

## **THE HOME OF HYPOCRISY**

**Jeremiah 12:2**

***You have planted them, they have also taken root; They grow, they have even produced fruit. You are near to their lips but far from their mind.***

By the time of Jeremiah, God's people were about to face His judgment. The charges made against her included stealing, adultery, murder and swearing falsely in the name of the Lord. In addition to all of those, the nation had turned to the worship of Baal and other false gods (Jeremiah 7:9).

At the same time all of that was going on, they continued to "worship" at the house of the Lord (Jeremiah 7:10). They were polytheists, worshippers of many gods. Their lifestyle reflected, not a belief in the Lord, but an ardent devotion to Baal. In fact, they had no devotion to the Lord. They had completely abandoned the most fundamental command; to love Him with all the heart, soul and might (Deuteronomy 6:5).

They were hypocrites. They professed to love Him yet they had no place for Him in their hearts. Or, to use the words of Jeremiah, "You are near to their lips but far from their mind." Those words are similar to Isaiah 29:13; "this people draw near with their words and honor Me with their lip service, but they remove their hearts far from Me, and their reverence for Me consists of tradition learned by rote."

The Bible continually comes back to this point; God is honored when our obedient actions come from hearts that truly love God. Do I love Him or not? While action is involved, it is really a matter of the heart. Is my heart burning with love for Him or is He far removed from my mind?

***--Ron Harper--***

## The Gospel According to Jesus Part III

Last week, we discovered the hard fact that Jesus one day will return “in flaming fire, **inflicting vengeance** on those who do not know God and on those **who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus**” (2 Thessalonians 1:8, ESV, emphasis added). We then proceeded to understand that the gospel of Jesus is his death, burial, and resurrection. But how can we OBEY and ACTION?

The answer is found in Romans 6:1-10. In verse three, Paul tells us that our baptism into Christ is the reenactment of his death, burial, and resurrection. Let’s keep studying!

When we step into the water, we are dying to sin. No longer are we slaves to sin but now, we are slaves to righteousness (Romans 6:20-23). Our repentance period begins here. When we are dead to sin, we are separated from those sins that ultimately made us dead to Christ.

We are immersed (buried) for the forgiveness of sins. The word *baptism* literally means to wash, dip, and immerse. Bauer and Gingrich state in their Greek lexicon that the word carries an image of a dish being completely dipped into water to be washed and made clean again. How can something be made clean without washing it? There is no pouring, sprinkling, or splashing in the New Testament. The only way to be buried with Christ, thus obeying his gospel, is to be immersed in baptism, washing away your sins (Acts 22:16).

We cannot stay in the watery grave. Jesus resurrected from his grave conquering death and was exalted to be at the right hand of God (Acts 7:56). When we are raised from that watery grave, we are cleansed from sin and raised to walk in newness of life (Romans 6:4). We are a new creation, born of water and of spirit (John 3). Yes. We are born again!

If there is any confusion or questions about any of these things, please contact me. When Jesus returns, he is going to take vengeance on those who do not obey his gospel. Will you obey?

*Joshua Houston*

## ***PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER***

### **SICK**

Opal Jones is now at Adams Place.  
Crystal Sanders-daughter of Tommy & Shirley Bibb

### **TAKING TREATMENTS**

Lois Arnold, Carolyn Thomas, Janneil Brown

### **SHUT INS**

Rita Reed, Mable Robertson, Houston Henry,  
Oleta Bullard

### **PRAYER REQUEST:**

Shirley Bibb, Clyde & Opal Jones, Dan & Lorene  
Stephens, Wayne Mobbs, Lorene Maddox,  
Imogene Bozeman, Martha DeVore, Doris Mobbs,  
Selma Boyd, Wilburn Laws, Larry & Geri Melton,  
Betty Shoemaker, Rosalie Phifer, Janneil Brown,  
Jeanie Young, Cody Pepper

### **NURSING HOMES & ASSISTED LIVING:**

\*MEMBERS

**ADAMS PLACE:** Nora Fann\*, Opal Jones\*

**DIVERSICARE OF SMYRNA:** Jean Nickens\*

**NHC:** Sue Reeves\*, Lizzie Bush, Geri Melton\*

**MORNING POINTE:** (Brentwood) Betty Shoemaker

**STONES RIVER MANOR:** Edna Vance\*, Virgie  
Leonard\*, Margaret Davidson\*, Jeweldean Hall\*,  
Laura Wiser\*, Lillian Whitworth, Louise McKnight\*,  
Martha DeVore

## ***MILITARY***

Please keep **Tony Berry** in your prayers, while  
he is stationed in California at Camp  
Pendleton.

## ***BUILDING FUND***

We have received a donation to the  
Building Fund:

In Memory of **Gladys Ruth Lowery**  
Sister – in – law of **Melba Bullard**

## ***NEWS & NOTES***

We extend sympathy to the family of  
**Ralph Gilbert**. He passed away  
Tuesday, August 18<sup>th</sup>. His funeral was  
held Friday, August 21<sup>st</sup> at Woodfin  
Memorial Chapel.

**Pictures for the pictorial directory** will  
resume **today** in the gym. There is a  
sign-up sheet on the counter. For your  
dress planning, our back drop will be a  
medium gray color. Please see Rick  
Corum or Larry Benson if you have any  
questions.

**Bible Bowl** meeting today after service.

**Rush** is September 18-20<sup>th</sup>. Sign-up  
sheet is on the counter.

Thank you to everyone who has  
volunteered to serve as greeters for our  
worship services. The sign-up sheet is  
on the counter if anyone wishes to sign-  
up.

## ***THANK YOU CARDS***

We have received Thank You cards  
from:

\* Ron Meers                      \*Martha DeVore  
\* Mary Williams                \*Jennifer Hopkins  
\* Nancy Benson                \*Charlotte Markum

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(615) 893-8212

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Email:  
office@salemcreekcoc.org

We're on the web!  
www.mdcoc.net

### SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Currently meeting at  
Middle Tennessee Christian School  
100 E. MTCS Rd.  
Murfreesboro, TN 37130

Sunday	
Morning Worship	8:30 am
Bible Classes	9:45 am
Evening Worship	5:30 pm
Wednesday	
Morning Bible Class	10:00 am
Evening Bible Classes	6:30 pm

#### ELDERS

B.K. Ham  
Jim Hatfield  
Jon Holland  
Andy Mitchell  
Randall Phifer  
Fred Rogers  
Keith Short

#### MINISTER

Ron Harper

#### ASSOCIATE MINISTER

Joshua Houston

#### DEACONS

Larry Benson	Andy Melton
Michael Bowman	Brian Melton
Craig Buckner	Alan Pepper
Bob Hoover	Wendell Wilson

#### FOR THE RECORD

*August 16, 2015*

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>AM worship</b>	<b>176</b>
	<b>Bible classes</b>	<b>141</b>
	<b>PM worship</b>	<b>120</b>
	<b>Contribution</b>	<b>\$6,133.75</b>

<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>PM Bible classes</b>	<b>106</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>AM Ladies Class (Sept-May)</b>	<b>----</b>

#### GREETERS

Please be at the door 15  
minutes prior to services!



#### August 23

Louise Smithson  
Robert & Mary Ann McKnight

#### August 30

Joshua Houston  
Keith & Margaret Short

### *To Our Honored Guests...*

We are happy you chose to worship with us today! Please stay after our assembly so that we can get acquainted with you and your family. We invite you to come back to Middle Tennessee Christian School while our new building is under construction.

*We were honored by your presence!*