



# FAMILY NEWS

## JANUARY 5, 2025

### 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: Arpoika Daniels  
PM: No Evening Bible Study



IN **SEARCH**  
OF THE LORD'S WAY®

#### Next Sunday on Search:

#### Jan 12 – Back To The Bible

Why should we go back to the Bible? Isn't the Bible an ancient book, and how can it have authority over my faith and life today? Does what the Bible has to say matter? How do we go back to the Bible in the 21st century?

#### Daily Bible Reading

##### Sunday

Genesis 13-15 & Luke 2:25-52

##### Monday

Genesis 16-17 & Luke 3

##### Tuesday

Genesis 18-19 & Luke 4:1-30

##### Wednesday

Genesis 20-22 & Luke 4:31-44

##### Thursday

Genesis 23-24 & Luke 5:1-16

##### Friday

Genesis 25-26 & Luke 5:17-39

##### Saturday

Genesis 27-28 & Luke 6:1-26

*Look back and thank God,  
Look forward and trust God,  
Look around and serve God,  
Look within and find God.*

*The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge. He is my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.*  
*Psalm 18:2 (NIV)*

#### Annual Area Praise Service

Sunday, January 5th

5:00 PM

Highland Church of Christ  
905 E. Walnut St., Tecumseh

(Sponsored by the Shawnee and Tecumseh congregations)

There will be no 5:00 Bible study this evening. Everyone is encouraged to attend the Praise Service in Tecumseh.

## In Our Hearts:

*"Urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone." 1 Tim. 2:1 (NIV)*

We ask for prayers for those on our long term prayer list. Please make the church office aware of any noticed changes that need to be made.

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*

**Sympathy:** We extend our sympathy to Debbie and Ken Crane in the loss of Debbie's mother, Velma Baxter. Velma passed away on Thursday, December 26th. A memorial service will be held on Friday, January 10th, at 4:30 pm in the fellowship room.

**5:00 Bible Study:** Meal Group 2 will be hosting our 5:00 Bible study next Sunday, January 12th. Make plans to be in attendance as we resume our Sunday evening Bible studies!

**Food Collection:** There are collection boxes in the foyer for canned goods and non-perishable items for MaMa's Christ Van. This pantry helps feed the needy in Seminole. We will be collecting items until Jan. 26th.

**WHEN THE TRUMPET OF THE LORD SHALL SOUND AND TIME SHALL BE NO MORE, WHEN THE ROLL IS CALLED UP YONDER, WILL YOU BE THERE?**

### Time With Tim

#### The Power of Influence

*"Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."*  
Matthew 5:16

Every day we influence the lives of those around us. Whether through words, actions, or attitudes, our presence impacts family, friends, coworkers, and even strangers. The Bible reminds us of the importance of this influence and how it reflects our faith.

In 1 Corinthians 15:33, Paul writes, *"Do not be deceived: 'Bad company ruins good morals.'"* This serves as a warning about how the influences we allow into our lives can shape our character and actions. Conversely, as Christians, we are called to be the good influence, guiding others toward righteousness.

Jesus emphasized the power of influence when He described His followers as the *"salt of the earth" and the "light of the world" (Matthew 5:13-14)*. Salt preserves and flavors, just as we are called to preserve the truth and bring the flavor of Christ's love into the world. Light drives out darkness, illuminating the path toward God for others.

Proverbs 27:17 reminds us, *"As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another."* Our influence can strengthen and uplift others, helping them grow spiritually. This sharpening works both ways as we also grow by surrounding ourselves with godly influences.

As we reflect on our daily interactions, let us ask ourselves: Does my influence point others to Christ? Our influence has eternal significance. The Apostle Peter urges us, *"Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God"* (1 Peter 2:12). May our lives reflect the light and love of Christ, drawing others closer to Him through the power of godly influence.

*"Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm." – Proverbs 13:20*

# Culture and the Christian

Christians are called upon to live in a difficult world while, on the one hand, remaining holy and separate (2 Cor 6:14-7:1), and, on the other hand, engaging in it as salt and light (Matt 5:14-16). This is no small task. We need to know what we are dealing with as we seek to lead others to Christ.

The philosophy of culture carries the earmarks of religious devotion. While secularists deny being religious and criticize those who are religious, they engage in the same behavioral patterns as the religiously devout. Their worship is of power, money, and self, their doctrines are the tenets of naturalism and worldliness, and they demand adherence to a self-derived moral code complete with disciplinary action taken against any who dare go against it (e.g., shaming, exposure, cancel-culture). The effect is that people must march to their cultural drumbeat or face repercussions stemming from societal wrath. They call out what they perceive as false teaching, mark their enemies, and evangelize their viewpoint with fervor. They may call these things by different terms, but the effects are the same. Claiming there is no god does not exonerate its adherents from doing what they criticize in others. Are we seeing shades of Revelation?

There is little to no grace and redemption in such a cultural stranglehold. How can there be? Within the halls of worldly wisdom, forgiveness is not a reality to be pursued or granted. Love is touted as primary, but it is self-defined and not extended to enemies. Kindness is pushed, but this is limited to those who agree with the proclaimed code of the day. There is judgment, but without mercy, even while arguing that we shouldn't be judgmental. The irony is palpable. Read 2 Timothy 3:1-5. The last days are characterized by those who are "lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, proud, demeaning, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, unloving, irreconcilable, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, without love for what is good, traitors, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God" (CSB). It's like a modern news headline. This is our world, and the differences between culture and the way of Christ need to be seen and stressed: "But that is not how you came to know Christ..." (Eph 4:20).

There are those claiming Christ who act the same way as the world. This betrays how we came to know Christ and that our new self is "created according to God's likeness in righteousness and purity of the truth" (Eph 4:24). To lead people to Christ, we must, through Christ, break the shackles of worldly wisdom so that we may follow the wisdom from above, which is "first pure, then peace-loving, gentle, compliant, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without pretense" (James 3:17). Worldly wisdom produces envy,

selfish ambition, and chaos, but "the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who cultivate peace."

Even while the apostle Paul was in chains, his prayer was not one of retaliation or revenge. Rather, as he asked the Colossian brethren, "pray also for us that God may open a door to us for the word, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains, so that I may make it known as I should" (Col 4:3-4). He wanted opportunities to spread the gospel, so he followed up this prayer request with a plea to speak with grace: "Act wisely toward outsiders, making the most of the time. Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you should answer each person" (vv. 5-6).

Don't be deceived by the claims that non-religious people can be neutral or that they have some moral high ground because they don't call upon a particular god. Claiming that what people teach is not religious does not therefore mean it is not attempting to accomplish the identical effect of telling people what to believe and how to act. Call it religion or something else, it does the same basic thing. Categorizing something as non-religious does not mean freedom to teach and do anything one wants with no accountability. Even so, Christians need to approach culture with a desire to do God's will, to bring God's wisdom, and to be lights shining in the darkness. We are not waging a physical war, our methods are not underhanded or cheap, and our intentions are sincere and serious.

We are reminded of Paul's admonition: "For although we live in the flesh, we do not wage war according to the flesh, since the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but are powerful through God for the demolition of strongholds. We demolish arguments and every proud thing that is raised up against the knowledge of God, and we take every thought captive to obey Christ" (2 Cor 10:3-5).

Our armor is God's and the Sword, the word of God, is of the Spirit (Eph 7:10-18). Our engagement with culture is not one of complaining and grumbling, but rather being luminaries "in a crooked and perverted generation" and committed to "holding firm to the word of life" (Phil 2:14-16). May God help us understand better our situation so that we may know how to engage a troubled world.

- 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****January 5****In Charge:** Syd Morgan (405-380-7406)**Welcome AM:** Syd Morgan**Song Leader:** Steve Johnson**Opening Prayer:** Arpoika Daniels**Closing Prayer:** Syd Morgan**Lord's Supper & Offering AM:** Gil Turpin**Lord's Supper & Offering PM:** No Service**Scripture Reading:** Bob Swearingen**Heritage House****Thursday, January 9**Norman & Joyce  
Boggs**January Nursery Attendants**

Jan 5 - Ashley Noey

Jan 12 - Debbie Crane

Jan 19 - Ginger Posey

Jan 26 - Kay Lashley

**January Worship & Bible Class Greeters****North Doors:** Larry & Janet Waddell**South Doors:** Jim & Donna Hardin