

January 7, 2021

CAUGHT IN THE FOG

It is always around this time of the year that I begin to feel lost. Christmas is always my favorite time of the year, and once it is over, I begin to develop a brain fog. The hustle and bustle of seasonal shopping and cooking is over. The ball has already dropped and we go back to our everyday lives. The life where things are constantly demanding our attention. Work picks back up, children go back to school, well virtually at least, and then we have the media. We are bombarded every day with headlines about elections and election fraud, spies, Covid-19, political unrest, lockdowns in nations, and the aftermath of the bombing in Nashville.

All of these things begin to pull at us and tear into us. They begin causing stress and distracting us from so much. No wonder 24.7% of the American population suffers from anxiety or depression, and that was before 2020. Our elderly are suffering from it because of lack of family contacts. Our parents are suffering from it because of the dangers seen on the news and fears for their children. Our youth are suffering from it because of canceled events, no school, and no social life. So what are we supposed to do? What do we do with the distractions that lead us into all of this stress? Where do we place our trust when there seems to be nothing that we can trust?

Well, we need to first work to refocus on what is really happening and what is really important. We need to look beyond the fog that is distracting us and competing for our attention, and we need to turn to the true source. **Colossians 3:1-4** says, "If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory."

This passage is telling us that if we have been baptized into Christ then we need to be looking at what is eternal. Jesus told us, in **Matthew 6:19-21**, "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." When I think back to the passage in Colossians and I see "set

your mind on things that are above", that is a clear reminder that our thinking can be taken away by the cares and stresses of life. That fog can come in and distract you and disorient you. Before you know it, your treasure, and your heart, are more centered on the world and all its struggles. But we do not have to live that way. A passage that continually reminds me of this is **Romans 12:1-2**, "I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect." This world is full of distractions that fog our minds and cause panic. If we do not test where we put our trust, we can easily put our trust in the world.

In 1952, Florence Chadwick stepped into the waters of the Pacific Ocean off Catalina Island, determined to swim to the shore of mainland California. She had already been the first woman to swim the English Channel both ways. The weather was foggy and chilly; she could hardly see the boats accompanying her. Still, she swam for 15 hours. When she begged to be taken out of the water along the way, her mother, in a boat alongside, told her she was close and that she could make it. Finally, physically and emotionally exhausted, she stopped swimming and was pulled out. It wasn't until she was on the boat that she discovered the shore was less than half a mile away. At a news conference the next day she said, "All I could see was the fog... I think if I could have seen the shore, I would have made it."

The fog of this world brings forth doubts, fears, and anxiety. Fortunately, those in Christ, have a light. **John 8:12** says, "Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows Me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." Jesus is our light and if we can set our eyes on Him (**Hebrews 12:2**), He will pierce through the fog of doubt and despair. He will help to overcome all the distractions this world tries to throw at us. Most importantly, He will bring us to the shore of eternity. **1 John 5:13-15** "I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may *know* that you have eternal life. And this is the *confidence* that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to His will He hears us. And if we *know* that He hears us in whatever we ask, we *know* that we have the requests that we have asked of Him." **Andrew Spivey**

COORDINATED BIBLE CLASS STUDIES

Sunday Read – John 5

Wednesday Read – Mark 2:23-3:19

BIBLE STUDY

Questions for last week's reading of Mark 1:21-45& Mark 2:1-22;

1. Why were the people astonished when Jesus taught in the synagogue?
2. Why did Jesus get up before dawn?
3. When the four men who were carrying the man who could not walk could not get in the house to see Jesus, what did they do?
4. By healing the paralyzed man, what did Jesus show?
5. Why did Jesus eat with the tax collectors and "sinners?"

REMINDER

If there is a time that services will be cancelled, due to the virus or weather conditions this winter, you should receive a call from the Calling Post service to alert you to the closure. Please make a note of the phone number so you will know that the call is an announcement from the church. Calling Post's number is (405) 308-4474 and is from Oklahoma. Also, a newsletter may be sent if there is enough time to get it out and you may check the Facebook page at:

<https://www.facebook.com/nashvilleroadchurchofchrist>

SYMPATHY

Our Love and Sympathy to the family of **Jean West**, mother-in-law of **Kenneth Smith**, who passed away on Tuesday, December 29th. Funeral services were held December 31st in Westmoreland.

THANK YOU NOTE

To my family at Nashville Road, I want to express my sincere thanks for all your prayers and support during the last two years during Bob's illness and passing. I truly appreciate each and every one of you. Thank you for the beautiful flower arrangement, the thoughtful cards, and words of encouragement during this difficult time. My family and I are grateful for all your expressions of love and concern.

Evelyn Harris

WORSHIP SERVICES

All services at Nashville Road have been suspended until further notice. The Elders

Because of the surge in the recent COVID-19 cases in the community and members, the elders at Nashville Road have decided to cancel in-person services until further notice. However, you will still be able to watch our services streaming live on the Nashville Road Church of Christ Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/nashvilleroadchurchofchrist> at 11:00 a.m. each Sunday. If you or anyone you know have needs during these troublesome times, be sure to notify us at 615-452-3431.

During this medical crisis, our financial obligations to mission work and etc... continues. Please consider mailing your contribution check to the church office at: 1883 Nashville Pike Gallatin TN 37066. Thank you. The Elders

Members of Nashville Road, we have individual communion available. Please call the office or Tim Strickland, 615-336-6039.

Nashville Road Church of Christ
 1883 Nashville Pike
 Gallatin, TN 37066
 Web Site: nashvilleroad.org
 E-mail: nashvilleroadcoc@comcast.net

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sun. Morning Worship 9:00 a.m. & Sun. Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.
 Wed. Evening Bible Class 7:00 p.m.

SICK LIST

Pat Crump is home now after a few days in the hospital for a heart procedure. **Pauletta Hood** is recovering from covid. **Marilee Frederick** is now home recovering from covid. **David & Sylvia Williams** continue recovering from covid. **Gerald Miles** is now at the Waters, Room 214. **Grace Bracey** is having significant health issues. **Barry Carter**, husband to Tracy and son to Mattie Carter, is at Centennial recovering from open heart surgery. **Jerry Ladd Sr.** has requested prayers from the church. He has been diagnosed with CLL Leukemia. **Steven Burgess**, step-son of Pauletta Hood, is recovering from injuries from a car accident. **Cora Mayes-Barron**, daughter of Barry & Rachel Mayes has been diagnosed with Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma. She has finished her second round of chemo. **Craig Sweeney**, son of James & Doris Sweeney, has been accepted into a new drug trial clinic. **John Arnold**, father of Brenda Veale is homebound and dealing with serious health issues.

CARE LINE: 615-452-2464



PRAYER LIST

Gerald Miles, The Waters of Gallatin, 555 E. Bledsoe Drive, Room 214; **Jim Sweeney**; **Jan Fulford**; **J.H & Frances Catron**; **Melba Hill**; **William Dunn**; **Jean Deaton**; **Ron & Anna Radish**; **Phil Johnston** father-in-law of Josh Johnson; **Ricky Cross**, friend of Betty Buttrey; **Donna Holmes**, daughter of Eva Petty; **Ida Lou Sherrill**, mother of Alex Sherrill; **Will Flowers**, brother-in-law of Grace Bracey. **Dana Loveless**, friend of Jim & Linda Cherry; **Danny Lowe** cousin of Linda Cherry; **Zachery Simmons**, grandson of Charles & Fay Simmons; **Elias Benjamin Simmons**, great grandson of Charles & Fay Simmons; **Debbie Sparks**, sister of Rachel Mayes; **Lawrence Redding**, son-in-law of Betty Melcher; **Taylor Lackford**, niece of Brenda Veale; **Dustin Lackford**, nephew of Brenda Veale; **Janice Haskins**, sister of Jim Cherry; **Larry Conley**, friend of Wanda Proctor; **Wayne Holt**, nephew of Grace Bracey; **John Gregory**, brother of Bob Gregory; **Pam Flory**, friend of Sherry Sever; **Harold Cole**, friend of Lena Baggett; **Bobbie Carter**, sister of Janice Johnson; **Betty Billingsley**, sister of Wanda Proctor; **Walter Wooten**, brother of Wanda Sherrill. **We depend on families and friends to help us update this list. Please notify us of any changes**

SHUT-INS

Ilene Kinney; **Jane Hughes**, 126 Seabury Dr., Greenville, SC 29615; **Bill & Jane Dunn**; **Cathy Henderson**; **Penny Campbell**, The Village of Bellevue, Room 417, 8118 B Sawyer Brown Road, Nashville, TN 37221; **Dorothy Sullivan**, Front Porch Senior Living 115 Sunset Pl. Portland TN, 37148.

OUR RECORD THIS WEEK

Bible Study.....	N/A
Morning Worship 9a.m.....	N/A
Morning Worship 11a.m.	N/A
Sunday Evening.....	N/A
Wednesday Evening.....	N/A
Contributions.....	\$7,170.00
Youth Group Account.....	\$8,724.13

Elders

Tony Butler.....	615-452-0560
Jim Cherry.....	615-479-2149
David Johnson.....	615-300-9084
Alex Sherrill.....	615-289-9935
David Thompson.....	615-598-6621
Jerry Watson.....	615-461-8137

Deacons

Carl Newby Brent Smith
 Ken Veale Adam Williamson



Nashville Road CHURCH OF CHRIST

1883 Nashville Road
 Gallatin, TN 37066

Phone (615) 452-3431

Office Hours: Monday – Friday 8:30 a.m. to 2:30. p.m.

Web Site: www.nashvilleroad.org

Email: nashvilleroadcoc@comcast.net

ANDREW SPIVEY, Pulpit and Family Minister
TIM STRICKLAND, Associate Minister