THE SAME OLD...

Psalm 92:10 KJV

[10] But my horn shalt thou exalt like the horn of an unicorn: I shall be anointed with fresh oil.

      It was quite funny as I read from the ninetieth anniversary of Pleasant View Baptist Church, a portion of the minutes from the election of officers in nineteen thirty-two read that they “retained the same old chorister and organist.”  I’m sure the clerk did not mean it the way it sounded but sometimes church seems like the same old thing. For me at least, our worship is fresh and refreshing every Sunday but we cannot rest on how it has been. Every Sunday we must be prayed up and willing to be used for The Lord.

      I was talking to a pastor friend the other day and he told me he had been at his present church for thirty-seven years.  Their church calls their pastor annually which means he has been called to that church thirty-seven times.  As a pastor, one really has to pray and continually seek the Lord to stay fresh or else we become the same old preacher with the same old words in the same old way.

     It falls on me as a pastor to draw closer to God so that it isn’t “the same old....”  The leaders in church from music to teachers to preachers share in the responsibility in it not being the same old stuff and boring routine of going through the motions.  Yet, it does not fall solely on the leaders.  What are we bringing to church?  Sometimes we bring so much junk in our mind and on our hearts that it takes an arsenal to break through it all.

    Part of the responsibility is mine as an individual in Christ.  I am coming to worship.  I should not have the attitude of “bless me if you can.”  No one should feel they have to get me into a worshipful frame of mind.  Worship should breed worship.  My grateful attitude should trigger a grateful attitude in someone else.  The moving of the Spirit in my breast should flow into others as I let down the walls of pride, worry and fear.  The Spirit of God will witness himself in others and will speak to such.  This is what we mean when we speak of the Spirit flowing from breast to breast.

      I was in a preachers meeting a few weeks ago.  I had preached on Friday evening.  I have a hard time preparing for any message beyond the next one.  So after Friday night I was empty.  They had asked me to preach on Saturday morning so I was trying to prepare once again.  I opened my Bible to one place and I thought that was the message.  To another passage I turned and thought that was it.  No matter where I turned in the Bible, it seemed that was the message.  The Spirit was so alive in me, I believe I could have preached from any passage from the Scripture and God would have sanctioned it. Lord, let it be so every time I enter the pulpit, that your Spirit is fresh oil for me?

Yours in Christ,

Brother Randy Burtram