

## WHEN THEY ARE REACHING

Terry Joe Kee

Often as our children are growing up parents and grandparents must put things up and out of their reach. We do this to protect the child and to protect the object of their affections. The reason we do this is because children reach for things. They reach for all kinds of things.

Moses told the children of Israel to teach their children from the time they rose in the morning until the time they went to bed at night (Deut. 6:7). So as we have our loved ones reaching, let us use this as an opportunity to teach them lasting lessons. Here are a few we might think of teaching.

1. When one goes into a dark room and begins reaching for the light switch, let us teach them about the light of the world, Jesus (John 8:12; Matthew 5:14-16).
2. When one reaches for a favorite book with some familiar story we have read over and over, let us take time to teach about the most important book, the Bible, and teach them great lessons from its pages (Isaiah 34:16; I Timothy 4:13).
3. When a little one reaches for the saltshaker, let us remind them how salt can preserve meat and season food and how Christians are to be the salt of the earth (Matthew 5:13).
4. When a child reaches for another roll, biscuit, or some favorite bread, teach them about the One who is the Bread of Life (John 6:48). Also remind them that we cannot live by bread alone, but by the Words that proceed from the mouth of God (Matthew 4:4).
5. When a young one reaches for milk, let us use that as an opportunity to teach them about the milk of the Word that we must drink to live (I Peter 2:2).
6. When a son or daughter needs a drink of water, give it with a reminder of how Jesus offers us the water of life (John 4). Also, this could be an occasion to introduce our younger ones to the importance of baptism for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38; Acts 8).
7. When you reach for your wallet, remind your children how all blessings come from God and show them how important it is for us to set aside each week to give back to the Lord cheerfully (I Corinthians 16:1,2; 2 Corinthians 9:6,7).
8. When one starts reaching for the door, remind your child how Jesus is the Door of the sheepfold and we all enter through Him (John 10:9).
9. Then when your little one cuts his finger and he sees the blood, remind him of the One who shed His blood for all of us (I John 1:7; Hebrews 9:22; Matthew 26:28).
10. When your child comes home and tells you about some new rule they have at school this year, teach them about God's rule, His law and that even though we may not understand why, His law is always given for our benefit (Psalm 19:7; Philippians 3:16; Psalm 119:105).

Never should we fail to use our opportunities to teach and admonish our children (Ephesians 6:4). Use every moment wisely. They pass so quickly.

## IS ANYTHING MORE IMPORTANT THAN YOUR SALVATION?

by Lee Moses

**Your financial security is not more important than your salvation.** Based upon the way they live, it is clear that most American adults place financial security near, if not at, the very top of life's priorities. While financial prudence is wise, and financial success gained through hard work to be applauded, there are matters far more important. "For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" (Matthew 16:26).

**Your job/school responsibilities are not more important than your salvation.** Responsibilities are an important part of life. They tend toward personal improvement. They help to bring order and purpose to our lives. They help us contribute to a larger good than ourselves.

Many people view their job responsibilities as something more than providing for their financial needs. They view other people as depending on them, whether co-workers, employers, or customers. This is a healthy way to view one's vocation. There has recently been a lot of talk about "essential businesses," but in view of the preceding, most businesses serve a very valuable role in society, a role that extends well beyond the primary goods and services they provide.

That said, such responsibilities pale when compared with the things of the Lord. When Jesus called disciples, saying, "Follow me," they immediately laid aside their work responsibilities to follow the Lord (Matt. 4:18-22; Luke 5:27-28). For doing this, Jesus promised them numerous blessings in this life, "and in the world to come eternal life" (Mark 10:28-30).

**Your ties with friends and family are not more important than your salvation.** Parents, children, spouse, and friends are all tremendous blessings from the Lord, to be cherished and savored (Psalm 103:13; 127:3; Proverbs 18:22; 17:17; 27:9). Yet Jesus warns, "He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me" (Matt. 10:37).

The threat of disease is not more important than your salvation. Disease brings misery to lives, as well as painful early death. But consider the words of encouragement Jesus gave His apostles: "And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell" (Matt. 10:28). Losing an eye or bodily limb in this life is far better than losing one's soul for eternity (Mark 9:43-48). When compared with the Judgment to come, powerful persecutors and devastating diseases are mere gnats in our existence.

**Your nation's security is not more important than your salvation.** Many brave souls have died for our national security, and those are sacrifices never to be taken lightly. However, one sacrifice was given greater than all those combined: Jesus Christ "gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father" (Galatians 1:4). Christ's sacrifice did not only deliver us from wicked political powers, such as the Assyrians, the Nazis, or the Soviets. He died to deliver us entirely from this present evil world, "that he might redeem us from all iniquity" (Titus 2:14), "to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him" (Hebrews 7:25); and, as a result, Christians "are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all" (Heb. 10:10).

**No, nothing is more important than your salvation.** "It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment" (Heb. 9:27). Financial security, job performance, and family or friendly ties will not prevent death's eventual arrival, much less that of Christ's Judgment. At that time no one will be lamenting diseases he suffered in life or breaches of national security. All that will matter from that point and eternity following is that we are found saved and faithful in Jesus Christ. Will you be?

# NEWS AND NOTES

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

### Remember in Prayer:

*Darlene Felts* has been in NEA this week recovering from low sugar issues.  
*Louis Preston* will have a heart cath Tuesday in preparation for possible hip surgery soon.  
*Kathy Williams* has suffered a fall and is recovering at home.  
*Carolyn Tinsley* continues to have difficulties in taking her medicines and eating.  
*Beverly Read*, sister-in-law of Reginald Read, is under hospice care in Michigan.

*Welcome Back, Gerald and Sandy George*, who have moved back to Jonesboro. We are grateful to have them place membership with us.

Please add *Everett Flanrey* to the July birthday calendar for July 3 and wish him a happy belated 2<sup>nd</sup> birthday!

**Pray for those directly and indirectly affected by Covid-19, and please keep us updated.  
 Please check the bulletin boards for updates on Prayer Request Lists.**

### In Other News:

**Remember our Bible Classes for all ages at 9:30 Sunday mornings.**

**We also now have Wednesday night Bible Classes with the same groupings on each Wednesday night except for Singing Nights (1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday) at 7:00 for 30 minutes.**

**There will be a wedding shower for *Kara Kee and David Stone* Sunday, July 19<sup>th</sup>, at 2:00 in the basement. They are registered at Amazon and Target.**

### Those Privileged To Serve

July 5, 2020

#### SUNDAY MORNING

Song Leader: Noah Flanrey  
 Opening Prayer: Mark Brewer  
 Closing Prayer: Jimmy Powell  
 Bible Reading: Mitch Mosley  
 Preacher: Terry Joe Kee

#### LORD'S TABLE

Presiding: Ben Johns  
 Mike Felts Mark Wooten  
 Reginald Read Ryan Manley  
 Robert Stephens Scott Pratt

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Randy Oden

#### SUNDAY EVENING

Song Leader: Noah Flanrey  
 Opening Prayer: Steve Stoker  
 Closing Prayer: Kevin Roush  
 Preacher: Terry Joe Kee

#### WEDNESDAY NIGHT

July 15, 2020

Song Leader: Scottie Blanchard  
 Opening Prayer: Jason Garland  
 Closing Prayer: Coltin Powell

#### DEVOTIONAL SPEAKER

July 15, 2020  
 Ben Johns

### NUMBERS FOR THE WEEK

Week Of  
 July 5, 2020

Sunday Bible Study	87
Sunday AM Worship	114
Sunday PM Worship	89
Wednesday Bible Study	94
Contribution	\$5,933

**“He that justifieth the wicked, and he that condemneth the just, even they both are abomination to the LORD.”**

**Proverbs 17:15**

# 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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## KeeNotes

At what point do the services of the church become a duty? At one time the churches of Christ did not have mid-week Bible classes, and some did not meet on Sunday nights either. So, at what point do our arrangements for meeting become God's arrangements?

Many can remember when our meeting times were different and were scheduled differently. Very often man's arrangements have become God's arrangements. In areas where God has given us liberty to make such arrangements, when meeting times are set and the place of worship is set, we are obligated to be present. Think about this...

God does not say one word about speed limits on our streets and highways or in residential areas, around schools, etc. However, God has given us the command to be subject to civil authorities and their judgments (Romans 13:1-7). Man, in the role of a civil officer, makes the determination about the speed limits in different areas of our community and in many other areas involving civil matters. When the determinations have been made then a law has been set in place and it becomes God's law for us. The only exception will be if that civil law contradicts God's law (Acts 5:29).

We can illustrate this by looking at marriage. God has given the overall law concerning marriage and the roles of the husband and wife (Ephesians 5:22-32; I Peter 3:1-7). God does not say one word about where the couple is to live or what kind of work the husband is to do. But when the husband decides to engage in lawful work and begins that work, the wife is to cooperate as if she were carrying out a commandment from God. Man's arrangements for her have become the arrangements of God and she submits "as unto the Lord" (Ephesians 5:22).

Shepherds, elders in the church have the oversight in all matters of expediency. They are charged with feeding the flock (Acts 20:28; I Peter 5:2,3). The flock needs to be assembled to be fed and we have a picture of this in Acts 2:42; Acts 20:7; I Corinthians 16:1,2; I Cor. 11:17-20. The first day of the week is the day we break the bread together and give of our means together. The first day of the week has been given by God.

God has not legislated the time of day we meet, just the day. The commands to study, assemble, fellowship and worship are all necessary. God has not legislated that we only meet on the first day, as the early church met much more often than once each week (cf. Acts 2:46). However, when the shepherds determine that we should meet three times on Sunday and again on Wednesday evening, these become our duty to God. At this point man's arrangements become God's arrangements.

### 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*