

WHO IS GREAT?

Aside from Jesus, who would you consider to be the greatest in the Bible? Maybe Enoch? **Genesis 5:24** says that, "Enoch walked with God, and he was not, for God took him." Imagine being such a good person that instead of dying, God just takes you. Well if that's the case then maybe Elijah. In **2 Kings 2** we read of Elijah being taken up by a whirlwind into heaven and there were chariots and horses of fire that came around that separated Elijah from Elisha. Imagine witnessing that moment! Maybe one of the greatest people for you would be Noah. After all, he was the only one who found favor in God's sight (**Genesis 6:8**). This list could continue with those who might be looked at as those who are great. You have Abraham, Joseph, Moses, Joshua, Caleb, Samuel, and let's not forget about David.

Of all these Biblical "greats", Jesus mentioned one in particular. In **Matthew 11:11**, He said, "Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist." Of all the people that Jesus could have named, He chose John the Baptist. What is it that makes him so great then? Have we overlooked the importance of this great man? In order for us to understand why there was no one greater than John, we only need to look at the beginning of his ministry.

John had an immediate and rapidly spreading impact from the start of his work. In the time of John and Jesus, it was common for religious leaders to wear special clothing to appear more holy as Jesus explained this in **Matthew 23:5**, "They do all their deeds to be seen by others. For they make their phylacteries broad and their fringes long." Not only that but Jesus also explained how they would pray in public. In **Matthew 6:5**, Jesus said, "And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward." Everything that these religious leaders would do, from their dress to their prayers, were done to give off the appearance of righteousness. Then you have John. Jesus asked the Jews of his day what did they see when they saw John in the wilderness. The Lord said he was not a man clothed in soft garments (**Matthew 11:8**), and in **Matthew 3:4**, it says, "Now John wore a

garment of camel's hair and a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey." He didn't look like any religious leaders of the day, yet this did not change the impact that he had.

In **Matthew 3:5-6**, it reads, "Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan were going out to him, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins." Of the crowds from Jerusalem and Judea, some thought he was Elijah, others thought that he was a prophet like Moses, some even thought he was the Messiah. However John denied all these claims (**John 1:20-21**). So if that is the case, then who was John and what made him so great? Well, for starters, both Malachi and Isaiah foretold his coming, and they described the work he would do that would make him so great. He was the forerunner of Christ (**Malachi 4:5-6, Isaiah 40:3-5**). It was John who paved the way for our savior to come! Jesus even said that John was "more than a prophet" in **Matthew 11:9**. What else made John so great? Well, almost every prophet and holy man of the old testament spoke about the coming of the Messiah in different ways, but John not only talked about Him. It was John who said He is here! In **John 1:29**, it says, "The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"

Why was John so great? Because he prepared the way for Christ! But did you know that aside from Jesus, there is someone who is greater than John who is living today? In **Matthew 11:11**, Jesus tells us, "Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he." That's right, we are considered even greater than John. John had the great privilege of preparing the way for Christ, but we have the even greater privilege of being in the kingdom that Christ established. We have the opportunity to be part of the kingdom through baptism. Jesus said in **John 3:5**, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God." Paul further explains in **Romans 6:4** that when we are baptized into Christ, "We were buried therefore with Him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life." And John the Baptist knew the power of the baptism of Christ as well. John said in **Matthew 3:11**, "I baptize you with water for repentance, but He who is coming after me is

mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire."

John truly was great, but we have the opportunity to be even greater. So, how great are you? Have you been baptized in Christ? Are you actively doing the will of our Heavenly Father (**Matthew 7:21**)? If you have not been baptized into Christ, if you are not following the word of God then I ask of you to heed the words of John, and "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." (**Matthew 3:2**) **Andrew Spivey**

COORDINATED BIBLE CLASS STUDIES
Sunday: Read **Genesis 44**
Wednesday: Read **Genesis 45**

FALL QUARTER BIBLE STUDY #5 
Since we are not having children's Bible classes at this time, we will be putting the scriptures for their lessons in the bulletin each week. There will be two scriptures each week, one for Sunday and one for Wednesday, for your family to study together. Then the next week we will include questions for review about the previous week scriptures.

- Questions for the Reading of week #4 -Genesis 42 & 43;**
- 1. Who did Joseph put in prison until his brothers brought Benjamin to Egypt?**
 - 2. Why do you think the brothers did not recognize Joseph?**
 - 3. What was in the brother's sacks when they got home?**
 - 4. Which two brothers said they would be responsible to bring Benjamin back home?**
 - 5. How were Joseph's brothers seated when they went to his house to eat?**

THANK YOU

To my Nashville Road Church Family,
Thank you for the many cards and prayers that were lifted up on my behalf. Your concern has been of much encouragement to me as I go through this difficult time. In Christian Love, **Grace Bracey**

Faith does not make things easy, it makes them possible.
For with God nothing shall be impossible.
Luke 1:37

ORDER OF SERVICES SUNDAY October 11, 2020 9:00 AM SERVICE

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

11:00 AM SERVICE

Welcome.....David Thompson
Song Leader.....Jonathan Senn
Opening Prayer.....Adam Williamson
Sermon.....Andrew Spivey
Lord's Supper.....Eric Stephenson
Closing Prayer.....Chuck Norton

5:00 P.M. SERVICE

Welcome.....David Thompson
Song Leader.....Jonathan Senn
Opening Prayer.....Bob Sever
Sermon.....Andrew Spivey
Lord's Supper.....Brent Smith
Closing Prayer.....Jim Huffman

WEDNESDAY, October 14, 7:00 P.M.

Welcome.....David Johnson
Song Leader.....Jonathan Senn
Opening Prayer.....Tim Strickland
Lesson.....Andrew Spivey
Closing Prayer.....Fate Evans

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

FACING TRIALS; ...you are lonely;

"I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you" (John 14:18,also: Psalm 9:10;68:5-6).

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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

Bob Harris has been placed on Hospice care. **Grace Bracey** is having significant health issues. **Diane Spitz** is recovering from a knee replacement. **Jo Ann Williamson** had a fall and broke her arm. She is home and doing well. **Faye Britt** continues recovering from surgery and is doing well. **Allyn Hosman** is home and doing well. **Donna Jennings** latest MRI shows no new growth of tumor. **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. She has finished her second round of chemo. **Danny Lowe**, cousin of Linda Cherry has been diagnosed with cancer. **Beth Smith**, wife of Kenneth Smith and sister-in-law to Bernice, Frances, Jean & Mary Ann, has been placed on Hospice Care. **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; **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; **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.....	61
Morning Worship 11am.....	60
Sunday Evening.....	45
Wednesday Evening.....	45
Contributions.....	\$11,071.00
Youth Group Account.....	\$9,264.61

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