

DO NOT FORSAKE ME WHEN I'M OLD

Terry Hightower

The Psalmist pleads, "Now also when I am old and grayheaded, O God, forsake me not; until I have shewed thy strength unto this generation, and thy power to every one that is to come" (Psalm 71:18). God, of course, will never forsake His own, but unfortunately sons, daughters, grandsons, and granddaughters sometimes do. Solomon described what our relationship with, or common practice toward, the elderly should be so that "Children's children are the crown of old men: And the glory of children are their fathers...And despise not thy mother when she is old" (Proverbs 17:6; 23:22). Yet, numerous professed followers of God and His Word violated the normal expected pattern in the first century just as they do now (Matthew 15:1-14). Our Lord "pulled no punches" when He thundered to these ingrates:

"For God commanded, saying, Honour thy father and mother: and, He that curseth father or mother, let him die the death. But ye say, Whosoever shall say to his father or his mother, It is a gift, by whatsoever thou mightiest be profited by me; And honour not his father or his mother, he shall be free. Thus have ye made the commandment of God of none effect by your tradition" (Matthew 15:4-6).

The Old Man's Birthday

Yesterday was an old man's birthday. He was 91. He awakened earlier than usual, shaved, and put on his best clothes. Surely they would come today, he thought. He did not take his daily walk to the station to visit with the old-timers of the community, because he wanted to be right there when they came. He sat on the front porch with a clear view of the road so that he could see them coming. Surely they would come today. He decided to skip his noon nap because he wanted to be up when they came. He has six children. Two of his daughters and their married children live within four miles. They have not seen him for such a long time. But today was his birthday. Surely they would come today. At supper time he refused to cut the cake and asked that the ice cream be left in the freezer. He wanted to wait and have dessert with them when they came. About 9 o'clock he went to his room and got ready for bed. His last words before turning out the lights were "Promise to wake me up when they come." It was his birthday and he was 91.

(Let us all remember those who have advanced in age and continue to deserve our respect and appreciation for all they have done. TJK)

YOU DIDN'T SAY NOT TO

Carey Scott

Remember when you were young and you were sent to the store for a particular item? When you got home with that item and some other goodies, you were challenged as to why you bought more than that one item. You answered; "You didn't say not to." This was met with a strong reprimand (and usually some physical reinforcement) and you soon learned that when you were given a specific command or task, you were to obey that one and only command.

Can you imagine the pharmacists adding some ingredients to your medicine and saying that your doctor did not say "not to" add this? Can you picture the response a soldier would get from his sergeant if he did something and replied that the sergeant did not say "not to"? What if you order a cake with red frosting from the bakery, and it arrives with red, white, and blue frosting. Would you accept an answer from the baker that you didn't say "not to" add the blue and white frosting?

Such explanations are not likely to be tolerated anywhere in most any circumstance. But why do people do things religiously and use this same excuse? They do something and when questioned, they reply something like: "Well, the Bible doesn't say NOT to do this." This lame excuse is not tolerated in our world, so why should we expect God to tolerate such a lame excuse? God has told us what to do and how to do it in the words of the Bible. Doing something that is not authorized or written in the Bible is the same as adding to the word, and the addition of God's word is a sin that deserves punishment. Sometimes God has spoken and we just neglect to do it or we determine for ourselves that it is not necessary. Deuteronomy 4:2 reads: *"You shall not add to the word which I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you"*

Why not just follow the Bible and stop using lame excuses in your spiritual journey? Let us help you.

You must believe that Jesus is the Son of God and died on the cross for your sins. (Acts 8:37). You must repent of your sins (Luke 13:3), you must confess Jesus as Lord (Matthew 10:32), and you must be baptized for the remission of your sins (Acts 2:38; 22:16). Then you must remain faithful and continue learning (II Peter 3:18). Let us help you on your spiritual journey. May God bless you in your study of His word.

NEWS AND NOTES

“I was sick, and ye visited me...” (Matthew 25:36)

Please be sure to pick up Church Directory Additions and Corrections on the table in the foyer.
Pray for those directly and indirectly affected by Covid-19, and please keep us updated.

Mothers

From Eve, “the mother of all living” (Genesis 3:20), to “Babylon the Great, the mother of harlots” (Revelation 17:5), Scripture abounds with references to mothers, both good and bad. At least 299 verses contain references to mothers of some sort. God manifested His evaluation of the status of mothers as He, through Moses, enjoined respect for one’s mother: “Honor your father and your mother” (Deuteronomy 5:16). “Every one of you shall revere his mother” (Leviticus 19:3). One who cursed or assaulted his mother (or father) was subject to capital punishment (Leviticus 20:9). Though the death penalty for such behavior is not carried over into the New Testament, the command to respect (honor and obey) one’s parents certainly is (Ephesians 6:1-3). Mothers’ influence upon their children demonstrates their importance. About half of the kings of Israel and Judah are identified, in part, by who their mothers were. Some of these were good kings whose fathers were wicked. Might they have been influenced by godly mothers? We know for certain that at least a few of the wicked kings emulated their corrupt mothers. Whether a child seeks relief from physical pain, or understanding and forgiveness for a blunder, who can comfort better than Mother? God likens His own comfort to that of a mother (Isaiah 66:13: “as one whom his mother comforts, so I will comfort you; and you shall be comforted in Jerusalem.”) What a grand compliment to mothers everywhere! Along with his grandmother, Lois, Timothy’s mother, Eunice, illustrates the importance of a godly mother’s influence. Timothy’s father was a Greek (Acts 16:1). Nevertheless, Eunice and Lois ensured that the boy knew the Scriptures from earliest childhood (2 Timothy 3:15). We are not surprised that Paul saw such potential in him that he took him along on the second missionary journey. Countless souls whom Timothy influenced for Christ can thank Eunice and Lois for a job well done. Mothers, our hats are off to you, not only on this traditional holiday, but every day. In many ways, you are our unsung heroines. Thank you for your dignity, your godly examples, your teaching, and your comfort. May you realize how precious you are, and may our Lord exalt you in due season!

- adapted from article by Joe Slater

Those Privileged To Serve

May 10, 2020

SUNDAY MORNING

Song Leader: Scottie Blanchard
Opening Prayer: TBA
Closing Prayer: TBA
Bible Reading: TBA
Preacher: Terry Joe Kee

LORD’S TABLE

Presiding:
TBA

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jody Pickens

SUNDAY EVENING

Song Leader: Scottie Blanchard
Opening Prayer: TBA
Closing Prayer: TBA
Preacher: Terry Joe Kee

WEDNESDAY NIGHT

Song Leader: Randy Oden
Opening Prayer: TBA
Closing Prayer: TBA

DEVOTIONAL SPEAKER

TBA

NUMBERS FOR THE WEEK

April 26, 2020

Sunday Bible Study
Sunday AM Worship 119
Sunday PM Worship 53
Wednesday Bible Study 56
Contribution \$6,116

“When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also.”

2 Timothy 1:5

The Friend of Truth

Greensboro Road church of Christ

Jonesboro, Arkansas 72405

(870) 932-3920

“Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth?” (Galatians 4:16)

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Keep Notes

One of the joys I have in life is coming to the building knowing I will be able to be together with my brethren. When we come together, we enjoy the fellowship and encouragement from one another. I am thankful for all the means we have to help spread the gospel and support and encourage those who cannot be with us, but there is nothing like being together. Our numbers are increasing as some see how we are working to keep each one safe, while also gathering to worship. May God be glorified by our time together.

Hopefully, with more businesses opening and more movement among our citizenry we will begin to see our numbers continue to grow back to the place they should be and were before all this pandemic began. We can use wisdom and still meet for worship as required by God. Keep praying for everything to get back to normal very soon. Area churches are beginning again to meet after not having been meeting over several weeks. Hopefully, these difficult times will give us opportunities to help others and open doors for the good news to be taught to our friends and neighbors.

As we have already announced, we will not be having our Vacation Bible School this year. We do hope that at some time this summer we will be able to set aside a time to do some special things for our young ones to help them to grow in their knowledge of the gospel. We are planning to use our theme, “The Christian Railroad” next year, 2021, and with the extra time to prepare we want to be sure that next summer will be our best VBS ever. We have a good theme and good materials and plenty of time to prepare so we have no excuses for it not being a great success.

Also, we have had to cancel our spring gospel meeting. Our intention was to have one of our missionaries, Arnold Kelley, with us this spring. However, that was not possible this year. If things had worked as scheduled we would have met this past week and by now the spring meeting would be history. Our meeting will need to be rescheduled for a time when we can have the best influence in our community for good. Pray for Arnold and Susan as they are settling into their new rental property in Laurel, Mississippi. Keep them in your prayers as they are working to rebuild and reestablish their work in Laurel. May we always be able to see opportunities even in the worst of times.

SHEPHERDS

Dan Nichols
Randy Oden
Jody Pickens

DEACONS

Scottie Blanchard
Jerry Dodson
Mike Felts
Jason Garland
Marshall Lands
Mark Wooten

EVANGELIST

Terry Joe Kee

MISSIONARIES

Michael Hughes
Samrit Kammanee
Arnold Kelley
Guyana, South America
Warren, PA

SERVICES

SUNDAY

Classes 9:00 a.m.
Worship 10:00 a.m.
5:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

What Must I Do To Be Saved?

Hear the Word of God
Romans 10:17

Believe the Word of God
John 8:24

Repent of your sins
Luke 13:3

Confess your faith in Jesus
as the Son of God
Romans 10:9,10

Be Baptized for the
remission of your sins
Acts 2:38

Live faithfully
Revelation 2:10

*“Where there is no vision,
the people perish....”*
Proverbs 29:18

*God Give Us 2020 Vision
in 2020*