

## **Ole Miss FCA Weekly Devotional: 4/19/10**

*The Power and Passion of the Master Coach, Elliot Johnson*



### **Thought of the Week:**

God's Glory is Declared in His Name, Yahweh-Shamma, "The Lord Is There"

### **Verse of the Week:**

And the name of the city from that time on will be: The Lord Is There." Ezekiel 48:35

Gary Anderson was a theological student from Axtell, Nebraska, who became a two-time Olympic champion. In both 1964 and 1968, he won the free rifle competition which required 120 shots at three hundred meters at a thirty-nine inch target with a bull's eye less than four inches in diameter. In other words, it was like shooting a bullet through an apple from three football fields away! After the 1968 games, the twenty-nine-year old Army lieutenant/minister told reporters he intended to keep shooting, "because I think it's important for a minister to be actively involved in what people are doing." Obviously, Anderson felt it was imperative to be there for people who have needs he could meet.

Our God is always there for His people who have needs. Another of His names tells us so. The name Yahweh-Shamma is found in the last verse of Ezekiel, an Old Testament prophet who spoke to God's disobedient people. Deported from Israel to Babylon with other captured Jews in 597 B.C., Ezekiel had a vision of the glory of God departing from the midst of God's people (Ezekiel 10) and of the destruction of Jerusalem and the temple because of Israel's abominable sins. In 586 B.C., this prophecy was fulfilled, and the remaining Jews were enslaved. Fourteen years later, Ezekiel uttered his last prophecy to a people of broken spirit and repentant heart. His message became one of restoration and hope as the glory of God returned to Israel (Exodus 43:1-9). The name Yahweh-Shamma (The Lord is there) was most encouraging to a sin-sick and forgiven people, for it demonstrated the loving concern and nearness of a God who would never finally and completely forsake His people.

Our God is a holy God, a God of discipline and chastisement of His erring children. He will not wink at sin in His people. But He is the God who is there, to restore and strengthen His people after He has "spanked them."

Yahweh-Shamma is our assurance that He will never forsake us (Hebrews 13:5), no matter how dark the day or severe the discipline.

Time Out:

- (1) Israel continued their religious system without even knowing that the glory of God had departed. They had religion without a relationship with God! How often do you go through forms of religiosity (prayers, communion, church attendance, etc.) without really making contact with God? If He were to leave, would you even notice? May our religion become a real relationship with a loving heavenly Father.
- (2) Study these verses. What do they reveal about the New Testament relationship between God and a believer in Jesus?
  - Revelation 3:20
  - Hebrews 12:5-7
  - Hebrews 13:5
  - Romans 8:37-39

- Philippians 1:6