

Welcome To The Killeen Church of Christ!

"Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep His commandments: for this is the whole duty of man."-Ecclesiastes 12:13

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VOLUME 30 NUMBER 44

OCTOBER 29, 2023

SHEPHERDS Lee Fisher Zachary Petties

DEACONS

Roger Deem Paul Portley Gaylen Williams

PREACHER Phil McIntosh

TREASURER

Gaylen Williams

MONTHLY SUPPORT:

Cherokee Home For Children Cherokee, TX

Christian Homes & Family Services Abilene, TX

Foster's Home For Children Stephenville, TX

Sunny Glen Children's Home San Benito, TX

SERVICE SCHEDULE

SUNDAY BIBLE CLASS - 9:30 AM Sunday Am Worship - 10:30 Am Sunday PM Worship - 5:00 PM Wednesday - 7:00 PM

The invitation is from the Lord and not from us!

- Shepherds Notes
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Sometimes we think that the invitation of the Lord is just another step in the worship service that we must carry out as the preacher concludes his sermon. But I would argue that it's just as important as the rest of the worship service, if not more! Let's not forget we encourage people to obey the Gospel, but the invitation to come, is from our Lord Jesus Christ and not from us! Although the Lord's invitation is always open at any time, especially during worship service it may be what someone needs to hear to respond at that time or it may plant the seed to bring about obedience. The invitation provides encouragement and admonishment with an aim to inspire positive change in one's behavior or attitude for the unforgiven to receive forgiveness of sins by obeying the Gospel. (Romans 10:17; John 8:24; Luke 13:3; Mathew 10:32; Mark 16:16), and for the erring Christian to return to the Lord by confessing, repenting of their sins. Also, to pray for others who need help with struggles in their lives (Acts 8:22).

Years ago, I attended a congregation where the leadership placed a lot of emphasis on the Lord's invitation as we do. It was said that when the invitation is given, please do not use this opportunity to leave early, go to the bathroom, or take children out of the auditorium, but remain in place while we sing the invitation song. Because they believed that movement while the invitation is given may cause a distraction to someone and hinder their decision to respond.

Please understand, only God truly knows a man's heart (1 Samuel 16:7), but we must never forget each time when there is an assembly of the saints, and the invitation is given, God is reaching out to those who have need of His grace and mercy! We read in the book of James "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" (4:14). Oh! What Joy we can have when we respond to the Lord's great invitation, we can be free from the bondage of sin.

I'm reminded of two different accounts in the Bible, one shows God's Mercy even when we are not at our best, and the other shows that He gives us the free will to make our own decisions. The illustration of Peter's denial of Christ is found in all four of the Gospel accounts. It records that Peter denied Christ due to fear and a moment of weakness, the Bible says he wept bitterly, this must have hurt him dearly. In Mark's account the angel of the Lord wanted Peter to know all was not lost that Christ had risen! "But go, tell His disciples—and Peter—that He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him, as He said to you." (Mark 16:7). Just think when Peter heard this it must have been a great source of encouragement for him, the Bible says he and another disciple ran to the tomb to see. But remember Judas, he made his own choices just like God gives us the ability to make our choices, his was the source of his own damnation. Even after his betrayal Judas could have fallen on his knees to beg God's, mercy, and forgiveness. But he did not! He may have felt some remorse from fear, which caused him to return the money to the Pharisees, but he never repented, preferring instead to commit suicide (Matthew 27:5-8).

The devil is a deceiver who seeks to corrupt something that is good. He perverts what is good and uses it for purposes to oppose God. Even today we can carry far too much guilt about our past lives and choices we made which impact the struggles in our daily lives. Sometimes we look at the godly lives of others and become discouraged almost to the point of just giving up. If this describes you now or in the past, remember what Jesus said, "*Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest*" (Matthew 11:28-30)," And never let the devil tell you it's too late to come to Christ or get things straight.

When God brought the children of Israel out of bondage, He instructed Moses to tell them this: "Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine" (Exodus 19:5).

Finally, the Bible closes with an invitation. Revelation 22:17, "And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely." In Christian Love, Bro Fisher

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The Ending That God Desires By Phil McIntosh

Almighty God's relationship with mankind is complicated and messy. None of that rests on God's part. The responsibility for disarray and disappointment in the relationship between the Maker and that which was made rests solely on the shoulders of humanity. God *desires* for all mankind to hear, obey, and keep the truth (1 Tim 2:4). God has created us with the ability to choose to love Him; love is not true love if it is pre-programmed into our minds. God loves mankind and wants to provide everyone with wonderful blessings like joy, peace, and fulfillment. However, not everyone is willing to live within the clearly defined borders which mark the location where these exceeding blessings will be placed (*Eph 1:3*). God desires to give us many things, but we must exhibit some desire to give our most intimate parts to God; only then has true love compelled us to choose Him.

Consider, as a bit of a case-study, the life of Job. We know less about this man and his family than we might like. We're not sure exactly when or where he lived, though we can throw a dart at a timeline of the Ancient Near East and get pretty close based on the contents of the book. What we do know is that he was a righteous man; so much so that even the inspired Ezekiel included him in a list of 'righteous men' who would only be able to deliver their own lives amongst the corruption of God's people in that century (*Ezek 14:14, 20*). The best attestation of Job's righteousness comes from the Almighty who is recorded in the first two chapters of Job and promoting this great servant as exemplary (1:8; 2:3). This righteous man had chosen God. He had chosen God so completely that he wanted others to choose God also and lived in a way that he might impact their relationship with God positively. The book opens with a wise, decidedly religious, wealthy man with great possessions and progeny (7 sons and 3 daughters). We know how quickly it unravels do we not? The adversary (Hebrew word שטן /satan, pronounced 'sah-tahn', is a transliterated term which means just that- adversary), attacks his animals, his children, and even his person. Job is left to writhe in pain by the devil while Job's wife and friends turn against him. He might very well have felt as if he were almost completely alone in his world.

Yet, in the end, Job acknowledges to God that he needed to be more humble, and he bows himself in | information with your group leader.

the presence of the Almighty (42:1-6). In that last chapter of the book Job is blessed by God, in a notable fashion: Job is given even more by God in the end than he had at the beginning (42:12). It is to this that the New Testament writer James, our Lord's brother, speaks when he says:

> "My brethren, take the prophets, who spoke in the name of the Lord, as an example of suffering and patience. " Indeed we count them blessed who endure. You have heard of the perseverance of Job and seen the end intended by the Lord-that the Lord is very compassionate and merciful." -James 5:10-11

God's desire for our lives is that we live in such a way that He can pour greater grace and mercy into our bosoms. The ultimate expression of God's grace and mercy is housed within the offering of His Son Jesus for our sins, thus opening the door for us to travel one day from this world into His court in Heaven. Along the way, we can benefit from other experiences with God's grace in our lives. That's the relationship God wants to have with His creation. Will you live your life, today and until eternity, in a way so that God gets the ending in your life that He desires?

SHEEP KEEPER ASSIGNMENTS FOR OCTOBER

Group # 1-WIDOWS

Team Leader: Paul Portley

Group #2-DELINQUENT MEMBERS/NEW CONVERTS

Team Leader: Roger Deem & Team Leader Phil McIntosh

Group #3-VISITORS

Team Leader: Gaylen Williams

The elders will meet with each team in front of the auditorium following Sunday morning worship service. (For visits conducted in October)

Group#1 Paul Portley - Nov. 5 Group#2 Roger Deem - Nov. 12 Group#3 Gaylen Williams - Nov. 19 Group#4 Phil McIntosh - Nov. 26

Note: if team members are unavailable, leave your

KILLEEN CHURCH OF CHRIST BULLETIN



ORDER OF SERVICE SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2023: ANNOUNCEMENTS: GAYLEN WILLIAMS •1ST PRAYER: DERREL HEGINBOTHAM •SONG: REGGIE BASS •SCRIPTURE READING: GRAYSON BOWLES •SONG: REGGIE BASS SERMON: TAVARIS ARMSTRONG •INVITATION SONG: SEAN MALDONADO •SONG BEFORE COMMUNION: REGGIE BASS **COMMUNION: KINGSFORD ASARE & GIANNI GRIFFITH** •SONG: REGGIE BASS **•OFFERING:** KINGSFORD ASARE & GIANNI GRIFFITH •CLOSING SONG: REGGIE BASS •CLOSING PRAYER: JIM DUKES •AUDIO/VISUAL: PATRICK SELLERS **•SECURITY: GARY FOSTER & GRAYSON BOWLES** •NURSERY: VICTORIA POLANCO & CAROLYN WILLIAMS

<u>SCRIPTURE READING</u> <u>AM & PM</u> "Releasing from the Things We Should Cling To"

Revelation 2:1-7

"2 Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus write; These things saith he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks; ² I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars: ³ And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted.⁴ Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love. ⁵ Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent. ⁶ But this thou hast, that thou hatest the deeds of the Nicolaitanes, which I also hate. ⁷ He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

PLEASE REMEMBER OUR MILITARY & CIVILIANS IN YOUR PRAYERS: -Roman Polanco is at Fort Moore, GA, for basic training.

-Tim Matter is contracting in Bogota, Columbia.

PLEASE KEEP THESE MEMBERS & LOVED ONES IN YOUR PRAYERS: Julie Odum is being treated for MRSA. -Michelle McIntosh's cousin, Nikki, has cervical cancer, and is receiving chemo. Her aunt, Christy, has health concerns.

-Jim Dukes' niece's husband passed away in Florida last week. -Willard Dunn was hospitalized recently for an infection and now is released.

-Donna Hines is scheduled for her right shoulder replacement on November 14th.

-Martha Bell is having sciatic nerve problems that's preventing her from being able to bend her knee.

-Cheryl Flores' brother-in-law, Raymond Flores, is in the ICU, at Scott & White.

-Al & Gayle Wilson are requesting prayers for their friend & member of the Pearl church of Christ, Linda Ray, who has concerning areas on her skin that may be cancerous. Gayle is also requesting prayers for her friend, Sherry Canes, who is recovering from back surgery.

-Former member and deacon, Rey Cruz, was in a car accident last week. He is recovering at home from his injuries.

-Please keep Gaylen & Nichole Williams' and the family in your prayers as they are finalizing Mikah's adoption.

CONTINUED PRAYERS FOR OUR SICK & HOME BOUND: Beverly Williams' friend's son (Stephen Jackson); Jim Dukes & family; Al Wilson; James & Jaden Seay; Amy Cole; Beverly Williams' friend's son (Stephen Jackson); Adam Zak; James Garner & wife (Tammy); Shirley Wooten; Tom Holubec; Gary & Shirl Foster; Lois Brown; Yolanda Wright & her mother; Ralph & Barbara Hughart; Judy Wall's husband, (James); Opal Jones; Eddie Gandy; Monica McClean's sister & brother-in-law (Janeth & Neville Grey); Bill Rawlings & mother; Nada Miller; Julie Odum's mother (Sharon Schmidt); Katelyn Bowles' cousin (Brittany); Tanja Arch & her family; Tim Matter's wife (Elda), brother (Michael), mother, aunt (Vivian), & sister's husband (Christopher); Josephine Spear, cousin, sister (Patricia), neighbor (Clinton) & friend (Iris); the McIntosh's family friend (Bryan Christmas); Alexis Gaither's father, aunt, & friends (John & Marion Slaughter); Creta Bales' cousin (Terry Jackson); Cheryl Flores' aunt (Joy); Donna Hines' stepmother (Darla), & niece (April Miller); former members (Connie Cruz), & (Bobbie Knight); Jon-Jon Simmons; Willard Jack Dunn; Tracy Wilson's mother (Ruth Hyde); Linda Deem's nephew; Zack & Amanda Petties' granddaughter (Kyemara), Amanda's brother (Rex), sister (Jewel), nieces (Carrington & Moneisha), sister-in-law, & Zack's brother's son (Darius); Rufus Brown; Marcella Williams & brother-in-law (Johnnie Milford); Billye Hughes; Jessie Turner: & Linda Walts.

FELLOWSHIP MEAL: Join us for a fellowship luncheon following morning worship.

Our Speaker Today is Tavaris Armstrong

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<u>We want to especially welcome our visitors!</u> If you are visiting, please fill out an attendance card from the back of the pew directly in front of you, and drop it in offering box as you leave. Thank you for your visit and please join us again!

BIBLE STUDIES AND COUNSELING OFFERED

- ⇒ Bible Studies With Our Preacher Or Elders
- ⇒ Free Bible Correspondence
- \Rightarrow Free Marriage And Family Counseling

To our visitors—Thank you for being with us today, and please come again!

CONTACT INFORMATION

ZACK PETTIES (elder): zpetties@yahoo.com

LEE FISHER (elder): fisherfam79@gmail.com

PHIL McINTOSH (pulpit minister):

kcofcpreacher@gmail.com

Office: 254-634-7373 or email us at: kcofc@hotmail.com

CSOCTOBER CALENDARCS

29-Foster's Home for Children drive ends

CSNOVEMBER CALENDARCS

1, 8, 15, 29-Ladies Bible Class, 10:00 am, in the fellowship hall

1-Singing Night, 7:00 pm

5-Time Change

5-Baby Shower honoring Robin Moseley, 3:30 pm, in

the fellowship hall

10-Office will be closed for Veterans Day



CHRISTIAN HOMES & FAMILY SERVICES CHANGE CAN DRIVE

Christian Homes ^{& FAMILY SERVICES} Our annual change can drive has ended, please bring your cans in as soon as possible.