

Dear Brethren,
Occasionally I'll see a blogpost or article that I don't think I could improve upon in my own words. I hope you'll benefit from this article from Patrick Swayne, preacher for the Northern Lights church of Christ in Fairbanks, Alaska. For more biblical content like this, check out Patrick's website truthfortheworld.org

John

Daring to Be Different During the Holidays

Have you ever thought about the impression a text might leave if you only had a moment to think about it? Take for example Jesus's declaration in the Sermon on the Mount that believers are "the salt of the earth" and "the light of the world" (Matthew 5:13-14). I've been in adult Bible studies before where a whole hour or two were spent reflecting on the various implications of these two simple statements. There's a lot of depth in them! ...Jesus wants my faith to be noticed by others, even when it's hard. I need to be different.

Difference is woven into so many of the Bible's instructions...I'd like to reflect on the special opportunity presented by holidays for believers to demonstrate they are different.

Careful students of the New Testament notice that while early Christians placed a great deal of importance on Sunday, "the first day of the week," also known as "the Lord's Day" (Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 16:2; Rev. 1:10), there's no record of them collectively or congregationally celebrating events like Jesus' birth or death through any kind of special, holy day. While individual believers might have put "one day above another," others were just as likely to treat "every day alike," and Paul told individuals in both groups not to "judge your brother" and to keep such matters "to yourself before God" (Rom. 14:5, 10, 22). While Paul knew God had given liberty regarding private observances, he feared that collective religious observances of "days and months and seasons and years" could...bring Christians into "bondage" (Gal. 4:9-10).

...For my entire life, I've seen Christians who want to return to the simple beliefs and practices of the New Testament struggle with Christmas and Easter. Some use these holiday seasons specifically to condemn these days because of the human teachings and traditions that are sometimes woven into their observance. This certainly allows them to be seen as different by those in the world but sometimes doesn't achieve the result that Jesus envisioned for that difference, namely, people glorifying the "Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:16). Seeing this, others have chosen the path of least resistance by teaching, preaching, and doing what is expected on or near these days, while making no commentary on them other than to occasionally condemn the behavior of those who condemn these days.

...I'd like to argue for a different path regarding religious holidays at a congregational level. Granted, I totally understand the idea of seizing a moment to talk about what's on everyone's mind. However, given Jesus' goal for us is noticeable difference, I really appreciate those in the brotherhood of believers who want to be seen as being different than the denominational world. Is there a way though to be different in a way that makes a difference? I think there is. For years, I've made it my practice to highlight the difference of the New Testament pattern from manmade observances without using this particular moment to condemn anyone else's practice.

...I get asked all the time by people in the community about what my church is doing for Christmas or Easter. I love being able to say something like this: "Not much changes for us. Holidays like Christmas and Easter actually aren't in the Bible. Like the first Christians, we don't do anything out of the ordinary when these days roll around. We believe in Jesus' birth and His resurrection, but we try to honor these events every Sunday that we meet together." ...Over the years, I've had several positive and constructive conversations stem from this approach...Even if this approach does bring ridicule or cause you to be ostracized, remember, Jesus prefaced His words regarding His desire for you to be different (Matt. 5:13-16) with words about embracing persecution (Matt. 5:10-12).

So, when the next holiday rolls around, will you as a Christian discussing your faith with your friends dare to be different? Let's let our saltiness and light be tasted and seen by those who desperately need to know God's peace.

On Our Prayer List... Mary Lana Adams-in Horizon with blood clots, Rm 156 Jimmy Long-recovering fr knee replacement
Sarah Parnell-currently home with Pneumonia/Joyce Long Kathy Martin Michelle Lashlee

Becky Palk/W. R. Long/Hattie Tate/ Wade Tummins- hernia repair on 12/9/Betty Rumsey/Jimmy Tyler/Al & Vicki Peek

- *Larry Fuqua-heart attack-had to have 2 stents put in on 12/1.
- *Jeff Hyland (N. Buttrey's uncle)heart blockages, upcoming surg.
- *Virginia Cherry- (John Jones grandmother) shingles, not doing well.
- *Doug Simpson-(Ruby England's brother)-heart problems. *Ralph Simpson
- *Chuck Bumpus-(Emalee Buttrey's brother) stent now put in- & is improving, still in Centennial hospital /*Atlas Brink-(Bryant&Anna's son) recovering fr appendectomy
- *Whitney(Bullion)Sager-not doing well, needs our prayers.
- *Mike Mathis-(Keith & Linda Rodgers son) had surg on Nov 20th.
- *Stephanie Greene-(Mike's sister)needs prayers-very sick in hosp -Jackson
- *Charles Miles-suffered a fall + heart issues -continues at Horizon
- *Sherry Angela-moved fr ICU to a rm, injures fr a car-wreck-g-mother of Mason
- *Scottie Lashlee-back problems sees a spine specialist on Nov 22nd. Adams.
- *Marcia Simpson-(Mike Burn's aunt) now in St. Thomas Midtown hospital.
- *Neely Ann Martin-(Jerry & Kathy's granddaughter) continue in prayer.
- *Chase Lewis-(Vicki Peek's family) he has lupus, sick
- *Frank Gugelchuk-(Michelle Lashlee's dad)had heart procedure, now home
- *Alyssa Gold-(Robert Proctor's niece) in need of prayers*Shane Cobb
- *Linda Burns (Mike Burns sister-in-law) *Bubba Tummins(Bo & Amy's bro

THOSE DEALING/BEING TREATED FOR CANCER

- *KENNY FLEMING- cancer
- *JIMMY PHY-cancer treatments
- *RONNIE ENGLANDCA/AFIB-NOW IN VANDERBILT HOSP
- *WANDA WRIGHT -CANCER
- *DONNA BURNS-WAYNE&ANN BERRYMAN'S NIECE)-CA
- *WANDA DOBBINS-(kin to Tyler's) terminal CA
- *CHRIS McCURLEY-prostate cancer
- *JACKIE BORDERS- Lauren Stuart's mom
- *ROBERT GARDNER(Friend of Bill Williams) CA
- *RANAE DUNCAN-(Bo&Amy's neighbor)CA treatments
- *CASEY VAILES-(Ranae Duncan's son)also has cancer
- *BARRY DEAN-grandfather of a friend of Rachel Bell
- *LARRY HAYES-(fr Waverly COC) restarted chemo
- *MAGGIE WRIGHT-(friend of N. Buttrey) chemo

Address Correction-(Dickson County Jail/James Eric Warden-ID102618/ P.O. Bx 76550/Hghland Heights, KY 41076) ⇨

Need all of this on yr envelope. A company in KY will then verify, scan & send to Eric on a monitor.

ASSISTED LIVING/ NURSING HOME/HOME
AHC Decatur County-726 Kentucky Ave, Parsons,TN 38363-Wyle Marshall (Rm 726)-Traci Adams dad
NHC-812 N. Charlotte, Dickson,TN 37055- Earline Davis-Rm 410/JoAnn Haley-(Rm) Doris Stokes-Rm 127
Magnolia Place -811 W. Main St. Waverly, TN 37185
 AT HOME:**JANE RIDINGS**-172 Indian Ck Rd/**HERBERT CAPPS**-1400 Bradley Rd/**ELTON SMITH**-7731 Hwy 70E

MILITARY
Dustin Proctor-
 (New Japan)
 PSC 562 Box 7273,
 FPO AP 96311-0073

ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPCOMING EVENTS

GOLDEN AGE BANQUET
 This Saturday, Dec 7th @ noon @ Samuels on the Square. If you've signed up & would like to ride the van it will leave @11:25 sharp.

What better way to start 2025 off!!! Be sure you have down on your 2025 Calendar to attend!!! calendar!!!!



PEW PACKERS -each Sunday night@ 5:45

YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTIES: PLEASE BRING A \$10-\$12 GIFT THAT WILL WORK FOR A BOY OR GIRL, APPLIES TO EACH GROUP.

Meris Bible Study,
 this Saturday, Dec 7th @6:30 AM Here @the building.

Rob and Nicole Whitacre from Heart to Heart School of Evangelism will be with us on Saturday and Sunday, **January 4th and 5th** for their Congregational Evangelism Seminar. They'll teach us how EVERY member can be involved in evangelism.

BUGS Group-(Pre-k-2nd) Wed, Dec 18th @ 5:00 PM Pancakes & PJ's in the fellowship room.
FAST Group(3rd-5th) Sun, Dec 15th @ 3:30 in the fellowship rm
YOUTH Group-(6th-12th)- Sun, Dec 22nd after evening worship at Keith & Laurie's house.

IN F.O.C.U.S. Faith, Obedience, Character, Unity, Salvation



I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving holiday and break. For us, it was great to have Brayden home for the week and great to be able to have some family time together. Thanksgiving Day was busy but well worth it. We spent time with family and enjoyed some great food! Due to the holiday, we didn't have any youth activities last week. But never fear, we pick back up this week with a devotional Sunday night after service. We also have our Christmas parties coming up in about 2 weeks. Please be sure to check out our youth Facebook page for detailed information on the parties. If anyone has any questions, please let me know.

Christian Love, Keith

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday, December 8th 2024

WelcomeWade Tummins
 Lead Singing.....Mark Forster
 1st Prayer..... Mike Tyler
 Sermon.....John Jones
 Lord's Table.....Mark Forster
 Mike Robertson Andy Marlor
 Glenn Ross Andrew Peyton
 Wendell Monroe Derek Berryman
 Closing Prayer.....John Potter
 Collect Cards.....Jaxon Holt
 & Matthew Dotson
 Greeters..... Not at this time
 Nursery..... Not at this time
 Collect Cups.....Youth
 Security.....Team #2

Sunday 6PM, December 8th 2024

Lead Singing..... Mark Forster
 Prayer.....John Hurt
 Sermon..... John Jones
 Lord's Table.....Gerald Curtis
 W. R. Long
 Closing Prayer.....Jesse Kilpatrick

Wednesday 6:30 PM, December 11th 2024

Lead Singing.....Keith Grigsby
 Prayer.....Dwight Stuart
 Adult Class.....John Jones

If you are unable to serve...please contact
 Wade Tummins, in advance. (cell 931-209-6291)
 If changes need to be made in scheduling please
 contact Jimmy Phy.

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Return Service Requested



Week of December 1st 2024

A Caring Church Lifting Up The CROSS And CROWN of CHRIST



Schedule of Services

Sunday

Bible Study.....9:00am
 Worship..... 10:00am
 Evening.....6:00pm

Wednesday

Bible Study..... 6:30pm

Elders:

Calvin Buckner
 Billy Buttrey Bruce Mayfield
 W.R. Long Mike Robertson

Deacons:

Derek Berryman Mike Burns
 Wayne Coates Mark Forster
 John Hurt Barry Phy
 Robert Proctor James Ridings
 Joe Smith Dwight Stuart
 Ethan Tummins Wade Tummins
 Ronnie Tyler

Staff:

Ministers ---- Every Member
 Pulpit ----- John Jones
 Youth ----- Keith Grigsby

Secretaries

Terri Tummins/Teresa Fleming

*If you are unable to attend any service please tune in to our Facebook page or our YouTube page to watch the services. This is NOT a replacement for the command to assemble together as Christ's Body, but a tool for those who may be homebound/shut-in or sick.

The MESSENGER is online!
 Visit the church website
 to view!



OUR RECORDS for 12/01/2024

Sunday Morning Bible School	-----	109
Sunday Morning Worship	-----	186
Sunday Evening Worship	-----	101
Wed-Mid-Week Bible Study	-----	88
Sunday Contribution	-----	\$10,090
Number of Seeds Planted	-----	8

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