

***WHEN DID GOD CHANGE?***

***Matthew 24:35***

***Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away.***

The chapter is not the easiest to understand; it concerns the destruction of Jerusalem, an event that would happen in the year AD 70. In the previous verse, Jesus said “Truly I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place.” How certain was that? Jesus immediately said “My words will not pass away.”

In a conversation about biblical morality, a long-time friend said “I just don’t see things the way I used to.” The friend, no doubt, unintentionally spoke for a lot of “Christians.” There are many who have completely reversed the way they think about morality. You can read Isaiah 5:20, 21 to see how God feels about that.

My response to this business about “I don’t see things the way I used to” is to ask “when did God change?” The last of the Old Testament prophets spoke for the God who said “For I, the Lord, do not change; therefore you, O sons of Jacob, are not consumed” (Malachi 3:6).

It is because of His eternal being that Jesus could affirm, without fear of contradiction, “My words will not pass away.” You may change your thinking about a lot of things. You may believe there is nothing wrong with “gay marriage”, pre-marital sexual relations, drinking, and a whole host of issues. The question begs to be asked and we’d best answer it seriously. When did God change?

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

## Best Friends

**“Now it came about when he had finished speaking to Saul, that the soul of Jonathan was knit to the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as himself.” 1 Samuel 18:1**

I did not plan on attending this year’s Lectureship at Freed-Hardeman. It was too far away and honestly, I just didn’t want to spend all that money when I could be productive here. However, around the beginning of January I received a text from my former roommate and best friend, Nathan Foster. Nathan asked if I was going to the Lectureship and if I was, then we could split a hotel room and share notes throughout the week, not to mention we could catch up on old times.

I hesitantly agreed. Yet, as God would have it, the week turned out to be amazing. The classes were enriching, the fellowship was great, and I got to spend time with my fiancé, former professors, as well as my great friend, Nathan. Even though I had not seen Nathan for several months, it felt like we had not skipped a beat in our relationship. I’m sure we all can think of someone like that in our own lives.

David certainly could. Jonathan was his best friend. Jonathan was a friend David could trust and even lean on in times of trouble. Jonathan kept David’s secrets and helped him through times of difficulty. He did this because his soul was knit to David’s. That is what true friendship is all about. True friends do not have fraying bonds but interwoven souls. Jonathan risked his life for David. Would we be willing to do the same?

Maybe we should also ask if we would be willing to be a friend to Christ. Jesus himself said, “Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends” (John 15:13). Jesus laid down his life for us. Will we be a friend to him?

Joshua Houston

# NEWS & NOTES

## 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 & 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** has moved to Boulevard Terrace for rehab.

Please continue to remember **Glenda Stiles** in prayer as she battles health issues.

## **ACTIVITIES**

- 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. It is very important to get your money in to Brian Melton or Randall Phifer by February 21 in order to keep your room reserved with the group.
- Our annual bowling activity is tonight at Smyrna Bowling Center from 8:30-11:30. Please sign the list in the foyer if you plan to attend. Please indicate by your name if you plan to eat pizza with the group before going to the bowling center. The cost is \$10 per person which includes shoe rental. Please see Robert McKnight for more information.
- Please pray for the safety and growth of our group traveling to CYC this weekend. Some are leaving on Thursday and some on Friday and will return on Sunday.

**Rick Acklin's** visitation team meets today for a potluck lunch. All visitors are invited to join us.

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

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We're on the web!  
[www.salemcreekcoc.org](http://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 11, 2018*

Sunday	AM worship	210
	Bible classes	146
	PM worship	113
	Contribution	\$6368.00

Wednesday	PM Bible classes	115
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Wednesday	AM Ladies Class (Sept-May)	12
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\*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 18

Dianne Stroop & Regenia Grissom

### February 25

Dorothy Stroop & Ashley Hurt