

**NEWS AND VIEWS**  
**MOUNT OLIVET BAPTIST CHURCH**

3500 Edwards Mill Road, Raleigh, North Carolina 27612-5362

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

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

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SAM GORE, Senior Pastor

NANCY MCBRAYER, Office Manager

EDITH JACKSON, Prayer Coordinator

MIKE KING, Maintenance Supervisor

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*Drink water from your own cistern and fresh water from your own well.*

*Should your springs be dispersed abroad, streams of water in the streets?*

*Let them be yours alone and not for strangers with you.*

*Let your fountain be blessed, and rejoice in the wife of your youth.*

*As a loving hind and a graceful doe, let her breasts satisfy you at all times; Be exhilarated always with her love.*

*For why should you, my son, be exhilarated with an adulteress and embrace the bosom of a foreigner?*

*For the ways of a man are before the eyes of the Lord, and He watches all his paths.*

*His own iniquities will capture the wicked, and he will be held with the cords of his sin.*

*He will die for lack of instruction, and in the greatness of his folly he will go astray. (Proverbs 5:15-23)*

If ever a man seemed to need a fresh drink of water it was an FBI agent being questioned by a zealous congressman from Texas recently. I usually try to focus on the spiritual nature of things in these newsletter articles rather than talk of political things but this month's article kindles a desire within me to connect some dots in our culture. It was fascinating to hear and see the reactionary responses to the congressman's questions, particularly when the congressman was questioning the FBI agent's integrity. The heated exchange really flared up when the congressman actually had the audacity to bring up the fact that the agent's betrayal of his marriage partner had been exposed publicly. Text messages revealing an extramarital affair had severely crippled his perceived ability to tell the truth in the opinion of the congressional interrogator. The raucous uproar and objections from the oppositional political party to this line of questioning was rather intriguing as I first listened on the radio. When I watched it later on video, which is preserved online in case anyone is interested, it was even more compelling. It was some really good TV...some of the best acting I've seen in a while! The big question seemed to revolve around the credibility of the answers coming from an adulterer...to paraphrase, how can one be truthful and honest in a professional capacity while ignoring honor in their personal life?

Without getting into the political arena about the whys and wherefores of congressional inquiries, it seems noteworthy to note a couple of things on display here. *Compartmentalization* is a word we have heard in contemporary cultural situations. This word refers to the ability to perform a job entrusted to you while being morally compromised in other areas of life. In modern life, especially American modern life, we seem to believe we can divorce parts of our lives from a foundational evaluation. Integrity literally means something well put together. Without foundational integrity, the structure will fall as it fails. Somehow we can be lulled into thinking that as long as we are good at our job, it doesn't matter how we treat those that are the closest to us. A man who swears to tell the truth but can lie to his marriage partner does in fact have an integrity issue. And according to our above referenced passage of Scripture, be sure that when you drink water from wells away from home, the water you are enjoying will be spilled out into the streets, for all to see how polluted it really is. Now the Word of God is not talking about sources of clean water. The Lord wants us to see that He can expose this kind of living for the entire world to see.

At times I actually felt sorry for man that was that publicly exposed...and at times I felt sad to be living in the midst of a cultural uproar that thinks the source of integrity can be compromised and no one be affected. Sin is a big deal to God. But our hope is to repent from our sin, turn from our wicked ways, and worship the Lord. Worship of power, political and spiritual, is still idolatry or spiritual adultery. The part that gives me hope is that the Lord is revealing some dark things in our culture lately. Maybe partly to see how we as God's people, who are called by His name, will respond. Let us sincerely pray...for those caught in a public stream flushing out impurities, especially those we find in the Household of God.

Blessings to you,  
Pastor Sam