

A WALL OF PRIDE

One of the greatest examples of mankind's strength and perseverance would have to be the Great Wall of China. It's the longest structure ever built entirely by hand, winding for nearly four thousand miles and can even be seen from space. Think of all the work put into building the wall and the time it took to complete. It was started almost 400 years before Jesus was born and was built on for the next 2000 years. It was built to keep invading countries from attacking the Chinese nation and to this day is a great source of pride to them. Tourists from all over the world come to see the wall, and historians and scientist love to study the pride of China.

Through those studies however, historians have unearthed some potential draw backs to the great wall. Although the wall did a great job of protecting China from invaders, it also hindered China's progress. Many of the discoveries that were benefiting and advancing nations in much of Europe and Asia never reached China because the wall kept people out. **Proverbs 16:18** says, "Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall." I find it interesting that China has so much pride in the Great Wall, when it did exactly to the nation what pride does in our lives.

When we live our lives in selfish pride, we feel as though it keeps us safe. It protects us, much like that wall, so we continue to build it. That pride makes us look better to those around us, but it also prevents God from truly working in our lives. **James 4:6-8** says, "But He gives more grace. Therefore it says, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded." That pride makes it harder for God, and other people, to help. Think of what all China missed out on because they had walls up. It basically kept the entire nation stuck in the past. Now think about times you have seen or maybe even experienced being stuck in life but because of self pride, no advice was taken and the situation only got worse. But there is some good news. **Proverbs 11:2** says, "When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with the humble is wisdom."

Pride can hurt you and those around you, it can make you stuck and tear you down, but humility does the opposite. Humility opens the windows of blessings in your life. It makes it easier for you to see God actively working in your life. It also makes it easier for other people to want to be around you and help in times of need. As **James 4:10** says, "Humble yourselves before the Lord, and He will exalt you." Much too often we are afraid to humble ourselves before others and before God because we feel that it will make us seem weak or inferior. However, the effect is quite the opposite. William Temple, a bishop in the 1920s, once said "Humility does not mean thinking less of yourself than of other people, nor does it mean having a low opinion of your own gifts. It means freedom from thinking about yourself one way or the other at all." I feel this is how we need to look at humility in our lives. It doesn't mean that we have to think less of ourselves, but it does mean that we need to stop building walls and start building doors. Don't let pride wall you in. Instead, humble yourself before God. Submit to Him and He will make straight your paths. **Andrew Spivey**

TWELVE GIVERS OF THE BIBLE

1. **The Willing Giver**, Abraham, who offered his only son. (Genesis 22:1-19)
2. **The Big Little Giver**, the widow, who in giving two mites, gave all she had. (Mark 12:42-44)
3. **The Stingy Giver**, Saul, who wanted to offer the spoils of the Amalekites. (1 Samuel 14:17-23)
4. **The Sacrificial Giver**, David, who refused to give that which cost him nothing. (2 Samuel 24:24)
5. **The Covetous Givers**, Ananias and Sapphira, who held back part pretending to give all. (Acts 5:1-10)
6. **The Consecrated Givers**, The Macedonians, who first gave of themselves to the Lord. (2 Cor. 8:1-5)
7. **The Life Givers**, Peter and John, who had neither silver or gold, but gave their lives. (Acts 3:1-5)
8. **The Voluntary Giver**, Zaccheus, who gave half of his goods to feed the poor without being asked. (Luke 19:1-9)
9. **The Reward Givers**, those who gave to be seen of men. They had their only reward. (Matthew 6:2)
10. **The Unpretentious Giver**, the Samaritan, who made no show. (Luke 10:25-37)
11. **The Perfumed Givers**, the Philippians, whose gifts were " an odor of sweet smell". (Phil. 4:17-18)
12. **The Greatest Giver**, God, who gave His only Son for you and me. (John 3:16)

COORDINATED BIBLE CLASS STUDIES

Sunday: John 2

Wed.: John 3; Luke 3:19-20

BIBLE STUDY

Questions for the Reading of last week; Matthew 3; Matthew 4:1-11; John 1:29-51.

1. What kind of clothing did John the Baptist wear and what kind of food did he eat?
2. Why was Jesus baptized? What did God say?
3. What were the three temptations the devil tempted Jesus with and what were the scriptures Jesus used to answer him?
4. Name Jesus first four disciples.
5. What name did Jesus give Peter and what does it mean?

REMINDER

If there is a time that services will be cancelled, due to the virus or weather conditions this winter, you should receive a call from the Calling Post service to alert you to the closure. Please make a note of the phone number so you will know that the call is an announcement from the church. Calling Post's number is (405) 308-4474 and is from Oklahoma. Also, a newsletter may be sent if there is enough time to get it out and you may check the Facebook page at:

<https://www.facebook.com/nashvilleroadchurchofchrist>

SYMPATHY

Our Love and Sympathy to the family of **Beth Smith** who passed away on December 10th. Please keep her husband **Kenneth** and her mother **Jean West** in your prayers. Funeral was held in Gallatin.

Our Love and Sympathy to **David Thompson** on the passing of his brother **Terry Thompson** on December 10th. Funeral services were held Tuesday in Kentucky.

**The Church office will be closed on
December 24th - 25th
for the holidays.**

**BEST WISHES FOR A HAPPY
HOLIDAY SEASON!**



WORSHIP SERVICES

**All services at Nashville Road
have been suspended until
further notice. The Elders**

Because of the surge in the recent COVID-19 cases in the community and members, the elders at Nashville Road have decided to cancel in-person services until further notice. However, you will still be able to watch our services streaming live on the Nashville Road Church of Christ Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/nashvilleroadchurchofchrist> at 11:00 a.m. each Sunday. If you or anyone you know have needs during these troublesome times, be sure to notify us at 615-452-3431.

During this medical crisis, our financial obligations to mission work and etc... continues. Please consider mailing your contribution check to the church office at: 1883 Nashville Pike Gallatin TN 37066. Thank you. The Elders

**Members of Nashville Road,
we have individual communion
available. Please call the office
or Tim Strickland,
615-336-6039.**

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sun. Morning Worship 9:00 a.m. & Sunday Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.
 Sun. Evening Worship 5:00 p.m.

SICK LIST

Martin & Pauletta Hood have been diagnosed with Covid. Martin is in ICU with covid and pneumonia. **David & Sylvia Williams** continue recovering from covid. **Gerald Miles** is now at the Waters, Room 214. **Grace Bracey** is having significant health issues. **Christy McManus** daughter of Tina Bailey, continues recovering from covid. **Steven Burgess**, step-son of Pauletta Hood, is recovering from injuries from a car accident. **Cora Mayes-Barron**, daughter of Barry & Rachel Mayes has been diagnosed with Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma. She has finished her second round of chemo. **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

Jim Sweeney; Jan Fulford; J.H & Frances Catron; Melba Hill; William Dunn; Jean Deaton; Ron & Anna Radish; Phil Johnston father-in-law of Josh Johnson; **Delores Cushler**, 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; **Zachery Simmons**, grandson of Charles & Fay Simmons; **Elias Benjamin Simmons**, great grandson of Charles & Fay Simmons; **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; **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;

(cont.)

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.....	N/A
Morning Worship 11am.....	N/A
Sunday Evening.....	N/A
Wednesday Evening	N/A
Contribution.....	3,859.00
Youth Group Account.....	8,724.13

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

Deacon

Carl Newby Brent Smith
 Ken Veale Adam Williamson

