

NEWS AND VIEWS
MOUNT OLIVET BAPTIST CHURCH
3500 Edwards Mill Road
Raleigh, North Carolina 27612-5362

Phone: (919) 787-1910
FAX: (919) 787-0085
E-mail: office@mabc.org
Web Page: www.mabc.org

*“Southern Baptists with the Full
Gospel for the Whole World”*

SAM GORE, Senior Pastor
EDITH JACKSON, Prayer Coordinator

NANCY MCBRAYER, Office Manager
MIKE KING, Maintenance Supervisor

VOLUME 34

July 2012

NUMBER 7

Sometimes I enjoyed hiding from my granddaughters when they were young. When they came into a room and discovered that I was standing behind a door, they seemed to convey the thought, “I didn’t know you were here!” Sometimes we say that to one another when we discover someone else’s presence where we least expected to find them. And in contrast, we may also carry on a conversation with someone who has already left the room. That’s a pretty one-sided discussion! We find ourselves talking to ourselves because we don’t even realize they’re gone. Consider the following:

She said, “The Philistines are upon you, Samson!” And he awoke from his sleep and said, “I will go out as at other times and shake myself free.” But he did not know that the LORD had departed from him. (Judges 16:20)

A lifetime of taking God for granted caught up with Samson, the strongman. All too late he realized that the power which had delivered him and rescued him time after time had left him. Painfully weakened, he realized that he was nothing without God. Those of us who have seemingly made it this far in our own strength have yet to discover that lesson. But we will. Someday the journey will be too far, the test will be too hard, or the circumstance will be too overwhelming. That day we will be painfully aware that we have been oblivious to God’s presence. But with the Lord, there is hope.

When we acknowledge to God that we have taken Him for granted, He already knows that. The Lord wants us to know that we need Him. He wants more than a part time relationship. Unless we spend time daily in God’s presence, even the most spiritual among us can begin to take Him for granted. Some wisdom can be gained from Samson’s lack of it.

I. WE CAN BE OBLIVIOUS TO GOD’S PRESENCE WHEN WE LISTEN TO THE VOICES OF OTHERS MORE THAN THE WORD OF GOD. We can be guilty of listening to the voices that challenge us to show our strength. Often the voices are those closest to us. We can be tempted to do things that will bring us glory at someone else’s command and we are destined to fail when we act on these challenges.

II. WE CAN BE OBLIVIOUS TO GOD’S PRESENCE WHEN WE THINK WE ARE THE SOURCE OF OUR STRENGTH. Samson thought the power he had grown up with was rooted in him. He was oblivious to the fact that God had empowered him to glorify God. In an instant we can be weakened at the strongest point of our life.

III. WHEN WE ARE OBLIVIOUS TO GOD’S PRESENCE WE WILL BE IGNORANT OF HIS DEPARTURE. Sometimes we don’t really miss someone until after they are gone. If the empty place in your life is begging for the presence of God, we dare not fill it with something less. If you’ve ever enjoyed God’s presence, you know what you are missing. But sadly, sometimes the truth is we don’t miss what we never had. Does the power and influence and wisdom of God really shape the way you live every day? For a life that really matters the Lord God must really matter.

Blessings to you,
Pastor Sam