

March 28, 2021

## Turn the other cheek . . . really?

Mark Twain supposedly said, "It ain't the parts of the Bible that I don't understand that bother me; it's the parts I *do* understand." He must've been thinking of verses like these:

*You have heard that it was said, "An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth." But I say to you, Do not resist the one who is evil. But if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also. And if anyone would sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well (Matthew 5:38-40).*

Those are tough words.

There's something instinctive about striking back at people who mistreat us, and it starts early. Watch a two-year-old hit his four-year-old brother, and see what big brother does. Not too many kids walk away from that, much less sit there and expose the other cheek. It doesn't stop there, though. "Get 'em back" walks the halls of the local high school and infects every work environment.

A major league pitcher hits the other team's best hitter, and the opposing pitcher will even the score in the next inning. Somebody at work spreads dirt about you, and payback is hard to pass up.

It feels so good to get even, doesn't it?

And that's why these words of Jesus make us cringe. "Turn the other cheek" has become a universally quoted but rarely practiced maxim. Oh, we know we should, and on some level we want to, but it's just so hard to let people be bad and get away with it. Especially when they're bad to us and the people we love.

Besides, God wants evil to be punished, right? So can't I be the one he uses to punish it?

And so the rationalizing goes. Before we know it, we'll be self-appointed vigilantes settling scores, maybe even in God's name, all the while ignoring what Jesus said here.

No, he's not telling us to subject ourselves to physical danger or abuse, but he is opposing the attitude that says "Don't mess with me because I'll get you back."

Are you guilty of this?

Pray about it this week. Ask God to help you pursue forgiveness and not vengeance. Ask him to purge your heart of anger and bitterness toward those who've hurt you.

Ask him to help you see more clearly how Jesus' lack of retaliation toward the ones who hated him helps you refuse to strike back.

The danger with phrases like "Turn the other cheek" is that they become so familiar that we forget what they mean. In this case, Jesus is calling us to an unnatural and extremely difficult response to the bad things people do to us.

But Jesus never promised us an easy path. —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 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:** Shawn Troughton

**Singing:** Kyle Wadley

**Opening Prayer:** Chad Blackmon

**Sermon:** Chuck Webster

**Communion:** Rick Williams

**Announcements:** Harold Rhodes

**Closing Prayer:** Mike Clelland

**Audio/Cameras:** Clint Richey

**Alternate:** Grant Dalton

**Video:** David Naylor

**Security:** Stephen King

**Alternate:** George Faison

## Bible Reading for March 28-April 3

**Sunday, March 28:** Deuteronomy 23-26; Psalm 47

**Monday, March 29:** Deuteronomy 27-30; Psalm 48

**Tuesday, March 30:** Deuteronomy 31-34; Psalm 49

**Wednesday, March 31:** James 1-2; Psalm 50

**Thursday, April 1:** *Reflection*

**Friday, April 2:** James 3-5; Psalm 51

**Saturday, April 3:** Joshua 1-3; Psalm 52

## Today

Our **Easter Egg Hunt** is today from 1:30-2:30pm.

**The Food Pantry** is open today from 3:00-4:30pm. We are still following the CDC protocols, so we will not need any volunteers at this time. Thank you, Hoover family, for supporting this ministry.

**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.

**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

**Our Ladies' Bible Class** meets on Tuesdays from 11:30am-12:30pm. If you are unable to attend, you can participate with the class on Zoom—just click 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.

**Meditate on Scripture** to worship the Lord and to allow Him into your daily walk with Christ. When we meditate on God's Word, not only are we gaining head knowledge, but we are also cultivating a heart like Christ. Are you currently lacking love? Are you having a hard time trusting the Lord? If so, get into the Word. Meditate on His truths.

## Youth

**Today:** Easter Egg Hunt, from 1:30-2:30pm.

**Wednesday, April 7:** Bring your own dinner to Bible class.

**Saturday, April 10:** Backwoods Christian Camp workday.

**Wednesday, April 14:** Bring your own dinner to Bible class.

**Saturday, April 17:** Youth Group 101.

**Sunday, April 18:** Area-Wide Devotional.

**Wednesday, April 21:** Bring your own dinner to Bible class.

## Happy Anniversary

Matt & Jill Graham March 31

## Happy Birthday

Leah Covington	March 29
Kenneth Johnsey	March 29
Emma Warren	March 29
Caleb Henry	March 30

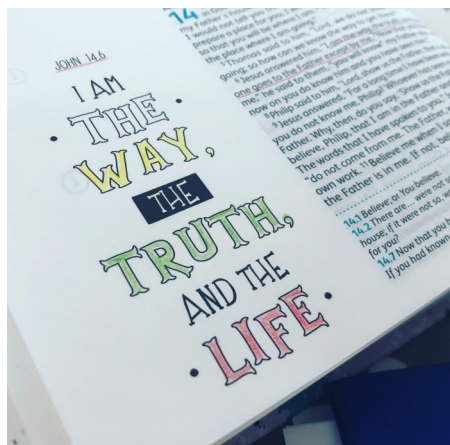
## Psalm 71:6-8

"I've depended on you from birth—you cut the cord when I came from my mother's womb. My praise is always about you. I've become an example to many people because you are my strong refuge. My mouth is filled with your praise, glorifying you all day long."

**The Good News:** With God's strength and support, you can become an inspiration to others.

**"Within the covers of the Bible** are the answers for all the **problems men face."**

—Ronald Reagan



### Carelines

**Shirley Rayburn**, Bill Rayburn's sister-in-law, has breast cancer and will have surgery on Monday, April 5. Please pray for a successful outcome.

**Valtez Houston**, April Collins' brother, is at UAB in the Critical Care Unit with COVID-19, the flu, and pneumonia. He is also on a ventilator. Please pray fervently for his healing and for the medical staff as they try to save his life.

**Ricky Hamm**, Steve Cotney's nephew, has taken a turn and is now not doing well. They cannot keep his right lung inflated and may have to consider a lung transplant. Please keep him and his family in your prayers.

**Eugene Horstead**, Jeff Melton's cousin, had open heart surgery at UAB last week.

**Dennis**, Doyal Newsom's brother, has been paralyzed since 2004 and has been admitted to the hospital for health issues. Please pray that the doctors can help him.

**Nancy Harris** is moving to Morningside of Riverchase Assisted Living Facility this week. She should be able to start having visitors on March 29 or 30, and her phone number is (205) 960-5669.

**Sharon Phillips**, Wendy Wadley's sister, is battling cancer. If you would like to send a cheerful/thinking-of-you card, her address is 710 Swinging Bridge Road NW, Arab, AL 35016.

**Patsy McDaniel**, Holly Church's mom, has two more weeks of treatments and has not experienced any difficulties with them. 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, received a heart transplant at UAB. Please pray that he will recover well.

**June Glisan**, Bill Laughmiller's sister, received good results from her lumpectomy.

**Aaron Bell**, a former member of Hoover, had surgery to remove a tumor that was between his eyes and brain. They were not able to remove all of it, and another operation will hopefully remove the rest of it. A biopsy showed that the tumor is malignant. Please pray for his strength and that his eyesight will improve daily.

### Carelines cont.

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

**Remember our church family:** Mollye Melton, Charlene Thomas, 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), Carol Messick (Jeanne Anderson's sister), Mary Goodson (Alan Starns' mother), Barbara Milam (Donna Handley's mother), and Christa Smith (Sondra Moss' mother).

### Is It Safe To Come Home?

A nervous young man bit his fingernails and walked to and fro in the coach of a train. A preacher said to him, "I know that you are in trouble, and I would like to help you."

The young man said that he had left home against his parents' will, and that now he would like to return home. He said that he had written to his parents two weeks ago, but that he had not received an answer from them. Later he wrote to his mother that if it would be permissible for him to return home, he would like for her to tie a white rag on the old crab apple tree in the front yard so that he could see it while the train passed in front of the house. The boy wondered whether the white rag would be there.

The preacher said to him, "Close your eyes, and I shall look to see whether the white rag is there." After the train went around the curve, the preacher looked at the crab tree and said to the boy, "A white rag is tied to every limb."

Forgiveness (pardon) is the sweetest word in the English language. It is the sweetest word a condemned criminal can hear. "Forgiveness is the fragrance that the violet sheds upon the heel that crushed it."

—Dr. Roger Allen and Ron Rose;  
*Christian Parenting*, August 1989

### Attendance and Offering March 21, 2021

**Attendance:**

**Bible Study:** 101

**Worship, 10:00am:** 147

**Wednesday, 7:00pm:** 83

**Contribution:** \$16,272.65

**Weekly Budget:** \$13,800.00

**Weekly Average:** \$16,198.33

**Contribution to Date:** \$194,379.33

### 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*

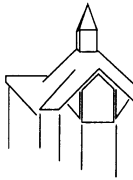
**Living as Christians in an Unbelieving World  
(1 Peter 2:11-12)**

The \_\_\_\_\_

The \_\_\_\_\_

The \_\_\_\_\_

**H**oover  
church of  
**C**hrist



3248 Lorna Road  
Hoover, AL 35216

Place  
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