

IN MEMORY OF RUBY DUBUISSON
(4/19/1932 - 10/21/2014)

Though we seldom use space in our bulletin to exalt any one member, it would seem amiss if we failed to make an exception in the loss of one of our most precious, loved and faithful members, sister Ruby DuBuisson.

Personally, I cannot tell the date or exact location of Ruby's baptism into Christ, but I am pretty sure that it occurred during one of she and her husband Harold's stays in Germany. I often heard her speak of the couple that spent the time and effort to teach her the gospel. She was ever thankful for them and expressed her love for them. She was their daughter in the faith.

Many years later, after retiring to Salemburg, North Carolina, she and Harold placed their membership with the church in Fayetteville, North Carolina, where they attended with their two daughters, Debbie and Brenda, for there was no congregation in Sampson County. They became aware of another couple in the county (Pete and Nancy Howell), that were also driving to Cumberland county to worship, but at a different congregation. Brother Roland Adams became a link that brought the two couples together and plans soon began to start the congregation here in Clinton. Thus, sister Ruby was very instrumental in there even being a congregation here.

Sister Ruby loved the church here and every member was someone she loved, prayed for and would do anything for their welfare. She was indeed a very special lady and a very important part of the congregation here. She will be missed greatly by all of the congregation.

Due to her firm faith in Christ Jesus and the promises of God, Ruby was ready to depart and be with Christ. She was looking forward to a reunion with those loved ones who had been of like precious faith, especially her beloved Harold. We are all saddened to for our loss, but our loss is Ruby's gain. She would not have us to mourn her death, but to rejoice for her new life. The rich man in the account of the rich man and Lazarus (Luke 16) was certain that he did not want his loved ones that he had left behind to follow in his footsteps to be reunited with him in torment. There is no doubt that Ruby would have every one of us to follow in her footsteps to be reunited with her when our time on this earth has passed. Let us rejoice for her victory.

Robert

CHRISTIAN THIEVES

Our title almost seems ridiculous doesn't it? How could a person possibly be a Christian and still be a thief? Those two professions stand in opposition to one another. The answer can be found in a verse from the prophet Malachi. Malachi writes, "Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings" (Mal. 3:8). These Jews were being accused of robbing God by means of withholding their tithes and offerings as was commanded by God under the old law of Moses. To make application of that principle to this Christian age, a Christian that withholds from God that which he or she owes God as commanded by the New Testament, that person is a robbing God and therefore, a thief.

Certainly all true Christians know that we are to give upon the first day of each and every week, as we have prospered and as we have purposed in our hearts and that such should be done cheerfully (I Cor. 16:1-2; II Cor. 9:7). To fail to do so is to rob God of that which belongs to Him. One's attitude toward giving has much to do with their faithfulness to give as commanded. The example of the giving by the churches of Macedonia serve as proof of this. They gave sacrificially of their material possession, but the Bible says, "And this they did, not as we hoped, but first gave their own selves to the Lord, and unto us by the will of God" (II Cor. 8:5). When one has this attitude toward the Lord, their attitude toward giving of their material possessions will display that love of the Lord. Indeed, a Christian who takes God's money for their own purposes and pleasures is a Christian thief.

However, let us not stop with that one concept about being a Christian thief. No indeed. There are other things that belong to God that we are currently in possession of. As a matter of fact, if we are Christians, "we" belong to God. Paul said, "For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's" (I Cor. 6:20). Not only does our material possessions belong to God, but our body, our spirit, our time, our talents and our physical efforts belong to God. When a child of God, forsakes the assembling of the saints (Heb. 10:25), that Christian has just stolen from God that which belonged to Him, both in time and in worship. When there is work of the church that needs to be done, and a child of God is capable, but ignores it for others to do instead, that person has stolen from God. You can be a Christian thief. Don't let it happen to you! **RO**