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Sunday AM Bible Study	9:30 AM
Sunday AM Worship	10:30 AM
Sunday PM Worship	5:30 PM
Wednesday Bible Class	7:00 PM

Elders

Eddie Frizzell	(931) 526-3505
Gary Medley	(931) 528-8768
Roger Mayberry	(931) 537-3265

Deacons

Colonel Wheeler	(931) 526-5808
Greg Frizzell	(931) 265-2192
Kale Burchett	(615) 533-9134

Preacher

Randy Bybee	(931) 268-0912
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Welcome

The Pippin church of Christ extends to you a cordial welcome. We hope the services have been uplifting, and you will want to return at every opportunity.

Our purpose in meeting is to worship God in Spirit and in truth. God is a Spirit, and they that worship Him must worship Him in Spirit and Truth. John 4:24

How to Become a Christian

Hear the Word - Romans 10:17
Believe - Mark 16:15
Repent of Past Sins - Luke 13:3
Confess - Romans 10:9
Be Baptized - Acts 2:38
Remain Faithful - Revelation 2:10

Radio Programs

The Lord's Way
AM 920 WLIV - Tuesdays @ 10:10AM

A Challenge to Think
AM 1400 WHUB - Sundays @ 9:05AM

For the Record, Week of 7/2/2017

Sunday Class	83
Sunday AM	99
Sunday PM	70
Wednesday	52

Volume 34, No. 28

We're Quoting the Wrong Verse

Jack Wilkie, July 3, 2017

I'm not sure how or when it happened, but somehow in the last decade or so Jeremiah 29:11 has vaulted into being one of the most-discussed verses in the entire Bible. "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope." (ESV). You'll find the verse on cards, posters, or Facebook images. You'll hear it in devos or at graduations. It's become the go-to verse for reassurance.

Of course, many have (accurately) pointed out that the verse is often used totally out of context and that it was no guarantee of prosperity in the lives of the audience, who were actually the Israelites who had been taken away into Babylonian captivity. Others have pointed out that the verse still has a useful meaning in context, which is also true.

But that discussion has been had before, and that's not the problem with Jeremiah 29:11 that frustrates me. There's nothing wrong with the verse when used in its context. It's a perfectly fine Bible verse with a valuable meaning. But the way it is commonly used puts the focus in the wrong place. **The unbalanced focus on and misuse of Jeremiah 29:11 is a symptom of a larger problem in Christianity today, and that is that we put far too much focus on ourselves.**

It's used in much the same way Philippians 4:13 has been, putting the focus on our earthly lives and how everything will work out with them. This can lead to a dangerously self-focused approach to the Bible. It has led to many modern worship songs being more focused on what God does for us than who God is. It often is a part of the prosperity or health-and-wealth doctrine. And it can be a factor in people leaving the church for one of the leading religious movements in the world today, Moralistic Therapeutic Deism, where the emphasis is on living a mostly moral life (moralistic) and leaning on God for support and comfort (therapeutic) without having to submit to His absolute rule in our lives (deism).

If popular Christianity were in the right place, we'd be quoting a different verse on all of those posters, wristbands, and cards and in speeches and devotionals. Just two verses later, Jeremiah writes "You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart." Yes, that verse is subject to its context as well, but it's also a promise that is reiterated throughout Scripture (Psalm 27:8, 37:4; Matthew 6:33, 7:7; Acts 17:27). **There's something wrong with our Christianity if verse 11 is the one that pops out in Jeremiah chapter 29 rather than verse 13.**

Every verse has value, and sometimes we do need words of reassurance in the Scriptures. But that's the whole point of why we're using the wrong verse - the idea that there's anything more comforting or reassuring than the truth that we can be called children of God if we simply seek Him and walk after His footsteps is crazy. Philippians 3 and 4 illustrate that point beautifully as Paul wrote about abandoning all else to pursue Jesus and noted that because of that purpose he could endure whatever life situation he faced. True comfort comes from knowing God and walking with Him daily, not hoping He'll pave a smooth path for our lives.

What if we started tweeting and Facebook posting those verses about seeking God above all else rather than the ones more focused on us? What if our devos and graduation exhortations emphasized that God's plan for our lives is for us to pursue Him with all of our energy? Maybe we'll see less of the kind of religion that caters to man's interests rather than God's commands. Maybe we'll see more young people staying engaged with church rather than having a loose relationship with God on their terms as they cease to see Him as a Being who is there to serve their lives. Maybe we'll see the kind of deeper Christianity that carries a person through all of life's difficulties. And, most importantly, maybe we'll see the kind of Christianity that makes God's name known for who He is rather than for what He does for us.

SERMON TOPICS

Morning	Answers from Paul to the Galatians	Galatians 1:11
Evening	Study of Pharisees and Sadducees	Matthew 22:34

PRAYER LIST

THOSE BATTLING ONGOING HEALTH ISSUES - Burt Montgomery (co-worker of Josh Lawson), Cathy Phillips (cousin of Geneva Smallwood), Herbie Fox (nephew of Geneva Smallwood), John and Doris Stafford, Junior and Pearl Sherfield, Karen Dulworth (friend of Kim Frizzell), Karma Carter (wife of Jonathan Carter, nephew of Denise York), Kenneth Bryant (brother-in-law of Peggy Mahaney), Marie Eckel

ANNOUNCEMENTS

July 9 - Ice Cream & Finger Food Fellowship Meal

There will be an ice cream and finger food fellowship tonight following the evening services. A sign-up sheet is in the foyer.

August 5 - East Main church of Christ Men's Seminar

East Main church of Christ will host its annual men's seminar Saturday, August 5. A sign-up sheet has been placed in the foyer for those who would like to carpool. We will meet at the church building and leave at 6:30am.

Bulletin Updates

The bulletin is a great communication tool. If you have updates, additions or removals of sick please let Adam or Amy Swallows know so we can make the appropriate updates and changes.

Area Events		
June 18 - August 13	Willow Ave Summer Series	Various Speakers
July 9 - 13	Union Hill Gospel Meeting	Mike Fox (Nightly at 7pm)
July 10 - 13	West Sparta VBS	6:30pm to 8:00pm

Think about this... by Harry Lewis

A girl once came to a gospel preacher for advice in her contemplated marriage to a boy who was not a Christian. The preacher asked the girl to step on a chair . . . then onto a desk. He said, "Now pull me up to where you are." She tried with all her strength, and failed. The preacher then gave a slight pull, pulling her easily to the floor. He then said, "It is more probable that this boy will pull you down to his level than it is that you will pull him up to yours." The illustration was effective. The girl did not marry the boy until he became a true Christian.

Some Quotes Worth Pondering . . .

- "Deciding not to obey -- at least not right now -- is still making a choice."
- "A clean conscience makes a soft pillow."
- "A loose tongue often gets its owner into a tight place."
- "You'll never get ahead of anyone as long as you try to get even with them."

All Month - July

Table	Greg Frizzell
Tray Preparation	Cathy Frizzell
Table Assist	Andrew Scott Chad York Josh Lawson Vestle Hensley

Sunday AM Worship

Announcements	Gary Medley
Lead Singing	Adam Swallows
Read Scripture	Colonel Wheeler
First Prayer	Roger Mayberry
Last Prayer	Wendall Smallwood
Greet at Door	Chad & Denise York
Slide Production	Matthew Swallows

Sunday PM Worship

Announcements	Gary Medley
Lead Singing	Adam Swallows
Read Scripture	Vestle Hensley
First Prayer	Glen Belcher
Last Prayer	Joe Brown
Slide Production	Matthew Swallows

Wednesday Bible Class

Announcements	Gary Medley
Lead Singing	Adam Swallows
Read Scripture	John Lane
First Prayer	Eddie Frizzell
Last Prayer	Gary Medley
Slide Production	Matthew Swallows

Happy Birthday

Amy Swallows	7/9
Lester Boles	7/17
Lucas Frizzell	7/21

Daily Bible Reading

2 Kings 7-9; 1 Corinthians 8	7/9
2 Kings 10-12; 1 Corinthians 9	7/10
2 Kings 13-14; 1 Corinthians 10:1-18	7/11
Jonah 1-4; 1 Corinthians 10:19-33	7/12
Amos 1-3; 1 Corinthians 11:1-16	7/13
Amos 4-6; 1 Corinthians 11:17-34	7/14
Amos 7-9; 1 Corinthians 12	7/15

Question for the Week

Into whose dungeon was Jeremiah cast at one time?

Answer to Previous Question

Name the parents of John the Baptist.

Zachariah & Elizabeth; Lk. 1:5