



Hoover Church of Christ

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

Matthew 6:21

May 24, 2020

Cheating on God

[This article continues my bulletin article series from James]:

You should probably stop reading now if you're uncomfortable with a little PG-13 language. James wasn't afraid to "call it like he saw it," as the saying goes, and he didn't shy away from ruffling feathers when they needed ruffling.

I suspect this statement hurt some feelings, but I doubt he minded that (assuming it helped some of them):

You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God (James 4:4).

If you've been around church for a while, James's language probably doesn't surprise you, but we ought to remind ourselves again exactly what he's saying.

You're cheating on God!

That's exactly what he meant by that. These people were married to God, but they had another lover. They were having an "affair" with the world.

James's marital/sexual language reflects something found all over the New Testament. God's wife, Israel, repeatedly slept around, embracing all sorts of different lovers. Usually their affairs consisted of their flirting with and embracing other gods and turning their back on the one God.

For James's readers, and for us, there's a similar application.

By the way, this should make us pause, because what James is writing about has been going on since the first days that human beings had a relationship with God. We're tempted every day to embrace something besides God.

In biblical parlance, we're tempted to commit adultery, to cheat on our First Love.

How are you doing? Are you faithful in your relationship to God? Is there any doubt about where your allegiance lies?

The last part of the verse is downright scary: "whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God." There are many things I don't want to be, and at the top of that list is an "enemy of God." Can you think of anything worse?

It's worth some serious reflection, so let's focus on it this week. Let's ask God to give us the willpower to refuse the world's advances. Let's pray that he'll keep us where we need to be, and that he'll never let us forsake him for some other tempting but ultimately unfulfilling lover.

It just doesn't make any sense to cheat on God.

—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
(205) 979-9874
Jimmy Lyles
(205) 616-1109
Joe Thomas
(205) 842-8062
Paul Williams, Jr.
(205) 408-7234
Harold Rhodes
(205) 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: Darren Hicks

Opening Prayer: Quincy Collins

Communion: Mark Lackey

Sermon: Chuck Webster

Announcements: Harold Rhodes

Closing Prayer: Bill Freeman

Elder to Contact in April for Needs:
Carl Logan

One Word

One Word Devotional Readings: This is Week 21 of our reading, so the study this week is on the biblical idea of **Marriage**. This is pages 129-134 of the **One Word** devotional book.

Sunday, May 24: Romans 1:1-15;
1 Samuel 8; Psalm 54

Monday, May 25: Romans 1:16-32;
1 Samuel 9:1-10:16; Psalm 55

Tuesday, May 26: Romans 2:1-3:8;
1 Samuel 10:17-11:15; Psalm 56

Wednesday, May 27: Romans 3:9-31;
1 Samuel 12; Psalm 57

Thursday, May 28: Romans 4;
1 Samuel 13; Psalm 58

Friday, May 29: Romans 5;
1 Samuel 14; Psalm 59

Saturday, May 30: Romans 6;
1 Samuel 15; Psalm 60

Acts 17:11

“Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so.”

Today

Shawna Brown's classes for children who are two years old through fifth grade will meet on Zoom this afternoon. The 2-4-year-olds will meet from 3:00-3:30pm, and kindergarten through fifth grade will meet from 3:30-4:00pm.

Don't forget about KidSing today at 4:30pm!

The office will be closed tomorrow to observe **Memorial Day**.

Family News

The Food Pantry will reopen on Sunday, May 31, and the food items that are needed this month are **peanut butter and oatmeal**. Until further notice, we need to comply with COVID-19 mitigations—volunteers are not needed. You may drop off your food donations at the building or donate on our website at your online giving portal.

We are tentatively planning to resume on-site worship services on June 7. There will be two services—one at 8:00am and the other at 10:00am—everything else will remain online for now. An email with more information has been sent out, but please call the office if you have any questions.

June Faith in Action Project: We're going to work with **Backpack Buddies** again as we did last year. This time we plan to collect items for their **No Child Hungry** program in Birmingham. Below is a brief explanation . . . Denia Petruzella is coordinating this service project, so if you have any questions, please reach out to her at dpetruzella@aol.com. We're asking our members to collect 5 items (toothpaste, toothbrushes, bar of soap, shampoo, deodorant, etc.) for each bag—these can all be purchased at Dollar Tree. Denia will put a box out at church, and you can start putting the items in the box beginning June 7 and continuing throughout the month of June. **Please take the 5 items and place them in a clear, gallon-size Ziploc bag and put them in the box in the foyer.** We would like to collect at least 100 bags, so perhaps you can take this on as a family project and buy enough items for several bags.

Happy Anniversary

Henry & Cindy Burnett	May 25
Jeff & Mollye Melton	May 25
Jon & Jenilee Hunt	May 27
Nolan & Ashley Williams	May 27
Clark & Pam Sharit	May 29
Paul & Betsey Williams III	May 29

Happy Birthday

Hudson Goff	May 26
Dennis Williams	May 27
Linda Garnett	May 27
April Best	May 27
Kennedy Hicks	May 28
Gracie Gaither	May 28

Words of Gratitude

Dear Hoover church family,

Rex and I thank you for the hot chocolate packages you prepared and brought to our house. We appreciate your kindness and thoughtfulness, and we send our love to all of you.

We miss our church family and are looking forward to seeing you soon . . . safely, that is. God bless you!

With much love,
The Andersons

Dear church family,

I wanted to extend thanks to you. Thank you for the prayers, encouragement, kindness, phone calls, cards, texts, and delicious meals that were prepared and delivered to my family and I. Thank you for checking on my girls. My family and I appreciate you very much. Thank you for always showing the love of Christ to us as you have before, during and after my surgery. Again, you are appreciated and loved.

Sincerely,
Iesha, Nya, Amani, and Zuri Gagakuma

Dear Hoover church family,

Thank you for including us with a tender loving care surprise! Having deluxe cups of special hot chocolate fixings delivered in a colorful package inserted with polka dots and colorful ribbons was a blissful unexpected moment.

God's blessings always to each member of His church.

Sincerely,
The Burnetts,
Henry & Cindy

First-Century Christianity

Is it possible living today simply to be New Testament Christians? Can we be first-century Christians in the twenty-first century? So much is said today about “change” and much change is evident. Must the gospel be changed to fit a changing world, or is the message of Christ’s sacrifice still enough for today (1 Corinthians 15:1-4)?

Man has not changed. In what is thought to be the oldest book in the Bible (Job), Job’s friend said that man “drinks iniquity like water” (Job 15:16). That could be a description of people today. People now struggle with the same greed, lust, and bitterness as those of previous generations. Human nature today is as it was yesterday. Man has always been given the choice of good or evil (Deuteronomy 11:26) and has always to some degree chosen evil (Romans 3:23).

Man’s problem has not changed. In Noah’s days people were wicked; “The Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually” (Genesis 6:5). In our day sin is still our problem. Man is sinful, ungodly. “There is not even one among accountable people who has not sinned” (Romans 3:10, 23). Our problem is a common problem—sin.

Man’s hope has not changed. Jesus is our only hope. Paul spoke of “Christ . . . the hope of glory” (Colossians 1:27). Jesus “bore our sins in His own body on the tree” (1 Peter 2:24). Without this death man would be without hope. “Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit” (1 Peter 3:18). Man’s hope is in the fact that Jesus suffered sin’s penalty in man’s place.

Man is the same; sin is the same; man’s hope is the same. First-century Christianity is possible today. Through a return to New Testament teaching and in loving obedience to the gospel, we can be Christians only (Acts 2:36-47; Romans 6:1-6).

God requires learning of Christ (Romans 10:17), belief in Christ (John 3:16), repentance of sin (Acts 2:38, confession of faith (Romans 10:9-10), and baptism (Mark 16:16). Have you obeyed the gospel? If not, now is the time!

—adapted from Charles Box

Carelines

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

Remember our church family: Jonathan Weimer, Iesha Gagakuma, Dick Smith, Clara Thomas, Celeste Till, Virgie Banks, Sylvia Huffman, Sarah Washington, and Nancy Harris.

Remember our families and friends: Cally Nichols (Paul & Karen Kirby’s friend’s granddaughter), Terry Marlowe (Jim & Christy Reece’s friend), Brother-in-law (Jeff Melton), Donna Wimberly (Lajuana Logan’s sister-in-law), Dr. Lynn Simons (Lajuana Logan’s friend), Michael Morns (Nikeshia Fantroy’s uncle), Lavorisa Washington, Jr., his wife, and child (Sarah Washington’s nephew), Donald Wright (Sarah Washington’s cousin), Pervy Tanksley (Joel Abbott’s assistant’s father), Susie Eckert (Cory Covington’s friend), and Gy Elly (young man from Tanzania).

Jen Bonnett, a friend of Leah Covington and Tiffany Roberts, had a severe fall and is at UAB in NICU. She incurred a punctured lung, broken ribs, a broken check bone, and bleeding on the brain. She has already had brain surgery which went well.

We extend our sympathy to **Nolan Roberts and his family** upon the death of his grandfather, **Robert Williams**.

Geraldine Washington had a block on Wednesday and is doing well.

Griffin Webster is recovering from ankle surgery and is doing well.

Dustin Byars, Margaret Moore’s nephew-in-law, is recovering at home from surgery for Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy. He is doing well.

John Beard, Jason McKeown’s friend, will be placed under hospice care soon.

Wayne Handley, Marc Handley’s dad, is being treated for dementia and has also been diagnosed with Lymphoma.

Virginia Aultman, Sid Aultman’s mother, is recovering from a heart valve replacement.

Please pray for Felicia Arnold’s cousins, **Tryphena Ellis, Lakeya Ellis, and Trindi Mitchell (also has pneumonia)** who have COVID-19 or have been tested for this virus.

Attendance and Offering May 17, 2020

Attendance:
Bible Class: -
Worship AM: -
Worship PM: -
Wednesday PM: -

Contribution: \$12,942.25
Weekly Budget: \$15,320.69
Weekly Average: \$15,251.50
Contribution to Date: \$305,030.01

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)*
- *Cy Walker, Guyana (\$1,200 annually)*
- *Food Pantry (\$9,000 annually)*
- *Guyana*
- *Tanzania*
- *Philippines*
- *Peru*

John 8:12

“When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

**Jesus and Marriage
(Ephesians 5:22-33)**

_____ will come.

But _____ enables us to thrive in every situation.

Following him means we will:

Practice _____ love.

Speak _____ words.

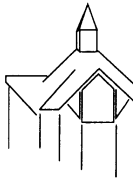
Zoom Class on Jonah at 5:00

Please join us this evening for a Zoom meeting/class. Chuck will change the format a little tonight. Instead of a discussion class based on the last two lessons presented, he will teach a short class that continues his reflections on Jonah (that he started a couple of weeks ago on Wednesday night). The Zoom invitation will be emailed.

We'll still open up the room at 4:45 if you want to join early and catch up with other church members. We'll have a time for prayer requests, Chuck will teach for a few minutes, and then he'll open it up for questions/comments.

Looking forward to seeing you Sunday evening!

Hoover
church of
Christ



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Place
Postage