

BORN AGAIN

John 3:3

Jesus answered and said to him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

Nicodemus didn't know what to make of Jesus' words and so he asked “How can a man be born when he is old?” (Jn. 3:4). So, Jesus explained the new birth in John 3:5. “unless one is born of water and the spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.”

John 3 reveals that baptism was a part of the ministry of Jesus. In verse 22, He and His disciples came to Judea “and there He was spending time with them and baptizing.” As chapter 3 ends and chapter four begins, Jesus moved into Galilee. Why did he make that move? “The Lord knew that the Pharisees had heard that Jesus was making and baptizing more disciples than John” (John 4:1).

With the attention given to baptism in the ministry of Jesus, it makes no sense to claim that the water of verse 5 is childbirth. That assertion is nothing more than an attempt to get around what the Scriptures teach about baptism.

A few decades later, Paul wrote, “He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit” (Titus 3:5).

There are some important and hopeful images; “washing of regeneration”, and “born again.” Because of the mercy of God, we can be washed and have new life.

--Ron Harper--

Selfish and Selfless

“Now we who are strong ought to bear the weaknesses of those without strength and not just please ourselves. Each of us is to please his neighbor for his good, to his edification.”

Romans 15:1-2

Selfish and Selfless had always been different. As brothers, they grew up trying to do similar activities but they just never seemed to get along. Selfish was the one who was always succeeding and advancing to higher levels of achievement. The only problem was that Selfish was miserable. He hated the life he had because he was never truly able to be satisfied. He always needed something more. Selfless, on the other hand, was not the most well-known or prosperous sibling but he was certainly the happiest. He was constantly busy helping people. It didn't matter who. Selfless did not have much, but he did have a huge smile.

I think we can learn a lot from these two brothers. One thought he had everything he needed to be happy while the other had nothing and was happy. The one who had it all was empty and the one who gave it all was content. The world expresses to us that we must seek self to be happy. Therefore, we must have the nicest clothes and the newest phones and the highest honors or else we cannot be pleased. The Bible, on the other hand, says something extremely different. While we should not neglect the care of ourselves, we should be willing to care for others. Giving brings prosperity.

It is difficult for us to be like Selfless since Selfish is always in the spotlight. But Selfless takes after his Father, who just so happens to be our Father, God. God is so selfless that he gave his only son so we can have an example to follow and salvation to receive. Selfish and Selfless may not get along and may seem very different but we all know which one will be happier.

Joshua Houston

PRAYER REQUESTS:

Selma Boyd, Ernestine Taylor, Margaret Taylor, Sue Reeves, Odell Grissom, Nora Fann, Louis Wilson, Carolyn Thomas, Kenneth Tucker, Edward Tucker, Lester & Ann Clark, Danny Webb, June Jernigan, Dean Thompson, Laura Wiser, Virgie Leonard, Ruth McDonald, Kay Jennings, Allie Owens, Evelyn Leeman, Charles & Shirley Craig, Louise Smithson, Carl Robinson, Charles Reeves, Sheila Foster, Sandy Foster, Clinton Swafford

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*

A **Senior Saints** meal with an Estate Planning Presentation is planned for Saturday, August 26th at 5pm at our church building. Those interested who are 50 or older are invited to join the Senior Saints for this event. **The meal will be catered by the Wallace's and the menu will include your choice of Baked Chicken or Sliced Ham, White Beans, Mashed Potatoes, Cornbread, Salad and Dessert. The cost will be \$10 per person.** Our speakers will be Lee Colvin along with an attorney and a banker. There will be a question and answer opportunity after the presentation. If you plan to attend, please sign the sign-up sheet in the foyer and indicate if you require transportation. Please see Keith Short or Larry Benson if you have any questions.

The Visitor

NEWS & NOTES

- **Brady Hill** was baptized Saturday, July 29th by his grandfather Keith Short here at the building. Brady is the son of Mark and Leslie Hill, grandson of Keith & Margaret Short and the nephew of Meredith Crockett. The Hill's live in Bethlehem, PA. Congratulations to Brady.
- We have received a **Thank You card** from Sonya Stephenson.
- **Youth/College Fall Retreat** for 6th grade to college Seniors will be September 1st - 3rd at Camp Meribah. **Deadline to sign-up is Sunday, August 20th and pay Wednesday, August 30th.** The cost is \$35 per camper. You can pick up a flyer in the foyer or see Joshua Houston for more information.
- The church of Christ at Blackman will be having a **Back to School Youth Day** on Saturday, August 19th 9:30am to 1pm for Kindergarten through 5th grade and 6th through 12th grade students. Lunch will be provided, please RSVP by Wednesday, August 16th. More detailed information is posted on the bulletin board.
- **Young Ladies Seminar** at East Main on September 23rd 9am til 11:30am. Registration begins at 9am. Lunch will be served.
- **Stones River Manor** will be having their annual **Fish Fry picnic and Live Auction** on Tuesday, September 26th. All proceeds benefit the Alzheimer's Association. More details of the event are posted on the bulletin board in the foyer.

August 13, 2017

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 Buckner	Alan Pepper
Joe Byars	Wendell Wilson

FOR THE RECORD

August 6, 2017

Sunday	AM worship	258
	Bible classes	180
	PM worship	138
	Contribution	\$7,298.00

Wednesday	PM Bible classes	153
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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*

August 13

Keith & Margaret Short

August 20

Thomas & Connie Davis

