

**Sunshine Baskets for 12/21/2008**

Patsy Scott, Louise Haney, Pam Peterson,  
Peggy Anderson, Shirley Howell, Doris Martin

**Happy Birthday to...**

Wilma Phillips (12/15), Christy Smith (12/15),  
Russell Wilson (12/15), Vanessa Martin (12/16),  
Jacob Haney (12/18), Cogie Hensley (12/18)

**Happy Anniversary to...**

Earl & Bonnie Jones (12/14/1957)

**Announcements & Upcoming Events...**

**December 14<sup>th</sup>:** TODAY! Fruit baskets for the 65 & older will be distributed following our morning worship service.

**December 14<sup>th</sup>:** TODAY! Nursing Home Services @ 2:00 pm.

**December 21<sup>st</sup>:** Christmas dinner after morning worship with 1:00 pm worship service in place of the 5:00 pm service.

**December 23<sup>rd</sup>:** Tuesday mid-week Bible Study due to Christmas Eve.

**December 30<sup>th</sup>:** Tuesday mid-week Bible Study due to New Year's Eve.

**Challenge Youth Conference:** February 27-March 1, 2009 in Gatlinburg, TN @ the Gatlinburg Convention Center. For more details visit <http://cyconline.com/> If you are unsure how much you need to pay, please see Kristina Hammock asap.

**\*\*\*If you are visiting with us today, we are so glad to have you here! Please fill out a card in the back of the pew with your contact information & either place it in the collection basket as it comes around or give it to any of our members so we can get to know you better and keep in touch with you. We hope you'll come & visit with us again whenever you are able! ☺**

**Our Sympathy Goes Out to the Families Of:**

Alice Pippin, Reba Maberry's granddaughter has lost her husband.

**Privileged To Serve December 21<sup>st</sup>**

Ushers.....	Roger Robinson
.....	Alan Dawson
.....	Mark Collins
.....	Thurel Flatt
Announcements.....	Carl Call
Song Leader.....	John Anderson
Scripture Reading.....	Dale Dennis
Speaker.....	John Mabery
Opening Prayer.....	Neal Chaffin
Closing Prayer.....	Steve Hensley
Oversee Lord's Supper .	Greg Scott
Prepare Trays.....	Ben Young
Scripture Reading.....	Raymond Haney
Serve.....	*Jerry Young
.....	*Jeremy Mathis
.....	*Greg Scott
.....	Blake Maberry
.....	Benjamin Gentry
.....	Glen Haney
Alternate to Serve.....	Rellon Burris
.....	Randy Duke
Dismiss Classes.....	Charles Mitchell
Count Contribution.....	Charles Whitaker
.....	Charles Whitaker
.....	Dale Dennis
.....	Robert Crabtree
Response Card.....	Roy Young
Power Point.....	Kevin Moss

**Sunday Night (12/21/2008)**

Speaker.....	Brian Trisdale
Scripture Reading.....	Kevin Moss
Song Leader.....	Jon Conner
Opening Prayer.....	Sjon Gentry
Closing Prayer.....	Jimmy Strong
Power Point.....	Blake Maberry

**Tuesday (12/23/2008)**

Song Leader.....	Jerry Young
Devotional.....	Sjon Gentry
Opening Prayer.....	Billy Scott
Closing Prayer.....	Ted Ragland

\*Take to the sick & shut-in.  
Let Jerry Young know if you can't serve.

**Elders:**

Ted Ragland	268.9387
John Mabery	268.0651
Cell:	265.3835

**Deacons:**

John Anderson	268.2406
Billy Scott	268.0569
Robert Crabtree	268.4417
Raymond Haney	268.2493
Rellon Burris	268.4738
Carl Call	268.2040
Sjon Gentry	268.3273
Bobby Haney	268.2754
Jerry Young	268.2215

**Ministers:**

John Mabery	268.0651
John Anderson	268.2406

**To Be Saved, JESUS Said We MUST...**

**Believe** Him (Jn.8:24; Heb.11:6)

**Repent** of our sins (Lk.13:3, 5)

**Confess** Christ (Rom.10:9-10)

**Be immersed** in water for remission of sins  
(Mk.16:16; Acts 2:38; 22:16; Rom.6:3-4)

Volume 7

December 14, 2008

Number 50

**If I Were the Devil's Preacher ...(Part XII)  
"Grace and Holiness" (Part I); By John Mabery**

*If I were the devil's preacher I would distort the true nature of Deity and try to convince people that there is no good reason to fear God!* This may sound relatively harmless, but a healthy fear of God is both good and necessary!

**"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding." (Proverbs 9:10)**

Many have no fear of God because they don't know Him! God has revealed Himself in Scripture, but the information is of no value to the *untaught* person. The *disobedient* can't understand the Lord because some understanding is attained through faithful obedience to the Divine will.

**"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; A good understanding have all those who do His commandments." (Psalms 111:10)**

Solomon wrote, **"Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, For this is man's all." (Eccl 12:13)**, yet many believers have no *genuine* fear of the Lord! Jesus taught His disciples to fear God supremely (Mat.10:28); notwithstanding, some do not – they fear what men think, not what God thinks! How came this to be?

Some have no fear of God because they've been taught a warped, distorted view of Divine love and grace. God truly loved the world and gave His Son to die for mans sins (John 3:16), but that act of grace, alone, did *not ensure* the salvation of *every* person! John did *not* write, *"whoever believes in Him shall not perish"*, but *"should not perish"* (Jn.3:16); *many* will perish (Mat.13-14, 21-23). Satan has deceived many by setting forth his own distorted view of the Divine nature, so why would his preachers stop now? The irony of this is that no one fears the wrath of God more than the devil; who knows Divine anger better than the father of lies? *Continued inside ...*

**Center Grove  
Church Of Christ**

3857 Grundy Quarles Hwy.  
Gainesboro, TN. 38562  
931.858.7460 or 931.268.0651

**Schedule of Services**

**Sunday:** Bible Classes @ 9:00 a.m.  
Worship @ 10:00 a.m.  
Worship @ 5:00 p.m.

**Wednesday:** Bible Classes @ 7:00 p.m.  
Our A.M. Service is **Televised** on Monday  
on Cable Channel 16 @ 6:00 pm

**Radio:** "The Lord's Word" on WLIV 920 AM  
10:10 a.m. Monday - Saturday  
*(We broadcast Thursday, Friday and Saturday)*

**Website:** [www.centergrovecoc.com](http://www.centergrovecoc.com)

**E-mail:** [centergrovecoc@gmail.com](mailto:centergrovecoc@gmail.com)

Due to a misunderstanding of Divine love and mercy, some think the individual can *willfully disregard* the will of God and still be saved by grace! Advocates of this view are all over the board; there's little consensus as to what the individual must do to appropriate, or receive, grace. For example, some say the individual doesn't need to do anything; grace is extended to all regardless of what one believes or does. Those who believe in this *unconditional* concept of grace usually appeal to Titus 2:11 to defend their position. Others say God allowed Jesus to die for the sins of the world and will not allow a single soul to perish. I'm not sure, but I suppose they either ignore the many Bible passages that teach otherwise, or outright dismiss them as being unreliable. Then there are those who say that one must merely believe, and nothing more, in order to receive the grace of God. They appeal to a number of Bible passages as proof; unfortunately, they twist the words of the inspired penman to make their case. Who will explain why *believing* demons are *not* saved by faith, or why so many believers are *not* made free by the truth that makes men free (Jms.2:19; Jn.8:30-32)? And then there are others who say that one *must repent* of their sins in addition to believing in God. They

teach the doctrine of salvation by faith *alone*, but are unwilling to say the believer shall be saved if he refuses to repent (i.e. give up practices like homosexuality {Lk.13:3; Acts 17:30}). Finally, some say the believer *must* believe, repent and be baptized, but if they aren't baptized they'll still be saved. We were recently treated to a conversation between Robert Shuller (of "Crystal Cathedral" fame) and a very aged Billy Graham on YouTube. When Shuller asked about the eternal destiny of Muslims, Buddhist's, Hindu's etc, Graham said the grace of God was broad enough to include *everyone*. An excited Shuller said he was very happy to hear Graham say that (*is Billy Graham the judge of eternal matters?*). The Lord hasn't changed, and Jesus still says, **"I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."** (John 14:6)

Sadly, some religious leaders in the Protestant camp are at odds with the LORD Jesus Christ on the matter of Divine grace and apparently feel qualified to substitute their personal brand of grace in place of His.

We are indeed saved by grace, and thank God for that every day! But let us not forget that **God is also holy!** God willing, we'll explore the holiness of God next week!

**Prayer List**

- |                 |                  |
|-----------------|------------------|
| Sandy Haney     | Charles Mitchell |
| Ruby Dunn       | Zola Flatt       |
| Zella Charles   | Sheldon Warren   |
| Robertta Hix    | Aline Whitaker   |
| Dorothy Burriss | Marie Shoemake   |
| Don Chaffin     | Bobby Elkins     |
| Charlie Ward    | Mildred Elkins   |
| Ruby Ward       | Catherine Mabery |
| Delenn Strong   | Joy Hensley      |
| Phil Johnson    | Mary Nell Jones  |
| Cora Jackson    | Carol Wilson     |
| Hugh Young      |                  |
| Opal Pippin     |                  |
| Anna Lou Flatt  |                  |
| Reba Mayberry   |                  |
| Joann Ledbetter |                  |
| Bill Wisdom     |                  |
| Bessie Young    |                  |
| Ozelma Martin   |                  |
| Chris Heady     |                  |
| Roy Jackson     |                  |
| Betty Flatt     |                  |

**Area Hospitals:**

**Cookeville:** Jean Haney, Roy Jackson, C.J. Mabery

**Area Rest Homes & Rehab. Centers:**

**NHC:** Joe Anderson  
**Mabry:** Plytha Petty  
**Mabry Assisted Living:** Edna Roberts, Velvia Denson  
**Bethesda:** Donald Hensley  
**Masters:** Wynell Ballard

**Never Enough**

***By Kyle Butt of Apologetics Press***

*(Taken from <http://www.apologeticspress.com/articles/3317>)*

“How can a person refuse to believe in God in the face of so much evidence that proves His existence?” In my travels and experiences teaching Christian evidences, this question often arises. Many who encounter for the first time the evidence for the existence of God, the inspiration of the Bible, and the deity of Christ, simply cannot understand how a person could deny such evidence and maintain an atheistic or agnostic position. Why doesn't the force of such evidence compel all those who hear it to become believers in God and the Bible?

The simple answer to such a question is that some have decided not to believe the truth about God and the Bible, regardless of how much evidence is presented. The story of the resurrection of Lazarus provides a perfect biblical illustration of this attitude. In John 11, the Bible records the facts regarding one of Jesus' more spectacular miracles. His friend Lazarus, a denizen of the city of Bethany, became sick and died. The dead man's body was buried in a tomb and remained there for four days. Mary and Martha, Lazarus' sisters, were deeply grieving over the loss of their brother. When Jesus arrived in the city, He asked to be taken to the tomb. He then instructed those at the tomb to remove the stone covering the entrance. Martha attempted to dissuade Jesus from this course of action by informing Him that her dead brother's body had been in the tomb four days, and was decayed to the point that his body would stink. Yet, in an awesome show of God's power over death, Jesus called Lazarus forth from the grave, bringing him back to life.

By bringing Lazarus back to life, Jesus provided evidence that proved His claims to deity. Such evidence should have been sufficient for any honest observer to conclude that Jesus was from God. In fact, the Jewish leaders admitted that Jesus worked many signs (John 11:47). Because of these signs, they were afraid that all the people would believe in Jesus if He continued His ministry. What, then, was their reaction to the signs that they recognized Jesus performed? In John 12:10-11, the Bible says: “But the chief priests took counsel that they might also put Lazarus to death, because on account of him many of the Jews went away and believed in Jesus.”

These villainous leaders were not in the least motivated to assess the evidence honestly and believe in Jesus. In fact, in order to keep others from doing so, they considered killing an innocent man—Lazarus—simply because his life provided convincing evidence of Jesus' deity. They knew Jesus raised him from the dead, but refused to allow this forceful piece of evidence to alter their predetermined beliefs and actions. Such is still the case today. Those who refuse to accept the compelling evidence that proves God's existence, the Bible's inspiration, and the deity of Christ do so based on a predetermined irrationality and not an honest assessment of the facts. That is why the inspired apostle Paul noted that any who deny the existence of God will be “without excuse” on the Day of Judgment (Romans 1:20).