

Something To Think About

My friend James Hayes preaches for the Pleasant View Church of Christ just north of Nashville. He also sends out a weekly email to his fellow preachers and friends entitled, “*Something To Think About.*” I want to share some of his writing with you this week. I hope it will bless you and make you think. Enjoy!

Penance Vs. Repentance

At the end of every year, an old country doctor would review his accounts. As he scanned the outstanding debts, he would often take a red pen and mark through a name and add “CANNOT PAY.” After all, the doctor knew every person in town, and he knew that no matter how small the bill was there would be some patients who just couldn’t pay. After the doctor’s death, his wife reviewed the same books and was shocked at what she saw. She figured that most of the town owed her late husband thousands of dollars. So, she took the books to a probate court and asked the judge for a settlement against those citizens. When the judge reached his decision, he looked at the widow and said, “The patients owed your husband. And he-in his own handwriting-decided to cancel their debts. There is nothing you can do to collect that money. Case dismissed.”

Isn’t it interesting how we try to make some people repay debts to God that He already cancelled? This attitude emerges because some confuse penance with repentance. Penance is defined as “voluntary self-punishment as an outward expression of repentance for something done wrong.” In other words: beating yourself up for a sin, even after you have confessed that sin and vowed to repent. Penance deals with the past; repentance deals with the future. It’s a shame that even though someone confesses a sin and repents that he/she must then face a series of “punishments” from fellow Christians. These include social shunning, accusatory glances, gossip about the sinner’s past, etc.

Any time you feel the need to punish a sinner who has returned to the Lord, remember the father of the Prodigal Son. The son thought the father would despise him. The son was prepared for punishment. But instead, the father threw a party. Why? Because we should all celebrate when someone does the right thing. We shouldn’t punish them.

So he got up and went to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

Luke 15:20 (NIV)

Collins' Corner

Hebrews 12:1-2: *Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.*

Did you know that 54% of people between ages 18-29 will drop out of church? Did you also know that 53% of people ages 40-49 will drop out as well? In other words, once kids leave, parents do too.

Why? What is happening and how can we stop this? Part of it is generational—this generation, stats show, are dropping out more rapidly than any generation ever before. It's a changing world. One writer describes the new generation this way:

“Young people are cynical because their raw and savvy culture leaves them with no transcendent values, only survival by whatever means serve their lust and desires for the moment! They are depressed, restless, critical, argumentative, unmotivated and unimpressed with previous generations' successes.”

Part of it is also this: I don't think we've made things about Jesus.

When our connection to people wears down within the church (friends move away, minister leaves, etc.), then our connection to Jesus is all that's left. If that's not real, then we will find something else that we can better connect to (hobby, other people, job, etc...) and we will pursue that. Hebrews 12:2 encourages us to do what so many of us don't do at all on a daily basis—think about the Lord. Think about it, when was the last time you actively considered the Lord in your day to day life at work or school? When at home? When has Jesus meant anything to you during a time that you weren't at the church building? It's impossible for us to live for Christ mindlessly. Nobody accidentally becomes a disciple of Jesus.

You know why so many people don't consider Jesus during their everyday life? Because we feel constrained by him. It's easier to just live normal and go on about my day. If I don't think about Jesus then I can be free to live how I want to live. That's the narrative that we place in our minds. When we do that, we have set ourselves up to be disappointed. Point yourself towards Jesus, there you will find meaning, worth, and value.

Matt

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	Sandy Cupp		202
2nd Grade	Rachael Liner	Bryan Liner	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	Jenifer McDaniel		108
Toddlers	Cindy Mackie	Lauren Mackie	105
2 year olds	Olivia Simpson	Molly Chaffin	106
3 year olds	Stephanie Chaffin		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 Bible Classes

Sunday Morning

Comparative Religions—Don Viar—College (215)
Prayer—Don Foy—20s, 30s & 40s (214)
II Corinthians—Bobby Lane—Library
Things Every Christian Needs to Believe—David Fox—Merry Middles—Fellowship Hall
Christian Growth: My Salvation + Your Salvation = Our Salvation—David Whiteaker—Small Auditorium
A Chronological Study of the Bible—John Mason—(114)
I, II & III John—Laura Jackson—Ladies (115)

Wednesday Afternoon Class 1:30pm

Matthew: The Life of Christ—Bill Flatt—(115)
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Wednesday Night

The Reason for God—Brian Carver—College (215)
Gospel According to Mark—Buddy Johnson - Auditorium
If Jesus Gave the Sermon on the Mountain Today—Joe Hill—(114)
Jesus on Trial—David Edgington—Fellowship Hall
Prayer—Delores Wheatley—Library (Ladies)

News & Announcements



Congratulations to Tyler & Terann Birdwell on the birth of their son, **Clark William Birdwell**, who was born Friday, February 24, at Cookeville Regional. He was 7 lbs. 6 oz. and 20.5" long. Their address is 1144 Lone Oak Dr, Cookeville 38501.

Prayer Requests:

Faye Wilson is home from Cookeville Regional, recovering from a light stroke.

Mary Alice Kinslow is at Lifecare in Sparta, recovering from knee surgery. No visitors allowed at this time.

Nathan Goolsby is now cancer free! **Mary** requests continued prayer for his next five-year checkup.

Sandy Eaves is at home recovering from jawbone surgery! No additional procedure needed at this time. Also, her wound is clean, healthy and measured smaller than last appointment! Wonderful news! Praise God! Keep praying, our prayers are being answered!

Leighton Sissom is no longer taking dialysis and growing a little stronger each day. Please continue to pray for him.

Neta Ford has been dismissed from NHC and now is at home.

Those who are dealing with cancer:

Kathy Adams, Linda Alcorn, Kenneth Allen, Myron Anderson, Dean Boles, Kaye Bowman, Rene' Canfield, Joy Carter, Walter Fitzpatrick, Jeremy Fortner, Tim Jennings, Dave Leaf, 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 Healthcare: Evelyn Solt & Aletha Tino

His Place: Lyman Schroeder

Signature Health-Algood: Kathy Anderson and Matilda Craighead

At Home: Hugh & Kathy Adams, Herman Bean, Sue Clack, Margaret Cunningham, Mary Dyer, Geneva Glasgow, Peggy Mackie, Ralph Medley, Pat McCanless, Opal Nichols, Leighton Sissom, Claudine Smith, Frances Smith, Marty Smith and Jordan Terry

Thank You!

Thank you for all the cards, prayers, phone calls and thoughts during my recovery. I greatly appreciated your concerns and inquiries while I was sick.

Thanks, *Joyce Whiteaker*

► Young At Heart Golden Sixties Banquet has been CANCELLED due to lack of interest.

Ladies
LUNCHEON

will be at **Spankies** this Thursday, March 2, at 11:30 a.m.

NHC Worship Service: Sunday, March 5, Jefferson Avenue will conduct the worship services at 2:00pm. The **College Class** is scheduled to assist.

Blood Drive



The American Red Cross will be in the Fellowship Center, **Monday, March 6, from 1pm to 5pm.**

The Amazing Ladies will be meeting for lunch on Tuesday, **March 14**, at Mauricio's, 232 N. Peachtree Ave. Room C is reserved for us at 11:30am. They have soup, salad, sandwiches and of course Italian. Please sign up on the YAH Board to be a part of this special group of ladies. **The Amazing Ladies** are the widows of Jefferson Avenue church family. Visitors are always welcome.



MAGI UPDATE: March items are pencil sharpeners, fashion dolls, toothpaste, 4pk play-doh.



Mark ■ Philippians ■ Colossians

Church of Christ
521 S. Jefferson Ave.
Cookeville, TN 38501

Web Site: <http://www.jacoc.org>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/JeffersonAvenueCOC>

Say a good word for Jesus this week!

<u>Sunday, February 26, 2017</u>	
SHEPHERDS	DEACONS (cont.)
*Glenn Binkley	Phillip Burr
Jann Cupp	Brian Carver
Doug Fowler	Randy Chaffin
Don Foy	Ken Clark
Bobby Lane	Jim Dale
John Mason	Jason Fowler
John Rhodes	Chad Gilbert
Leighton Sissom	Seth Gilbert
*Chairman of Month	Jim Hicks
	Chuck Lankford
	Bryan Limer
	Bob Mackie
	Ken Mayes
MINISTERS	Brian McDaniel
Buddy Johnson	Andy Milton
Pulpit Minister	Dean Olson
Matt Collins	Jimmy Patterson
Youth Minister	Dave Piggott
Bo Perez	Gaylon Presley
Hispanic Ministry	Bud Simpson
	Pete Story
DEACONS	Don Viar
Jason Bennett	Donnie Westbrook
William Birdwell	
Sam Brown	
Bible Class.....286	Church Office.....931-526-4605
Sunday Morning.....549	Information Line.....931-528-1006
Sunday Evening.....251	Fax Line.....931-520-8708
Wednesday Night.....238	Mother's Day Out.....931-260-7861
Contribution.....\$20430	
	Email
	Church Office.....info@jacoc.org
	Buddy Johnson.....buddy@jacoc.org
	Matt Collins.....mattc@jacoc.org
	Bo Perez.....bo@jacoc.org
	Mother's Day Out.....laura.fox@jacoc.org
	Service Schedule
	Sunday Bible Study.....9:00 AM
	Sunday Morning.....10:00 AM
	Sunday Evening.....6:00 PM
	Wednesday Bible Study.....6:30 PM

BIRTHDAYS

March 5-11

- 5 - Whitney Bowman
- 5 - Wayne Roberts
- 6 - Rowen Bennett
- 6 - Sean Flatt
- 7 - Phyliss Burton
- 7 - Sue Clack
- 7 - Joel Cowan
- 8 - Opal Nichols
- 8 - Rachel Roberts
- 8 - Marilyn Scott
- 9 - Porter Davidson
- 9 - Roslyn Stout
- 10 - Glenn Binkley
- 11 - Stephanie Chaffin
- 11 - Chris Savage



A News and Notes

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MARCH

- 5 - T4C @ Willow Avenue
- 13-17 - Spring Break
- 19 - Devo @ Milton's
- 31 - Spring Retreat

APRIL

- 9 - T4C @ Netherland
- 30 - Devo @ Henson's

MAY

- 2 - Campbellball Opening Night
- 7 - Senior Night
- 17 - 100 Percent Night

W.A.S. meets every Wednesday
(unless no school)

www.jayouth.org