

Pastor's Perspective: When mistakes are made



By Guest Columnist John Vaughn, Pastor, Cross Roads Baptist Church

Special to Pelahatchie News

Last month, I wrote about the inspiring story of the Ole Miss Rebel baseball team. They had a “roller coaster” season, to say the least. Early in the season, they were ranked the number one college baseball team in the country. Then they lost some games and fell out of the rankings all together. But they kept playing hard, and although there were many doubters, at the end of the season they were invited to play in the NCAA College Baseball Tournament.

They won their Regional Tournament and Super Regional without a loss and went to the College World Series. There, they overcame some setbacks and eventually won the College Baseball World Series! All of that information was in the article for July.

When I received the *Pelahatchie News* in the mail and checked the article, I immediately was disappointed. You see, after telling the Ole Miss story, I applied their experience to our lives, and used scripture to teach what I thought was a valuable Spiritual lesson. In life, you will

have “mountain top” experiences and also have seasons “in the valley.” But if you will be faithful and keep doing your best, in the end, you will win the victory in the Lord.

But the article stopped after the Ole Miss story. The Spiritual application had been taken out! I jumped to the conclusion that the editor had purposefully cut off the most important part of the article. And of course, I was very disappointed that they would do that. So, I called the *Pelahatchie News* office and asked the editor why the most important part of the article had been left out.

The response was, “We didn’t do any editing on the article. We printed it just as you sent it.” I was confused by that, because the whole article had not been printed! While we were talking, the editor checked again and discovered that there was a third page to the devotion that had been overlooked, and had not included with the article. The editor was very apologetic, and offered to run the same devotion this month.

And then she shared why she had overlooked part of the devotion. The font size was so large that the devotion extended to three pages, and she had simply overlooked the fact that there was a third page. Let me explain how that happened.



Special to Pelahatchie News

When I am writing, I always use a large font to make it easier for me to see the words on the computer screen. Usually, after the article is completed, I reduce the font size before sending it in. After it is reduced to a normal font, the article often fits on one page, or sometimes has a paragraph on page two. But it has never been three pages before!

So, while the editor was apologetic and accepted responsibility for the error, it was obvious to me that I shared some of the responsibility, as well. If I had reduced the font size, as I should have done, she would have seen the full article and printed it as submitted.

There is an important spiritual lesson in this story, as well. The Bible teaches that we are all sinners. In fact, I John 1:8 makes that clear: “If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.”

Just like we are all sinners, we also all make mistakes. I’m not saying that mistakes and sin are the same thing, although some mistakes could in fact be sinful. What I am saying is that no person can say they don’t make mistakes. We all do. The question then becomes, “What should you do when you make a mistake?” When you sin, you should confess it; and when you make a mistake, you should acknowledge it.

The problem is that many people are too prideful or too stubborn to admit when they make a mistake. Or they demand that the other person apologize for their mistakes while denying any responsibility. When we fail to acknowledge our mistakes and refuse to correct the situation, the results can be hard feelings, stressful situations or broken relationships. And it can happen in families, between friends, and among neighbors or co-workers.

So, there are two important lessons this month. Like the Ole Miss Baseball Team, keep trying to do your best, and in the end, you’ll be a winner. And when you make a mistake, own up to it, correct it and get on with your life! If you do both of these things, you’ll have a more satisfying and happy life!

Be sure to take your family to church on Sunday!



of Rankin County

For your family or business, we offer personalized coverage from a choice of insurance companies.

Our agency is committed to helping you choose the right insurance coverage for your needs.



Steven Wallace
601-825-5242

308 East Government Street
Brandon, MS
swallace@insassociate.com
www.insassociate.com

Fusion Martial Arts

503 2nd St., Pelahatchie, MS

601-941-3937

Michael Harvey - Owner/Instructor



Now enrolling new students!

Classes held Mondays and Thursdays

5:30-6:15 -Beginner/Little Dragons

6:00-6:45 - Beginner/Intermediate

6:45-7:30- Adult/Advanced