

Hoover Church of Christ

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

Matthew 6:21

April 11, 2021

It's not easy

Maybe no Christian cliché is quoted more frequently than this one: "Go the second mile."

When I teach this part of Jesus' sermon, I usually emphasize (and remind myself) that we could spend the rest of our lives trying to work this one out . . . and we'd never get all the way there. For most of us, there's just a little too much self in us. Second-mile religion requires a self-emptying spirit that doesn't come naturally at all.

And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles. Give to the one who begs from you, and do not refuse the one who would borrow from you (Matthew 5:41-42).

Sounds easy enough, right? But it never was. A Roman soldier could require a civilian to carry his luggage for a mile when he was passing through a village.

Here's an understatement: Jewish civilians absolutely detested this practice. They hated the Romans, and the ever-present soldier reminded them daily that Rome was their master.

So this wasn't going the second mile for somebody from church or a good friend in the neighborhood. It wasn't going a little out of your way for somebody they liked and who liked them.

I have a hard enough time with those folks, don't you? It's often difficult to allow ourselves to be inconvenienced for those we love the most.

So think about what Jesus was saying. He was telling the first-century Jew to carry the hated soldier's packs for the first mile. And then another mile, even though it wasn't required by law. The very thought must've made them sick.

And it'll make us a little queasy when we realize what it means to us. Think about what it says concerning how you treat the people you love. You shuffle in from a long day of work, and your spouse asks you to take care of a problem with the house. Or your kids need something from you (don't they always?).

Imagine how it would change the climate around our homes if we really took this second-mile stuff seriously. "Sure, honey, I'd love to do that! When I'm done, what else can I do?" (don't laugh)

What if each of us woke up and decided that we were going to be second-mile people throughout the day? If kids did their chores without grumbling and tried to do their siblings' jobs as well? If employees didn't just do what they had to do to keep their jobs?

And what if we did this for people we don't like or who don't like us, which is what the Roman soldier represented? It's exciting to think about what folks in our communities might say about Christianity, isn't it?

Really, Jesus is calling us to a different way of life. Gone is the begrudging, grumbling, I'll-do-the-bare-minimum attitude. It's replaced by one that's trying to follow Jesus, who didn't want to carry the cross to Calvary . . . but did it anyway.

So he's perfectly qualified to ask us to carry a burden an extra mile as well. —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 April for Needs:
Harold Rhodes

Call to Worship: Chuck Webster

Scripture Reading: Matthew Cicero

Singing: Kyle Wadley

Opening Prayer: Wes Blankenship

Sermon: Chuck Webster

Communion: Steve Cotney

Announcements: Paul Williams, Jr.

Closing Prayer: Corey Covington, Sr.

Audio/Cameras: Grant Dalton

Alternate: David Naylor

Video: Will Spurlin

Security: Shawn Troughton

Alternate: Walden Schlundt

Bible Reading for April 11-17

Sunday, April 11: Joshua 22-24;
Psalm 59

Monday, April 12: Matthew 1-4;
Psalm 60

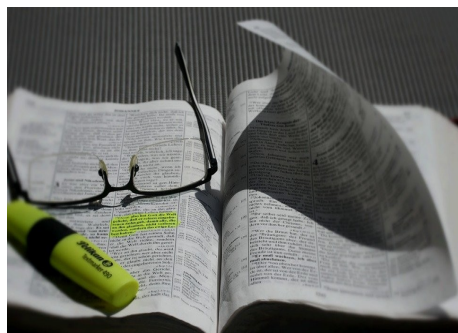
Tuesday, April 13: Matthew 5-7;
Psalm 61

Wednesday, April 14: Matthew
8-10; Psalm 62

Thursday, April 15: *Reflection*

Friday, April 16: Matthew 11-13;
Psalm 63

Saturday, April 17: Matthew 14-16;
Psalm 64



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.

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

Congratulations to **Marcus and Brooke Harris** on the birth of their new baby girl, **Harper Brooke Harris!** **Harper Brooke** was born on Tuesday, April 6, at 11:39am, weighing 7lbs 1oz and 20in long. Mom, baby, and Dad are doing well.

The Food Pantry will reopen on Sunday, April 25, from 3:00-4:30pm, and the food item that is needed this month is **Peanut Butter**.

The Hoover CoC Family Retreat, *Renewing Our Homes*: This retreat is for all members—singles and families—ages Nursery-99. Join the fun at the **Harbor Lodge at Children's Harbor on Lake Martin** on Friday-Sunday, April 30-May 2. Private rooms with your own bathroom are available, and there is no cost to you. It will be a relaxing and encouraging time together. Please see Darrell or Kyle with any questions.

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. Babysitting is provided at no cost to you. Please contact **Denia Petruzella or Leah Covington** with any questions.

Youth

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.

"Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers, in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, and in purity."
—1 Timothy 4:12

"God does not waste an ounce of our pain or a drop of our tears; suffering doesn't come our way for no reason, and He seems efficient at using what we endure to mold character. If we are malleable, He takes our bumps and bruises and shapes them into something beautiful."
—Frank E. Peretti

Happy Birthday

Zuri Gagakuma	April 11
Madison Watkins	April 11
Anthony Petruzella	April 11
Karen Blakemore	April 12
Kellen Vick	April 13
Phillip Searcy	April 15
Mike Clelland	April 15
Griffin Webster	April 16
Corey Covington, Sr.	April 16

Galatians 6:9: "Let's not get tired of doing good, because in time we'll have a harvest if we don't give up."

The Good News: Doing good isn't always easy, but it matters, both in this life and in the life to come.

Spread love
everywhere you go.
Let no one ever
come without
leaving happier.

Carelines

We extend our condolences to **April Collins and her family** upon the death of her brother, **Valtez Houston**. Valtez passed away on April 3; his funeral service was yesterday in Athens, AL. Please pray for April and her family as they mourn their loss.

Shirley Rayburn, Bill Rayburn's sister-in-law, had surgery on Monday for breast cancer and is having a very difficult time.

Ricky Hamm, Steve Cotney's nephew, is doing somewhat better. The doctors are working with him to get him strong enough for a lung transplant. The family appreciates the prayers.

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.

Aaron Bell, a former member of Hoover, had surgery to remove a tumor that was between his eyes and brain. A biopsy showed that the tumor is malignant. Please pray for his strength as he undergoes chemotherapy and that his eyesight will improve daily.

Patsy McDaniel, Holly Church's mom, has completed her treatments; pray that these have healed her. Cards can be mailed to her to the care of Holly Church, 1027 Grand Oaks Drive, Bessemer, AL 35022.

Nancy Harris is now at Morningside of Riverchase, and her address is 2184 Parkway Lake Drive, Room 102, Hoover, AL 35244. Morningside requires you to call to make an appointment for any visits. If you telephone Nancy (205-960-5669), please let the phone ring several times.

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: Dennis (Doyal Newsom's brother), Jessica Brown (Kaiden Kennedy's sister), Eugene Horstead (Jeff Melton's cousin), and Cecil Haywood (Jeff Melton's brother-in-law).

The Whisper Test

I grew up knowing I was different, and I hated it. I was born with a cleft palate, and when I started school, my classmates made it clear to me how I must look to others: a little girl with a misshapen lip, crooked nose, lopsided teeth, and garbled speech.

When schoolmates would ask, "What happened to your lip?" I'd tell them I'd fallen and cut it on a piece of glass. Somehow it seemed more acceptable to have suffered an accident than to have been born different.

I was convinced that no one outside my family could love me. There was, however, a teacher that we all adored—Mrs. Leonard. She was short, round, and happy—a sparkling lady.

Annually, we would have a hearing test. I was virtually deaf in one of my ears; but when I had taken the test in past years, I discovered that if I did not press my hand as tightly upon my ears as I was instructed to do, I could pass the test.

Mrs. Leonard gave the test to everyone in the class, and finally it was my turn. I knew from past years that as we stood against the door and covered one ear, the teacher sitting at her desk would whisper something, and we would have to repeat it back . . . things like "The sky is blue" or "Do you have new shoes?" I waited there for those seven words which changed my life. Mrs. Leonard said, in her whisper, "I wish you were my little girl."

—Mary Ann Bird

"Love is kind."
1 Corinthians 13:4

Proverbs 10:12: "Hatred stirs up strife, but love covers all offenses."

Attendance and Offering

April 4, 2021

Attendance:

Bible Study: 146

Worship, 10:00am: 239

Wednesday, 7:00pm: 111

Contribution: \$15,681.43

Weekly Budget: \$13,800.00

Weekly Average: \$15,813.98

Contribution to Date: \$221,395.65

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*

"Again Jesus said, Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you" (John 20:21).

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3248 Lorna Road
Hoover, AL 35216

Place
Postage