

## **Ticket Punched?**

Have you noticed that some people seem to think that getting to heaven is like having a ticket? That ticket has several spaces to be punched and once it has been punched they're all set. Some of our religious neighbors think that only the punch for accepting Jesus is required and they are ready for their heaven bound trip. Others have tickets with more required punches. All of these are missing the point. God doesn't issue a figurative ticket to be punched. Let's look at what the Bible says.

Mark 16: 16 tells us clearly, "He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned." We know that one cannot believe unless they have heard and unless they repent of their past sins and confess Jesus, they are not ready to be baptized. Baptism isn't a ticket punch but rather the qualification for one to be a Christian.

Grace is key in our salvation. Ephesians 2: 4 – 9 speaks of God's mercy and tells us in verse 5, "By grace you have been saved." Romans 3: 24 tells us, "Being justified by as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Jesus Christ." Without God's grace there would be no salvation for sinners. Grace is part of the foundation upon which the Church is build. God's grace goes far but it alone does not guarantee a home in heaven. The doctrine of once saved always saved is not of God but man.

God expects Christian to be workers. James says it well in in 2: 24: "You see that a man is justified by works and not by faith alone." And in 2:26, "For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead." Jesus didn't just say He loved us. He went about teaching others and making them His followers. He worked hard to make sure all the prophecies about Him were fulfilled and that others were prepared to seek and save the lost. He allowed Himself to be nailed to the cross. His example is powerful. God gave us all different abilities and expects us to use them to His glory.

In conclusion, there is no ticket that when all the spaces are punched one can sit back and wait to depart for heaven. God expects us to do what we can as long as we can. Remember we are servants and to be a servant, one must serve.

### ***Oh to Be the 3<sup>rd</sup> Verse in a 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> Verse World***

***“Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? And not one of them is forgotten before God. Why, even the hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not; you are of more value than many sparrows.” Luke 12:6-7***

A running joke among the Bible majors at Freed-Hardeman is that the song leader in our chapel services would select only the first and last verses or first, second, and fourth verses of a song thus leaving one or two verses out. This was done because of time restraints and each song leader had to make the choice for himself which verses to sing. However, the verses that are left out still have amazing thoughts in them. They were written with a purpose and theme in mind. They have value.

No, I'm not saying we should always sing every verse of every song. Rather, we often feel like we are the verse left out. We are part of the big picture and yet we feel skimmed over by our colleagues, church family, friends, relatives, and even God. We feel lonely and left out although we are part of a great and beautiful masterpiece.

Jesus addresses our feelings of loneliness when he describes how much God truly knows about us. God loves and cares for his creation so much that he remembers every detail about it. God knows each creature on this planet and he is faithful to care for each one. When we feel lonely or depressed like nothing is going our way, we need to trust God enough to know that as he remembers the sparrows, so he too remembers us. His timing, his will, and his plan is perfect enough for us.

No one on this Earth is unimportant. Each one of us has a role and a job in the kingdom of God. While we on occasion might not sing every verse of every song, the Lord is willing and ready to use every one of us for his divine will. God never skips over anyone. The Lord often used people who were the nothings of society to bring about his plan (see Moses, Matthew, Peter, Malachi, etc.). Are you feeling forgotten? If you are, know that God even knows the numbers of hair on your head. He has not forgotten you!

**Joshua Houston**

**PRAYER REQUEST:**

Shirley Bibb, Opal Jones, Dan & Lorene Stephens,  
Wayne Mobbs, Marie Fleming, Lorene Maddox,  
Selma Boyd, Gerald Wiseman, Jeanie Young,  
Oleta Bullard, Mabel Robertson, Janneil Brown,  
Kinley Mobbs, Sue Reeves, Willis Clark  
Charles Reeves – recent surgery/recovering  
Judy Reed – recent surgery/recovering

**TAKING TREATMENTS:**

Lois Arnold

**SHUT INS:**

Rita Reed, Mabel Robertson, Houston Henry,  
Oleta Bullard

**NURSING HOMES & ASSISTED LIVING:**

\*MEMBERS

**ADAMS PLACE:** Nora Fann\* Nell Jernigan\*

**DIVERSICARE OF SMYRNA:** Jean Nickens\*

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

**STONES RIVER MANOR:** Margaret Davidson\*,  
Jeweldean Hall\*, Virgie Leonard\*, Louise  
McKnight\*, Ernestine Taylor\*, Laura Wiser\*, Lillian  
Whitworth, Edna Vance\*

**MILITARY:**

Tony Berry

**NEWS & NOTES**

**\*Salem Creek offices will be closed tomorrow,** have a safe and happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July.

**\*MYM – Tuesday, July 5<sup>th</sup>** @ 7p.m. will be at Crescent. Sign-up sheet is in the foyer.

**\*TNT - July 14<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>.** Billy Bearden - guest speaker on the 14<sup>th</sup>. The theme for this year's TNT's is "True Story".

**\*Eagleville church of Christ Homecoming July 17<sup>th</sup>.** Glenn Garner, Kingwood church of Christ will be speaking on the topic "Choices". More information posted in the foyer.

**One....**

One smile can begin a friendship,  
One handclasp can lift a soul.  
One word can frame the goal.

One sunbeam lights a room,  
One candle wipes out darkness,  
One laugh can conquer gloom.

One step must start each journey.  
One word must start each prayer.  
One hope will raise our spirits,  
One touch can show you care.

One life can make the difference,  
You see, it's up to you!

*Author Unknown*

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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

Larry Benson  
 Michael Bowman  
 Craig Buckner  
 Bob Hoover  
 Andy Melton  
 Brian Melton  
 Alan Pepper  
 Wendell Wilson

### FOR THE RECORD

*June 26, 2016*

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>AM worship</b>	<b>198</b>
	<b>Bible classes</b>	<b>137</b>
	<b>PM worship</b>	<b>123</b>
	<b>Contribution</b>	<b>\$4,795.02</b>

<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>PM Bible classes</b>	<b>97</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>AM Ladies Class (Sept-May)</b>	<b>....</b>

### GREETERS

*Please be at the door  
 15 minutes prior to services!*



### July 3

Jeff & Karen Milstead

### July 10

Jim & Pat Davidson

*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!*