

PRAYER

When do people pray? Some people only pray when they want or need something, often when they are facing adversity. Is it wrong to pray when one is undergoing adversity? Certainly not; however, for the Christian prayer should be a first action and not a last act of desperation. Let us look at some of the times Jesus prayed.

Jesus set His pattern for prayer early in His ministry. Luke 5:16 tell us, “But He Himself would often slip away to the wilderness and pray.” Wilderness also translates as “a lonely place.” A quiet place would have had fewer distractions and allowed Jesus to focus His thoughts. We don’t know the frequency of often; but, it was not just occasionally. Even though He was a member of the God Head in human form, He knew the importance of prayer.

Jesus took His time with prayer. Luke 6:12 tells us after an encounter with the Pharisees during which He healed a man with a withered right hand on the Sabbath, “And it was at this time that He went off to the mountain to pray, and He spent the whole night in prayer to God.” What a great lesson for us. It is easy to sometimes rush through saying a prayer before a meal. Also, I have heard comments on the length of a public prayer when the person praying is very detailed. Jesus took the time needed to talk to God. Prayer is important and should not be rushed.

Probably all of us are familiar with Jesus praying in the garden of Gethsemane Matthew 26: 36 – 46. He took disciples with Him then withdrew a short distance from them taking Peter, James and John with Him. Jesus knew the ordeal He would shortly have to bear. He took the opportunity to pray three times asking if it was possible for “this cup” to pass but expressing His willingness to do God’s will. Please note that while this was during a time of severe trial, it was a continuation of Jesus’ prayer habit.

We have looked at the pattern Jesus followed with prayer. What is your prayer life like? Do you remember to thank God for His many blessings or do you only pray when you want/need something? If you don’t have an active prayer life, you are short changing yourself. Prayer not only is an anchor for the Christian’s soul but it is wonderful source of comfort and hope. Have you prayed today?

Larry Benson

Would You Rather?

“If it is disagreeable in your sight to serve the Lord, choose for yourselves today whom you will serve: whether the gods which your fathers served which were beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.” Joshua 24:15

Growing up, my friends and I would play the popular game of hypothetical situations called “would you rather.” The game goes something like this: two hypothetical questions are presented and the person is required to pick which scenario he or she would rather do. For example, would you rather always have Cheeto dust on your fingers or always smell like peanut butter? It’s a crazy game, but it forces you to think about what you would do in any given situation.

In Joshua 24:15, Joshua gives the nation of Israel a “would you rather” question, only theirs is not hypothetical at all. Joshua basically said, would you rather serve idols or serve the living God? Would you rather be blessed or cursed? Would you rather prosper or be cut down? The choice is yours.

Joshua had already made his decision. As the leader of his household, Joshua’s decision to follow and serve the Lord was reciprocated by his family. There were no other options.

The question is just as real to us today as it was thousands of years ago to them. Would we rather serve God or ourselves? Would we rather follow God or people? Would we rather worship God or worship possessions? The choice is ours. Let’s be like Joshua and serve the Lord.

Joshua Houston

PRAYER REQUESTS:

Ken & Barbara McPeak, Selma Boyd, Pat Davidson, Odell Grissom, Sue Reeves, Ernestine Taylor, Carolyn Thomas, Laura Wiser, Nell Jernigan, Narene Davidson, Mary Williams, Shirley Bibb, Glenda Stiles

SHUT INS:

Tommy Bibb & Shirley Bibb, Oleta Bullard, Houston Henry, Dan Stephens, Richard Jones, Wayne Mobbs, Carolyn Thomas, Mabel Robertson, Louis Wilson, Melba & Jeanie Young

NURSING HOMES & ASSISTED LIVING:

***MEMBERS**

NHC: Lizzie Bush, Sue Reeves*, Ernestine Taylor*

STONES RIVER MANOR: Laura Wiser*, Virgie Leonard*, Margaret Davidson*, Lillian Whitworth

SMYRNA: Geri Melton*

WOODBURY: Jeweldean Hall*

TN VETERAN'S HOME: Edna Vance*

Wayne Mobbs is in St Thomas Rutherford. He hopes to be released by Monday. His 84th birthday is Feb 18. Let's shower him with birthday cards.

Our **sympathy** is extended to the following families:

Nora Fann. Her funeral was Thursday at Woodfins.

Kathleen McVey. Her husband, Bill, was a former elder at Minerva Drive. Her funeral was Saturday in Scotts Hill, TN.

Ripple Bullard, grandmother of Amanda Mitchell. Her funeral was Friday in Booneville, MS.

NEWS & NOTES

ACTIVITIES

The men's breakfast is at IHOP this Tuesday at 8 a.m.

- There's a basket shower through February 14 for Mollie Carver. She is having a girl. The basket is located by the TV in the foyer.
- The Couple's Retreat is March 2-4 at Pigeon Forge. The speaker will be Dan Chambers. Please sign up on the sheet in the foyer and pick up an information sheet regarding securing a room. The deadline to sign up and pay for your room is February 21.
- Our annual bowling activity is planned for February 18 at Smyrna Bowling Center from 8:30-11:30. Please sign the list in the foyer if you plan to attend. The cost is \$10 per person which includes shoe rental. Please see Robert McKnight for more information.
- We need helpers for the Neighborhood Invitation Program. If you cannot prepare the mailings, please consider donating postage stamps. These can be placed in the small box next to the mailings box in the foyer. For more information about this program please see Betty Bowersock.

Rick Acklin's visitation team meets next Sunday, February 18 for potluck.

Henry Birdwell is having surgery Feb 13 for tubes and adenoids.

Alice Stem, mother of Karen Milstead is in St. Thomas Rutherford.

Salem Creek church of Christ
2525 Salem Creek Drive
Murfreesboro, TN 37128

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Email: office@salemcreekcoc.org

We're on the web!
www.salemcreekcoc.org

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday

Morning Worship	9:00 am
Bible Classes	10:15 am
Evening Worship	5:30 pm

Wednesday

Ladies Morning Bible Class (Sept-May)	10:00 am
Evening Bible Classes	6:30 pm

ELDERS

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

MINISTER

Ron Harper

ASSOCIATE MINISTER

Joshua Houston

DEACONS

Rick Acklin	Rick Corum
Larry Benson	Andy Melton
Michael Bowman	Brian Melton
Craig Buckner	Alan Pepper
Joe Byars	Wendell Wilson

FOR THE RECORD

February 4, 2018

Sunday	AM worship	230
	Bible classes	170
	PM worship	121
	Contribution	\$8521.00

Wednesday	PM Bible classes	112
Wednesday	AM Ladies Class (Sept-May)	14

When county schools are closed due to inclement weather A.M. Ladies class will be canceled

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 as often as you have opportunity! We were honored by your presence!

GREETERS

*Please be at the door
30 minutes prior to service*



February 11

Jerald & Peggy Hill

February 18

Dianne Stroop & Regenia Grissom