

Those to Serve

Sunday 02-07-2010

Sunday Morning Worship:

Announcements..... Wayne Charlton
 Song Leader..... Hal Roper
 Opening Prayer Wayne Charlton
 Closing Prayer Daniel McCary

Month of February 2010

Sunday Morning Lord's Table

South Side:

Rance Robison
 David Neal
 Richard Hargrove

North Side:

Darrell Cooper
 Frankie argent
 Sid Charlton

Sunday Evening Lord's Table

Jody Sparks Tim Jones

Sunday Evening Worship:

Announcements..... Ron Traughber
 Song Leader..... Hal Roper
 Opening PM Prayer..... Hal Roper
 Closing PM Prayer..... Will call on someone

Serving Wednesday Night—February 10, 2010

Announcements George O'Neal
 Song Leader..... Rance Robison
 First Prayer.....Will call on someone
 Closing Prayer..... Rhodney Freeman

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

Attendance for the week of 1-31-2010

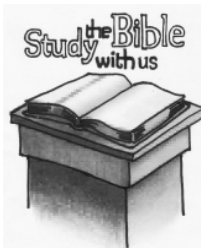
Bible Classes.....101
 Morning Worship.....145
 Evening Worship 98
 Tuesday Ladies Class08
 Wednesday Night101
 Regular Contribution \$ 3,874.55
 New Construction Fund Contributions.....\$ 180.00

Averages To Date This Year

Bible Classes..... 98
 Morning Worship.....139
 Evening Worship 97
 Tuesday Ladies Class 12
 Wednesday Night 92
 Regular Contribution.....\$ 4,214.14
 New Construction Fund Contributions to date..... \$ 80,425.88
 (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: "The Purpose of Preaching"
 Kris Groda, Preaching

 PM: "Grace In the Old Testament"
 Kris Groda, Preaching

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

Assembly Times

Sunday

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

Tuesday

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

Wednesday

Bible Classes7:00PM

Website:
www.njcofc.com

Email:
njcofc@sbcglobal.net

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

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. 50 **Founded on the Word—Focused on the World** February 07, 2010

"God Is Not the God of the Dead, But of the Living"

By Kris Groda

The context of Matthew 22, describes a day when the Pharisees intended to ensnare Jesus in His speech. It is believed that Mark 12:18-27 and Luke 20:27-38 are parallel accounts. Harmonizing these accounts, we find that Jesus used two parables illustrating the wickedness of the chief priests and scribes: the parable of *The Wicked Husbandmen* and the parable of *The Wedding Banquet*. Both exposed the rejection and hard-heartedness of the Jews. Jesus "knew what was in man" (John 2:24,25) and was quick to reveal the thoughts of the Pharisees. When questioned about paying taxes to Caesar, Jesus "perceived their wickedness, and said, *Why tempt ye me, ye hypocrites?*" (Matt 22:18).

The same day, the Sadducees confronted Jesus about the resurrection. While their motive is not revealed, the hostility of Sadducees toward Pharisees is well known especially because of their belief in the resurrection. The Sadducees not only denied the doctrine of the resurrection (Matthew 22:23), but they also rejected the idea of an "angel and spirit" (Acts 23:7,8). This seems to indicate serious doubt of an afterlife at all. Their question was: "Moses said, *If a man die, having no children, his brother shall marry his wife, and raise up seed unto his brother. Now there were with us seven brethren: and the first, when he had married a wife, deceased, and, having no issue, left his wife unto his brother: Likewise the second also, and the third, unto the seventh. And last of all the woman died also. Therefore in the resurrection whose wife shall she be of the seven? for they all had her*" (Matthew 22:24-28; Deuteronomy 25:5).

Jesus responded, "Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God. For in the resurrec-

tion they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are as the angels of God in heaven. But as touching the resurrection of the dead, have ye not read that which was spoken unto you by God, saying, *I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob? God is not the God of the dead, but of the living*" (Matthew 22:29-32). The cause of their disbelief was their ignorance of the scriptures and of God's power. Accepting only the Pentateuch, the Sadducees did not believe there was evidence for the resurrection. Jesus, in His wisdom quotes from the Pentateuch (Exodus 3:6) where the great "I AM" identifies Himself to Moses in the burning bush as "the God of thy father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob". This is a great lesson on how the Bible authorizes by implication. When the Lord spoke to Moses, He spoke in the present tense, implying that Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob were alive beyond the grave.

There is an afterlife and there will be a resurrection. The rich man, when he died he lifted "his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom" (Luke 16:23). He could see, feel, communicate, and remember. Jesus said, "Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation" (John 5:28-29). Paul taught, "For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised: And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins" (1 Cor. 15:16-17). Matthew 22:33 reveals the multitude was astonished at the teaching of Jesus... and for good reason. The Living God is the God of living men (John 17:3).

“Hell is in session right now in Haiti”

That was the title that caught my attention on the e-mail from WorldNetDaily.com. The article began with a description of the horrible conditions in Haiti due to the recent earthquake:

Water. Americans take it for granted. Without it, human beings can't survive very long.

Right now, pure drinking water remains one of the most critical needs for the people of Haiti in the aftermath of the country's devastating 7.0 earthquake that has flattened buildings, killed tens of thousands and disrupted what was a weak infrastructure in the impoverished nation before the quake.

People are quite literally dying of dehydration and sickening themselves by drinking from impure water sources.

By last reports there are likely 200,000 people who died from the earthquake and resulting chaos. Millions more are without housing or basic necessities. Thankfully in the same email messages I got that day (January 22) I received the following from Manna Global Ministries:

“It was a good day ... spirits are much more hopeful. So thankful. There were so many docs at the hospital today that they were sending them away, so help is arriving. Things are beginning to be sold on the streets again and fuel is becoming available. People are trying to get back to “normal” it seems. The Haitian people are the strongest people you can imagine.”

Now I don't want to downplay the tragedy in Haiti. They need help from the Lord's church (and have gotten it) and will need more help (and will get it). But the title of the first article I received that likened the suffering in Haiti to “Hell in session” is quite misleading. Notice the Lord's descriptions of hell:

As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of this world. The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth. (Matthew 13:40-42)

The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name. (Revelation 14:10-11)

And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be

punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power; (2Thessalonians 1:7-9)

In this small sampling of God's description of the horrors of hell, did you notice a striking difference between them and the events I Haiti? Let me note a couple for you:

- In Haiti a large number suffered physical death.

In hell, all will suffer eternal damnation of their soul.

- In Haiti others are able to help with the despair.

In hell, there is no aid for the suffering which those there

suffer.

- In Haiti there is a hope which is before those suffering the tragedy.

In hell, there is no hope... none for all eternity.

Again, let me assure you that I do not want to downplay the suffering nor needs that are found in Haiti. We should and must be moved by the plight of those suffering (Matthew 25:32-46; James 2:13-16). But titles such as the one of the article we began minimize the real purpose of true Christians and the utter horror of our failure.

We are moved by the situations of those in need, and strive to help them as we can. But all the while our purpose is much more important, to seek and save the lost (Luke 19:10; Matthew 28:18-20). Sadly there are those who lose sight of this goal in times of such tragedy. Moved by the sheer magnitude of the suffering there are those who will disregard the spiritual focus we must have, or will even apply situation ethics as they employ methods and fellowship which are forbidden by God's laws. The physical suffering of those about us must never be allowed to overshadow our realization of the despair that faces them if they are out of Christ - or the hope which will allow them to overcome such trials no matter what (Hebrews 6:19; 2 Timothy 1:12).

Until we are more horrified by the truth of hell than the physical suffering on this earth, we will never evangelize as we must.

I pray we are all moved by the physical sadness in Haiti.

But I pray even more that we were, and are, moved by their spiritual needs. We can be beneficial to such people in both realms – if we labor in God's way.

*Jack Williams - January 2010
39th Street Church of Christ
Independence, MO*

Please Remember in Prayer:

Justin Barker, Rachel Barker, Doris Bell, James & Sue Browning, Billye Campbell, Gene Campbell, Suzanne Charlton, Randy Cooper, Jim Duncan, Barbara Duncan, Irene Duncan, Patsy Duncan, Wade Miller, Wayne Pickrel, Thelma Reed, Helen Roper, and Rebecca Tippit.

Also: Ozroe Bush, Carolyn (Katy) Cabell, Gary Duncan, Denise Hess, Cato Jones, Margaret Laurence, Mary Jo Lee, Janice Lineberger, Kent Stephenson, Kaitlin Taylor, and Charles Whitney

Congregational Shut-Ins:

Pleasant Springs Assisted Living: Doris Jean Bell, Annah Brown, **Home:** Irene Duncan, **Villa Assisted Living:** Georgia Lide.

NEW SISTER

THE ANGELS IN HEAVEN REJOICED LAST WEDNESDAY NIGHT (FEB. 03) FOLLOWING THE EVENING SERVICE ... WE GAINED A NEW SISTER IN CHRIST WHEN CHRISTINA TRAMMELL PUT ON THE LORD IN BAPTISM. SHE HAD BEEN STUDYING WITH KRIS AND LENA IN THEIR HOME. WE ARE DELIGHTED THAT SHE HAS BLESSED US BY HER PRESENCE—WE ARE EVEN MORE DELIGHTED THAT THE LORD HAS ADDED HER TO HIS CHURCH (ACTS 2:47). PLEASE ADD TO YOUR DIRECTORY:

CHRISTINA TRAMMELL
6142 SH 11
HUGHES SPRINGS, TEXAS 75656
PHONE: 903-305-1128
Email: sweetheart20172004@yahoo.com

BE SURE TO GET TO KNOW HER ... LOVE HER ... AND NOURISH OUR NEW BABY SISTER IN CHRIST.

HEALTH UPDATES

Bud Roach passed away last Tuesday in Dallas. His funeral was conducted Saturday morning at 10:00 am by Bates-Cooper-Sloan Funeral Home with burial at Nevill's Chapel Cemetery in Titus County.

Sue Browning continues her recovery at home from her recent back surgery. Continue to pray for her.

Wayne Pickrel continues chemo treatments on Mondays beginning tomorrow. Keep him in your prayers.

Remember **Caitlin Taylor** of Houston, teenage friend of Cathy Robison, who has a brain tumor. Please keep her in your prayers.

CHURCH HAPPENINGS

Children's Bible Hour last Sunday had 11 kids and 8 teenagers. A good meeting.

Bible Bowl Practice at 5pm today. This is for all young people from the 1st-12th grades.

The next Bible Bowl is scheduled for Monday night, February 08, 2010. Everyone is invited to participate and/or attend.

Ladies Bible Class this Tuesday at 10:00am. Studies in Titus Chapter 2 continue. Mothers are encouraged to attend. Child care will be provided in the nursery.

Wednesday Night Supper Potluck meal on Wednesday nights prior to services to help with our busy families. Meal time from 5:45pm to 6:45pm in the Multi-Purpose Room. If your family is interested in participating, please contact Keely McCary at (903) 563-7895 by Tuesday of each week to see how you can contribute to the meal.

LADIES DAY will be April 17. More details later.

Special Event

Gary and Anita Cornett, and Van and Terri Lee, announce the engagement and approaching marriage of their children, Natalie Marie McPeters and Jason Scott Lee, both of Dallas. The couple plan to wed on Friday, April 2nd in Dallas.
Van and Terri Lee

THANK YOU ... “The family of Dean Sparks acknowledges with grateful appreciation the kind expression of your sympathy.”

COMMUNION DUTIES FOR YEAR

JANUARY—RONNIE AND CONNIE

FEBRUARY—TIM AND LINDA

MARCH—RODNEY AND JOAN

APRIL—FRANKIE AND CAROLYN

MAY—RHODNEY AND JUDY

JUNE—JODY AND STEPHANIE

JULY—RON AND DELORIS

AUGUST—LINDA FERRELL

SEPTEMBER—JERRY AND ALICE

OCTOBER—JIM AND BARBARA

NOVEMBER—WAYNE AND ANN

DECEMBER—WAYNE & SUZANNE

PLEASE MAKE A COPY OF THIS LIST FOR YOUR READY REFERENCE.