

A REDEEMER

Ruth 4:14

Then the women said to Naomi, "blessed is the Lord who has not left you without a redeemer today, and may his name become famous in Israel.

Customs in the biblical world seem very strange to us. One, in particular, is found in the role that Boaz played in the book of Ruth. Boaz was related Mahlon, the dead husband of Ruth. In fact, he was considered one of his "closest relatives" (2:20).

That relationship brought serious responsibilities. Not the least of those was the obligation to marry the widow of the deceased relative, in cases where no children had been born, and raise up an heir for the one who had died. He was known as the "redeemer."

Redeemers did their thing when there seemed to be no hope for the future of a family. They rescued them by doing something that the family could not do for itself. There was no hope apart from the redeemer.

That was God's role in relation to Israel in Egypt. After the Red Sea was crossed, Moses wrote a song of praise to the Lord. In that song, Israel was the people that God had "redeemed" (Exodus 15:16, KJV). All of that points to the Great Redeemer. Sin puts one in a much more hopeless condition than Ruth was in; it separates one from God eternally. We were in a hopeless position but God intervened as He did with Israel. 1 Peter 1:19 says that He redeemed us with the blood of His Son. Because of Him, we are not "without a redeemer." There is real hope for the hopeless.

--Ron Harper--

And I Cried...
“Jesus wept.” John 11:35

There are many things men are told to never do. For example, a man should never hit a woman. Also, a man should never cheat on his wife, taxes, or golf score. It has also been said that a man should never cry.

However, emotion is simply one of the greatest gifts ever given to humankind by God. Without emotion, how could we become *saddened* by our sin or *overwhelmed* by the power of Jesus? How could we *rejoice* in Christ our savior? To say that religion and being a Christian should have no bearing on our emotions is an untrue statement.

In John 11, Jesus received terrible news. His great friend, Lazarus, had died. Jesus knew he was dying and most everyone expected Jesus to go heal him thus saving his life. However, Jesus did not. Instead, Jesus stood outside the tomb, looked at the stone covering the door, and cried. Why was Jesus so grieved when he knew he could bring Lazarus back from the dead? What did Jesus feel that caused him to weep?

Death had separated someone Jesus truly loved from his presence. Jesus had enjoyed the company of Lazarus so much so that the Bible says Jesus loved Lazarus and his family. Yet, now he is gone. Jesus is grieved by the separation he feels.

It is no mystery why a person lost in sin is considered dead by God (Ephesians 2:1). The sin in our lives separates us from God just as death separated Jesus from one of his best friends. The pain and sorrow expressed in verse 35, “Jesus wept,” can be felt every time we go astray from the commands and will of God. As Jesus wept for Lazarus, the Jews were saying, “Oh how he loved him!” (v. 36). When we sin, Jesus does not weep merely out of disappointment but because he loves us.

Jesus called out to Lazarus and Lazarus came out of that tomb. Today, Jesus is calling us to come forth out of our spiritual death. Unlike Lazarus, we can refuse Jesus' call. By doing so, we are just continuing to lay in the grave. How many of us are willing to stay in the grave? Hopefully, none of us are.

Joshua Houston

PRAYER REQUESTS:

Selma Boyd, Ernestine Taylor, Margaret Taylor, Sue Reeves, Odell Grissom, Nora Fann, Virgie Leonard, Carolyn Dunnivant, Louis Wilson, Kay Jennings, Harry Summer, June Jernigan, Carolyn Thomas, Marie Patterson, Kenneth Tucker

SHUT INS:

Rita Reed, Mabel Robertson, Houston Henry, Oleta Bullard, Tommy & Shirley Bibb, Dan Stephens, Melba & Jeanie Young

NURSING HOMES & ASSISTED LIVING:

*MEMBERS

ADAMS PLACE: Nora Fann*, Virgie Leonard*

DIVERSICARE OF SMYRNA: Jean Nickens*

NHC: Lizzie Bush, Sue Reeves*

STONES RIVER MANOR: Margaret Davidson*, Ernestine Taylor*, Laura Wisner*, Lillian Whitworth

SMYRNA: Geri Melton*

WOODBURY: Jeweldean Hall*

TN VETERAN'S HOME: Edna Vance*

MILITARY:

Tony Berry

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- **Disaster Relief** will be running the food line on Monday, May 8th at 10am and loading 1,500 boxes for flood victims. Volunteers are needed.

There will be a baby basket shower for
Amy Barrett

The basket is located near the kitchen



The Visitor

NEWS & NOTES

- Congratulations to Taylor and Amy Barrett upon the birth of a new baby boy on Friday, April 28th. He has been named **Jeff Joseph**. Proud grandparents are Stan and Mandy Trevathan and proud Uncle Joey!! Great grandparents are Richard and Wanda Jones.
- We have received a **Thank You note** from Larry Benson.
- **Visitation Team 1** will need to see Robert McKnight today after Bible classes for May visitation cards.
- **Men's Breakfast at IHOP** Tuesday, May 9th at 8am.
- **Youth Devo** at the home of Jeff and Tammy Glidden Sunday, May 14th.
- **Visitation Team #2** will have their next meeting and meal on Sunday, May 21st. In order to make sure we have everything we need, a sign-up sheet has been placed in the foyer. If you are a member of Team #2 please sign the sheet with what you plan to bring. We will be inviting all visitors that Sunday to join us, so please prepare extra so we will have plenty for everyone. If you have any questions, please see Lisa or Amanda Mitchell.
- **Wendell and Carol Wilson** would like to offer someone responsible a job in assisting on a part time basis sitting with Louis. The job is relatively simple as it involves just reading to Louis, watching TV with him, etc. and this will be during the hours that Carol and Wendell are also at home. For more information, please see Carol or Wendell.
- **The Domestic Violence Shelter** is looking for light blankets and washcloths. If you wish to donate any, you may coordinate with Jeff Milstead and he will assist in gathering them for shipment.

May 7, 2017

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



P.O. Box 332067
 Murfreesboro, TN 37133-2067

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

April 30, 2017

Sunday	AM worship	239
	Bible classes	188
	PM worship	120
	Contribution	\$6,276.00

Wednesday	PM Bible classes	135
Wednesday	AM Ladies Class (Sept-May)	17

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

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*

May 7

Thomas & Connie Davis

May 14

Bobby & Jackie Sims

