

Those to Serve

Wednesday Evening, May 31, 2023

AnnouncementsRickey Tigner
 Lead SingingGary Gill
 First PrayerGary Byers
 Read Scripture.....Sawyer Tigner
 Dismissal Prayer.....Brandon Tigner

Sunday Morning, June 4, 2023

Announcements.....Rickey Tigner
 Lead SingingGary Byers
 First Prayer.....Teddy Bodiford
 Read Scripture.....Gene Ross
 Preside at Table.....Gary Gill
 Serve Congregation
 Serve Congregation
 Serve Congregation
 Dismissal PrayerPhil Webster
 Nursery Attendant.....Betty Stewart

Sunday Evening, June 4, 2023

Announcements.....Rickey Tigner
 Lead SingingGary Byers
 First PrayerChuck Risener
 Read ScriptureHunter Sheehan
 Preside at Table.....Gary Gill
 Dismissal Prayer.....Bryan Porterfield

“Key Men” for June

Sunday AM (Open).....Robert Bizzell
 Sunday AM (Close).....Jim Maxwell
 Sunday PM (Open).....Gene Ross
 Sunday PM (Close).....Ben Hall
 Wednesday PM (Open).....Abe Jeter
 Wednesday PM (Close).....Chuck Risener

Coming Events

Remember to visit our website: middletoncoc.org where you can also view our weekly bulletin.
 The next **area-wide Youth Devotional** will be at Foote Street church of Christ in Corinth.

Family Matters

Nancy Thornton is at home now and doing some better.
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.
Gerald Mills is dealing with several health issues, keep him and Gail in your prayers.

Community Matters

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

Prayer List

Bill Craft, Barbara Kennedy, Sandy Rodgers, Benny & Nancy Thornton, Royce Jones, Pat Maxwell, April McKelvey, Gerald/Gail Mills, Dottie Hogan, Lynn Donaldson, Dottie Hogan.

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

Daily Bible Reading Schedule

Sunday, June 4.....Exo. 22-25
 Monday, June 5.....Judges 1-3
 Tuesday, June 6.....1 Kings 4-6
 Wednesday June 7.....Psalms 109-118
 Thursday, June 8.....Ezekiel 18-20
 Friday, June 9.....Mark 14
 Saturday, June 10.....1 Cor. 15-16

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: canned chili but we are still low on everything if you want to bring something else.

How Old Are You?

Age is a quality of mind.
 If you have left your dreams behind,
 If hope is cold,
 If you no longer look ahead,
 And your ambitions' fires are dead—
 Then you are old.
 But if from life you take the best,
 If in life you keep the jest,
 If love you hold:
 No matter how the years go by,
 No matter how the birthdays fly—
 You are not old.

The Power of the Gospel to Change Our Lives

The gospel's power to save us from our sins is well-documented. The apostle Paul, in writing to the church at Rome explaining his ardent desire to preach the gospel to them, says, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek" (Rom. 1:16). As powerful as is the gospel's ability to save, it is conditioned on faithful continuance in its teachings. Paul writes the brethren in Corinth, saying, "Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain" (1 Cor. 15:1-2). Make no mistake about it – the gospel's power to save is conditioned on our faithfulness to its teachings.

The gospel also has the power to shape the lives of Christians into conformity with the image of Christ. Please notice that in the aforementioned passage, *the gospel* is used interchangeably with *the word*. The word of God is divinely powerful, not only to save souls, but to transform lives. In Christ, we are not powerless to resist the world's pressure to conform to its likeness. Instead, we can pursue transformation "by the renewing of [our] mind, so that [we] may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect" (Rom. 12:2). As we behold "as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, [we] are... transformed into the same image..." (2 Cor. 3:18). But, again, the gospel's power to change lives is conditioned on our willingness to make the necessary changes revealed therein. James says that we must "prove [ourselves] to be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves" (Jas. 1:22). We will not be blessed by the gospel's power to transform unless we "abide by it" and become "an effectual doer" (vs. 25). (over)

The gospel of Jesus Christ has never been more accessible. We have, at our finger tips, God's power to save and transform our lives. Why, then, is there such a famine of God's word in our land? (Amos 8:11). As long as we are content to give the gospel mere lip service, souls will not be saved and lives will not be transformed. A radically different approach to the gospel is required. *-Glen Elliott*

Heart Attack?

When the Lord said, "Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life" (Prov. 4:23), He obviously is not talking about that large muscle in our chests. The Bible uses the word "heart" over 800 times and almost always refers to that inner part of our being. When the Lord discussed the greatest commandment, He spoke of loving God with all our heart, soul, and mind. That inner part of us is our soul.

What does it mean to keep your heart with all diligence? Our time and energy is limited and priority must be given to those things which are truly important. When the Lord described the attention which must be given to the heart, He used the word "all." There is nothing more important than to devote ourselves and our time and energy to caring for our heart. Satan understands this and works to cause a severe "heart attack."

Look at some of the words used to describe how we are to keep our heart. We are to love the Lord with all our heart (Deut. 6:5). We are to seek the Lord with all our heart (Deut. 4:29). We are to serve the Lord with all our heart (Deut. 10:12). We are to obey the Lord with all of our heart (Deut. 30:2). We are to trust the Lord with all our heart (Prov. 3:5). We are to turn to the Lord with all our heart (Deut. 30:10). Consider carefully the words mentioned above—love, seek, serve, obey, trust and turn. What could be more important than these words! Think about it for a moment. If you were Satan, how would you attack the heart of Christians? It would not be a full-frontal attack using temptations he might openly use against the most worldly individuals. Is it not reasonable to see him getting the righteous to modify the level of their dedication? Would he not seek to weaken the love, the seeking, the serving, the obeying, the trusting and the turning to God? Would he not do this while at the same time deceiving us so we can hardly see the changes? In reality, it is a full-frontal attack, and we are not even aware of it. This is why the Bible speaks of the deceitfulness of sin.

Sometimes we measure our heart conditions by looking in the wrong places. Jesus described how the people in the first century focused on the external. "This people honors Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me" (Mark 7:6). These same words seem to describe our own day. Can we not see the danger in the way he attacks us? Satan attacks our hearts in this same way, and he wins if we are deceived by him. Think about the list of words mentioned above, just make sure that you are not close to a heart attack.
-Dan Jenkins