

Love

In many parts of the world today is being celebrated as Saint Valentine's Day. The name has historical origins. There were several men named Valentine (Valentinus) that were martyred. One of the most prominent was a priest who tradition says was martyred for marrying soldiers (who were forbidden to marry) and for ministering to Christians on February 14, 496 AD. He was recognized not for love but sacrifice. The first to be credited with associating February 14th with love was the English writer Chaucer who mentioned birds choosing mates on February 14. Slowly the association with love increased. The modern traditions started with England in the 18th century and started spreading to more of the world in the late 19th century to become the commercialized day it has become. In 2013 the average spent in the US was \$131/per person with over 190 million cards being sent (not counting school children).

Love is the foundation on which New Testament Christianity is built. The Bible repeatedly gives us God's message of love. John 3:16 is one of the most well-known verses in Bible but it speaks of God's love so well, "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life." These few words convey so much. God the supreme creator and ruler of the universe loved the world so much He sent His only son. God knew that man would be a willful creature committing sin to the death. In His great wisdom He had a plan ready for us.

What about the love Jesus showed. He loved God so much that He was willing to leave heaven for a time to live as a man. John 15:13, No greater love has no man than this, that one lay down his life for his friends." He came knowing that He would be reviled, rejected and crucified on the cross so that God's plan of salvation could be set into motion. It is one thing to tell others what they should do; but, Jesus shows us what we need to do by His example. This example of perfect love carries into how we need to treat other Christians and our neighbor, the world.

I think it is good to give our loved ones special remembrances on Valentine's Day. Indeed I can think of no time when it is inappropriate to show love. Let us never forget that it was God who showed us how to love and remember to let Him know how much we love Him.

Larry Benson

Sin In The White House

“So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth” Revelation 3:16

As we all well know, the presidential election is coming up. As the candidates go from state to state, they attempt to win over the hearts and minds of their potential voters. Once elected, they often seem to become less moral and less like what they intended to be. This article is not about politics. While one can plainly see that there is indeed sin in the white house, there is also sin in another “white house” that often gets ignored. That house is the church house.

Many of the letters that were written to congregations in the first century were written to correct, rebuke, and reprove those congregations. For example, 1 Corinthians is a letter filled with problems surrounding sexual immorality and idolatry. Philippians addresses the problem of unity. 1 Peter warns Christians to watch for wolves in sheep’s clothing. Regardless of their various topics, there was always a problem to be addressed.

As we read these letters, we need to remember the common phrase used in discussing these books. “It was written **to** them **for** us.” (I don’t remember where I first heard this, but I did not coin the phrase.) We need to study and understand the context of what they were facing and then ask ourselves how that passage applies to us.

There is sin that occurs every day that is committed by Christians. If that were not so, Paul would have no reason for writing Romans 3:23. We need to take a step back and ask ourselves if we are cold, hot, or lukewarm. The sin that is in our church house needs to be laid at the feet of Jesus. We must turn away from this sin and live on fire for him!

Joshua Houston

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

SICK & AT HOME

Clyde Bowman, Ernestine Taylor, Dan Stephens
Melanie Martin

TAKING TREATMENTS

Lois Arnold, Carolyn Thomas, Janneil Brown

SHUT INS

Rita Reed, Mabel Robertson, Houston Henry, Oleta Bullard

PRAYER REQUEST:

Shirley Bibb, Opal Jones, Dan & Lorene Stephens,
Wayne Mobbs, Marie Fleming, Lorene Maddox,
Imogene Bozeman, Selma Boyd, Janneil Brown,
Gerald Wiseman, Melba Young, Jeanie Young,
Oleta Bullard, Mabel Robertson, Laura Wiser

NURSING HOMES & ASSISTED LIVING:

*MEMBERS

ADAMS PLACE: Nora Fann*

DIVERSICARE OF SMYRNA: Jean Nickens*

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

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.

NEWS & NOTES

***Visitors** - We are happy you chose to worship with us today! Please fill out a visitor's card and place it in the collection plate.

*If you have a name for the **Barnabas** list, please fill out a Barnabas card and place it in the collection plate.

*We commend **Willis Clark** upon his baptism Wednesday, February 10th, by Jeff Glidden.

***Couples** attending this year's retreat, there will be a meeting **tonight** after worship service.

***Men's Devo** will be hosted at the home of Keith Short with Ron Harper leading the devo tomorrow evening starting at 7 p.m.

***Meeting** - all parents with children in the youth group on Sunday, February 21st at 4 p.m.

***Senior Saints luncheon** Saturday, February 27th at Bell Buckle Café.

***Ladies Day** at East Main church of Christ on Saturday, April 30th. For more information, see flyer in foyer.

***Thank you** to everyone who has volunteered to serve. The sign-up sheets are in the foyer if anyone wishes to sign-up today.



We will have a **Basket baby shower** for the Hernandez family, who recently had a new baby girl. The basket is located near the kitchen.

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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	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

February 7, 2016

Sunday	AM worship	238
	Bible classes	161
	PM worship	131
	Contribution	\$5,924.75

Wednesday PM Bible classes ...

Wednesday AM Ladies Class (Sept-May) ...

**When county schools are closed due to inclement weather
AM Ladies Class will be cancelled**

GREETERS

Please be at the door 15
minutes prior to services!



February 14

Jeff & Karen Milstead
Keith & Margaret Short

February 21

Louise Smithson
Dean Thompson

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!