

### Times of Services

#### Sunday

9:00 a.m. Worship  
10:00 a.m. Bible Study  
11:00 a. m. Worship

#### Wednesday

7:00 p.m. Bible Study

### Other Study and Worship Opportunities

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday 2:00 p.m. Trinity Care Home Worship Service
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday 6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study-at Ranch House Restaurant, Columbus, MS
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Neighborhood Bible Study – (TBA)
- Young Bible Scholars monthly meeting (TBA)
- Monthly Ladies Class- November 12, 7:00 p.m., TBA

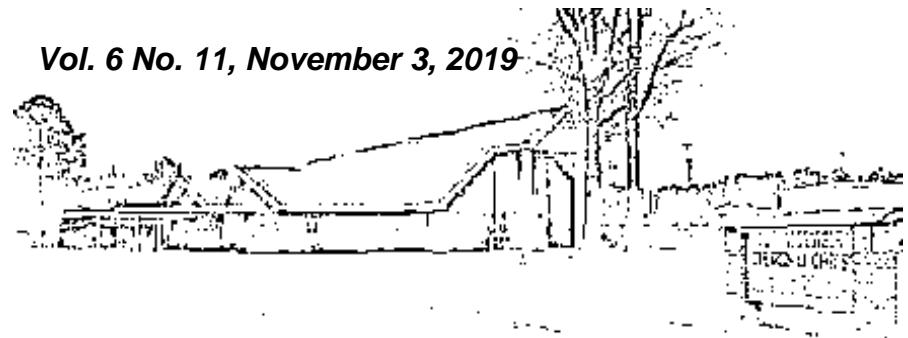
### News and Notes

- **Home Bound Members:** Mike Butler, Eula Mae Harless, Joyce Manasco.
- **Limited Health:** Willena Woods, Wade McCrary.
- **Prayer Requests:** Frank and Joann Butler. The Barham family. The Logan Family.
- **Others to remember:** Steve Coburn, Jim Ratcliff, David Allen Williams, Jerry Paschall, Elbert Logan, Mike & Marion Butler.
- **Sick:** Marilyn Lavender suffered a broken hand. Lynette Coburn has a knee injury that will require surgery soon. Lee Gallop continues to have numerous tests run to determine the nature of his illness. Willena Woods was recently hospitalized.
- **Deaths:** Edna Dean Logan Young, sister of Elbert Logan, aunt to Gail Lowrey and Allen Jones, passed away on Tuesday, October 22, 2019. Our prayers of comfort go out to this family.

### Contact Information:

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# East Columbus Bulletin

## If Church Was a...

The greatest privilege we will ever have is worshipping God. A touching scene from the book of Revelation is when the “the twenty-four elders fall down before Him who sits on the throne and worship Him who lives forever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying: ‘You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power’ (4:10-11). Certainly this illustrates what is true of all who understand the privilege of worshiping God.

Unfortunately, we as God’s people lose sight of that as we respond to the various events of life. We let the slightest incident convince us to disobey God’s command to “not forsake the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some” (Heb. 10:25). Ironically, we would not let those same excuses keep us from doing other things we deem important. I wonder, if church was a...

**Job, would we get fired?** What chance would we have of keeping a job if we showed up 20% of the time or stayed home to watch television and spend time with family instead? And what if when we did show up we were always running late or the first to leave? Any chance of keeping a job with that attitude?

**School, would we fail?** Would we let our children miss school most of the time or attend only when they felt like it? Could we honestly expect them to pass the tests if they missed more classes than they attended?

It is a tragedy when God's people are more afraid of losing their job or failing class than forsaking God in public worship. Is He not greater than any earthly assignment? Is the eternal soul not of more value than earthly gain? Then why put on a charade about missing church, especially when God wants us to build each other up in public worship (Col. 3:16)? Do we honestly think we are fooling Him when we say we're too tired, sick, or busy to go to church, yet not let those same excuses keep us from going to the stores, games, and restaurants? Are we that deceived by the world and its lure? Yes, some are unable to attend because of legitimate hindrances with health, work, or other obligations, which keep them from doing other things as well. But God knows if we are unable to attend worship or if we are unwilling. The key is understanding that difference ourselves before we meet Him in judgment.

Mike Thomas, *Standing Firm*, Nov. 2012

## I Have Never Sinned

Here is a list of things I have found to be true, unfortunately, either through experience or observation, regarding sin

### Without Regretting It

Sin brings a dark chasm to our soul. It fills our heart with fear and shame; with the dread and terror; with sorrow and regret. It is as David said, "For my iniquities have gone over my head, like a heavy burden they are too heavy for me. My wounds are foul and festering because of my foolishness. I am troubled. I am bowed down greatly; I go mourning all the day long" (Psa. 38:4-6). When I am honest with myself, I have found the same to be true with my own sins. They always result in disappointment, disgust, and despair.

### Without Thinking of Self

I have never sinned without placing my own desires above God's will, since sin is the act of violating God's law. "Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness" (1Jn. 3:4). It is the result of pursuing our own desires (Jas.1:14-15). Thus, gossip is a choice, hatred is a decision, lust is a desire, and lying is a response. If I am to be pleasing to God, I must put off "the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and be "renewed "in the spirit of my mind, and that "I put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness (Eph. 4:22-24).

### While Praying for Strength

God promises to give strength to those who ask Him for help in turning away from sin and ungodly desires. He says, "If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him" (Jas. 1:5). I have never seen Him fail to keep that promise. He truly is a God who "gives power to the weak, and to those who have no might He increases strength" (Isa 40:29). But, let us be resolved in our own mind that we truly do want to resist the devil and put away wickedness. If we are not committed to coming out of the world and being separate, the prayer for strength and wisdom will not benefit us. We will be "like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways" (Jas. 1:6-8).

### Without Separating Myself From God

Sin results in spiritual separation from God. Even the prophet of old said, "The soul who sins will die" (Ezek. 18:4). He was referring to the same thing Paul referred to when he said the "wages of sin is death" (Rom. 6:23). No one has ever sinned without experiencing that result. When Adam and Eve sinned, they were cast out of the Garden of Eden. When we sin, we are also removed from fellowship with God. If left unchanged, we will be eternally separated from Him in the "second death" (Rev. 20:14). No sin is worth those consequences, especially when we may "come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need" (Heb. 4:16. There is no reason for us to remain in sin.

Mike Thomas, *Standing Firm*, Dec. 2014

### Cell Phones and Bibles

I wonder what would happen if we treated our Bible like we treat our cell phones.

- *What if we carried it around in our purses or pockets?*
- *What if we turned back to get it if we forgot it?*
- *What if we flipped through it several times a day?*
- *What if we used it to receive messages from the text?*
- *What if we treated it like we couldn't live without it?*
- *What if we gave it to kids as a gifts?*
- *What if we used it as we traveled?*
- *What if we used it in case of an emergency?*

This is something to make you go ...hmmm... where is my Bible?

(author unknown)