

December 1, 2022

GOD IS LOVE

Francois Fenelon was the court preacher for King Louis XIV of France in the 17th century. One Sunday when the king and his attendants arrived at the chapel for the regular service, no one else was there but the preacher. King Louis demanded, "What does this mean?" Fenelon replied, "I had published that you would not come to church today, in order that your Majesty might see who serves God in truth and who flatters the king."

One of the biggest reasons that many turn from God has nothing to do with God but everything to do with those who call themselves Christians. Because Christians have been hypocritical, unloving, divisive, and abusive at times, there are some who have walked away thinking that if this is what Christians are like, they want no part of them. Our common response to this may be something like "Faith should reside in God and not people" or "turning from God just because of people is not how to respond." While this is correct, it is also important to look at what Jesus said about His disciples and their relation as to how the world perceives Christians. In **John 13:34-35**, Jesus says "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." Also, in **John 17:20-21** we see Jesus in a prayer say "I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me."

In these passages, Jesus implies that the world sits in some form of judgment on whether disciples reflect their Lord. If they see a lack of love, they may conclude that we are not really disciples of Jesus. Also, who would want to be around someone who lacks love and calls themselves something they are not? If we cause division and fail to reflect the unity which Jesus calls for us to have, the world may also come to the conclusion that Jesus is some sort of sham. Do we think about that when we are fighting and fussing with each other?

We have a great responsibility as citizens of heaven after all. In **Philippians 1:27**, Paul says, "Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel."

If we know that our actions demonstrate that we are not serious about our calling and that our divisions might turn people from Christ, then we need to think deeply about how we interact with both the world and one another.

Just because some others have overcome the problem of people and have stayed true and faithful to God does not give us the excuse to misbehave, because the next person we influence we might cause to stumble. If our actions contribute to this issue, then we will be called to account. Jesus said in **Matthew 18:6**, "but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea." If people are going to be offended and put off, then let it be by the gospel itself and not because of unrighteous behavior.

In the end, it is easy for us to simply be mean towards one another and towards other people in general. People are mean and they always have been, and I am not just talking about people of the world either. People are stubborn, selfish, oppressive, greedy, and the list goes on and on. You know, the world would be a great place if it weren't for people. And, as I have heard it said before, the church would be a great place if it were not for people. And, unfortunately I am one of those people as well. It is easy for us to sit back and point fingers at others and how bad they are, but in truth I am one as well. Which leads me to ask a further question. Why is God so kind to bad people? Why does God provide grace, mercy, and even salvation for people like me and people who have been stubborn, selfish, and plain old mean? Why would He send Jesus to die for us knowing that we would continue to rebel? Why does God have to be so good?

Well...it is because of God's actions towards us that should bring our attention on Him. How can I reject the One who showed me such mercy when I, in no way, deserved it or expected it? The problem of people is real, but the bigger question is how God can continue to be gracious to any of us? That is what should cause us to change. That is what should make us want to serve Him. That should cause us to want to express utter joy and kindness to all. Because over all, God is love.
Andrew Spivey

COORDINATED BIBLE CLASS STUDIES

Sunday Read – Hebrews 3-4
Wednesday Read – Hebrews 5-6

BIBLE STUDY

Questions for last week's reading of;

Deuteronomy 29-34 & Hebrews 1-2 .

1. Why did God command the Israelites to read the law every 7 years?
2. Why can't we find where Moses was buried?
3. How did God testify about Jesus?
4. How was Jesus made a little lower than the angels?
5. Why did Jesus need to die and from what did Jesus' death free us?

LADS TO LEADERS

Lads to Leaders convention is at the Opryland Hotel on **April 6 - 9, 2023**. If you or your student are interested in participating in the Lads to Leaders program, please see **Garrett Rowlett, Andrew Spivey or Tim Strickland** before **February 5th** to participate in the 2023 convention.

PARENT'S DAY OUT/ COOKIES WITH SANTA

Mark your calendar for Parent's Day Out and Cookies with Santa on **Saturday, December 17th** from **1:00pm.-3:00pm.** This will allow the parents a time to shop child-free for a few hours.

**EVERY WORD OF GOD IS PURE:
HE IS A SHIELD UNTO THEM
THAT PUT THEIR TRUST IN
HIM.
PROVERBS 30:5**

ORDER OF SERVICES

SUNDAY

December 4, 2022

9:00 AM

BIBLE STUDY

(Classes for Nursery – High School upstairs)

Song.....Carl Newby
Opening Prayer.....David Thompson
Auditorium Lesson.....Andrew Spivey

10:00 AM SERVICE

Welcome.....Rick Gallagher
Song Leader.....Carl Newby
Opening Prayer.....Eric Stephenson
Sermon.....Andrew Spivey
Lord's Supper.....Tony Butler
Closing Prayer.....Brent Smith

5:00 PM SERVICE

Welcome.....Rick Gallagher
Song Leader.....Carl Newby
Opening Prayer.....Adam Williamson
Sermon.....Andrew Spivey
Lord's Supper.....Tim Cummins
Closing Prayer.....Ken Veale

WEDNESDAY

December 7, 2022

7:00 PM

Welcome.....Rick Gallagher
Song Leader.....Carl Newby
Opening Prayer.....Charlie Seals
Lesson.....Andrew Spivey
Closing Prayer.....Jim Huffman

Visitor's Desk Volunteer.....Linda Cherry

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

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

Mary Ann Reinhart has been diagnosed with cancer. She will begin radiation & chemo next week. Andy Boner will have knee surgery on Dec. 15th. Mike Martin, friend of the Jennings & Cato families, is in CCU at Vanderbilt after a fall and head injury. Rob Spivey, son of Keith & Lisha Spivey, is recovering from a broken leg. Paul Norman, nephew of Carolyn Vester and cousin to Valarie Senn & Wanda Sherrill, has been diagnosed with stage 4 colon cancer. Ty Tyler, son of Ann Tyler, is home now. Becky Mears, friend of Bob & Tarina Brown had a bone marrow transplant and is doing well. Rachel Goode, friend of Carl & Pam Newby is recovering at home from surgery she had on November 7th and is doing well. April Cothran, a good friend of Celena Marshall has been diagnosed with stage 4 adenocarcinoma of the pancreas. She is taking chemo treatments. Bryan Grissom, cousin to Joyce Clark & Robbie Glover, has been diagnosed with cancer. Vycki Puckett, daughter of Jack & Anita Cato has recovered from hip surgery but continues with health issues. Craig Sweeney, son of Doris Sweeney, continues treatment.



PRAYER LIST

Shelby Ross; Sandi Jones; Maxine Cothron; Gerald Miles, The Waters of Gallatin, 555 E. Bledsoe Drive, Room 305; Frances Catron; Jean Deaton; Charlie Cliburn; Larry Bailey son of Tina Bailey; Ricky Cantrell; Wade & Wanda Kennedy parents of Diana Stephenson; Ricky Cross, friend of Betty Buttrey; Ida Lou Sherrill, mother of Alex Sherrill; 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; John Gregory, brother of Bob Gregory; 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

Marilee Frederick, Gallatin Rehab, Room 220; Joyce Savage, NHC Place Sumner, room 322; Jane Hughes, 126 Seabury Dr., Greenville, SC 29615; Melba Hill; 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.....	85
Morning Worship.....	122
Sunday Evening.....	73
Wednesday Evening.....	62
Contribution.....	\$4,835.00
Youth Group Account.....	\$6,602.00

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

Deacons

Carl Newby	Jonathan Senn	Brent Smith
Eric Stephenson	Ken Veale	Adam Williamson



Nashville Road CHURCH OF CHRIST

1883 Nashville Road
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Email: nashvilleroadcoc@comcast.net

ANDREW SPIVEY, Pulpit and Family Minister
 TIM STRICKLAND, Associate Minister
 GARRETT ROWLETT, Youth Minister