

Serving This Week:

Sunday Morning

Announcements: Brian Horner
Song Leader: Kyle Richardson
Opening Prayer: Ken Grandstaff
Lord's Supper
Presiding: Howell Todd
Serving: Eric Horne
Ken Grandstaff
Preaching: Steven Yeattes
Closing Prayer: Dan Smith

Sunday Evening

Opening Prayer: Ken Grandstaff
Preaching: Singing Night
Closing Prayer: Brian Horner

Wednesday Evening

Opening Prayer: Howell Todd
Devotional: Brian Horner
Closing Prayer: Ken Grandstaff

Serving Next Sunday:

Lord's Supper: Ken Grandstaff
Preaching: Howell Todd
Opening Prayer: Dan Smith
Closing Prayer: Kyle Richardson

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

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)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Singing Night!

Fellowship meal afterwards.
Invite your friends!

Potter's School Supply Drive:

There is a basket in the back to
donate money for school supplies
at Potter's Children's Home.

Our Gospel Meeting!

Sep 16-18 with Fred Rhodes. Be
inviting your friends and family!

Sign up to help!

Sheets in the back for food items
during the campaign. Any
amount helps!

***Make a joyful noise to the
LORD, all the earth! Serve
the LORD with gladness!
Come into his presence with
singing!***

Psalm 100:1-2

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)

Bethel church of Christ

2427 Sparta Pike, Lebanon TN 37090

<http://www.bethelcoc.net>

September 2, 2012

Sunday Bible Study: 10 AM
Sunday Morning Worship: 11 AM

Sunday Evening Worship: 6 PM
Wed Bible Study: 7 PM

A Mess of Pottage

"Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord: looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled; lest there be any fornicator or profane person like Esau, who for one morsel of food sold his birthright. For you know that afterward, when he wanted to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no place for repentance, though he sought it diligently with tears" (Heb. 12:14-17).

We may read the story of Jacob and Esau and be somewhat puzzled as to why anyone would trade his father's birthright for a mess of pottage. From the account in the book of Genesis the passage states that Esau came in from the field one day, probably from a hunting trip, and feeling famished, wanted some of Jacob's brown-red lentil soup ("pottage" – naziyd). What Esau foolishly forfeited amounted to the inheritance of a double portion of his father's worldly possessions (**Deut. 21:16, 17**). "That's bizarre!" you might say. Indeed, it is. In the larger scheme of things, a bowl of soup was traded not only for the physical possessions of his father; but in a far more significant way, Esau traded away the position and rule over his brethren and entire extended family (**Gen. 27:29**), and the title to the blessing of the promise (**Gen. 27:4, 27-29**), which included the future possession of Canaan and of covenant fellowship with Jehovah (**Gen. 28:4**).

Think about it—he could at least have asked for a camel or two or maybe a year's worth of soup. But one bowl? It would not be very long before he would want another bowl of soup and would not have the birthright either. But this was classic Esau. His nature was rough, fiery, and precocious. Physically he may have been advanced, but morally he was lacking. The only thing of value to him was the sensual enjoyment of the right-now! To evaluate the spiritual blessings of the future was an ability his carnal mind was unable to comprehend. In this he showed himself acting like a heathen or profane person (**Heb. 12:16**), who—being void of any spiritual sensitivity—cared for nothing but the temporary gratification of sensual desires. He was a man who "did eat

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and drink, and rose up, and went his way, and so despised his birthright" (Gen. 25:34).

The smallness of the enticement only aggravates the guilt of casting away all of eternity. Thus the proverb says, "Because for a piece of bread a man will transgress" (Prov. 28:21). But is Esau alone in bartering away his birthright for things of little value? Are there not people today who exchange so little for their soul, who will stand for hardly nothing good but for hardly nothing will do anything? Sadly to say, I believe I have known of such people. Yet not everyone thinks so little of spiritual and eternal things; they just don't realize the gravity of their mistakes and poor choices.

It is possible to waste your life. That's why it is so important to ask yourself the question, "What am I living for?" What a shame to live your life like Esau, wondering, "What if ...?" While we still live, we all have a choice: to join Jacob and his descendants and receive the fulfillment of His covenant promises to us by becoming "sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ...And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise" (Gal. 3:26-29); or, will we look over at Esau, prospering in the world, and join him in the pursuit of secular success while forfeiting the greater spiritual blessings? If we succeed by worldly standards but fail with God, we have failed where it really matters. Whether we fail or succeed by worldly standards is, in the greater scheme of things, inconsequential; but if we fail with God, we will eternally fail.

You and I are writing history. We are the result of choices we make every day. The things we say and the actions we take are becoming a part of history. We are influencing the eternal destiny of people even yet unknown or unborn. How we conduct ourselves in our marriage, with our children, in our work, and in the community is extremely important. We are leaving a legacy for those who will follow in our steps (Prov. 20:7). Are we living our lives with eternity in mind, or for a mess of pottage?

Howell Ferguson, North Jackson church of Christ

"Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few."

Matthew 7:13-14

Just Some Songs We Sing?

"Lead me to some soul today."
"Will there be any stars in my crown?" "Seeking the lost..."
Certainly these are familiar lines to us from songs that we sing when together in worship. They all have the theme of leading souls to Christ. As we sing these songs, the words should touch our hearts and remind us of the great responsibility we have. Perhaps we feel a bit guilty as we sing the words. Perhaps we mouth the words but give them no thought. Or, perhaps we sing the words with conviction and energetically, because we want God to lead us to one whom we can teach, or we think of those who will be in Heaven because of our outreach, or we think of those things we are doing to reach out to the lost. May we sing such songs with conviction and energy. May we sing these songs as critical reminders to us to keep this awesome responsibility in the forefront of our minds. It is very likely that every week we bypass opportunities to lead souls to Jesus. If an angel were to appear to you and ask what you have done this week to reach out to lost souls, would you be without answer? If so, be reminded that God wants this to be a priority for you. "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Do you have the same level of desire for your fellow man to be saved as you have that you be saved? It is about love.

Howell Todd

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
Linda Kay Edwards - *surgery recovery*
Dylan Speck - *kidney problems*
Haily Speck - *melanoma*
Edna Forbes
Janice Garrett
Carol Goins - *Mary L.'s sister*
Lila Kirk

Please call to inform us of News items or Prayer Requests: Kyle Richardson (495-7106) Dorothy Jean Smith (444-5437)

Daily Bible Reading

Day	Scripture
Sunday (Epistles)	2 Timothy 1-2
Monday (The Law)	Numbers 9-12
Tuesday (History)	1 Chronicles 15-19
Wednesday (Psalms)	Psalms 102-104
Thursday (Poetry)	Proverbs 20-21
Friday (Prophecy)	Hosea 8-14
Saturday (Gospels)	John 19-12

September Birthdays:

18 - Sophia Hudson