



# FAMILY NEWS

APRIL 14, 2024

## Classes

Auditorium Class: Tim Smith

Teens: Arpoika Daniels

4th - 6th Grade: Lani Renner

1st - 3rd Grade: Ginger Posey

3yr - K: Lynn Grimes

Nursery: Miranda Hays

## Sermons

AM: Arpoika Daniels

PM: Evening Bible Study - Jack Mattingly, Sr.



IN  
**SEARCH**  
OF THE LORD'S WAY<sup>®</sup>

### Next Sunday on Search: April 21 – I Can Know The Answer

There is so much uncertainty in this world and questions that seem to have no answer. But when you have Christ, you can know the truth that will set you free from doubts and fears prevalent in this world.

### Daily Bible Reading

#### Sunday

Joshua 7-9 & Matthew 10

#### Monday

Joshua 10-12 & Matthew 11:1-19

#### Tuesday

Joshua 13-15 & Matthew 11:20-30

#### Wednesday

Joshua 16-18 & Matthew 12:1-21

#### Thursday

Joshua 19-21 & Matthew 12:22-50

#### Friday

Joshua 22-24 & Matthew 13:1-30

#### Saturday

Judges 1-3 & Matthew 13:31-58

**JOSEPH DID NOT ENDURE  
THE PIT, POTIPHAR'S  
HOUSE, AND PRISON,  
BECAUSE HE KNEW HE  
WOULD END UP IN THE  
PHARAOH'S PALACE.  
HE SIMPLY REMAINED  
FAITHFUL WHEREVER HE  
FOUND HIMSELF.  
GOD DID THE REST.**

*<sup>3</sup>Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart.*

*<sup>4</sup>Then you will win favor and a good name in the sight of God and man.*

*Proverbs 3:3-4 (NIV)*

**JOIN US SUNDAY EVENING AT 5:00 FOR  
OUR BIBLE STUDY AND MEAL!  
JACK MATTINGLY WILL BE TEACHING  
THE LESSON AND MEAL GROUP 5 WILL  
BE HOSTING THE MEAL.**

## In Our Hearts:

*"Cast your cares on the Lord and he will sustain you; he will never let the righteous fall."* Psalm 55:22 (NIV)

Larry Waddell had surgery again on Tuesday, April 9th, to remove more cancer from his head.

Lee Daniels, mother of Arpoika Daniels, Debbie Crane, Bill Davidson, husband of Jan Davidson, Pat Joslin & Barbara McKinney, sisters of Sue Alexander, Eddie Hillhouse, LaRohnda Jones & Mary Ray, nieces of Johna Myers, Kenny Brewer, Sue Alexander, Talhia Vanlandingham, Steve Lashley, Barry Haynie, friend of Arpoika Daniels, Alvis Campbell, Ted Criswell, Fred and Velma Baxter, brother and mother of Debbie Crane, Shirley Carson, the late Wayne Maxell's sister

**Let's remember our shut-ins:** *Peggy Jackson, Charles Johnson, Sue Lofton, and Carolyn Self*

**Sympathy:** We extend our sympathy to Jim and Donna Hardin in the loss of Donna's uncle Jeff Davis. Jeff passed away on Friday, April 5th. Services were at Little on Tuesday, April 9th.

**Sympathy:** Sympathy is extended to Steve and Kay Lashley in the loss of Steve's brother, Bob Lashley. Bob passed away on Monday, April 8th. Services were Friday, April 12th, at the Memorial Road Church of Christ.

*Dear Church Family ~ I know it's been a minute so I apologize for that, but that doesn't lessen the deeply felt love and appreciation we have for our family at Seminole Church of Christ. The signs, which were so thoughtful, and the gift certificate for The Container Store were such kind gestures. While we appreciate those so much, it's the love and well wishes we received plus all the years of knowing and loving all of you that will forever mean so much to us. Love, Mike, Sylvia & the kids*

*Dear friends & family ~ Thank you for your concerns & prayers at the time of my brother's death. The family appreciated the love and support. I'm slowly recovering from my fall! Your cards, calls, and concern sustain me! Thank you, Beverly Ramsey*



## Time With Tim

### Perseverance in Faith

***"But they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint."***

*Isaiah 40:31*

In our journey of faith, we encounter moments of trial and doubt that can test our resolve. Yet, in these moments, we are called to stand firm, holding onto the promises of God with unwavering confidence. Hebrews 10:35-36 reminds us:

***"So do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded. You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised."***

These verses echo a timeless truth: perseverance leads to the fulfillment of God's promises. When we face challenges, it's easy to lose heart and abandon our confidence. However, the writer of Hebrews urges us to persevere, assuring us that our efforts will not go unrewarded.

Let's expand our reflection by considering the preceding verses, Hebrews 10:32-34:

***"Remember those earlier days after you had received the light, when you endured in a great conflict full of suffering. Sometimes you were publicly exposed to insult and persecution; at other times you stood side by side with those who were so treated. You suffered along with those in prison and joyfully accepted the confiscation of your property, because you knew that you yourselves had better and lasting possessions."***

These verses paint a vivid picture of the challenges faced by the early Christians. Despite persecution and suffering, they held fast to their faith, enduring with courage and perseverance. Their example serves as a powerful encouragement for us today.

Just as they endured, so too are we called to persevere in our faith journey. When we encounter trials, let us remember the faithfulness of God and the promise of reward for those who persevere. Our present struggles are temporary, but the rewards of God's promises are eternal.

As we navigate life's challenges, may Hebrews 10:35-36 be a guiding light, reminding us to hold onto our confidence in God and to persevere in doing His will. Let us trust that as we remain steadfast, we will receive the rich rewards He has promised.

***"So do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded. You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised."***

*Hebrews 10:35-36*

## NOT ALL TRADITIONS ARE CREATED EQUAL (2)

Last week we began a brief study of traditions. We defined a tradition as a teaching, a precept, a practice, or a belief that is passed from one generation to another. The word "tradition" is a Bible term. The Greek word translated tradition is found 14 times in the New Testament. It is translated "tradition" eleven times. It is translated "traditions" two times. It is also translated "ordinances" one time.

We noted that the Bible places traditions into four different categories: 1) the traditions of the inspired writers of the Old Testament, 2) the inspired traditions revealed in the pages of the New Testament by the apostles and prophets, 3) the traditions of the Jewish leaders that were elevated to a holy, authoritative status, and 4) the traditions of men. In our previous article we examined the first two groups of traditions. In this article, we will examine the last two groups.

Let's begin by looking at the uninspired traditions of the Jewish leaders of Jesus' day. The Jews had been given the Law by Moses. They knew it was a divine covenant. Thus, they sought to faithfully carry out the Law. Some things that had to be done were specifically stated in the Law. There were other things that had to be carried out but the specifics were not revealed. The things that were done to assist in carrying out the Law were practiced over a long period of time. They were done the same way year-in and year-out. In the course of time, these things become traditions. Oftentimes, they become so set in stone that if they were violated, individuals believe that God's Word has been violated. In Judaism, these additions became known as "the traditions of the elders."

An important concept taught to the Jews was that they were supposed to be a purified people. They had divine laws that specified the things that were clean and unclean. In addition to the statutes of the Law of Moses, the Jews practiced other acts of cleanliness. [Mark 7:3-4](#), reveals some of the traditions of the elders to which the Jewish leaders subscribed. "For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, except they wash their hands oft, eat not, holding the traditions of the elders. And when they come from the market, except they wash, they eat not. And many other things there be, which they have received to hold, as the washing of cups, and pots, brazen vessels, and of tables." Over time, the traditions not authorized in God's covenant were exalted to a position of authority. If these traditions were violated, the Jewish leaders would call the individual into question. This happened to Jesus' disciples on several occasions. "Then came together unto him the Pharisees, and certain of the scribes, which came from Jerusalem. And when they saw some of his disciples eat bread with defiled, that is to say, with unwashed hands, they found fault" ([Mark 7:1-2](#)). On this occasion, the Pharisees approached Jesus about the violation. "Then the Pharisees and scribes asked him, Why walk not thy disciples according to the tradition of the elders, but eat bread with unwashen hands?" ([Mark 7:5](#)).

The tradition of hand washing was not evil in and of itself. In fact, science has proven that washing hands is extremely beneficial to one's health. The problem that existed among the Pharisees is that they made the tradition into law. [Mark 7:2](#) ends with these words: "They found fault." Man-made traditions and divinely inspired laws do not carry the same weight. Divine laws when violated involve one in sin. When man-made traditions are violated, however, no sin is committed. Yes, some who love the traditions will be angered and upset if the traditions are transgressed, but there is no iniquity committed when a man-made tradition is not honored. The point is simple. Divine traditions and man-made traditions are not equal.

There was another problem involved with the traditions of the elders supported by the Jewish leaders of Jesus' day. When Jesus was confronted about the failure of His disciples to wash their hands, He took advantage of exposing this second problem. Jesus sets for the problem three times in the discussion with the Pharisees recorded in [Mark 7:8-13](#). "For laying aside the commandment of God, ye hold the tradition of men..." (v. 8). "Full

well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition" (v. 9). "Making the word of God of none effect through your tradition" (v. 13). The problem was that the traditions of the elders sometimes conflicted with God's law. When this happened, the Jews accepted the man-made tradition and set aside the divine injunctions. Jesus did not just make a charge. He also backed it with evidence. "For Moses said, Honour thy father and thy mother; and Whoso curseth father or mother, let him die the death: but ye say, If a man shall say to his father or mother, It is Corban, that is to say, a gift, by whosoever thou mightest be profited by me; he shall be free. And ye suffer him no more to do ought for his father or his mother" ([Mark 7:10-12](#)). The Jewish leaders were wily individuals. They allowed the children of needy parents to loan their money to the temple for a period of time. As long as it was "Corban, that is to say, a gift," they did not have to support their parents in their old age. This violated God's law of honoring one's father and one's mother. According to the Christ this was not the only example He could have given to prove they were violating the Law with their traditions. His words were: "...and many such like things ye do." ([Mark 7:13](#)). The reason they did this is because their hearts were far from God ([Mark 7:6](#)). These types of practices caused their worship to be vain because they were "teaching for doctrines the commandments of men" ([Mark 7:7](#)).

There are some men today who carry on the practices of those Jewish leaders. They elevate the traditions of men to a place equal or above the New Testament of Jesus Christ. Paul warned the Colossians about these traditions in [Colossians 2:8](#). "Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ." There are several religions in our world that are established upon the traditions of men instead of the divine Word of God. Some of these religions claim to honor the Bible, but when it conflicts with their man-made traditions, God's Word is quickly cast aside. There are other religions that do not honor the Word of God at all. The entirety of the religion is based upon teachings and documents that originated in the minds of sinful, ignorant, and unwise men. These religious groups do not care what God's Word has to say. They quote their fleshly, mortal men as if they were quoting Jesus Christ. The words of Jesus apply to them just as they applied to the Jewish leaders of His day. "Ye hypocrites, well did Esaias prophesy of you, saying, This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men" ([Matt 15:7-9](#)).

The only place for those interested in the salvation of their souls to start is with the New Testament of Jesus Christ. The New Testament is the only law sanctified by the blood of Christ. It is the only binding law revealed by the Holy Spirit of God. Some two thousand years ago, Jesus stood on the Mount of Olives and gave a commission to His apostles. That commission was based upon the fact that Jesus had been given all power in heaven and in earth ([Matt. 28:18](#)). That which was to be taken to the lost world was the gospel, the good news of Jesus Christ. "And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature" ([Mark 16:15](#)). At the time, those men had the gospel given to them by the Spirit of God ([2 Pet. 1:20-21](#)). Paul put it in these words: "But we have this treasure in earthen vessels..." ([2 Cor. 4:7](#)). Eventually, it was put in written form ([2 Thess. 2:15](#)). When Jude wrote his epistle to those first century Christians, he affirmed that "the faith" was "once delivered unto the saints" ([Jude 3](#)). The words "once delivered" means "once for all time, once never to be delivered again." We have that divine tradition in the pages of the New Testament of Jesus Christ. All men should ready, study, and live by those teachings alone. Jesus said: "...the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day" ([John 12:48](#)).

-Victor M. Eskew

**Minister:**

Arpoika Daniels  
(cell) 405-380-6167

**Associate Minister:**

Tim Smith  
(cell) 405-481-6931

**Administrative:**

Lynn Grimes  
(office) 405-382-0548

**Elders:**

Jack Mattingly, Sr.  
(cell) 405-380-2510

Syd Morgan  
(cell) 405-380-7406  
(Home) 405-382-3404

Andy Scott  
(cell) 405-287-8580

**Deacons:**

Ken Crane  
Jim Grimes  
Steve Johnson  
Jerry Renner  
Bob Swearingen

**Worship & Bible Study  
Schedule**

AM

Sunday 9:30 - Bible Class

Sunday 10:30 - Worship

PM

Sunday 5:00 - Bible Study

Wednesday 6:00 - Bible Study

**Worship Workers****April 14****In Charge:** Jack Mattingly, Sr. (405-380-2510)**Welcome AM:** Syd Morgan**Song Leader:** Steve Johnson**Opening Prayer:** Jack Mattingly, Sr.**Closing Prayer:** Nuben Barton**Lord's Supper & Offering AM:** Tim Smith**Lord's Supper & Offering PM:** Syd Morgan**Scripture Reading:** Paul Alexander**Heritage House****Thursday, April 18:**

Kay Lashley &  
Betty Smith

**April Nursery Attendants**

April 7 - Ginger Posey

April 14 - Ashley Noey

April 21 - Debbie Crane

April 28 - Kay Lashley

**April Worship & Bible Class Greeters****North Doors:** Jim & Donna Hardin**South Doors:** Syd & Alan Morgan