

NO CHANGE

We look back at those who lived in ancient times and tend to feel superior to them thinking we have progressed so far beyond what we perceive as their ignorance. Have we progressed that much? Let's look at part of Paul's letter to the Romans 1:21 – 23, "For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God, or give thanks; but, they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures." Paul goes on to say God gave them over to all manner of evil things which he lists. Don't Paul's words written almost 2,000 years ago give an accurate description of our "modern" world?

There are many religions in the world that in no way acknowledge the God of the Bible. Some of them even hold as sacred various animals that include cows and rats. Others embrace the idea "Intelligent Design" that our universe is the result of an intelligent being (which may or may not be the God of the Bible) rather than natural selection. Others reject God completely calling religious beliefs superstitions that enlightened people outgrow. Many prominent scientists embrace the "Big Bang Theory" saying that in the beginning there was a small mass of energy that exploded and evolved into the universe we have today. I am still waiting for them to come up with a good explanation on where that initial mass of energy came from. Remember this evolutionary view is a theory because it has not been proved; otherwise, it would be fact. Futile speculation indeed.

I feel sorry for all of these poor unbelieving people. Oh they may have all kinds of public recognition and/or feel good that they are living the life they have chosen. I wonder how much comfort they get from their "enlightened" ideas when they encounter the hard knocks of life. To have no hope in a loving God who cares for His children and is in control. I can't imagine trying to live life without having the avenue of prayer to God or knowing that He has a place prepared for me when my earthly sojourn is over.

I entitled this article "No Change" because I am convinced that despite all of our modern toys and advancements in science and other fields, many in our world today fit into Paul's description. It has been said, the more people change, the more they stay the same. I think this is very true and explains the many different conflicts in our world today. The only hope for our world is to embrace the God so many reject. He has not gone away from us; but rather, we have gone away from Him. Truly God is the answer to so many pressing questions.

How Should We Give?

“Jesus looked up and saw the rich putting their gifts into the offering box, and he saw a poor widow put in two small copper coins. And he said, “Truly, I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them. For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on.”

Luke 21:1-4

I suppose the season of giving is upon us. The problem is this season is becoming more and more about receiving than giving. There are so many ways that Jesus views things differently than we do. This is perhaps best summed up by 1 Samuel 16:7 where God clearly states that he does not see as man sees but God looks at the heart. This is also true with our giving.

I love what Luke records in his gospel at the end of chapter 20 and the beginning of chapter 21. Jesus is rebuking the Scribes and honoring a poor widow. I would love to have seen the faces of the bystanders at this event. The Scribes were “spiritual superheroes” in the Jewish community. However, Jesus says they love to wear long robes and be given the best seats in the house (Luke 20:45-47) so they can be seen and glorified. I can imagine Jesus thinking back to his own Sermon on the Mount where he warned against practicing righteousness to be seen by men (Matt 6:1). Yet, here is this widow. A poor woman whose money amounted to very little in comparison. Further, the money she gave was all she had. We can learn a great deal from both groups.

First, we should remember that we all have something to give. We may not have an abundance of money, but we can always give of ourselves and our time. A hospital visit does a world of good even though we cannot pay their hospital bills. Second, we should remember that, at times, giving can hurt. I do not know if this woman was homeless, but I do know this money was all she had. From her giving, she gave up the ability to buy food or housing, but she still gave. Third, Jesus views value in a different way than we do. People were giving vast amounts of money out of their abundance. The amount was not the issue. The condition of the heart was.

So, how should we give? We should give like this woman. We should give full of selflessness and a desire to please God.

Joshua Houston

PRAYER REQUESTS:

Hazel Carey, Selma Boyd, Pat Davidson, Nora Fann, Odell Grissom, Sue Reeves, Ernestine Taylor, Carolyn Thomas, Laura Wiser, Joy Puckett, Nell Jernigan, Karen Milstead, Ken & Barbara McPeak

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**

ADAMS PLACE: Nora Fann*

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

STONES RIVER MANOR: Laura Wiser*, Virgie Leonard*, Margaret Davidson*

SMYRNA: Geri Melton*

WOODBURY: Jeweldean Hall*

TN VETERAN'S HOME: Edna Vance*



Thursday, November 23, 2017

NEWS & NOTES

- **Visitation Team #2** will meet today after Bible classes.
- There is a **youth committee meeting** scheduled for today at 4:30 for anyone interested in serving on the youth committee. Please see Randall Phifer if you have any questions.
- **Ladies Wednesday morning Bible class** will not meet on November 22nd.
- The Stones River Manor Activity Department is collecting items for their **Santa Store**. All donations are due by November 30th. Please donate **new items**. Copies of the suggested list of items are on the table in the foyer.
- Every year we remember our **shut-ins by taking them a gift bag**. This year we are asking members to bring in items from a suggested item list anytime up to December 9th when we will fix a bag for each shut-in. All ages are welcome to meet at the church building on December 9th at 9am to pack a bag for each shut-in and deliver them. Please see Larry Benson with any questions. Copies of the suggested list of items are on the table in the foyer.
- In preparation of the **2018 Membership Directory**, please check your information for any corrections or additions. A printed copy of this list is located in the foyer. Also, there are **volunteer opportunities** for the upcoming year, please sign-up on the lists provided in the foyer.

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

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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

November 12, 2017

Sunday	AM worship	244
	Bible classes	170
	PM worship	117
	Contribution	\$6,869.00

Wednesday	PM Bible classes	123
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Wednesday	AM Ladies Class (Sept-May)	21
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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*



November 19

Jim & Gayle Glover

November 26

Robert & Mary Ann McKnight