

Sunshine Baskets for 11/04/07

Kathy Trisdale, Jerline Stafford, Ann Flatt, Crystal Maberry, Mindy Dennis, Barbara Scott

Happy Birthday to...

Joann Young (10/29), Sjon Gentry (10/30), Kayla Jenkins (10/31), Sandy Haney (11/1), Ann Johnson (11/1), Chris W. Fox (11/3)

Happy Belated Birthday to...

Charles Whitaker (10/21), Carl Call (10/22), Opal Pippin (10/23), Jackie Mathis (10/27), Madison Phillips (10/27)

Sorry we missed you last week!

Requested Our Prayers ... Diane Duke, Niki Merwine, Larry Howell, Elizabeth Howell

Our Sympathy & Prayers Goes Out to the Families of ... Abby Goodnight

Announcements & Upcoming Events...

Directory Changes: We are putting together a new directory! The dates are as follows: March 7th, 8th, and 10th. Please keep these in mind. If you would like to have your email address or cell phone number added with your other information, please put it on the newest typed paper in the back of the auditorium. Make sure if you have any elderly family members who may be sick and/or shut-in that you check their information as well.

October 30, 2007: Services moved from Wednesday night to Tuesday night due to Halloween.

November 4, 2007: It's a Girl! Baby Shower for Daniel & Rebecca Meadows Bowman @ Shiloh Church of Christ, 2:00-4:00 pm.

November 10, 2007: Ladies' Day Out in Mt. Juliet. Sign-up sheet in the back of the auditorium.

Privileged To Serve November 4th

- Ushers Alton Mayberry, Glen Haney, Thurel Flatt, Tracy Jenkins
Announcements..... Randy Duke
Song Leader John Anderson
Scripture Reading Billy Scott
Speaker John Mabery
Opening Prayer..... Jonathan Conner
Closing Prayer Larry Howell
Oversee Lord's Supper . Chris Mabery
Prepare Trays Tyler Meadows
Scripture Reading..... Alan Burris
Serve *Greg Scott, *Charles Mitchell, *Neal Chaffin, Mike Netherton, Roger Robinson, Jesse Anderson
Alternate to Serve..... Kevin Moss
Dismiss Classes Burton Young
Count Contribution Mark Collins
Corky Trisdale, Rellon Burris, Blake Maberry, Earl Crabtree
Response Card..... Jerry Young
Power Point..... Blake Maberry

Sunday Night (11/4)

- Speaker John Anderson
Scripture Reading Carl Call
Song Leader Jeremy Kirby
Opening Prayer..... Jerry Young
Closing Prayer Rellon Burris
Power Point..... Kevin Moss

Wednesday (11/7)

- Song Leader Charles Whitaker
Invitation..... Mike Martin
Opening Prayer..... Bobby Haney
Closing Prayer Brian Trisdale

*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 6

October 28, 2007

Number 39

Love One Another (Part I)

By John Mabery

"Love one another" is a simple statement - at least until you try to explain what it involves. Go ahead, give it a try. The Bible contains many simple statements, statements so common that we frequently read over them assuming we know their meaning. When asked to explain what these simple words and statements mean, we often find ourselves at a loss for words. There's a big difference in recognizing the word "love" and being able to explain its meaning. Try it! I know this seems too simple, perhaps silly, but don't skip the exercise - try to explain love in your own words. I'll wait while you give it some thought and then we'll proceed.

Now that you've defined love, apply your definition to the following statements and see how you did: "I love pizza"; "I love my children"; "I love the ocean"; "I love God". Do you see how hard it can be to assign a meaning to this common little word? This is why many people are confused when they read some Bible verses. Check it out and see for yourself:

"Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him." (1 John 2:15; bold, jm)

"Love your enemies" (Mat.5:44; bold, jm)

Do I sin if I love to look at the Smokey Mountains, or watch the sun silently disappear beyond the ocean's horizon? If not, why not? Must I love my enemy like I love my parents, spouse or children? If not, why not? But there's more: if I don't understand these statements, which are my obligations, then (1) how can I know that I do not love the world, and (2) how can I know if I do love my enemy (especially since I don't like to be around them)?

We can't afford to be careless about the meaning of "love" as it appears in various texts; our salvation is at stake. We must love both God and man (cf. Mat.22:37-40; John 13:34-35; Rom.13:8; Gal.6:2; 1 Cor.13).

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 9 @ 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

Have you ever considered the importance of brotherly love? Love for the brethren proves that (1) we have been born again (1 John 3:14), (2) we are of the truth (1 John 3:19), (3) we love God ...

⁷ Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸ He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. (1 John 4:7-8)

²⁰ If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen? ²¹ And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God *must* love his brother also. (1 John 4:20-21)

As you can tell, love for God and the brethren is not an option! So ask yourself a question, "Do I love God and the brethren?" If the answer is "Yes", then explain how you know that. Paul charged us to examine ourselves and prove all things (2 Cor.13:5; 1 Thes.5:21). Can you prove your love; can you point to solid evidence that demonstrates your love for God and the brethren? If you love them, you should be able because love manifests itself in different ways.

In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. (1 John 4:9)
We KNOW God loves us; but how? **He sent** His only Son to die in our place. The love God seeks is *demonstrable*; more and greater than mere feelings!

If you aren't sure that your love for God and the brethren is what it ought to be, then I hope you (1) realize the importance of our **learning** to love God and the brethren, and (2) are determined to search the Scriptures and learn everything you can about this vital matter. Let no one deceive you! Some shrug off serious self-examination under the guise of already knowing all that needs to be known, when in reality they are just indifferent or afraid of what they'll discover. But you – you look carefully, seriously, inquiringly – for you can know the truth about your love for God and the brethren. You can prove it to your own satisfaction, and when you do, you'll enjoy a peace that only very few people ever get to know.

(To be continued)

Ida Thomas	<u>Sick at Home</u>	Bill Wisdom
Sandy Haney	Ruby Dunn	Jo Ann Ledbetter
Zella Charles	Aline Whitaker	Roberta Hix
Donald Burris	Marie Shoemake	Glenda Burchett
Dorothy Burris	Bob Radtke	Stephanie Smith
Delenn Strong	Paulette Radtke	Mattie Ransom
Ozelma Martin	Bobby Elkins	Robert Haney
Bessie Young	Mildred Elkins	Bud Coffman
Wanda Warren	Connie Rhodes	Don Chaffin
Lillie Goolsby	Ray Flatt	Jesse Anderson
Opal Pippin		Vickie Wilson

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer & supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God," (Phil.4:6)

Area Hospitals:

Cookeville: Katherine Mabery
McMinnville: Mary Davidson
Florida: Beatrice Spurlock

Area Rest Homes:

NHC: Alice Pippin, Joe Anderson, Mary L. Dudney
Mabry: Plytha Petty, Wilma Howell
Clay Co.: James Allen
Michigan: Viola Scarlett
Alata: Caleb Robinson

Why Keep Bringing Up Nadab & Abihu

By Randy Duke

As we look at the world around us today, we see new innovations & technology everywhere you turn. Everyone you see has a cell phone stuck to their ear or hanging at their side, if you don't have a computer, you are considered a dinosaur, & with a little instruction you can take a navigation system & travel the country, or take a GPS unit & journey into & out of the wilderness. Where do Nadab & Abihu fit into the modern world we live in today? Why do preachers keep bringing them up in sermons? We live & worship under the New Covenant in which Jesus was the sacrifice. Nadab & Abihu lived & served God under the Old Covenant where animals were the sacrifices. Since we are not under the Old Law, how does their life & death as Levite priests have bearing on our lives & worship to God today?

As followers of Christ, our guidelines for worship are contained in the New Testament, but without a good understanding of the Old Testament, it is extremely difficult to understand the New. We need to know God the best we can & better understand what he expects from us. 1 Cor. 10:11 tells us that all these things happened to them as examples, & they were written for our admonition (i.e., the training by word), upon whom the ends of the ages have come. So since we know that God doesn't change, (Mal. 3:6), we must now look at Nadab & Abihu & at what caused their death at the hand of the Lord. What can we learn by this example?

When the Lord gave Moses the laws & the pattern for building the tabernacle, He also gave him instructions for establishing the Levitical priesthood. The Lord appointed Aaron as high priest. He, his sons, & his descendants were given the responsibility of the priesthood: offering burnt sacrifices, leading the people in worship, & teaching them the laws of God (Lev. 8-9).

Nadab & Abihu, as consecrated priests, were expected to be able to distinguish between holy & unholy, between clean & unclean, & to teach the children of Israel all the statutes which the Lord had spoken to them by the hand of Moses (Lev. 10:10-11). The Lord told Moses in Lev. 10:3. "By those who come near Me I must be regarded as holy; & before all the people I must be glorified." So when Nadab & Abihu each took his censer & put incense on it & offered profane (unhallowed) fire before the Lord, which he had not commanded them (Lev. 10:1-2), fire went out from the Lord. In their disobedience & obvious disregard of Gods commands, they paid the ultimate price.

So what lesson do we as New Testament Christians learn from Nadab & Abihu? That we serve the same God as they did (Mal. 3:6); that as we draw near to God, we too are to regard Him as holy & glorify Him before all the people (Lev. 10:3). As Christians, we are to draw near to God so he will draw near to us (James 4:8), that we too must distinguish between holy & unholy & to live holy lives (1Peter 1:13-16), & that we are to teach each other to be Christians (2 Tim. 2:4 , Rom. 12:7).

Can we offer strange fire to the Lord today? YES! When we add to or take away from God's Word (Rev. 22:18-19) & willfully do, teach or preach contrary to what the Scriptures tell us, we offer profane fire. Will we be consumed by fire if we practice this? YES! If we do not repent & confess our sins (Luke 13:3-5, 1 John 1:9), then our names will be removed from the Book of Life (Rev. 3:5) & we WILL be cast into the lake of fire (Rev. 20:15).

When I taught this lesson in our Bible class on Sunday a few weeks ago, I was very nervous because I was afraid I wouldn't get the importance of this across to the class as good as I should. I can't stress enough the importance of knowing & doing God's Will to the best of our abilities, especially those who serve in the Lord's church. We must never forget Nadab & Abihu!