

Thank God For The Faithful

The importance of faithfulness in a Christian's life can never be overestimated; for without it, it is impossible to please God. "But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." (Hebrews 11:6). As Christians we are to support one another, to hold each other up in prayer and encouragement. "For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another" (Galatians 5:13).

Those who are faithful love God, and that love keeps them focused on heaven. The faithful are those who do not have to be begged, petted, or pampered to get them to attend the services of the church or the Bible classes. They are there! They are there Sunday morning, Sunday night, Wednesday night, meetings or any other special services. Their love for God keeps them faithful (Matthew 22:37-40). They make no excuses and neither do they grumble and complain. They respect Bible messages like, "Do all things without murmurings and disputings" (Philippians 2:14). They are always on duty, ready to do their part. One beautiful quality of their life is that they do not have a need to be recognized or praised for their faithfulness. Yet the Bible says, "Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honour to whom honour" (Romans 13:7). Those who are faithful, loyal and dependable deserve to be recognized and appreciated. God bless you for your loving service to the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. "Which in his times he shall shew, who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords" (1 Timothy 6:15).

Those who are faithful demonstrate a Christ like attitude. Words are not adequate to express the deep appreciation, love, and respect we should feel for faithful members. It matters not how many meetings there may be, they are always present. They are the ones who support and teach in our Bible school program. The Bible school program would be impossible without them. "And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ" (Acts 5:42). They are the ones who attend gospel meetings and invite family and friends to attend. They are the ones who give generously every Sunday (Luke 6:38). When there is a need for extra money for mission work or special needs they are the ones who give. They are the ones who have strong commitments and avoid all the distractions of the world. They do not try to see how worldly they can be and still expect to remain a Christian. They heed warning like, "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever" (1 John 2:15-17). One of the reasons we should love and appreciate faithful brethren so much is that they really do not need to be recognized or patted on the back in order to get them to serve the Lord's church or others. Their wonderful attitude makes it much easier to say, "Thank You." Their loving service is truly a blessing to God and to man.

Those who are faithful help to build up the Lord's church. They who are faithful are not the ones who criticize and complain about what is done. They simply join in to do what they can to make things better. "So built we the wall; and all the wall was joined together unto the half thereof: for the people had a mind to work" (Nehemiah 4:6). They realize that preachers, elders, deacons, song leaders, Bible class teachers and other faithful members are human beings like themselves. They pray for them and encourage them. They are always loving, working, sharing, and encouraging; trying to help make things better for the cause and others. The things they do may not be sensational or spectacular, but they are servants, and God will bless them for having a servant's heart. "Preserve my soul; for I am holy: O thou my God, save thy servant that trusteth in thee" (Psalm 86:2). You encourage both young and old. Their life is an inspiration to those who know them best. No one ever has to apologize for their conduct to those who are not members of our Lord's church.

What a blessing it is to be surrounded by faithful Christians! Our desire should be that there will be more and more of them, who don't care who gets credit as long as good is being done. We know a crown of righteousness awaits them at that last, great day (Revelation 2:10). On that day they will hear the Redeemer say, "well done; good and faithful servant, enter into the joy of your Lord" (Matthew 25:23). Are you counted among the faithful in your congregation? If not, why not? Thank God for the faithful!

- Author Unknown

When Have We Lost Our "First Love" For The Lord?

"Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love" (Rev. 2:4).

- When my delight in the Lord is no longer as great as my delight in someone else, I have lost my "first love."
- When my soul does not long for times of long fellowship in God's Word or in prayer, I have lost my "first love."
- When my thoughts during leisure moments do not reflect upon the Lord, I have lost my "first love."
- When I claim to be "only human" and easily give into those things I know displease the Lord, I have lost my "first love."
- When I do not willingly and cheerfully give to God's work or to the needs of others, I have lost my "first love."
- When I cease to treat every Christian brother as I would the Lord, I have lost my "first love."
- When I view the commands of Christ as restrictions to my happiness rather than expressions of His love, I have lost my "first love."
- When I inwardly strive for acclaim of this world rather than the approval of the Lord, I have lost my "first love."
- When I fail to make Christ or His Words known because I fear rejection, I have lost my "first love."
- When I refuse to give up an activity which I know is offending a weaker brother, I have lost my "first love."
- When I become complacent to sinful conditions around me, I have lost my "first love."
- When I am unable to forgive another for offending me, I have lost my "first love."

- Author Unknown

NEWS AND NOTES

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

Remember in Prayer:

Barbara Berry was hospitalized recently and is now at home.

Judy Moore is improving at home from her recent surgery.

Nina Carner is now undergoing intensive therapy on her shoulder.

Hilda Wilcox is recovering at home from her recent stroke.

Darlene Felts was carried back to NEA as she deals with many health issues.

Sympathy is extended to Harold Tinsley and his daughter Amy, as well as Harold's sisters,

Gretchen Pruitt and Mittie Stallings, in the loss of Carolyn, who passed away last Sunday.

Funeral services were Wednesday.

Pray for those directly and indirectly affected by Covid-19, and please keep us updated.

Jerri, Free, & Finn Manley Manley family

Blanchard family

Please check the bulletin boards for updates on Prayer Request Lists.

In Other News:

Bible classes for 2 years through 6th grade are postponed till a possible date in August.

More details will come soon.

Sister Hazel Scarborough's family thanks us sincerely for checking on her. They let us know her birthday is August 10th if we would like to send her birthday cards. Her new address and the addresses of others in nursing homes are on the foyer table. If you'd like to place a card on the table we will mail them together.

New Address: James and Judy McQuay & family

807 W. Monroe

Jonesboro, AR 72401

Those Privileged To Serve

August 2, 2020

SUNDAY MORNING

Song Leader: Mark Wooten
Opening Prayer: Ben Johns
Closing Prayer: Jim Johnson
Bible Reading: Kevin Roush
Preacher: J. L. May

LORD'S TABLE

Presiding: Dan Nichols
Stacy Eddleman Barry Roush
David Loggins Jerry Dodson
Tom Carner Gerald George

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jody Pickens

SUNDAY EVENING

Song Leader: Mark Wooten
Opening Prayer: Noah Flanrey
Closing Prayer: Carlos Wood
Preacher: J. L. May

WEDNESDAY NIGHT

August 5, 2020

Song Leader: *Singing*
Opening Prayer: Steve Stoker
Closing Prayer: Reginald Read

DEVOTIONAL SPEAKER

August 5, 2020

J. L. May

NUMBERS FOR THE WEEK

Week Of

July 26, 2020

| | |
|-----------------------|--------|
| Sunday Bible Study | 73 |
| Sunday AM Worship | 96 |
| Sunday PM Worship | 75 |
| Wednesday Bible Study | |
| Contribution | \$5677 |

“He also that is slothful in his work is brother to him that is a great waster.”

Proverbs 18:9

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

Every time we are blessed to be surrounded by faithful brethren seeking to do the will of God, we should be giving thanks. I rejoice for every opportunity to be with my brethren at Greensboro Road. It was truly torturous to be forced to remain quarantined and not be able to be with you. Anyone who does not know the joy of assembling and the wonderful fellowship we have as we come together, does not know what they are missing. We love you all and are so thankful for your continuing prayers.

With the joys that come, we also must face the sadness that comes. We suffered the loss of our sister in Christ, Carolyn Tinsley, this past Lord's Day. Carolyn has been a true encourager to me and my preaching efforts. She and Harold have attended as many funerals as anyone I can think of over my years of living in Jonesboro. She loved the Lord and His church and defended her faith without shame, fear, or favor. We will truly miss her. (I will also miss her singing; for a long time she sat behind me and I loved to listen to her sing praises.)

This year has been hard in many ways. One way in which it has been hard is not being able to have our Spring gospel meeting with Arnold Kelley. Then we have had to cancel our Vacation Bible School which has always been a highlight of the summer. We have not been able to celebrate birthdays and anniversaries or have potlucks and our times of gathering and spending time becoming closer have been diminished. Ladies Day had to be cancelled, a work that has been carried on by so many of our ladies to make this day special as we celebrate the women of our congregation. Now our young ones who were enjoying so very much the revised Bible classes cannot meet. I think I'm beginning to better understand John's words in the Revelation letter when he said, “How long, Oh Lord?” We must be asking, when will this ever end?

We must be resolved to be ready to use every opportunity to do what we can do to open doors of opportunity and breathe life into our community and into the church. Do not let Satan gain an advantage over us during this time. He cannot and will not win, but we must keep fighting!

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

Visit Our Website: greensbororoadchurchofchrist.com