



FAMILY NEWS

APRIL 21, 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®

Next Sunday on Search: April 28 – I Have Hope For Heaven

When you have Christ, you have hope and a promise of life beyond with the Lord Jesus. One day Christians will enjoy the place prepared and kept for them, a place that is imperishable, undefiled, and will not fade away.

Daily Bible Reading

Sunday

Judges 4-6 & Matthew 14:1-21

Monday

Judges 7-8 & Matthew 14:22-36

Tuesday

Judges 9-10 & Matthew 15:1-20

Wednesday

Judges 11-12 & Matthew 15:21-39

Thursday

Judges 13-15 & Matthew 16

Friday

Judges 16-18 & Matthew 17

Saturday

Judges 19-21 & Matthew 18:1-20

*Walking with God requires
that you break from the
crowd.*

*You must go in the opposite
direction and travel with the
few.*

Steve Lawson



If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world.

That is why the world hates you. John 15:19



CONGRATULATIONS!

Kaylie Davidson daughter of **Bill and Jan Davidson** will graduate from **East Central University** with a **Bachelor of Science in Accounting** on **May 11, 2024.**

Meal Group 6 will be hosting our 5:00 Bible study on Sunday, April 21st.

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)

Sandra Edwards is suffering with health issues she believes may stem from a previous case of Lyme disease.

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, Sue Lofton, and Carolyn Self*

Sympathy: Sympathy is extended to Auttis Johnson in the loss of her husband Charles Johnson. Charles passed away on Thursday, April 11th. Services were Tuesday, April 16th.

Potluck Luncheon: Next Sunday, April 28th, will be our end-of-the-month potluck luncheon after morning worship service. Brothers Keeper Group 1 will be in charge of set-up and clean-up. A brief devotional will follow our meal and there will be no 5:00 Bible study.

Dear Church Family - Thank you for the kind expressions of sympathy during the loss of Uncle Jeff. You have touched our hearts.

*With love,
Donna & Jim Hardin*



A Baby Shower
for

Haley & Cameron Gates



*Sunday, May 5th from 2:00 - 4:00 pm in the fellowship room
Diaper Raffle: For every package of diapers you bring you will be entered into a drawing for a prize basket.*

(If you want to help with the shower please see Lani Renner or Debbie Crane.)

Time With Tim

Embracing Hope: Cultivating a Positive Attitude Toward the Future

"Therefore, do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own."

Matthew 6:34

In a world often overshadowed by uncertainty and adversity, cultivating a positive attitude toward the future becomes not just a choice, but a necessity for believers. As Christians, we are called to be a beacon of hope in the midst of darkness, to embrace the promise of a future filled with God's goodness and grace. With unwavering faith and optimism, we can navigate life's challenges with confidence, knowing that our hope is anchored in the unchanging character of God.

Central to maintaining a positive outlook toward the future is the belief that God is in control and that His plans for us are good. Even in the face of trials and tribulations, we can find comfort in knowing that God works all things together for our good (Romans 8:28). With this assurance, we can approach the future with hope and anticipation, trusting that God's purposes will ultimately prevail. As we fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith (Hebrews 12:2), we can confidently move forward, knowing that He is leading us every step of the way.

Moreover, a positive attitude toward the future empowers us to live with purpose and intentionality in the present moment. Instead of being paralyzed by fear or doubt, we can embrace each day as an opportunity to grow, to serve others, and to make a difference in the world around us. By focusing on the possibilities rather than the limitations, we open ourselves up to God's abundant blessings and opportunities for growth. As we surrender our plans to His sovereign will, we can rest assured that He will guide us into a future filled with hope, joy, and endless possibilities.

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."

Romans 15:13

Whose Reward Are You Seeking

Is it possible to “put on a show” when it comes to the practice of one’s faith? Is it possible to do the right things for the wrong reasons? Is it possible to appear to be something on the outside that one is not on the inside? The answer to all of these questions is a powerful: “Yes.”

The religious leaders of Jesus’ day could have been classified as awarding-winning actors. They dressed the part. They played the part. They received the praise and adoration of their audiences. They often grew wealthy in the process. Jesus, however, was not impressed with their acting abilities. He often called them out for their hypocrisy. It is interesting that the word “hypocrite” is defined as “a stage player.” An actor is one individual as he performs for the public. He is another individual when not on stage. The same was true of the scribes and Pharisees of Jesus’ day. They were one thing on the outside. They were something completely different on the inside.

In [Matthew 6:1-8](#), the Savior confronts some of the practices of the Jewish leaders. He notes that the things they were doing were done to be seen of men. They were done to impress men. They were done to receive the accolades of men. They were done to be held in honor of man. Jesus’ conclusion with regard to their behaviors was that they had their reward. Their reward was earthly and carnal. Their reward was from mortal men. Their reward would only benefit them in the here and now. Let’s look at the actions of these men and give heed to the counsel of the Master Teacher.

Jesus begins with a **WEIGHTY WARNING**. “Take heed that ye do not your alms before men, to be seen of them: otherwise ye have no reward of your Father which is in heaven” ([Matt. 6:1](#)). The words “take heed” mean “to hold the mind to, to pay attention to, to be cautious” (Strong, e-sword). Jesus told His audience to pay attention to their motives when they did their alms. Alms were acts of charity or benevolence. If a person gave to be seen of men, he could expect no reward from his heavenly Father.

After His warning, He exposed the **WRONG WAYS** of the Jewish leaders. The Lord set three examples before His listeners. First, He talked about their “Benevolence to Others” in [Matthew 6:2-4](#). When the scribes and Pharisees did their alms, it involves a “public presentation.” “Therefore when thou doest thine alms, do not sound a trumpet before thee, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward” ([Matt. 6:2](#)). Can you imagine hearing the sound of a trumpet and turning to see a religious leader making a public display of charity on a street corner? What if you heard the trumpet again and turned to see the leader assisting someone else along the street? It is hard to imagine, but this was the practice of some of the Jewish leaders of Jesus’ day. They wanted all to see their charity and benevolence. Jesus declared: “They have their reward.”

Instead of these public presentations, Jesus admonished His disciples to engage in a “private practice” of almsgiving. “But when thou doest alms, let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth: that thine alms by be seen in secret: and thy Father which seeth in secret himself shall reward thee openly” ([Matt. 6:3-4](#)). Doing things in secret has a completely different reward from a completely differ-

ent source. The reward is not earthly; it is heavenly. It does not come from men, but from one’s omniscient Father in heaven.

Second, Jesus illustrated His point through “Bowing in Prayer” ([Matt. 6:5-6](#)). He began this section with “presumptuous prayers” offered by the hypocrites. “And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily, I say unto you, They have their reward” ([Matt. 6:5](#)). These men loved to stand in very open places when they prayed. They wanted all to know that they were men who were given to prayer. They were the prayer warriors of the day. They were seen by others, but, as Jesus concludes, “They have their reward.”

Jesus encouraged His disciples to pray “private prayers” instead of the pompous prayers of the religious leaders. These, he said, would bring a reward from their heavenly Father. “But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly” ([Matt. 5:6](#)).

Third, Jesus notes the “Babbling in Prayer” by the heathen. They involved themselves in “pretentious prose.” “But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do...” ([Matt. 6:7a](#)). These men prayed the same phrases over and over and over. Their prayers were not concluded in a minute or two. Their “vain repetitions” enabled them to pray for long periods of time. These individuals had a “proud purpose” to their babblings. “...for they think they shall be heard for their much speaking” ([Matt. 6:7b](#)). The ones they hoped were hearing were men. Note, God could have heard them without their uttering a single word. Again, they had their reward.

Jesus, issued a “pithy prohibition” to His followers in this section. He said: “Be not therefore like unto them...” ([Matt. 6:8a](#)). God did not want proud people who longed to be heard by others for their long prayers coming before His throne. Brief, sincere requests would have been enough. Why no more? Because our Father has “precise prescience.” “...for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him” ([Matt. 6:8b](#)).

Christian living was not designed to “make a show” before men. Much of what we do for the Lord can be done in secret. There will be no fanfare. There will be little applause. There will be few “thank you’s.” This, however, is not what the faithful disciple is seeking. He seeks to please the Father. When He carries out his responsibilities responsibly and quietly, the Father in heaven notices. When the Day of Judgment comes, this diligent, faithful servant will be rewarded openly by God.

Dear reader, which do you desire? A reward that comes from the praise of men? Or, a reward that springs from the faithful God who has promised to reward those who conduct their lives honestly, faithfully, and quietly while serving in this world. Please remember that the praise of men is temporal. The rewards of our loving Father, on the other hand, are eternal.

<p>Minister: Arpoika Daniels (cell) 405-380-6167</p> <p>Associate Minister: Tim Smith (cell) 405-481-6931</p> <p>Administrative: Lynn Grimes (office) 405-382-0548</p>	<p>Elders: Jack Mattingly , Sr. (cell) 405-380-2510</p> <p>Syd Morgan (cell) 405-380-7406 (Home) 405-382-3404</p> <p>Andy Scott (cell) 405-287-8580</p>	<p>Deacons: Ken Crane Jim Grimes Steve Johnson Jerry Renner Bob Swearingen</p>	<p><u>Worship & Bible Study Schedule</u></p> <p>AM Sunday 9:30 - Bible Class Sunday 10:30 - Worship</p> <p>PM Sunday 5:00 - Bible Study Wednesday 6:00 - Bible Study</p>
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Worship Workers

April 21

In Charge: Jack Mattingly, Sr. (405-380-2510)

Welcome AM: Syd Morgan

Song Leader: Andy Scott

Opening Prayer: Gil Turpin

Closing Prayer: Steve Johnson

Lord's Supper & Offering AM: Bob Swearingen

Lord's Supper & Offering PM: Arpoika Daniels

Scripture Reading: Jerry Renner

Heritage House

Thursday, April 25:

Sue Alexander &
Debbie Ernst

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