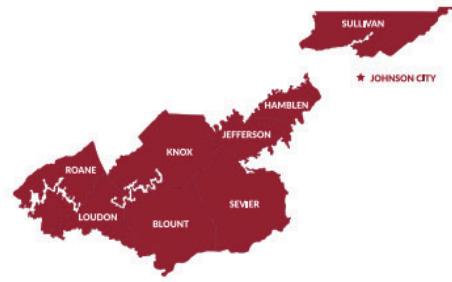




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# Morgan County Today

Psalm 100:3

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Your Community. Your News.

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**Morgan County Today**  
Your Community. Your News.

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WEEKLY WEATHER



Tue 21	21°/4°	☁
Wed 22	31°/18°	☀
Thu 23	38°/24°	☀
Fri 24	35°/21°	☀
Sat 25	44°/34°	☀
Sun 26	42°/37°	☁
Mon 27	46°/34°	☁



**Ms. Avery Pearl  
Pet Columnist**

# Pet Perspective with Ms. Avery Pearl

## Inauguration Time Y'All

It's here! That time when one administration leaves and another moves in, to that place they call the White House.

This happens every 4 or 8 years but this time, it's different than any other. This guy named Trump has already been president. He left for 4 years and some dude named Brandon moved in. He had Ms Lady Laughs A Lot, as his 2nd in command.



Well, they had this thing called an election and that brash, rich man named Trump won AGAIN. Which means he is moving back into the White House on Inauguration Day!

Most people seem to be really happy about that. Some though, not so much.

Mimi says there are plenty that don't like him and that's okay. They have that right. You see, that's one of the great things about America. We are entitled to our opinion, isn't that great?

Any-woof, I for one am going to pray that God guides those that are there to lead us. May they have courage to do what's right and put America and her citizens first. May there be peace and prosperity for us all, here and throughout the world.

May God bless our leaders and may:

GOD BLESS AMERICA.

For more of my Pet Perspective like and follow me on Facebook at Ms Avery Pearl.

# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

**The Deer Lodge Abner Ross Center** meet on the third Monday of the month at 6:00 PM.

**Coalfield Genealogical and Historical Society** meets the second Tuesday of every month at the Senior Citizens Building at 6:00 PM.

**Morgan County Republican Party** meets the last Thursday of every month at 7:00 PM at the American Legion in Wartburg.

## COUNTRY FRIED STEAK DINNER

**WHAT:** Country Fried Steak, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Green Beans, Fresh Baked Roll, Dessert, and Coffee or Tea.

**WHEN:** Saturday February 1, from Noon to 3pm

**WHERE:** Deer Lodge Abner Ross Center

**COST:** Dine-in = \$9.00 Adult, \$5.00 Children, \*To-Go and Delivery=\$10.00.

Come to the Deer Lodge Abner Ross Center for a delicious meal with music provided by the Rugby Coronet Band and a Door Prize.

\*Delivery within a 5 mile radius of the Center. Please call 423- 965-5000 before 10:30am for delivery.

Drinks are not provided with deliveries.

All proceeds go to pay utilities and upkeep at the Center.



# COMMUNITY CALENDAR



## DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

Plateau Electric Cooperative is seeking a well-qualified, safety-oriented individual for the position of Director of Operations.

This position will lead the Operations Department in employee development, operational discipline, and work coordination to achieve an efficient organization of qualified personnel; to supervise the activities required for efficient operations and maintenance of the distribution lines and services; to provide continuous, reliable, and adequate supply of electricity to meet the demands of the members in Scott and Morgan County. This position will work closely with other departments, including engineering, human resources, business operations manager, and others as needed.

The successful candidate must be self-motivated, dependable, have strong leadership skills, and a high degree of integrity. This position requires a high school education or its equivalent and a thorough knowledge of the principles of the construction, maintenance, and operation of the distribution system. Must have worked a minimum of 8 years as a journeyman lineman.

Salary will be commensurate with qualifications and experience. The Cooperative also offers an excellent benefits package.

All qualified individuals interested in applying for this position shall submit an application along with a resume by January 24, 2025. Resumes should be emailed to HR@plateauelectric.com.



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— In Loving Memory —

### Patricia Ann Dumas, 83



2025. Patricia and Paul loved to travel in their motor home in their younger years. Paul was truly the love of her life and she cherished him greatly, along with her family and friends whom she enjoyed spending time with.

She leaves behind the love of her life Paul Dumas; son Kevin and wife, Debra; daughter Shera and husband, Mike; 11 grandchildren; 27 great grandchildren and host of family and friends.

She is preceded in death by her daughter Lori Wilcox; sister Brenda Bryce.

Her wishes were to be cremated and buried in VT in the spring.

She will be great missed by all who knew her.

*Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Patricia A. Dumas.*

Patricia Ann Dumas, age 83 passed away Friday, January 10, 2025 in Huntsville, TN. She was born in North Woodsock, NH., on October 23, 1941 and was adopted by Louis and Eloise Desmarais.

Patricia lived in Johnson Vermont and went to school there. She married in 1961 to her husband Paul Dumas. They were married for 63 years. She drove a school bus, knitted hats for the skiing industry. She later moved to Florida in 1982 where she resided with Paul until she was admitted to a care facility in Tennessee in 2024, where she passed away January 10,

### Psalm 123:1

**Unto thee lift I up mine eyes,  
O thou that dwellest in the heavens.**



### William Terry "Toe" Basler, 79



William Terry "Toe" Basler, age 79, of Petros, TN, departed this life January 8, 2025 at home surrounded by his loving sons, siblings, and grandchildren.

The funeral services will be held at Shubert Funeral Home of Wartburg, TN. Nathan Basler will be officiating. Visitation will be held on Thursday 4PM-6PM, Saturday 1PM-3PM with the funeral service beginning at 3PM. Burial will follow the funeral at Petros Cemetery at 4PM.

In the latter years of Terry's life, he shared with his family of his faith in Jesus. Terry was a wise man of few words, many talents, and a strong will.

Terry worked in the communications field providing cable and fiber optics. He helped restore cable, phone, and fiber after hurricanes. His years of experience was instrumental to a younger generation of "cable dogs."

Terry worked as an iron worker for many years. He enjoyed building with rocks and carving them. He built the rock walls around the Petros Cemetery, laid the rock steps, and the rock walls in front of his Petros home. He enjoyed playing poker weekly at his brother's house.

The most important thing to Terry that he built was a life with his family. He worked hard to make sure that his family was provided for.

Terry is survived by and will be deeply missed by his sons: William Terry Basler Jr. and wife Anna Armes Basler and their children; Ethan and daughter-in-law Kaylee, Sally, Noah, and Lucy; Timothy James Leon Basler and wife Lorie Ann Basler and their children; Timothy, Isaac and Trinity Basler; sons in love Gaje Franklin and Kamden Neely Nathan Charles Hal Basler and wife Jeannie Hembree Basler and their children; Brooke and Brylie Basler. Brother: He will be missed by his brother Teddy and wife Phyllis Basler; his sisters: Vicky Basler Boyce, Susan Basler, Melissa Walls Basler, Randi Basler Armes and husband Joe, Mandy Basler Hooper and husband Eddie. Terry will be missed by many more nieces and nephews and poker house friends; special care takers Gladys Chiyongo, Abishai wife Anna and son Ephraim of Petros.

Terry is preceded in death by his father and mother Willie Dean Basler and Sally Basler White and step-father Jack White. Brother Jerry "Boots" Basler; brother-in-law Bob Boyce; nephews Joshua Crouch and Brandon Hooper; great aunt Rhoda Dagley; special friends June Bug Liles and Florence "Punky" Armes.

In lieu of flowers memorial donations may be given to Rock Mission of Petros. Donations can be made to Shuberts Funeral Home or mailed to PO Box 355, Petros, TN 37845.

The family of William Terry Basler wishes to thank Morgan County Medical Center employees Tara McCarley, Heather Justes, April and staff..

*Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of William Terry Basler.*

**Obituaries must come from a funeral home to be in the newspaper.**







David Zubler  
Columnist

## Reporting the sale of your home

Most people know there is an exclusion of gain on the sale of your home. If you have lived in your main home for 2 out of the prior 5 years, you may exclude up to \$250,000 of your gain if you're unmarried (or married, filing separately) and \$500,000 if you are married filing jointly. However, several factors may impact taking the exclusion.

Even though your gain can be excluded from income, you may need to file a tax return.

If the real estate sent a 1099-S Proceeds from Real Estate Transactions, you may need to report the sale even though the gain can be excluded. If the sales price is more than your exclusion, the IRS requires that the real estate agency reports the sale on Form 1099-S.

If Form 1099-S is filed, you must report the sale on your tax return, even if the entire gain is excluded. If you fail to report the sale on your tax return, the IRS will assume the entire sale amount is a taxable gain.

Taxable gain is calculated by subtracting the sales price from your basis in your home. Your basis includes the purchase prices, closing costs and improvements. Repairs that are required to keep your home in good condition but don't add to its value or increase its life, are not considered an improvement.

If you become physically or mentally unstable to take care of yourself, any time spent living in a facility such as a nursing home counts toward your 2-year residence requirement.

You can only claim the full exclusion once every two years.

If you don't meet the eligibility criteria, you may still qualify for a partial exclusion if:

- You were transferred to a new job in a location at least 50 miles away.
- You had no work location and began a job at least 50 miles from the home.

You move to obtain medical treatment for yourself or a family member.

Unforeseeable events such as your home being destroyed, you became divorced or legally separated, eligible for unemployment compensation, and a situation which arose that was unforeseeable.

Other factors:

If received your home in a divorce and your former spouse was the sole owner, your starting basis is the same as your former spouse's adjusted basis just before you received the home.

If you inherited your home, your basis is the fair market value on the date of the decedent's death.

If you received your home as a gift, in general, your basis is the same as the donor's fair market value at the time of the gift. For example, if they bought it 40 years ago for \$50,000, your basis would be \$50,000 plus any improvements they may have made.

Your home isn't eligible for the exclusion of any gain if you acquired it through a like-kind exchange during the past 5 years, or you have moved out of the country and are subject to expatriate tax.

For more information see Pub 523 Selling Your Home.

*David Zubler is a nationally known tax accountant and Enrolled Agent that resides in East Tennessee. He is the author of six tax books and a syndicated columnist who has shared tax advice on podcasts and national TV and has been referred to as America's Tax Guru. He is the founder and president of Your Tax Care. He represents clients nationwide before the IRS and provides tax strategies, and tax education, including David's one-minute tax tip radio recordings at YourTaxCare.com. David can be reached at (865)363-3019 or by email at david@yourtaxcare.com.*

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- Friday, November 29th-CLOSED
- Tuesday, December 24th-Christmas Eve CLOSED
- Wednesday, December 25th-Christmas Day CLOSED
- Thursday, December 26th-CLOSED
- Tuesday, December 31st-Closing at 1pm
- Wednesday, January 1st-New Year's Day CLOSED



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## Historically Speaking

### Scarboro 85 celebrates the first desegregation of high school or college sports in the Southeast

By Ray Smith - Oak Ridge City Historian

On Friday, December 3, 2024, a breakfast gathering recognized the achievement in 1955 that marked a major transition for high school and college sports. The breakfast, held at Calhoun's Event Center, was well attended and was supported by several educators and a few previous ORHS students who served on a discussion panel moderated by David Clary, voice of the Wildcats.

Panelists were: Jill Prudden, former Lady Wildcats Coach; Aaron Green, current Head Boys Basketball Coach; Darryl Miller, former ORHS Boys Mr. Basketball; Tammy Dowdell, former Lady Wildcats (State Champion); Carman Dowdell Toy-Fouse, former Lady Wildcat; Cameron Sexton, former ORHS Basketball Player and current Speaker of the House for the State of Tennessee; Travis Free, current Head Baseball Coach; Ronald Graham, former ORHS Baseball Player (1962-1965); and Paige Taylor, current ORHS Lady Wildcats Coach.

The panelists each provided their personal insights and comments regarding the significance of the Scarboro 85 desegregation and impact on school sports. These educators and former students added significantly to the celebration.

At that event Trina Watson made the following remarks:

"Friends, we have some remarkable heroes from right here in Oak Ridge, TN that made something extraordinary happen in our nation. You and I are sitting here today unified because these heroes **made it happen**.

#### "Who are they?"

"The game changers of education and sports, known as the Scarboro 85, are civil rights heroes of this nation. The Scarboro 85 were the brave, young African American students from the all-black Scarboro neighborhood in Oak Ridge, TN, in Anderson County.

#### "What did they accomplish?"

"The Scarboro 85 students changed the course of history.

"The Scarboro 85 were the first students to desegregate Southeastern public schools.

These young, courageous students quietly opened the modern civil rights era when they entered all-white public school classrooms at Oak Ridge high school and Robertsville Junior High School in Oak Ridge TN.

"Two Scarboro 85 students were also the first to desegregate sports in the Southeastern public schools and universities.

"The Southeast was key to the acceptance of the US Supreme court's decision in the case of Brown versus Board of Education. Back in 1954 following the historic Brown versus decision, schools in the north and west begin to quietly desegregate.

"However, Southeastern public schools remained as a unified defiant front: no school desegregation.

"The Tennessee State constitution of that time, like other Southern State constitutions, strictly forbade mixed classes.

"Then... The 85 heroic Tennessee students from the all-black Scarboro neighborhood in Oak Ridge changed everything. They quietly broke the deadlock by desegregating the public school system. This remarkable effort was the first major challenge to the Jim Crow racial culture in the Southeast.

#### "When did this happen?"

"Their landmark school desegregation oc-

curred on September 6, 1955. This was:

- Five years before Ruby Bridges walked into the elementary school in New Orleans
- Two years before the Little Rock 9 in Arkansas
- One year before the Clinton 12
- Months before Dr. Martin Luther King and Ms. Rosa Parks rose to national prominence by leading the historic Montgomery boycott
- Six years before black undergraduate students entered the University of Tennessee
- Two weeks after the tragic murder of Emmett Till

"Their landmark desegregation in sports occurred on December 3, 1955. This was fifteen years before the first black University of Tennessee basketball player.

"Three courageous students, Harry Fred Guinn, Dr. Ahmed Alhamisi, and Robert Berry were the very first to participate in Southeastern public school and university sports.

"These talented high school athletes had to wait by the phone to see if opposing teams would accept a black basketball player on the court. Many schools initially refused, forcing them to stay home during the Oak Ridge basket-



John Spratling speaks to the audience reminding them of the effort to fund a monument to honor the Scarboro 85 (Courtesy of Ray Smith)



The panel and some of the audience at the breakfast to honor the first desegregation of sports in public schools in the Southeast (Courtesy of Ray Smith)

ball games. Racial segregation ruled Southeastern public schools and university sports until the courageous achievement of the Scarboro 85.

#### "How was this accomplished?"

"We recognize that only by God's grace and the help of the community Pastors, ministers, parents, teachers and the Scarboro school staff helped prepare them for their new journey. Their heroic efforts are fundamental to the entire civil rights movement and to American history.

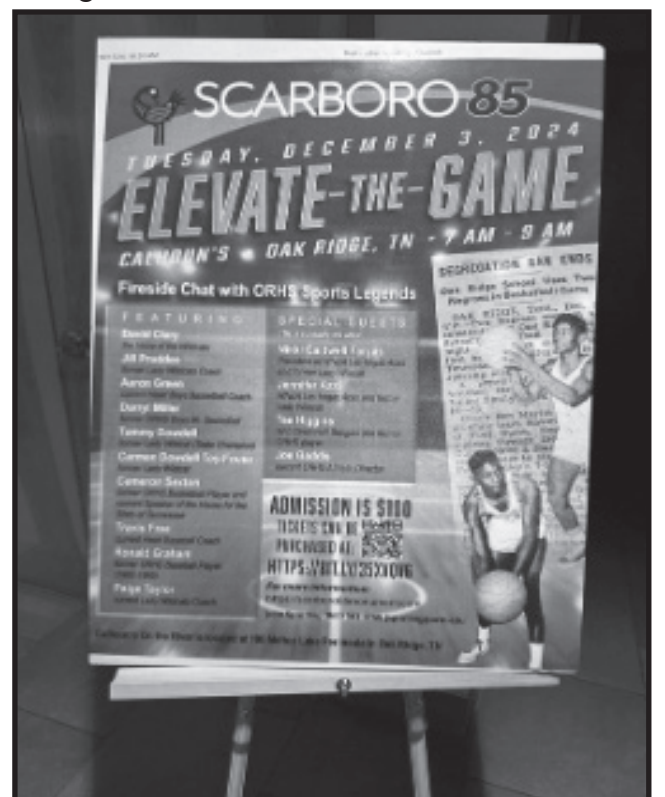
"Their lives and actions were the bedrock foundation that changed the course of history. This country has been blessed in so many ways and we have benefited from their efforts of public-school desegregation as it opened doors to a whole new group of talented, creative human beings made in the image of God, with unique abilities, talents, and gifts to help our Country solve the very challenging problems we face today.

"We will forever be grateful for the remarkable achievements of the Scarboro 85."

Thank you, Trina, for the words you said at that special occasion.

John Spratling, leader of the effort to establish a monument for the Scarboro 85, also spoke to the group gathered to celebrate the occasion. He reminded the audience of the importance of creating a monument to the achievements of these most courageous individuals who stood strong in the face of adversity to become the first of many to benefit from being allowed to play sports.

The featured panel of educators added their support to the effort to recognize and celebrate these trailblazers who helped to create the opportunity enjoyed by many students today. The civil rights movement was advanced by the Scarboro 85 pioneers and Oak Ridge is proud to be included in the history of that significant cultural change.



The poster promoting the celebration (Courtesy of Ray Smith)



# Luke Chapter 18



**Melvin Howard**

(Luke 18:1-8) The parable of the unjust judge: Christ has given the disciples a warning about certain hardships to come after his departure. The following parable was designed to encourage them and to emphasize the power of prayer in the face of persecutions. It has some similarities with the parable of the friend at midnight.

The purpose of the illustration is explicitly stated. Disciples of the Lord ought to maintain a consistent practice of praying and not allow themselves to wilt under persecution. There was a certain judge who had no fear of God or respect for his fellowman.

These two traits frequently are companions! The verbal tenses suggest this was his habitual mode of life. A widow in the city had been harassed by a bully; hence, she had repeatedly sought (so the force of the verb) redress from the judge, who was expected to protect her rights. But he ignored her; after all, she was a "nobody." Not deterred, she continued to pester him. Finally, he thought; "Though I do not fear God, nor care about people, this woman is wearing me out". He must be rid of her.

The Lord explains the parable. "Listen to what the unrighteous judge has said." He then makes this point. It is one of contrast, reasoning from the lesser to the greater. If an unrighteous judge will finally listen to a poor woman whose persistence was to the point of irritation, will not a loving God avenge his elect? The elect are those who yield to his plan of redemption and, thus, enter the "in Christ" relationship (2 Tim. 2:10). There is no unconditional election, as Calvinism maintains. In faith, the Lord's people must unceasingly cry out to him. He is not unmindful of the plight of his persecuted children. Several lessons are apparent: (a) The Lord's people will be persecuted for their convictions (Mt. 5:10-12). (b) They must remain faithful; God will avenge them ultimately. (c) Christians must cultivate patience to carry them through hard times (Gal. 6:9). (d) We must persist in prayer, for it is a powerful force. (e) This type of qualitative faith will sustain us until the time of judgment arrives.

(Luke 18:9-14) The parable of the Pharisee and the Publican: The story has an obvious connection to the former, as reflected by the conjunction "and." The connection may have been made by the Lord or by Luke, the inspired writer. Some suggest it was another indictment of the Pharisees; others speculate it was an inoculation of the disciples against certain pharisaical attitudes potentially developing in them. It aimed at the self-righteous disposition that exalted oneself and considered all others inferior (v. 9).

Two men went up to the temple to pray. Prayer hours were nine a.m., twelve p.m., three p.m., and six p.m., (Lk. 1:10; Acts 3:1; 10:30). The Pharisees were the "straitest" sect of the Jews (Acts 26:5). There were some six thousand of them in Jesus' time. They flaunted their religion (Mt. 6:1-18). In spite of their numerous flaws, they were highly respected by the common folks. In striking contrast were the publicans, despised tax collectors for the Roman government--viewed as compromisers with a pagan power. The stage is thus set; it is the hero Pharisee versus the disgusting publican.

The Pharisee "stood" (struck a pose) and "prayed" (the tense suggests on and on) "with himself" (arrogantly and with self-serving interest). He chronicled his religious achievements and thanked God--not for the Lord's marvelous nature or the blessings he bestows, but that he was better than others. The egotism is unbelievable! Perhaps God should have given thanks to him! The tax collector's disposition was a universe apart. He stood from afar (unworthy to come too near the sacred compound where God's presence was focused). He beat his chest as an expression of his sinful unworthiness (23:48; Nah. 2:7). He pled for mercy as a sinful man "be propitiated" (Heb. 2:17). The publican depicted himself as "the sinner," a one-man exhibition of what sin will do to a person.

IN conclusion, Jesus declared that the confessed sinner was justified, the one-man show-off was not. The main point is attitude--God exalts the humble and brings down the arrogant. Let both Pharisees and the disciples be warned.

Two men went up into the temple to pray;--Both of these men had access to the temple worship; they were both in covenant relation with God; presumably both were Jews. They do not represent an alien sinner and a Christian; the parable was not given to teach the difference between the prayers of an alien and a Christian; such an application does violence to the teachings of our Lord. The Jews attended daily the services at the temple; these two went up for that purpose, and met in the court of the Israelites, near the sanctuary. They are types of opposite classes of worshipers. The temple was the place of prayer as well as the place of sacrifice.

"A Pharisee" was one of the two principal sects of the Jews at that time; the Pharisees originated about one hundred fifty years before Christ; they were noted for their rigid observance of the letter of the law and of their traditions; among their leading characteristics were formality, self-righteousness, and hypocrisy. "A Publican" was one of the collectors of revenue and taxes under the Roman government. Publicans were classed with the outcasts or sinners. These two men thus classified are now presented individually by their prayers.

The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself,--"Stood," in the original, means that he struck a pose, or assumed an attitude where he could be seen; the condemnation is not so much upon the standing in prayer as it is upon the posture assumed merely to be seen of men; he manifested no humility, piety, or reverence. He prayed "thus with himself"; some think that this means that he only prayed mentally or in silence; others think that it means that the Pharisee standing by himself prayed these things. He first gave thanks, which was an important part of his communication with God. He thanked God that he was "not as the rest of men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican." He thanked God that he was made separate from sinners, as he thought; he did not feel any need of God's pardon, for he counted himself as being righteous; he trusted in himself that he was sufficiently righteous in merit God's favors. "Extortioners"--the original means a robber and plunderer, grafters, like the publicans. "Unjust" means one who deals unfairly with his fellows; one who is unjust in feelings and attitude toward others. "Adulterers"--those who have transgressed the law in relation to others; those who have violated the law that requires a pure life. He seemed to reach the climax when he thanked God that he was not "even as this publican." There is no evidence that he knew anything about the man except that he was a publican. He sustained an attitude of contempt toward the publican. He saw no sin in himself, and feeling that he was righteous, he then began to tell the Lord about his good deeds. He said: "I fast twice in the week; I give tithes of all that I get." In his egotism and self-righteousness he has used the pronoun "I" five times in this short prayer. The only fast positively enjoined was on the day of atonement, the tenth day of the month. (Lev. 23:27.)

Most of the religious world uses this parable in the most evil way possible. This attitude in prayer is truly for those persons who have already obeyed the Gospel of Christ. The Gospel of Christ is 1 Cor. 15:1-4 and obedience to this form of doctrine. This teaching is the means by which an alien sinner is saved. It is detailed in Acts 2:38. Jesus gave Nicodemus (in John 3:5) only two components of it. In Matthew 28:18-20 Jesus commands it. In Mark 16:15-16 Jesus commands it. Ten different places in Acts, the Holy Spirit commands it. Jesus said: (Jn. 14:6) I am the way; this is the way to the Father. The multitude of preachers today condemn it. Just because the bulk of preachers are dead wrong will not make it right on Judgment day, even though the masses of people have believed them. Matthew 7:21 "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven."

You cannot be entertained into the kingdom of Christ. You must obey the King and live your life in the king for He is the truth.

BIBLETALK.TV Mike Mazzalongo  
FortifyYourFaith.org

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