

December 23, 2020

## THE GREATEST GIFT

With Christmas here, it is time for one of my favorite moments of the holiday's. The shaking of the gifts. Now maybe this isn't something you would consider a tradition in your household, but for me, it just isn't Christmas if I don't guess what kind of gift is in the box before opening it. Taylor, my wife, even has it down to an art form. She can shake a box three times and say exactly what you got her. Because of her fantastic ability, I have had to learn to be a little more crafty when it comes to wrapping presents. I try to use odd shaped boxes or maybe add some extra weight or tissue paper to make sure nothing can slide around. Why? Because I love the shock of when she opens her gift and had no idea what it was.

Gifts are funny that way. Sometimes some of the biggest gifts you get can come in the most ordinary of packages. The greatest gift this world has ever known came and lived in a similar way. This gift was foretold of and how the world would end up treating it in **Isaiah 53:2-3**. It reads, "For He grew up before Him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; He had no form or majesty that we should look at Him, and no beauty that we should desire Him. He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces He was despised, and we esteemed Him not." There was nothing about Jesus that made Him seem special. As far as society was concerned, He was an ordinary man. His birth was quite ordinary as well. Being born as the son of God, one would assume that there would be something grand, but instead of being born in some palace and placed in a fine bed, He was born in the peasant town of Bethlehem and placed in a manger. Instead of being born with great looks and appearances to attract people, He was very common in dress and appearance, as seen in Isaiah. But why? Why wasn't Jesus born in a palace with riches and looks? Because His kingdom is not of this world, and the message He came to bring should attract people to Him. The message of salvation!

When it comes to the gift of salvation to the world, many still had a hard time understanding it. As a child, Jesus even had to flee to Egypt because Herod was killing young boys after hearing a king was born (**Matthew 2:16-18**). The High Priests and Pharisees thought Jesus was trying to overthrow them and they began to fear the crowds so they planned to have Him killed (**Luke 20:19**). Even when Jesus explained this to His apostles, they didn't understand. The apostles struggled with Jesus foretelling His own death. How was Jesus going to establish a new kingdom if He was dead? How would He protect the apostles if the priest take Him away and have Him executed? In **Matthew 16:21-23** we see one such moment. It says, "From that time Jesus began to show His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes,

and be killed, and on the third day be raised. And Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, "Far be it from you, Lord! This shall never happen to you." But He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind Me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man."

Even those who were putting Jesus on trial did not understand Him. When Pilate was questioning Jesus and asked Him if He was the King of the Jews, Jesus responds with this in **John 18:36**, "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But My kingdom is not from the world." When Jesus is being crucified, there were some who still didn't understand what a gift He was. When Jesus cried out "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani," some of the bystanders thought that He was calling on Elijah to save Him when He was actually quoting **Psalms 22 (Matthew 27:45-50)**. But no one could deny who Jesus was at His death. **Matthew 27:51-54** says, "And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And the earth shook, and the rocks were split. The tombs also were opened. And many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised, and coming out of the tombs after His resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many. When the centurion and those who were with Him, keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were filled with awe and said, Truly this was the Son of God!"

I am amazed how such a great gift can come in what seemed like such a simple package, but I am even more amazed that such a precious gift was given to me. **Ephesians 2:8-9** says, "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast." The greatest gift that any of us could receive is the gift that Jesus purchased with His own blood. The gift of salvation. Have you opened that gift yet? Have you turned away from the sin in your life to be set free? There is only one avenue to do so. **Romans 6:3-4** says, "Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? 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."

As you go through this Christmas season, while you open gifts, or maybe try to guess a few yourself, just remember that there is no guess as to what our greatest gift is and we know exactly who to praise. (**Hebrews 13:15**).

Andrew Spivey

## CHURCH OFFICE

The church office will be closed on **Dec. 31<sup>st</sup> - January 1<sup>st</sup> 2021**. for the holidays.

## COORDINATED BIBLE CLASS STUDIES

Sunday Read – John 4

Wednesday Read – Luke 4:16-30; Luke 5: 1-11

## BIBLE STUDY



Questions for the Reading of last week; John 2; John 3; Luke 3:19-20.

1. What was Jesus' first miracle?
2. What did Jesus do when He saw people selling animals in the temple?
3. What was Jesus talking about when He said "destroy this temple and in 3 days I will raise it up?"
4. What did Jesus mean when He told Nicodemus that a man must be born again in order to see the kingdom of God?
5. How did Herod punish John the Baptist when John told Herod to stop sinning?

## 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 **Martin Hood** who passed away Sunday, December 20th. Please keep in your prayers his wife, **Pauletta Hood**, and his mother-in-law, **Marilee Frederick**. No services will be held.

Our Love and Sympathy to the family of **Dawn Anderson**, a former member, who passed away on Saturday, December 19<sup>th</sup>. Graveside services were held Tuesday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> in Bethpage.

Our Love and Sympathy to **Myrlen & Faye Britt** on the passing of Faye's sister, **Darlene Chrisco**. Darlene lived in Arkansas.

## BAPTIZED

**Tammy Johnson** daughter of Robert & JoAnn Williamson, was baptized on Tuesday, December 22. May we rejoice in her decision to follow Christ.

## 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.**

Nashville Road Church of Christ  
 1883 Nashville Pike  
 Gallatin, TN 37066  
 Web Site: [nashvilleroad.org](http://nashvilleroad.org)  
 E-mail: [nashvilleroadcoc@comcast.net](mailto:nashvilleroadcoc@comcast.net)

## SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sun. Morning Worship 9:00 a.m. & Sun. Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.  
 Wed. Evening Bible Class 7:00

### SICK LIST

**Pauletta Hood** has been diagnosed with covid. **Marilee Frederick** is in Hendersonville Hospital. **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

**Gerald Miles**, The Waters of Gallatin, 555 E. Bledsoe Drive, Room 214; **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; **Ricky Cross**, 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
Contributions.....	\$8,365.00
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

### 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](http://www.nashvilleroad.org)

Email: [nashvilleroadcoc@comcast.net](mailto:nashvilleroadcoc@comcast.net)

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