

Fort Payne church of Christ



The Weekly Moment

A Weekly Motivational Message

Wednesday, August 28, 2019

Polishing The Pulpit

Two weeks ago, Jimmy, Randy, Debbie and I went to ***Polishing The Pulpit*** in Sevierville, TN, to record preacher interviews for ***The Preacher And His Work*** that are aired on the **Gospel broadcasting Network** and YouTube. This is a work of the Fort Payne church of Christ that we started in 2018.

Polishing The Pulpit (PTP) is a work that began in 1994 when four preachers who were classmates in school decided to get together for a couple of days and discuss sermon topics and other issues. Later, it expanded to include elders, then deacons and now it is open to all Christians. This year, 5249 attended the one-week event – setting another record. If you have never attended this event, you’re missing out on a great way to “*renew, refresh, recharge.*”

This year, PTP had over 700 different sessions that you could choose from. An awesome array of topics that are timely and uplifting. Aside from recording preacher interviews, we got time to attend some of the evening sessions and the speakers were outstanding. I’d like to mention two of them.

The highlight of the week, from an emotional standpoint, was Monday evening when **Don Blackwell** was pushed up a ramp to the stage in a wheelchair and he delivered a very inspiring and emotional lesson. If you remember, Don and his wife, Sherri, were severely injured back in May while riding an ATV. Don suffered a severed spinal cord and will never walk again. Sherri suffered severe back injuries and is in a back brace.



Don’s lesson was entitled “*The Frailty of Life: What I have Learned Since Getting on a 4-wheeler Three Months Ago.*” There’s no way I can convey the impact of his lesson – you could have heard a pin drop! I suggest you watch it. You can view this on YouTube at [Don Blackwell at PTP](#).



As a side note to Don's story, an effort by some Christians in TN is underway to raise funds for the Blackwell's medical expenses through the selling of socks in the **Don Blackwell Collection**. These socks can be ordered from a webpage on the Branson church of Christ website at [Don Blackwell Collection](#). If you look closely on any given Sunday, you might see me sporting a pair.



The best lesson I heard was from **John Deberry**. John is a gospel preacher in Memphis and also a representative in the Tennessee State Legislature. His lesson was entitled "*My Daddy's Favorite Sermon.*" It was powerful and challenging. (I can't find a link to it on YouTube.) John is a powerful speaker who commands your attention for the duration.

I hope that you will seriously give thought to attending PTP sometime soon – maybe next year! It will indeed "*renew, refresh, recharge*" you.

Think about it.

Here's hoping you'll make the "*most of your minutes*" this week.

Hope to see you at Bible Study tonight.

In Christian Love,

Bob Strickland