

**Sunday Morning Worship**

Announcements.....(815-3033) Caleb Graves  
 Lead Singing.....Jeff McVey  
 First Prayer.....Larry Flatt  
 Reading.....Jamie Brock  
 Scripture.....Proverbs 13:20-22  
 Lord's Table (N).....\*Don Sullivan  
 (S).....\*Herb Rowland  
 (N).....Robert Elam  
 (N).....Justin Randolph  
 (N).....Tim Gann  
 (S).....Ethan Gierucki  
 (S).....Jason Vandagriff  
 (S).....Eddie Palmer  
 Sermon.....Tony Lawrence  
 Dismiss.....Larry Cook

**Sunday Evening Worship**

Announcements.....(815-3033) Caleb Graves  
 Lead Singing.....Jeff McVey  
 First Prayer.....Micah Lawrence  
 Reading.....Doug Hendrixson  
 Scripture.....Galatians 4:9-11  
 Lord's Table.....\*Clent Kesey  
 .....\*Rickey Hurst  
 Sermon.....Tony Lawrence  
 Dismiss.....Ronnie Prince

**Wednesday Bible Study**

Announcements.....Kurt Maynard  
 Lead Singing.....Ethan Duncan  
 First Prayer.....Rodney Reynolds  
 Reading.....David Roberts  
 Invitation.....Tony Lawrence  
 Dismiss.....Stanley Graves

**Welcome Committee**

A.M.....Doris Smith & Pat Gauger  
 P.M.....David & Iona King

**Bus Driver:**.....Kelly Thaxton (607-9169)

**Ushers:** .....Ricky Prince & Shannon Griffin  
**Attend Nursery:** .....Hannah Maynard  
**Un/Lock Building:**.....Don Cathey/Ricky Prince  
**Prepare Communion:** .....Templetons  
**Assist Baptisms:** .....Cindy Fisher & Sherry Graves

**Pantry Item:** .....Sweet Peas

**Elder Closing Remarks:** .....Leonard Clemons

**Record For The Week...**

A.M. Worship.....358  
 Bible Study.....239  
 P.M. Worship.....216  
 Wednesday Bible Study.....197  
 Contribution.....\$7,843

**CHURCH OF CHRIST AT BYBEE BRANCH**  
 1165 Old Smithville Road  
 McMinnville, Tennessee 37110-1008  
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A bulletin published weekly by  
 CHURCH OF CHRIST AT BYBEE BRANCH  
 1165 Old Smithville Road  
 McMinnville, Tennessee 37110-1008  
 (931) 473-2486 or 473-7021 FAX

**Web Page:** [www.bybeebranch.org](http://www.bybeebranch.org)

**Services**

<i>Sunday</i>		<i>Wednesday</i>	
A.M. Worship	9:00 AM	Bible Study	7:00 PM
Bible Study	10:15 AM		
P.M. Worship	6:00 PM	<i>Monday (2<sup>nd</sup> &amp; 4<sup>th</sup> of each month)</i>	
		Monday Morning Bible Class	9:00 AM

**Elders**

Leonard Clemons	473-4186
Stanley Graves	473-6418
Don Griffith	668-9006
Don Sullivan	668-2184
email	<a href="mailto:elders@bybeebranch.org">elders@bybeebranch.org</a>

**Deacons**

Jamie Brock	Joe Collins
Jeff Flatt	Shannon Griffin
Allen Hughes	Rickey Hurst
David Keele	Ken Martin
Kurt Maynard	Gordon Mayfield
Jeff McVey	Bruce Pryor
Jim Slatton	

**Ministers**

Tony Lawrence	668-9123
email	<a href="mailto:preacher@bybeebranch.org">preacher@bybeebranch.org</a>
Steve Hillis	668-2632
email	<a href="mailto:steve@bybeebranch.org">steve@bybeebranch.org</a>

**Missionary**

Robert Garibaldi	314-9556
email	<a href="mailto:robert@bybeebranch.org">robert@bybeebranch.org</a>
Iglesia de Cristo building	668-6808

## Sick

### At Home:

*Jean Ware (broken leg)*

*Trena Hayes (Rita Prince's sister)*

*Judy Nussbaum (following a fall)*

*Jerry Flatt (Jeff's father, following heart attack)*

*Avie Clemons*

*Brenda Young (following a test on Wednesday)*

### In The Hospital:

*Bertie Wetzil (sister of Elmer Rutledge) - in*

*Huntsville Hospital following car accident*

*Preston Huckeby (cousin of Herb Rowland, following being struck by a car)*

*Jimmy Ferrell (Mitchell Ferrell's brother) -*

*Cookeville Regional Medical Center following bypass surgery*

## Sermons for Sunday

AM.....What Will You Leave Behind?

PM.....Observing "Holy Days"

## Holiday Fellowship

The annual holiday fellowship will be this Sunday, December 21, following the evening services. Everyone is asked to bring sandwiches, finger foods, and desserts.

## Wednesday Night Classes

Due to the large number of teachers who will be traveling, on Wednesday evenings, December 24 and 31, all classes will meet in the auditorium. There will be an opportunity for singing, Bible reading and prayer. Please bring your visiting family and friends with you for a period of devotion. It will be uplifting and encouraging.

## Something To Think About:

The less people speak of their greatness the more we think of it. — BACON

The more you say the less people remember. The fewer the words, the greater the profit. — FÉNELON

## Two Mules' Burdens of Earth

The story of Naaman receiving a cure for leprosy has been well known in the brotherhood, having been taught by just about every preacher. Most of the time, however, one only hears part of the story and that is the command for Naaman to plunge seven times in the Jordan River. There's more.

Naaman made another request after receiving his cure. He sought Elisha's permission to take some earth back to Syria (2 Kings 5:17). Naaman wanted to worship the God who cured him when he returned to Syria. Because Naaman was steeped in idolatry, he didn't believe that God could be worshiped except on his own land.

There was a little more to it as we learn from 2 Kings 5:18. While the king of Syria was kneeling before the Syrian god, Rimmon, Naaman would appear to be doing the same, but would really be worshipping the true God.

Naaman was doing two things wrong here. First, he was attempting to deceive the Syrian king. And, he was attempting to pay homage to God inside an idol temple. Naaman was guilty of trying to perpetuate a case of divided loyalty. He wanted to have his job as a leader in the Syrian army and his place beside the king. But, he also knew he wanted to worship the God who had cured his leprosy.

God can't be divided this way. We can't have the true God and put an idol next to him and worship both. Many people mistakenly think they can do this. They think they can worship God and money, but Jesus said that was not possible (Matthew 6:24). People also think they can worship God and recreation, God and material possessions, or God and just about anything else. Such, however, is not possible. We must devote ourselves fully, completely to God: heart, body, and soul, or we will be guilty of the same split devotion Naaman was.

~ John Henson ~

*(John Henson will be the new preacher at the Dibrell congregation beginning in February and previously preached at the Bethany congregation. For the past several years he has preached in Grand Blanc, MI)*

## Wise Words from the Editor of the Gospel Advocate

In our day, the church of Christ finds itself under attack by a secular mindset of untruth and irrationality. Sadly, even many members of the Lord's church have abandoned belief in the fixed and unchangeable truth of God's Word.

Seduced by an ungodly culture, many schools and congregations have exchanged the truth of Scripture for the lies of the world – lies often masqueraded as sensitivity or sophistication. As the world grows increasingly hostile to the truths of the Christian faith, many preachers and academics have gone over to the other side.

Even among a number of congregations considered "conservative," the lack of biblical preaching is telling. Doctrine is considered outdated by some and argumentative by others. The pattern of faith outlined in the Bible is disregarded and, far too often, treated as an embarrassment by trendsetters. Biblical preaching – once a distinctive among churches of Christ – has been supplanted in many congregations by entertaining messages providing a therapeutic massage of self-delusion.

As editor of the Gospel Advocate, David Lipscomb opposed the trendsetters of his generation. Following the Civil War, Progressives brought a variety of changes into the work and worship of the church. Lipscomb saw these changes as symptoms of a serious problem. The Progressives had lost faith in Scripture and, therefore, were breaking faith with God.

A denial of the inspiration and authority of Scripture opened the door to using instrumental music as worship, to permitting women to preach, and to joining in fellowship with denominations. What happened in the 1800s is happening among many churches of Christ today. This change is a disaster, because once you change your view of Scripture, you change the nature of Christian faith.

David Lipscomb's diagnosis concerning doctrinal looseness was on target. The plague of disbelief is both terminal and extremely contagious.

What has been taught in colleges has entered congregations. The Progressive agenda denies the truthfulness of Scripture, the authority of Scripture, and the importance of the Bible for the church. This denial is a symptom of a spiritual disease, a loss of the faith once for all delivered to the saints. Denying Scripture is denying Christ.

Against this onslaught of disbelief, however, we must be careful never to fall into the trap of attempting to fight fire with fire. The fundamental error driving the current apostasy is trusting in human opinion rather than trusting in the Word of God. We must never trust our own cleverness to outwit the cleverness of disbelief. We must trust in the Word of God alone.

Clever thinking provides a wide range of benefits in the arts and sciences, for these are areas where people can discover new things through the process of inquiry and reflection. Spiritual truths, however, are not discovered by the cleverness of mankind but are revealed by the grace of God. Apart from Scripture we would have no clue how to be right with God. If I need a well-designed bridge, I will look for the smartest engineer. If I need legal advice, I will go to a brilliant attorney. But if I need spiritual direction, I will turn to the Bible.

When Peter made the Good Confession, Jesus reminded him, "Flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but My Father who is in heaven" (Matt. 16:17). In the same way for us, no spiritual truth is revealed by our own cleverness. God's truth is revealed to us in God's Word.

From this perspective, the inspiration and authority of Scripture is essential for any spiritual illumination. This is why congregations, schools and brotherhood leaders who trust in the Bible are radically different from those who do not trust in the Bible.

Every aspect of Christian faith and practice is shaped by how you answer this straightforward question: Is the Bible the Word of God, and, therefore, entirely true and fully authoritative or is it not? For the church of Christ, our answer to this question must keep faith with God.

"See that you do not refuse him who is speaking," Hebrews 12:25 warns, "For if they did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, much less will we escape if we reject him who warns from heaven." Remaining faithful to Scripture, the Lord's church will walk in step with the Lord who speaks in Scripture. Those who lose faith in Scripture, however, have lost faith in the God who speaks in Scripture. And, as surely as faith leads to salvation, a lack of faith leads to destruction.

~ Gregory Alan Tidwell, Editor of the Gospel Advocate, via Facebook ~