

A Genuine Miracle

Have you ever felt jealous of someone in the Bible? I don't know about you but sometimes I find myself wishing that I could be someone like Lazarus. Lazarus was brought back from the dead! Imagine how strong his faith must have been in God. Or someone like Shadrach. He and his two friends were thrown into a fire and not even burned. As a person who loves fire, I would love to have been one of them. Imagine the strength in their faith after coming out of that furnace. This past Wednesday night, we briefly mentioned the pro's and con's of living in the times of the Bible, and I would like for us to take a moment to dig deeper. Before that, I would like to take you back to the year 1942.

In 1942, there was a Dutch painter by the name of Han van Meegeren. He was not just a talented painter but a talented art forger. When Germany invaded the Netherlands, many officers of the Nazi party were trying to buy up great pieces of art for their collection, and van Meegeren saw this as a great opportunity to showcase his fakes. One of the paintings that he sold was to Herman Göring, one of the most powerful figures of the Nazi party. What he sold was a forgery of *Christ with the Adulteress* for 1.65 million guilders, that is almost 7 million dollars today. It was so accurate that Göring didn't even know it was a fake. Although van Meegeren was thrilled at how much he was able to get for one of his fake paintings, it would be short lived. After the war, the sale of the painting was traced back to van Meegeren and he was arrested for selling Dutch cultural property to the Nazis. The punishment for this act of treason was death and so van Meegeren decided to confess that the painting was a forgery. But what would convince the jury?

Now you may be asking, what does this story have to do with us wishing to see the miracles of the Bible? Because we can see quite the opposite problem that happen to Jesus in Matthew 12. Instead of a fake being confused with something genuine, Jesus' works and miracles were completely authentic, but people were struggling with believing it. In **Matthew 12:28**, Jesus says to the Pharisees, "But if it is by the Spirit of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you." He is basically telling them that God's kingdom is right in front of them, but the Pharisees see His miracles as counterfeit and His

teaching as false. They continually try to trap Him and their unbelief continues. Then in **Matthew 12:38**, the Pharisees say, "Teacher, we wish to see a sign from you." They demanded a sign from Jesus, but if you look back, they reject the signs He has already given. **Matthew 12:24** says, "But when the Pharisees heard it, they said, "It is only by Beelzebul, the prince of demons, that this man casts out demons." They say it is the power of Satan. What will it take to convince them?

When we look on in **Acts 2:22**, Peter preaches to those gathered, "Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves know". In this passage, God verifies the authority of the works of Jesus, and Jesus' miracles and resurrection expose the works of the Pharisees as a forgery. However, this still does not change the minds of the Pharisees. They continue to try to stop the spread of Christianity throughout.

There were many who witnessed the miracles of Jesus, but did that truly convince them? Many today struggle with this. They are waiting for a "sign" from God and when He truly does show up in their life, they overlook it as a bit of good luck. It reminds me of what Jesus said to the official at Capernaum in **John 4:48**, "Unless you see signs and wonders you will not believe."

In the end, our spiritual growth is not centered on the signs and miracles of Christ, just as they were not the center of His ministry on earth then. Instead we should be allowing His word and works to lead us back to Him. Jesus is asking us to put all of our trust and faith in Him regardless of seeing signs or miracles. After all, the greatest miracle of Christ is not how He was able to make the blind see, the lame walk, or even the dead rise up from their tomb. The greatest miracle of Jesus that through His death, we can have eternal life. As the Gospel of John closes in John 20:29-31 it says, "Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name."

It would be amazing to have witnessed the many miracles recorded in both the Old and New Testament,

but I am most grateful that we live in a time where we have the complete, authentic word of God. A word that is living and active (**Hebrews 4:12-13**). A word that brings forth everlasting life (**John 5:24**). A word that teaches us what we need to do in order to be saved (**1 Peter 3:21**). A word that never dies (**Matthew 24:35**). Are you following that word? It is not a forgery. It is genuine, authentic, and life changing. **Andrew Spivey**

BIBLE CHALLENGE

We want to encourage everyone to continue to do their daily Bible reading and send in how many chapters you read to the office for us to record for our daily updates. *Considering how fast we have exceeded our previous goals, let us make the next goal be 3,000! Chapters read to date: 2,735*

WHO SAID?

- "Give me wisdom and knowledge, that I may lead this people..." **2 Chronicles 1:10**
- "Am I a dog that you come at me with sticks?" **1 Samuel 17:43**
- "Whom are you pursuing? A dead dog? A flea?" **1 Samuel 24:14**
- "When will you end these speeches? Be sensible, and then we can talk." **Job 18:2**
- "You are a child of the devil; and an enemy of everything that is right." **Acts 13:10**
- "Don't be afraid, for I will surely show you kindness for the sake of your father Jonathan." **2 Samuel 9:7**
- "O Lord, my God, have you brought tragedy also upon this widow I am staying with by causing her son to die?" **1 Kings 17:20**
- "My father! My father! The chariots and horsemen of Israel." **2 Kings 2:12**
- "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise." **Revelation 5:12**
- "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I will depart." **Job 1:21**

With schools starting back, please keep the children, parents, teachers, and support staff of all schools in your prayers.

WORSHIP SERVICES

We have begun holding Sunday morning worship service. We have two Sunday morning services. If your last name begins with A-L, we ask that you come to the 9:00 am. service. For those whose last name begins with M-Z, we ask that you come to the 11:00 am service.

We have begun Wednesday Bible Study in the auditorium for all ages at 7:00 pm. No classes will be held anywhere else in the building.

We will still need to follow the new guidelines for social distancing and the wearing of masks.

ORDER OF SERVICES

SUNDAY

August 9, 2020

9:00 AM SERVICE

Welcome.....Jim Cherry
 Song Leader.....Ben Hutson
 Opening Prayer.....Carl Newby
 Sermon.....Andrew Spivey
 Lord's Supper.....David Johnson
 Closing Prayer.....Tony Butler

11:00 AM SERVICE

Welcome.....David Thompson
 Song Leader.....Ben Hutson
 Opening Prayer.....Adam Williamson
 Sermon.....Andrew Spivey
 Lord's Supper.....Tim Strickland
 Closing Prayer.....Jim Huffman

WEDNESDAY,

August 12, 7:00 P.M.

Welcome.....Jim Cherry
 Song Leader.....Ben Hutson
 Opening Prayer.....Jerry Watson
 Lesson.....Andrew Spivey
 Closing Prayer.....Bob Sever

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
 E-mail: nashvilleroadcoc@comcast.net

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SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sun. Morning Worship 9:00 a.m. & Sun. Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.
 Wed. Evening Bible Class 7:00 • Tues. Ladies Bible Class 10:00 a.m. September-May

SICK LIST

Faye Britt has been diagnosed with breast cancer. **Carol Kidd** began a new medication for a medical condition. **Jonathan Senn** is home recovering from foot surgery. **Gerald Miles** is now at the Waters in Gallatin for rehab. **Allyn Hosman** is home recovering from surgery and pneumonia. He is doing well. **Donna Jennings** has begun her radiation and chemo treatments. **Jim Sweeney** is home now on home health. **Robert Williamson** continues treatments for lung cancer. **Cora Mayes-Barron**, daughter of Barry & Rachel Mayes has been diagnosed with Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma. **Danny Lowe**, cousin of Linda Cherry has been diagnosed with cancer. **Jimmye Fleetwood** friend of Jim Huffman is having health issues and asking for prayers. **Annalee Burchett**, six yr old granddaughter of Jerry Burchett (the minister at Hartsville church of Christ), has been diagnosed with leukemia. **Austin Davidson**, brother of Montana Elliott, has been diagnosed with mycosis fungoides. **Beth Smith**, sister-in-law to Bernice, Frances, Jean & Mary Ann, is now taking immunotherapy. **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

Bob Harris; J.H & Frances Catron; Melba Hill; William Dunn; Jean Deaton; Ron & Anna Radish; Donna Holmes, daughter of Eva Petty; **Melvin Stephenson**, father of Eric Stephenson; **Wade & Wanda Kennedy**, parents of Diana Stephenson; **Bob Wall**, friend of Betty Johnson; **Ida Lou Sherrill**, mother of Alex Sherrill; **Will Flowers**, brother-in-law of Grace Bracey. **Dana Loveless**, friend of Jim & Linda Cherry; **Zachery Simmons**, grandson of Charles & Fay Simmons; **Elias Benjamin Simmons**, great grandson of Charles & Fay Simmons; **Jane Huffard**, friend of Carl & Pam Newby; **Lester Sparks**, father of Rachel Mayes; **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;

(cont)

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; **Jean Thurman**, mother-in-law of Myra Rasnick, Brookdale, Hendersonville.

OUR RECORD THIS WEEK

Bible Study.....	N/A
Morning Worship 9am.....	73
Morning Worship 11am.....	47
Wednesday Evening.....	45
Contributions.....	\$5,290.00
Youth Group Account.....	\$7,959.92

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