

East Columbus Bulletin

Vol. 2, No. 10 – October 4, 2015



East Columbus church of Christ
811 Alabama Street, Columbus, MS 39702
Phone (662) 328-6227
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*Proverbs 2:1 My son, if you receive my words, And treasure my commands within you,
2 So that you incline your ear to wisdom, And apply your heart to understanding;
3 Yes, if you cry out for discernment, And lift up your voice for understanding,
4 If you seek her as silver, And search for her as for hidden treasures;
5 Then you will understand the fear of the LORD, And find the knowledge of God.*

SUNDAY

9:00 a.m. Worship/10:00 a.m. Bible Study
11:00 a.m. Worship with Lord's Supper

WEDNESDAY

7:00 p.m. Bible classes for all ages

Other Study and Worship Opportunities

- Second Sunday 2:00 p.m., Trinity Care Home Worship Service
- Second Saturday Men's Bible Study Ranch House Restaurant 6:30 A.M.
- Third Sunday Neighborhood Bible Study 6:00 p.m. location (TBA)
- Young Bible Scholars meet each month - Time and Location (TBA)
- Bible Study at the Pines - 8 p.m. Sundays & 5 p.m. Mondays, Cady Hill 6 p.m Thurs..
- CD's of sermons and Gospel Meetings are available by signing up in the foyer
- Recorded sermons and gospel meetings and other resources are also available at the church website <http://eastcolumbuschurch.com/>. Contact Steve Coburn if you need assistance.
- Auditorium class- remember to read a chapter in Proverbs every day, summarize chapters, and select favorite or notable verses for the Sunday adult class this quarter.
- Don't forget to submit questions for the preacher for the last Sunday lesson each month.

Prayer Requests

Home Bound Members: - Mike Butler, Annie McCrary, Jack Burks, Eula Mae Harless

Others Limited by Health: - Frances Barham, Joyce Manasco, Joyce Ratcliff, Willena Woods

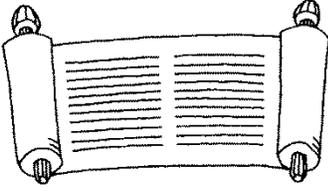
Sick - Harold Young, Lynette Coburn's father, **continues** at home under hospice care. **Joyce Ratcliff** continues receiving therapy at home. **Jim Allen**, preacher at Northeast congregation in Tupelo, asked for prayers for his wife **Lesia** who recently underwent extensive spinal surgery. **Annie McCrary** was hospitalized for a fall and will be undergoing rehab therapy for two weeks before returning home.

Note: If you would like to make known a prayer request for an individual or family member who has experienced a sickness, death, hospitalization, or other need, please contact Ed Williams, 323-9502, or glenedwilliams@yahoo.com

Elders: Jay McCrary and Jerry Paschall

Deacons: Clyde Hollis, Ed Williams, Don Zant

Preacher: Kevin Kay



Ps 139:23 Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me, and know my anxieties; (24) And see if there is any wicked way in me, And lead me in the way everlasting. (NKJV)

What's our problem?

"For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul?" (Matthew 16:26)

Difficulties are not hard to find. The average person's life presents a thorny thicket of problems that have to be dealt with. Indeed, on some days it seems that we do little more than run from one problem to the next. We can hardly get one fire put out before another breaks out somewhere else.

But out of all the things that need fixing, which one needs fixing the most? Which issue in life is the main issue? One measure of our spiritual maturity (and even our earthly maturity) is the way in which we prioritize our problems. The immature give most of their attention to problems that are of no more than secondary importance, while the more mature see the things that matter most and give their primary attention to those things. So if the way we spend our time and the problems we choose to work on are any indication, how mature can we say that we are, really and truly?

Anyone who has read the New Testament will know that it takes a definite position on the question of what's important and what's not. Jesus put it in the form of a question: "For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his soul?" Our main problem is our broken relationship with God.

As long as that problem goes unfixed, we are pathetic and profitless creatures, even if we're able to fix every other problem in the world.

Millions of people would say Amen! to the importance of God -- but these same people spend most of their time working on issues other than their relationship to Him. Our schedule books simply don't support our claim that spiritual concerns are No. 1 in our lives. We rush through our days, accomplishing little more than the rearrangement of deck chairs on a ship that is sinking.

The daily challenge that confronts us is not only to see what most needs to be worked on, but to keep that concern in the cross hairs of our attention. In the end, it will be evident that most of the "urgent" matters that tried to claim our attention were simply inconsequential. Before it's too late, we need to stop our frantic fixing of things "out there" and start working on things "in here."

"It is not a world out of joint that makes our problem but the shipwrecked soul in it." — P. T. Forsyth

Gary Henry, Wordpoints Daily Devotionals, 3-19-09

"Who for the joy ..."

"... Let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him, endured the cross, despising shame and hath set down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider him that hath endured such gainsaying of sinners against himself, that ye wax not faint, fainting in your souls ..." (Hebrews 12:1b-3).

In the opening portion of verse one the writer calls to the mind of his readers the noble examples of their ancestors, who had given worthy examples of faith, which should have inspired them to continue the same walk of faith they set their own feet upon when they became convinced that Jesus was their long anticipated Messiah. In light of the testimony of those who had gone before, they were urged to run with patience, steadfastness, and unswerving constancy the race which was set before them. If the writer of this epistle was Paul, comparing the life of Christians to a "race" was something he had done before (1 Corinthians 9:24-27). When one reads the list of "worthies" in Hebrews 11, some might be disposed to wonder why they are in the chapter, set along beside Abraham, Sarah, Rahab, and others. One such one would be Barak (who had to have Deborah accompany him in battle, else he would not go, Judges 4). Or Jephthah, who vowed a foolish vow; or Samson, whose carnal lusts and weakness led ultimately to blindness, imprisonment, and death for him. We wonder, I say, how these people were examples of faith. Perhaps they were there precisely for this reason, to show not only their weakness, but the indisputable truth that they did have faith, lending encouragement to us that no matter how marred our life, God is the Great Mender and can restore again the broken vessel.

Yet, if there were serious flaws in the lives of some of these in Hebrews eleven, no serious charge could be leveled against Him who is the Author and Perfecter of our faith. His was a sinless, flawless life and while none hope to duplicate perfect character in their lives, we can take hope that just as flawed men like David can have saving faith and that one reason of that saving faith is the joy which awaits us at the end of our way.

Jesus, for the joy which was set before Him, endured the cross, despising shame, and sat down at the right hand of God. The writer does not tell us right here what this joy was that motivated Him who is the author and Perfecter of our faith. The consequences of His endurance is stated: God sat Him at His right hand. The Philippian letter reads,

"Wherefore God hath also highly exalted him and given unto him the name that is above every name ..." (Philippians 2:9). But again, this only tells us the consequences of his actions—the motive which led Him to endure the cross, the gainsaying of sinners, despising the shame—the motive, I say is found in Hebrews 2:10: "in bringing many sons to glory." This was the joy which was before Christ, that He could present each redeemed soul (cleansed, forgiven in His blood) to His Father and say, "Father, this one has come to believe in Me, has followed Me through the trials of life, and I present him to You without spot and blemish, because I have cleansed him in My blood." What a joyous day for our Redeemer! What a glorious day for His redeemed! Truly, "Blessed are they that wash their robes, that they may have a right to the tree of life and may enter in by the gates into the city" (Revelation 22:14)!

Jim McDonald

The Book of Your Life

Have you ever thought about the fact that when an author writes a story he begins with a certain amount of space—blank pages—which he must fill? Have you ever thought that, as you live your life, you too "write" something on its "blank pages"?

What are you writing on the pages of your life? What have you *already* written? Are some parts of your story written better than other parts?

What is the focus of the story of your life—good deeds or evil? Is there a main point to your story or is it just sort of a rambling incoherent tale?

As you are writing the story of your life each day, are you remembering that this autobiography of your life is *not* being written in invisible ink? Even as you write it, everyone is reading what you write!

Will the book of your life survive the test of time and be found worthy of being copied in the life stories of other people or will it be thought unworthy of imitation and be quickly forgotten by other people?

Here is one last thought to consider: How will your story end? Will you inherit an eternal home in the presence of God Almighty or will you be tormented eternally in the lake of fire and brimstone along with the devil, his angels, and all the souls who rejected and neglected to serve the Father in heaven?

It is God who gave you the book of your life to write and it is God to whom you must give account when this life is over (Hebrews 9:27; John 5:25-29). Are you seeking God's help while writing on the pages of your life or are you trying to write it all by yourself?

James 4:13-16 says, "Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit";¹⁴ whereas you do not know what *will happen* tomorrow. For what *is* your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away.¹⁵ Instead you *ought* to say, "If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that."¹⁶ But now you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil."

Michael Hurst

If you would like to drop a note to Wilson Adams to thank him for conducting our meeting you may write him at:

Wilson Adams
C/O Veterans Parkway Church of Christ
488 Veterans Parkway
Murfreesboro, Tennessee 37128