

TRUTH & RIGHT

A publication of the Wellsburg Church of Christ

 **WELLSBURG**
CHURCH OF CHRIST



www.wellsburgchurchofchrist.com

Volume 13 Issue 25

June 24, 2018

THE PRINCIPAL AND THE PADDLE

The wooden paddle on principal David Nixon's desk is two feet long, with a handle wrapped in duct tape that has been worn down by age and use. He found it in a dusty cabinet in his predecessor's office at John C. Calhoun Elementary in Calhoun Hills, S.C., where Nixon has been the principal since 2006. He has no idea if the old principal ever used it, but now it sits in plain view for all visitors to see, including children who have been dismissed to his office. As punishment for a "major offense," such as fighting or stealing, students are told to place both hands on the seat of a leather chair and brace for what Nixon calls "a whippin'". Before he

begins, though, he sits the child down for a quiet talk about why he, or she, is in trouble. He tries to determine if a deeper issue, such as a problem at home, might warrant a meeting with a counselor. If the child shows remorse, Nixon will often send him or her back to class without a spanking. Otherwise, he makes sure he is calm, and he makes sure his elbow is still. Then he delivers "three licks" to the child's rear end. If the child is a girl, then a female administrator does it. Some of the kids cry. Some are silent. Some want a hug. And after the child is sent back to class, still stinging, Nixon sits alone in his office

and thinks about what the child has done, and what he has done. "If I could burn that paddle in my stove," Nixon says, "I would. This is the worst part of my job." Before Nixon took over "John C," student behavior had gotten so bad that one teacher described it as "chaos." She eventually quit in disgust, pulled her own child from the school, and moved to a different one 45 minutes away. John C is located in a rural stretch of South Carolina near the Georgia border where all but one of the major textile plants have closed, and where the leading local employer is the school system. Nearly 90 percent of the kids at John C live below the poverty line. When Nixon went to his first PTO meeting, only about a dozen parents showed up at a school with 226 students. He still has trouble reaching many families by phone because they can't afford to put down a deposit on a landline. And yet Nixon has managed to turn John C around. It recently earned

three statewide Palmetto awards, one for academic performance and two for overall improvement – the school's first such honors in its 35-year history. Not everyone agrees with his methods, but most parents and teachers will tell you he couldn't have pulled off such a turnaround without his wooden paddle...In 2006, a family friend called about an opening at John C. The school, he heard, was "kind of in bad shape", but he took the job anyway. Thirty minutes into his first day of school at John C, a father walked into Nixon's office and said, "I want to give you the authority to whip my son's butt." Nixon was surprised, but after he thought it over, he decided to give every parent the same option. The year before he arrived, students made more than 250 visits to the principal's office; order had to be restored. While suspensions take kids out of the classroom for days, paddling could be done in 15 minutes. "What are we here to do? Educate," Nixon says. "This way

there's an immediate response, and the child is right back in the room learning." According to school statistics, referrals to the principal's office have dropped 80 percent since 2006. So far this school year, there's been less than 50. "I've had parents say 'thank you for doing this'," says fifth-grade teacher Devada Kimsey. "And look at the behavior charts now – there's nothing on them." -- Excerpt from article in Newsweek.

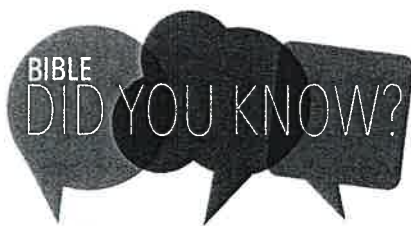
"Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child; the rod of discipline will remove it far from him," (Prov. 22:15)

"Do not hold back discipline from the child, although you strike him with the rod, he will not die. You shall strike him with the rod and rescue his soul from Sheol," (Prov. 23:13-14).

"He who withholds his rod hates his son, but he who loves him disciplines him diligently," (Prov. 13:24).

"The rod and reproof give wisdom, but a child who gets his own way brings shame to his mother," (Prov. 29:15). "Correct

your son, and he will give you comfort; he will also delight your soul," (Prov. 29:17). *"Stripes that wound scour away evil, and strokes reach the innermost parts,"* (Prov. 20:30). *"A foolish son is a grief to his father and bitterness to her who bore him,"* (Prov. 17:25). *"Discipline your son while there is hope, and do not desire his death,"* (Prov. 19:18).



Epaphroditus was a Christian who literally worked himself sick as he served the Lord for his brethren. "For indeed he was sick to the point of death, but God had mercy on him...Receive him then in the Lord with all joy, and hold men like him in high regard; because he came close to death for the work of Christ, risking his life to complete what was deficient in your service to me."

Philip. 2:27,29-30

BIBLE TRIVIA

C H A L L E N G E

DIRECTIONS: After searching through your Bible, circle which answer is correct.

1. The rich and the poor have a common ____, the LORD is the maker of them all.

- a) Form
- b) Bond
- c) Haircut
- d) Speech

2. The reward of humility and the fear of the LORD are riches, honor and ____.

- a) Skittles
- b) Money
- c) Life
- d) Fame

3. The rich rules over the poor, and the borrower becomes the lender's ____.

- a) Slave
- b) Uncle
- c) Partner
- d) Gardener

4. He who loves purity of heart and whose speech is gracious, the king is his ____.

- a) Guard
- b) Enemy
- c) Barber
- d) Friend

5. The mouth of an ____ is a deep pit; he who is cursed of the LORD will fall into it.

- a) Owl
- b) Angel
- c) Adulteress
- d) Evangelist

6. Do not rob the poor because he is poor, or crush the ____ at the gate.

- a) Afflicted
- b) Claustrophobic
- c) Ticklish
- d) Hairly

7. Like snow in summer and like rain in harvest, so ____ is not fitting for a fool.

- a) Rhyming
- b) Honor
- c) Dancing
- d) Baking

8. As the door turns on its hinges, so does the ____ on his bed.

- a) Antsy
- b) Anxious
- c) Hungry
- d) Sluggard

9. Let another ____ you, and not your own mouth; a stranger, and not your own lips.

- a) Tickle
- b) Invite
- c) Praise
- d) Kiss

10. A prudent man sees evil and hides himself, the naïve ____ and pay the penalty.

- a) Whistle
- b) Laugh
- c) Think
- d) Proceed

- 1) B, Reference: Prov. 22:2
 2) C, Reference: Prov. 22:4
 3) A, Reference: Prov. 22:7
 4) D, Reference: Prov. 22:11
 5) C, Reference: Prov. 22:14
 6) A, Reference: Prov. 22:22
 7) B, Prov. 26:1
 8) D, Prov. 26:14
 9) C, Prov. 27:2
 10) D, Prov. 27:12