

March 25, 2021

THE ANT

As spring begins, the world seems to be coming back to life in many ways. Trees and plants start blooming and animals that were once dormant or migrated begin to come back out into the world. With spring here, I also know that there is a battle that is about to begin. Since I have been a homeowner, I have worked to battle what I like to call “The Plight of the Ant”. They seem to never stop. No matter how much I try, they continue to work and find ways to invade the house. They laugh in the face of pest control and they have already found a new gap or crack before I have sealed up the previous one. I have learned to be alert for the very first line they make and to strike as quickly as possible before they invade and I am defeated. You have to hand it to the ant. They are resilient in their plan and will stop at nothing. Which is why God wants us to learn from them. **Proverbs 6:6-8** says, “Go to the ant, O sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise. Without having any chief, officer, or ruler, she prepares her bread in summer and gathers her food in harvest.”

You may not realize this but by the time ants make it onto our porch or in our house in the spring, they have already gone through a lot. Ants actually hibernate, much like bears do. During the final months of Fall, they eat large amounts of food and put on fat. That way when winter comes they can go deep into their homes and lay dormant until warm weather returns. When spring finally arrives, they have to begin to dig their way out of their homes. Because the colony had all stopped moving, the holes that they once used to make it to the surface have closed up. With the last little bit of energy reserves they have, they begin to dig out. By the time they are done getting out, they are lethargic and on the brink of death. They immediately begin trying to eat whatever they can to gain strength.

With all that has gone on this past year and throughout winter, I can sympathize with the ant. Now that more people are getting out, getting vaccinated, and with states opening back up, it is like we are coming out of hibernation and trying to figure out what all has changed. Were we prepared for such a long period of time not worshiping all together? Were we prepared for such a time of spiritual isolation? Do we feel spiritually starved and deprived, much like those ants? The fact is that ants were designed to hibernate, but we were not.

When we look at the news and what our culture calls right and wrong we can see that man was not designed to be away from God. Paul warned the church at Ephesus in Ephesians 4:17-20 “Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds. They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart. They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity. But that is not the way you learned Christ!” It is important for us to get our spiritual bodies back in check and make sure that we are not falling into the work and dying. Just like the ants, we need to make sure that we are feeding ourselves spiritually. We should desire to be fed and reject what the world tries to entice us with. 1 Peter 2:1-3 says, “ So put away all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander. Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.” We need to make sure that we are engaging and actively participating in Bible studies, be it online or in person. We should work to meet with others for time of study and working to grow our daily prayer lives.

We must also strive to be together as much as possible. This is where I find the ant to be so powerful. As said earlier, the ant has to dig back out at the end of a hibernation. With the weakened state of the ants deteriorating body, every move has to be calculated. If the ant puts too much effort in digging out it will never make it to the surface. Fortunately the ants don’t have to do it alone. When it is time to come forth, every ant participates in clearing the way. They bear one another’s load and if one begins to get too weak, another is there to take over. That is how God desires for us to be as well. **Hebrews 10:24-25** says, “And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.” This isn’t simply a command but a prescription from the Great Physician. God knows that we cannot go through this life alone, that is why He sent His son, and that is why He established His kingdom, the church. **Galatians 6:2** calls us to “Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.” We cannot do that if we are not actively working together. **1 Peter 3:8** says,

“Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind.” As we begin to meet back together, having Bible classes for all ages and worshipping together on Sundays, let us remember to be in unity. Working together and shining the light of Christ in this dark world. Let us remember to be as headstrong as the ant in our quest to “go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.” (**Mark 16:15-16**)

Andrew Spivey

COORDINATED BIBLE CLASS STUDIES
Sunday Read – Exodus 9
Wednesday Read – Exodus 10

BIBLE STUDY 

Questions for last week's reading of Exodus 6-7-8.

1. What special relationship did God say He would have with the Israelites?
2. What was the first plague God sent on the Egyptians?
3. Name the next three plagues.
4. After Pharaoh's magicians could not make lice, what did they tell Pharaoh?
5. Why did God make the plague of flies everywhere in Egypt except in Goshen?

BIBLE CLASS GUIDELINES

All classes, nursery through high school, will meet upstairs in the classrooms assigned for each class division beginning March 28th. There will be one adult class in the auditorium.

Please follow the guidelines below for attending classes upstairs.

- **Masks will be required to and from classes.**
- **Masks and social distancing in class will be at the teacher's discretion.**
- **Parents will accompany younger children to and from classes. Parents, please remember to also wear masks to and from classes.**

ORDER OF SERVICES
SUNDAY
March 28, 2021

9:00 AM BIBLE STUDY

(Classes for Nursery – High School upstairs)
 Song.....Carl Newby
 Opening Prayer.....Tony Butler
 Auditorium Lesson.....Andrew Spivey

10:00 AM SERVICE

Welcome.....Charlie Seals
 Song Leader.....Carl Newby
 Opening Prayer.....Lee Boone
 Sermon.....Andrew Spivey
 Lord's Supper.....Jim Cherry
 Closing Prayer.....Tim Cummins

5:00 PM SERVICE

Welcome.....Charlie Seals
 Song Leader.....Carl Newby
 Opening Prayer.....Jonathan Senn
 Sermon.....Andrew Spivey
 Lord's Supper.....Brent Smith
 Closing Prayer.....Bob Sever

WEDNESDAY
March 31, 2021

7:00 PM No children's classes

Welcome.....Charlie Seals
 Song Leader.....Kenneth Smith
 Opening Prayer.....Tim Strickland
 Lesson.....Andrew Spivey
 Closing Prayer.....Adam Williamson

IF YOU CANNOT SERVE, PLEASE CALL
 Alex Sherrill.....615-289-9935
 Church Office.....615-452-3431

Nashville Road Church of Christ
 1883 Nashville Pike
 Gallatin, TN 37066
 Web Site: nashvilleroad.org
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SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday Bible Study 9:00 a.m. - Sunday Morning Worship 10:00 a.m.
 Sunday Evening Worship 5:00 p.m. - Wednesday Evening Worship 7:00 p.m.

SICK LIST

Bill Johnson is home now and doing better. **Mae Oldham** is home and doing well. **Ty Tyler**, son of Ann Tyler is home doing some better. **Grace Bracey** is now on Hospice care. **Ricky Cantrell** has been diagnosed with melanoma. **Ronnie Love**, cousin of Pam Newby, has been diagnosed with cancer. **Donny Pedigo**, friend of Tim Cummins has been diagnosed with stage 4 cancer. **Jerry Ladd, Sr.** has been diagnosed with CLL Leukemia. **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.

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.

We depend on families and friends to help us update this list.
 Please notify us of any changes

OUR RECORD THIS WEEK

Bible Study.....	N/A
Morning Worship 9a.m.....	78
Morning Worship 11a.m.	48
Sunday Evening.....	64
Wednesday Evening.....	56
Contributions.....	\$6,932.00
Youth Group Account.....	\$7,002.01

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

PRAYER LIST

Maxine Cothron; Gerald Miles, The Waters of Gallatin, 555 E. Bledsoe Drive, Room 213; **Jim Sweeney; Jan Fulford; J.H. & Frances Catron; Melba Hill; William Dunn; Jean Deaton; Ron & Anna Radish; Chase Ditmore**, grandson of Jim & Linda Cherry; **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; **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.



Nashville Road CHURCH OF CHRIST

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