



September 6, 2026

When Good Things Fool Us

One of the dangers of religion is that it can give us false confidence that we're right with God. Remember the Pharisee's prayer? "God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get" (Luke 18:11-12).

Five. That's how many times he refers to himself in that short, self-congratulatory prayer.

"Are you right with God, Mr. Pharisee?" "Of course I am. Look at everything I do. And look at everything I don't do." "So you've never sinned?" "Well, sure. But not like *that* man over there."

That was the Pharisee's problem. His religion had distorted the way he saw himself. He believed he stood on good ground before God because of what he had done and, perhaps even more importantly, what he had avoided doing. He had turned faithfulness into a comparison game, and as long as he could find someone worse than himself, he felt safe.

The tax collector had nothing comparable to offer. He simply prayed, "God, be merciful to me, a sinner!" And Jesus said he went home justified before God. Why? Because he knew he desperately needed mercy. He had nothing to bargain with, nothing to boast about, nothing to point to except the grace of God.

There's a warning here for religious people like us. "Are you right with God, Mr. Christian?" "Of course. I've been baptized. I attend worship regularly. I give. I try to live a moral life. I don't do the things people out in the world do."

We probably wouldn't say it quite like that. But it's frighteningly easy to think that way. We have a natural tendency to measure faithfulness by the things we can see and count: attendance, giving, Bible reading, sexual morality, doctrinal correctness, involvement at church. Those things matter. Some of them matter a great deal.

But they make terrible substitutes for the question that lies underneath all of them: *Does my heart belong to Jesus?* When it does, obedience follows. Jesus changes the way we worship, speak, spend, love, forgive, serve, and live. Genuine faith is never merely inward, but neither can outward obedience become a substitute for humility, dependence, repentance, and love for God.

The danger is that, with enough discipline, habit, social pressure, or pride, we can sometimes produce the outward signs of faithfulness while leaving the heart largely untouched. That's when good things begin to fool us.

The Pharisee had religion. He had morality. He had discipline. He had generosity. What he didn't have was a clear view of himself before God. The tax collector did.

And sometimes the most important spiritual realization we can have is the one he had: I have nothing to bargain with. "God, be merciful to me, a sinner."

—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

Reggie Arnold	602-4211
Steve Cotney	531-7517
Jimmy Lyles	616-1109
Harold Rhodes	876-9296
Kyle Wadley	792-5922
Chuck Webster	586-5610
Rick Williams	706-5735
Donnie Winningham	222-7635

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MINISTER

Chuck Webster

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cwebster@hoovercoc.org

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YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTER

Marcus Williams

(615) 710-2319
Marcus@hoovercoc.org

Worship Assignments

Elder to Contact in September for Needs:
Donnie Winningham

Sunday AM and PM

Greeters:

Connie Morrison (Handicap Entrance)
Brooke & Rick Williams (Back Entrance)

Usher: Clint Richey

Nursery: Jennifer Lackey

AM Singing: Kyle Wadley

Scripture Reading: Micah Long

AM Opening Prayer: Avery Davis

AM Sermon: Chuck Webster

AM Communion: Torrey Clark

Announcements: Harold Rhodes

AM Closing Prayer: Jason Blakemore

PM Song Leader: Landon Wadley

PM Opening Prayer: Yoshi Sugita

PM Speaker: Chuck Webster

PM Closing Prayer: Scott Warren

Audio/Cameras: Marc Handley

Video: Will Spurlin

Security: Steven Gaither (Front Entrance)
George Faison (Handicap Entrance)

Contribution Baskets: Zach Blakemore,
Scott Warren, Caleb Winningham, Sam
Williams, Jonah White, Garrett Vick, and
Carter Williams

Bible Reading Plan for September 6-12

- ◆ **Sunday, September 6:** Matthew 27-28; Psalm 94
- ◆ **Monday, September 7:** Mark 1-2; Psalm 95
- ◆ **Tuesday, September 8:** Mark 3-4; Psalm 96
- ◆ **Wednesday September 9:** Mark 5-6; Psalm 97
- ◆ **Thursday, September 10:** Mark 7-8; Psalm 98
- ◆ **Friday, September 11:** Mark 9-10; Psalm 99
- ◆ **Saturday, September 12:** Mark 11-12; Psalm 100

Today

Visitors, welcome to our worship service this morning! We're glad you're here. Please **scan the QR Code** on the next page of the bulletin. We would love to know more about you and where you're from.

Fall Quarter Adult Bible Classes begin today. Join us on Sunday mornings and enjoy studying in one of the following classes:

Chuck Webster is teaching the Auditorium class, and his topic is **"Bible Texts We'd Rather Skip,"** a study of difficult, troubling, and often misunderstood passages of Scripture.

Drew Spivey and Jason McKeown will rotate teaching in the Library, and they will be studying **"Practicing the Way."** **Donnie Winningham** is teaching the Young Professionals on the book of **Romans**.

On Wednesday nights, our Hoover Series, **Questions Asked By God**, will meet in the Auditorium.

AHEPA 3 devotional: Today, 3:30 p.m.
Merv Prince will present the lesson.

Worship at the Park this Evening!

As we've done in years past, we'll gather at **Pelham City Park this evening beginning at 5:00 p.m.** We'll enjoy worship, food, fun, and fellowship as we celebrate the beginning of a new school year, the end of summer, and—hopefully—the arrival of cooler temperatures!

To find the pavilion, turn off Highway 31 at the Pelham Library (2000 Pelham Park Blvd.) and follow Pelham Park Boulevard to the end. We'll be next to the volleyball and basketball courts.

Please bring finger foods and/or desserts to share, lawn chairs, balls, Frisbees, and anything else you'd enjoy using outdoors. Contact **Rick Williams** at icuris38@gmail.com or 205-706-5735 with any questions.

Please note: Everyone is invited to worship with us at the park. There will be no Sunday evening service at the church building.

News and Events

The office will be closed tomorrow to observe Labor Day.

Ladies Ministry Kick-off: Wednesday, September 9, at 7:00 p.m. Join us for singing and a devotional, and hear about our different ministry teams. Find a place to connect, grow, and serve with the Hoover ladies!

The Young Professionals are going on a **Fall Retreat** on September 11-13, Friday-Sunday. It's at an Airbnb, 1665 Minnie Knight Road, Titus, AL 36080! Families with children are welcome, and you can opt to attend just for Saturday. Contact **Holli Webster** or **Rya Richardson** with any questions.

Lads to Leaders Kick-off Meeting is Sunday, September 13, immediately following our morning worship service in the fellowship hall. If you plan to participate in the 2027 program, please join us for this meeting. Lunch will be provided. Sign-up sheets will be available for the competitive and non-competitive events offered to our youth. We are looking forward to a great year! Contact **Kyle Wadley** with any questions.

Our Ladies Bible Class begins a new season on Monday, September 14, from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Contact **Denia Petruzzella** or **Leah Covington** with any questions.

The Young at Heart will meet at 5:30 p.m. on Friday, September 18, for a birthday celebration and game night. It's football season, so wear your favorite team's jersey and bring plenty of tailgating food. **Harold and Donna Rhodes** are hosting this event.

There will be a **Men's Breakfast** in the fellowship hall on Saturday, September 19, from 8:00-10:00 a.m. Please let **Brent Reaves** know if you will be attending—a sign-up sheet is on the back rail in the auditorium.

There will be an **Elders, Deacons, and Ministers meeting** in the Library on Sunday, September 20, at 3:30 p.m.



"Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace."
—Ephesians 4:3

Youth

- ♦ **Wednesday, September 16:** F.A.M. Group meetings from 7:00-8:00 p.m.
- ♦ **Friday-Saturday, September 18-19:** DEEP Youth Experience at the Ashville Road Church of Christ.
- ♦ **Sunday, September 20:** Area-wide at the Heritage Place Church of Christ from 4:30-7:30 p.m.

Happy Anniversary

Paul & Karen Kirby	September 7
Michael & Abbie Schofield	September 7
Stephen & Jennifer King	September 12

Happy Birthday

Margaret Moore	September 7
Warren Collins	September 8
Connor Church	September 9
Miriama Voigt	September 9
Harper Yeilding	September 9
Talia Voigt	September 12
Kingston Washington	September 12

A Message From The King

The keyword in Matthew 11:28-30 is “rest.” “Rest” means “relief from crushing burdens, such as crippling anxiety, frustration, futility, and the misery of a sin-laden conscience.” Therefore, Jesus gives three commands that precede this wonderful rest:

1. **Come.** The weight of sin is a heavy burden. Jesus relieves the heaviness of sin through forgiveness.
2. **Take.** It was the custom of students to attach themselves to their teacher. It was called “yoked.”
3. **Learn.** We must never cease studying and searching the Bible to learn about Jesus.

—Mark N. Posey

“Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

—Matthew 11:28-30

Carelines

Felicia Wright, Heather Spivey’s grandmother, has been brought back under Hospice care and is not doing well.

Kim Green, Karen Sugita’s sister, has been hospitalized with pneumonia.

Kellie Covington, Corey Covington’s sister, is undergoing chemotherapy for breast cancer. She will have her 4th treatment on Tuesday, September 15, and so far, she has received good results from her labs.

Keith Hills, Melinda Richardson’s brother-in-law, has an appointment with doctors from the Cancer Center of Houston on Friday, September 11, for specialized treatment. The cancer has returned from this past January and has spread throughout his body. As you pray for Keith, please also remember his wife, Janice, and their daughter, Alexis.

Moranda Garrett, a friend of Jayne Ivy, suffers from back pain and also has a tumor on her pituitary gland that is causing severe headaches.

Remember our shut-ins: Joyce Baker, Nancy Griner, and Sylvia Huffman.

Remember our church family: Greg Nobles, Mollye Melton, Bob and Joy Brooks, Gail Powell, Sondra Moss, Jean Prince, Sharon McCraw, Linda Graham, Betty Crawford, Celestine Hicks, Diann Tippins, and Tyler Tippins.

Remember our family and friends: Willard Worthington (Virgie Banks’ brother), Scarlett Smith (JoAnn McDonald’s daughter), Russ Stringer (Nancy Griner’s son-in-law), Doug Williams (Landyn Williams’ dad), Greg Wright (Felicia Arnold’s cousin), Brother-in-law, Cousin, Brother, and Friend of Doyal Newsom, Doug & Cathy Abbott (Joel Abbott’s parents), Betty Shackelford (Chè Abbott’s mother), Don Cicero (Matthew Cicero’s father), Jeremy Schopper (Alyssa Long’s cousin), Rex Anderson (former member of Hoover), and Kathy Culbertson (former member of Hoover).

Attendance and Offering August 30, 2026

Attendance

Bible Study: 195
AM Worship: 297
PM Worship: 130
Wednesday: 209

Contribution: \$14,297.53
Weekly Budget: \$15,380.77
Weekly Average: \$15,893.47
Contribution to Date: \$556,271.29

Hoover Supported Works

- *Childhaven, Cullman, AL*
- *Churches of Christ Disaster Relief*
- *Clothing Closet*
- *Food Pantry*
- *Tanzania*
- *Philippines*

Mission Trips

- *Tanzania*
- *Philippines*
- *Peru*

Oversight

- *Christ Happy Childhaven, Philippines*
- *Tanzania Missions*

Visitors and members, please scan the QR Code below to log your attendance.



What Will Stand? (Matthew 7:24-27) Hearing Jesus is not the same as _____ Jesus. The foundation is laid when Jesus' _____ become our way of life. Every foundation will eventually be _____.	GriefShare Class So many people in the world have experienced significant losses in their lives, so we're thankful to be able to offer this GriefShare Ministry. It is organized around a thirteen-week small-group program where participants meet together for around two hours each week and watch professionally-designed videos featuring professional grief counselors and also people who are grieving. These presentations are coupled with discussions that are designed to internalize what participants learn in the videos. The class is now in session and will continue on Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. We have additional information for GriefShare Sessions offered on other days and times in the Birmingham area. Please see Harold or Donna Rhodes if you have any questions regarding GriefShare. You can also find additional information at https://www.griefshare.org/.
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