

Neighborly News

Brought to you by your friends at the

Are you hungry?

When I was a boy on the farm, one of my jobs was to help feed the animals. Sometimes our hogs did not show up at feeding time. We had a pretty good idea where they were. They had free run over a large acreage of wooded area. In those days illegal whiskey was made throughout the community. Often people would sneak into the area, perhaps on a neighbor's land, and set up their "bootleg" business before anyone knew about it. But it didn't take the hogs long to find out about it. They thrived on the discarded mash. So when our hogs began to fail to show up at feeding times, we knew that they were not hungry for the corn we fed them

because they had found something which they liked much better.

Now that was a long time ago, but I haven't forgotten that hogs won't show up at feeding time if they are not hungry. For many years I have been working with human beings and not hogs, but I have also learned that whether it be hogs or human beings, neither will show up at feeding time if they are not hungry. I have also learned that this applies to both physical and spiritual food.

Our Lord said, "*Blessed are those who hunger and thirst*



r righteousness, r they shall be satisfied.

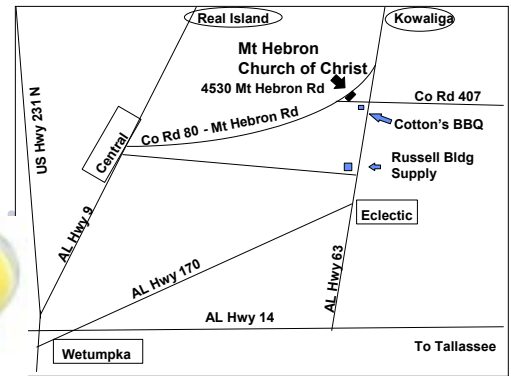
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Here, Jesus used two of the strongest drives within man—the desire for food and water. Think what people have done and will do to satisfy these needs! And yet, if a man is not hungry, he will refuse even the best of food.

Isn't the same thing true in the spiritual realm? Doesn't this explain why so many never attend a Bible class or more than one preaching service per week? If they have no spiritual hunger, why should they attend?

What a tragedy! Those who have been truly converted will "hunger and thirst after righteousness." If I am just not hungry for spiritual food, then surely I need to re-examine my claim to be a Christian.

C. W Bradley



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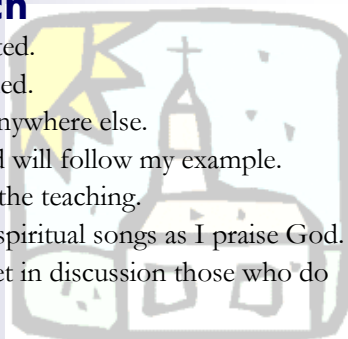
Come and visit us

Sunday
Bible Classes 10:00 AM
Worship Services
11:00 AM & 6:00 PM

Wednesday
Bible Classes 7:00 PM

Why I go to church

1. I want to go, and I am wanted.
2. I need to go, and I am needed.
3. I had rather be there than anywhere else.
4. People are watching me and will follow my example.
5. My soul is strengthened by the teaching.
6. My heart is warmed by the spiritual songs as I praise God.
7. I am better prepared to meet in discussion those who do not understand the truth.
8. I hunger and thirst after righteousness.



Quote from a Nobel Prize recipient

Arno Penzias was awarded for discovering microwaves in space, patterns that physicists have interpreted as showing that the universe was created from nothing. He said, "If I had no other data than the early chapters of Genesis, some of the Psalms and other passages of Scripture, I would have arrived at essentially the same picture of the origin of the universe, as is indicated by the scientific data."

By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." (John 13:35)

A father who wouldn't affirm his sons

The town baseball team was the Lake Woebegone Schroeders, so named because the starting nine were brothers, sons of E. J. Schroeder. E.J. was not pleased if a boy hit a bad pitch. He'd spit and curse and rail at him. And if a son hit a home run, he would say, "Blind man coulda hit that one. Your gramma coulda put the wood on that one. If a guy couldn't hit that one out, there'd be something wrong with him, I'd say. Wind practically took that one out of here, didn't even

need to hit it much"—and lean over and spit.

So his sons could never please him, and if they did, he forgot about it. Once, against Freeport, his oldest boy, Edwin Jim, Jr., ran to the center field fence for a long, long, long fly ball. He threw his glove forty feet in the air to snag the ball and caught the ball and glove.

When he turned toward the dugout to see if his dad had seen it, E. J. was on his feet clapping, but when he saw the boy look to him, he immediately pretended he was swatting mosquitoes.

The batter was called out, the third out.

Jim ran back to the bench and stood by his dad. E.J. sat chewing in silence and finally said, "I saw a man in Superior, Wisconsin, do that a long time ago. But he did it at night, and the ball was hit a lot harder." —Garrison Keillor, *We Are Still Married* (Penguin, 1990)

Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing. (1 Thessalonians 5:11)



God's tattoo

There are some cultures that encourage tattoos. These tattoos may have tribal significance. Other cultures may accept tattoos as simply pretty. And some cultures frown upon tattoos that are openly visible for all to see.

What is interesting is that God says He had a "tattoo." In Isaiah 49:14, the people of Israel say that God has forgotten them. But God says He has not forgotten them. In verse 16 we read, *Behold, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands; your walls are continually before me. (Isaiah 49:16)* God does not have physical hands. He uses this symbolism to make the point that He does not forget His people.

God has His people's names written on His palms. Most tattoos are on the side of a person's arms, on the back or on the legs. If a tattoo is in these places, clothing will usually cover it up. But clothing rarely covers the hands. One's palms are constantly visible. Whatever is on the palms is a constant reminder.

Is your name written on God's palms? Do you study your Bible? Do you obey the Bible? If you do not, your name is not written on God's palms. Make sure God writes your name on His palms.

—Mark McWhorter, *Wisdom's Corner*

"Rejoice that your names are written in heaven"
Luke 10:20

HE KNOWS

A joyful heart is good medicine—Proverbs 17:22

A little boy was asked to say the prayer before dinner. He thanked God for each of his friends, naming them one by one. He then thanked God for each family member, from his parents to his brothers and sisters, his grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins. Then he gave thanks for the ham, the mashed potatoes, the corn, the green beans, the salad, the bread, the butter, the pickles, and even the salt and the pepper. Then came a long pause, and everyone waited and waited. Finally, the little fellow looked up at his mother and asked, "If I thank God for the broccoli, won't He know that I'm lying?" *For whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything. (1 John 3:20)*



HBO

To most people, these letters mean something entirely different from what is meant by them here.

H means **Hear** the word of the Lord. This is the beginning of obedience (Romans 10:17).

B means **Believe** the word of the Lord. This is essential if we intend to be pleasing to our Creator (Hebrews 11:6).

O means **Obey** the word of the Lord.

There is no substitute for obedience (1 Samuel 15:22; John 14:15).

In New Testament times, sinners heard, believed, and obeyed the gospel. As this was pleasing to God then, it is now also (Acts 2:38; 3:19; 22:16). Hear, believe, and obey is God's simple plan for saving men.

—Bill Dillon, Hickory Ridge, AR