

IN NEED OF PRAYERS

GOSPEL PLAN OF SALVATION

- Hear the gospel (Romans 10:17)
- Believe Jesus is the Christ (John 3:16)
- Repent from sins (Luke 13:3)
- Confess faith in Jesus (Romans 10:9-10)
- Be baptized for remission of sins (Acts 2:38)
- Live worthy of the calling (Ephesians 4:1)

Recent Additions:

Remember the **Sims Family** as they mourn the loss of John. **Ed Byers**, though still very weak, has improved quite a bit the last few days. **Charlie Little** has been diagnosed with an aggressive form of cancer. **Michael Wells** (former member, now at East End) has requested prayers as he experiences some health issues. **R.J. Stevens**, who many know well, is critically ill. Though he has shown signs of improvement, he and the family still need our prayers.

List:

Our members: Jeff Howerton, Glenn Kimberlin, Paul Atkisson, Ron Tirey

Others: Gaye Brassom, Paul Ayres, Charlene Antle, Lala Whitson, Rita Pagan, Vina Krassow, Courtney and Aubrey Reeves, John Bennett, Robert and Sarah Brundige, Donald Dawson, Jean Gartland, Gail Stein, Michael Poynter, Taylor Osterling, CJ Nash, The Shepherd family, Faye Hensley, Sandy Childress, Edith Tirey, Nilma Covington, Mary Wilson

WEEKLY READING

Sun: Ps 57, Ex 1:1-21, 2 Ch 30, Ac 25-26
Mon: Ps 58, Ex 1:22-2:22, 2 Ch 31, Ac 27:1-28:15
Tue: Ps 59, Ex 2:23-3:22, 2 Ch 32, Ac 28:16-31
Wed: Ps 60, Ex 4, 2 Ch 33, Ro 1:1-17
Thu: Ps 61, Ex 5-6:9, 2 Ch 34, Ro 1:18-32
Fri: Ps 62, Ex 6:10-7:13, 2 Ch 35:1-19, Ro 2:1-16
Sat: Ps 63, Ex 7:14-8:19, 2 Ch 35:20-27, Ro 2:17-3:8

LEADERSHIP

<u>ELDERS</u>	<u>DEACONS</u>
Garry Banks	Troy Antle
David Collins	Richard Brundige
John Thompson	Neal Erickson
	Adam Litmer
<u>EVANGELIST</u>	Bill Morelan
Adam Litmer	Jim Parsons
	Pat Seabolt
	Matt Thompson

SERVICES

Sunday
Bible Study: 9:45 AM
Worship: 10:45 AM; 6:00 PM
Wednesday
Bible Study: 7:30 PM
1st Fri. of Month
Singing: 7:30 PM
3rd Fri. of Month
Bible Study: 7:00 PM
(Ask for location)

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There's a lesson here

"One thing have I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to inquire in his temple." (Psalm 27:4)

God, in His word, reveals many things about Himself. Some passages inform us about His nature by revealing His characteristics while other passages tell us who God is by revealing His very essence. And other passages do both. For example, Titus 1:2 says, *"in hope of eternal life, which God, who never lies, promised before the ages began."* So, we not only learn that never lying is characteristic of God, but we also learn that truth is the very essence of God. God and truth are equated with one another. Another example is found in 1 John 4:8, *"Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love."* It is not enough to simply recognize love as being characteristic of God. Love is the very essence of God. Everything that He is and does is that way because He is love. Just like He cannot lie, He cannot do anything that is not a manifestation of His love, because that is what He is.

Psalm 27:4 makes reference to the beauty of the Lord. Just as the very essence of God is truth, and the very essence of God is love, the very essence of God is beauty. Everything He does is a beautiful thing because He is beauty. Just as He is the original source of truth and love, He is also the original source of beauty. Just as there is no truth like the truth of God, just as there is no love like the love of God, there is also no beauty like the beauty of God. Recognition of this truth has to be what motivated David to pen Psalm 27 wherein He longs to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord.

In the springtime of the year, it is not difficult to see physical manifestations of God's beauty everywhere. We are surrounded by them. All we have to do is step outside of our homes and we come face to face with God's original beauty in His creation. Flowering shrubbery and fruit trees, early flowers of spring, trees budding with new life, and other sights too numerous to list cause us to stop and gaze, even if just for a moment or two, and marvel. While man can try to capture such beauty in photographs or paintings, man will not ever be able to duplicate the original. The

"For neither at any time used we flattering words..."
1 Thessalonians 2:5

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sheer loveliness of God's creation should cause us to know that beauty is the very essence of God. "For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies, for the love which from our birth over and around us lies; Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise."

How should man respond when face to face with the beauty of God? King David, again, has answered this question in a perfect manner. "*Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength. Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness.*" (Psalm 29:1-2) Some versions say, "beauty of holiness." So we learn from this passage that God's beauty calls for man to respond with holiness. Holiness is the beauty of God returned to Him by His creation. Holiness is more splendid in the sight of God than anything else man can offer. Holiness is the sum of our efforts to be like God. "*Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy*" (1 Peter 1:16). Isn't it marvelous that the sight of a lilac bush or a mother robin feeding her young can remind us of God's eternal beauty and spur us on to holiness? The Elders

Meeting Musings

It's meeting time again! Our brother Rodney Pitts is with us this week. Brother Pitts works with the saints in Cookville, Tennessee. Take the time to ask Rodney about his work in Cookville. I'm sure our brother would be happy to talk about his labors and the good brethren "back home."

Personally, I am struck every time a visiting preacher comes, whether he resides in the states or overseas, for his message and goals are identical to ours. In Colossians 4:16 Paul said, "*And when this letter has been read among you, have it also read in the church of the Laodiceans; and see that you also read the letter from Laodicea.*" Paul taught the same thing in every church he established or visited (1 Corinthians 16:1). Today, if Christians are genuinely concerned with following the "apostles' doctrine" (Acts 2:42), then the congregations they comprise will all be teaching and following the same standard regardless of their specific location in the world. Isn't there something extraordinarily comforting in that?

We should be very grateful to Rodney, and all visiting preachers, for agreeing to speak with us to help us understand how to better please God and satisfy His will. However, most brethren do not understand how arduous a meeting can be for the preacher, particularly if he is far enough from home that he cannot drive back and forth. It's even tougher when his family cannot come with him. He is happy to do it and grateful for the opportunity to meet new brethren, but it does require much effort and work on his part. There are some ways to encourage him and make the meeting more enjoyable. From the standpoint of the preacher, doing the following helps a great deal.

- If you are able, make every effort to attend all the nights of the meeting. When the members support the meeting the visiting preacher knows it and appreciates it very much.
- If at all possible, arrive on time and stay in your seat until the conclusion. It truly is distracting for the preacher when people are coming and going throughout his sermon.
- Follow along in your Bible. When a preacher asks the congregation to turn to a passage he listens closely for the sound of pages turning. When he hears those pages rustling he knows the brethren are interested and excited to know God's will. He is greatly encouraged by it.
- We have many members who take notes. Keep it up during the meeting. While a preacher loves to hear the rustling of Bible's turning, note-takers hold a special place in his heart. It requires a little extra attention to take notes and the preacher appreciates it.
- Sometimes, even when we are paying close attention and are involved in the sermon, a yawn creeps up on us. When it happens, and it happens to all of us, let's remember to cover our mouths and yawn into our laps, not up at the preacher. Believe me, he'll be grateful.
- This congregation does an exceptional job of offering words of encouragement to me and I appreciate it enormously. Make sure you do the same for the visiting preacher. He puts much time, effort, and sacrifice into his week away from home. This is very much a working trip for him, not a vacation. Let him know how much we appreciate his efforts.
- Invite people from work, school, or the neighborhood. If the preacher learns that a visitor is in attendance through the efforts of a member it truly lifts his heart.
- Remember that he will need some time alone during the day to spend in study in rest, and in talking to folks back home.

These are just a few things we can do to help a visiting preacher in his time with our congregation. Most of them take little or no effort on our part but they mean the world to him and help make the gospel meeting as successful as it can be. AL

Reading: AM Mark 2:1-17

PM Mark 2:18-3:6