

January 5, 2020

Real religion

One of the scariest things about faith for me is the incredible ability most of us have to deceive ourselves.

Occasionally I've been appalled at the behavior of someone who called himself a Christian and wondered how he could ever reconcile his behavior with his claim to follow Jesus. *"What a hypocrite!"*, I've self-righteously mumbled.

Then it hits me: Where are my blind spots? What sins am I committing but ignoring, or perhaps justifying? Maybe I don't do what he did, but are mine any less serious?

James helps by pointing out one very real possibility.

Before we read it, answer a quick question: What's the first thing you think about if you hear someone is religious?

For many of us it's church attendance.

"Is he religious?" "Absolutely—he goes to church all the time."

Or maybe it's avoiding a certain sin.

"Is she religious?" "Yep—she never drinks a drop [or she's saving herself for marriage or . . .]."

It's interesting the one James picked (and didn't pick).

If anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart, this person's religion is worthless (James 1:26).

Never one to mince words, James comes right out and says it: If your religion hasn't changed the way you talk, you're a liar whose faith is useless.

Ouch.

But Lord, I'm at church every time they open the doors.

But God, I've never committed _____ (put one of those "bad" sins in the blank).

But Father, I'm a daily Bible reader.

I wonder if God might come back with something like this:

But have you been huddling up with other church folks and spreading gossip?

Have you been hypercritical of your spouse or kids or boss or fellow church members?

Have you been using your speech to discourage the people in your life?

This one hits me right in the gut . . . I don't know about you, but I'm pretty good at justifying most seemingly harmless sins of speech.

As long as I'm coming to church and avoiding the big bad sins, I feel like my religion is on good ground.

Do James' words convict you as well?

—Chuck

3248 Lorna Road
Hoover, AL 35216
(205) 822-5610 Office
www.hoovercoc.org
jtroughton@hoovercoc.org

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 664-8160
Joe Thomas 823-0299
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 Morning****Call to Worship:** Chuck Webster**Scripture Reading:** Bill Freeman**Song Leader:** Kyle Wadley**Opening Prayer:** Bob Brooks**Communion:** Glenn Till, Jr.**Servers:**

Tracy Percer	Phillip Searcy
Nolan Williams	Mervyn Prince
Matthew Trousdale	Marcus Harris
Jonathan Weimer	Kyle Percer

Alternates: Jay Eiring / Greg Nobles**Sermon:** Chuck Webster**Announcements:** Jimmy Lyles**Closing Prayer:** Josh Shelton**Ushers:** Grant Dalton / Will Spurlin**Sunday Evening****Song Leader:** Grant Dalton**Opening Prayer:** Norman Rutland**Devotional:** Chuck Webster**Communion:**

Corbin Holland / Keegan Holland

Closing Prayer: Kyle Percer**Baptistery:** Jean Troughton**Communion Trays Preparation:**

Jenilee Hunt

Communion Cups Pick-Up:

Hope Handley / Caroline Williams

Audio/Video: Wes Blankenship**Facility Concerns:**facilities@hoovercoc.org**Today**

Visitors, please join our Brothers' Keepers after our morning worship service for a luncheon that has been prepared just for you. Unit 1 (the Weimers) and Unit 2 (the Warrens) will be hosting the lunch.

The Weekly Devotional at the AHEPA 3 Apartments meets at 3:30pm.

Family News & Events

There will be a Philippines Mission Meeting in the Library at 9:00am on Saturday, January 11, for those who plan to go on the next trip. If you want to be a part of this effort, please plan to attend this meeting. If you have any questions about this mission effort, please talk with Bill Rayburn.

The Secret Sister Reveal is in the Fellowship Hall at 3:30pm on Sunday, January 12.

Happy Birthday

Quincy Collins	January 1
Stephen King	January 3
Darrell Powell	January 4
Laura Lyles	January 5
Margaret Haley	January 6
Alan Roberts	January 7
Sophie Holland	January 7
Glenn Till, Jr.	January 8
Giana Kidwell	January 8

"And the Lord will guide you continually and satisfy your desire in scorched places and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters do not fail."
—Isaiah 58:11

Youth

There will be a **Teen Devotional** after the evening service on Sunday, January 12.

If you and your family plan to attend the Lads to Leaders Convention, please see the list of events on the youth bulletin board located outside of the senior high classroom. Parents, please confirm with your initials that your child or children will be participating in the event that they signed up for.

The Dalraida Church of Christ in Montgomery will be hosting a "mini" Lads to Leaders workshop next Saturday, January 11, at 9:00am. There will be a Bible Bowl as well as boys and girls Song Leading and Speech. We will take the church bus. Please see Jeff Mathews if you need more information.

The Rule of "Three"

- Three things to govern: temper, tongue, and conduct
- Three things to cultivate: courage, affection, and gentleness
- Three things to commend: thrift, industry, and promptness
- Three things to despise: Cruelty, arrogance, and ingratitude
- Three things to wish for: health, contentment, and friends
- Three things to admire: dignity, intellect, and gracefulness

"I will lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my health come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth. He will not allow your foot to be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber (Psalm 121:1-3).

Some Tests for the Home

1. The Leadership Test. Does the husband and father assume his God-given place as head of the family? Does he provide the spiritual leadership? Does he take the lead in bringing up his children in the Lord's way?

2. The Discipline Test. Do children respect and obey their parents? Do parents expect and deserve such obedience? Is discipline consistent, fair, loving, and firm?

3. The Togetherness Test. Does the family plan to do things together? Do they usually eat two meals a day together? Do members of the family enjoy each other's company?

4. The Literature Test. Does the family subscribe to and read Christian literature? Is other literature in the home wholesome? Is the Bible read frequently?

5. The Devotion Test. Does the family pray, sing, and study God's word together? Is the tempo and temper of the family relationship one that encourages and develops devotion to God?

6. The Communication Test. Do all members of the family know they can freely discuss their problems and worries and find a sympathetic ear? Can they talk about their hopes, plans, and aspirations?

7. The Temperament Test. Do all try to develop and maintain an even-tempered, patient disposition? Are outbursts of temper rare?

8. The Associates Test. Does the family approve of those with whom each associates? Do parents know their children's best friends? Do husband and wife approve of each other's close associates?

9. The Thoughtfulness Test. Is each one as kind and considerate of members of his own family as he tries to be with others?

10. The Vacation Test. Does the family remember God while on vacation? Is the Bible read less frequently, services attended less faithfully, and spiritual things thought about more rarely? Does the family plan vacations for their spiritual renewal also?

—Darrell E. Beard

"The heart of her husband safely trusts her, so he will have no lack of gain."

—Proverbs 31:11

Carelines

Remember our shut-ins: Jim Banks, Jeff Nabors, Rowena English, Joyce Baker, and Nancy Williams.

Remember our church family: Joy Brooks, Clara Thomas, Celeste Till, Kaci Melton, Darrell Smith, Hosea Dallas, Gale Jett, Virgie Banks, Sylvia Huffman, Sarah Washington, Nancy Harris, and Lynne Nichols.

Remember our families and friends: Donna Dees (Ivy Dees' mom), Kathleen Spencer (Bill Powell's friend), Geneva Alverson (Charles Gilbert's aunt), Wyatt Spann (4-year-old boy from Lajuana Logan's hometown), and Clara Coulson (Mike & Carlene Hooper's nephew's premature baby).

Sondra Moss will be having knee replacement surgery at Grandview Medical Center on Thursday, January 9.

We extend our condolences to **Karen Bender Kirby** and her family upon the death of her brother-in-law, **Jim Gray**. Please keep his family, and especially his wife in your prayers as they mourn their loss.

Carl Anderson, Sarah Washington's cousin, has been waiting on a heart transplant. Please pray for him and his family.

Maggie, Bill and Gail Powell's granddaughter, is having health problems.

Linda Trousdale, Matt Trousdale's mother, has 1.5 months left of therapy, and it is coming along well. She still has a ways to go as she has not regained the use of her thumb. She appreciates the prayers and cards from Hoover.

Eli Hairston attends Chelsea Middle School with Emily Hamm (daughter of Steve and Janet Hamm). He is still at Children's Hospital and is being treated for a severe head injury. The family spoke with the neurosurgeon, and he is doing as well as they could have hoped for—no complications. He is also breathing on his own without any assistance. They have also seen signs of health in the right side of his brain which is a "praise God" moment. Please continue to pray for his healing and for his family as well.

Attendance and Offering December 29, 2019

Attendance:
Bible Class: 179
Worship AM: 297
Worship PM: 83
Wednesday PM: 127

Contribution: \$15,497.80
Weekly Budget: \$15,748.31
Weekly Average: \$13,433.27
Contribution to Date: \$726,541.15

Supported Works

- *Childhaven, Cullman, AL (\$20,000 annually)*
- *Rainbow Omega, Eastaboga, AL (\$10,000 annually)*
- *Churches of Christ Disaster Relief (\$10,000 annually)*
- *George Funk, Gospel Chariot Missions, South Africa (\$2,400 annually)*
- *Cusco, Peru Mission Team, Barton Kizer (\$1,800 annually)*
- *Cy Walker, Guyana (\$1,200 annually)*
- *Brint Rice / Backwoods Camp (\$12,000 annually)*
- *Local Missions / Food Pantry (\$9,000 annually)*
- *Stateside Missions (\$8,000 annually)*
- *Guyana*
- *Tanzania*
- *Philippines*

**Fresh Wineskins
(Luke 5:33-6:5)**

No one . . .

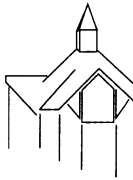
Test case: Picking grain on the Sabbath (6:1-5)

New wine?

One Word

Please come back this evening at 5:00 as we present the theme and share some exciting thoughts about the schedule for 2020. Thankful for what God is doing in our church family . . .

Hoover
church of
Christ



3248 Lorna Road
Hoover, AL 35216

Place
Postage