



Hoover Church of Christ

"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Matthew 6:21

January 23, 2022

Hypocrites

If there's anyone who's universally despised, it's a hypocrite.

The story's all too common. The preacher walks slowly to the front and faces the church with his head bowed. His voice is quivering and his hands are shaking and his heart is racing as he tells the story that by now has already made the church-gossip rounds. He dodges the most scandalous words, but everybody knows what he's saying. *He made some mistakes. He let everyone down. He broke his vows. He begs for forgiveness.*

He shuffles to the back of the church, the elders make a short statement, there's a lot of hugging and crying, and then the talking really starts.

How could he? He was my preacher. He baptized my kids. I shared some of my struggles with him.

After people calm down and the shock wears off, they ask good questions. The most important, I think, are these: *How? How did our preacher, a minister of the gospel, a man of God, a lover of Jesus, let this happen?*

Those are questions that I've asked many times, especially after it happens to a friend, someone I ate lunch with, laughed with, prayed with, talked about ministry with.

But this article isn't about preachers, really. It's about all of us. It's about the temptation we face to put more emphasis on the outer us than the inner us.

I'm more interested in how it happens to us, us Christians, us "normal," just-trying-to-get-by Jesus-followers.

And by "it" I don't mean an affair, but rather the duplicity, the two-facedness, the difference between the me who goes to church and the me who goes home, to school, and to work.

We all do it, don't we? Is there anyone out there who hasn't had a family fuss on the way to church and then greeted everyone in the building with the I-love-Jesus-so-much smile? Truth is, there's a little hypocrite in all of us.

But the call to follow Jesus is a call to think a whole lot less about what people think of us and a whole lot more about what God's doing in us, to us, and for us. Even when Jesus told us to let our lights shine and our saltiness taste, he wasn't encouraging us to think mostly about creating good will in the people around us. He was reminding us that when we give him our hearts it'll show through.

He was concerned more about the heart than he was the hands, because he knows if he gets the heart he'll get the hands. Remember his scathing rebuke of the Pharisees? *You're all spit, polish, and shine on the outside, but you're filthy inside. You're like a marble tombstone whose beauty and elegance keep us from thinking about what's in the ground below.*

Those words ought to hit pretty close to home because it's easy to think that the person everyone thinks we are is the person we really are . . . and that's simply not true.

At some point the vow-breaking preacher forgot to protect his heart, and he did something he'd promised himself he'd never do. Somehow, once he started down that path, he was able to compartmentalize his life—preach the life-giving gospel on Sunday and deny its truth on Monday.

But as easy as it is to demonize him—and we shouldn't excuse him—pointing out hypocrisy in others might be an easy way to avoid the tendencies in ourselves.

None of us—no matter who we are—can neglect our hearts without the inevitable consequences. Spit-shining our boots does little good anyway, but letting God clean our hearts changes everything. So that's where we must focus. Ask God to change us on the inside and the outside will take care of itself.

—Chuck

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Schedule of Services

Sunday

9:00 a.m. Bible Class
10:00 a.m. Worship
5:00 p.m. Worship

Wednesday

7:00 p.m. Bible Class

ELDERS

Carl Logan 979-9874
Jimmy Lyles 616-1109
Paul Williams, Jr. 408-7234
Harold Rhodes 876-9296

MINISTER

Chuck Webster

(205) 586-5610 (cell)
cwebster@hoovercoc.org

ASSOCIATE MINISTER

Kyle Wadley

(205) 792-5922 (cell)
kwadley@hoovercoc.org

YOUTH & FAMILY

MINISTER

Darrell Powell

(205) 480-9773 (cell)
dpowell@hoovercoc.org

Worship Assignments Sunday

Elder to Contact in January for Needs:
Carl Logan

- **Call to Worship:** Chuck Webster
- **Scripture Reading:** Paul Kirby
- **Singing:** Kyle Wadley
- **Opening Prayer:**
Donnie Winningham
- **Sermon:** Chuck Webster
- **Communion:** Clint Richey
- **Announcements:** Harold Rhodes
- **Closing Prayer:** Walden Schlundt
- **Audio/Cameras:** Rick Williams
Alternate: Grant Dalton
- **Video:** Will Spurlin
- **Security:** Steven Gaither
Alternate: Mike Clelland

Bible Reading Plan for January 23-30

- **Sunday, January 23:** Exodus 16-18
- **Monday, January 24:** Exodus 19-21
- **Tuesday, January 25:** Exodus 22-24
- **Wednesday, January 26:**
Exodus 25-27
- **Thursday, January 27:**
Exodus 28-29
- **Friday, January 28:** Exodus 30-32
- **Saturday, January 29:** Exodus 33-35
- **Sunday, January 30:** Exodus 36-38



Today

Visitors, welcome to our worship service this morning—we're thankful for your presence. Please fill out a visitor's sheet that is located in the pew. We would like to know where you are visiting from.

Worship service for the **AHEPA 3 Senior Apartments** has been canceled until further notice.

Please send ALL facility concerns to **Drew Spivey and/or Marc Handley** by sending an email to facilities@hoovercoc.org which will reach both of them.

Family News and Events

The Food Pantry will reopen on Sunday, January 30, from 3:00-4:30pm, and the food item that is needed this month is **Peanut Butter**.

Youth

Lads to Leaders will meet today for a workshop—all sessions will meet in the library.

The schedule is below:

- ◇ **1:30-2:00pm:** Speech
- ◇ **2:00-2:30pm:** Song Leading and Songs of Praise
- ◇ **2:30-3:15pm:** Bible Bowl
- ◇ **3:15-4:00pm:** Puppets

New Year Bible Verse #4

Lamentations 3:22-23: "Certainly the faithful love of the Lord hasn't ended; certainly God's compassion isn't through! They are renewed every morning. Great is your faithfulness."

The Good News: God's love towards us is as certain as the arrival of a new day, and because He is unwavering even in the face of change, we can always rely on His mercy.

—Jackie Frere and Corinne Sullivan,
Woman's Day

Happy Anniversary

John & Karen Bowers January 24

Happy Birthday

Susan Pope	January 24
Brielle Johnson	January 25
Alyssa Long	January 25
Caroline Handley	January 26
Tiffany Roberts	January 27

Carelines

We extend our condolences to **Sherry Stevens and her family** upon the death of her husband, **Rick Stevens**. Rick and Sherry have been faithful members of Hoover for many years. Please pray for the family as they mourn their loss.

Susan Pope had surgery at Grandview Medical Center on Friday. Please pray for a successful recovery.

Sarah Washington is recovering from another procedure. She is doing well but is in a lot of pain.

Jamie Starns donated a kidney to her cousin—the surgery went well for both her and her cousin. Please continue to pray for their wellbeing and that there will be no complications.

Please continue to pray for the McKeown family as they mourn the loss of their mother, grandmother, and Lynn's wife (Jason's dad).

Joyce Baker, one of our shut-ins, had another test and will have surgery at the end of this month or sometime in February.

Edward Curry will be having knee replacement surgery on Monday, February 21. Please remember him in your prayers as he prepares for this surgery.

Austin Wentz, 14-year-old grandson of John and Wilda Gardner (friends of the Rayburns), is still at St. Jude and is being treated for lymphoma. He is going through a rough time and is extremely sick.

(Carelines cont.)

Tony Cutler, Kayla Reaves' uncle, is recovering from surgery due to a heart attack.

Caroline McNeill, Tom and Giana Kidwell's sister-in-law's sister, has esophageal cancer and will have surgery soon.

Kevin and Chris Bryant, Suzanne Clelland's best friend's sister and husband, have COVID.

Hadley Nelson, six-year-old daughter of a patient of Joel Abbott, had a liver transplant and was discharged from the hospital on December 23. Please continue to pray for this little girl's recovery.

Linda Ross, a friend of Suzanne Clelland, is suffering with sepsis.

Shirley Vines, a former member of Hoover, has been released from the hospital and is recovering at home.

Corey Burke, Ashton Henry's cousin's husband, is recovering from surgery for abdominal cancer.

Doyal Newsom has requested prayers for **her daughter** who is ill with COVID.

Remember our shut-ins: Lynne Nichols, Nancy Williams, and Joyce Baker.

Remember our church family: Matt Trousdale, Linda Crow, Glenn Till, Jr., Jeanne Anderson, Monica Robinson, Sheryl Jackson, Gail Powell, Dick Smith, and Mollye Melton.

Remember our families and friends: Doug Abbott (Joel Abbott's dad), Patrick Nichols (Lynne Nichols' son), Anita Wadley (Kyle Wadley's mom), Charlie Davis (Leah Covington's dad), Sam Cunningham (Janie Gaither's co-worker's nephew), Dean Kendrick (Markie Jones' grandmother), Natalie Smart (Joel Abbott's medical assistant), Carlotta Stevens (Tom and Giana Kidwell's longtime friend), and Chris Hethcox (Markie Jones' dad).

Why Does the Church of Christ Put So Much Emphasis on "Christ"

A key New Testament passage is Matthew 16:16-18. "Simon Peter answered and said, 'You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.' Jesus answered and said to him, 'Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.'"

Christ is the Foundation

He said, "On this rock I will build My church" (Matthew 16:18). Christ is the rock and the rejected cornerstone (Ephesians 2:20).

Christ is the Builder

He said, "On this rock, I will build My church" (Matthew 16:18). Religions invented by people are worthless (Psalm 127:1). Churches of people will be rooted up, according to the Lord (Matthew 15:13).

Bought by Christ

He said, "On this rock, I will build My church" (Matthew 16:18). Christ purchased it with His own blood (Acts 20:28). We are redeemed by His blood (Ephesians 1:7; Colossians 1:13-14; Romans 5:8-9). Jesus gave Himself for the church (Acts 20:28; Ephesians 5:25-26).

Wears His Name

A bride typically wears the name of her husband; the church is Christ's bride (2 Corinthians 11:2; John 3:29; Ephesians 5:27; Isaiah 56:5; 62:2). Paul said, "The churches of Christ greet you" (Romans 16:16). Its members wear his name—Christian (Acts 11:26; 6:28; 1 Peter 4:16). Wearing His name gives honor to Christ (Colossians 3:17). Salvation is found in no other names (Acts 4:12).

Preaches the Gospel of Christ

Only His truth can make one free (John 8:32). The gospel is truth; it has the power to save lost souls (Romans 1:16). Preaching saves (1 Corinthians 1:18-21).

Worships According to Christ's Teachings

True worship is in spirit and truth (John 4:24) which means according to the pattern of the New Testament of Christ. That pattern authorizes singing, giving, communion, prayer, and teaching (Ephesians 5:19; 1 Corinthians 11:23-28; 16:1-2; Acts 2:42).

Conclusion

How could we fail to emphasize Christ? Let all emphasize only Christ and His church. Let all submit to only that which is commanded by Christ (Philippians 2:10).

**Attendance and Offering
January 16, 2022****Attendance:**

Bible Study: 91

AM Worship: 187

PM Worship: 84

Wednesday: 115

Contribution: \$12,729.75

Weekly Budget: \$15,050.00

Weekly Average: \$19,689.60

Contribution to Date: \$59,068.80

Hoover Supported Works

- *Childhaven, Cullman, AL*
- *Rainbow Omega, Eastaboga, AL*
- *Churches of Christ Disaster Relief*
- *George Funk, Gospel Chariot Missions, South Africa*
- *Cy Walker, Guyana*
- *Clothing Closet*
- *Food Pantry*
- *Guyana*
- *Tanzania*
- *Philippines*

Mission Trips

- *Guyana*
- *Tanzania*
- *Philippines*
- *Peru*

Oversight

- *Christ Happy Childhaven, Philippines*
- *Tanzania Missions*

Job 29:12-13

"Because I rescued the poor who cried for help, and the fatherless who had none to assist them. The one who was dying blessed me; I made the widow's heart sing."

<p style="text-align: center;">Take my yoke (Matthew 11:28-30)</p> <hr/> <p>You who _____</p> <p>I _____</p> <p>The _____ and the _____</p> <p>The importance of creating and following a _____</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">GriefShare Ministry</p> <p>So many people within our church family have experienced significant losses in their lives, so we're thankful to be able to offer a GriefShare Ministry beginning February 6. This will be a learning, sharing, and supportive small group ministry that will be open to members of our congregation. It will be organized around a thirteen-week schedule where participants meet together for around two hours each week and watch professionally-designed videos featuring encouragement from professional grief counselors and also sharing from people who are grieving. These presentations are coupled with discussions that are designed to internalize what participants learn in the videos. If you think this ministry might help you process your loss, please reach out to Harold Rhodes, Kyle Wadley, or Chuck Webster for more information, or you can visit https://www.griefshare.org/. The group will meet for the first time on Sunday, February 6, from 2:00-4:00, and will continue weekly through Sunday, May 1, at the same time each week. After a short break, a new thirteen-week program will begin. Please let us know if you have any questions.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Sunday Evenings</p> <p>In addition to our classes and worship on Sunday mornings and classes on Wednesday evenings, we're looking forward to providing many opportunities on Sunday evenings over the course of 2022. Here's what we have planned:</p> <p>First Sunday of each month: Faith in Action (opportunity to serve our community in some way; Bible study in the church auditorium will also be provided)</p> <p>Second Sunday: Pray and sing and read Scripture together in the auditorium</p> <p>Third Sunday: Sing and study Scripture in the auditorium</p> <p>Fourth Sunday: Spend time at home with friends and/or family (worship opportunity provided in the auditorium as well)</p> <p>Fifth Sunday: Sing together in the auditorium</p>
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Postage