

Those to Serve

Wednesday Evening, February 28, 2024

AnnouncementsRonny Cornelius
 Lead SingingGary Gill
 First PrayerBen Hall
 Read Scripture.....Craig Harris
 Dismissal PrayerSawyer Tigner

Sunday Morning, March 3, 2024

AnnouncementsRonny Cornelius
 Lead SingingJim Maxwell
 First Prayer.....Jon Kennedy
 Read ScriptureGene Ross
 Preside at Table.....Gary Gill
 Serve Congregation
 Serve Congregation
 Serve Congregation
 Dismissal PrayerPhil Webster
 Nursery AttendantMelinda Russell

Sunday Evening, March 3, 2024

AnnouncementsRonny Cornelius
 Lead SingingJim Maxwell
 First Prayer.....Eddie Carter
 Read ScriptureBen Hall
 Preside at Table.....Gary Gill
 Dismissal PrayerDon McAlpin

“Key Men” for March

Sunday AM (Open).....BT Hobb
 Sunday AM (Close).....Jeff Scott
 Sunday PM (Open).....Gene Ross
 Sunday PM (Close).....Ben Hall
 Wednesday PM (Open)Brian Tigner
 Wednesday PM (Close).....Rickey Tigner

Coming Events

The **57th Annual Memphis School Of Preaching Lectureship** will be March 31-April 4. The theme this year is: Righteousness Exalts A Nation. Remember to visit our website: middletoncoc.org where you can also view our weekly bulletin.

Family Matters

Jeff Scott is home and slowly improving.
David Pulse is slowly improving but still dealing with pain from his shoulder surgery.
Laura Adkins is home and recovering following her surgery.

Community Matters

Brian Vaughn is in need of our prayers as he is back in the hospital and dealing with several serious issues.

Keep June Somervell, Bobby Tally, Bob Sigler, Lindsey Sowell, Debbie Vaughn, Lisa Dukes, Joann James, Jerry/Sylvia Childers, Rhonda Carver, Corrine Tigner, Jim Thomason, Diane Luttrell in your prayers.

Prayer List

Sandy Rodgers, Benny/Nancy Thornton, Royce Jones, April McKelvey, Paige Gillon, Ann Riggs, Gary Byers, David/Edith Craft, Dottie Hogan, Carolyn Risener, Bill Craft, Marion/Kathy Pulse, Doris Mott, LC McKelvey, Chris Thompson.

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

Daily Bible Reading Schedule

Sunday, March 3.....Gen. 31-32
 Monday, March 4Deut. 25-27
 Tuesday, March 51 Sam. 25-27
 Wednesday, March 6.....Psalm 11-19
 Thursday, March 7.....Jer. 32-33
 Friday, March 8Matt. 18-19
 Saturday, March 9.....Acts 21-22

Shut-ins

David Craft, Room 111, Christian Care Center, 10160 US-64, Bolivar, TN 38008.
 Paige Gillon, 45 Southwest Lane, 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 annual Ladies Day will be Saturday, April 6. We will have more information soon but be making plans now to attend and invite others.

The Ladies Class meets each Tuesday in the annex at 10 am. All ladies are invited!

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.

Mondays for the Master will meet March 4 at 6:45 pm for coffee and donuts and then make our visits at 7pm. If you know of anyone needing a visit or a call please let Jeff or Gilbert know.

“My brethren, take the prophets, who spoke in the name of the Lord, as an example of suffering and patience. Indeed we count them blessed who endure. You have heard of the perseverance of Job and seen the end intended by the Lord--that the Lord is very compassionate and merciful,” James 5:10-11

Alone Time

It was a relief to find the waiting room TV off. I could then read my book without distraction.

A few minutes later, on came the TV. Perhaps the receptionist had a remote.

When Jesus walked the earth, He didn’t have to contend with blaring TVs or cell phones going off as He preached. But He did have plenty of interruptions. To maintain His vibrant connection with His Father, He had to make it happen.

“In the early morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house, and went away to a secluded place, and was praying there” (Mark 1:35, NASB). Getting away from it all was a spiritual lifesaver. He had to have time with His Father! And so do we. *-David Gibson*

The Church of Your Choice?

Shopping options continue to increase exponentially—whether groceries, automobiles, appliances, clothing—so many brands, styles, models, colors, flavors, sizes, etc. to choose from.

Should we approach faith with the same consumer mindset we use when walking down the aisles of our favorite department store? No.

Regarding the multiplicity of options available on the religious landscape, is this what Christ had in mind when He said, “. . . I will build my church . . .” (Matt. 16:18)? (Over)

Through His authorized, Spirit-inspired representatives, the apostles and prophets, Jesus has told us what He expects of His church—its purpose and unity, its beliefs and teaching, its work and worship.

Given the tremendous price He paid for His church—His own blood—shouldn't we yield all our preferences to His?

-David Gibson

Filled With Despair?

We do not always know the circumstances in which the psalmist found himself when he took his pen in hand. However, as we can read his psalms, we often find that we have experienced similar circumstances in our lives, which have brought about the same feelings he had.

Consider Psalm 43 where David asks, "Why are you cast down, O my soul?"

The psalm begins with the man of God surrounded by evil. His enemies and their actions are described as being deceitful and unjust. His reaction was to walk about mourning because of their oppression.

How do you deal with life when there seems to be "no light at the end of the tunnel" and then your heart reaches out to heaven asking God to vindicate you against those who trouble you? David cried out, "Vindicate me, O God, and plead my cause" (v. 1).

How do you deal with such situations? How did the psalmist deal with them? While you may feel that God has cast you off (v. 2), you still know that God is the God of your strength and the reality is that He has not actually cast you aside. Notice the psalmist's prayer as He deals with this matter: "Oh, send our Your light and Your truth! Let them lead me; let them bring me to your holy hill and to your tabernacle" (v. 3). He knew his help was found in His temple.

When he entered the presence of God and His altar, he could cast aside the mourning. God changed that into "exceeding joy" and David began praising God. Sometimes our life can be just like David. We grope about mourning our situation and choose to not even go to worship. It is as though we think we must handle trials all by ourselves, yet when we go to the place where His light shines and His truth is found, our mourning is changed into joy. It is remarkable that we can be so overwhelmed that we pull back from God.

When David came into God's house, he knew God had not forsaken him, and he said, "I will praise You, O God, my God" (v. 4). It was then that David was reminded that he belonged to God and God truly was *my* God. He is personally concerned about all of His children, personally!

Notice how this brief psalm ends. He looked again at how his soul had been cast down, and said, "Why are you disquieted within me" (v. 5)? He then gives the answer. "Hope in God." God had not forsaken him and left him all alone to deal with life's trials. God was "...the help of my countenance and my God." It was in His presence, in His tabernacle, that God said he would find help and praise Him again.

When trials come, never withdraw from coming to worship Him in His presence in His temple. His truth and light change how we view trials!