



CHURCH OF CHRIST

May 12, 2019

God in a Secular Story

(Esther)

I would like to say that Esther is the strangest of all the books in our Bibles – but that could be said about several of them (Jonah, Ecclesiastes, Jude, Revelation come to mind immediately). Truth is, every one of the books in our Bibles is unique and carries part of the wonderful story of our relationship with our Creator.

I can say that Esther is the only book in our Bible that famously has no reference to God (with the unlikely exception of a wordplay on “place” in 4:14). I have chosen Esther today because this is mothers’ day, so we will honor women who had a great influence on the events that led to saving the Jews from what we would today term a genocide in Persia. Rather we will honor two of the three women (Vashti and Esther) and pay attention to the influence of the third (Zeresh).

The book of Esther as it is in our protestant Bibles reads just like any other historical account of the time. There is nothing religious in it at all. There are no trips to the temple, no prayer, no “God is with me”, and no seeking God for guidance. Mordecai and Esther are fully assimilated Jews – so much so that Esther’s ethnicity remains unknown to everyone in the story until the dramatic request that she makes of the king.

It is also remarkable that Esther was able to do what she did, given that the courage of Queen Vashti resulted in her being banished and dethroned. The other woman that facilitated in the result of the story is Zeresh, the wife of Haman, who inflamed her husband’s arrogance and pride and gave him terrifically bad advice more than once – which is nearly opposite to nearly every other named woman in Scripture.

But what does all of this have to do with God and faith. What lesson might we learn from the most modern sounding of any book in the Bible?

If we were to read this in a history of the age, we would find it interesting and fascinating, but may not think much else of it. It is its context that provides the theology. It is, after all, in the Bible. And because it is in the Bible the movement of God, the invisible God, is assumed. We get hints of this in the New Testament as well in Romans 13:1-7 and perhaps I Peter 3:13-17.

Today, those of us who believe can see God’s hand at work through the arc of history. We can see God working with both believers and unbelievers to accomplish his will. This does not take away fear, or pain, or suffering, or questions that cannot be answered, but it does change our outlook and attitude toward world events and reduces our anxiety. Or at least it should. The eyes of faith see what others cannot and I thank God for that.

Next Week: I Samuel 16

Read: Luke 6

WELCOME

We are glad you've joined us for worship today!

Please fill out the information sheet found in the maroon binder at the end of your pew.

*An attended **nursery** is provided during worship assembly.

***Communion**—We celebrate the resurrection of our Lord every Sunday (“first day of the week”) through a time of communion known as the Lord’s Supper. The “unleavened bread” represents His body and the “fruit of the vine” (cup of grape juice) represents His blood shed on the cross. As our guest, you are welcome to participate, though you are not required to do so.

***Giving**— We are challenged to be good stewards of God’s blessings by supporting the various ministries of the church through a weekly collection that is taken during our worship time. You are welcome to give, but please do not feel as though you must.



TONIGHT: We will meet at 6pm.

Wednesday: Auditorium 6:30pm, 6:45pm class

Note from Landon: **West TN Work Camp is June 1-6.
Deadline to sign up is May 15.**



Ryan Hill-RI (Shoulders) Christopher Goodale-USMC
Cameron Hurst--USAF(Curry) Hans Niestrath-USNA
Sam Richey-USMC (Stoltz) Conner Wiseman, Fort Bragg (Moore)
Jason Rushing-Air Natl Guard (Hampton) Ty Naifeh (USA)

Worship Order

Order of Worship Sunday, May 12, 2019

Congregational Reading: Psalm 36:7-9

Hymns

Prayer—Louis Stanley

Hymns

Lord's Supper

Byron Pruitt J. Stubblefield

Johnny Allen Larry Stone

Butch Blanton B. Shoulders

Presiding: Jon Stubblefield

Hymn

Contribution

Hymns

Scripture Reading: Esther 4:13-16 **Gage**

Prayer —

Lesson: Sean Niestrath

Hymn

Benediction: **The Grace**

ALTERNATES:

Please meet in case you are needed to serve as a sub for the Lord's Supper

May:

Roger Dillingham

Quincy Stephenson

Prepare communion:

May: Duggin

For the Record:

Last Sunday

Bible Class: 76

Worship: 136

Contribution:

\$6475.00

Wednesday: 65

May 12, 2019

Monitor: Barry Webb

Nursery:

Children's Church: none

Sound Booth: D. Stubblefield

Sunday, May 19, 2019

Prayer: Q. Stephenson

Prayer: Barry Webb

Scripture: Josh Pruitt

Monitor: Wayne Adams

Nursery: Betty Rust

Children's Church: none

Serving the Lord's Table:

Byron Pruitt J. Stubblefield

Johnny Allen Larry Stone-

Butch Blanton B. Shoulders

Presiding: Byron Pruitt

Sound Booth—Darin Swaidner

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday PM Service topic: John 20:1-9 (Ronny)



There will be an outdoor workday here at the building on Saturday, May 18th, 8am.

Sandy Pilon was baptized into Christ this week!
Welcome to the family!

Sign up on the bulletin board to teach or lead a group at VBS or to bring food!

Congratulations to Amelia Iliohan who graduated from the University of Kentucky last week with a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture!



Sunday Morning Class Schedule

Sean's Class-Life After Exile
Quincy's Class-Life of David

Expecting Parents:

Shannon (Coker) & Boyd Barger—Aug 9 (girl)

May 13—Harper Ferguson

May 14—Dan Rust

May 14—Ashton Noffsinger

May 15—Rebecca Niestrath

May 15—Jim Miller

May 16—Hunter Mathis



CALENDAR:

May 18—Workday @ building
May 19—Senior Sunday /Potluck
May 27—Memorial Day
June 1-6—West TN Work Camp
June 5—Ed Gallagher

When we meet:

Sunday

Bible Study 9:30 A.M.
Worship 10:30 A.M.

Sunday P.M.

At the building 6 P.M.

Small Groups Sept—May: various times;
contact Sean Niestrath

Wednesday

Bible Study 6:30 P.M.

Contact Us:

Office: 8:00-12:00 M-F
Phone: 270-825-0304
Email: pennyrilecoc@gmail.com
Mailing address: P.O. Box 161
Madisonville, KY 42431

-Bulletin Deadline: Friday, 10 am

Minister:

Sean Niestrath
269-352-9134
niestrath@juno.com

Youth Minister:

Landon Moore
731-676-3442
Lmoore1874@gmail.com

Missionaries:

Paulo Mirabelli
Via Pacchiarotti, 52
00139 ROMA-ITALIA

Marvin Rivera, Honduras
Email: marvinrivera1985@gmail.com



Love. Grow. Serve.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Samantha Curry, foot surgery on May 15th.

Byron Pruitt, tick illness.

George Teel, Kidney cancer

Honduran brothers and sisters Watata CoC in Homa Bay, Kenya

Serious Illness/Injury:

Rita Frazier, lung cancer, Barbara's SIL

Bryce Alexander, leukemia

Marvin Gallagher

Mike Bright, health issues

Ruffin Chandler

Lynn Stevens, cancer

Keith Roberts, cancer, EJ

Betty & Kim Stanley

Makenzie Carson, L. Russell

Brady Cobb, intestinal problems

Barbara Lynch, Shelia

Charles Smallwood, Micki's father

Rodney Householder

Aaron Reding, ALS

Mack Shearn

George Utley, cancer

Audrey Davis, 4yr.old, leukemia

Barry Newton, Keith's cousin, cancer

Chip Stuart, Kathy's BIL, cancer

Wayne Warszawa, Parkinson's

Andrew Self, hit by a car

Barbie Kern, Carol's sister, cancer

Larry Jerome, Wendy's father

Sally Malik, lungs

Jonathan Walker, Cumberland Hall

Dan Evans

Sandra Hawkins, cancer

Amy Caulder, brain cancer

Richard Grogan, Barbara S.

Roberta Lynch, Shelia's mom

Marion Owens, terminal cx

Kim Feltner, Tim's sister

Michael Skultety, cancer, Jane

Eric Curry

Phil Keith

George Teel, cancer

Jon Riley, lungs

Kevin Cline, eye disease

Bruce Coleson, MS

Ed Wallace, liver transplant

Lowry Johnson, 4m old, cancer

Connor Peebles, back problems

Jonathan Allen, MS

Tracy Thorp, cancer

Buddy Jenkins, Karen S. father

Jeff Travis, health

Ronnie Lear, COPD

Tracey Moore, illness

Hannah Gates, heart surgery

Sherry Mitchell, cancer

Pam Wiggins, cancer

Jakayla Acker, lymphoma

Connie Armstrong, cancer

Mark Martin, mesothelioma

Andrea Kane, cancer

Virginia Barron, Children's hospital

Kathy Lawrence

Bob Reis, MS

Ray Duggin, chemo

Lance Pace, cancer

Margaret Church, (Gaye), heart

Shut-Ins & Elderly:

Lee Townsend, Junie Peterson, Ewing Stubblefield, Anna Etta Brown,

Ruth Shoulders, Ann Alderson, Don & Judy Niestrath

Elders:

Barry Webb— 270-339-8429 barry.webb@ge.com

Dan Rust— 812-746-5635 dbrust@bellsouth.net

Byron Pruitt— 270-841-7518 brpruitt65@gmail.com

Ronny Stubblefield— 270-635-5360

ronnystubblefield59@yahoo.com

Sean Niestrath— 269-352-9134 sean.niestrath@outlook.com

Pennyrile Christian Counseling

Elizabeth B. Webb, LMFT, LCSW

To make an appointment, call 270-825-8746.

Deacons:

Jeremy Duggin, James Rust, Joshua Scott

Brock Shoulders, Steve Stoltz, Darin Swaidner

Tim Teel, Randy Travis