turn from Sins – Acts 2:38; 17:30
- Confess our Faith – Rom. 10:10; Mt. 10:32
- Baptism – Acts 22:16; 1 Pet. 3:21
- Live Faithfully – Rev. 2:10

Let us draw near with a **true heart in full assurance of faith [Believe]**, having our **hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience [Repent]** and our **bodies washed with pure water [Baptism]**. Let us **hold fast the confession [Confess]** of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. And let us consider one another in order to **stir up love and good works**, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but **exhorting one another**, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching. – *Heb. 10:22-25*



CHURCH OF CHRIST

Invitation

'Therefore, go into the highways, and as many as you find, invite to the wedding.' – Mt. 22:9

Address

5080 Highway 70 East
Rockwood, TN 37854

Assembly Times

Sunday Bible Study – 10:00 AM
Sunday Worship – 11:00 AM

Please text/email any announcements, questions, or concerns to Bill Fix, (865) 934-9239 or fix.bill@gmail.com

www.hwy70church.com

February 28, 2021

We extend a warm welcome to all our visitors and members. If you have any questions or need any assistance, please let one of us know.

Adult Bible Class – Legal Principles and the Bible: Judge

Sermon Topic – Jesus on Genesis

Fixating on What's Important: *Tent Pegs and Godly Women*

By Bill Fix

When I say I want a Biblical Wife...

What people think I mean: I want a wife who is passive and subservient.

What I really mean: I want a wife who is totally willing to drive a tent spike into a tyrant's head should the opportunity arise.

I don't know who wrote the above, but what a perspective. Perhaps a more serious description is a wife who is willing to follow God, no matter what.

The Bible is full of stories that have layers upon layers of meaning for us. Even the account of Jael in Jdg. 4:17-22 has much we can learn (besides not drinking milk and taking a nap in the tent of a woman while running for your life). Here are two articles that illustrate different aspects of this story.

Jael's Feat

By J.W. McGarvey (SHORT ESSAYS IN BIBLICAL CRITICISM, Jan. 1893)

Robertson Smith, in his "Old Testament in the Jewish Church," attempts to eliminate Jael's tent pin, with which she killed Sisera. He says (p. 132):

In the prose narrative, Jael kills Sisera in his sleep by hammering a wooden tent peg into his forehead—an extraordinary proceeding, for the peg must have been held with one hand and hammered with the other, which is not a likely way to drive a blunt tent peg through and through a man's skull without awakening him.

We see from this how higher criticism gives its professors insight which other persons do not possess; for Professor Smith has discovered that the "tent peg" was a "wooden" one, that it was "blunt," and that Jael had to hammer it by hard knocks into the "*forehead*" of Sisera, and not into his *temple*, as the text has it. He thinks, too, that Sisera ought to have woken up before she got it hammered "through and through his skull." We think so, too, if he intended to wake up at all. The Professor next proceeds to tell us that the writer of this prose narrative got his information from the song of Deborah, and that he fell into a blunder by misunderstanding the song. He makes the song say that Jael gave Sisera some "sour milk in an ample bowl," and that "while Sisera, still standing, buried his face in the bowl, and for a moment could not watch her actions," she put her hand to the "peg," which here means the handle of her hammer, and crushed his skull with the hammer! I suppose we must understand that Sisera drank as a cow does, by putting his mouth down into the sour milk, and that as the bowl was a very deep one, his eyes also went

down into it too deep for him to see what Jael was about. Well, it is a great thing to be a critic; it enables a man not only to reconstruct the books of the Bible to suit his taste, but also to remodel its facts and show that its writers misunderstood one another.

"Most Blessed Among Women Is Jael"

By Rebecca Fix

Judges ch. 4 records a most fascinating story of a regular woman chosen by God to carry out his plan. Deborah was the judge for Israel, warring against the evil Canaanites. Deborah recruited Barak to lead Israel's army and ordered him to deploy the troops, but Barak refused to go without Deborah by his side. She agreed to go, but because of his hesitation, she prophesied that a woman would get the honor of killing Sisera, the opposing commander. As Barak's army routed them, Sisera fled on foot right to the tent of Jael.

Jael saw Sisera and welcomed him into her tent. He had no reason to fear her for his people were at peace with her people. She showed him hospitality, hiding him and giving him a drink. But while he slept, this woman drove a tent peg into his temple so fiercely that it penetrated through his head into the ground! We can learn so many lessons, but the main two are:

God fulfills His word. We often have our plans for how we want our lives to go, but Is. 55:11 tells us that God's word will accomplish what He pleases. During Jael's time, women did not go to war. Barak's insistence that Deborah accompany him in battle was quite unusual, just as a woman being judge was uncommon. Seemingly, because Barak hesitated to follow God's command, Deborah foretold of a victory, but the glory of capturing the opposing commander would go to another woman. Once again, God can use anyone to accomplish His will, demonstrating His strength. "Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong" (2 Cor. 12:10).

We should use the tools God gives us. Jael did not have a sword or knife but only a tent peg. She lived in a tent so she used what she had (much like Shamgar with an ox goad or Gideon with jars and trumpets). God provides His people with skills or tools we can use to encourage or reach those who are lost. Sometimes we don't think we are prepared or ready for the mission at hand, but we should trust that God has properly equipped us and honor Him above all else. We aren't told why Jael killed Sisera, but it doesn't seem to be out of anger or vengeance. Because Jael went out to meet both Sisera and Barak separately, it appears she knew of the battle and that she wanted to be on God's side. She trusted God rather than submitting to fear. We all face overwhelming circumstances in our lives, but placing our trust in God allows us to overcome.