

## Serving This Week:

### Sunday Morning

**Announcements:** Howell Todd

**Song Leader:** Kyle Richardson

**Opening Prayer:** Bob Fisher

**Scripture Reading:** Aaron Hebert

**Lord's Supper:**

**Presiding:** William Glover

**Serving:** Dan Higgins

Ken Grandstaff

**Preaching:** Mel Hebert

**Closing Prayer:** Ken Grandstaff

### Sunday Evening

**Opening Prayer:** Brian Horner

**Preaching:** Mel Hebert

**Closing Prayer:** Howell Todd

### Wednesday Evening

**Opening Prayer:** Dan Higgins

**Devotional:** Howell Todd

**Closing Prayer:** Brian Horner

### Serving Next Sunday:

**Pres. Lord's Supper:** Howell Todd

**Preaching:** Brian Horner

**Opening Prayer:** Dan Higgins

**Closing Prayer:** Mel Hebert

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please sign up in back to help clean the building.

Pray for Michael and Diane Richardson as they are in Costa Rica on a mission trip.

Please call to inform us of News items or Prayer Requests that need to be in the Bulletin:  
Kyle Richardson - 495-7106  
Dorthy Jean Smith - 444-5437

### GROW TEAM MEETINGS

**Correspondence** - Sunday evenings after worship *see Kyle Richardson.*

**Visitation/Bible Study** - For assignments see *Brian Horner.*

**Member Care** - Regarding Member needs contact *Mel Hebert: 443-7779.*

**Flower Request** - Please call *Danise Fisher: 237-3239*

## Bethel Church of Christ

2427 Sparta Pike, Lebanon TN 37090

<http://www.bethelcoc.net>

July 12, 2009

Sunday Bible Study: 10 AM

Sunday Morning Worship: 11 AM

Sunday Evening Worship: 6 PM

Wed Bible Study: 7 PM

## Restraint

Man must have restraint. The idea of absolute freedom without restraint will destroy human civilization. Man whose heart is darkened by sin is unable to govern himself without being restrained against wrong doing.

The best kind of restraint is self-restraint. This arises from within the person and causes him to behave himself because it is the right thing to do.

Yet, the motivation for self-restraint comes from without. It comes from a belief in an object right and wrong, which, in turn, is delivered to man from a Higher Being. For example, the Scripture says that "the love of Christ constraineth us." 2 Corinthians 5:14. When we realize how much God (or Christ) love us, we are constrained to respond to Him in obedience and return His love. At the same time, we are restrained from committing evil because we know He doesn't want us to.

When people throw off all self-restraint, restraint must be imposed upon them by an outward force – if their civilization is to survive. That is the purpose of civil law. It is ordained of God for the punishment of evil-doers and the praise of well-doers. 1 Peter 2:14. One of the purposes of the punishment of crime is to restrain evil-doing. The purpose of praise of well-doing is to reinforce and encourage good behavior. Christians, of all people, should be supportive of the civil authority. Romans 13:1-4.

Christians are expected by their Lord to exercise restraint. Their inward man is in control of their lives and the inward man is, in turn, controlled by the principles of the Word of God. A part of the fruit of the Spirit is self-control. Galatians 5:23 NKJV. Self control is one of the Christian graces. 2 Peter 1:6 NKJV. The Christian should not have to have anyone force him to behave himself. He should do the right and shun the wrong because this is what he wants to do.

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However, self-restraint is a taught thing. Little children need to be taught how to control their impulses, desires, reactions, tempers and words very early in life. When accountable persons are taught the gospel, they are taught to gain control of their lives and submit them to the Lord's way.

They learn that the Word of God, the Bible, is the standard for determining what is wrong (that which they should restrain themselves from), and right (that which they should do). Then a realization of Christ's love for them gives them motivation to comply.

The only true freedom we have in this life is in Christ Jesus, as everyone who is outside of Christ is in slavery to sin. But freedom is not license to throw off all restraint. True freedom of any sort involves restraint, and for those in Christ, this is especially true.

Marvin Rickett, Bay, AR

### **Do You Know The Answer?**

Adam, God made out of dust  
But thought it best to make me first,  
So I was made before man  
To answer God's most Holy plan.  
A living being I became  
And Adam gave to me my name.  
I from his presence then withdrew  
And more of Adam never knew.  
I did my Maker's law obey  
Nor ever went from it astray.  
Thousands of miles I go in fear  
But seldom on earth appear.  
For purpose wise God did see,  
He put a living soul in me.  
A soul from me God did claim  
And took from me the soul again.  
So when from me the soul had fled  
I was the same as when first made.

And without hands, or feet, or soul,  
I travel on from pole to pole.  
I labor hard by day, by night  
To fallen man I give great light.  
Thousands of people, young and old  
Will by my death great light behold.  
No right or wrong can I conceive  
The scripture I cannot believe.  
Although my name therein is found  
They are to me an empty sound.  
No feat of death doth trouble me  
Real happiness I'll never see.  
To Heaven I shall never go  
Or to Hell below.  
Now when these lines you slowly read,  
Go search your Bible with all speed  
For that my name is written there  
I do honestly to you declare.  
*The answer is a five-letter word and appears  
only four times in the Bible.*



### **Remember in Prayer**

#### **Shut Ins:**

Vallie Andrews  
Fannie Bell Warren  
Janelle Arrington

#### **Others:**

Bradley & Betty Glover  
Hollis Cluck  
The Pfaffs - Missionaries  
Ruth Judkins  
Diane Chopay  
Vickie Wade  
Craig Cook  
Judy Higgins  
Muril Todd  
The entire Bryan Family  
Karen Hudson - cancer  
Diane G.'s mother - asthma  
Charles Grisham  
Christy Garrett

### **July Birthdays**

6 - Diane Grandstaff  
10 - Fannie Warren  
13 - Austin Horne  
15 - Vallie Andrews  
23 - Robert Glover

### **July Anniversaries**

3 - William and Sheila  
3 - Mel and Barbara

### **Daily Bible Reading**

DATE	MORN.	EVE.
July 12	2 CH 19-20	PS 131-134
July 13	2 CH 21-23	PS 135
July 14	2 CH 24-25	PS 136
July 15	2 CH 26-28	PS 137-138
July 16	2 CH 29-30	PS 139
July 17	2 CH 31-32	PS 140-141
July 18	2 CH 33-34	PS 142-143

### **This Week's Bible Trivia:**

Q - What town clerk quieted a riot?  
Check back next week for the answer!

### **Last Week's Trivia:**

Q - Who was hanged on a gallows he had prepared for another?  
A - Haman. (Esther 7:10)