



FAMILY NEWS

DECEMBER 1, 2024

Classes

Auditorium Class: Andy Scott
Teens: Arpoika Daniels
4th - 6th Grade: Lani Renner
1st - 3rd Grade: Ginger Posey

3yr - K: Lynn Grimes
Nursery: Miranda Hays

Sermons

AM: Tim Smith
PM: No Evening Bible Study



IN
SEARCH
OF THE LORD'S WAY®

Next Sunday on Search:

Dec 8 – The Way To Peace

In these uncertain and chaotic times, peace is important to us all. Peace with God, with others, and within our souls can be one of the greatest blessings of all. The Scriptures teach us how to find peace.

Daily Bible Reading

Sunday

Zechariah 1-4 & John 20

Monday

Zechariah 5-8 & John 21

Tuesday

Zechariah 9-11 & 1 John 1

Wednesday

Zechariah 12-14 & 1 John 2

Thursday

Esther 1-2 & 1 John 3

Friday

Esther 3-4 & 1 John 4

Saturday

Esther 5-6 & 1 John 5

SATAN'S 5-PART STRATEGY AGAINST THE WORD OF GOD

- 1) QUESTION IT;
- 2) SUBTRACT FROM IT;
- 3) ADD TO IT;
- 4) WATER IT DOWN;
- 5) DENY IT.

¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹ Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. ¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.
Ephesians 6:10-12 (NIV)

Holiday Schedule

Sunday, December 1st - No 5:00 Bible Study
Sunday, December 22nd - No 5:00 Bible Study
Wednesday, December 25th - No Midweek Bible Class
Sunday, December 29th - No Potluck Luncheon
Wednesday, January 1st - No Midweek Bible Class

In Our Hearts:

"I call on the Lord in my distress, and he answers me." Psalm 120:1 (NIV)

Emma Noey is recovering from the knee surgery she had on Thursday, November 21st.

Larry Waddell, Lee Daniels, mother of Arpoika Daniels, Pat Joslin & Barbara McKinney, sisters of Sue Alexander, LaRohnda Jones & Mary Ray, nieces of Johna Myers, Kenny Brewer, Sue Alexander, Talhia Vanlandingham, Steve Lashley, Alvis Campbell, Ted Criswell, Shirley Carson, the late Wayne Maxell's sister

Let's remember our shut-ins: *Peggy Jackson and Carolyn Self*

5:00 Bible Study: Next Sunday, December 8th, Meal Group 5 will be hosting our 5:00 Bible study in the fellowship room. Please make plans to attend and bring a friend!

Tipton Children's Home: Monetary donations are being collected to send to Tipton Children's Home for purchasing Christmas gifts for the children who reside there. If you would like to donate to this project, please give your donation to Betty Smith by Wednesday, December 11th. All checks should be made payable to Tipton Children's Home with "Christmas gifts" written in the memo.

IF GOD DID NOT FORGIVE
SINNERS ...
HEAVEN WOULD BE EMPTY.

You can't walk with God
holding hands with the devil.

Time With Tim

Understanding the Will of God

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight." Proverbs 3:5-6

The aim of Romans 12:1-2 is that all of life would become "spiritual worship." Verse 1: "Present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship." The aim of all human life in God's eyes is that Christ would be made to look as valuable as he is. Worship means using our minds and hearts and bodies to express the worth of God and all he is for us in Jesus. There is a way to live — a way to love — that does that. There is a way to do your job that expresses the true value of God. If you can't find it, that may mean you should change jobs. Or it might mean that verse 2 is not happening to the degree it should.

Verse 2 is Paul's answer to how we turn all of life into worship. We must be transformed. We must be transformed. Not just our external behavior, but the way we feel and think — our minds. Verse 2: "Be transformed by the renewal of your mind."

Those who believe and are baptized in Christ Jesus are already blood-bought new creatures in Christ. "If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation" (2 Corinthians 5:17). But now we must become what we are. "Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, as you really are unleavened" (1 Corinthians 5:7).

Worship means using our minds and hearts and bodies to express the worth of God and all he is for us in Jesus.

"You have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator" (Colossians 3:10). You have been made new in Christ; and now you are being renewed day by day. That's what we focused on last week.

Now we focus on the last part of verse 2, namely, the aim of the renewed mind: "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, [now here comes the aim] that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect."

The first meaning of the will of God: It is God's sovereign control of all things. We will call this his "sovereign will" or his "will of decree." It cannot be broken. It always comes to pass. "He does according to his will among the host of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth; and none can stay his hand or say to him, 'What have you done?'" (Daniel 4:35).

The other meaning for "the will of God" in the Bible is what we can call his "will of command." His will is what he commands us to do. This is the will of God we can disobey and fail to do. The will of decree we do whether we believe in it or not. The will of command we can fail to do. For example, Jesus said, "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven" (Matthew 7:21). Not all do the will of his Father. He says so. "Not everyone will enter the kingdom of heaven." Why? Because not all do the will of God.

"The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but the things that are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law." Deuteronomy 29:29

When Rulers Rise and Fall

Governments operate on the basis of people who exercise power in one form or another. Sometimes rulers can be oppressive; sometimes they can be helpful. Those who are under rulers may agree or disagree with those in power, and history is filled with rebellion against what is perceived as bad authority. Earthly rulers come and go; the only One who abides forever is the King of kings and Lord of Lords.

Christians operate with a different mindset from the world. We are to seek the things above where our true King sits on His throne, setting our minds on things above (Col 3:1-2). We are first citizens of heaven (Phil 3:20). Yet we also realize that we are in this world and need to shine as lights in the midst of crooked generations (Phil 2:14-16). We do not ignore what is going on in the world, and we seek to exert positive influence as we can in the circles in which we move. As Jeremiah put it, we “seek the welfare” of the place in which we reside as exiles (Jer 29:7). Yet our first allegiance is to our Lord, and no worldly government can ever take His place.

While history shows a great number of governments based on the rule of monarchs, many of us now live under a government that gives us some sort of say in who gets into power. When we participate in the process, we are still Christians and need to do our work under the principles given by God in Scripture because “It is the Lord Christ whom you serve” (Col 3:24). God has given us various principles to understand relative to governments and powers. Our overarching principle is to trust God in all things, as the psalmist said:

“It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in man.

It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in princes.” (Psalms 118:8-9)

Human rulers will not be our saviors, so, “Do not trust in princes, in mortal man, in whom there is no salvation” (Psalms 146:3). With this in mind, we offer the following principles to consider, for while the kingdom of Christ is not of this world (John 18:36), we also live in a world where kingdoms and rulers regularly rise and fall.

When the latest results (elections, etc.) are in and whoever wins is in power (like it or not, agree with results or not), Christians need to remember:

1. The kingdom of God remains unharmed and will always continue well past any current administration (Dan 2:44). The kingdom of God does not depend on

the kingdoms of men to thrive. Again, our trust is not in men but in God. God’s kingdom does not exist at the mercy of earthly powers; earthly powers exist by the mercy of God.

2. Rulers rise and fall according to the will of God. “He does according to His will in the host of heaven” and “no one can ward off His hand or say to Him, ‘What have You done?’” (Dan 4:35). Even a ruler as powerful as Nebuchadnezzar came to see this. Whether we understand why a person is in power does not change this. We do the best we can with the information we have, but final results are in God’s hands.

3. We are to pray for those in positions of power (1 Tim 2:1-2). Whether we agree with them or like them is irrelevant to the need for our prayers. We seek to live quiet, tranquil lives of service, and prayer is integral to this. Pray for rulers to love justice, to be humble, and to seek the Lord in their lives and decisions.

4. We are to honor those in power (1 Pet 2:13-17). We understand that we obey God over men, but Christians are not insurrectionists. “Honor” does not mean endorsing everything, but it does mean we submit to authorities appropriately (Rom 13:1-7). Christians are to be respectful.

5. Never speak evil of others, including those who are ruling (see Jude 9). It is not our place to bring railing accusations against those who are on other ends of the political landscape. While we are free to critique actions and policies, and while we do call out sin for what it is, we are still to speak with dignity and respect.

6. Love your neighbor. Love your enemies. People who think differently and have differing values are still people made in God’s image. This is not saying that all are saved or right with God. But we are still to show love and grace toward others as we seek to speak the truth in love. So far as it depends on you, be at peace with all (see Rom 12:18).

7. Most importantly, Glorify God in all that you do. Whatever happens now will change soon enough, and all will stand before the Lord’s judgment seat (2 Cor 5:10). Knowing this, we seek to persuade others to be reconciled to God. In the meantime, we are to live as lights in a dark world (Matt 5:14-16; Phil 2:14-16).

- Doy Moyer

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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

December 1

In Charge: Alan Morgan (405-481-6163)

Welcome AM: Jack Mattingly

Song Leader: Steve Johnson

Opening Prayer: Andy Scott

Closing Prayer: Paul Alexander

Lord's Supper & Offering AM: Bob Swearingen

Lord's Supper & Offering PM: No Service

Scripture Reading: Arpoika Daniels

Heritage House

Thursday, December 5

Joyce Boggs &
Debbie Ernst

December Nursery Attendants

Dec 1 - Kay Lashley

Dec 8 - Ashley Noey

Dec 15 - Debbie Crane

Dec 22 - Ginger Posey

Dec 29 - Kay Lashley

December Worship & Bible Class Greeters

North Doors: Nuben & Ann Barton

South Doors: Bob Griggs & Alan Morgan