

March 7, 2021

Get right before worship

Two quick questions:

Are you angry with anyone right now?

As far as you know, is anyone upset with you?

If so, it's probably bothering you. It might be hurting your productivity at work or your relationships at home. It might be causing stomach problems or sleepless nights. It's distracting you.

It also might be making your Sunday worship much less than it could be.

Jesus uses drastic language in the paragraph below. *Might as well leave your Bible in the church foyer, he says, than to sing praises to God from a heart with resentment in it.* Sounds strong, doesn't it?

So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are going with him to court, lest your accuser hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you be put in prison. Truly, I say to you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny (Matthew 5:23-26).

There's a consistent theme in the Bible: God hates worship when it comes from people who aren't getting along with—or treating fairly and kindly—the people around them. The vertical can't replace the horizontal, and problems with people can make worship empty, ritualistic, and worthless.

So what's Jesus saying? His words are set in a Jewish context, but we get the gist of it: Do everything you can to reconcile with fellow Christians every day. Especially before you worship.

If you've been around Christianity for long, you might've witnessed some ugly church fights—children of the same God treating each other poorly and refusing to reconcile.

God help us.

Help us obey Jesus. Help us take his words seriously. Help us do whatever we can do to get along with other Christians and, when problems arise, pursue reconciliation vigorously.

If you're reading this before Sunday worship, before you get here, ask God to help you see it if you're at odds with anyone. If you are, do what you can to make things right, then you'll be able to worship God with a clean heart.

—Chuck

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Hoover, AL 35216
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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 March for Needs:
Jimmy Lyles

Call to Worship: Chuck Webster

Scripture Reading: Daniel Warren

Singing: Kyle Wadley

Opening Prayer: Jerry Culbertson

Sermon: Chuck Webster

Communion: Donnie Winningham

Announcements: Carl Logan

Closing Prayer: Drew Spivey

Audio/Cameras: Clint Richey

Alternate: Grant Dalton

Video: David Naylor

Security: Stephen King

Alternate: George Faison

Bible Reading for March 7-14

Sunday, March 7: Numbers 8-10;
Psalm 30

Monday, March 8: Numbers 11-14;
Psalm 31

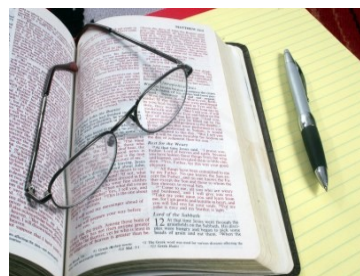
Tuesday, March 9: Numbers 15-17;
Psalm 32

Wednesday, March 10: Numbers 18-21;
Psalm 33

Thursday, March 11: *Reflection*

Friday, March 12: Numbers 22-24;
Psalm 34

Saturday, March 13: Numbers 25-27;
Psalm 35



Today

Bible classes for adults meet in the following rooms: **Library, Team 1:** Jason McKeown, Torrey Clark, Ben Vick, Donnie Winningham; **Downstairs, Team 2:** Steve Cotney, Bill Rayburn, Eddie Sankey, Harold Rhodes; **Auditorium, Team 3:** Merv Prince, Wade Warren, Chuck Webster, Jeff Melton.

The Baby Girl Shower for Brooke and Marcus Harris will be in the front lobby today from 2:30-4:00pm.

KidSing with Kyle Wadley is today at **4:30pm** on the Hoover YouTube channel.

Sunday evening devo at 5:00: There will be an online devotional guide on our website for everyone to enjoy, either at home or with other members.

Family News & Events

The Ladies' Bible Class meets on Tuesdays from 11:30am-12:30pm. If you are unable to come to the class, you can view this and participate with the ladies on Zoom—just click on the following link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81250009931?pwd=RDVGMVZkeHZVLzNKYWduNzNPT255Zz09>. If you have any questions, please contact **Denia Petruzella or Leah Covington**. Babysitting is provided at no cost to you.

Our Easter Egg Hunt for our children will be on Sunday, March 28, from 1:30-3:00pm! Members, please donate plastic eggs filled with candy (younger children will need soft candy) and place them in the front lobby.

The Food Pantry will reopen on Sunday, March 28, from 3:00-4:30pm, and the food item that is needed this month is **canned fruit**.

When **GOD** solves your problems, you have faith in **HIS** abilities; when GOD doesn't solve your problems **HE** has faith in your abilities.

Youth

TONIGHT! Teen Devotional.

Wednesday, March 10: Bring your own dinner to Bible Class.

Friday, March 12: Parents' Night Out!

Wednesday, March 17: Bring your own dinner to Bible Class.

Sunday, March 21: Area-wide Devotional at the Asheville Road Church of Christ.

Sunday, March 28: Easter Egg Hunt!

Words of Gratitude

Dear Hoover church of Christ,

Thank you so much for all of the cards, calls, texts, and prayers for our family during the difficult time of my dad's passing. These acts of kindness meant so much to us.

In Christian love,
Jeff and Holly Church

Happy Anniversary

Glenn & Vicky Till	March 9
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Happy Birthday

Pam Blankenship	March 7
Charity Blackmon	March 7
Jessica Cicero	March 7
Zoe Starns	March 8
Tom McQuillan	March 9
Tom Kidwell	March 12
Virgilio Caluag	March 12
Jonathan Weimer	March 13

The smile on my face
doesn't mean my life
is perfect.

I just appreciate
what I have
and how God
has blessed me . . .

Love is Sacrificial Action

I took Helen (eight years old) and Brandon (five years old) to the Cloverleaf Mall in Hattiesburg to do a little shopping. As we drove up, we spotted a Peterbilt eighteen-wheeler parked with a big sign on it that said, "Petting Zoo." The kids jumped up in a rush and asked, "Daddy, Daddy, Can we Go? Please. Please. Can we go?"

"Sure," I said, flipping them both a quarter before walking into Sears. They bolted away, and I felt free to take my time looking for a scroll saw.

A petting zoo consists of a portable fence erected in the mall with about six inches of sawdust and a hundred little furry baby animals of all kinds. Kids pay their money and stay in the enclosure enraptured with the squirmy little critters while their moms and dads shop.

A few minutes later, I turned around and saw Helen walking along behind me. I was shocked to see she preferred the hardware department to the petting zoo. Recognizing my error, I bent down and asked her what was wrong.

She looked up at me with those giant limpid brown eyes and said sadly, "Well, Daddy, it cost fifty cents. So, I gave Brandon my quarter." Then she said the most beautiful thing I ever heard. She repeated the family motto. The family motto is "Love is Action!"

She had given Brandon her quarter, and no one loves cuddly furry creatures more than Helen . . . she had watched both of us do and say "Love is Action!" She had heard and seen "Love is Action," and now she had incorporated it into her little lifestyle. It had become part of her.

What do you think I did? Well, not what you might think. As soon as I finished my errands, I took Helen to the petting zoo. We stood by the fence and watched Brandon go crazy petting and feeding the animals. Helen stood with her hands and chin resting on the fence and just watched Brandon. I had fifty cents burning a hole in my pocket; I never offered it to Helen, and she never asked for it. Because she knew the whole family motto. It's not "Love is Action." It's "Love is SACRIFICIAL Action!"

Love always pays a price. Love always costs something. Love is expensive. When you love, benefits accrue to another's account. Love is for you, not for me. Love gives; it doesn't grab. Helen gave her quarter to Brandon and wanted to follow through with her lesson. She knew she had to taste the sacrifice. She wanted to experience that total family motto. Love is sacrificial action.

—Dave Simmons, Dad, *The Family Coach*, Victor Books, 1991, pp 123-124.

"Through love, serve one another."
—Galatians 5:13

Carelines

We extend our sympathy to **Joyce Baker (one of our shut-ins)** and her family upon the death of her sister-in-law, **Virginia Haile**. Cards of encouragement can be sent to the Virginia Haile Family, 337 S. Boehning Street, Indianapolis, IN 46219.

Sharon Phillips, Wendy Wadley's sister, is battling cancer.

June Glisan, **Bill Laughmiller's** sister, had a lumpectomy last week and the procedure went well. She should have the results in two weeks.

Nancy Harris is able to resume some physical therapy, but she still has problems with blood clots.

Patsy McDaniel, Holly Church's mom, is undergoing chemo and radiation twice a day and is tolerating these treatments. Cards can be mailed to her to the care of Holly Church, 1027 Grand Oaks Drive, Bessemer, AL 35022.

Cecil Haywood, Jeff Melton's brother-in-law, is in UAB in the heart transplant unit. Please pray that his lung pressure will go down so that he will stay eligible for a heart transplant.

Shirley Rayburn, Bill Rayburn's sister-in-law, has been undergoing chemotherapy which has caused difficulties for her. They have taken her off the treatments and are reassessing her treatment options.

A church member has requested prayers for a Church of Christ in another state that is going through really difficult times right now.

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

Remember our church family: Mollye Melton, Hosea Dallas, Dick Smith, Joe Thomas, Celeste Till, Sarah Washington, Gail Powell, and Sylvia Huffman.

Remember our families and friends: Jessica Brown (Kaiden Kennedy's sister), Ricky Hamm (Steve Cotney's nephew), Carol Messick (Jeanne Anderson's sister), Mary Goodson (Alan Starns' mother), (Aaron Bell (former member of HCoC), Barbara Thompson (the mother of Jim and Christy Reece's neighbor), Mary Still (Doris Sankey's mom), Barbara Milam (Donna Handley's mother), Christa Smith (Sondra Moss' mother), and Braxton Wiedman (Anita Williams' neighbor).

Attendance and Offering February 28, 2021

Attendance:

Bible Study: 128

Worship, 10:00am: 190

Wednesday, 7:00pm: 125

Contribution: \$21,271.00

Weekly Budget: \$13,800.00

Weekly Average: \$16,271.60

Contribution to Date: \$146,444.42

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*

**Renewal in the Midst of Suffering
(2 Corinthians 4:7-18)**

Suffering's _____

Suffering's _____

Suffering's _____



3248 Lorna Road
Hoover, AL 35216

Place
Postage