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Morgan County Today

Psalm 100:3

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Tuesday, November 11, 2025

More Than A Newspaper.

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VETERANS DAY

WEEKLY WEATHER

**CITIZENS
GAS
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MORGAN of Scott and Morgan Counties

Tue 11	43°/34°	
Wed 12	59°/36°	
Thu 13	60°/39°	
Fri 14	64°/47°	
Sat 15	68°/50°	
Sun 16	66°/47°	
Mon 17	62°/47°	

Tennessee 811
Know what's below.
Call before you dig.



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.

SENATOR KEN YAGER'S

30th Annual

★ Chili Supper & Silent Auction ★

\$5 tickets

5-7pm

Live music

Friday, November 21, 2025

*Roane State Community College
Harriman Campus Student Lounge*

**ALL PROCEEDS FROM SILENT AUCTION GO TO THE KID'S FIRST
CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER OF THE 9TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT**

— In Loving Memory —

Betty Ann Mills, 77



Lindsey Mills, along with many cousins who will remember her fondly.

For over 20 years, Betty dedicated her career to helping others in the pharmacy departments of three major hospitals, where she specialized in preparing chemotherapy for cancer patients. A devoted mother and friend, she was also known for her exceptional skills as a pool shooter in her younger days.

A memorial service will be held at a late date.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Betty Ann Mills.

Betty Ann Mills, born on April 20, 1948, in Wartburg, TN, passed away peacefully on October 24, 2025, in Knoxville, TN.

She was the beloved daughter of Bill and Mildred Dyer and was preceded in death by her son Brian Mills, as well as siblings Barbera Hall, James Dyer, Jesse Dyer, Billy Dyer, and David Dyer.

Betty is survived by her loving partner of nearly 30 years, Joe Neff, her son Jason Mills and his wife Jean, and her cherished grandchildren Tyler and

Truman Armes, 77



Darenda Beasley and a host of great nieces, nephews and friends.

Gail loved to cook, clean and be at home with her family. She was a wonderful and devoted mother who devoted her life to taking care of her family.

The family would like to thank everyone for all the thoughts, prayers, text, and calls. Special thanks to niece Darenda for helping care for Gail and beloved cousins Linda Gibson, Donna Newberry, Bob Hamby, cousins really are your first friends.

The family will have a graveside service Tuesday, October 21, 2025 in the Armes Chapel Cemetery in Wartburg at 11:30 a.m. with Bro. Perry Spurling officiating.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Elizabeth Gail Beasley.

Elizabeth Gail Beasley, age 70 of Wartburg went to be with the Lord on October 19, 2025.

Gail is preceded in death by her parents Billy Joe and Sylvia (Hamby) Beasley; sisters Mary Helen Human and Billy Faye Davis.

She leaves behind daughter Sylvia Beasley Morton; grandchildren Elijah Morton Elizabeth Morton and honorary grandson Eli Carroll; sisters Artie Beasley and Kimberly McDaniel; brother Andrew (Beverly) Beasley; nephews Kevin (Ginger) Human, Toby Beasley and Cody Davis, Amos Beasley; niece

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

Barbara Ellen (Johnson) Brown, 81



Barbara and made their home in Oakdale.

Lonnie & Barbara had one son, Ricky Brown. Rick was their pride and joy. Ricky married Jae (Hammonds) Brown, and they gave them three wonderful grandchildren, Erin Parks, Cade (Lexi) Brown and Banner Brown. These precious gifts of God added even more blessings with 5 great grandchildren. Carter and Lincoln Jerrell, Berklee, Millie and Elliott Cade Brown.

Barbara accepted the Lord in her heart at a young age and was a lifelong member of Boswell Chapel Baptist Church in Oakdale. Because of this choice she is now in the presence of our Lord and Savior. Barbara always enjoyed singing in the church choir and loved bluegrass music. She loved her family fiercely and always enjoyed her family time. She loved her fur baby, Boaz who always brought her so many smiles.

She is proceeded in death by: Parents: Fred and Velma (Duncan) Johnson Brothers and Sister-in-law: Lowell Dean Johnson, Morris and Jean (Brown) Johnson, Bill Collier Father and Mother-in-law: Wilburn and Elsie (Spurling) Brown Brother and Sister-in-law: Lawrence and Mary Brown Willis Wormsley Leon Brown.

She is survived by her brother, Edward (Edna) Johnson of Oakdale, Sisters: Marie Collier, Linda Johnson and sister-in-law: Frances Johnson all of Oakdale., Janet Wormsley of Deer Lodge Community, James Brown of Deer Lodge and many nephews and nieces who adored her.

Special thanks to Dr. Robert Wilson of Roane County Family Practice for the many years of care you gave Barbara.

The family will receive friends Saturday November 1, 2025 from 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. with the funeral to follow at 1:00, Bro. Rick Brown officiating. Interment will immediately follow at Piney Baptist Church Cemetery in Oakdale, TN.

The family wishes to thank each and everyone for every call, flowers and kind words. Pallbearers are: Cade Brown, Noah Gouge, Tim, (Poke) Johnson, Taylor Smith, Edward Johnson Jr., and Jason Johnson.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Barbara Brown.



— In Loving Memory —

Verlin Sweat, 99

United State Navy Veteran, World World War II Veteran



A Glorious Reunion in Heaven.

Verlin Sweat, born May 3, 1926 in Mossy Springs area of Sharps Chapel in Union County, Tennessee to parents George T. (Pop) and Easter Tennessee (Mom, or Tennie) Longmire Sweat passed into the presence of our Heavenly Father on October 20, 2025.

Born the ninth of fourteen children, Verlin experienced a long and loving life filled with family, friends, and experiences. Hardships tempered his tenacity, work ethic, and perseverance, while his Faith tempered his kindness, wit, friendship, and positive outlook.

As a child, TVA relocation project brought the Sweat family to the Joyner Community of Morgan County, TN. Settling on

a farm on Cassell Road, Verlin grew up in the Joyner Community, attending and becoming a life member of Union Baptist Church.

Verlin joined the US Naval Reserve July 22, 1944 and served the United States in World War II as Grade S 2/C, positioned as an anti-aircraft gunner on the USS AMSTERDAM (CL 101) cruiser type vessel. Wartime duty in the Pacific, June 1945 the Amsterdam joined Cruiser Division 18. During 10 July – 15 August, the USS Amsterdam took part in the 3d Fleet strikes against Japan and on 5 September steamed into Tokyo Bay. Verlin received an Honorable discharge March 11, 1946.

Verlin was elected in 1954 to serve Morgan County as a Justice of the Peace (County Commissioner).

Verlin attained third degree Mason with degree of Scottish Rite and was a 68 year member of East Fork Masonic Lodge # 460 F&AM beginning November 30, 1957.

Verlin married the late Reta Maxine Wilson Sweat, also of the Joyner Community, and their

marriage brought 4 children, Lois, Verlin Jr., Varnell, and Anita, all preceding him in Heaven.

Verlin later married Alma Justice and they resided in the Joyner Community before moving to the Dyllis Community of Roane County, prior to her passing.

He is remembered with love by grandchildren Wendy (Aaron), Ashley (Aldo), Spencer (Ashley), Tara, and Chandler (Jessica), along with several great-grandchildren, great-great-grandchildren, nephews, and nieces.

Verlin is also remembered by two siblings, Lucy and Houston.

Verlin late of Crossville, TN was well cared for with competence and love by "his 7 daughters" as he affectionately referred, Lynndy Byrge, Adrian Wilson, Candice Burton, Debe Houston, Karen Wyatt, Kristi Tollett, and Vetta Scott, and their families, with special affection of "Pewee".

Family will receive friends at Schubert Funeral Home, Wartburg, TN on Saturday, October 25, 2025 at 11 o'clock a.m., with funeral service at 12 o'clock noon officiated by beloved Pastor Dr. Johnny Nix. Interment

will be at Union Baptist Church Cemetery. At the time of his passing, Verlin was the oldest veteran and member of American Legion Post 149, Wartburg, TN. He will receive full military honors graveside to be performed by his fellow American Legion members.

In lieu of flowers, he may be remembered with a donation to:

Shriner's Children

https://donate.shrinerschildrens.org/campaign/618584/donate?utm_source=bing&utm_medium=cpc&utm_campaign=sept-2025&utm_content=nonbrand&c_src=bing&c_src2=sept-2025-nonbrand&msclkid=fc08683e5ae91bde5cde00c71c3c23ce

American Legion Post 149
202 S. Kingston St.
Wartburg, TN 37887
First Baptist Church
PO Box 846
Wartburg, TN 37887

*Schubert Funeral Home
is honored to serve the family
of Verlin Sweat.*

Charles R. "Charlie" Davis

United State Air Force Veteran, Air National Guard Veteran



Charles R. "Charlie" Davis
May 19, 1944 –
October 11, 2025

Charles R. Davis, 81, of Sunbright, Tennessee, passed away peacefully on October 11, 2025, in Rossville, Georgia, surrounded by the family who loved him deeply.

He was preceded in death by his father, John R. Davis; mother, Madeline Summers Davis; brother, J. Thomas Davis; a special uncle, William Summers; and the mother of his children, Deloris Galloway.

Charlie is survived by his ten children — Regina, Kim, Ronda, Patty, Johnny, Charlis, Daria, Ricky, Candice, and Tendre — along with 24 grandchildren and 44 great-grandchildren and 6 great great grandchildren who will carry his memory forward with love. He is also survived by his brother, Benny Davis; sisters, Betty Presley and Brenda Shannon; and a host of nieces and nephews.

The family would like to extend heartfelt thanks to Charlie's dear friends Freddy Scott, Robert Patrick, and Bill Soldner for their enduring friendship and support. Deep appreciation is also given to the compassionate caregivers at Hearth Hospice in Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia.

Charlie proudly served his country in the U.S. Air Force and The Air National Guard. A man of many talents, he was a skilled pilot who loved the skies, a master welder, and a dedicated truck driver who spent many years on the road. His life was a testament to hard work, courage, and determination.

Above all, Charlie loved being "Papaw." He found his greatest joy surrounded by his grandchildren and great-grandchildren, always finding ways to make them laugh and creating memories they will cherish forever.

He will be remembered for his strength, humor, and unwavering love for his family. Charlie's legacy lives on in the stories, laughter, and love he leaves behind.

The family is honoring Charles' wishes to be cremated. No services scheduled at this time.

*Schubert Funeral Home
is honored to serve the family
of Charles R. Davis.*



— In Loving Memory —

**William Clifford Cole, 84
United States Army Veteran
Vietnam War Veteran**



and Whitley Johnson - and one great-grandson - Liam Johnson, and numerous nephews, nieces, and cousins.

Cliff graduated from the University of Tennessee in 1966 with a B.S. degree in Business Administration. It was there that he met his beloved wife, Janice Dee Staley Cole. He joined the Army, becoming a First Lieutenant, and served honorably during the Vietnam War.

His passions included being a dedicated 25-year member of the American Legion Post 53 in Harriman, Tennessee, serving on the Harriman Utilities Board, and being a long-time member of the VFW and the Harriman Jaycees. He also enjoyed fishing and storytelling, and he was a long-time member of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Harriman.

Services will be held at the East Tennessee State Veterans Cemetery, located at 2200 East Gov. John Sevier Highway (Hwy #168), Knoxville, Tennessee, on Monday, November 24, at 10:00 AM.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of William Clifford Cole.

William Clifford Cole, age 84, of Harriman, Tennessee, passed away on Monday, October 20, 2025, at Select Specialty Hospital in Nashville, Tennessee.

Clifford did not wish to be mourned but rather to be remembered as a person who loved life. Arrangements are being made for a military memorial service on November 24 in Knoxville, Tennessee, to celebrate his life.

Born in Rockwood, Tennessee, Clifford was the eldest child of Ocee Clifford Cole and Pauline Kesterson Cole. He is survived by his loving wife, Janice Dee Staley Cole; two twin sons, William Clifford Cole II, MD (Colleen) of Ohio and Joseph Barclay Cole (Seleena) of New York; his younger brother, Larry O. Cole (Beatrice) of Hartwell, Georgia; as well as his grandchildren - Marcus Cole, Gilbert Cole, Emerald Cole, Zach Cole, Cliff Cole, Abbigail Cole,

Kathy Ann Price Bonifacius, 70



Survivors include her son, Gene Ray Bonifacius; sisters, Joy Jenkins (Jackie) and Judy Waldo; nephew, Avery Price; nieces, Amanda Plaster (Jamey), Summer Bunn, and Laci Burnette; great-nephew, Justin Price (Emma); great-nieces, Emily Peters and Hannah Peters; and many other close friends, relatives, and members of her church family.

Mrs. Kathy Ann Price Bonifacius, 70, a resident of Wartburg, TN, passed away Tuesday, November 4, 2025, at Methodist Medical Center in Oak Ridge, TN.

She was born November 19, 1954, in Rockwood, TN. Mrs. Bonifacius was a member of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Wartburg. She loved her family deeply, especially her late husband, son, sisters, nieces, nephews, and great-nieces and nephews, as well as her beloved friends and church family.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Butch Bonifacius; mother, Kathleen Price Delozier; and great-niece, Morgan Peters.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to St. Paul Lutheran Church in Wartburg, TN, or to The Compassion Closet of Oak Ridge, TN.

The family will receive friends Saturday, November 8, 2025 at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Wartburg from 10:00-12:00 p.m. with the funeral to follow at 12:00 p.m. with Pastor David Graves officiating. Interment will follow in the Oak Grove Cemetery in Rockwood.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Kathy Ann Price Bonifacius.

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

Psalm 86:4-5

4 Rejoice the soul of thy servant: for unto thee, O Lord, do I lift up my soul.

5 For thou, Lord, art good, and ready to forgive; and plenteous in mercy unto all them that call upon thee.



Historically Speaking

Mike Stevens:

Our Hometown Hero

By Ray Smith - Oak Ridge City Historian



Mike Stevens in Vietnam, September 1970 – 1971
(Courtesy of Eleanor Stevens)

Benita Albert presents another Veterans' Day story about one of our own.

Valor is a gift. Those having it never know for sure whether they have it till the test comes. Napoleon Bonaparte

Native-born Oak Ridger, Mike Stevens, a 1964 Oak Ridge High School (ORHS) graduate, has met the test for valor more than once in his military service. As a helicopter pilot in Vietnam, his long service in the Tennessee National Guard, and his role as Blackhawk Mission Planner and Pilot in Command during Operation Iraqi Freedom, Mike's military assignments spanned 38 years from 1969-2007. During a part of those years, Mike was also a chemistry and math teacher at Clinton High School ('72-'86) and ORHS ('88-'01).

I knew Mike as a teaching colleague, as an enthusiastic coach and mentor in the athletic program at ORHS, and as a quiet hero to his students. In fact, one of Mike's chemistry students memorialized his ORHS experience in the book, "Celebrating 75 Years of Excellence in Education in the Oak Ridge Schools: 1943-2018," by writing the following tribute.

Tyler Carr, ORHS Class of 2004, wrote, "Most people remember where they were sitting on September 11, 2001. I know I will never forget. I was a sophomore sitting in Mike Stevens's chemistry class. I cannot remember the exact dialogue, but I knew the world was changing. Little did I know that my chemistry class would be changing as well. At winter break, Coach Stevens left his position as a teacher at Oak Ridge High School to serve actively in the Military Reserves. To this day, when I see him, I remember and admire his choice to help protect our country. Coach Stevens continues to be a substitute teacher in the system, and it makes me smile seeing him still influencing students' lives. I doubt he realizes he taught me the importance of responsibility, accountability, and honor that year."

Mike's parents, Clarence and Voretta Stevens, moved from Roan Mountain to Oak Ridge in 1944, where Clarence (known to co-workers as Shorty) began work as a chemical operator at Y-12, a job he held until his retirement in 1970.

Their family of seven children grew to eight with the birth of Mike, the only Stevens child born in Oak Ridge. Mike's education began at Highland View School and then Robertsville Junior High School, where Algebra 1 teacher Mary Elizabeth Alexander made a lasting impression on his future. Dewey Bilbrey, ORHS chemistry teacher, was another role model in Mike's career planning. Mike said that he always knew from an early age that he wanted to be a teacher and a coach. Mike lauded another of his inspirational role models, Lawrence Hahn, longtime Director of the Boys' Club of Oak Ridge. Mike proudly stated, "I became a charter member in 1958 when it opened its doors." He added, "My Boys' Club days under Lawrence Hahn kept me out of trouble and on the straight and narrow."

Mike's athletic skills were further honed at ORHS, where he was a pole vaulter for the 1962 State Championship Track Team and the 1964 State Runner-up Track Team under legendary Coach Ben Martin. Mike also played on the 1963 ORHS State Championship Basketball Team with Coach Ira Green. His athletic record earned him a track scholarship to Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU) where he majored in math and chemistry with minors in secondary education and physics. Later, in 1980, he completed a Master's in Education, Curriculum and Instruction, from the University of Tennessee. Also, adding to his resume of state championships, Mike was pleased to be on the coaching staff of the 1991 ORHS State Championship Football Team.



Pilots and Crew Chiefs in Iraq, (Mike on the far right) October 2004 – 2005 (Courtesy of Eleanor Stevens)

As Mike was graduating from MTSU midyear of 1969, he received a draft notice from the U.S. Army. He reported to basic training in Fort Polk, LA in August of 1969 and was subsequently selected for Flight School training in Fort Walters, TX. Mike reflected on this interruption to his early career plans: "Despite the fact that I was drafted into the military, it provided an opportunity for me to become someone that I never dreamed of being—a helicopter pilot. My first-ever experience on an airplane was flying to Flight School to learn to be a pilot."

By mid-September 1970, Mike was in Vietnam, assigned to the 117th Assault Helicopter Company, famously known as the first to arrive and the last to leave during the Vietnam War. In March of 1971, he was transferred to Bravo Troop 2nd/17th Air Cavalry attached to the 101 ABN at Camp Eagle, providing direct combat support to both U.S. and Republic of Vietnam troops. Mike's Vietnam tour of duty ended in mid-October 1971. This 12-month deployment earned Mike the following honors for valor: The Distinguished Flying Cross, the Bronze Star, and 28 Air Medals. Mike flew his helicopter into heavy fire on May 1, 1971, while covering a downed U. S. aircraft, extracting crew members, and safely departing without injury to anyone. The Distinguished Fly-

ing Cross Award letter praised Warrant Officer Mike Stevens's efforts on that day for his "flying ability and devotion to duty."

Mike joined the TN National Guard in April 1980. He said, "I encouraged others to join. I formed a bond and friendship with many other Vietnam Era pilots and crew members." In the years after active duty, Mike began his teaching career with a one-year hiatus from education while he served as a Pilot for UT LIFESTAR Aeromedical Services from June 1986 through April 1987.

His National Guard duties included serving as an Instructor Pilot for UH-1H/M (Huey) helicopters, an AH-1 Cobra Pilot in Command, and a UH-60 Black Hawk Pilot. His Guard assignments included water bucket teams to fight fires in Tennessee and Florida, flight services for rappelling team missions to eradicate marijuana plots, and emergency rescue operations.

One notable rescue operation, where Mike's piloting skills were invaluable, occurred during the Blizzard of '93 in East Tennessee. Mike's wife, Eleanor, wrote this account:

"It started snowing in Knoxville on Friday, March 12, and continued through Sunday, March 14. Mike received a call from the National Guard in Knoxville on Sunday morning that he was being activated for the search and rescue of people in the Smoky Mountains National Park. He couldn't get out of our driveway, so the Guard sent a Humvee to pick him up."

"Two Hueys flew up to cabins above Gatlinburg, where 90 people had been stranded

since Friday with no food, water, fuel, or electricity. The aircraft could not land because the skids would sink down into the deep snow accumulation. It was decided that the people on the ground needed to pack the snow down at the landing site until it was solid. The copters were finally able to land, and they made several trips to the Sevierville Community Center on Sunday afternoon until all 90 people were safely evacuated."

"They refueled at the flight facility and began looking for others, namely the reported 117 Michigan students who were on a school wilderness expedition, as well as other camper/hikers stranded in the mountains. The search continued Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. The Hueys would spot the hikers, and the Blackhawks from Ft Campbell were contacted to use their hoists to lift those stranded and take them to the National Guard facility at McGhee Tyson. In 1993, the local Guard did not have Blackhawks available. It was on Wednesday that the last Michigan students were rescued."

Mike returned home and was back to teaching at ORHS the next day as he recalls this time. Mike was later feted with a 'Quilt of Honor' from the Clinch River Quilts of Valor Foundation.

Historically Speaking

Mike Stevens:

Our Hometown Hero

By Ray Smith - Oak Ridge City Historian

From December 2001 until his retirement in December 2007, Mike served as a TN Army National Guard Operations Technician. In August 2004, a Blackhawk Company of the TNARNG was mobilized. Mike joined that unit for deployment to Iraq, arriving in October 2004 and serving for a year. Mike's duties were as an Operations Officer, Blackhawk Mission Planner, and Blackhawk Pilot in Command (his Call Sign: Moonshine 3A). His leadership in Operation Iraqi Freedom earned him more honors, another Bronze Star, and two additional air medals. Mike retired from the Guard and the position of State Aviation Safety Officer with the rank of Chief Warrant Officer 5, one of only two CW5s in the state of Tennessee.

Mike's family must not be neglected in telling his story. His wife, Eleanor, has been a vital support person for all that Mike's service required. Eleanor was thrilled to speak with me and to share so many details that her more reticent soldier/teacher/coach/hero husband overlooked. Eleanor worked for thirty years at East Tennessee Children's Hospital and taught classes at Roane State and Pellissippi Community Colleges as well as for the University of Tennessee. Their son Matthew is a Hardin Valley Middle School social studies teacher, and their daughter Jessica is a Senior Graphic Designer in Burbank, CA. They have two granddaughters at Hardin Valley Middle School who now keep them busy attending their many athletic activities.

Mike and Eleanor have enjoyed numerous travels across the United States and Canada in their retirement. They regularly attend UT football and men's basketball games, as well as occasional visits to UT baseball games and Oak Ridge football and basketball games. Mike reported that he plays golf daily, adding that "Being active has helped me to stay healthy."

Eleanor shared a second interesting story concerning Mike's military service, a story that she first told when I asked Mike if he would consider giving me the honor of writing his story for a Veterans' Day feature. As one of his fellow coaches and close friends, Winston Russell, later said, "Mike is an ever humble and unassuming man with an incredible story to tell. I hope you will write it, Benita."

Thus, I finish this tribute to Mike with Eleanor's captivating account:

"I went to the PX at McGhee Tyson Airbase to purchase ribbons that Mike had earned during his military career. I had his DD214 (Certificate of Discharge from Active Duty), which authorized the awards that he had earned. When I asked for help, the PX employee questioned the DD214, not believing that someone could have served both in Vietnam and in Iraq or that someone could earn 30 air medals. He called his buddies over to check out the DD214, and they all laughed and said, "No way!" They felt sure it was a fake. I assured them that it was real. Everyone in the store was gathering around to check it out. Finally, it was decided that the



Military honor ribbons and awards
(Courtesy of Eleanor Stevens)



101st Airborne painted this water tower during the 1999 Iraq War. Mike is the pilot of the Black Hawk from which the photo was taken of the second Black Hawk over the tower (Courtesy of Eleanor Stevens)

form must be legit, and I paid for Mike's ribbons. ***

They are framed and hang proudly in our home." Valor is defined as heroic courage and strength of mind in the face of danger, a quality of bravery and determination that goes beyond mere physical courage. On Veterans Day and throughout the year, thanks to all who have served to ensure and protect our freedom.

Thank you, Benita, for the insightful story of Mike Stevens, an Oak Ridger veteran who has served his country in many ways. It is good to take the time to honor veterans, and Mike is an excellent choice.

Acts 19



Melvin Howard

The salvation of the Ephesians really begins right here in Acts 19. Millions of believers are subverted from the way to life everlasting by Satan's slick but clever deception. He uses Eph. 2:8-9 because believers simply do not know Acts 19:1-7. Politicians never tell you the whole truth, but I tell you most preachers never tell you the whole truth because Satan, the god of this world loves ignorant preachers.

(Acts 19:1-7) the twelve disciples at Ephesus: as Apollos labored with the brethren at Corinth,

Paul, having passed through the "upper country," came to Ephesus. Here the apostle would do a fruitful work for three years (20:31). This is interesting because the Lord, on an earlier occasion, had forbidden the apostle to work in this area (16:6). But now the door is open.

Aquila and Priscilla had been left here (18:19), but there is no mention of them now. Paul, arriving in the city, found certain disciples. Who were they? The word disciple simply means a student. These disciples appear to have been some who had received the baptism of John the Baptist after it was obsolete, and they now maintained some association with the Christian movement. Something aroused Paul's curiosity regarding them, and so he questioned: Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed? The term believed takes a grammatical form which normally thrusts its action back beyond the time of the leading verb, received, the sense being: "Did you receive the Holy Spirit as a result of believing?"

As with other cases in this document, the verb believed denotes obedience to the gospel, including baptism. This is evidenced in this very context when Paul subsequently inquired: "Into what then were you baptized?" Note the proximity of "when you believed" to "into what were you baptized?" Their response was a revelation concerning their spiritual status. When the apostle discovered that these men knew nothing of the reception of the Holy Spirit, he surmised something was amiss in their conversion. Further inquire revealed they had received the type of baptism that was associated with the ministry of John the Baptizer; hence at the time of their baptism, their information regarding Jesus was seriously defective. A proper baptism requires adequate and accurate preliminary information. John's baptism involved a faith in the coming Christ; Christian baptism is based upon a conviction regarding him who already has died for sin, was buried, and was raised. This was the significant difference. Those immersed by John while his baptism was valid did not need baptism later (Mk. 1:4). If one's baptism has not embraced the full complement of truth, it must be done correctly (Acts 2:38). These are the Ephesians of Eph. 2:8-9. This is when and how we are saved by grace through faith.

When the men understood the difference between John's baptism and the baptism of the New Testament regime, as explained by Paul, they were immersed into the name of the Lord Jesus. This has no reference to a verbal formula that is spoken at the time of the immersion; rather, it is a key expression suggestion exactly what transpires when one is baptized. The phrase signifies coming into a relationship with and under the protection of the one into whom he is immersed. Paul, as an apostle of Christ with special powers, then laid his hands upon these twelve men (8:18), conveying two spiritual gifts---the ability to speak in language not learned naturally (2:4) and prophecy, a speaking forth for the Lord, sometimes with the capacity to declare the future.

(Acts 19:8-20) confrontations in Ephesus: for the following three months, regularly in the synagogue, Paul continued speaking boldly. He reasoned with the people and attempted to persuade them of the truthfulness of the case for Christianity. He talked of the good things associated with the kingdom of God. The kingdom was not some future millennial reign, but the

church (Mt. 16:18-19), into which they could enter by the new birth process (Jn. 3:3-5). While the apostle doubtless met with much success, eventually the atmosphere began to change. Some were hardened and spoke evil of the Way (9:2). Paul taught in a local school (probably renting the facility) for the next two years (v. 9). The gospel went forth into the outlying regions ("all Asia" v. 26), with churches being established in such cities as Colossae and Laodicea. After Jesus ascended to the throne, no apostle ever entered a synagogue for to remember the sabbath day to keep it holy.

During this period, many miracles were performed by God through Paul; the sick were healed and demons were expelled (v. 12). Such miracles, of course, were restricted to the apostolic age (1 Cor. 13:8). Certain Jewish exorcists, who feigned the ability to cast out demons, attempted such upon one individual, employing the name of Christ. But the ploy backfired. The demon-possessed man gave the charlatans a good beating! (v.13-16). This produced serious caution in the residents of the city, both Jews and Greeks, and the name of Christ was magnified (v. 17).

Many who had believed, who had obeyed the gospel (Eph. 5:26), had continued to flirt with pagan magic. They now confessed their sins and, to demonstrate their sincerity, they burned their magic books---the value of which would be about thirty-five thousand dollars on today's market. This enormous amount probably is an index on how the Ephesian church had grown. Such growth continued and mightily grew the word of the Lord (the expansion of the church) and prevailed (v. 20; Col. 16:8-9).

(Acts 19:21-22) planning additional work: as he was led by the Spirit, Paul purposed to sail west to Greece (passing through Macedonia and Achaia), after which he would travel back to Jerusalem (to convey a monetary gift for the needy saints). Eventually, God willing, he hoped to go to Rome. In the meantime, he felt the need to remain in Asia for a while. Yet he would dispatch Timothy and Erastus, brothers who ministered to him, on to Macedonia.

(Acts 19:23-41) the riot in Ephesus: Ephesus was famous for its worship of the Greek goddess, Diana. There was a huge temple for this idol in the city, and vendors sold small replicas of the fertility goddess. Demetrius, a silversmith who manufactured Diana shrines, felt his business was threatened by Paul's condemnation of idolatry; hence, he called a meeting of similar craftsmen in an attempt to stop the apostolic preaching. This created a great controversy concerning the Christian "Way" (v. 23-28).

The citizens were filled with wrath, and the city was filled with confusion. The mob chanted, "Great is Diana of the Ephesians," and a wild mass of people rushed into the great outdoor theater that could accommodate twenty-five thousand people. Two of Paul's friends from Macedonia, Gaius and Aristarchus, were seized. Paul wanted to enter the fray, but the disciples restrained him. Certain Asiarchs, prominent citizens who were Paul's friends (his influence was broad and diverse), sent a message urging the apostle to stay away from the dangerous area. The atmosphere was one of pandemonium.

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