

HAS IT MADE A DIFFERENCE?

Ephesians 5:8

For you were formerly darkness, but now you are light in the Lord; walk as children of Light.

The statement “you were formerly darkness” is full of meaning as it relates to the church in Ephesus. We are used to churches full of third, fourth, or even fifth generation Christians. In Ephesus, things were different. The Gospel came to that city in Acts 19. The religious heritage of that place was idol worship. The most prominent idol was Artemis (The King James uses the name “Diana”). Long before the time of Paul, there were possibly as many as 1,000 “sacred prostitutes” employed there. One can imagine the nature of the “worship” associated with her temple.

The Gospel came to Ephesus so many people responded that the silversmiths became fearful for their financial wellbeing. The demand for silver shrines to Diana had dropped significantly (Acts 19:23-27).

The Gospel had made a real difference in the lives of people in that city. “You were ***formerly*** darkness, but now ***you are*** Light in the Lord. . .” That change in identity was profound. Fast forward to 2017 and we are prompted to ask an important question. Has the Gospel made that big of a difference in our lives? No one misses the difference between darkness and light. Is that difference visible in my life? Has it made a difference with me? If so, I must heed the charge “walk as children of light.” Has it made a difference in my life?

--Ron Harper--

What Should I Wear to Worship?

“For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.” Galatians 3:27

This issue has been a hot topic in religious discussions for many years. I do not profess to have all the answers; however, I would like to list for us three things that each of us should have on when we come to worship.

1. We should wear a smile. Do we truly realize that we are coming to worship God almighty?? Do we realize that Jesus Christ died so we could live?? Do we realize that we have a great joy joy joy joy down in our heart?? (WHERE?!) If we do, we should be smiling and filled with a happiness that suppresses the gloom of the world. Even if we are saddened and depressed and struggling, we should smile knowing that we have a father and a family who loves us.
2. We should wear the whole armor of God. Some of us like to pick and choose our outfit when it comes to this armor. For example, we may have the shield of faith, but we do not wear the helmet of salvation. There is a reason Paul tells us to put on the WHOLE armor of God (Ephesians 6:10-17). The pieces work together for our utmost protection.
3. We should wear Jesus Christ. As the verse above tells us, when we are baptized, we put on Christ. We are clothed in Christ. When I was in Drama Club, we were told when we were in costume; we were to be “in character.” This meant we had to walk, talk, act, and think like the person we portrayed. In the same way, when we are in Christ, we should be in his character.

So, there you have it—three things we should have on when we come to worship. But if you ever wonder what we should physically wear to worship, remember this quote by Paul Washer. He said, “Clothing should be a frame for the face from which the glory of God is to shine.” That applies to every one of us, male and female. And guess what...the face is where we show our smile.

Joshua Houston

PRAYER REQUESTS:

Selma Boyd, Ernestine Taylor, Margaret Taylor, Sue Reeves(No Visitors), Odell Grissom, Nora Fann, Louis Wilson, Carolyn Thomas, Kenneth Tucker, Edward Tucker, Lester Clark, Ernie Colvin, Danny Webb, Dean Thompson, Laura Wiser, Virgie Leonard, Ruth McDonald, Kay Jennings, Allie Owens, Evelyn Leeman, Charles & Shirley Craig, Carl Robinson

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*

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

STONES RIVER MANOR: Laura Wiser*, Virgie Leonard*

SMYRNA: Geri Melton*

WOODBURY: Jeweldean Hall*

TN VETERAN'S HOME: Edna Vance*

COMMUNITY CARE OF RUTHERFORD COUNTY: Margaret Davidson*

BUILDING FUND

A donation to the Building Fund has been made in memory of **Harry Summer** by:

**Salem Creek church of Christ*

NEWS & NOTES

WELCOME to our new members

Ken and Barbara McPeak

- **Visitation Team #2** will have their meeting and meal today.
- There will be a **VBS meeting** today at 4:45pm; will need to reevaluate what we did this year.
- **MYM** at Fairfield, tomorrow at 7pm. Sign-up sheet is in the foyer.
- There will be a **Men's Devo** at the home of Jon & Judy Holland tomorrow at 7pm.
- **TNT** - July 27th at 7pm. Please eat before you come.
- **Youth/College Fall Retreat** will be September 1st - 3rd at Camp Meribah. **Deadline to sign-up is Sunday, August 20th.** Need at least 10 people to sign-up. Pick up a flyer in the foyer or see Joshua Houston for more information.
- **Gospel Meeting at Science Hill church of Christ** on July 23rd-26th. More information and directions are posted on the bulletin board in the foyer.

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

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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 Buckne	Alan Pepper
Joe Byars	Wendell Wilson

FOR THE RECORD

July 16, 2017

Sunday	AM worship	244
	Bible classes	165
	PM worship	163
	Contribution	\$6,676.00

Wednesday	PM Bible classes	144
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Wednesday	AM Ladies Class (Sept-May)	
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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*

July 23

Jim & Pat Davidson

July 30

Dianne Stroop

Joyce Jenkins

