

Hoover Church of Christ

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

Matthew 6:21

October 1, 2023

What we talk about

Have you ever been around someone who talked about only one thing? Maybe sports or politics. Or clothes, movies, or books. And then a few just like to talk about other people.

Paul was like that, I think, or at least he had one thing that dominated his conversations. He spent quite a bit of time in jail, and it's interesting to think about what it must've been like to have been his jailer, or maybe his cellmate.

I'm sure they talked about some of the stuff that everybody talked about—the emperor's economic policies, who's looking good for the upcoming chariot race, and everybody's favorite: the weather.

But I can almost guarantee you what Paul's primary topic of conversation was. Read what he writes from one of his jail cells:

I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ (Philippians 1:12-13).

Notice Paul says that his imprisonment for Christ had become known throughout the whole imperial guard—those are the people guarding him. And then there's this verse at the end of the letter: *All the saints greet you, especially those of Caesar's household (Philippians 4:22).*

Do you see the implication? Paul wasn't sitting around carving pictures in his jail cell's wall, and neither was he spending all of his time shooting the bull with other prisoners. He was telling everybody within earshot about Jesus. The whole imperial guard knew. Paul had led some of Caesar's staff to Christ.

I think it was probably quite difficult to spend too much time around Paul without getting an earful. An earful of Christ.

What did most of the prisoners talk about? How bad the food was? Which bed was most comfortable? How soon they would be released from prison?

All the while, Paul shared the good news of Christ.

I suppose most of us are guilty of not being as vocal as we should be. It's easy to talk about the weather ("Is Fall finally here?"). Or sports ("My team's going to be very good this year."). Or movies or books or politics.

Not so easy to talk about Christ.

Perhaps this challenge would be good for us all: Wherever you are right now, pause for a few seconds and ask God to give you the courage to say a word about Christ this week. Then make the commitment—at some point today decide that you'll bring faith up in a conversation.

God will open the door, and if you're looking, you'll see it. If Paul could talk about Christ to his prison guards, surely you and I can do it with a friend, co-worker, or neighbor.

—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 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)
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YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTER

Darrell Powell

(205) 480-9773 (cell)
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Worship Assignments

Elder to Contact in October for Needs:
Harold Rhodes

Sunday AM and PM

Greeters: Front Lobby: Bill Laughmiller

Handicap Lobby: Nancy Griner

Back Lobby: Paul & Karen Kirby

Usher, AM: Jim Petruzella

Nursery: April Winningham

Scripture Reading: Walden Schlundt

Singing:

AM: Kyle Wadley; **PM:** Marlon Crow

Opening Prayer:

AM: Jason McKeown

PM: Matt Trousdale

AM Sermon: Chuck Webster

Communion: Donnie Winningham

Announcements: Carl Logan

Closing Prayer:

AM: Tom McQuillan

PM: Aidan McQuillan

Audio/Cameras: Rick Williams

Alternate: Will Spurlin

Video: Drew Spivey

Security: Mike Clelland

Alternate: Steven Gaither

Bible Reading Plan for October 1-8

Sunday, October 1: Luke 1; John 1

Monday, October 2: Matthew 1; Luke 2

Tuesday, October 3: Matthew 2

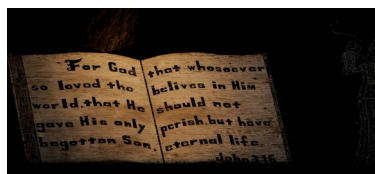
Wednesday, October 4: Matthew 3;
Mark 1; Luke 3

Thursday, October 5: Matthew 4;
Luke 4-5

Friday, October 6: John 2-4

Saturday, October 7: Matthew 8;
Mark 2

Sunday, October 8: John 5



Today

Visitors, welcome to our worship service this morning—we're glad you're here. Please fill out a visitor's card that is located in the pew. We would like to know where you're visiting from.

Our new quarter for Adult Education starts today. **Chuck Webster** will be teaching in the auditorium, and his class is called: **"A Faith that Works: A Study of the Book of James."** **Rick Williams** and **Jason McKeown** will be teaching in the Library, and their class is on **"Suffering."**

We will have a **worship service at the AHEPA 3 Apartments** today at 3:30pm.

This evening at 5:00pm, we will meet in the auditorium for a worship service.

News and Events

Join us for Common Grounds Fellowship every Sunday morning from 8:15-8:45am in the main lobby. Donuts and coffee are served.

The theme for our Wednesday night auditorium class next quarter will be "A Lesson From Song." We will have 12 teachers, and they will be speaking on a particular hymn/song with a special meaning to each one of them.

Come join us for our next K-5 Fun Night this Friday, October 6, from 6:30-9:30pm in the church parking lot. This event is welcome to both kids and adults, and we will be watching ***Sing 2*** on a big screen. We will have popcorn, drinks, and sweet treats. A link to sign up has been emailed—they need to know how many will be attending. If you have any questions, please see **Jonathan Weimer**.

The Tuesday Ladies' Bible Class meets weekly in the senior high classroom at 1:30pm. Leah Covington, Denia Petruzella, and Jamie Powell are teaching the class, and their theme this year is ***How to Study the Bible***.

News and Events cont.

Leadership Class: We're inviting all of our elders, deacons, ministers, and ministry leaders to be part of an upcoming leadership class. We'll meet in the Library on the first Wednesday night of each month from October until June. Please begin praying about this class . . . our first meeting will be this Wednesday, October 4.

Our GriefShare Ministry will begin on Saturday, November 4, from 10:00am-12:00pm. The weekly sessions will run through January 27.

Walk4Water (Nov 5): We're excited once again to be partnering with Healing Hands International to have a Walk4Water in the Birmingham area. We're joining the Palisades, Ashville Road, and Decatur Highway churches on Sunday, November 5, from 2:00-4:00 to raise awareness of the desperate need for clean drinking water in many places across the globe. We'll also give everyone an opportunity to contribute toward a clean water well. Please go ahead and mark your calendars and plan to join us that afternoon.

The Art of Soul Winning: Text Jeff Melton at 205-427-3857 with an "S" for Soul Winning Team or an "R" for Retention Team. Please include your name in the text.

Happy Anniversary

Bob & Joy Brooks	October 6
Thomas & Judy Smith	October 7

Happy Birthday

Connie Morrison	October 2
Patsy Freeman	October 2
Elizabeth Goodman	October 3
Diann Tippins	October 3
Andrew Blackmon	October 4
Erika Sankey	October 4
Jonn Rock	October 6
Jerrick Rumph-Henderson	October 7

Carelines

Linda Graham had two stents inserted last week at Grandview Medical Center. She is recovering at home.

Please pray for Sean and Anita Hochdorf. Anita was diagnosed at UAB with ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease).

Milton Stover, Paul and Karen Kirby's friend from Huntland, TN, has been diagnosed with Multiple Myeloma.

Jim Garnett, a former member of Hoover, is recovering from a stroke.

Bill and Shannon McQuillan, Tom McQuillan's brother and sister-in-law, lost everything in their house fire on September 7, in Santa Rosa Beach, FL. There is a **Go-FundMe** account set up for them, and you can ask Tom or Sherri for details. Anything you can do is greatly appreciated as they need toiletries, clothing, shoes, and money for food so they do not have to worry about cooking.

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

Remember our church family: Mike Creely, Giana Kidwell, Dick Smith, Jeanne Anderson, and Gail Powell.

Remember our families and friends: Darren Brooks (Bob and Joy Brooks' son), Eddie Williams (Leah Covington's stepdad), Doug and Cathy Abbott (Joel Abbott's parents), Jane Spivey (Rex Anderson's sister), Joy Jones (Jennifer Dalton's mom), and Richard Lawson (Alyssa Long's dad).

Youth

Saturday, October 7: Service—Bundles of Hope, 9:00-11:00am

Wednesday, October 11: Iron Sharpening Iron, 5:30-7:00pm

Friday-Sunday, October 13-15: Final Fall Fling at Backwoods Christian Camp

Sunday, October 15: Area-wide Devotional at the Riverchase CoC, 4:45-7:15pm

Worship or Entertainment

There is no doubt that the man we know as Neil Postman described serious problems in modern culture in his insightful 1985 book, *Amusing Ourselves to Death*. His thesis was that public discourse has been reshaped to such an extent by television and entertainment that thoughtful discourse is missing. "Show business" hype has affected advertising, politics, and religion. Postman's conclusion was that none of these changes have made for improvement.

In our entertainment-oriented culture, many churches find themselves trying to "outdo" themselves with more and more elaborate additions to worship. What began as special music by a choir becomes a full orchestra with professional soloists. A dramatic reading necessitates a full Broadway stage production. And as long as those who come to worship enjoy what is offered, anything goes. The expectation is that sermons will be shorter, wittier, and more uplifting. Anything in worship that cannot be "jazzed up" must be abandoned as boring—and there is nothing worse than being bored—or so we are led to believe. The problem with this entertainment orientation is that the very object of worship is forgotten.

God is the "audience" in worship. Jesus told the Samaritan woman that ignorant worship is unacceptable to God, even though it may be sincere or enjoyable. "God is Spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth" (John 4:24). This means that worship must be from the heart, not just outward acts, and that it must be done in exact obedience to God's commands. The worship must be directed to Him, not the whims of the worshipers. God's regulations for worship as set out in the New Testament are neither boring nor out of date. They are God-centered; entertainment is man-centered.

There is nothing wrong with the worshiper enjoying worship. God intended worship to bless His children. But when worship is merely window dressing for an entertainment performance, it cannot please God. The apostle warned, "Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God" (2 John 9). Paul condemned things that "have indeed a show of wisdom in will worship" (Colossians 2:23). "Will worship" is that worship fashioned after man's desires.

—Bob Prichard

Attendance and Offering September 24, 2023

Attendance:

Bible Study: 261

AM Worship: 402

PM Worship: 47

Wednesday: 194

Contribution: \$13,577.92

Weekly Budget: \$14,280.00

Weekly Average: \$14,884.49

Contribution to Date: \$580,494.99

Hoover Supported Works

- *Childhaven, Cullman, AL*
- *Rainbow Omega, Eastaboga, AL*
- *Churches of Christ Disaster Relief*
- *Cy Walker, Guyana*
- *Clothing Closet*
- *Food Pantry*
- *Guyana*
- *Tanzania*
- *Philippines*

Mission Trips

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

Oversight

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

Colossians 4:3

"... praying at the same time for us as well, that God will open up to us a door for the word, so that we may speak forth the mystery of Christ, for which I have also been imprisoned,"

**The problem of others: “The woman you gave me”
(Genesis 3:12)**

Active _____ is hard

“One of the mysteries of the gospel tradition is this strange attraction of Jesus for the unattractive, this strange desire for the undesirable, this strange love for the unlovely” (Brennan Manning).

And even _____

“I want to be known.”

New GriefShare Class Starting Soon!

We’re beginning a new GriefShare class on Saturday, November 4. It will be each Saturday from 10am-noon and will go through January 27. Any of our members who have struggled with loss are invited to participate. If you have friends who might benefit, please let them know about this class as well.

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. If you think this ministry might help you process your loss, please reach out to Harold Rhodes for more information, or you can visit <https://www.griefshare.org/>.

Hoover
church of
Christ



3248 Lorna Road
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Place
Postage