

Serving This Week:

Sunday Morning

Announcements: Brian Horner

Song Leader: Kyle Richardson

Opening Prayer: Brian Horner

Lord's Supper

Presiding: Howell Todd

Serving: Eric Horne

Austin Horne

Preaching: Tim Haywood

Closing Prayer: Ken Grandstaff

Sunday Evening

Opening Prayer: Howell Todd

Preaching: Brian Horner

Closing Prayer: Austin Horne

Wednesday Evening

Opening Prayer: Austin Horne

Devotional: Brian Horner

Closing Prayer: Ken Grandstaff

Serving Next Sunday:

Lord's Supper: Ken Grandstaff

Preaching: Howell Todd

Opening Prayer: Howell Todd

Closing Prayer: Austin Horne

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Men's Meeting:

Monthly meeting will be held after services this evening.

Children's Home Donation:

Please donate money for perishable items by next Sunday.

God's Plan of Salvation

Hear the Word

(Rom 10:17)

Believe in Jesus

(John 8:24)

Repent of your sins

(Luke 13:3)

Confess faith in Christ

(Rom 10:10)

Be **Baptized** for forgiveness of sins

(Acts 2:38)

Live **Faithfully**

(1 Cor. 15:58)

TEAM MEETINGS

Correspondence - Sunday evenings

after worship see Kyle Richardson.

Visitation/Bible Study - For

assignments see Brian Horner.

Member Care - Regarding Member

needs contact Kyle Richardson.

Flower Request - Please call Lynda

Ann Sparkman: 444.0938(h) 587.8187(c)

Bethel church of Christ

2427 Sparta Pike, Lebanon TN 37090

<http://www.bethelcoc.net>

June 17, 2012

Sunday Bible Study: 10 AM

Sunday Evening Worship: 6 PM

Sunday Morning Worship: 11 AM

Wed Bible Study: 7 PM

Thessalonica: A Working Church

The Thessalonian church was a working Church. Paul thanked God for their zeal and diligence (**1 Thes. 1:8-10**). Unfortunately, very few congregations are working with the enthusiasm that characterized these brethren. Let's consider their work and what made them so diligent.

They Were Workers

From the beginning they were engaged in a "full program" of work. They were evangelistic. Not only were they busy trying to convert the lost in their community, but Paul describes them as sounding out the word in Macedonia, Achaia and "in every place" (**1 Thes. 1:8**).

They were benevolent. The Thessalonians were included in the "great collection" for the saints in Jerusalem (**Rom. 15:26**). Aristarchus and Secundus were the messengers of the church in taking the collection to Jerusalem (**Acts 20:4**). Paul characterized their giving as cheerful and a demonstration of liberality (**2 Cor. 8:1**). Their ready performance was used as an example to encourage the Corinthians in completing their purposed participation in the same work (**2 Cor. 9:1-6**).

They edified one another. The attention of the church was not turned only outward. The elders perceived their responsibility to watch carefully over the saints under their charge (**1 Thes. 5:11-14**). Some were weak, others were rebellious. However, all received the needed attention (**2 Thes. 3:6-15**).

The Working Conditions

The church at Thessalonica began in the throes of persecution. The unbelieving Jews in Thessalonica were exceedingly jealous of the success which attended the preaching of the Gospel (**Acts 17:4-5**). They used their influence to stir up a mob through misrepresentation (**Acts 17:6-7**). Paul's newly made converts and gracious hosts were subjected to assault, civil prosecution and economic persecution (**Acts 17:8-9**). Paul in writing of their mistreatment likened it in severity to that which he led against the churches of Judea (**1 Thes. 2:14-16**).

However, persecution was not all they faced -- they had to overcome deep poverty (**2 Cor. 8:2**). Granted, their circumstances were not as dire as the saints in Jerusalem or Paul would not have solicited their participation in the

To all our visitors - Welcome!
We hope you will come back
and worship with us soon!

Please call to inform us of News items or Prayer Requests that need to be in the Bulletin:

Kyle Richardson - 495-7106

Dorothy Jean Smith - 444-5437

(continued from page 1)...

collection (**Rom. 15:26; 2 Cor. 8:13-14**). But, their circumstances were bleak enough that their gift was likened unto the abasement of Christ (**2 Cor. 8:9**). Paul in making comparison with the ability of the Corinthians describes their ability as abundance in comparison to what the Macedonians were able to do.

What Makes A Church Work?

What motivated these saints to such work, toil and endurance? What do we need to do to get God's people to work like that today in a land that is prosperous and which protects the free exercise of our religion?

The church in Thessalonica worked because they had faith, love and hope (**1 Thes. 1:5**). These spiritual treasures come by hearing the Word of God preached (**Rom. 10:17**). It cannot be preached with flattery or out of covetousness and have the desired results. It must be preached with simplicity, sincerity and sacrifice in order to succeed (**1 Thes. 2:1-11**). The Thessalonians received the Gospel as the authoritative message of Heaven (**1 Thes. 2:13**). Their hearts were open to its truth and molded by its power. The church would go to work today if the pulpits were sounding for the Word of God and not the words of men.

They worked because they had an example (**1 Thes. 1:6**). Paul, Silas and Timothy had demonstrated acceptable zeal for the Gospel (**1 Thes. 2:9-11**). They worked tirelessly. They loved the brethren unselfishly. They warned the brethren tenderly. Churches today are waxing cold because there are no elders, deacons and preachers willing to do what it takes to set the proper example. The flock will not go where the shepherds will not lead.

Thessalonica worked because their lives were transformed by repentance (**1 Thes. 1:9**). Paul says the Thessalonians "turned to God from idols to serve." Repentance is one fruit of the gospel (**Matt. 12:41**). It always results in a changed life with changed priorities (**2 Cor. 7:10-11**). We will not go to work for the Lord until we turn from our idols (**Eph. 5:5**).

Thessalonica worked because they had a heavenly goal (**1 Thes. 1:10**). Their toil, suffering and sacrifice were all put in perspective when viewed looking toward Glory. We would do well today to hold our cankered possessions up to heavens light and get a good look at the way things really are.

Will this congregation be a working church like the brethren at Thessalonica? It can be, but you will be the determining factor. What of your faith? Are there sins stealing your heart from God? Are you willing to be an example to others? These are the things that will make the difference.

by Jeff Asher

Daily Bible Reading

Day	Scripture
Sunday (<i>Epistles</i>)	Ephesians 4-6
Monday (<i>The Law</i>)	Leviticus 4-6
Tuesday (<i>History</i>)	1 Kings 14-18
Wednesday (<i>Psalms</i>)	Psalms 72-74
Thursday (<i>Poetry</i>)	Proverbs 5-6
Friday (<i>Prophecy</i>)	Ezekiel 7-12
Saturday (<i>Gospels</i>)	Luke 13-14

"Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

Matthew 5:11-12

Remember in Prayer

Shut Ins:

Vallie Andrews
Fannie Bell Warren
Janelle Arrington

Others:

Hollis Cluck
Vickie Wade - *cancer*
Muril Todd
Karen Hudson - *cancer*
Christy Garrett
The Bryan Family
Annie and JW Smith
Margie Taylor
Priscilla and Patrick Graves
Jessica Richardson
Dan Smith
Diane Grandstaff and family
William Wells - *inoperable condition*
Joe Allen
Bonnie Richardson - *cancer*
Linda Kay Edwards - *surgery recovery*
Dylan Speck - *kidney problems*
Haily Speck - *melanoma*
Edna Forbes
Janice Garrett
Carol Goins - *Mary L.'s sister*

Bible Riddle

I was a man of great wealth and fame,
Until a great fall and disaster came.
My story is told in poem and prose;
A story you know quite well, I suppose.

My heart was saddened as a great wind blew;
Pains and sorrows pierced me through.
When my faith was tested I refused to deny
The goodness of God who reigns on high.

My wife and friends no comfort brought,
As the cause of my suffering I vainly sought.
I still blessed God for the mercy he shows,
When at last had passed my troubles and woes.

My story has comforted many a broken heart,
And caused many downcasts to make a new start.
By patience, endurance, I came to fame;
I'm quite ashamed if you know not my name.
(last week's answer: Eden)

This Week's Bible Trivia:

Q - What man was buried more than two hundred years after he died?
Check back next week for the answer!

Last Week's Trivia:

Q - Whose wages were changed ten times?
A - Jacob. Gen 28:11