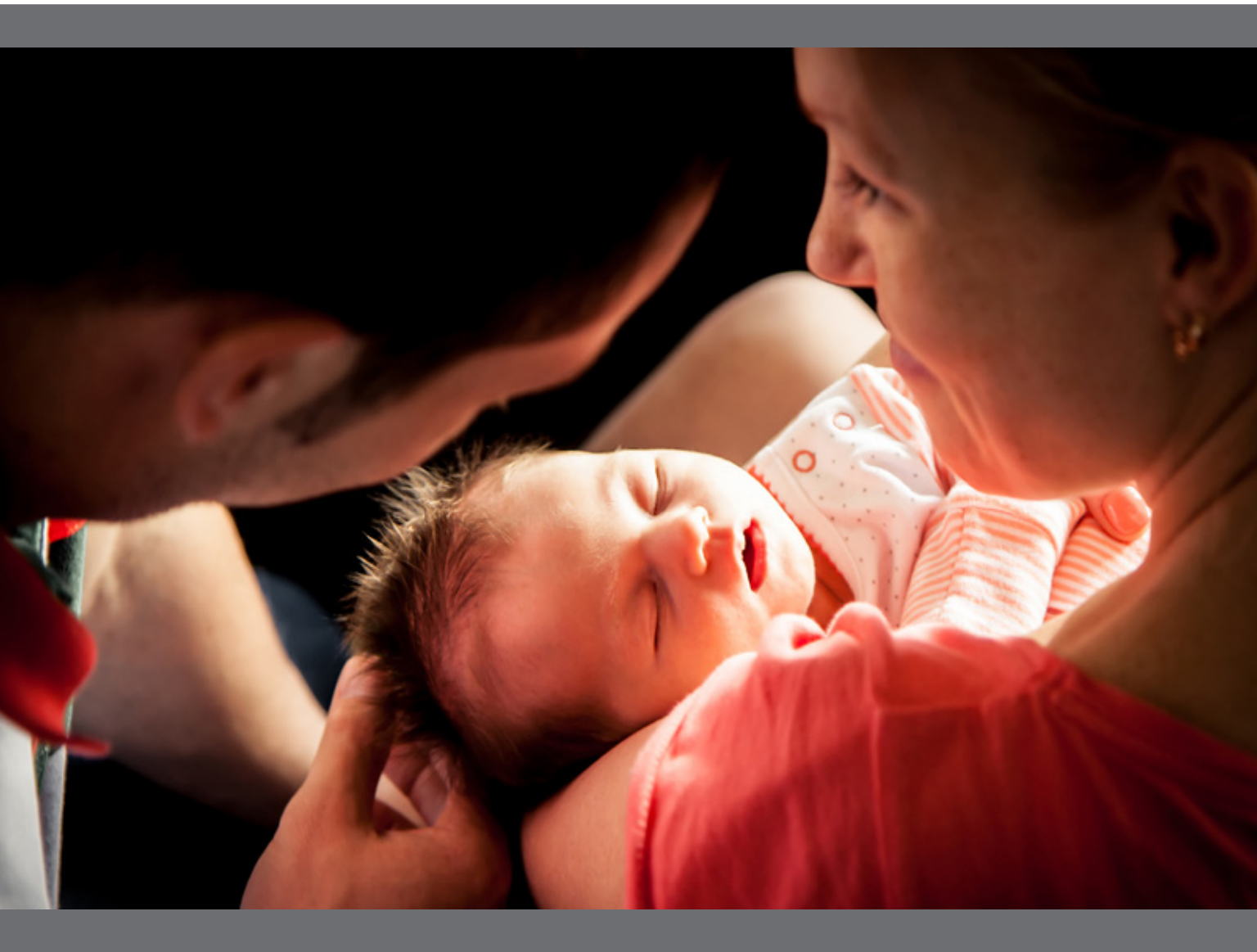


OCTOBER 2016 - VOLUME 60 - NO. 10

# TRUTH

==== MAGAZINE ====



## **THEME: THAT'S LIFE (4)**

Accepting the Yoke – P. 18

Men-Women in Midlife Crisis – P. 26

Mending the Broken Heart – P. 29

# Transitions in Life

By Mike Willis



Mike Willis, Editor  
tmmikewillis@gmail.com

**K**yle Pope wrote an excellent workbook for both teenage and adult Bible classes entitled, *Biblical Guidance through the Stages of Life*. Our congregation is presently studying this workbook, inviting different members at various stages in their own lives, to teach the classes. Our congregation is reminded that life has its stages, with each stage having its wonderful blessings and its accompanying challenges.

In recent months, we have been looking at life in a series of articles on the theme of *That's Life*. This issue of *Truth Magazine* walks us through some of the changes and issues that we address during our adult years. Here is a brief summation of the articles in this issue:

**Accepting the Yoke.** How does a young couple adjust to their new roles as parents? How do they shift from a focus on their relationship as lovers to their duty as parents? My son, Corey Willis, guides us through a discussion of the awesome responsibility that fathers and mothers shoulder as they raise their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

**Maturing in Marriage.** How can we keep growing in love for our spouse? How do we move past boredom (the 7, 17, or 27 year itch), familiarity, and also changes that occur as we age? Kyle Pope directs us to the goal of growing in marriage, allowing our intimacy for one

another to move beyond the physical attractions of youth to the knitting of two souls together through life.

**Shepherding the Flock.** How does a man develop leadership qualities (especially during the busy years of raising children) that qualify one to shepherd the church of God? How is the home a proving ground for greater responsibility? Why are the family qualifications of an elders so important? Gary Watt shows God's plan for the family relationship to be a proving ground for man's development as a leader, a leader first for his family and then a leader in a local congregation.

**Facing Mid-Life Crisis.** How do we deal with disappointment? What if I did not accomplish what I planned? What if my accomplishments did not satisfy? What if my duties (as husband/father or wife/mother) become so demanding that I cry out, "Give me back my life!" What if always ministering to spouse and children causes my needs to go unfulfilled? In his excellent article, John Smith addresses the dangers and opportunities that mid-life presents for reassessing values and recommitting oneself to God and his family.

**Mending the Broken Heart.** What happens when our dreams seemingly fail? How do we respond to shattered expectations? Stan Adams writes about the troubles and turmoil that occur in life, events that shape who we are and make us into what we become. He

reminds us of God's presence as one goes through the ordeals of life.

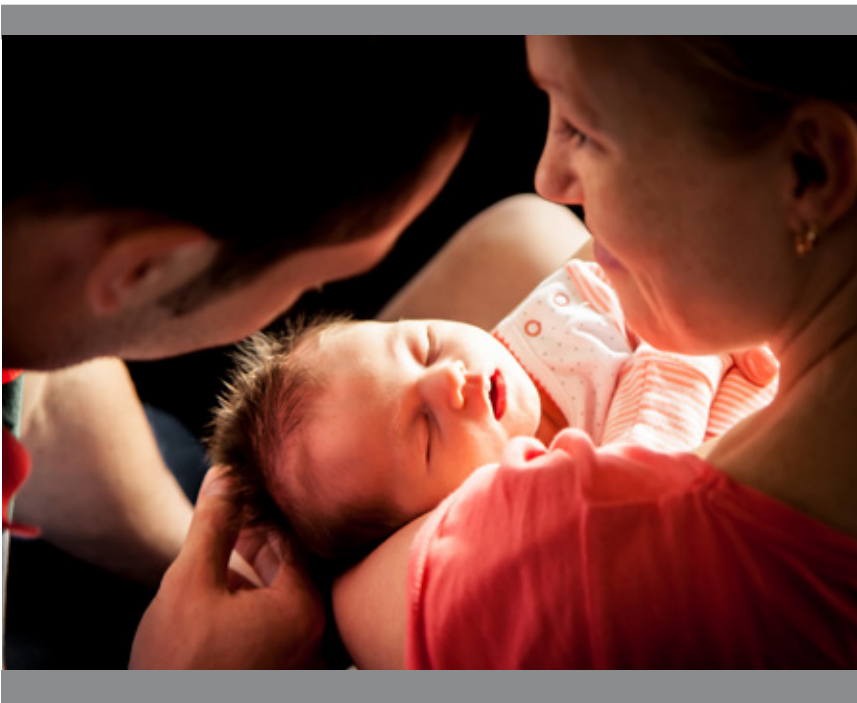
**Restoring the Shattered Life.** One could wish that there were no sad circumstances that would occur in life, but looking around us, it is obvious that is unrealistic. One has to face the sad consequences of sin, whether that be sin in his own life or how another's sin has tragically affected one's life. What happens when we sin so grievously that we lose everything that is near and dear to us? What happens when another sins against us and destroys one of our most cherished dreams? Steve Wallace addresses the attitudes that one must have to overcome these tragedies in life.

**Filling the Empty Nest.** What happens after the kids move out? How do we reorient our focus so that we can still be productive servants? As one whose children have grown up and left their home, Bobby Graham directs us to consider how the empty nest allows us to use time previously devoted to the rearing of children to accomplish other good works and to adjust our relationship with our adult children to accept their independence in an adult relationship with one another.

## Conclusion

Life takes us through various stages, creating the opportunities to serve. How honored I am to have had the opportunity to be the life companion of Sandy Carol Parson, who has helped me to become a better

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# Longing and Belonging

By Mark Mayberry

**M**an is a creature of contrasts, composed of flesh and spirit, body and soul, head and heart, intellect and emotion, determination and desire, etc.

The Word of God appeals to us on an intellectual basis: After His resurrection, Jesus presented Himself alive to the disciples by “many convincing proofs” (Acts 1:3). By means of a triad of incontrovertible arguments (i.e., the miraculous manifestations on Pentecost, fulfilled prophecy, and reliable eye-witness testimony), Peter convinced 3,000 open-minded individuals that Jesus, whom they had previously crucified, was the resurrected Lord and Christ (cf. Acts 2).

Yet, there is also an obvious emotional aspect to Christianity. Answering the question, “What is the great commandment in the Law?” Jesus said, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind” (Matt. 22:34-40; Mark 12:28-31; cf. Luke 10:25-28).

Man is a social creature. People are looking for connections. Thankfully, God provides answers and outlets for such needs. The divinely ordained relationship of marriage provides for companionship (Gen. 2:18-24). The church, purchased by the blood of Christ, affords two forms of fellowship: (1) fellowship with God, Christ, and the Holy Spirit, and (2) fellowship shared

with like-minded believers. Vertical fellowship is of primary importance. Horizontal fellowship is a natural outgrowth of the relationship we share with God (1 John 1:6-7; cf. 1 Pet. 1:22-23; 2:17).

Unfortunately, men want to short circuit and rewire this divinely-ordered arrangement. Greg M. Epstein, who serves as the Humanist Chaplain at Harvard University, has been in the news in recent years for having attempted to establish a church without God. Atheist churches have sprung up in Cambridge, MA and Baton Rouge, LA. These groups are not about religion, and certainly not about Christianity; rather, they are all about belonging, i.e., establishing connections with other like-minded individuals.

Epstein was quoted by CNN as saying, “We decided recently that we want to use the word congregation more and more often because that is a word that strongly evokes a certain kind of community – a really close knit, strong community that can make strong change happen in the world.”

This emphasis upon horizontal rather than vertical fellowship is observed in many mainstream denominations, and among some brethren who advocate a social gospel, while downplaying or denying the distinctiveness of Christianity and the authenticity of the Biblical message. However, if all you are looking for is connections, you don't

need religion – you can find that in a bar. Ted Danson became famous on the TV sitcom “Cheers,” starring as lead character Sam Malone, owner/operator of a Boston Bar, a welcoming place where “everybody knows your name.” Reflecting upon the emotional aspect of our faith, acknowledging our longing for belonging, let us consider a particular Greek word family that communicates the concept of “longing.”

The Greek verb *epipotheō*, a compound of *epi* [an intensifier] and *potheō* [to yearn], means “to long for” [Thomas 1971]. BDAG say it means “to have a strong desire for something, with implication of need, *long for, desire* something or someone.” This word occurs 9x in the NT (Rom. 1:11; 2 Cor. 5:2; 9:14; Phil. 1:8; 2:26; 1 Thess. 3:6; 2 Tim. 1:4; James 4:5; 1 Pet. 2:2).

The noun *epipothēsis*, occurring twice, signifies longing or yearning desire (2 Cor. 7:7, 11). The related noun *epipothia*, occurring once, refers to *longing or desire* (Rom. 15:23). The adjective *epipothētos*, occurring once, pertains to being earnestly desired (Phil. 4:1).

Taken collectively, this word family refers to our longing for relationships, our longing for revelation, our longing for reward, our longing for repentance, and also God's intense longing that we be exclusively devoted unto Him.

**Our Longing for Relationships.**  
The apostle Paul often spoke of his ►



longing for the saints at Philippi (Phil. 1:8; 4:1), the disciples at Rome (Rom. 1:11-12; 15:22-24), and his young friend, Timothy (2 Tim. 1:3-4). We observe similar longing manifested in the early church toward the Corinthians (2 Cor. 9:13-14), Epaphroditus's longing for the Philippians (Phil. 2:25-30), and in the mutually shared sentiments of the Thessalonians and Paul (1 Thess. 3:6-8).

### Our Longing for Revelation.

The longing of a Christian is not only personal, but rooted in principle. We should have a love for the Word of God, and a longing to better understand divine truth. This emotion is observed in a new convert's desire for the pure milk of the word (1 Pet. 2:1-3, esp. v. 2).

**Our Longing for Reward.** The longing of a Christian is not only personal and principled, but connected with a place. We desire to be with God. This emotion should be seen in our longing for a heavenly home (2 Cor. 5:1-5, esp. v. 2).

**Our Longing for Repentance.** If we love God, and respect His Word, we also recognize the need for prompt correction when we stray from the path of revealed truth. Disciples evidence a longing to be right with God. This emotion is reflected through repentance, as we experience godly sorrow because of our sins, and have a change of heart followed by a change of life (2 Cor. 7:6-11, esp. vv. 7 & 11).

**God's Longing for Us.** Finally, this language is used of God's longing for us: whenever we are tempted to compromise with the world, let us remember the Scripture that says, "*He jealously desires the Spirit which He has made to dwell in us*" (James 4:1-10, esp. v. 5). The Lord God is a jealous God, expecting the exclusive devotion of His people, and is unwilling to share the

affection that is due Him (Exod. 20:3-6; Josh. 24:14-28).

### Conclusion

Do you cherish your relationship with fellow Christians, longing for opportunities to be with your brothers and sisters? Do you long for the sincere milk of the Word? Do you long for your heavenly reward? Do you earnestly seek after God, recognizing that He intensely desires that we be exclusively devoted unto Him?

**Source:** Merica, Dan. "Church without God – by Design." CNN Belief Blog. June 22, 2013. Accessed August 30, 2016. <http://religion.blogs.cnn.com/2013/06/22/church-without-god-by-design/>. 



Mark Mayberry

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## Archaeology

# Who Were the Philistines?

By Trent Dutton

The Leon-Levy Expedition to Ashkelon has ended after 30 years of excavations at this Philistine Pentapolis city. And as this work closes, we can now stand back and ask what the expedition has brought to light about the Philistines in our Biblical text.

### Their Origins

The Philistines were one of many “tribes” or people groups collectively called the Sea Peoples, who migrated from the Aegean some time around the year 1175 B.C. and landed along the coasts of Syria, Canaan, and Egypt. Where repulsed, they responded with violence (such as the destruction of Ugarit). Elsewhere, they were peacefully integrated into the culture, at least initially. The name “Philistine” derives from the Peleset sub-group of the Sea Peoples, who attempted a landing in the Nile Delta, which turned into a battle with Ramesses III. He boasted of resettling these people in the Levant, though it is debated whether he sent these conquered enemies to control valuable trade cities, or whether these cities were taken from him. Regardless, this marked the beginning of the Philistine Pentapolis, or confederacy of the five city-states of Gaza, Ashkelon, Ekron, Ashdod, and Gath.

### Material Culture at Ashkelon

In this environment, the Philistine culture flourished and intensified. Their immediate arrival in the Levant is



*Linear-style Philistine house with four-horned altar under black protective cover (right side at back of photo). This house and altar were excavated in 2009 but covered until the summer of 2016 when re-exposed for restoration.*

marked by the proliferation of Philistine Monochrome pottery, a distinctly Aegean style, and new weaving techniques. They brought with them new architecture – houses with linear paths, each room leading to the next.

Most unique of all was the evidence of their spiritual life found at Ashkelon. In one of their linear houses, a four-horned altar was found, made of earth and plaster (reminiscent of Yahweh’s commands in Exod. 20:24-25; 27:2). Around it were ritually broken items, including loomweights and Egyptian charms.

### Cultural Changes

As time passed from the Late Bronze Age into the Iron Age I and II periods, the Philistines adopted decorating motifs from their Canaanite neighbors, creating the beautiful bichrome ware, where Grecian fish and geese intermingled with the geometric patterns of the Canaanites. Pig consumption also intensified. Many scholars believe this was due to a growing population of tribes in the hill country, who had begun vying with the Philistines for the rich agricultural territory of the Shephelah. As each made forays into one another’s

territories, these differences were intentionally enhanced. Thus, in both archaeology and in the textual history of the Hebrew Bible, we see the ultimate us-versus-them dichotomy of Israel and Philistia.

As the Iron Age and the Philistine culture wound to a close, Philistia's territory shrunk against the stronger Israelite kingdoms. Phoenicia's trade influence expanded, and much of the Levant now used the same general pottery traditions, called Red-Slipped Burnished ware. The economic strains of the powerful Assyrian empire had also driven the Philistines to industry, turning their cities into oil and wine production centers, such as the site of Ashkelon, which was nearly plastered over with wine presses. But, as the Assyrian empire weakened, Philistia's economy began to boom, and Ashkelon developed a bustling seaside market, where goods like wine, oil, and perfume were traded, money was exchanged, and meat and baked goods were sold on a commercial level. Excavations revealed households that became quite wealthy, enjoying expensive imported wines; gold, ivory, and glass jewelry; and abundant metal vessels and tools.

### The Philistines and Their Dead

What may become the most famous of Ashkelon's contributions to modern archaeology and history is the first significant Philistine cemetery, which has been excavated since 2013, though only announced this year. The cemetery, in use from the 11<sup>th</sup> to the 8<sup>th</sup> centuries,



*Philistine Bichrome Pottery.*



*Storage jars and bowls being excavated from the top of a Philistine cist tomb, before removal of stones sealing the tomb.*

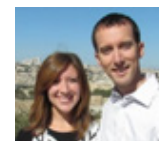
was located just beyond the city walls along the main thoroughfare into the city. Men, women, and children as young as toddlers all were buried here in a variety of styles and with a variety of grave goods. Some were cremated, but most burials were inhumations – the whole body buried intact. Some were buried with large storage jars, which likely contained food items. Others were interred with unique ointment vessels, known as Cypro-Phoenician juglets. Many wore jewelry, with bronze rings and bracelets, golden earrings, iron

bangles, and glass Egyptian charms and beads.

### So Who Were the Philistines?

The Philistines of the Biblical world are often painted as a two-dimensional people, wicked, barbarous, and intent on the annihilation of Israel. Yet, a close reading of the Biblical narrative may not fit this common interpretation. Between the lines, we read of a people who were technologically and architecturally sophisticated (Judg. 16:26; 1 Sam. 13:19-22; 17:5-7), economically thriving (Judg. 15:5; 1 Sam. 6:11; 2 Sam. 1:20), religious (Judg. 16:23; 1 Sam. 5:2-5), and militarily powerful (1 Sam. 4:2; 13:5; 28:1). These are the people that archaeology illustrates, with distinctive architectural traditions, beautiful ceramics, and booming markets. Yet, despite their sophisticated culture, God promised to punish them for their wickedness. In December of 604 B.C., the city of Ashkelon was destroyed by the Babylonian king Nebuchadnezzar, and the inhabitants driven off or killed.

It is only in modern times that this Philistine culture of the Biblical text has been brought back to life in a way that only archaeology has made possible. **TL**



**Trent and Rebekah Dutton**

Trent and Rebekah Dutton both hold Master's degrees in Biblical Archaeology from Wheaton College, in the Chicago, IL area. They have participated in four full excavation seasons with The Leon Levy Expedition to Ashkelon, Israel, and the initial survey season of Tel Shimron in the Jezreel Valley.



## Just Thinking Out Loud

# Out of Chances

By Daniel H. King, Sr.

As Jesus looked upon the city of Jerusalem during His final week of earthly life, He wept at the sight of her, saddened by the many opportunities she had enjoyed throughout the many centuries of her existence. He knew that the Roman destruction of the city lay but forty or so years in the future (70 A.D.). Many Jews would die in the fall of the great capital of Judaism. The magnificent Temple would be burned and taken apart stone by stone.

The city would eventually be renamed by the Romans as Colonia Aelia Capitolina and a temple to the Roman deity Jupiter Capitalinus (Jupiter Optimus Maximus) would replace the ancient Jewish sacred precinct. Later still, on this same spot would stand two Muslim mosques, the Mosque of Omar and the Al 'Aqsa Mosque. Never again would it provide the location for a Jewish Temple precinct. The Savior mourned her impending and devastating losses:

O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills prophets, and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing! See, your house is left to you desolate (Matt. 23:37).

When we read these words we can almost feel the pain of his own personal loss, as an observant Jew. We have seen people who stand over the ashes of a burnt-out home. Tears well up in their eyes, and sobs arise from deep within. All of the memories, gone. All of the

sentimental artifacts of lives lived gone for good, none of which could ever be replaced. Even if insurance money were to pay the actual value of the loss, which it seldom does, the price of some things is more than gold or silver. But it must be said that Jesus felt a loss there that day that was far worse than any such human situation.

A comparable situation had arisen prior to the first destruction of the Jerusalem Temple in 586 B.C. God had made persistent appeals to His people to save them from destruction. But they would not heed. And so He had given them over to their enemies. After it was all over, the Lord spoke to them by Jeremiah the prophet and said:

Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: You have seen all the disaster that I brought upon Jerusalem and upon all the cities of Judah. Behold, this day they are a desolation, and no one dwells in them, because of the evil that they committed, provoking me to anger, in that they went to make offerings and serve other gods that they knew not, neither they, nor you, nor your fathers. Yet I persistently sent to you all my servants the prophets, saying, "Oh, do not do this abomination that I hate!" But they did not listen or incline their ear, to turn from their evil and make no offerings to other gods. Therefore my wrath and my anger were poured out and kindled in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem, and they became a waste and a desolation, as at this day (Jer. 44:2-6).

In the latter instance, God had made hundreds of overtures to His people, attempting to get them to repent and return to Him. He made one final effort to save them when He said, "Perhaps they will reverence my son" (Luke 20:13; John 5:32). But even as our Savior and Lord made His way toward the city, its leadership was conniving and plotting to put Him to death and have an end to His meddling in their affairs of state. At every turn He had proven Himself to be a thorn in their side and an irritant to them; He seemed to miss no chance to embarrass or humiliate them. They were tired of it, and this was to be the final Passover that they were going to have to deal with Him and His aggravating discomfitures. He would mortify them no longer. They intended to put the Roman procurator in a position where he would have to alleviate their suffering by putting this man to death or else!

The long and the short of all this was that Jerusalem was out of chances. Rejection of God's Son, the Messiah, Jesus, was the last straw. The suffering of the Jewish nation in the years that followed this prophecy was incalculable. Jesus was crucified just outside the city. And His rejection forced the hand of God. This was the final straw. Is it not ironic that the Roman Legions surrounded the city of Jerusalem during the years of her siege and prior to her fall with an embankment that was dotted with crosses, upon which dying men cried out in agony, night and day until they took a final breath, whereupon another man was hung up on that same cross to ►



die and the carcass of the last one was cast down into the passage between the city wall and the embankment to rot? (No doubt even some of the ones who cried out, "Crucify him, crucify him" were among that lot suffering the very fate they called for Him to endure!) The stench must have been horrendous! And the sight even more so! But such is the lot of doomed men living in a doomed city. For Jerusalem was out of chances. Rejection of Jesus was the final straw.

The lesson in all of this is that the Lord's patience is not eternal. Your patience wears thin at times. And so does mine. The Lord's patience is beyond our human comprehension. He is merciful and full of grace when our human limits would have been reached long ago. But that does not mean that it is endless. There is a limit to it. And reaching that limit with God is not a desirable thing. The circumstances of Jerusalem's fall perfectly illustrate how painful such a thing can prove to be.

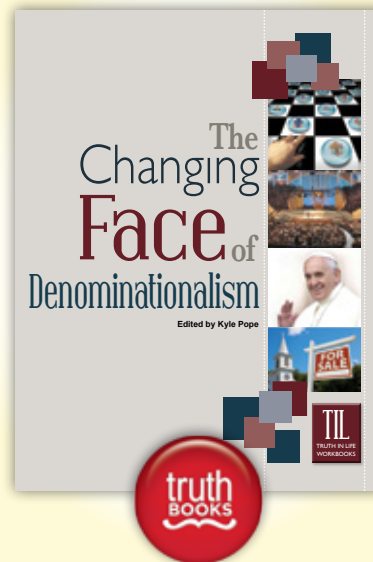
Each of us has just such a limit with God. He will be patient with us when no one else would be. He will extend to us another chance when every human friend or relative would have thrown in the towel on us long before. But Jerusalem shows us that His hand can be forced. Do not force it, my friend! Do not push Him beyond His limit! Do not run out of chances! **TM**



Daniel H. King, Sr.

Daniel H. King, Sr. is now preaching for the Locust St. Church of Christ in Mt. Pleasant, TN. Contact him at [danielhking@hotmail.com](mailto:danielhking@hotmail.com).

# New Workbook!



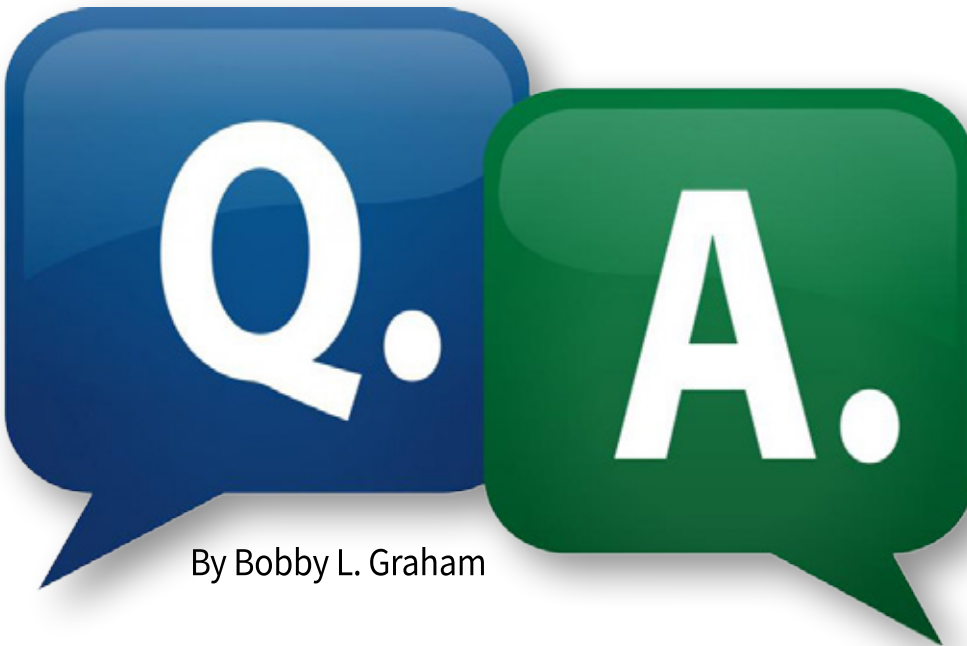
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**Bobby L. Graham**

Bobby L. Graham preaches and is an elder for the Old Moulton Road church. He is married to Karen (Hodge) Graham and has three children: Richard, Mary Katherine Winland (Darren), and Laura Paschall (Jeremy). [bobbylgraham@pclnet.net](mailto:bobbylgraham@pclnet.net).

## QUESTION: Is it right for a preacher or an elder to be arrogant, impatient, and argumentative when he deals with a fellow-Christian?

**ANSWER:** It astounds me how little some preachers or elders resemble Jesus Christ in the manner with which they handle others. Somehow some have concluded that a mark of their faithfulness or soundness is their abusiveness in speech or action toward others. This is not what the New Testament teaches, as we shall see from the following passages:

But we were gentle among you, just as a nursing mother cherishes her own children (1 Thess. 2:7).

... as you know how we exhorted, and comforted, and charged every one of you, as a father does his own children, that you would walk worthy of God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory (1 Thess. 2:11-12).

Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted (Gal. 6:1).

But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear (1 Pet. 3:15-16).

... not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, but gentle, not quarrelsome, not covetous (1 Tim. 3:3).

But avoid foolish and ignorant disputes, knowing that they generate strife. And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God

perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth (2 Tim. 2:23-25)

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law (Gal. 5:22-23).

Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct that his works are done in the meekness of wisdom. But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth. This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic. For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there. But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then ►

peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy. Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace (Jas. 3:13-18).

Reading these verses will bring to light such words as “gentle,” “exhorted,” “charged,” “gentleness,” “considering yourself,” “meekness,” “not quarrelsome,” “avoid ... disputes,” “strife,” “patient,” “humility,” “correcting,” “peace,” “long-suffering,” “kindness,” “goodness,” “self-control,” “peaceable,” “willing to yield,” and “full of mercy and good fruits.” It ought to impress us that the Lord couples the manner of correcting and charging others with the action of doing so. This answer should not be construed to mean that we ought not to correct, reprove, or warn others. We must do so in obedience to God! Obedience to God also demands that we must be careful about the attitude that we display and the manner that we portray in doing what God tells us to do.

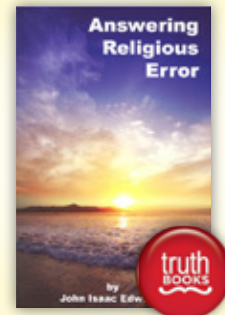
Preachers, teachers, and elders accomplish the most good in service to God and to men when they humbly identify with their hearers, seek gently to retrieve them from sin and error, and even warn and reprove when needed to snatch people out of the fire (Jude 23). They never do good by losing their temper, acting in pride, or needlessly disregarding the feelings of people.

Having set forth the right way for all to deal with others, it might also be expedient to point out that not all disagreement, argument, or rebuke is unkind, impatient, argumentative, or arrogant. One can calmly argue (disagree) or rebuke, just as he can humbly affirm what the Bible teaches and deny error or immorality. Mere disagreement or rebuke does not necessarily mean that arrogance

prompts. I long ago learned that there is no “nice” way, as interpreted by the sinner or errorist, to present truth or to refute error. Whatever the teacher of truth tries to do, he will hardly find acceptance in one resisting the truth. **T**

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## Christians Under 30

# Babel and Sexuality

By Ethan Longhenry

We have witnessed unprecedented changes in socially acceptable approaches toward human sexuality over the past few generations in Western society. Many factors lie behind these changes, but we would be remiss to neglect the role of medical and technological developments in these matters. Ideas and practices which were entirely theoretical not long ago are now being practiced or soon will be; practice has outpaced ethics and morality in these medical and technological advances.

We see these tendencies manifest in how our culture treats contraception, fertility treatments, and transgenderism. Contraception is now a given in Western culture: men and women both believe they can and should have complete control over the reproductive process. They will decide if, when, and how many children they will have. If they encounter difficulties, fertility treatments may be used. Thanks to fertility treatments men and women who practice homosexuality can bear children, either themselves or through surrogates. We do not have the time to discuss the fate of many of those frozen embryos which are created but are “left over” after the fertility treatments have concluded. The newest “hot button” issue features transgender individuals and the ability to somewhat “transform” and express the physical gender characteristics of the opposite gender.

We may find it profitable to consider these matters in light of the Tower of Babel (Gen. 11:1-9). At Babel man came together to build a monument to his

own greatness lest he be scattered over the whole earth (Gen. 11:4); ever since, mankind has attempted to exert authority and power over nature and the natural way of things, and seeks to resist the created order of things.

To some degree this contest is a natural part of the fall: we strive to eke out a living despite the dangers around us (Gen. 3:17-19). We live in houses with climate control and take advantage of medical and technological advancements that help us overcome natural limitations and difficulties. A desire to preserve and improve life is not contrary to God’s purposes.

And yet consider how many secular advocates of contraception, fertility treatments, and transgenderism speak. They take pride in resisting nature; they glory in facilitating that which is ultimately unnatural and contrary to God’s created order (Rom. 1:18-32). They are able to actually accomplish what the pagan Gentiles of old could only dream about. Western fertility rates have plummeted beyond the natural rate of replication on account of contraceptive choice. Men and women who practice homosexuality in committed relationships can only have children through artificial means if they would remain “faithful” to each other. Those who attempt to “transition” between genders are commended as proving “courageous.” How do they express this “courage”? They attempt to fight against the created order of things.

The Scriptures make it clear that God is the source of life, practicing homosexual behavior is contrary to

God’s will, and God made man and woman distinctly and yet both in His image (Gen. 1:26-27; Psa. 139:13-14; Rom. 1:24-28; 1 Cor. 6:9-11). We must approach these matters with discretion and wisdom. The New Testament does not require married couples to bear children or dictate how many each should have; nevertheless, we do well to ask whether contraceptive choices and/or fertility treatments are being used to glorify God or whether they are our attempt to maintain artificial control over our lives like at Babel. While God has made people male and female, we should not find it surprising that in the corruption of creation in the fall some people may have hormones that do not correspond to their body parts, and vice versa (Rom. 5:12-21; 8:18-22). And yet, is not deciding to reject the physical expression of gender and to “transition” to a different physical gender like unto Babel, resisting God’s created order and making a monument to man’s ability to overthrow nature?

Difficulties surrounding contraception, fertility treatments, and transgenderism will not be going away anytime soon. We do well to ground our consideration of them in Christ, how He created the world, and the consequences of the fall. May we do all things to God’s glory and resist participating in building new Babels to man’s greatness and fears! **T**



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## Women's Section

# Be Still, My Soul

By Shereilyn Mayberry

**A**nxiety and fear are emotions that we, as women, may fall prey to in our daily lives. Anxiety is inner turmoil that is a response to an expectation of future threat. It is generally an overreaction. Fear is a response to a real or perceived immediate threat. Both of these emotions can be appropriate if dealt with in a biblical manner of trusting in the Lord and leaning on Him for strength. How can I still my soul when trials of life come my way?

First, I must acknowledge that the Lord is on my side if I put my trust in Him. I can choose not to fear (Pss. 56:11; 118:6). What can man do to me? Even if he harms my physical body, he cannot take away my faith in God who is an abundantly available help in times of trouble. God is my refuge and strength (Psa. 46:1-7). As I experience trials of grief or pain, whether from spiritual or physical causes, I can bear under the weight and persevere through the tribulation knowing that God can help me grow in this time of difficulty. In prayer and thanksgiving I can lean on the Lord and receive the peace of God that is beyond my understanding (Phil. 4:6-7). If grief or pain is caused by false doctrines of men who seek to change God's will, I can choose to imitate the righteous and show diligence to seek the joy that comes from living faithful to the end (Heb. 6:11-12). Also, the Lord has provided brethren on whom I can lean and who sustain my soul through the storms of life (Psa. 54:4). God is my helper.

Second, God is in control. Before the world began God had a plan to bring

salvation to sinful mankind (Eph. 1:4-5). He guided the unfolding of this plan and now He promises us a hope in which we can rejoice as we serve Him here below (Rom 12:12). Even as evil surrounds us, God is in control and will bring just punishment to the wicked and eternal reward to the righteous in the final judgment. We can take comfort in the fact that God knows best. Peace can be ours when we realize, like Nebuchadnezzar, "that the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, gives it to whomever He will, and sets over it the lowest of men" (Dan. 4:17). God guides the future as He did the past, and His kingdom will stand. We can have confidence that, literally and figuratively, the winds and waves still know His voice and when He speaks, "Peace, be still!" all will be calm.

Finally, God understands my sorrow at the death of someone dear to me. He loves me so much He was willing to give His Only Begotten Son to die for me. He sent His Son to be the propitiation for my sins and repay the debt that I could not cover (Rom. 3:23-26; 1 John 2:1-2). Therefore, when I grieve over the death of my loved ones and friends, I take solace in believing that those who have "fallen asleep in Jesus" along with the faithful will "meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord" (1 Thess.4:14-18). I can let the Lord's love soothe me in my hour of darkness. This is a true comfort to my soul.

The greatest comfort on which I can dwell comes from trusting that I have hope of an eternity with the Lord and the redeemed of all ages if I live my

days faithfully to the end. I can look forward to Heaven where there is no more death, sorrow, or crying. There will be no pain in this home for which I yearn. Therefore, when I tremble in my bed at night, I can meditate on the trust I have in the Lord. I can offer Him the sacrifice of a righteous life (Psa. 4:4-5). I can remember what He has done for me in providing hope in Christ and, thus, lie down in peace and sleep.

"Be Still, My Soul" is the title of a beautiful gospel hymn written by Katherine von Schlegel in 1752, translated into English by Jane L. Borthwick in 1855, and included in *Psalms, Hymns and Spiritual Songs* (#373). **T**



Shereilyn Mayberry

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# Modesty: The Power of Attraction

By Kevin Maxey

Attraction is simply a force – a fact of nature – that actually reveals important truths. In 391 B.C. the Greek philosopher Plato stated, “*likes tend toward likes*.” Today scholars affirm this principle as, “The Law of Attraction,” which states that “*like attracts like*.” Note the character and inclinations of the people that have been drawn into your life. Interestingly, this can give insight into your own character and inclinations. *Like attracts like* (Prov. 23:7; 4:23).

“*Everyone else is dressing like this!*” “*I don’t want to look like a prude!*” “*But, Mom! ... I want to be attractive!*” As our children grow up, they experience a natural desire to be beautiful and attractive. There is nothing wrong with wanting to be beautiful and attractive ... but beautiful according to whom – God, or the world?

Unfortunately, the pull of “worldly beauty” is so strong, it becomes increasingly difficult to consider anything else. Magazines, television shows, movies, and rock videos are filled with “beautiful” people who are far from modest. Satan is convincingly sending the loud message, “If you want to be beautiful, then you need to dress like this ... you need to act like this.” The version of beauty the world sells does not include “modesty.” This leaves our young people asking the question, “*Is it even possible to be both attractive and modest?*”

One way we can answer this question is by reflecting on the definition of “attractive.” Yes, we all (women and men, young and old) want to be attractive. But, what exactly does attractive mean? When you are *attractive*, you are (obviously) *attracting* something or someone.

## Consider the Definition of Attractive

“Attract” means “*to evoke a specific reaction*.” What kind of reaction are you wanting to *evoke* in others by the way you dress? By the way you act? If you are attractive, the dictionary says you are strongly “*drawing*” someone towards you “*like a magnet*.” Another definition of attract reads, “*to entice, allure, lure, tempt, charm, win over, woo, engage, enthrall, enchant, entrance, captivate, beguile, bewitch, seduce*.”

Attraction inclines another toward action. Another dictionary definition affirms that attraction motivates action in one of three ways. Attracting someone involves motivating them to:

1. *DO* something
2. *LIKE* something
3. *GO TOWARDS* something.

## Ungodly Attraction

Mode of dress and a crafty (“clever at achieving one’s aims by indirect or deceitful methods”) manner can promote ungodly attraction. The

Scriptures tell us that ungodly women know they can dress and act in such a way as to evoke, entice, and attract men towards sin. “There a woman met him with the *attire of a harlot, and a crafty heart ... do not let your heart turn aside to her ways, do not stray into her paths*” (Prov. 7:10-27).

Yet still the frustrated cry is made, “*But Mom – I want to be attractive!*” If you want to be attractive, then you must honestly consider who exactly you are trying to attract and what specific reactions you are trying to evoke. When you consider what clothes or makeup to wear, ask the following questions.

1. Who am I trying to attract? *What kind of person* am I trying to evoke a response from? A godly Christian?
2. What exactly am I wanting them to be attracted to? Am I trying to attract people to  look at my body, legs, chest, etc.? Or to my godly character? What kind of response am I trying to evoke?
3. Younger girls, are you trying to look older than you are? If so, why are you trying to look older?
4. Am I resorting to a “crafty manner” to deceitfully draw others towards myself? ►

It is worth taking the time to contemplate how “old” your dress and make-up make you look. Michael Farris wrote:

I was a beach lifeguard for two summers before I was married. My fellow guards and I had a “bikini rule” to figure out how old a girl on our beach was. It went like this: “Look at the bikini. Guess how old she is. Subtract three years.” There were thirteen- and fourteen-year-old girls on our beach who were attracting the attention of guys who were eighteen, nineteen and twenty. That is not a situation that any dad wants for his daughter (*What a Daughter Needs from Her Dad: How a Man Prepares His Daughter for Life*, 103).

Take heed to this eternally consequential warning. The world is filled with young girls dressing immodestly because they want to fit in, look older, and be “attractive.” But, who are they attracting? Knowingly or unknowingly, they are attracting the lurid eyes, lascivious thoughts, and ungodly advances of older boys and men (Matt. 5:28). How many sorrowful dads wish they could go back and protect the purity of their innocent teenage daughters? How many unwed teenage moms wish they could go back and rethink the type of guys they “attracted” into their lives? Farris appropriately concludes, “If a girl overstates her age by the way she dresses, she is inviting trouble from older guys.”

### Godly Attraction

Beauty and modesty are by no means mutually exclusive! One does not necessarily eliminate one in the presence of the other. “Precious in the sight of God” is the woman who focuses on *inward* rather than outward adornment (1 Pet. 3:1-6; 1 Tim. 2:9-10). Worldly beauty is deceitful and vain, but

lasting beauty belongs eternally to the woman who fears God (Prov. 31:30).

With a pure heart, free from guile – not “crafty,” not “indirect” – choose dress and conduct that will truly draw people closer to God. Use your God-given beauty and character as a *Christian* to attract people towards Christ. “I have been crucified with Christ, it is no longer I who live but Christ lives in me, and the life that I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God who loved me and gave himself for me” (Gal. 2:20). Reflect, not your own light, but the light of God. “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven” (Matt. 5:14-16). Act and dress in such a way that evokes a godly response, instead of an ungodly one. Evoke others 1. to do something (obey God), 2. to like something (love God), and 3. to go towards something (heaven).

The next time you go into your closet to decide what to wear, take Christ with you. Let Him reign in you. Rather than looking to the world for standards of beauty and attractiveness, look to Christ. What does Christ describe as beautiful? Determine to attract people to Christ by the clothing you wear, and a guileless manner. *In Christ you are already beautiful. You have the power of attraction. Use your power for good and not evil.* 📖

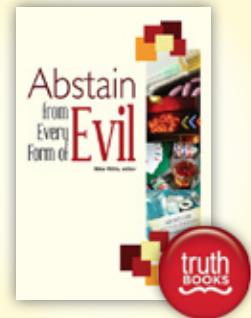


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## PATRIOTISM, NATIONALISM, AND POLITICS:

# The Christian's Relationship with His Country

By Danny Linden

In the minds of many, patriotism is as important as religious faith, or nearly so. While we certainly are blessed to live in America, where we enjoy freedoms that not everyone in the world possesses, patriotism can potentially take an improper place in our lives.

### Defining Terms

There are three distinct terms that we'll use in this discussion: patriotism, nationalism, and politics. *Patriotism* is defined as "love or devotion to one's own country." *Nationalism* takes this one step further: "a feeling that people have of being loyal to and proud of their country, often with the belief that it is better and more important than other countries; placing primary emphasis on promotion of its culture and interest as opposed to those other nations" (*Merriam-Webster*). Finally, *politics* is defined as "the activities associated with the governance of a country or other area, especially the debate or conflict among individuals or parties having or hoping to achieve power" (*Oxford Dictionary*). Put in plain terms, we might say that patriotism is loving your country, nationalism is believing

that your country is superior to others, and politics is actively working to advance an agenda in government.

### Should a Christian Be Patriotic?

In the New Testament, the focus of the Christian's relationship with his country is placed in his obedience

*"Neither love nor patriotism, as the world understands them, are dismissed out of hand in the Bible, but they are given a deeper meaning with greater responsibility for those who would claim them."*

to the government. Romans 13:1-7 is the primary passage to consider. Paul commands the Christians in Rome to be "subject to the governing authorities" and makes clear that Caesar's authority came from God Himself (see vv. 1, 4). This is despite the fact that the current Caesar was Nero, who is infamous even today for his great wickedness and especially for his hatred of Christians.

Nevertheless, God's will remained that they be subject, pay their taxes and customs, and give the appropriate fear and honor due the position. Importantly, this was not just to avoid angering Caesar – verse 5 says, "you must be subject, not only because of wrath but also for conscience' sake." Their conscience would be satisfied when they obeyed Caesar because they

would be obeying God as well. Of course this did not give them an excuse to ignore a command of God when Caesar required it. The chain of command is obvious, and God's word supersedes any man. This exception isn't noted in Romans 13, though, because it should be obvious to them. Paul was instructing them to do what was more difficult to stomach – obey a leader

who was not righteous and did not wish them well. The same direction is given to us today. We may rarely agree with our leaders, and they may even enact laws that are not righteous, but we still have a duty to obey and honor them because of the positions God has placed them in.

We can add to our understanding of this subject by reading 1 Timothy ►



2:1-4. It is good and right to pray for our leaders, even publicly in the assembly. Many times we pray for the government not to interfere with our worship, but this passage is about more than that. Verse 1 explains the different types of prayers that we should offer for all men, including for “kings and all who are in authority” – supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks. I can honestly say I have not heard many prayers of thanksgiving about governmental leaders led in our worship services, if ever! Yet, Judges 21:25 shows the danger of anarchy: “In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.” If you know your Bible, you know that this was not one of the highlights of Israel’s history. Though our leaders certainly have their faults, we ought to be thankful that we live in a land governed by laws, and God would have us pray for our leaders to have wisdom and discretion.

When we examine these passages, it becomes evident that to God, patriotism is less about barbecues, firecrackers, and flags (though obviously none of these things is sinful) and more about the proper recognition of authority. One might draw a comparison to the difference between worldly love and *agape*. Neither love nor patriotism, as the world understands them, are dismissed out of hand in the Bible, but they are given a deeper meaning with greater responsibility for those who would claim them.

### The Problem with Nationalism

Going back to our earlier definition, nationalism is a more extreme form of patriotism. A nationalist does not merely love his country; he elevates it, sometimes inappropriately, beyond personal preference. One may possess this belief for many reasons, but for some, it is due to an inaccurate belief

that America is God’s chosen nation. The attitude is certainly present in our larger culture. Consider what Mitt Romney said in an interview back in 2012: “God did not create this country to be a nation of followers. America must lead the world, or someone else will.”<sup>1</sup> This isn’t intended to be a comment specifically on Mr. Romney, as he is far from alone in this belief. It has gone by a variety of names: “manifest destiny” in the 19th century and “American exceptionalism” in more recent years. America’s place in the world is debated by men and women far more knowledgeable in these matters than I, but what is evident to me is that the Bible gives no reason to believe that God has chosen America as His special nation. Sadly, when some Christians proclaim that we as Americans are God’s chosen people or that we are a uniquely Christian nation, they have fallen victim to this type thinking. God’s chosen people are not a part of any one country. They are “a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light” (1 Pet. 2:9). In other words, God’s chosen people are the church, the body of the saved.

### May a Christian be Active in Politics?

Sometimes the question comes up whether a Christian is permitted to be active politically, whether that be voting, participating in demonstrations, or holding public office. Although the views of many are swayed by their own negative attitudes toward the government, we have already seen from Romans 13 that God has established government as a good and proper institution. With a few common-sense caveats, the Bible offers no condemnation for political participation. Our obedience and

attitude are already regulated in Romans 13 and 1 Timothy 2; beyond this, it is a matter of individual judgment whether we should be further involved and to what degree. No other part of God’s law has changed, though! We must avoid other pitfalls that are addressed elsewhere: violence, rebellious speech and actions, corruption, and even the elevation of politics into idolatry. With these guidelines, the Christian may safely be active in politics if he so chooses. **T**

### Endnotes

- 1 Cox, Chris. (2012, September 11). *NRA’s Chris Cox goes one on one with Governor Mitt Romney*. Retrieved August 19, 2016, from <http://dailycaller.com/2012/09/11/one-on-one-with-governor-mitt-romney/>



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## That's Life (4)

# Accepting the Yoke

By Corey Willis

**Synopsis:** While marriage is a significant transition in life, the transition to parenthood is more challenging and ultimately even more rewarding. Christian parenthood is critically needed today, but it will change a couple's relationship and require them to step up to new responsibilities. Parents must accept the yoke, pull it together, head the same direction, and make course corrections along the way.

## Introduction

**O**n our first date, I knew that I was going to marry her. My wife and I were best friends during our early teenage years. At 17 years old, we began dating and we were married when I was 21. Having never lived on our own before marriage, the transition from individual young Christians to husband and wife was exciting. We had our first child after five years and the second twenty months later. While marriage is a significant transition in life, I would argue that the transition to parenthood is more challenging, but ultimately even more rewarding. Christian parenthood is critically needed today, but, as a couple, it will change your relationship and require you to step up to new responsibilities.

## Parenting Is Critically Needed

It's evident to me that, as a society, we are failing at parenting. We are still witnessing the long-term consequences of child-centered parenting and the absence of parental authority. Mascolo (2015) describes that "child-centered parenting [is] organized around the needs and interests of the child, rather than those of the parent," but "runs the risk of producing entitled, narcissistic children who lack the

capacity to persevere and cope with difficulty." "All too often adults defer to kids because they have relinquished parental authority and lost confidence in themselves" (Gulli, 2016). These well-meaning parents want to demonstrate love, be emotionally available, foster their children's autonomy, build their positive self-esteem, and help them make decisions on their own. Sadly, their methods failed to produce the desired results.

It's not their intentions that are problematic, but the human methods by which they seek to attain their outcomes. On the contrary, God-centered parenting can not only result in these outcomes, but is likely to help your child attain salvation. As a parent, God made me responsible for shaping and disciplining my children. "Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it" (Prov. 22:6). He commanded children to obey and honor their parents in the Lord (Eph. 6:1-3). Real parenting is critically needed, not the kind that provides earthly success, but the kind that prepares a child for eternity and produces temporal success as a byproduct. Parents must embark upon this work together in order to bring up children and obey the Lord.

## Changing Relationship

For my wife and me, the transition from independent young Christians to a married couple wasn't as difficult as I might have thought. As God designed, we were two individuals who learned to depend on one another (Gen. 2:24). It comes quite naturally for a young couple to be focused on pleasing each other (1 Cor. 7:32-34). We both worked full-time and mutually shared, and sometimes shirked, the chores in our home. As Christians, we respected that God assigned husbands the responsibility to lead the marriage (Eph. 5:23), but when two people hold one another accountable to the Lord, the times for having to make a final decision on a controversial issue were few if any.

Regardless of the current state of marital bliss, parenthood introduces new challenges to the marriage. There are "roommate" hassles of who will do what in the household, differences about how to parent, new financial constraints, questions of ongoing childcare, diminished communication, and an impact on the couple's intimate relationship (Divecha, 2015; Pirak, 2007). The couples at most risk for serious problems are those whose relationships were rocky before becoming parents (Cowan & Cowan, 2000). Becoming ►

parents simply intensifies pre-existing issues in the relationship. Like a splinter in one's finger, problems that were buried and unaddressed in the past will rise up when pressure is applied. A couple's relationship must be cared for and nurtured as much as the child they are raising.

The long and short of it is: Parenthood is work and you must engage in it together. A yoke is "a wooden bar or frame by which two draft animals (as oxen) are joined at the heads or necks for working together" ("Yoke," n.d.). As a married couple transitions into parenthood, it's more critical than ever for them to work together. Consider the difference between oxen that struggle together as they pull the plow and those that struggle against one another. As Christian parents, we must match one another in selflessness as we serve the Lord, each other, and our children.

## Accepting Responsibility

**1. Pulling Together.** Taking on parental roles is part of what changes about your relationship. My wife doesn't work outside the home, but I spend much of my day with women who do and I've arrived at the same conclusion. "Women continue to bear a heavier burden when it comes to balancing work and family, despite progress in recent decades to bring about gender equality in the workplace" (Parker, 2015). Although the work of parenting falls to both parents, much of the labor falls to mothers. I prefer to exercise when I get home from work because it helps me unwind, but I choose to do it first thing in the morning. As a husband, it is unfair to my wife for me to get home and head right out the door to work out. Fathers, your wife needs a mental break, help with diapers, assistance with dishes, and a fellow-laborer in the new childcare business. Ultimately,

fathers are those accountable to the Lord for parenting. "Fathers ... bring [your children] up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord" (Eph. 6:4). We are responsible for their spiritual development in every aspect of life (Deut. 6:7). We cannot turn this responsibility over to mothers. Parents must both bear the work, but fathers will stand accountable before the Lord. Parenting is similar to other aspects of your life: You don't mind working hard, you'd just like to know you're not the only one.

**2. Heading the Same Direction.** As new parents, lay a solid foundation by identifying your values and sticking to them in your actions. We wanted our children to develop a habit of daily Bible reading, so we do so each night after supper. We determined not to fight about money, so we made a priority decision to have extra spending money instead of nicer cars or a larger house. We wanted to minimize how frequently we split our family apart driving different kids to different events, so we laid down a stringent "one kid in one extra-curricular at a time" rule. As new parents, discuss what you commonly value and determine what you can do to maintain that priority. Our children have never had to wonder or ask whether we would be attending the Bible study or worship of our local church. That ground rule was established before they were old enough to ask. Like Joshua, we determined, "as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord" (Josh. 24:15). Satan makes it easy for us to be too busy to maintain our focus on the Lord and the spiritual development of our children. Take time to assess if the way you're spending time is reflective of your values. We have to set a common direction in order to pull the yoke together.

**2. Making Course Corrections.** The Lord demonstrates His love for

us by His discipline. The Word of God asserts that discipline and reproof are for our good, allow us to share in His holiness, yield the peaceful fruit of righteousness, remove foolishness, impart wisdom, and results in delight (Heb. 12:5-11; Prov. 13:24; 22:15; 29:15-17). The child-centered methods of the world fail to bring results, but I have confidence that He who created man knows how to train him. As parents, the temptation is all too great to just let it go. It's so much easier to look the other way than it is to address a child's behavior, but parents who fail to correct a child set him up for failure. Corrective discipline must address bad behavior in a timely manner or the child is enabled to misbehave. "Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil" (Eccl. 8:11). We are also warned not to discipline children unfairly or seek to tear them down (Eph. 6:4; Col. 3:21). I can guarantee that parents will disagree about when and how to discipline their children, but resolve to do so and seek counsel from those who've learned from their own mistakes. As we're pulling the yoke together, we'll have to make course corrections along the way.

## Conclusion

There is nothing of value that doesn't require us to invest our effort, and there is nothing more fulfilling in this life than to see God's creation grow to serve Him. For truly, as the psalmist wrote:


Children are a heritage from the LORD, the fruit of the womb a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the children of one's youth. Blessed is the man who fills his quiver with them! He shall not be put to shame when he speaks with his enemies in the gate (Ps. 127:3-5).

Children need the direction that only parents can provide. As married ►

... Continued from page 19

Christian couples accept the work of parenting and mature in their relationship in their new, God-given roles, they will reap the tremendous rewards of parenthood (Ps. 128:3 Prov. 17:6; John 16:21).

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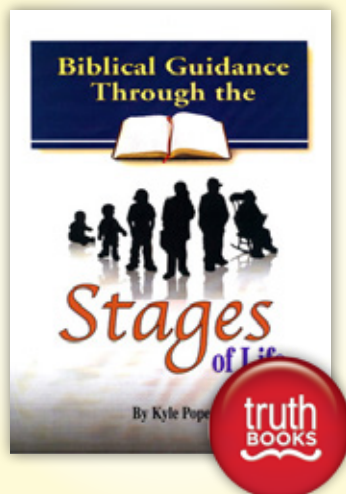
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**Corey Willis**

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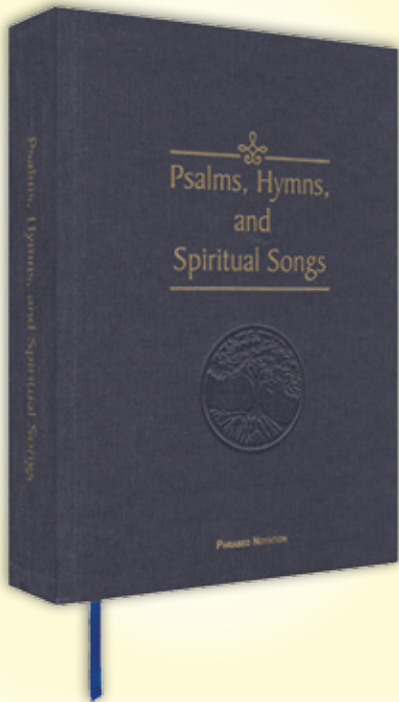
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## That's Life (4)

# Maturing in Marriage

By Kyle Pope

Marriage is not governed by instinct. God hasn't programmed us to be the kind of husband or wife we ought to be automatically. In marriage the Lord guides us through His word. The Psalmist said, "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path" (Psa. 119:105, NKJV). A married couple must look to what God's word teaches and consciously choose to follow where it leads.

When young people begin married life, one of the greatest challenges they face is replacing the pictures they have in their minds about what marriage is with images that are not only realistic but biblical. Newlyweds have no idea what it's really like to be married. If we haven't spent time in God's word, our pictures may be shaped by movies, TV shows, or books. We look to what we've seen in our family or friends, but if what we see in these sources is not sound, we go into marriage with an unhealthy expectation of what marriage is.

Marriage is a covenant and a promise made to one another. The Lord revealed through Malachi that when two people have the right to marry, God acts as "witness" between a man and the wife of his youth who becomes his "wife by covenant" (Mal. 2:14). Marriage is a choice. It is not magic. It is not chemistry. It is an agreement.

As God intends it, this agreement is for life. "A wife is bound by law as long

as her husband lives" (1 Cor. 7:39a). That presupposes some things. What will you be like twenty years from now? Only God knows. The marriage covenant commits to a level of care, affection, responsibility, and love not only to the spouse who stands before us when we first wed, but also to the unknown mate who will develop as the years turn. Those who do not devote themselves to maintain a commitment to that unknown future spouse (whatever may come) will never gain the maturity needed to sustain the covenant they have made.

Like marriage, our relationship with God in Christ is a covenant (Heb. 8:6-10). Like our relationship with God in Christ, we begin this covenant as "babes" (1 Pet. 2:2) – "unskilled" in those things we need to do in order to honor this agreement (Heb. 5:13). All couples begin marriage with a naïve and immature view of it. Newlyweds can be very selfish. Their treatment of one another is often self-seeking. They do nice things for a mate because of some benefit that it brings them in return. As Christians we are taught to "look out not only for" our "own interests, but also for the interests of others" (Phil. 2:4). This must begin with one's mate. Yes, marriage brings us the benefits of love, friendship, and intimacy, but if we only give these to our mates bartering for something in return we will never know the love God intends in marriage.

When Paul talked to the Corinthians about the responsibilities one has, if he or she chooses to marry, he described a duty we all understand but often neglect when the newness of marriage begins to fade. Both husbands and wives should seek to "please" one another (1 Cor. 7:33-34). God created marriage so that man might not be "alone," but would have a "helper comparable" to him (Gen. 2:18). Far too often, a young man or young woman who start off doing everything imaginable to make the other happy, somewhere along the way loses any interest in making the other happy at all. That is not how it ought to be. Hurt feelings or wounds caused by one another can make us build walls of defense. We don't say it out loud, but we imagine that, if we do something nice to "please" the other, it leaves us vulnerable—so we choose a course we think protects us.

Love "keeps no record of wrongs" (1 Cor. 13:5, NIV) and Christians must forgive others "even as Christ forgave you" (Col. 3:13, NKJV). Married couples in their twenties or in their nineties should never stop trying to "please" one another. This doesn't always have to be something big. It might be a note or a single rose. Perhaps it is a special meal cooked or a fun night out. As God intends it, our spouse should be our best friend in the world. Friends listen to, care for, and support each other. In all things Christians should be "swift to listen, slow to speak, slow to wrath" ►

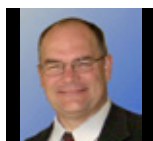
(Jas. 1:19). One of the simplest ways to show our love and friendship for our mate, yet something we often fail to do is just listen – listen, care, and encourage the soul to whom we have pledged our life.

When the Holy Spirit warned against adultery, He offered some interesting admonitions – “rejoice with the wife of your youth” (Prov. 5:18) – her body must “satisfy you at all times” and the husband must “always be enraptured with her love” (Prov. 5:19). What the world calls “the seven year itch” should never even be known among Christians. A husband and wife promise one another in the covenant of marriage to *keep themselves only* for one another. In times of frustration with one another, do not look to someone else for comfort. In times of disappointment, don’t begin to consider how someone else has what your mate lacks. That is not what you promised. Instead, avoid all situations that could lead to temptation – “do not go near the door of her house” (Prov. 5:6). Speak well of your mate to others, and in so doing you will grow in gratitude for his or her positive qualities.

One false image that must be replaced in the mind as we grow in marriage is the expectation that we will never face any difficulties. Jesus said bluntly, “In this world you will have tribulation” (John 16:33). What the Lord promised of life in general is true of marriage also. There will be sickness, heartbreak, loss, disaster, setbacks, disappointments, discouragements, financial troubles, and family issues. These are to be expected. The Christian husband and wife who weather these storms together can find themselves in a most unique position. Like *comrades in arms* who have shared common battle experiences, couples who hold together through all that life throws

at them share a bond no one else can understand. Troubles need not pull us apart – they can actually cement a bond stronger than any other human relationship.

There is no question that the greatest spiritual influence anyone can ever have on another is when two Christians have entered into the marriage covenant. They can either help each other go to heaven, or become the greatest obstacle toward achieving that goal. Peter notes this, speaking of a husband and wife as “heirs together of the grace of life,” but warning them to live in such a way that will not cause their prayers to “be hindered” (1 Pet.3:7). Job’s wife could have *hindered* his faith (Job 2:9). Ahab’s wife led him to compound his sin with further sin (1 Kings 21:1-16). To mature in marriage we must also seek to mature in faith. Make responsibilities to God a priority. Make prayer a constant and regular family practice. In times of trouble help each other seek the eternal. The marriage covenant is not eternal but the faith a husband and wife share ought to be. That commitment will grant to a husband and wife the hope of an eternal home with all children of God in the age to come. That surely promises the faithful husband and wife a closeness that may continue in even richer ways in the age to come. **T**



Kyle Pope

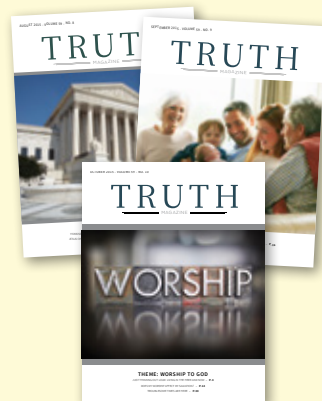
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## That's Life (4)

# Shepherding the Flock

By Gary Watt

The apostle Paul's instruction in Titus 1:5 confirms that our Lord wants elders appointed in every church. Paul goes on in his letter to Titus to describe in detail the qualifications of a man to serve as an elder (Titus 1:6-9).<sup>1</sup> He repeats/amplifies the qualifications in his first letter to Timothy (1 Tim. 3:2-7).

Peter exhorted his fellow elders to "shepherd the flock of God which is among you" (1 Pet. 5:2). In his meeting at Miletus with the elders of the Ephesian church, Paul said, "Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood" (Acts 20:28). Peter and Paul are clearly drawing the analogy of an elder's relationship to his congregation as a shepherd's to his flock, a practical comparison that people of the first century could clearly understand.

Although today we do not see many secular shepherds working their flocks of sheep in the fields, we understand from history the primary duties of a shepherd to his flock – lead, protect, feed, nurture, and self-sacrifice. Such is the spiritual work of an elder, or shepherd, with his congregation of fellow Christians.

But how and when during the phases of a man's life does he who desires to

<sup>1</sup> All Scripture references herein are from the New King James translation.

become an elder (1 Tim. 3:1) prepare himself for such service? Although the New Testament does not specify a minimum age for an elder, a careful reading of the qualifications therein implies a fully mature man to achieve those qualifications. Marriage (1 Tim. 3:2; Titus 1:6) and having faithful children (Titus 1:6) do not happen quickly, especially considering that "children" means more than one child and that all of his children must be Christians to be "faithful." A number of other listed qualifications that are personal attributes are neither inherent nor quickly achieved and thus require an extended period of time to be sufficiently demonstrated.

The home, with its constant interactions between husband and wife and father and children, is an excellent training ground for men desiring to be an elder. And thus that training begins well before the mature age at which a man is considered for service as an elder. Those family interactions should in part outwardly demonstrate his qualifications in the Timothy and Titus letters to be "temperate, sober-minded, of good behavior, not violent, gentle, not quarrelsome, not self-willed, not quick tempered, just, a lover of what is good, holy and self-controlled." And, "one who rules his own house well, having children in submission with all reverence" (1 Tim. 3:4) as well as "having faithful children not accused of dissipation or insubordination" (Titus 1:6). How well does a man

desiring to be an elder achieve his own family relationships described by Paul in Ephesians 5:25-6:4? While these Ephesians verses do not include qualifications per se for a man to serve as an elder, they do describe family relationships that imply the personal attributes listed as qualifications in the previously referenced letters to Timothy and Titus. The letter of 1 Timothy sums it up well with the practical question, "For if a man does not know how to rule his own house, how will he take care of the church of God?" (1 Tim. 3:5). Simply put, a church can be viewed as a family of brothers and sisters in Christ. How an elder shepherds this Christian family draws from his experience and wisdom derived from years of managing and meeting the needs of his physical family in accordance with God's word.

Ruling his own house well does not happen without leadership from the husband/father. It must include leadership by his personal example and by taking responsibility for his actions. Christian men must be the spiritual leaders of their families. They should proactively lead their families in regular Bible study, prayer, church attendance, living in accordance with God's word, and keeping their priorities God-centered (Matt. 6:33). Such leadership skills are developed and demonstrated over time and in the midst of a family's changing dynamics with jobs, schools, needs of extended family, and leisure activities. Faithful parents and children neither happen nor are sustained ►



by accident. Just as a secular shepherd leads his flock of sheep, so too does an elder lead his flock of fellow Christians.

Finally, an elder needs the humble heart of a servant. In addition to leadership, the secular shepherd protects, feeds, and nurtures his flock often with self-sacrifice. Likewise should the Christian husband/father do so for his family. How well does he consistently deal with what often appear to be the competing needs of others versus self? How well does he prioritize his service to God, family, employer, friends, and self? In much the same way, an elder serves his flock of fellow Christians. In the context of the church, a true servant of the Lord has always been one who does His will by putting the needs of others ahead of his own. Such an attitude of service to others before self should follow the example of the greatest servant of all, Jesus Christ our Lord.

In summary, while the opportunity of actually shepherding the flock occurs in the later phases of a Christian man's life, the preparation to do so begins years earlier. The experience and wisdom gained during the initial decades of his marriage and the raising of his children can be invaluable contributors to achieving his biblical qualifications to become an elder in a local church of our Lord. **T**



**Gary Watt**

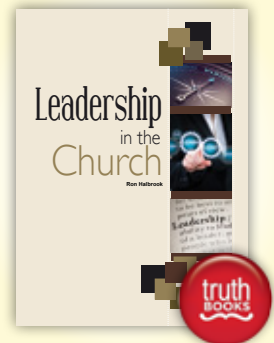
he met Joan Willis, a Christian from Houston, TX, and they married in 1970. Due to the example and influence of his wife, Gary obeyed the gospel at the Norhill church of Christ in Houston in 1974. Gary's father-in-law, the late Dan Willis, served as his elder role model during his many years of service to the Norhill congregation. As a result of numerous career transfers over the years, Gary and Joan have been members of churches in Aurora, CO; Bristol, England; Houston, TX; and the Chicago, IL area. Gary served as a deacon at the Kleinwood congregation in the Houston area in the 1990's and as an elder at the Downers Grove church of Christ in Downers Grove, IL from 2001 through 2015. Gary and Joan are the parents of two sons: Dan Watt who, with his wife Summer Fleener Watt and four children, lives in Spring Hill, TN, and Jason Watt who, with his wife, Katy Brewer Watt, lives in Spring, TX. Their sons and daughters-in-law are active Christians in their local congregations. Gary is a recently retired sales and marketing executive and Joan is a former high school mathematics teacher and current math tutor. They now reside in League City, TX and are members of the Bacliff church of Christ.

Gary Watt was born in Austin, TX in 1947 and remained there through graduation in 1970 from the University of Texas at Austin with a degree in mechanical engineering.

Early in his college years,

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## That's Life (4)

# Men-Women and a Midlife Crisis

By John Smith

“*I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances*” (Phil. 4:11).

Mid-life can be the most productive – or destructive – years of your life. Mid-life can be a time of self-doubt and disappointments that can lead to irrational thinking, impetuous purchases, and irresponsible relationships. But this time of life can also be an immensely productive time as well, a time when you can refocus your priorities and exchange old desires with new dreams. During this time of crisis, you can come into a deeper knowledge of who you are and what your relationship with God can be. In fact, a mid-life crisis may be a God-produced event designed to shake you out of your comfort zone so that you might achieve the highest purpose for which you were created.

We would do well to remember the words of Paul in Galatians 6:9 – “*Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary.*”

Mid-life is considered to be the middle ages in life ranging anywhere from (approximately) thirty-five to sixty. A crisis is any unstable, crucial point at which change must occur (financial, personal, or spiritual). The Greek word for “crisis” is *krisis*, which means “decision or sifting.”

A mid-life crisis is an unstable, crucial time of life during middle age when a person feels the immediate necessity to re-evaluate one’s identity, values, and goals. A mid-life crisis may occur at the time of transitional changes in a person’s life. The resulting change can be negative or positive, depending on the choices that are made.

During a mid-life crisis, a person may have a strong desire for change. Often the person in a mid-life crisis will seek that change in ways that are not spiritually healthy or relationally wise. A person may try to escape the ordinary things of life. It is not unusual for a person to begin dressing in a youthful manner and be preoccupied with his/her physical body and health. One is often vulnerable to sexual attraction outside marriage. As one engages in illicit sexual liaisons, he will often withdraw from close relationships. With these changes, the person will often experience a change in spirituality as well.

What causes a mid-life crisis? The thoughts of one’s own mortality may prompt a person to begin making foolish decisions seeking to make up for what they see as having been lost. With the advancement of age, a person may begin to reassess his/her lifelong spiritual values. Not having found fulfillment in the goals and successes one has achieved leads some to refocus his/her life and often in negative ways. The “empty nest syndrome” can lead

one to reevaluate his/her relationships and find it difficult to deal with the change in family dynamics. Traumatic illness, of one’s own life or in close relatives can lead a person to deal with a sense of vulnerability that he has not faced before. There are normal biological and physiological changes in both males and females that cause adjustments in life that may or may not be difficult. These and other changes are not easy to process and can lead to all manner of difficulties.

How can a husband help his wife through a difficult mid-life crisis? The husband can be a strong gentle leader, walking with God. There is no greater cause for wifely respect than for a husband to assume spiritual servant-headship in his household. Try to understand what she is feeling. An empathetic response, even one that is inaccurate, demonstrates a desire for intimate communication and relationship. Build her self-image verbally. She cannot read your mind. Express out loud your appreciation of her physical appearance, her character traits, and her accomplishments. Encourage her in projects and activities. Seek to identify what recreation she especially enjoys. Participate with her in those activities. Be focused on building her emotional security. Tell her every day that you love her, that she is your lifelong companion. Live out the words of Ephesians 5:28 – “*So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their*” ►

*own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself."*

How can a wife help her husband through a difficult mid-life crisis? Be in daily prayer and study of God's Word. There is power in a praying wife who applies the truth and promises of God's Word to her own family, especially to her husband. Try to understand what he is battling emotionally. Commit to learning his unique needs and work toward meeting those needs. Let go of expectations regarding his appreciation of you. Everyone is unique and deserves special treatment, but give up the "princess syndrome." Find ways to gently encourage him to discuss his feelings. Ask him about his day, not expecting a rehearsal of the events, but encouraging conversation about things that had significant impact on him.

Be as attractive physically, verbally, and morally as possible. Understand that a man is much more visually oriented than a woman, but also understand that your physical appearance was one of the reasons for his initial attraction to you. If you continue to make the most of your physical appearance, you will be just as pretty to him when you are eighty years old as when you were twenty. Understand that words can be powerful ... in either criticism or praise. Also understand that, to a maturing man, the most attractive woman is a godly woman.

Husbands and wives need to commit themselves to living out the words of Paul in Ephesians 5:33 – *"Nevertheless, each individual among you also is to love his own wife even as himself, and the wife must see to it that she respects her husband."*

Consider a rather unusual passage to relate to a marriage, but one that

can be applied to your relationship – Revelation 2:4-5.

*But I have this against you, that you have left your first love. Therefore remember from where you have fallen, and repent and do the deeds you did at first; or else I am coming to you and will remove your lampstand out of its place – unless you repent.*

Have you "forsaken your first love"? Other translations say, "left your first love." This does not necessarily refer to a physical leaving, but rather to the absence of a sense of connection; therefore, in marriages, the absence of a sense of romance. The Lord's solution was to: "Remember the height from which you have fallen." Remember what attracted you to each other in the first place. Those traits and attributes are still present, although covered up with the overlay of marital neglect. Next He calls upon them to repent. Change the direction of your relationship. Ask yourself, "What are the things that are keeping us from intimacy? Schedules? Wrong priorities? Hurts? What? Identify those things and commit to change. "Do the things you did at first." Spend time together. Be courteous to one another. Talk!

*"There is an appointed time for everything. And there is a time for every event under heaven" (Eccl. 3:1).* To deal successfully with the changes of mid-life a person would do well to take these wise words to heart. You will realize the advantages of aging – the wisdom and knowledge gained from experiences. Having endured hardships, you have been strengthened by them. We are the product of our experiences and trials lead to success.

*"Wisdom is with aged men, with long life is understanding. With Him are wisdom and might; to Him belong counsel and understanding" (Job 12:12-13).* To deal successfully with the trials

of mid-life a person must accept the physical changes that are happening. One must look for the special gifts that come with advancing age and experience.

*"Yet those who wait for the Lord will gain new strength; They will mount up with wings like eagles, they will run and not get tired, they will walk and not become weary" (Isa. 40:31).* Surviving a mid-life crisis can produce greater strength, confidence, and satisfaction with life. The Lord will bless and prosper the one who deals patiently with the changes of life.

A mid-life crisis, though grueling, can be a gift from God. It's the charge you need for change. As you reevaluate your values, choose positive priorities, godly goals, and find your life in the Lord. **TL**



John A. Smith

John Smith has preached at the Castleton church of Christ (Indianapolis, IN) for four years.

## That's Life (4)

# Mending the Broken Heart

By Stan Adams

If you have lived long enough, the chances are that your exposure to other people has led to a broken heart of some kind. It is a fact of life that these things will happen. When it does, many tend to limp along through their lives hopeless, forlorn, and saddened, wondering if they will ever be able to live life fully again. Anyone who opens his heart to profound love will expose that same heart to profound heartbreak. God knows how that feels.

When our heart breaks it allows us to gain some insight into how God must feel. In the Old Testament we see the story of redemption. God chooses Israel; they reject Him and betray His love for them by turning their love towards others. How does God react? He loves them anyway and does what it takes (even discipline and outright rejection of them) to bring them back and this happens over and over.

The Scriptures address the challenges of a broken heart many times. In fact, there are over 750 references to the heart in the Bible. Let's consider a few.

- Psalm 34:18 – “The Lord is nigh to those who are of a broken heart and saves those who have a contrite spirit.”
- Psalm 51:17 – “The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, a broken and contrite heart O God you will not despise.”
- Psalm 69:20 – “Reproach has broken my heart and I am full of heaviness, I looked for someone to

take pity but there was none and for comforters but I found none.”

- Psalm 147:3 – “He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.”
- Proverbs 15:13 – “A merry heart gives a cheerful countenance but by sorrow of heart the spirit is broken.”
- Proverbs 17:22 – “A merry heart does good like medicine but a broken spirit dries the bones.”
- Isaiah 61:1 – “He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted.”

In Psalm 147:3-the Hebrew word for the phrase “bind up” is *chabash*, which means “to tie, restrain or bandage.” The word for “heal” in Psalm 147:3 in the Hebrew is *raphe* which means “to sew together or mend ... to stitch up.” The word “broken” is defined as “fragmented, ruptured, torn, out of working order, crippled emotionally and physically.”

What are we to do when we feel ripped in half? How do we go on with a broken heart? It will take time and patience and we must entrust such a task only to the greatest of Physicians (our Lord). We can hang onto God's promises and remedies even though for the moment it does not seem to us that they are working. “God is faithful and will not allow us to be tempted above what we are able to bear, but will with the temptation provide a way of escape so we may be able to bear up”

(1 Cor. 10:13). Paul told the Corinthians, “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort who will comfort us in all our afflictions” (2 Cor. 13:3-4).

I must surrender to God and submit to Him in all things. James says that if we draw near to Him He will draw near to us.

I must also assess my role in the issues that are breaking me apart. “Wash your hands, sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded” (James 4:8). Sometimes our heartbreak is self-imposed due to our guilt over sin and, in order to enjoy the blessing of God's constant care, I must allow my heart to be contrite and broken and realize God is everything and I am not able to handle things adequately without Him. Total self-surrender is required. In the midst of a heartbreak I must not allow myself to grow bitter towards others and push them away. God may be using them to help me through the storm I am going through.

Truly the Lord is the great Healer. He restores broken hearts, giving them purpose and hope again. Although He is a great God and all-powerful, He still has the time and concern to be with all His children in their heartbreaks. He deals with the sick, the sorry, the wretched, and the wounded. He knows the heartbreak of betrayal, the pain of loss, the loneliness of abandonment, and distress of rejection. He is a compassionate God. He heals and never ►



tires of being there for us. “He brings them out of the pit of sin and gives them a firm place to stand and puts a new song in their mouth” (Psa. 40:2, 3).

Our God is next to us, yet He rules the galaxies. Isaiah records God to have said, “I live in a high and holy place, but also with those of a contrite and of a lowly spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly and revive the heart of the contrite” (57:15).

Heartbreak happens a lot in this life. In fact, it is a pretty normal part of life on this earth. Pets die, loved ones die, divorce happens, young love is jilted, sickness comes, people are raped, and children are molested. We react to all of these things with lumps in our throats like baseballs. We cry until no more tears will come and we ache all over and are often frozen, feeling that things will never heal. We feel alone and that no one really gets what is happening. Heartbreak can also come from past weights that have affected our behavior long term – memories of horrible things that happened to us when trusts were broken by loved ones. All of these reactions affect our emotions and often our health. Nothing seems to work and there seems to be no hope.

But God heals (Pss. 147:3; 34:18). These are hollow words to some. Can God really put us back together? Yes He can. He can mend us and put parts back together, but the scars of the wounds will be there too. In Isaiah 49:8, God promises to rescue and restore His people and gives them a song and reason to rejoice, but their reaction in verse 14 was “God has forsaken me and the Lord has forgotten me.” Why do we fail to trust God? Plainly and clearly it is Israel’s old problem – unbelief and weak faith. Bad things can dominate us at times and the devil wants us to believe that things cannot be different. Many have a hard time trusting anyone. They have been hurt so many times by addicted parents with empty promises or a father who divorces his wife and betrays his children. Many assume that, if the closest people in this life betray them, then God must not be trustworthy

either. In times like this they fail to realize the greatness of God and that He is greater than any situation at the moment. Read Isaiah 49:15-16. “Can a mother forget her child she has nursed and have no compassion on them? Though she may forget them, yet I will not forget you. See, I have engraved you on the palm of my hand.” If you belong to the Lord, He cannot and will not forget you.

He is not your enemy. He does not want to hurt us, but to heal us. In Hosea 11:9, the Lord said, “I am God and not man.” Moses wrote, “God is not a man that he should lie, or a son of man that He should change his mind. Does He speak and not act? Does He promise and not fulfill?” (Num. 23:19).

## How Does God Heal a Broken Heart?

**1. By reminding us of Who we are.** We are His creation made special, precious and valuable. We are not defined by the sum of the people, events and changing things around us. God loved us enough to send His Son to die for us. He rescues us from the ruin of sin and gives us a hope of heaven through Christ. By faith and obedience we can live with Him forever. He promises “all things work together for good to them that love Him” (Rom. 8:28). With God, tragedies, family issues, career setbacks, children issues, failures, and heartbreaks of all sorts have a part of who we are, but they are not the end. God gets the last word with us based on our faith and trust in Him to the end.

**2. God gives us Hope.** We have a future awaiting and we can rise above depression and brokenness. Heartbreaks help us to understand that we live in a broken world. (Sin causes that.) These heartbreaks will continue (John 16:33 – “in this world you will have trouble, but take heart, I have overcome the world”). Psalm 34:19 says, “A righteous man may have many troubles, but the Lord delivers him from them all.” After losing his infant child, King David arose and washed himself and went on with

his life preparing himself to be with that innocent child again. We are to have that same focus (Rom. 8:18 – our present sufferings are not worthy to be compared with the glory that awaits us).

**3. Love also helps heal the broken heart.** God showed that love when He gave His only Son for us. This love is seen at the cross. We can trust God to be there for us. We can depend on Him as our greatest Counselor. God’s love sets us free from self-pity, self-righteousness, and self-dependence. He sets us free to love others through similar trials and struggles that can only be overcome successfully through Him.

**4. We also need direction to overcome a broken heart.** Jesus said, “I am the Way, the Truth and the Life, no one comes to the Father but by Me” (John 14:6). Jesus offers us a direction and focus when it seems like there is none.

The way, truth, life, hope, love, direction, and value are what we all need to mend a broken heart. We find our lives in the nail-scarred hands of Jesus. The scars were given by the cruelty of hateful men and situations that meant to destroy Him and tear Him apart in every way. But He overcame the wounds and mended them through His death and resurrection, giving all who will truly come to Him hope in a hopeless and cruel world. He ascended to His true home and promised us we can be with Him. Broken hearts leave scars even when mended, but the experience of a broken heart can turn into a victory when allowed to be mended by our great Physician. Trust Him to heal your broken heart. 🙏



Stan Adams

Stan Adams has preached for the Newton Church of Christ in Newton, NC for over four years. Stan Adams 470 17th Ave. Dr. NE Hickory, NC 28601. stan.adams1976@gmail.com.

## That's Life (4)

## RESTORING THE SHATTERED LIFE: Facing the Sad Consequences of Sin

By Steve Wallace

**W**e speak here of lives shattered by sin. For example, we may have injured and alienated loved ones or friends by our unkind, wicked or even vicious words or conduct. Fornication or adultery with resultant guilt feelings as well as other related consequences may be in our past, or it may be drug or alcohol abuse along with sins committed while under their influence. Our sins may be job related and affect our livelihood. The list could be lengthened.

Having these kind of things, or their like, in our past can lead to hopelessness, feelings of emptiness, worthlessness, and great disappointment. We may get to the point where we lack any sense of purpose in life. Some withdraw from family, friends, and society in general. Staring, daydreaming, sleeping, sorrow, regret, criticizing ourselves and others, constantly rehashing the same things in our mind ... such can be pieces of a shattered life.

Enough! We have, hopefully, spent sufficient time introducing the need for this article. Our Lord willing, the future is before us and we must make something out of it. Let us first move forward in our relationship with Him.

**1. Seek God in your life in spite of your present condition (Deut. 4:27-**


**29; Luke 15:1, 2, 14-20; Matt. 7:7-11).** He loves us and, if we are in sin, He is waiting for us to return to Him (Luke 15:20-24). Read your Bible and actively seek to make application of it to *your* life (Pss. 19:7-11; 119:11, 105; Jas. 1:21-25). Pray without ceasing (1 Thess. 5:17). This text is not saying that our lives will be completely consumed by prayer. It is exhorting us to pray often and in every situation. This is part of seeking God in our lives. Keep the important realities of life before you: Our God is the God of all creation (Gen. 1:1). He loves us and is able to “do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think” (Eph. 3:20). Jesus loves us, has died for our sins, and beckons sinners to come to Him (Eph. 5:2; Matt. 11:28-30, cf. Luke 15:1, 2). Do not let anyone or anything keep you from seeking God in your life (Phil. 3:15). Concentrate on your relationship with Him. Your relationship with people will work itself out (Acts 9:26-28; Gal. 1:21-24).

**2. Live a new life (Rom. 6:4).** Change your habits. Live for Jesus. Put off the old man and put on the new (Col. 3:5-17). Live repentance (Jon. 3:10; Acts 26:20). Beware of the deceits of the devil (1 Pet. 5:8, 9). It may happen that you sin as a result of your own bad judgment or yielding to passions (1 Pet. 5:8, 9; Gal. 2:13; Eph. 4:26). Repent and grow from your error (Ps. 119:67). Memorize passages of Scripture that

speak to whatever temptations that you are facing and repeat them in your mind when temptation comes (Ps. 119:11). As you resist temptation you will build confidence in the power of God’s word to guide you and in your ability to live it (Ps. 119:105; Jas. 1:21). As much as is possible avoid friends and acquaintances who are living lives of sin (Prov. 12:26; 2 Cor. 6:14-7:1). Make friends with those who fear God (Ps. 119:63, 79). Imitate them (Phil. 3:17; Heb. 6:12; 3 John 11). Serve God and, in doing so, serve others. Apply yourself to doing good (Gal. 6:9, 10). Read the book of Ruth and note how Ruth, a foreigner, selflessly did good for her mother-in-law, Naomi. Strive to be a light in this world for Christ (Matt. 5:16; Phil. 2:13-15). Guard against spending too much time on harmless pleasures that can waste time and lead to a wasted life (Luke 8:14).

**3. Build each day.** Never judge a day by its beginning but by its end. Remember, days can be memorials in the minds of men, for example, the day of one’s birth, the day of the passing of a loved one, days of national significance (Deut. 16:16), etc. Days are of significance spiritually as well, as our Lord has given us each day that comes to us (Ps. 118:24). Therefore, we should beware lest we use days to make bad choices. Jacob demanded Esau to sell his birthright “this day” (Gen. 25:31, ►

33). Esau would later rue the day he did this (Gen. 27:38). In light of all this, days must be treated as special. Each one is a potential milestone in our spiritual progress. With this in mind, it is significant that the Bible pictures God's people seeking Him early in the day (Job 1:5; Pss. 5:3; 88:13). *Begin each day with prayer, Bible reading and plans to serve God.* Sing to God (Ps. 59:16, 17). Further, each day calls for choices of spiritual significance to be made (Josh. 24:15; Luke 9:23). *Building each day leads to habitual service which is a big part of what faithfulness to God is all about* (Ps. 71:17; Matt. 24:45-47). Remember, days can be memorials in the minds of men – and days can be so with you. *Choose carefully how you use each one of them!*

This writer cannot know the reader's pain and suffering. However, God does know. As much as lies in you, put yourself into His hands. Return to the paths of righteousness and peace. Please do not delay! 



Steve Wallace

Steve Wallace is working with the church in Round Lake Beach, IL. He can be reached at [alvincarl1@att.net](mailto:alvincarl1@att.net).

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## FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THE TRIP

contact Mike Willis at [tmmikewillis@gmail.com](mailto:tmmikewillis@gmail.com)

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## That's Life (4)

# Filling the Empty Nest

By Bobby Graham

A cobweb in the corner shows a lack of pride, you say,  
But I'll have cobwebs all my life,  
my children but a day.  
A little more of watchful care,  
their childish ways are gone,  
A little more of earnest prayer,  
my birdies will have flown.  
(From the poem: "Cobwebs in the Corner")

**A**mong the problems confronting our fast-paced, "multi-tasking" (translate as "trying to do too much") society is the problem of the empty nest. This metaphor, of course, refers to a home from which the "little birdies have flown," usually applying to middle-age husbands and wives whose children have only recently left the home.

This writer can well remember the emptiness he and his wife experienced when the children, one by one, left the home several years ago; but we did not allow the emptiness to stay long. Most likely there are very few parents who have not, in some measure, had the same emotional experience; and human nature seems to dictate that such a response will continue.

The emotional emptiness thus experienced does not mean that there must be a problem as a result of passing this mile marker in life. On the other hand, many do have a problem in letting their children go, allowing them their freedom to be their own family, or living their lives without perpetual

emotional turmoil. It also is not unheard of that husbands and wives have bestowed so much time and care on their children that they have allowed their own relationship to grow weak, even to the point that middle-age affairs and divorces have mounted up to a high heap. What is the solution to this problem?

## God Has the Solution

One might expect that God, who formed the family and governs it by His Word, would have something beneficial to offer along this line. The Bible is the all-sufficient Word of the living God. Hear Him:

And Adam said: This is now bone of my bones And flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, Because she was taken out of Man. Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh (Gen. 2:23-24).

A good man leaveth an inheritance to his children's children; And the wealth of the sinner is laid up for the righteous (Prov. 13:22).

Children's children are the crown of old men; And the glory of children are their fathers (Prov. 17:6).

Unless the Lord builds the house, They labor in vain who build it; Unless the Lord guards the city, The watchman stays awake in vain. It is vain for you to rise up early, To sit up late, To eat the bread of sorrows;

For so He gives His beloved sleep. Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord. The fruit of the womb is a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, So are the children of one's youth. Happy is the man who has his quiver full of them; They shall not be ashamed, But shall speak with their enemies in the gate (Psa. 127:1-5).

The divine solution for filling the empty nest begins when parents understand that they were husband and wife before they were parents. Their one-flesh relationship is fully compatible with their make-up: sexually, socially, emotionally, mentally, and spiritually, God made them for each other. They must not neglect each other at any time!

They have an inheritance to pass on to their grandchildren, and they must work on it! The greatest wealth which Christians can bequeath to them is their spiritual-mindedness grounded in personal godliness (desire to give God honor by viewing life as He does).

So much joy is missed when parents morosely pass their days. Why not enjoy a close relationship with your children and their children even after they leave home?

No family can ever be what it ought to be without God as the Builder of the home. Much time and effort are wasted in family affairs when God is omitted or His will circumvented. He grants your children to you as a reward from Him. ►



To fathers God has vouchsafed the privileged task of preparing children for their God-ordained target of divine service in this life and eternal life in heaven, just as an archer trims and preens his arrows for their targets. Children thus prepared will certainly bring honor to their parents through their involvements with others.

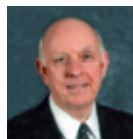
Would you fill the empty nest after your children have gone to form their own families and to make their own way in the world? The following suggestions will surely help:

- Fill that empty nest with personal care and attention to your husband or wife, who helped you to have those children and to rear them.
- Fill it with prayer, Bible study, worship, and service to the Lord, who still is building your house if you let Him.
- Fill it with time spent with your children and grandchildren and concern shown for them by doing with them what they enjoy doing. It is altogether possible that your influence now will be greater than ever before. In this way God is still building your house.
- Fill it with intentional love; that is, go out of your way to manifest sincere and

generous concern for every human being. Your example will not be unnoticed or unappreciated.

- Fill it with reminders of the divine wisdom found in the Bible. Well-chosen and lovingly spoken principles of truth are time-tested and guaranteed to help when both speaker and hearer are minded to love God. "A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in networks of silver" (Prov. 25:11).

Broken relationships account for many of the problems associated with the empty nest: relationships between spouses, relationships between parents and children, and relationships between the children. These relationships do not have to be broken, and the broken ones do not have to stay broken. How about filling the nest with the good work of mending broken relationships? What we have here emphasized concerning filling the empty nest will also accomplish great preventative good before such relationships are broken. May the Lord help us to work to that end. **TT**



**Bobby L. Graham**

Bobby Graham works with the Old Moulton Road congregation in Decatur, AL, as elder and preacher and has worked as a teacher for many years at Athens Bible School. [bobbylgraham@pclnet.net](mailto:bobbylgraham@pclnet.net).

## FILL THE PHILIPPINES WITH

# Songs of Praise!



The harvest is abundant in the Philippines. Poverty, however, makes it difficult for them to provide such things as Bibles and hymnals. Hymnals are desperately needed and our brethren are constantly pleading for them! English is a 2nd language for many, so they can sing in English—and they love to sing! You or the church of which you are a member can send your used hymnals or buy new hymnals and send to our Filipino brethren. There are two ways to send hymnals to the Philippines.

**1.** Find a local business operated by a Filipino and ask about shipping balikbayan boxes. A large box holding 60–90 hymnals ships for about \$125. Ron Halbrook ([halbrook@twc.com](mailto:halbrook@twc.com)) or others who have visited or corresponded with the Philippines can provide names and addresses of brethren longing for hymnals.

**2.** Ship or take the hymnals to Ron Halbrook, 3505 Horse Run Ct., Shepherdsville, KY 40165, and he will take care of shipping them to the Philippines. Ron has volunteered to find funds for shipping, but it would be helpful to provide the funds when the hymnals are delivered to him.



Also, be sure to check out our new hymnal, Psalms, Hymns, and Spiritual Songs at:

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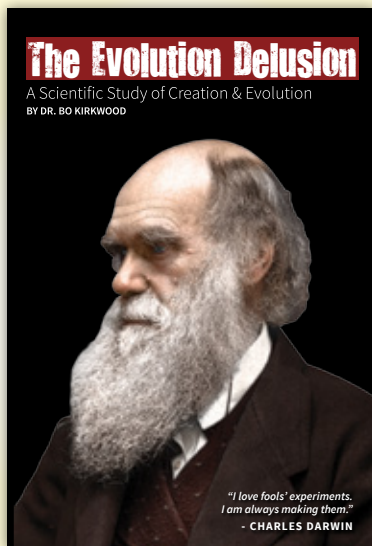
person, to serve the Lord and others, and to enjoy God's blessings in our lives. How honored I have been to be given two precious babies – Jennifer Lynette and Corey Michael – to be their father to provide for them, to nurture them, to watch them mature through their years of grade school, middle school, high school, and college. How honored I am to have watched my two children select such wonderful mates who are the soul-mates to my children, to participate in their weddings, to witness them create their own homes, and then to bless Sandy and me with four grandchildren. Now I am watching as they walk with their parents through the same stages of life I have already traveled. How blessed I have been. And, being a Papaw is pretty great on its own!

Undoubtedly, many of our readers can recount God's blessings in their own lives as well. Unfortunately, however, some have had to suffer tragedies along the way – a divorce, the death of a child, the death of a mate, business failures, being the victim of criminal acts, or worse yet, making a mess of one's life to the point that one becomes the criminal. The good news of the gospel is that there is healing for the broken hearted, discouraged, and depressed. There is comfort in the Lord for those who have experienced life's tragedies and traumas. There is forgiveness, the opportunity to start anew in his relationship with God and then work toward repairing the damage one's own sin has done in his relationships with others. Though the road is hard

and sometimes painful, God will walk with one who wants to make things right with Him and with those against whom one has sinned. Since the injured parties have wills of their own, complete restoration of relationships may never occur, but this, nevertheless, is the course to pursue.

We hope these issues of *Truth Magazine* that address the issues of moving through the various stages of life will strengthen your soul and refresh your spirit. **T**

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# CHURCHDirectory

The following congregations have paid for advertising in *Truth Magazine*. Inclusion of churches in this list is not an attempt by *Truth Magazine* to certify their faithfulness to God. We do believe the vast majority are striving to uphold the Word in faith and practice.

To make changes to your ad, contact:  
[tmmikewillis@gmail.com](mailto:tmmikewillis@gmail.com)

## ALASKA

### ANCHORAGE

Rose Street church of Christ  
3124 Rose Street  
Bible Study 9 A.M., Worship 10 A.M.  
Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
Evangelist: David Webb (907) 350-8358

## ALABAMA

### BIRMINGHAM

Pine Lane church of Christ  
3955 Pine Lane Bessemer, AL  
(N. side of Exit #6 at I459)  
Bible Study 9:15 A.M., Worship 10 A.M.  
Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
Evangelist: David Deason (205) 425-2352

### BIRMINGHAM

Vestavia Hills church of Christ  
2325 Old Columbiana Rd. (near I-65 & Hwy. 31)  
Bible Study 9 A.M., Worship 10 A.M.  
Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
Evangelists: David Banning and Doy Moyer  
(205) 822-0018 or 822-0082

### FLORENCE

College View church of Christ  
851 N. Pine St. (Next to University Campus)  
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:15 A.M.,  
Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
Evangelist: Kenny Moorer (256) 766-0403

### HUNTSVILLE

Chapman Acres church of Christ  
2137 Penhall Dr., NE (I-565, Exit 21, right on  
Maysville Road left on Chapman Avenue,  
right on Penhall Drive)  
Bible Study 9 A.M., Worship 10 A.M.  
Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
Evangelist: Isaac Muñoz, [www.chapmanacres.org](http://www.chapmanacres.org)

### MOBILE

West Mobile church of Christ  
129 Hillcrest Road  
Worship 9-9:30 A.M., Bible Study 9:30-10:30 A.M.  
Worship 10:30-11:30 A.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
(251) 342-4144 or 342-2041  
Ken Sils - Minister (765) 307-8048

### MONTGOMERY

Eastbrook church of Christ  
650 Coliseum Blvd.  
Bible Study 9 A.M., Worship 10 A.M.  
Wednesday 6 P.M.  
Contacts: Brian Moore: (334) 279-1077  
Charles Martin: (334) 283-2983

### PARRISH

McArthur Heights  
church of Christ, 5082 Hwy. 269  
Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 11 A.M.  
Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 6:30 P.M.  
(205) 686-5978 or 686-5620

### SCOTTSBORO

Eastside church of Christ  
John T. Reid Pkwy., (Hwy. 72, 2 mi. E. of Hwy. 35)  
Worship 9 A.M., Bible Study 9:30 A.M.  
Worship 10:30 P.M., Wednesday Summer 7 P.M.  
Wednesday Winter 6 P.M.  
Evangelist: Aaron Andrews  
(256) 574-1603 or 575-2664

## ARKANSAS

### CONWAY

Hwy. 65 church of Christ  
271 Highway 65N  
Bible Study 9 A.M., Worship 10 A.M.  
Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
Evangelist: Bruce Reeves, Bldg: (501) 336-0052

### CONWAY

Eastside church of Christ  
1540 E. Oak Street 72302  
Sunday Bible Classes 9:30 A.M.  
Sunday Worship 10:30 A.M.  
Sunday Worship 6 P.M.,  
Wednesday Bible Classes 7 P.M.  
[www.conwaychurchofchrist.org](http://www.conwaychurchofchrist.org)

### CONWAY

Prince Street church of Christ  
2655 Prince St., (Hwy. 60)  
Bible Study 9 A.M., Worship 10 A.M.  
Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
(501) 339-6917

### FORT SMITH

South 46th St. church of Christ  
2323 South 46th Street  
Bible Study 9:45 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.  
Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
Evangelist: John Hagenbuch  
Bldg: (479) 782-0588

### HARRISON

Capps Rd. Church of Christ  
407 Bella Vista Dr.  
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:15 A.M.  
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
Evangelist: Norman E. Sewell  
[www.cappsroad.org](http://www.cappsroad.org)  
870-741-9104 or 870-741-5151

### JACKSONVILLE

church of Christ  
1807 McArthur Drive  
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.  
Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
(501) 982-6413 - church bldg  
(501) 533-8801 - Jason Lankford  
[www.mcarthurdcoc.com](http://www.mcarthurdcoc.com)

### JONESBORO

StoneRidge church of Christ  
514 Airport Road  
Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 11 A.M.  
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
Evangelist: Dick Blackford (870) 933-9134  
[rlb612@aol.com](mailto:rlb612@aol.com)

### LITTLE ROCK

church of Christ  
7115 West 65th Street  
Bible Study 9 A.M., Worship 10 A.M.  
Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
Evangelist: Don McClain, Res. (501) 847-6677  
Study (501) 568-1062

### MARVELL

Marvell church of Christ  
Highway 49 • Marvell, AR 72366  
Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 11 A.M.  
Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
(870) 714-1472 or (870) 338-1833

### PINE BLUFF

church of Christ  
4700 W. 28th Street  
Bible Study 9:45 A.M., Worship 10:35 A.M.  
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
Evangelist: Clarence W. Fell (870) 879-2097

### POCAHONTAS

Westside church of Christ  
3644 Hwy 90 West • P.O. Box 43  
Bible Study 9 A.M., Worship 9:45 A.M.  
Afternoon 1 P.M., Wednesday 6:30 P.M.  
Herbert Starr, Evangelist

### TEXARKANA

church of Christ  
2301 Franklin Drive  
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:15 A.M.  
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
Evangelist: Rick Boswell

## ARIZONA

### GLENDALE

church of Christ  
6801 N. 60th Avenue  
Bible Study 9 A.M., Worship 9:40 A.M.  
Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 7:30 P.M.  
Evangelist: Steven Harper

### TUCSON

church of Christ  
145 N. Country Club Road  
Bible Study 9 A.M., Worship 10 A.M.  
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
Evangelist: Hugh Delong  
(520) 326-3634 or 722-3179

## CALIFORNIA

### BELLFLOWER

Rose Ave. church of Christ  
17903 Ibbetson Ave.  
Bible Study 9:45 A.M., Worship 10:50 A.M.  
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7:30 P.M.  
(562) 866-5615, <http://www.roseavenue.org>

### CANOGA PARK

(San Fernando Valley)  
church of Christ  
7054 Winnetka Ave.  
Bible Study 9:45 A.M., Worship 10:45 A.M.  
Afternoon 2:30 P.M., Wednesday 7:30 P.M.  
Minister: Bruce Evans (818) 795-5566  
Spanish congregation (818) 701-0112

### FOLSOM

church of Christ  
900 E. Natomas St. • P.O. Box 492  
Sunday Bible Study 9:30 A.M.,  
Sunday Worship 10:30 A.M.,  
Sunday Bible Study 4 P.M.,  
Wednesday Bible Study 7:30 P.M.  
Evangelist: David Posey  
(530) 676-9514 or (916) 608-4866  
[www.folsomchurch.com](http://www.folsomchurch.com)

### LONG BEACH

church of Christ  
3433 Studebaker Road  
Bible Study 9:50 A.M., Worship 10:45 A.M.  
Evening 5:30 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
JP Flores (562) 420-2363  
Mark Reeves (562) 377-1674  
[www.JustChristians.org](http://www.JustChristians.org)

### OCEANSIDE-VISTA

church of Christ  
2020 Sunset Dr.  
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.  
Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
(760) 940-8003

## COLORADO

### GRAND JUNCTION

church of Christ Western Slope  
2923 North Ave., Unit 3  
Grand Junction, CO 81504  
Worship 10:30 A.M., Evening 5 P.M.  
Wednesday Bible Study 6 P.M.  
[www.churchofchristwesternslope.com](http://www.churchofchristwesternslope.com)

### LOVELAND

Poudre Valley church of Christ  
4202 North Garfield Avenue  
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.  
Afternoon 1:30 P.M.  
Evangelist: Richard Thetford (970) 667-0469  
[www.poudrevalleychurchofchrist.org](http://www.poudrevalleychurchofchrist.org)

### SANTROSE

Mon Juan church of Christ  
1414 Hawk Parkway, Unit C  
Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 11 A.M.  
Evening 1:30 P.M., (970) 249-8116

## DELAWARE

### MILTON

Lighthouse church of Christ  
14574 Coastal Hwy. Rt. 1  
Worship 9:30 A.M., Sunday School 10:45 A.M.  
Wednesday 7 P.M., (302) 644-7379

## FLORIDA

### DESTIN

South Walton church of Christ  
64 Casting Lake Road  
Bible Study 9 A.M., Worship 10 A.M.  
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
(850) 622-3817  
[www.southwaltonchurchofchrist.com](http://www.southwaltonchurchofchrist.com)

### FORT LAUDERDALE

Northside church of Christ  
912 NW 19th St.  
Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 11 A.M.  
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7:30 P.M.  
(954) 763-1404

### FORT MYERS

Southside church of Christ  
13641 Learning Court  
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.  
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
Evangelist: David P. Schmidt  
(239) 433-2838 or 482-2158

### FROSTPROOF

Frostproof church of Christ  
40 W. "A" St., Frostproof, FL 33483  
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.  
Wednesday 7 P.M., (863) 635-2607 or 635-4278

### GENEVA

church of Christ  
Ave. C and 2nd St.  
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:45 A.M.  
(407) 349-9998

### JACKSONVILLE

Marietta church of Christ  
8150 Driggers Street  
Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 11 A.M.  
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
Evangelist: Jamie Rhoden, (904) 781-5704  
or 693-0432, [www.mariettaccoc.com](http://www.mariettaccoc.com)

### KEY LARGO

Key Largo church of Christ  
100695 N. Overseas Hwy.  
33037 m.m. 100.7 on US 1  
Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 11 A.M.  
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
Evangelist: William LeDent (305) 451-1194

### MARY ESTHER

church of Christ  
6 Lane Drive  
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.  
Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
Evangelist: Joey Rankin (850) 244-9222

### MIAMI

church of Christ  
Eglise du Christ de Miami  
8343 NE 3rd Court  
Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 11 A.M.  
Wednesday 7 P.M.  
Minister: Junot Joseph (305) 244-8295

### MIAMI

Flagler Grove church of Christ  
(Nearest to Airport), 500 N.W. 53rd Ave.  
Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 11 A.M.  
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7:30 P.M.  
Evangelist: John Buttrick (305) 634-5924

## MIAMI

church of Christ  
12780 Quail Roost Dr.  
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.  
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
Evangelist: Clark Pace  
(305) 233-9590 or (954) 430-1437

## OCALA

Anthony church of Christ  
9778 N.E. Jacksonville Rd., Anthony, FL 32617  
Bible Study 9 A.M., Worship 10 A.M.  
Wednesday 6:30 P.M.  
Evangelist: Greg Cruz (352) 629-5505  
[www.anthonycocf.com](http://www.anthonycocf.com)

## ORLANDO

Azalea Park church of Christ  
6800 Lake Underhill Rd.  
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.  
Wednesday 7:30 P.M.  
(407) 277-7931

## ORLANDO

church of Christ at S. Bumby  
3940 S. Bumby Ave.  
Sunday Worship 9 A.M., Bible Study 10 A.M.  
Worship w/ communion 10:55 A.M. (No Evening Service), Wednesday 7 P.M.  
Evangelist: Adam Willingham  
Office: (407) 851-8031

## ORLANDO

Pine Hills Church of Christ  
890 Hastings Street  
Sun. Bible Study 10 A.M., Sun. Worship: 11 A.M.  
Sun. Evening Worship: 6 P.M.  
Wednesday Bible Study: 7:30 P.M.  
(407) 293-2851 or (407) 290-8650

## PALMETTO

Palmetto church of Christ  
1575 14th Avenue W.  
Bible Study 9 A.M., Worship 10 A.M.  
Wednesday 7 P.M.  
[www.palmettochurchofchrist.com](http://www.palmettochurchofchrist.com)  
(941) 722-1307

## PANAMA CITY BEACH

Beach church of Christ  
8910 Front Beach Rd.  
Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 11 A.M.  
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
(850) 234-2521

## PENSACOLA

East Hill church of Christ  
2078 E. Nine Mile Rd. at Camberwell Rd.  
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.  
Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
Evangelist: Hal Hammons  
(850) 479-2130 or (850) 602-8420

## SEFFNER

church of Christ  
621 E. Wheeler Rd.  
Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 10:50 A.M.  
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7:30 P.M.  
Evangelist: Bobby Witherington (813) 684-1297  
[www.seffnercoc.org](http://www.seffnercoc.org)

## GEORGIA

### CENTERVILLE

Centerville church of Christ  
250 Collins Ave. (Near Robins AFB)  
Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 11 A.M.  
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7:30 P.M.  
Evangelist: J. Wiley Adams (478) 922-1158

### COLUMBUS

River City Church of Christ  
3900 River Road, Columbus GA 31904  
Bible Class 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.  
Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
Evangelists Jeff McCrary & Bo Couchman  
(205) 451-9028, [rivercitychurchofchrist.com](mailto:rivercitychurchofchrist.com)  
[backtothebible@rivercitychurchofchrist.com](mailto:backtothebible@rivercitychurchofchrist.com)

## CONYERS

Rockdale church of Christ  
East Metro Atlanta, 705 Smyrna Road  
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.  
Evening 5:30 P.M., Wednesday 7:30 P.M.  
Building (770) 929-3973

## PINE MTN. VALLEY

church of Christ  
Route 116 (near Callaway Gardens)  
Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 11 A.M.  
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7:30 P.M.  
Evangelist: Tommy W. Thomas  
(706) 628-5117 or 628-5229  
[www.pmvchurch.com](http://www.pmvchurch.com)

## SAVANNAH

Coastal church of Christ  
Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 11 A.M.  
(912) 344-1687  
[coastalchurchofchrist@outlook.com](mailto:coastalchurchofchrist@outlook.com)

## VALDOSTA

church Of Christ  
4313 North Valdosta Rd.  
(Located 1 mile E. of Exit 22 off I-75)  
Worship 9 A.M., Bible Study 10 P.M.  
Communion 11 A.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
(229) 244-8630, [www.northvaldostacoc.com](http://www.northvaldostacoc.com)

## IOWA

### GRINNELL

church of Christ  
1402 Third Ave.  
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.  
Wednesday 7 P.M.  
(641) 521-6485, (641) 236-3883  
[www.grinnellcoc.com](http://www.grinnellcoc.com)

### DES MOINES

church of Christ  
1310 N.E. 54th Ave.  
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:40 A.M.  
Wednesday 7 P.M., (515) 262-6799

## IDAHO

### BLACKFOOT

church of Christ  
370 N. Shilling • P.O. Box 158-83221  
Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 11 A.M.  
Wednesday 7:30 P.M.  
(208) 765-6168 or 681-1552

## ILLINOIS

### CHICAGO

church of Christ  
1514 West 74th Street  
Bible Study 9 A.M., Worship 10 A.M.  
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
Evangelist: James E. Scott  
Bldg. (773) 224-9279, (708) 339-6126

### DOWNERS GROVE

church of Christ  
1236 63rd St., (1 and 1/2 mile E. of I355)  
Bible Study 9 A.M., Worship 9:55 A.M.  
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7:30 P.M.  
(630) 968-0760 • [www.dgccc.org](http://www.dgccc.org)

### GLENN ELLYN

Glen Ellyn Church of Christ  
796 Prairie Ave.  
Glen Ellyn, IL. 60137  
Sunday Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.  
Sunday Evening 5 P.M.  
Evangelist: Keith E. Brown  
(630) 858-2290, (630) 377-3990

### MATTOON

Southside church of Christ  
1100 S. 17th Street  
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.  
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
(217) 234-3702

### SOUTH HOLLAND

Southeast church of Christ  
16224 S Vincennes Ave.  
Bible Study 9 A.M., Worship 10 A.M.  
Evening 4 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
Evangelist: Donald Hawkins, (708) 339-1008  
[www.southeastchurchofchrist.com](http://www.southeastchurchofchrist.com)

## INDIANA

### CLARKSVILLE

Clarksville church of Christ  
407 W. Lewis & Clark Parkway, 47129  
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.  
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7:30 P.M.  
Evangelist: Brian Anderson (812) 944-2305  
or (812) 948-9917  
[www.clarksvillechurchofchrist.org](http://www.clarksvillechurchofchrist.org)

### GREENWOOD

Greenwood church of Christ  
371 W. Main Street  
Sun. Bible Study 9 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.  
Evening 4:30 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
Evangelists: Neil Tremblett  
(317) 888-8288  
[www.churchofchristatgreenwood.org](http://www.churchofchristatgreenwood.org)

### HOBART

church of Christ  
300 N. Liberty Street  
Bible Study 9:45 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.  
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
Evangelist: Jerry Cleek (219) 942-2663

### INDIANAPOLIS

Castleton church of Christ  
7701 East 86th St., 46256  
Sun. Worship 9:30 A.M., Bible Study 10:25 A.M.  
Worship 11:15 A.M., Wed. Bible Study 7 P.M.  
(317) 710-1204

### JAMESTOWN

church of Christ  
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:25 A.M.  
Evening 4 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
Evangelist: David McPherson  
(765) 676-6404 or (270) 994-4397  
[www.jamestowncoc.com](http://www.jamestowncoc.com)

### MARION

South Marion church of Christ  
3629 S. Washington St.  
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.  
Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
Evangelist: Alan Jones (765) 922-7602  
[www.southmarionchurchofchrist.org](http://www.southmarionchurchofchrist.org)

### OOBITIC

church of Christ  
400 Lafayette Ave. • P.O. Box 34  
Bible Study 9:45 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.  
Evening 6 P.M. Wednesday 7 P.M.  
(812) 279-4332

### PEKIN

church of Christ  
(First St. & Karnes Ct.)  
Bible Study 9:45 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.  
Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
Evangelist: Jeremy Goen  
(812) 967-3437 or 967-3520  
[www.pekinchurchofchrist.com](http://www.pekinchurchofchrist.com)

### PLAINFIELD

church of Christ West  
2028 Stafford Rd., Ste. C., (Marsh Shopping Cntr.)  
Bible Study 9 A.M., Worship 9:50 A.M.  
Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
Evangelist: Johnie Edwards  
(317) 964-9404 or (317) 839-1769  
[www.churchofchristwest.org](http://www.churchofchristwest.org)

### SAINT LEON, IN

Church of Christ  
7140 Hyland Rd., Guildford, IN 47022  
I74 exit 164 1 mile south on SR 1  
Bible study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.  
Evening 6:00 P.M., Wednesday 7:30 P.M.  
812-637-1252 or 513-367-7871

### SALEM

Westside church of Christ  
2000 West State Rd. 56  
Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 10:45 A.M.  
Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
(812) 883-2033, [www.westsidechurchofchrist.net](http://www.westsidechurchofchrist.net)

## TRAFALGAR

Spearsville Rd. church of Christ, 6244 S. 500W.  
(1.2 mi. S. of Hwy. 135)  
Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 11 A.M.  
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
Evangelist: Ed Rangel. (317) 878-5969  
[www.trafalgarchurch.com](http://www.trafalgarchurch.com)

## KANSAS

### TOPEKA

17th Street church of Christ  
5600 SW 17th St.  
Bible Study 9:15 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.  
Wednesday 7 P.M.  
(785) 235-8687 or 273-7977  
[www.17thstreetchurchofchrist.org](http://www.17thstreetchurchofchrist.org)

## KENTUCKY

### AUSTIN

Peter's Creek church of Christ  
856 Thomerson Park Rd.  
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.  
Evening 6 P.M.  
Evangelist: David Cox (270) 579-8074 or  
(270) 646-0498, [www.peterscreekcoc.com](http://www.peterscreekcoc.com)

### BEAVER DAM

church of Christ  
1235 Williams St.  
Worship 10 A.M., Bible Study After Worship  
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
Evangelist: Mike Thomas  
(270) 274-4451 or 274-4486

### BRANDENBURG

Brandenburg church of Christ  
612 Broadway  
Bible Study 9:45 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.  
Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 6:30 P.M.  
Evangelist: Charles J. White (270) 422-3878

### CAMPBELLSVILLE

Sunny Hill Dr. church of Christ  
A.M. Worship 9:30 A.M., A.M. Bible Study 10:30 A.M.  
A.M. Worship 11:30 A.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
Evangelist: Steve Lee (270) 789-1651  
[stevelee4510@windstream.net](mailto:stevelee4510@windstream.net)  
[www.sunnyhillcoc.com](http://www.sunnyhillcoc.com)

### CANEYVILLE

Caneyville church of Christ  
103 N. Main St. • P.O. Box 233  
Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 10:45 A.M.  
Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
Evangelist: Jarrod Jacobs (270) 589-4167,  
(270) 274-3065 or (502) 724-2231

### DANVILLE

church of Christ  
385 E. Lexington Ave.  
Worship 10 A.M., Bible Study 11:15 A.M.  
Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
Evangelist: Scott Vifuquin (859) 236-4204

### FRANKLIN

31-W North church of Christ  
1733 Bowling Green Road  
Bible Study 9 A.M., Worship 10 A.M.  
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
Evangelist: Steve Monts, (270) 586-3978  
[www.31wchurchofchrist.com](http://www.31wchurchofchrist.com)

### HODGENVILLE

Hodgenville church of Christ  
613 S Lincoln Blvd.  
Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 11 A.M.  
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
Evangelist: Don Brady (270) 358-6053  
[Dbrady1295@aol.com](mailto:Dbrady1295@aol.com)

### LEITCHFIELD

Mill St. church of Christ  
733 Mill Street, Highway 62 E.  
Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 10:55 A.M.  
Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
Evangelist: Michael Hardin  
(270) 259-4968 or (270) 300-3239  
[www.millstreetchurchofchrist.org](http://www.millstreetchurchofchrist.org)



## LOUISVILLE

Valley Station church of Christ  
1803 Dixie Garden Drive  
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.  
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7:30 P.M.  
Evangelist: Dudley Ross Spears (502) 937-2822

## LOUISIANA

### GONZALES

Southside church of Christ  
405 Orice Roth Road, 70737, (Baton Rouge area)  
Bible Class 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.  
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
Evangelist: R.J. Evans (225) 622-4587  
[rjevans@eatel.net](mailto:rjevans@eatel.net)

### MANY

Lakeside church of Christ  
12095 Texas Hwy. (Hwy. 6 W.)  
12 miles west of Many  
Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 11 A.M.  
Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
(318) 256-9396

### STONEWALL

N. DeSoto church of Christ  
2071 Highway 171 (South of Shreveport)  
Bible Study 9 A.M., Worship 10 A.M.  
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
(318) 925-2733

## MARYLAND

### SEVERN

Southwest church of Christ  
805 Meadow Rd.  
Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 11 A.M.  
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7:30 P.M.  
Evangelist: Brandon Trout  
(410) 969-1420 or (410) 551-6549  
[www.swcofchrist.com](http://www.swcofchrist.com)

## MAINE

### PORTLAND

church of Christ • 856 Brighton Ave.  
Leave Maine Turnpike at Exit 48  
(Breakwater School)  
Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 11 A.M.  
Second service immediately following morning  
worship. Mid-week Bible Study. Please call for  
times & places. (207) 839-3075 or 839-8409

## MICHIGAN

### CEDAR SPRINGS

W. Michigan church of Christ  
Sr. Citizen Center, 44 Park Street  
(Grand Rapids Area)  
Worship 11 A.M., Bible Study 12:30 P.M.  
Wednesday 7 P.M.  
Evangelist: Joseph Gladwell, (616) 975-2778  
[westmichcof10@yahoo.com](mailto:westmichcof10@yahoo.com)

## MINNESOTA

### DULUTH

church of Christ  
4401 Glenwood St.  
Bible Study 9 A.M., Worship 10 A.M.  
Bible Study 5:30 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
Evangelist: Taylor Ladd (218) 728-3233

### ST. CHARLES

church of Christ  
636 Whitewater Ave.  
Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 11 A.M.  
Bible Study 2:15 P.M.  
Wednesday 7 P.M., call for location  
FREE Bible correspondence studies  
Evangelist: Robert Lehnertz (507) 534-2905

## MISSISSIPPI

### BOONEVILLE

Oakleigh Dr. church of Christ  
101 Oakleigh Dr.  
Bible Study 9:45 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.  
Evening 4 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
Building: (662) 728-1942

### CLINTON

McRaven Rd. church of Christ  
301 McRaven Rd. (I20, exit 36)  
Bible Study 9 A.M., Worship 10 A.M.  
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
Evangelist: Leonard White  
(601) 925-9757 or 924-2645

### MERIDIAN

Grandview church of Christ  
2820 Grandview Ave.  
Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 11 A.M.  
Sun. Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 6:30 P.M.  
(601) 482-0543, (601) 479-3394 or (601) 934-3675  
Contacts: Ron Cooper & Jim Young  
[yungins@comcast.net](mailto:yungins@comcast.net)

### MERIDIAN

7th St. church of Christ  
2914 7th Street  
Bible Study 9 A.M., Worship 10 A.M.  
(601) 483-3101

### SOUTHAVEN

church of Christ  
2110 E State Line Rd. (Exit I-55), (Memphis area)  
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.  
Wednesday 7 P.M.  
Evangelist: James A. Brown  
(662) 342-1132 - church Building

## MISSOURI

### BLUE SPRINGS

Southside church of Christ  
4000 SW Christiansen  
Worship 9 A.M., Bible Study 10 A.M.  
Worship 11 A.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
Evangelist: Brett Hogland (816) 228-9262

### CAPE GIRARDEAU

North Cape church of Christ  
121 S. Broadview St. Suite 2,  
Cape Girardeau, MO 63703  
Sunday Bible Study 9:15 & 10 A.M.,  
Worship 11 A.M., No Evening Service  
Wednesday 6 P.M./CST, 7 P.M./DST  
Evangelist: Jerry Lee Westbrook (573) 334-9673

### DONIPHAN

Southside church of Christ  
Hwy. 142 E. ½ mile (P.O. Box 220)  
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.  
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
(573) 996-3251 or 996-3513

### FAIR GROVE

church of Christ  
217 N. Orchard Blvd.  
Bible Study 9 A.M., Bible Study 10 A.M.  
Worship 11 A.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
Evangelist: Walter Myers (417) 830-8972 or  
(417) 736-2663

### KENNETT

church of Christ  
703 Harrison St.  
Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 11 A.M.  
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
(573) 888-6778 or (870) 650-1648  
*Nolan Glover, Preacher, www.westsidechurchofchrist.us*

### LILBOURN

church of Christ  
P.O. Box 270 • 211 Benton St.  
Bible Study 9:45 A.M., Worship 10:45 A.M.  
Evening 5:30 P.M., Wednesday 7:30 P.M.  
Evangelist: Shane Williams, (573) 688-2234  
or 748-5204

## RAYTOWN

Sterling Ave. church of Christ  
5825 Sterling Ave. (Near Sports Complex)  
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.  
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
Evangelist: Norman E. Fultz, (816) 356-3096  
or 554-0836  
[www.sterlingavechurchofchrist.org](http://www.sterlingavechurchofchrist.org)

### ST. JAMES

church of Christ  
685 Sidney St.  
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:15 A.M.  
Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
Evangelist: Lynn Huggins (573) 265-8628

### ST. JOSEPH

County Line church of Christ  
2727 County Line Rd.  
Bible Study 9 A.M., Worship 9:50 A.M.  
Evening 3 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
(816) 279-4737  
[www.countylinerchurchofchrist.com](http://www.countylinerchurchofchrist.com)

## NEBRASKA

### BEATRICE

church of Christ • 7th and Bell  
Bible Study 9 A.M., Worship 10 A.M.  
Evening 6:30 P.M., 233-4102 or 228-3827  
[www.churchofchrist7bell.com](http://www.churchofchrist7bell.com)

## NEW JERSEY

### VAUXHALL

church of Christ  
Milbourn Mall Suite 6., 2933 Vauxhall Rd.  
Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 11 A.M.  
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7:30 P.M.  
Contact: Harry Persaud  
phone: (908) 964-6356 • cell: (908) 964-8570

## NEW MEXICO

### ALBUQUERQUE

Heights church of Christ  
7801 Zuni Road, S.E.  
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.  
Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
Evanagelist: Darrel Yontz (505) 266-7577  
[www.heightschurchofchrist.com](http://www.heightschurchofchrist.com)

## NEVADA

### RENO

Central church of Christ  
2450 Wrondel Way, Suite A  
Bible Study 9 A.M., Worship 10 A.M.  
Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
(775) 786-2888

## NORTH CAROLINA

### CHARLOTTE

Charlotte church of Christ  
5327 S. Tyron Street  
Worship 9 A.M., Bible Study 10: A.M.  
Worship 11 A.M., Wednesday 7:30 P.M.  
(704) 525-5655

## OHIO

### BEAVERCREEK

Knollwood Creek church of Christ  
1031 Welford Drive  
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:20 A.M.  
Afternoon 3 P.M., Wednesday Afternoon 1 P.M.  
Wednesday Evening 7 P.M.  
(937) 426-1422  
[www.knollwoodchurch.org](http://www.knollwoodchurch.org)

### CINCINNATI

Blue Ash church of Christ  
4667 Cooper Road  
Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 10:45 A.M.  
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
Evangelist: Russell Dunaway, Jr. (513) 891-3174  
[www.blueashchurchofchrist.com](http://www.blueashchurchofchrist.com)

## CLEVELAND

Lorain Ave. church of Christ  
13501 Lorain Ave.  
Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 11 A.M.  
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7:30 P.M.  
(330) 723-0111 or (330) 590-0227  
or (216) 322-9392  
[www.lorainave-churchofchrist.com](http://www.lorainave-churchofchrist.com)

### COLUMBUS

Laurel Canyon church of Christ  
409 McNaughton Road  
Bible Study 9:45 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.  
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
(614) 868-1375, [www.lcccoc.net](http://www.lcccoc.net)

### DAYTON

West Carrollton  
28 W. Main Street, 45449  
Early Worship 9 A.M., Bible Study 9:30 A.M.  
Worship 10:25 A.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
Evangelist: Michael Grushon (937) 866-5162  
or 848-3779, [www.wc-coc.org](http://www.wc-coc.org)

### FRANKLIN

Franklin church of Christ  
6417 Franklin-Lebanon Rd. 45005  
Sun. Bible Study 10 A.M.  
Sun Worship 10:45 A.M.  
Tues. Bible Study 6:30 P.M.  
Evangelist: Josh Lee (937) 789-8055  
or (937) 746-1249, [www.franklin-church.org](http://www.franklin-church.org)

### FREMONT

church of Christ  
3361 W. State Street, 1 mi. W. of Fremont  
on U.S. Rt. 20  
Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 10:45 A.M.  
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
(419) 849-3340 or 849-2980  
[www.fremontchurchofchrist.com](http://www.fremontchurchofchrist.com)

### HAMILTON

Westview church of Christ  
1040 Azel Ave.  
Bible Study 9 A.M., Worship 9:45 A.M.  
Evening 6:30 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
Evangelist: Eugene Ford (513) 856-9288

### HILLIARD

church of Christ  
4840 Cemetery Rd.  
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.  
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7:30 P.M.  
(614) 876-4089

### MANSFIELD

Southside church of Christ  
687 Mansfield-Lucas Road  
Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 10:45 A.M.  
Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 5 P.M.  
James Bond: (419) 526-2868  
Leon Bond: (419) 525-3684  
church: (419) 522-8982

### NEW LEBANON

New Lebanon church of Christ  
1973 W Main Street  
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.,  
Evening 6:30 P.M., Wed. Bible Study 7 P.M.  
Evangelist: Bruce Hastings (937) 687-7150  
or (937) 478-0367

### MARIETTA-RENO

Marietta-Reno church of Christ  
80 Sandhill Road  
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.  
Evening 6:30 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
Daniel Ruegg: (740) 222-9160 or  
Steve Foutty: (740) 473-9028

### NORTHWOOD

Frey Road church of Christ  
4110 Frey Rd. (Toledo Area)  
Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 11 A.M.  
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
Evangelist: Donald Jarabek  
(419) 893-3566, (567) 694-5062

### UHRICHSVILLE

church of Christ  
638 Parrish Street  
Bible Study 9:45 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.  
Evening 6:30 P.M., Mid-week 6:30 P.M.

## OKLAHOMA

### MCALISTER

North A St. church of Christ  
2120 No. A Street  
Bible Study 9:45 A.M., Worship 10:45 A.M.  
Evening 5:30 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
Evangelist: Rob Lungstrum, Cell: (918) 931-1362  
Office: (918) 423-3445

### OKLAHOMA CITY

Seminole Pointe church of Christ  
16300 N. May Avenue  
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.  
Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
Evangelist: John M. Duvall (405) 340-3189  
or (405) 513-6691, [www.seminolepointe.church](http://www.seminolepointe.church)

## OREGON

### SWEET HOME

Church of Christ  
3702 E. Long Street, Sweet Home, OR  
Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 11 A.M.  
Evening 7 P.M., Wednesday 7:30 P.M.  
Building: (541) 367-1599

## PENNSYLVANIA

### PHILADELPHIA

church of Christ  
7222 Germantown Ave., 19119  
Bible Study 10:15 A.M., Worship 11:15 A.M.  
Tuesday night 7 P.M.  
Evangelist: James H. Baker, Jr. (215) 248-2026  
[www.mtairychurchofchrist.org](http://www.mtairychurchofchrist.org)

## SOUTH CAROLINA

### COLUMBIA

Lower Richland church of Christ  
3000 Trotter Rd. (Hopkins, SC)  
Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 11 A.M.  
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
(803) 730-0452, <http://lowerrichlandchurch.org>

### SUMTER

Woodland church of Christ  
3370 Broad St. Extension  
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.  
Evening 5:30 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
Evangelist: A.A. Granke, Jr. (803) 499-6023

### WEST COLUMBIA

Airport church of Christ  
4013 Edmund Hwy. (Hwy. 302)  
**OUR WEB SITE DISPLAYS OUR CURRENT ASSEMBLY SCHEDULE.**  
Evangelist: Seth Mauldin, Bldg. (803) 834-6978  
<http://airport-church-of-christ.com>

## TENNESSEE

### COLUMBIA

Mooresville Pike church of Christ  
417 Mooresville Pike  
(.8 mi. N. of Hwy. 50/Jas. Campbell)  
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.  
Evening 3:30 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
(931) 388-5828 or (931) 381-7898  
[www.mooresvillepikecoc.com](http://www.mooresvillepikecoc.com)

### COSBY

Cosby church of Christ  
489 Hooper Hwy., 37722  
(15 mi. E. of Gatlinburg on Hwy. 321)  
Bible Study 10A.M., Worship 11 A.M.  
Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday Bible Study 6:00 P.M.  
Evangelist: Olie Williamson  
(423) 487-5540 or (423) 748-0844

### JACKSON

Sunset View church of Christ  
3618 Hwy 70 East  
(Exit 87 off I-40, 7mi. @ Spring Creek)  
Bible Study 9 A.M., Worship 10 A.M.  
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
Evangelist: Steve Wilkerson (731) 967-0590  
or 968-9851

### JOHNSON CITY

Brookmead church of Christ  
2428 Lakeview Drive  
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.  
Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
Evangelist: Kevin Kay (423) 282-6251 or 426-1836

### JONESBOROUGH

11-E church of Christ  
240 Headtown Road  
Bible Study 10:30 A.M., Worship 11 A.M.  
Evening 5 P.M., Evangelist: David Wheeler  
(423) 557-9119 or (423) 948-6464  
[www.christianadmonisher.jigsy.com](http://www.christianadmonisher.jigsy.com)

### KINGSTON SPRINGS

Kingston Springs church of Christ  
350 North Main Street  
Bible Study 9 A.M., Worship 10 A.M.  
Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
Evangelist: Steve Walker, [www.kscoc.com](http://www.kscoc.com)

### MT. PLEASANT

Locust St. Church of Christ  
108 Locust Street • Mt. Pleasant, TN 38474  
931-379-3704 or 931-964-3924  
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.  
Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
Evangelist: Daniel H. King, Sr.  
[www.lscoc.com](http://www.lscoc.com)

### KINGSPOrt

Kingsport church of Christ  
4938 Fort Henry Dr. • P.O. Box 554  
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.  
Evening 5:00 P.M., Wednesday 7:00 P.M.  
Evangelist: Tom Kinzel, Bldg.# (423) 239-3979  
or (423) 579-2002 • [www.kptcoc.org](http://www.kptcoc.org)

### MARYVILLE

Smokey Mt. church of Christ  
2206 Montvale Road  
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.  
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
Harold Tabor (865) 977-4230  
Lon Spurgeon (865) 388-8749  
<http://tinyurl.com/smchurch>

### MEMPHIS

Rocky Pt. Road church of Christ  
516 E. Rocky Point Rd., Cordova  
Bible Study 9 A.M., Worship 10A.M.  
Wednesday 7 P.M.  
[rockypointchurch@gmail.com](mailto:rockypointchurch@gmail.com)  
[www.rockypointchurch.org](http://www.rockypointchurch.org)

### MURFREESBORO

Cason Lane church of Christ  
1110 Cason Lane  
Bible Study 9 A.M., Worship 10 A.M.  
Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
(615) 896-0090 (Building)  
[www.casonlanechurch.org](http://www.casonlanechurch.org)

### MURFREESBORO, TN

Northfield Blvd. church of Christ  
2091 Pitts Ln. at Northfield Blvd.  
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.  
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
Evangelist: David Bunting (615) 893-1200

### NASHVILLE

Hillview church of Christ  
7471 Charlotte Pike  
Bible Study 9 A.M., Worship 10 A.M.  
Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
(615) 952-5458 or (615) 356-7318  
Evangelist: Lee Wildman

### NASHVILLE

Perry Heights church of Christ  
423 Donelson Pike  
Bible Study 9 A.M., Worship 9:55 A.M.  
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
Evangelist: Johnny Felker (615) 883-3118  
<http://perryheights.faithweb.com>

### PIGEON FORGE

King Branch Road church of Christ  
560 King Branch Road  
Worship 10 A.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
Facilities available for Sunday evening services  
upon request.  
Evangelist: Roger Williams (865) 430-5980  
[www.KingBranchRoadchurchOfChrist.org](http://www.KingBranchRoadchurchOfChrist.org)

### SHELBYVILLE

El Bethel church of Christ  
1801 Hwy. 41-A North  
Bible Study 9 A.M., Worship 9:50 A.M.  
Evening 5:30 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
Evangelist: Donnie V. Rader (931) 607-9099  
[dvrader@live.com](mailto:dvrader@live.com)

### SHELBYVILLE

Shelbyville Mills church of Christ  
1222 W. Jackson St.  
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.  
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
Evangelist: Jeff Curtis (931) 607-9118  
[djcurtis1963@hotmail.com](mailto:djcurtis1963@hotmail.com)

## TEXAS

### ALLEN

West Allen church of Christ  
1414 W. Exchange Blvd. (2 miles west of Hwy. 75)  
Bible Study 9 A.M., Worship 9:50 A.M.  
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7:30 P.M.  
Evangelist: Jerry King (214) 504-0443  
Building phone (972) 727-5355

### ALVARADO

I-35 church of Christ  
E. Service Rd. off I-35, N. of Alvarado  
Bible Study 10:00 A.M., Worship 11 A.M.  
Evening 6:00 P.M., Wednesday 7:00 P.M.  
(817) 295-7277 or 790-7253

### ALVIN

Adoue St. church of Christ  
605 E. Adoue Street  
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.  
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7:30 P.M.  
Evangelist: Mark Mayberry (281) 331-4953  
or (832) 837-9038

### AUSTIN

Schultz Lane church of Christ  
Faber Rd. & Schultz Ln., Pflugerville, TX 78660  
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.  
Evening 2 P.M., Wednesday 7:30 P.M.  
Evangelist: Ron Lehde

### BAYTOWN

church of Christ at Pruett & Lobit  
701 North Pruett Street  
Bible Study 9:45 A.M., Worship 10:40 A.M.  
Evening 6:30 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
Evangelist: Jesse Flowers (281) 515-8939  
Building: (281) 422-5926, Weldon: (713) 818-1321

### BEAUMONT

Dowlen Rd. church of Christ  
3060 Dowlen Road  
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.  
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
Evangelists: Max Dawson & Benjamin Lee  
(409) 866-1996

### CONROE

Woodland Hills church of Christ  
410 Woodland Hills Dr., 77303  
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.  
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
phone: (936) 756-9322  
[www.conroechurch.com](http://www.conroechurch.com)

### CLEVELAND

church of Christ  
310 E. Houston Street  
Bible Study 9 A.M., Worship 10 A.M.  
Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 7:30 P.M.  
Evangelist: Robert Davis (281) 592-5676  
[www.clevelandchurchofchrist.org](http://www.clevelandchurchofchrist.org)

### CORPUS CHRISTI

Hwy. 9 church of Christ  
Worship 10 A.M., Bible Study 11 A.M.  
Worship 12 P.M., Wednesday 7:30 P.M.  
Call for location: Keith Kalies (361) 776-2304  
or Patrick Frazier (361) 235-1990

### DICKINSON

church of Christ  
2919 FM 517 Road E.  
Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 10:50 A.M.  
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 9:45 A.M.  
Wednesday 7 P.M., (281) 534-4870  
[www.dickinsonchurchofchrist.org](http://www.dickinsonchurchofchrist.org)

### DALLAS

Methodist Street church of Christ  
211 Methodist St. • Red Oak TX, 75154  
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.  
Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
Evangelist: D. LeRoy Klice  
(972) 576-3119 or 363-7672  
[www.methodiststreetchurchofchrist.com](http://www.methodiststreetchurchofchrist.com)

### DUNCANVILLE

Whispering Hills church of Christ  
2126 S. Main (South Dallas)  
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.  
Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
(214) 874-5701, [info@whchurchofchrist.net](mailto:info@whchurchofchrist.net)

### EDNA

church of Christ  
301 Robison Street  
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.  
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
(361) 782-5506 or 782-2844  
Elders: J. Mercer & S. Mercer

### EL PASO

Eastridge church of Christ  
3277 Pendleton Road  
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.  
Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
(915) 855-1524

### FORT WORTH

West Side church of Christ  
6110 White Settlement Rd. 76114  
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.  
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7:30 P.M.  
(817) 738-7269

### GRANBURY

church of Christ  
4313 Old Granbury Road  
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.  
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
817-913-4209 or 817-279-3351

### HOUSTON

Fry Rd. church of Christ  
2510 Fry Road (77084)  
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:20 A.M.  
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7:30 P.M.  
Bob Pulliam: (281) 832-4633, [www.fryroad.org](http://www.fryroad.org)

### HOUSTON

Spring Woods church of Christ  
9955 Neuens Rd. at Witte Road  
Worship 9 A.M., Bible Study 10 A.M.  
Worship 11 A.M., Evening 6 P.M.  
Wednesday 7 P.M.  
Evangelist (713) 419-1750  
[www.springwoodschurchofchrist.com](http://www.springwoodschurchofchrist.com)

### IRVING

Westside church of Christ  
2320 Imperial Dr. (closest to DFW Airport)  
Bible Study 9 A.M., Worship 9:50 A.M.  
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7:30 P.M.  
Evangelist: Mark Roberts (972) 986-9131  
[www.JustChristians.com](http://www.JustChristians.com)

### LANCASTER

Pleasant Run church of Christ  
831 W. Pleasant Run Road  
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:20 A.M.  
Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 7:30 P.M.  
(972) 227-1708 or 227-2598

### LUBBOCK

Indiana Ave. church of Christ  
6111 Indiana Avenue  
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.  
Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
(806) 795-3377  
[www.lubbockchurch.com](http://www.lubbockchurch.com)

### LUFKIN

Timberland Dr. church of Christ  
912 S. Timberland Drive  
Bible Study 9 A.M., Worship 9:50 A.M.  
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
Evangelists: Harold Hancock & Reagan McClenny  
(936) 634-7110 or 632-7070

## MANSFIELD

Northside church of Christ  
1820 Mansfield-Webb Road  
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:20 A.M.  
Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 6:30 P.M.  
Evangelist: Tom Roberts (817) 466-3160

## NACOGDOCHES

Stallings Dr. church of Christ  
3831 N.E. Stallings Drive  
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:20 A.M.  
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
Evangelist: Randy Harshbarger & Jay Taylor

## PLANO

Spring Creek church of Christ  
2100 W. Spring Creek Pkwy., (North Dallas Suburb)  
Bible Study 9 A.M., Worship 10 A.M.  
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7:30 P.M.  
(972) 517-5582, [www.planochurch.org](http://www.planochurch.org)

## SAN ANTONIO

Grissom Rd. church of Christ  
5470 Lost Lane at Grissom Rd.  
San Antonio, TX 78238-2700  
Bible Classes 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.  
Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday (Ladies Class) 10 A.M.,  
Wednesday (Bible Class) 7:30 P.M.  
Terry Starling, Evangelist  
[www.grissomroadcoc.org](http://www.grissomroadcoc.org)

## SAN ANTONIO

Pecan Valley church of Christ  
268 Utopia Avenue, (I-37 S.E. Exit Pecan Valley)  
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.  
Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
Evangelist: Clyde W. Carter (210) 337-6143

## SHERMAN

Westwood Village church of Christ  
314 N. Tolbert  
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.  
Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
Evangelist: Jim Smelser

## TEMPLE

Leon Valley church of Christ  
4404 Twin City Blvd.  
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.  
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7:30 P.M.  
Evangelist: Jason Garcia  
[yourfriendjgar@gmail.com](mailto:yourfriendjgar@gmail.com)  
[www.biblemoments.org](http://www.biblemoments.org)

## WACO

Sun Valley church of Christ  
340 E. Warren St. (In Hewitt, a suburb of Waco)  
Bible Class 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.  
Wednesday 7 P.M.  
Evangelist: Marc Smith  
(254) 666-1020 or 420-1484

## THE WOODLANDS

Woodlands church of Christ  
1500 Wellman Road • P.O. Box 7664 (77380)  
Bible Class 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:20 A.M.  
Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 7:30 P.M.  
(281) 367-2099  
[www.woodlandschurchofchrist.org](http://www.woodlandschurchofchrist.org)

## VIRGINIA

### CHESAPEAKE

Tidewater church of Christ  
217 Taxus Street  
Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 11 A.M.  
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
Evangelist: Steve Schlosser (757) 436-6900

### CHESTER

Chester church of Christ  
12100 Winfree St., (Central to Richmond,  
Hopewell, Petersburg, & Colonial Heights)  
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.  
Evening 5:30 P.M., Wednesday 7:30 P.M.  
church Building: (804) 796-2374, (804) 385-2725  
or (804) 271-0877

### NEWPORT NEWS

Harpersville Rd. church of Christ  
315 Harpersville Road  
Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 11 A.M.  
Wednesday 7:00 P.M.

## RICHMOND (METRO)

Courthouse church of Christ  
Courthouse Rd. at Double Creek Ct.  
(2.2 miles S of Rt. 288)  
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.  
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
Evangelist: Gene Tope (804) 790-1629  
[www.courthousechurchofchrist.com](http://www.courthousechurchofchrist.com)

## RICHMOND

Forest Hill church of Christ  
1208 W. 41st Street  
Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 11 A.M.  
Evening 6:00 P.M., Wednesday 7:00 P.M.  
Evangelist: Jack Bise, Jr. (804) 233-5959

## RIDGEWAY

church of Christ  
2970 Old Leaksville Road  
Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 11 A.M.  
Evening 5:30 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
(276) 956-6049  
[www.churchofchristatridgeway.com](http://www.churchofchristatridgeway.com)

## ROANOKE

Blue Ridge church of Christ  
929 Indiana Avenue N.E. (5 min. from Roanoke  
Convention Center)  
1st Lesson 9:15 A.M., Bible Study 10 A.M.  
Worship 11 A.M., Wednesday 7:30 P.M.  
(540) 344-2755

## VIRGINIA BEACH

Southside church of Christ  
5652 Haden Road  
Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 11 A.M.  
Robert Mallard (757) 464-4574

## WASHINGTON

### BELLINGHAM

Mt. Baker church of Christ  
1860 Mt. Baker Hwy.  
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.  
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
Evangelist: Joe Price (360) 752-2692 or 380-2960  
[www.bibleanswer.com/mtbaker](http://www.bibleanswer.com/mtbaker)

## WEST VIRGINIA

### CHARLESTON

church of Christ  
873 Oakwood Road  
Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 10:50 A.M.  
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7:30 P.M.  
Evangelist: Jonathan Chaffin (304) 342-5637  
[www.oakwoodroadchurchofchrist.com](http://www.oakwoodroadchurchofchrist.com)

### CLARKSBURG

Westside church of Christ  
Davisson Run Road  
Sunday Morning 9:30 A.M.  
(304) 622-5433  
[www.westsidechurchofchristwv.net](http://www.westsidechurchofchristwv.net)

### FAIRMONT

Eastside church of Christ  
1929 Morgantown Avenue  
Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 10:45 A.M.  
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
(304) 363-8696 or (304)844-2437

### GLADESVILLE

Gladesville church of Christ  
2906 Gladesville Rd., Independence, WV 26374  
Sunday Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 10:45 A.M.  
Sunday 7 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
(304) 864-3078

### MOUNDSVILLE

Moundsville church of Christ  
210 Cedar Street  
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.  
Evening 6:30 P.M., Mid-week 7:30 P.M.  
Evangelist: Tony Huntsman (304) 845-4940

### PARKERSBURG

Marrtown church of Christ  
825 Marrtown Road  
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10 A.M.  
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7:30 P.M.  
(304) 422-7458 or 893-5227

## WYOMING

### RANCHESTER

Ranchester church of Christ  
Hwy. 14 West, Ranch Mart Mall  
Bible Study 9 A.M., Worship 10 A.M.  
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 6:30 P.M.  
Contact: Bob Reich (307) 655-2563

## CANADA

### CALGARY, AB

Northside church of Christ  
803 20A Avenue NE  
Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 11 A.M.  
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday Bible Study 7 P.M.  
+1 (403) 452-5116  
[www.churchofchristcalgary.com](http://www.churchofchristcalgary.com)

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