

Those to Serve

Sunday 07-26-2009

Sunday Morning Worship:

Announcements..... Wade Miller
 Song Leader..... Hal Roper
 Opening Prayer..... Jim Duncan
 Closing Prayer..... David Neal

Lord's Table—Month of July 2009

South Side:

Jerry Freeman
 Jody Sparks
 David Neal

North Side:

Royce Armstrong
 Daniel McCary
 Austin Neal

Sunday Evening Worship:

Announcements..... Wade Miller
 Song Leader..... Hal Roper
 Opening PM Prayer..... Austin Neal
 Closing PM Prayer..... Tim Jones

Sunday Evening Lord's Table

Charles Kyle Ron Traugher

Serving Wednesday Night—July 29, 2009

Announcements..... Weldon Miller
 Song Leader..... Open
 First Prayer..... Jerry Freeman
 Closing Prayer..... Roger Grimes

*If you plan to be out of town or are not physically able to serve, please call someone to take your place.

Attendance for the week of 07-19-2009

Bible Classes..... 92
 Morning Worship..... 115
 Evening Worship..... 92
 Tuesday Ladies ClassMeets again in September
 Wednesday Night 79
 Regular Contribution \$ 3,611.80
 New Construction Fund Contributions.....\$ -00-

Averages To Date This Year

Bible Classes.....102
 Morning Worship.....140
 Evening Worship.....103
 Tuesday Ladies Class 12
 Wednesday Night 95
 Regular Contribution.....\$ 4,369.42
 New Construction Fund Contributions to date..... \$ 77,467.07
 (Also includes transfers and interest earned)

PLEASE NOTE: This bulletin is formatted Friday morning each week. Any news items or articles you wish included must be submitted to the Editor no later than Thursday Night. You may call Rhodney Freeman at 903-572-1181 (home) or 903-572-1136 (Office)

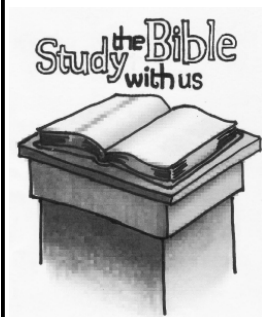
Today's Sermons

AM: How to Affair-Proof Your Marriage

Kris Groda, Preaching

PM: Series: Calvinism In The Light of God's Word: Unlimited Atonement (Part 3)

Kris Groda, Preaching



Assembly Times

Sunday

Bible Classes9:00AM
 Worship10:00AM
 6:00PM

Tuesday

Ladies Bible Class ..10:00AM
 (September—May)

Wednesday

Bible Classes7:00PM

Website:
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Email:
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Church Office:
 903.572.1136

Elders

Gene Campbell
 Weldon Miller
 Wayne Pickrel

Deacons

Grady Duncan
 Jim Duncan
 Jerry Freeman
 Bob Hedges
 Rance Robison
 Hal Roper

Gospel Preacher
 Kris Groda

Secretary
 Rhodney Freeman

North Jefferson Church of Christ
 P.O. Box 963
 Mt. Pleasant, TX 75456

Address Correction Requested

North Jefferson Messenger

As the cold of snow in the time of harvest, so is a faithful messenger to them that send him" Proverbs 25:13

Volume 11 No. 22

Founded on the Word—Focused on the World

July 26, 2009

What Happened To The Apostles?

By Hugo McCord
 (Guest Article)

The apostles were promised they would be persecuted, and some would have to drink the cup of death (Matthew 10:25; 20:23; Mark 14:31, 36; John 13:37; 15:20; 17:1); history and tradition also tell us that the apostles gave their lives for Christ.

James the son of Zebedee (James the Great) felt Herod's sword in A.D. 44, the first apostle to die (Acts 12).

Philip, after preaching in upper Asia, was scourged, thrown in prison, and then crucified in A.D. 54 at Heliopolis in Phrygia.

Matthew, after preaching in Parthia and in Ethiopia, was slain in A.D. 60 by a halberd at Nabadah, Ethiopia.

James the Less, at 94 years, after being beaten and stoned by the Jews, finally had his brains dashed out with a fuller's club.

As to **Peter**, "Jerome saith that he was crucified, his head being down and his feet upward, himself so requiring, because he was (he said) unworthy to be crucified after the same form and manner as the Lord was."

Jude (Thaddeus), brother of James the Less, was crucified at Edessa, A.D. 72.

Bartholomew, after preaching in India, was "cruelly beaten and then crucified by the impatient idolaters."

Thomas' ministry in Parthia and India was ended with a spear thrust.

Simon Zelotes evangelized in Mauritania, Africa, and Britain before his crucifixion in A.D. 74.

Matthias was stoned at Jerusalem and then beheaded.

Andrew's service was in Asia; at Edessa he was baptized in suffering, being "crucified on a cross, the two ends of which were fixed transversely in the ground."

The beloved **John**, at the command of anti-Christ Domitian, was exiled "in the isle that is called Patmos, for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ" (Revelation 1:9). After being recalled from Patmos by Domitian's successor, nerva, John died peacefully (cf. John 21:22-23).

After **Paul** had been stoned, left for dead, beaten with rods, jailed for years, he still aspired to "fill up ... that which is lacking of the afflictions of Christ" in his flesh (Colossians 1:24). He is said to have been beheaded by Nero in Rome.



“give attention to reading.....” 1 Tim. 4:13

Chopping Wood

—Floyd Kaiser

(The Southwesterner—Southwest Church of Christ—Ada, OK)

When I was a child, living in the country and having a woodstove as the principle source of heat in the winter meant the fall season was for chopping wood. The woodpile was an important site behind our house and as the weather began to turn cold it became vital.

I must confess that I was not really very good at using an axe because I never mastered the skill of accuracy. Contrary to popular belief, how much wood that could be split depended more upon how precisely the blade was placed than how powerful the axe was swung. A gnawed-up handle just below the axe head revealed a user who hit the wood more often with the handle than the head. That's how I broke numerous axe handles ... much to my father's annoyance.

Since accuracy with an axe was so important for splitting wood, it would be appropriate to point out that the spot where the blade should come down was where a crack already was. With oak, which we used, there generally was a fine split already. That natural split would be the target. Or, if there were no split, one firm whack in the center would produce one or two. After that, one would always aim for the crack, the weak spot.

Satan used the same method on us. We are not ignorant of His schemes (see 2 Corinthians 2:11).

He aims for the weak spot in the church. In the first century, Satan knew that the point where he might split the church was where the Jews hated the Gentiles. From reading the epistles of the early church it's quite apparent that Satan repeatedly attacked this natural weakness and tried to create division in the church between Jew and Gentiles so that it would have no chance to grow. Satan aimed for the crack, but he failed!

Today in America, there are multiple cracks to which he aims his axe. He aims at our propensity to materialism and pleasure. He capitalizes upon our tendency to think about “me” instead of “us” — “us” being the fellowship of the church. Individual religious expression is far more popular than church affiliation. Many are seeking to be post-modernistic, generic Christians who are satisfied to stand for nothing morally or doctrinally.

Satan failed in the first century and he will fail today if we only keep our focus upon Jesus, “the author and perfected of our faith” (Hebrews 12:1) and be always alert to his attack upon the weak spot of each of us.

Four Principles For A Productive Bible Class

—Wayne Jones

(The Biblical Messenger—San Angelo, Texas)

First, students must be present in order to be taught. Any student's attendance to Bible class should be regular. Teachers prepare for the students that he or she is supposed to have (visuals, worksheets, “take homes,” etc.). We should realize that sporadic attendance is inconsiderate to the one teaching the class. Furthermore, a student should be prompt in their attendance. Some appear to think very little about coming in late for Bible study or for worship. However, nothing disturbs a class worse than for students to be repeatedly late. Other students lose focus on the lesson and the teacher must almost begin again for the ones who are late.

Second, students must be respectful in order to be taught. Students need to have a proper respect for the subject matter (Psalm 138:2). There needs to be an understanding that this material is more important than any other material! Students need to have respect for their teachers. Teachers spend a great deal of time in preparing to teach (while they are also working during the week, raising a family, dealing with personal problems). We need to be respectful of who they are and what they are trying to do. Students need to be respectful of one another. Talking, whispering, drawing and not paying attention is the height of disrespect. Sadly some teachers spend as much time keeping their students from talking and cutting up as they do on teaching the weekly lesson.

Third, students must be prepared in order to be taught. Preparation for Sunday morning Bible class begins the Sunday before. We should review the lessons we studied (as adults) and discuss with our children what they studied that morning. Preparation continues through the week with daily Bible study. Preparation continues on Saturday night by getting enough sleep so that we are alert when it comes time for Bible class the next morning.

Finally, students must be teachable in order to be taught. Nothing is more frustrating for a teacher than to have a student who does not want to learn. Many times adults approach Bible study with this closed-minded view: Anything that is said that they have never heard or do not understand must be wrong. We do ourselves a great injustice when we approach any Bible study with the attitude that we have learned enough and we cannot or will not learn anymore. We all ought to ask from time to time: How teachable am I? Is my mind made up about something or do I give the teacher and/or other students the right to express their own opinions?

The purpose of Bible class is much like the purpose of a Gospel sermon — to bring someone closer to Christ. Do you and your family take advantage of these opportunities? Spiritual education will mean the difference between heaven and hell. May we look forward to being taught the Word of God!

Prayer List: Justin Barker, Rachel Barker, Doris Bell, Suzanne Charlton, Jim Duncan, Irene Duncan, Patsy Duncan, Dorothy Kyle, Ben McCain, Wade Miller, Wayne Pickrel, Thelma Reed, Brenda Riley

Also: Debbie Bauer, Starlyn Black, Carolyn (Katy) Cabell, Nancy (Chastain) Clamen, Mary Jo Lee, Janice Lineberger, Wayne Lineberger, Edward Scarborough, Kent Stephenson, Charles Whitney

Congregational Shut-Ins:

Home: Doris Bell, **Pleasant Springs Assisted Living:** Annah Brown, **Home:** Irene Duncan, **Home:** Joyce Lee, **Villa Assisted Living:** Georgia Lide, **Omaha Healthcare Center:** Alice Lovelady

CONGRATULATIONS are extended to **Allen Simpson**, (son-in-law of Gene and Billie Campbell). Today he will be inducted into **Oklahoma's Coaches Hall of Fame**. One coach is chosen from all sports in Oklahoma for this honor. Gene is in Tulsa today to attend this ceremony.

Health Updates:

Patsy Duncan is now in Room 427 at Titus Regional Medical Center, Skilled Nurses Section, for continued healing, treatment and therapy. Grady said they still don't know how much longer she will be there.

Wayne Pickrel says he is doing well, although he does get tired a lot, especially after his treatments.

Suzanne Charlton is still in East Texas Medical Center, now in I.C.U. She now has congestive heart failure and is not doing so well. She is taking oxygen to help her.

Brenda Riley was taken to E.R. at the hospital last week but was able to return home. She has lots of health problems and needs our prayers.

Wade Miller is not feeling well and continues to experience problems with his feet. He is battling a bone infection in his left foot and was scheduled this past week to see his doctor for planning a

course of action to try to correct the problem. *At the printing of this bulletin we don't have an update on this*

Janice Lineberger is slowly improving but still struggles with pain and tiredness. She now able to get out and was in attendance here last week.

Mary Jo Lee (mother of Sara Neal) has been moved to ICU at Titus Regional Medical Center. *At the printing of this bulletin no update has been received.*

Jim Duncan says he is doing pretty good for the moment, awaiting further tests results and dates for his surgery.

Edward Scarborough (co-worker of Daniel McCary) is now back at home after spending some time in Longview Regional Hospital being treated for cardiac arrhythmia. His doctor is treating him with medicine at this time.

Debbie Bauer of Houston was scheduled to have brain surgery last week to remove a tumor. We do not have an update on her condition.

Please remember the women in the congregation who are with child: Lena Groda and Rhonda Newman.

Nancy (Chastain) Clamen was scheduled for surgery on Monday, July 27 th, at last report, to replace a portion of her jawbone with bone from her leg. She will be in Baylor of Dallas, I. C. U., for 1 to 2 days and then in the hospital for at least a week. The surgery is expected to last for about 8 hours. Her daughter, Kay, asked for our prayers.

UPCOMING YOUTH EVENTS:

SYBSNET ... SYBSNET for is to meet again on Monday, July 27, at Westside in Paris. The topic will be “*Conquering the Enemy of Impatience.*” Everyone is invited to attend.

GOSPEL MEETING at Oak Grove July 26 through 30.