

Those to Serve

Wednesday Evening, May 24, 2023

AnnouncementsRonny Cornelius
 Lead SingingGary Gill
 First PrayerHunter Sheehan
 Read Scripture.....Danny Lucas
 Dismissal Prayer.....Will Durham

Sunday Morning, May 28, 2023

Announcements.....Ronny Cornelius
 Lead SingingGary Gill
 First Prayer.....Chuck Risener
 Read Scripture.....Craig Harris
 Preside at TableJack Gill
 Serve Congregation
 Serve Congregation
 Serve Congregation
 Dismissal PrayerTyson Hobbs
 Nursery Attendant.....Melinda Russell

Sunday Evening, May 28, 2023

AnnouncementsRonny Cornelius
 Lead SingingGary Gill
 First PrayerDon McAlpin
 Read Scripture.....Chuck Risener
 Preside at TableJack Gill
 Dismissal Prayer.....Rickey Tigner

“Key Men” for May

Sunday AM (Open).....Jon Kennedy
 Sunday AM (Close).....Rickey Tigner
 Sunday PM (Open).....Brandon Tigner
 Sunday PM (Close).....Chuck Risener
 Wednesday PM (Open)Gilbert Shelby
 Wednesday PM (Close).....Gilbert Shelby

Coming Events

Remember to visit our website: middletoncoc.org where you can also view our weekly bulletin. The church bus will leave for Estes church of Christ at 5pm this Thursday, May 25. They will be attending the Summer Youth Series.

Family Matters

Doris Mott continues to improve from a stress fracture.
Bud Stewart is now home from the hospital, please keep him and Betty in your prayers.
Abe Jeter is dealing with some health issues and will see his doctor again soon.
Nancy Thornton has been in Ripley Hospital recently, but is now home.

Community Matters

Keep Byron Chambers, Lisa Dukes, Darrell Mathis, Rita Tigner, Billy Sue Bradford, Joann James, Valerie Anderson, Rhonda Carver, Foy Norwood, Terra Michael, Brian Vaughn, Barbara Seever, John Materna, Dave Hogan, and Tim Boyd in your prayers.

Prayer List

Bill Craft, Barbara Kennedy, Charlene Sipes, Sandy Rodgers, Benny Thornton, Chuck Risener, Royce Jones, Pat Maxwell, April McKelvey, Gerald/Gail Mills, Dottie Hogan, Ann Riggs,

*Remember our service men & women in your prayers.
 Remember all our missionaries in your prayers.*

Sunday, May 28.....Exo. 18-21
 Monday, May 29.....Joshua 23-24
 Tuesday, May 30.....1 Kings 2-3
 Wednesday May 31.....Psalms 105-108
 Thursday, June 1.....Ezekiel 15-17
 Friday, June 2.....Mark 12-13
 Saturday, June 3.....1 Cor. 12-14

Shut-ins

David Craft, Room 111, Christian Care Center, 10160 US-64, Bolivar, TN 38008.
 Lillian Eason, Providence Assisted Living, 700 Moore's Crossing, Apt. 204, Senatobia, MS. 38668.
 Paige Gillon, 45 Southwest Lane, Middleton, TN 38052.
 Royce Jones, 273 Woodrun Dr, Middleton, TN 38052.
 Benny Thornton, 310 CR 125, Walnut, MS 38683.

What Must I Do To Be Saved?

1. Hear the Word of God- Romans 10:17.
2. Believe the Word of God- Mark 16:16.
3. Repent of sins- Acts 17:30-31.
4. Confess Christ- Romans 10:9-10.
5. Be Baptized to wash away sins - Acts 22:16; 1 Peter 3:20-21; Mark 16:16.
6. Be Faithful unto death- Rev. 2:10.

JEFF'S JOTTINGS

Our Question & Answer Box is on the wall in the foyer. Please put your questions in any time and we will answer them on the fourth Sunday evening of each month.

Pantry Item of the Week: spam but we are still low on everything if you want to bring something else.

*“How can a young man keep his way pure? By keeping your Word. I have sought you with all my heart; don't let me wander from your commands. I have treasured Your Word in my heart so that I may not sin against you,”
 Psalm 119: 9-11.*

CAUGHT BY THE CULTURE

In 1985 a dear preacher friend suggested I read Neil Postman's then new book *Amusing Ourselves to Death*. What a deep and important blessing that was. Postman recognized that our culture is racing headlong toward entertainment as a life goal and moving away from education, maturity, and success strategies. As such, on average we in the west are becoming less educated and more addicted to entertainment media - music, movies, social media, internet, etc.

Postman compares Orwell's book *1984* to Aldous Huxley's book *Brave New World*. He correctly points out that Orwell predicted a harsh, surveillance, totalitarian government which burns books and controls every facet of the culture. Conversely, Huxley described a culture in which books are abundant and leisurely amusements the goal of life. The books are not burned, they merely languish on the library shelves, ignored, and even scorned. As Postman's book describes, the population was merely amusing itself to death. Any intelligent observation clearly shows that Huxley has been far more correct in his predictions than Orwell.

But God, Himself, teaches us there is a third option, and it is obviously neither over-controlling tyranny nor irresponsible, lazy leisure. God's option is following in the footsteps of Jesus. We must remember He

said, “I tell you these things that My joy may be in you and your joy may be made full,” (John 15:11). God calls us to joyful self-discipline. The fruit of the Spirit begins with love and joy, and ends with self-control, (Galatians 5:22,23).

Peter tells us that the devil goes about like a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour, (1 Peter 5:8.) Before a lion can devour, he must catch. And the primary way we get caught is by the culture. “Do not be deceived, bad company corrupts good morals,” 1 Corinthians 15:33. Those who think they can keep what Paul would call bad company, are, indeed, being deceived.

Like a bird comes to the hunter’s call, today’s culture shrieks the siren song, sin. Make no mistake, sin can be fun. Sin can bring pleasure. But the pleasures of sin kill true success and deliver failure and sorrow.

The culture will call you a dozen different ways, from frat parties to politics; from board rooms to bordellos; from the forced tyrannies of totalitarian governments of communism to the lax applications of capitalism.

Anything short of scripture will fail to bring the joy of which Jesus speaks in John 15:11, “that My joy may be in you and your joy may be made full.”

-Ray Wallace

“He Often Refreshed Me”

Paul, in recounting to Timothy his imprisonment in Rome, wrote, “The Lord grant mercy to the house of Onesiphorus, for he often refreshed me and was not ashamed of my chains; but when he was in Rome, he eagerly searched for me and found me — the Lord grant to him to find mercy from the Lord on that day — and you well know what services he rendered at Ephesus” (2 Timothy 1:16-18).

What brought Onesiphorus to Rome is unknown. Was he there on business? Was he a tourist? Whatever it was, Onesiphorus was not just focused on himself. While in Rome, he made considerable effort to locate Paul, and he kept trying until he succeeded. (Someone less dedicated might have made a minimal effort and said, “Oh well, I tried!”) He came again and again. These visits refreshed Paul, both the company itself as well as any needed provisions he may have received.

It is easy to get caught up in our own busy lives and fail to remember those who could use some encouragement. Stop. Take a moment to think about someone you could refresh. Then act. It likely won’t take you nearly as long or be as hard as it was for Onesiphorus.

Be such that others can say of you, “He often refreshed me.”

-Frank Himmel