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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 7/16/2017

Sunday Class	69
Sunday AM	92
Sunday PM	61
Wednesday	52

Volume 34, No. 30

The Biggest Reason Young People Leave the Church

Jack Wilkie, July 20, 2017

In my previous article on the second biggest reason young people leave the church we looked at how they have often not been taught to think like Christians. For this reason they have trouble standing firm against the world's challenges and can be led astray.

But if that second biggest reason could be classified as the head, I believe we could classify the biggest reason they leave as the heart.

They leave because their hearts have not been given to God.

While this reason (like the last) seems simple, it is what it is. If a person has been disciplined to follow Christ and has the heart to do so, they will remain faithful regardless of what life throws at them. But if their hearts have not been won, it doesn't matter how many Scriptures they know or how many times they enter the church building as they grow up. Remember the rich young ruler of Luke 18 knew the commandments and practiced them regularly... but he refused to give God his heart. Like him, too many young people in today's church leave with heads full of knowledge but hearts empty of zeal and love for God.

I understand that there are those who leave out of frustration with the church, but that just solidifies the point at hand. First, those who play a part in driving such people away clearly are not showing what a Christ-adoring heart looks like in day to day life and in the relationships we build with each other. I am sorry to anyone whose experiences while being in the church played a role in pushing them away. The church is made up of people and that means a lot of imperfection. But secondly, a person who has given their heart completely to God will not let anything or anyone knock them off course, regardless of how much a person or congregation has done to them. If a person's life is guided first and foremost by a love for God, nobody can take that away.

But while there are those out there who hold resentment and bitterness toward the church, a large number of people just... drift. As they go to college or start their careers, being part of the church just slips down the priority list until one Sunday morning they wake up and realize they can't remember the last time they attended worship. Others begin abandoning the biblical teachings they know to be true one by one as their crowd's influence begins to sway them. In either scenario, the heart doesn't belong to God and therefore it doesn't prioritize Him.

So many things compete for a person's heart. Sports, school, work, entertainment (video games, TV, etc.), friendships, relationships, and so many other things want first place in the lives of Christians. It's up to parents to guide their children's hearts toward God. There is a time and place for those other things, and they each have their value. But in far too many lives they become idols that do exactly what idols did to the people of Israel - lead them astray more with each passing generation. That's why developing hearts for God has to be priority #1 in every Christian home. Everything else - all the sports and activities, all the entertainment, all the friendships - must be filtered through that goal.

While nobody can make another person follow Jesus and people are ultimately responsible for their own decisions, parents (and ministers, elders, and whoever else can help) have to take the time to strive to lead the hearts of the young to the Lord. This happens through Deuteronomy 6-style teaching, where God is emphasized every day. This is done by showing what it means to love God. This is done by demonstrating how to have a personal study and prayer life and how to serve as part of the church. This is done by not putting the emphasis on just getting baptized and showing up to church but on feeling God's love and grace.

As much as it is in your power, show your children how (and why) they should love God. As they reach the age of considering Christianity, help them realize the weight of their sins and the depth of God's love for them. Help them fall in love with Jesus and want to be just like Him. Win their hearts, and you've very likely won their souls.

SERMON TOPICS

Morning	The Master Teacher	<i>Adam Swallows</i>	Matthew 19:16
Evening	A Healthy Prayer Life	<i>Kale Burchett</i>	1 Thessalonians 5:16-19

PRAYER LIST

MARGIE DYER – had hip replacement surgery Wednesday, July 19 in Oak Ridge. The surgery went well and she is recovering.

LOUISE HOLLAND – friend of the York family is battling breast cancer.

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 23-27 - Doyle Gospel Meeting

Brother Randy will be the speaker at the Doyle church of Christ Gospel Meeting July 23-27.

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.

A Time for Growing Men

Dwayne Laws

The nation was in the midst of the Great Depression and drought in 1930. I was fifteen. My mother and I lived alone on a small West Tennessee farm. We were attempting to scratch out a bare living from a worn-out farm with whatever abilities an ignorant boy, a widowed mother, and one mule and a plow could muster. That fall the rainfall had been so minute that the planter tracks could still be seen.

After a tiring, fruitless day, Mother sat by the coal oil lamp reading of God's love for man. With all the impatience of a teen-age boy, I halted her reading from the thumb-worn Bible with this question: "Mother, you tell me God loves us. He has a funny way of showing it! We have worked our fingers to the bone for the entire growing season, yet we will harvest little from these parched fields. We have done all that we can do. All this soil needs is rain, which only God can send. If God loves us, why doesn't He make it rain?"

With the patience which comes only from faith and years of trials, Mother paused, raised her head from the pages of her beloved Word of God and replied, "Son, you are making a serious mistake. You are assuming that God is interested in growing cotton and corn. He isn't! He can do that without you and me. God is interested in growing men. I dare say that, in future years, if God grants such to you, you will look back on 1930 as a terrible year for growing corn and cotton. But, if you learn the message God is teaching, you will recall this depression year as a great one for growing men!"

Mother was right. Want teaches what abundance can never know. Without a drought and a mother who understood it, I might never have known 2 Corinthians 12:9, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me."

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	Andrew Pippin
Read Scripture	James Scott
First Prayer	Colonel Wheeler
Last Prayer	Dennis Chaffin
Greet at Door	Colonel & Ida Wheeler
Slide Production	Joe Brown

Sunday PM Worship

Announcements	Gary Medley
Lead Singing	Adam Swallows
Read Scripture	Andrew Scott
First Prayer	Greg Frizzell
Last Prayer	Mike Martin
Slide Production	Joe Brown

Wednesday Bible Class

Announcements	Gary Medley
Lead Singing	Adam Swallows
Read Scripture	Wendall Smallwood
First Prayer	Joey Frizzell
Last Prayer	Dale Flatt
Slide Production	Joe Brown

Happy Birthday

Kim Scott	7/24
John Lane	7/25
Levi Swallows	8/3

Daily Bible Reading

Psalm 67,71; 2 Corinthians 2	7/23
Psalm 89,92; 2 Corinthians 3	7/24
Psalm 93-95; 2 Corinthians 4	7/25
Psalm 96-98; 2 Corinthians 5	7/26
Psalm 99,100,102; 2 Corinthians 6	7/27
Psalm 104-105; 2 Corinthians 7	7/28
Psalm 106,111,112; 2 Corinthians 8	7/29

Some Quotes Worth Pondering . . .

"Few of us get what we deserve, for which most of us should be thankful."

"Admitting that you've been wrong proves that you are wiser now than you were before."

"Character is not made in a crisis -- it is only revealed."

"Those who know God will be humble, and those who know themselves should never be proud."