

Those to Serve

Wednesday Evening, January 8, 2024

AnnouncementsGary Byers
 Lead SingingAnthony Lucas
 First PrayerJim Maxwell
 Read Scripture.....Jack Gill
 Dismissal PrayerSawyer Tigner

Sunday Morning, January 12, 2024

AnnouncementsGary Byers
 Lead Singing.....Anthony Lucas
 First Prayer.....Craig Harris
 Read ScriptureEddie Carter
 Preside at Table.....Jeff Scott
 Serve Congregation
 Serve Congregation
 Serve Congregation
 Dismissal Prayer.....Bryan Porterfield
 Nursery AttendantAmy Mercer

Sunday Evening, January 12, 2024

AnnouncementsGary Byers
 Lead Singing.....Anthony Lucas
 First Prayer.....Colin Middleton
 Read ScriptureTyson Hobbs
 Preside at Table.....Jeff Scott
 Dismissal Prayer.....Rickey Tigner

“Key Men” for January

Sunday AM (Open)Brandon Tigner
 Sunday AM (Close)Eddie Carter
 Sunday PM (Open).....Teddy Bodiford
 Sunday PM (Close).....Jim Maxwell
 Wednesday PM (Open).....Abe Jeter
 Wednesday PM (Close).....Gilbert Shelby

Coming Events

Our Youth Group will be going to **Evangelism University Youth Conference** on January 17-19. See Colin Middleton or Rickey Tigner for more information. The Henderson church of Christ will host an **Area Wide Singing** on Friday, January 24 beginning at 7pm. Finger foods will be provided. Remember to visit our website: middletoncoc.org where you can also view our weekly bulletin.

Family Matters

Congratulations to **Drew & Shelby Webster** on the birth of their daughter, Graylyn Reese. She weighed 8 lbs. 5 oz. Proud big brother is Dansby!
Laura Adkins had her knee surgery and is home recovering.

Community Matters

Keep CW Kirk, Beverly Martindale, Joann James, Jerry/Sylvia Childers, Rhonda Carver, Foy Norwood, Billy Sue Bradford, Lisa Dukes, Susan Boyd, Larry Adams in your prayers.

Prayer List

April McKelvey, Royce Jones, David/Edith Craft, Annie Riggs, Bill Craft, Gerald/Gail Mills, Jan Webster, Robert Bizzell, Elaine Capshaw, Benny Thornton, Dottie Hogan, LC McKelvey, Melinda Russell, Jim Maxwell, Gerald Mills.

Remember our service men & women in your prayers.

Remember all our missionaries in your prayers.

Daily Bible Reading Schedule

Sunday, Jan. 12.....Genesis 33-35
 Monday, Jan. 13Gen. 36-38
 Tuesday, Jan. 14Gen. 39-41
 Wednesday, Jan. 15.....Gen. 42-44
 Thursday, Jan. 16.....Gen. 45-47
 Friday, Jan. 17Gen. 48-50
 Saturday, Jan. 18.....Exo. 1-3

Shut-ins

David Craft, Room 111, Christian Care Center, 10160 US-64, Bolivar, TN 38008.
 Paige Gillon, 45 Southwest Lane, Middleton, TN 38052.
 Donna Shepherd, Room 202, Wellington Manor Jackson, 911 Old Humboldt Rd. Jackson, TN 38305.
 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

Monday’s For The Master meets again January 20. We meet at 6:45pm in the annex and we will have donuts. At 7pm we will make our visits. If you know of anyone needing a visit let Gilbert or Jeff know.

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.

Pantry Item Of The Week: canned chili. You can bring other items any time.

“Therefore, brethren, stand fast and hold the traditions which you were taught, whether by word or our epistle. Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and our God and Father, who has loved us and given us everlasting consolation and good hope by grace, comfort your hearts and establish you in every good word and work,” 2 Thessalonians 2:15-17.

Work Out Your Own Salvation

Philippians 2:12 says, “. . . *work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.*” What is this passage saying? Is it saying there are many ways to be saved, and people can be saved by whatever method they choose? This is not the meaning of this passage as such a view would contradict other clear passages found in the Scriptures.

From this passage, we learn an important principle that salvation is an individual matter as he speaks of your “own” salvation. Our salvation is not based on what others do but on what we do. In fact, 2 Corinthians 5:10 tells us, “*For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.*” Hebrews 5:8-9 emphasizes that Christ “. . . *became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him.*”

In addition to telling us that we must work out salvation, Philippians 2:12 tells us that we must do this with fear and trembling. Thus, we must have reverence for God and be highly conscientious in seeking to obey Him. Our salvation should be of such great importance that we would never approach it in a careless or unconcerned way.

When dealing with our salvation, we are dealing with that which pertains to our eternal destination.

So let us work out our own salvation with fear and trembling. *-Mike Johnson*

Come, Take, Learn

Can you imagine how frustrated Jesus must have felt when the very people who ought to have recognized and welcomed Him stubbornly refused? Nevertheless, He continued offering salvation to those humble enough to accept it.

“Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls” (Matthew 11:28-29).

This beautiful invitation has three imperatives. The first is **“Come.”** While He was on earth in the flesh people could physically come to Him, but even then (as now) coming to Jesus required faith and obedience. Those who bore heavy burdens of sin and trials found rest in Him. That is still the case.

Then Jesus said, **“Take.”** Take My yoke upon you. A yoke is an instrument of service such as oxen would wear to pull a plow or cart. Yes, we must serve our Savior. But whereas an ox yoke might gall and chafe the animal’s neck or shoulder, Jesus’ yoke is “easy” (v. 30). Serving Him brings delight in contrast to the crushing misery of sin.

Finally, Jesus said, **“Learn.”** We cannot know how to serve Him and enjoy rest unless we learn from Him. We learn from what He taught as we read the gospels.

In the same way we learn from what He did as we observe His mercy, His obedience, His power, His faith, His suffering, His anger, His patience (and we can extend that list indefinitely).

Come. Take. Learn. Those three simple steps form a good summary of what discipleship involves. His invitation is for us. Will we accept it?

The Gospel...He is Risen

One of the hymns that has commonly been sung in the church over the last century is titled The Gospel is for All. Paul declared that the Gospel is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes (Romans 1:16). It, like Christianity, is founded on the truth that Jesus Christ is the Son of God (Matthew 16:18) and is empowered by His resurrection. Without the resurrection Christians are called the most pitiable (1 Corinthians 15:19). But because of His resurrection the Gospel is given incomprehensible power.

Understanding the Gospel begins with understanding the significance of the resurrection. Because of the power that our God has over the grave, as put on display in the resurrection of Christ, we have hope that our physical life is not the end. That is the good news. That Christ brought salvation to man and provided security for the inheritance that is waiting for us.

Without the resurrection, we have no reason to have hope in either of those things. Yet because of the resurrection, both salvation and our inheritance in heaven are promised to those who faithfully follow him.