



The Camden Companion

"COME LET US REASON TOGETHER, SAYS THE LORD"

Vol. 1, Num 21

Editor: Wayde E. Miller

May 27, 2007

Cornbread From The Wrong Pan

David Lipscomb and his brother William were teenagers on their way back from school in Virginia to their home in Tennessee. They were walking on this journey when the following story happened. The lesson is that anyone can get their sense of propriety offended, but those who look for good can enjoy great blessings.

The snows had already begun to fall in December 1845 when the Lipscomb brothers began their long trek from Virginia to their home in Tennessee. Even though they traveled the roadway followed by the stage from New York to New Orleans. 3 weeks through the cold and snow was not an easy journey. After traveling only one day over the mountains to get to the Great Valley leading southwestward toward Tennessee, the boys became tired and hungry. Deciding to stop at the first house to seek food and lodging for the night they came upon a poor mountaineer's cabin, where the boys were welcomed by the entire family. Food, except for cornbread, was scarce on the mountain family's table. But David was rather fond of cornbread; he relished every crumb. William whose fondness for cornbread was only slightly less than David's, would not partake of the bread when passed. In bed, William whispered: "David, did you know all of that cornbread you ate was made up in the same pan we washed in?" Instead of becoming upset at the thought, David simply reminded his brother that he had missed out on some good cornbread because he was spying where he had no business.

From Crying In The Wilderness

By Robert Hooper

WELCOME

Camden Avenue Church of Christ

Salvation By Magic?

Years ago I attended a show by the magician David Copperfield. It was amazing to watch things happen that we all knew couldn't really be so. Copperfield even made it snow in Rupp Arena - real snow that melted in you hand. Of course, magicians have tricks by which our minds are deceived into believing the unreal.

Today, many equate salvation to some sort of mysticism and make it out to be a mysterious "operation" of some sort. However, God's salvation is not brought about *"by slight of men and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive"* (Ehh. 4:14.) God's word does not bewilder, confuse, or mystify. Salvation comes from the right mix of God's grace and man's faith. Paul wrote, *"For by grace are you saved through faith; and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God; not of works, lest any one should boast"* (Eph. 2: 8-9.) Grace is involved but so is faith. Many jump all over the works part of the verses and say you can't work for salvation -which is absolutely correct. Man cannot (by himself) be perfect and earn salvation or he would have reason to "boast." Read the verse again. There is no salvation available without God's grace but wait - there is no salvation without man's faith. That's what Paul said. When both are in place we have the right combination for salvation to take place. There is nothing magical about it. In fact, the Bible is filled with examples of the principle at work. Notice just a few:

God's Grace

God warned Noah of a flood

God promised Abraham

Naaman given instruction

How would Naaman know what to do to cure his disease or Noah know to build the ark without God's grace? Likewise God has told us how to be saved and when our faith acts- salvation happens. Read what Jesus said do (Mark 16:16) and have the courage to do it.

Man's Faith

Noah built the ark (Heb. 11:7)

He went out and obeyed (Heb.11:8)

He went and dipped (2 Kings 5)