

IT'S EXPIRED

As I grew up, I was a child who would eat about anything. I can remember coming home from school before my parents got home and raiding the cabinets, refrigerator, and pantry to find anything to eat. Whether it was leftovers or old cans of chili, I didn't seem to care. My wife, on the other hand, is not that way. She is not much of a leftover person and she refuses to eat foods past expiration dates. When we first got married, I can remember pulling out cans of food and Taylor taking one look at the top and saying, "throw it away." At those moments, I had flashbacks thinking of how many times I would find old cans that had been pushed to the back that I would simply blow the dust off of and eat. In hindsight, I can remember a few times that I probably shouldn't have eaten those.

We live in a society that is so fast paced that we can easily overlook a simple expiration date. As new cans come in, the old are simply pushed back. Of course, they still look the same, except for that date stamped on the bottom. When those cans are finally found, it is a tragedy that what was inside, and provided such nourishment, has been wasted by simply overlooking it. In our lives there is a similar tragedy that takes place each day when we miss opportunities to serve God. Paul spoke of the expiration dates of opportunities in Galatians 6:10, when he said, "So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith." When we meditate on that phrase "as we have opportunity" we can soon see the fact that the opportunities of today may no longer be available tomorrow. What we soon realize is that opportunities have expiration dates.

Upon thinking about opportunities that can be missed, I am reminded of Jesus in John 9. In this passage, Jesus passes by a man who has been blind his entire life. The disciples quickly begin questioning Jesus as to why such horrible circumstances could happen to someone. They wonder if it was because of his parents sin or was it that this man simply had sinned somehow. But Jesus replied that it wasn't because of sins from either the man or his parents but this man was blind so "that the works of God might be displayed in him." Jesus then made a powerful statement. In **John 9:4**, He says, "We must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work." After saying this,

Jesus spit on the ground, making mud, and put it on the man's eyes. After the man went to wash in the pool of Siloam, he came back seeing!

Imagine how different that day would have been if Jesus had simply said, "I am busy today but I will come back tomorrow." The blind man may have never been there the next day. He would have never had the opportunity to be healed by Christ. The people of the town would have never witnessed such an amazing miracle, and the blind man would have never been able to give his testimony about the events to the Pharisees. Most importantly, the man would have never believed in Jesus. In **John 9:39**, when the man finally meets Jesus again, he says, "Lord, I believe," and he worshiped Him."

In our spiritual lives, doors that open opportunities to share the gospel can quickly be shut if we do not use them. This can leave us with a life of regret and expired opportunities. However, if we take advantage of the opportunities that God provides then we can truly find joy in our lives in Christ. Paul lived his life with an earnest desire to seek every opportunity that God placed before him. Even when there were many who were against Paul in Ephesus, he said in **1 Corinthians 16:9**, "There is a wide-open door for a great work here, although many oppose me." How would we handle all the opposition that Paul went through? Would we choose to give up? Or would we continue seeking great opportunities, knowing that the world will always be against us (**John 15:18-27**).

In the end, life is one big opportunity to fulfill a purpose. The question is, what is that purpose? One of the best answers comes from one of the wisest men who walked on earth, Solomon. He said in **Ecclesiastes 12:13**, "The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is the whole duty of man." This is the purpose that we need to work to fulfill each and every day, and every day brings us opportunities to do so. But each day is drawing closer to the last. **Romans 13:11** tells us that "salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed," and that each one of us are going to expire ourselves one day, and after that comes judgment (**Hebrews 9:27**). Our time on this earth is in God's hands and each opportunity to do His will and serve Him are slowly going away with each passing moment. Don't leave opportunities on the shelf to expire. Use them to share the Gospel of Christ to all you meet. It is the best nourishment for the soul.

Andrew Spivey

COORDINATED BIBLE CLASS STUDIES

Sunday Read – Exodus 19
Wednesday Read – Exodus 20

BIBLE STUDY

- Questions for last week's reading of Exodus 17 & 18.
1. How did Moses get water for the Israelites at Rephidim?
 2. How did the Israelites win the battle against the Amalekites?
 3. What did God say He would do to the Amalekites?
 4. What stories did Moses tell Jethro ?
 5. What advice did Jethro give Moses?

NEW MASK POLICY

Since Sumner County has lifted the mask mandate, the elders have made the decision to not require masks at this time. You may still continue to wear one if you feel more comfortable doing so, but masks will not be required to enter the building or when moving about. **Please remember to be respectful of others, maintain social distancing, avoid congregating in the foyer and refrain from handshakes or hugs as much as possible.**

WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE CLASSES

Bible classes for all ages will resume on Wednesday, May 5th. Nursery through high school will meet in the designated classrooms upstairs following a brief devotional in the auditorium.

GRADUATION BULLETIN

We will have our annual Graduation Bulletin this year. If you have someone in high school or college that will graduate during 2021, please submit their name, school they attended, some accomplishments they may have achieved while in school and future plans (college they may attend or work plans) along with a picture of the graduate. If you are submitting a grandchild, please also include the parents name. Please email this information to; secnashroad@comcast.net, or send by postal mail to the office at 1883 Nashville Pike, Gallatin by May 23rd to be included in this year's Graduation Bulletin.

ORDER OF SERVICES

SUNDAY

May 2, 2021

9:00 AM

BIBLE STUDY

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

10:00 AM SERVICE

Welcome.....David Thompson
Song Leader.....Carl Newby
Opening Prayer.....Lee Boone
Sermon.....Andrew Spivey
Lord's Supper.....Adam Williamson
Closing Prayer.....Fate Evans
Ushers.....R. Buck/B. Sever

5:00 PM SERVICE

Welcome.....David Thompson
Song Leader.....Carl Newby
Opening Prayer.....Tim Cummins
Sermon.....Andrew Spivey
Lord's Supper.....Bob Sever
Closing Prayer.....Tony Butler

WEDNESDAY

May 5, 2021

7:00 PM

Welcome.....David Thompson
Song Leader.....Carl Newby
Opening Prayer.....Eric Stephenson
Lesson.....Andrew Spivey
Closing Prayer.....Jim Cherry
Visitor's Desk Volunteer.....Diana Stephenson

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

Tammy Johnson, daughter of JoAnn Williamson, had surgery. She will remain in the hospital for a week. **James Spivey** is home now recovering from heart surgery. Please No visitors. **Faye Hart** continues in-hospital therapy at Skyline after back surgery. **Jan Fulford**, condition has slightly improved. **Bill Johnson** will have pacemaker surgery at a later date. **Mae Oldham** is home and doing well. **Wilene Wingfield**, sister to Frances, Bernice, Jean, Mary Ann and Kenneth is now on hospice care. **Ty Tyler**, son of Ann Tyler is home doing some better. **Ron Kloes** step son of Sue Kloes has been diagnosed with stage 4 lung cancer. **Allen Plunk**, cousin of Donna Jennings, colon cancer that has spread to his liver. **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.



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; Ricky Cross**, friend of Betty Buttrey; **Ida Lou Sherrill**, mother of Alex Sherrill; **Will Flowers**, brother-in-law of Grace Bracey; **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.

SHUT-INS

Ilene Kinney; Jane Hughes, 126 Seabury Dr., Greenville, SC 29615; **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.....	95
Morning Worship.....	120
Sunday Evening.....	64
Wednesday Evening.....	54
Contributions.....	\$7,247.00
Youth Group Account.....	\$6,426.85

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



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 Web Site: www.nashvilleroad.org
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ANDREW SPIVEY, Pulpit and Family Minister
TIM STRICKLAND, Associate Minister