



30-40's Christmas Party:

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1 at 6:00pm

Catered Dinner ■ Fellowship Hall

Sign-up by Wednesday (29th)

Bring a \$10 unisex gift

This Week's Lesson

Sunday Morning Worship

Deny Yourself

Matthew 16.20-25

Sunday Evening Worship

The Worldly Church Part 1

1 John 2.15-17



Holiday Schedule

Sunday, December 24—No PM Service

Monday, December 25—Office Closed

Tuesday, December 26—Office Closed

Monday, January 1—Office Closed

No Bulletin The Week of Christmas

IS GOD YOUR KING?

I read a great article by Dr. Tony Evans a few weeks ago and wanted to share it with you.

The Queen of England is a prestigious figure. She looms larger than life. She even has her own palace. There's only one problem. She has very little power. She looks like one of the most powerful women in the world, but she isn't. Her position in her country is simply one of courtesy.

What England does to the Queen, we do to the King of the universe. We give him verbal recognition. We encase Him in beautiful palaces called churches. People come to pay homage to Him. But when it comes to decision making, we act like we don't need Him. We acknowledge His position but do not recognize His power.

May I ask you a question: What reigns as king in your life? If you're uncertain of your answer, reflect on how you spent the past couple of days. Were you methodically checking off the boxes on your to-do list, or did you make room for God and put Him above your many commitments?

I am not saying you should ditch the agenda and erase everything from your calendar. Responsibilities are important, and we honor God when we work with diligence and dedication. But when we put our own plans above God's kingdom agenda, that's a problem.

We are His children and heirs to His kingdom; we must take our role seriously. When we pray, "Your kingdom come" and "Your will be done," we should meditate on what those words truly mean. Having a kingdom mindset means using God's Word as our guide in every decision we make and in every interaction we have with others. We need to immerse ourselves in God's way of thinking so we know what He would have us do and say in every situation.

As we would honor a king, we should honor God with our praise and adoration. We need to truly make Him the King who reigns in our lives.

Buddy Johnson

Collins' Corner

ESTHER 4:1-4

When Mordecai learned all that had been done, Mordecai tore his clothes and put on sackcloth and ashes, and went out into the midst of the city, and he cried out with a loud and bitter cry. He went up to the entrance of the king's gate, for no one was allowed to enter the king's gate clothed in sackcloth. And in every province, wherever the king's command and his decree reached, there was great mourning among the Jews, with fasting and weeping and lamenting, and many of them lay in sackcloth and ashes. When Esther's young women and her eunuchs came and told her, the queen was deeply distressed. She sent garments to clothe Mordecai, so that he might take off his sackcloth, but he would not accept them.

This section of scripture is really easy to overlook and miss if you are not careful. Years ago, the common way that you mourned was the do what Mordecai did—tear clothes and sit in sackcloth and ashes. When this was happening, everyone knew that you were in mourning. Esther, when she finds out what is going on with Mordecai, does what everyone seeks to do when we see someone else hurting...she tries to “make it better.” She does this by sending out new clothes for Mordecai to change into so that he wouldn’t be sitting outside the palace in these dirty clothes.

What’s interesting here is that Mordecai would not accept the new clothes. Why? I believe that for Mordecai, to accept these new clothes would mean to accept that what was going on was OK. And, in fact, what was going on was not OK. In no way, shape, or form, was the wiping out of the Jews normal, and Mordecai wasn’t going to act like everything was normal. He was going to mourn and show whoever saw him that what was happening in this kingdom wasn’t right—and it did not need to just be swept under the rug and considered “just another law.”

What does that mean for us? How many times do we let things go that God says are not okay? Far too often right? You can think about things on a global level: hunger, slavery, poverty, sickness, etc. All of these things are not okay, yet sometimes we don’t think about them or acknowledge them. We also have things on a local or personal level that are not okay, but we may overlook: unfaithfulness in relationships, constant lying, lack of trust among friends, gossip, etc. For far too long, it has become normal to let abnormal things become normal. For God’s people, this should not be the case. **Matt**

BIBLE CLASSES

PRESCHOOL-PRIMARY AND INTERMEDIATE GRADES

Sunday Morning

Cradle Roll	Jane Foy	Anna Gilbert	108
Toddlers	Laura Fox	Linda Gilbert	105
2 year olds	Rebecca Baggett		106
3 year olds	Kayla McCord		100
4 year olds	Brook Gilbert	Seth Gilbert	103
Kindergarten	Jeana Piggott		107
1st Grade	Macey Korth		202
2nd Grade	Jason Bennett	Stacey Bennett	203
3rd Grade	Andy Milton		206
4th Grade	Andy Milton		206
5th Grade	Mae Fowler		208
6th Grade	Dave Piggott		210

Wednesday Night

Cradle Roll	Whitney Bowman		108
Toddlers	Cindy Mackie	Lauren Mackie	105
2 year olds	Olivia Simpson		106
3 year olds	Faith Henshaw		100
4 year olds	Lynn Lane		103
Kindergarten	Pam Rawdon		107
1st Grade	Lisa Rhodes		202
2nd Grade	Sarah Lane		203
3rd Grade	Courtney Norton	Lindsey Norton	206
4th Grade	Courtney Norton	Lindsey Norton	206
5th Grade	Rick Gilbert		208
6th Grade	Glenn Binkley		210

Teens Bible Class—Matt Collins—Downstairs

ADULT CLASSES

Sunday Morning

- Harmony of the Gospels**—Don Viar-College (215)
- New Testament Fulfillment of Old Testament Prophecies**—Chad Gilbert-20s-30s (214)
- A Christ Centered Life**—Randy Chaffin/Bob Mackie-30s-40s (213)
- Gospel of John**—Charlie Moore/William Birdwell-Library
- The Life of Jesus in the Gospel of Mark**—David Fox-Fellowship Hall
- Confidence in Your Salvation**—David Whiteaker-SmallA
- Bible Word Studies**—Houston Bynum-(114)
- Revelation**—Laura Jackson-Ladies (115)

Wednesday Afternoon Class 1:30pm

John—David Vaughn-(115)

Wednesday Night

- Characters of the New Testament**—Brian Carver-College (215)
- The Message of the Minor Prophets**—Buddy Johnson-Large Auditorium
- The Promise Land (Ray Vander Laan)** - Joe Hill-(114)
- Empires: How God has used the Kingdoms of this Earth for His Purpose**—Jann Cupp-Fellowship Hall
- The Apostles**—Wanda Jared-Library (Ladies)
- Building Better Marriages**—Bill Flatt/Sean Flatt-(115)

News & Announcements

Remember in Daily Prayer!

Donnie Westbrook requests prayers as he is dealing with ulcerative colitis, his heart being in AFIB, weakness and his medicines being regulated.

Joyce Williamson and family requests prayers as she enters her final life stages.

Seth Leffew, son of **Steven & Angela Leffew**, will have eye surgery today (Wednesday) in Nashville.

Sympathy to **Allison Burr** in the passing of her grandfather, **G.E. McCormack**, who passed away last Wednesday. His funeral was Monday in Hermitage.

Sympathy to **Ed & Rosella Smith** in the passing of their daughter-in-law, **Judy Loftis** who passed away Friday morning in Texas. Her funeral will be in Houston.

Sympathy to **Shawn Patterson** in the passing of her step-father, **Dave Leaf**, who passed away Thursday night. The family will have a private service.

Remember those who are dealing with cancer:

Kathy Adams, Linda Alcorn, Kenneth Allen, Dean Boles, Kaye Bowman, Rene' Canfield, Helen Carr, David Cowan, Walter Fitzpatrick, Tim Jennings, Angela Leffew, Rhett Massey, Paula Palk, Jan Shepherd and Marty Smith

Remember Our Shut-ins:


Bethesda: Jan Shuster, Cornelia Steakley & Lyda Taylor

Heritage Pointe: Peggy Cooper and Wilma Hayes

NHC: Evelyn Solt, Aletha Tino

Signature Health-Algood: Matilda Craighead

At Home: Hugh & Kathy Adams, Rubye Anderson, Sue Clack, Margaret Cunningham, Mary Dyer, Geneva Glasgow, Wilma Judd, Peggy Mackie, Ralph Medley, Pat McCannless, Robert & Jean Reeves, Claudine Smith, Ed & Rosella Smith, Frances Smith, Marty Smith, Jimmy Stafford, Jordan Terry and Joyce Williamson

 **Veterans:** If you are not already on our Veterans Board, please provide us with your years of service and the branch you served. Please write your information on the back of your attendance card or call the church office. See **Judi Williams**.

Love One Another
AS I HAVE LOVED YOU. JOHN 13:34

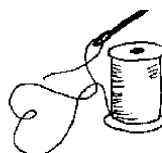
Security Team: Anyone interested in serving on our security team, please meet on **Tuesday, December 5**, at 6:30 pm in room 214. The team will be addressing many aspects of safety and security, and many skills are needed. Please attend if you are willing to explore this important work. If you cannot attend this meeting but would like to be informed of future meetings, please send your name, preferred email address and phone number to info@jacoc.org, or call the church office at 931-526-4605.

NHC Worship Service: Jefferson Avenue will conduct the worship services at **NHC** on **Sunday, December 3** at **2:00pm**. The **Sunday Auditorium Class** is scheduled to assist with the service.

Youth Protection Training - Training sessions to renew Youth Protection Training will be on Wednesday **December 6 and December 13** in Room #209 during bible class time. Everyone who regularly works with our youth needs to attend one of these sessions. Please make plans to attend. For more information, contact **Bobby Lane**.

The Amazing Ladies

Sunday, December 10 is the last day to sign up for our luncheon being hosted by Lisa Rhodes at her home (705 Liberty Court) on **Tuesday, December 12 at 11:30am**. Transportation will be provided if you want to ride the van. We will leave the church parking lot at 11:15am.



Quilting Group: Beginning in January, a new quilting group will be making quilts for the girls at Happy Haven to take with them when they leave. If you are interested in helping, we will be meeting soon; watch for details. **Also**, donations of 100% cotton fabric are needed. See **Ruby Holloway** for details.

