

## **SOME THINGS CAN'T BE LEGISLATED**

### ***Leviticus 19:18***

***You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the sons of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself.***

Leviticus 19:18 is the passage Jesus quoted when he noted a "second" command (Matthew 22:39). That command implies a lot in regard to how we treat one another. Jesus was talking about "agape" love, the kind of love that has to do with how we treat others. The parable of the Good Samaritan a great illustration of what it means to "agape" our neighbor. In one sense, then, "love" can be legislated.

On the other hand, there is one sense in which it cannot be. At some point, love is something that comes from the heart. In that sense, it cannot be coerced. Try as we might, we cannot force people to have certain things in their hearts.

We frequently read of horrific crimes being committed by people whose hearts are filled with hate and rage. As long as Satan dominates the hearts of men and women, horrible things are going to take place.

It is imperative that Christians be the light of the world that we show the world what Jesus is like. It is the love of Christ that attracts people to him. Just a few days before the cross, Jesus foretold His death. One of the things He said was "And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to Myself" (John 12:32). If you want to see people change their hearts, tell them about the love of Christ. Show them what it really means to follow Him.

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

## **Graven Image or Engraved Law?**

Adapted from **Chris Simpson**

Exodus 32 has always thrown me for a loop. I have never been able to understand why the people of Israel acted in the way that they did. How could they doubt the one Supreme Being that led them out of Egypt? How could they doubt the one person who continually pleaded on behalf of these sinful people? But think about it in this way: If the President left to go meet with a ruler of another country and the nation didn't see or hear from him for 40 days, what would the result be? By that point, the Vice President would have taken over and he would be running the nation. I wonder if that is how Israel felt.

The people approached Aaron and asked him to make them a god because they did not know what had happened to Moses. Aaron was not hesitant. Rather, he gave them instructions (v. 2-3) and made a molten calf. Aaron, in verse 4 proclaims, "This is your god, oh Israel, who brought you up from the land of Egypt!"

We give Aaron a hard time. How could you be so ignorant?! Don't you know there is only one God?! However, we do the same thing all the time. It is interesting that in Exodus 32:4, Aaron took an **engraving tool** and fashioned the calf at the exact same time God was **engraving the law** onto the tablets (Exodus 31:18).

What graven images are we making in our lives? While we don't live under the Law of Moses, we do live under the Law of Christ. Are we serving earthly, graven images or the law of Christ?

**Joshua Houston**

## *PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER*

### SICK

Gerald Wiseman

### TAKING TREATMENTS

Lois Arnold, Carolyn Thomas, Janneil Brown  
Rosalie Phifer

### SHUT INS

Rita Reed, Mabel Robertson, Houston Henry, Oleta  
Bullard

### PRAYER REQUEST:

Shirley Bibb, Clyde & Opal Jones, Dan & Lorene  
Stephens, Wayne Mobbs, Lorene Maddox,  
Imogene Bozeman, Selma Boyd, Larry & Geri  
Melton, Betty Shoemaker, Rosalie Phifer, Janneil  
Brown, Gerald Wiseman

### 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

## *THANK YOU CARD*

We have received a Thank You card from:

\* **Gladys Davidson**

## *MILITARY*

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

## *BUILDING FUND*

We have received donations to the  
Building Fund in memory of **Ralph Gilbert**  
by the following:

\*Ella Harris

\*Allie Mae Frizzell

\*David & Beverly Hayes

## *NEWS & NOTES*

We extend sympathy to the family of  
**Wilburn Laws**; he passed away on  
Thursday, October 1<sup>st</sup>. He was the father  
of Cindy Phifer.

We commend **Holly Bowman** for coming  
forward last Sunday requesting prayers  
for God's transformation in her life.

**Visitation Team #1** will meet for visitation  
meal at MTCS on Sunday, October 18<sup>th</sup>.  
Please sign the list on the counter if you  
are planning to attend.

As we all know, the time for relocating to  
the new building is quickly approaching.  
With that, we will once again have our  
**church library** up and running. There is a  
need for someone to serve as church  
librarian at that time. This is a voluntary  
position and would be perfect for  
someone with a love of books as well as  
a great opportunity to serve the  
congregation. If you have an interest in  
this, please see Cindy Phifer or Debbie  
Corum for more information.

There will be a **youth/college retreat**  
with Florence church of Christ on April 1-  
3, 2016 at Camp JOY

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Email:  
[office@salemcreekcoc.org](mailto:office@salemcreekcoc.org)

We're on the web!  
[www.mdcoc.net](http://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

*September 27, 2015*

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>AM worship</b>	<b>166</b>
	<b>Bible classes</b>	<b>125</b>
	<b>PM worship</b>	<b>122</b>
	<b>Contribution</b>	<b>\$5,616.00</b>

<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>PM Bible classes</b>	<b>121</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>AM Ladies Class (Sept-May)</b>	<b>15</b>

## GREETERS

Please be at the door 15  
minutes prior to services!



### October 4

Keith & Margaret Short

### October 11

Regenia Grissom  
Steve & Martha Hill

## *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!*